

Potomac ALMANAC

The 11-foot wall
at Cabin John
Middle School
construction site.

Wall Angers Residents

NEWS, PAGE 3

“Before I built a wall I’d ask to know
What I was walling in or walling out,
And to whom I was like to give offence.”
— Robert Frost

Easing
Adoptions

NEWS, PAGE 3

Fix-It Fund
Aids Animals

NEWS, PAGE 3

Churchill Loses
In Semis, Happy
With Season

SPORTS, PAGE 8

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CALENDAR, PAGE 6 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 10



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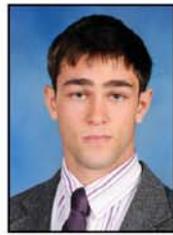
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Residents voiced surprise and anger at a meeting last week over the retaining wall at Cabin John Middle School that hadn't been part of earlier discussions.

CJMS Construction Suspended

Eleven-foot school wall incenses community.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

“We, the parents and the community have been duped,” said Steve Weitz, representing the feeling of frustration in the standing-room-only community meeting of Cabin John parents and Fox Hills residents on Monday, May 17 at Bells Mill Elementary.

They met with James Song, director of the Division of Construction for Montgomery County Public Schools, and his team of architects, engineers, and project managers. The community's concern is that the MCPS team had known for well over a year that

the 11-foot retaining wall would be constructed along Gainsborough Road in front of the school — but had never communicated this architectural change to parents or to community members.

Residents only discovered this discrepancy when they observed a huge wall being built in front of the school. When they perused the MCPS website for information and changes to the original construction plans, they found that a new rendering was not available. They had never been informed of the revision nor were they made aware of the necessity for the change in plans. Neighbors and parents said the wall came as a complete surprise.

SONG BEGAN by explaining that construction of a new school is a five-year process and listed the dates of the many meetings with the Cabin John community.

SEE ELEVEN-FOOT SCHOOL WALL, PAGE 11

Fix-It Fund Aids Four-Legged Friends

FMCA gathers for annual meeting and fundraiser.

BY SHARON ALLEN GILDER
FOR THE ALMANAC

Cindi and Joe LaPietra's North Potomac home was the historic setting for Friends of Montgomery County Animals' (FMCA) annual luncheon meeting and fundraiser on Thursday, May 20. Surrounded by towering, 150-year-old silver maple trees, the home rests on its original foundation built in 1853 by John Lawrence duFief.

Animals have been part of the past and present at the Manor House known as Millwood when it was home to duFief's gristmill that annually produced ten to twelve thousand barrels of flour that he trans-

ported along the C & O Canal into Georgetown. Historians note that J.E.B. Stuart purchased several horses from duFief on his way to Gettysburg, Pa. In the 1960s the property took on an equestrian air as the starting point for the Potomac Hunt when it was owned by Master of the Hunt, Thomas Dowd. Today, the LaPietra's three dogs enjoy exploring the acreage and greeting family and friends.

Seventy-five women and men gathered to support the work of the all-volunteer organization established in 1974 that provides services for animals in need. FMCA established the Fix-It Fund to accomplish its major mission to protect four-legged friends and reduce animal over-population.

Potomac resident and president of FMCA, Claire Proffitt, said, “The over-population issue is one of the core problems in the humane movement. FMCA

SEE FIX-IT FUND, PAGE 5

Easing Adoptions

Third Annual Taste of Potomac benefits Adoptions Together.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Donna M. was seated on the tarmac at Reagan National Airport when her cell phone rang with the most important telephone call of her life. Carol Edelstein, director of Adoptions Together, told her that her dream had come true. She would finally become a mom to two terrific children. She would be adopting a brother and sister and the three would become a “forever family.” The miracle had occurred because an organization called Adoptions Together had matched them and made it possible. For the next 14 weeks, Donna M. flew to New Hampshire where the 13 year old and his 8-year-old sister had been living in foster care for two years. “I am the most fortunate person in the world to be their mother,” stated Donna. “This is the e-mail I sent my family and friends ... “Today I walked through the most important door of my life. These two children are amazing and I am going to be their mom. Happiness like this I have never known.”

Adoptions Together was the vision of Janice Goldwater 20 years ago. As a social worker in Montgomery County, Goldwater saw the need for an organization to find adoptive families for hard-to-place children. She founded the non-profit adoption agency to conquer the challenge of finding permanent homes for children regardless of their age, race or health is-



PHOTO BY SUSAN BELFORD/THE ALMANAC

Judy Sebring greets guests at the Taste of Potomac.

Since 1990, the organization has found “forever families” for more than 3,000 children. Goldwater said, “Today, there are 5,000 children in the D.C. metropolitan area who are living in temporary care, waiting to be adopted. We need to make their dreams come true.” In addition to providing quality child placement services, the organization also offers life-time counseling for families, adopted children, birth parents and foster families.

THE THIRD ANNUAL Taste of Potomac was held at the home of Adoptions Together board members Judy and Stuart Sebring. With the help of 15 volunteers, they pro-

SEE THIRD ANNUAL, PAGE 4



PHOTO BY SHARON ALLEN GILDER

Hostess Cindi LaPietra with her dogs, from left, on her lap is Rudy an Italian Greyhound, and then Boxers Roxy and Rizzo.

GETTING AROUND

Strawberries at Their Finest at Potomac Festival

BY CISSY FINLEY GRANT
THE ALMANAC

There were huge, red, ripe berries dipped in luscious, dark chocolate. That was for starters. The really serious stuff was inside the large gymnasium/parish hall complex at the Potomac United Methodist Church.

Strawberries by the thousands were in numerous disguises, but most enticing to the estimated thousand attendees was the promised strawberry dessert, with a choice of either biscuit or cake.

It was only a matter of a few minutes after the doors to the church's annual festival opened at 10 a.m., that the large, round tables inside were surrounded with people of all ages, digging into generous portions of the succulent berries smothered in ice cream or whipped cream — sometimes both — atop the pastry of choice.

"They are our famous old-fashioned biscuits. It's a secret recipe," Joanne Durst replied while helping to dish out desserts with Kathy Chu and MaryGrace Day. Nearby, Traci Hoffman contributed, "They [the biscuits] are made by Judith Dubowy. We call her 'Queen of the kitchen.'"

Sure enough, a brazen foray into the kitchen where worker bees were assembling menus to be dispersed, Judith Dubowy, with assistance from her daughter Michelle Dubowy, Dee Shenkle, Janet Aris, Peggy Conn, Bernice Christian and at least a dozen others had their fingers flying. Judith Dubowy had only a second to tell a reporter "400 old-fashioned biscuits" were made and each volunteer she estimated spent about 10 hours on the

project.

They also made the cakes, but before there was time to get details, a Montgomery County food policeman arrived, presumably to make sure everything was in order. Hopefully, he had a chance to sample the goodies.

Strawberries at this annual festival are a main attraction, but precisely at noon on May 22, outside there was another gathering. As advertised, there would be a noon dunking of the pastor.

Pastor Ann Laprade proclaimed while perched atop a springboard, "The holy spirit is with me."

Apparently, the spirit took some time off, for moments following her decree, Laprade plunged unceremoniously into the water tank below, when Dave Edwards, wearing the male outfit of the day, a red shirt with PUMM (Potomac United Methodist Men) inscribed in white letters, was the first to step forward.

The sign nearby announcing, "Three balls for \$10," was no deterrent to Edwards. He dunked the pastor twice. But, there's more. The holy spirit was reluctant to return. Second in line, following Edwards, Taylor Hoffman stepped forward. The 12-year-old Bullis School seventh grader put the pastor down in the water again, not once, but twice. "I have played lacrosse for three years. That's why I have a strong arm." She obviously has also developed a good eye for a target.

Every room in the parish hall/auditorium building was bustling with activities, including the upstairs where an "attic treasure" sale was in full force. Sports and toys, books and music, kid's games, book sales, crafts fair, a "chic, cheap boutique" and a fancy,



A happy Pastor Ann Laprade told an audience, "The holy spirit is with me," just moments before she was dunked in a tank of water.

two-room, silent auction were all included throughout the building. In addition, there were vendors for shopping and a beef barbecue the men served.

Cakes, cupcakes, and pies were all packaged for going home, as were cartons of strawberries and, most certainly, memories of a mouthwatering Strawberry Festival.



Kathy Chu, left, Mary Grace Day and Joanne Durst, right, dished out hundreds of strawberry desserts at the May 22 festival.

PHOTOS BY
CISSY FINLEY
GRANT/THE
ALMANAC



Sonya Berinstein, Potomac, tries on a head band from The Surrey Two, one of many vendors at the Potomac United Methodist Church annual Strawberry Festival.



PUMM's (Potomac United Methodist Men) Gordon Morison and Richard Conn, right, sell a ticket to Julia Wolf. The men's group at the church's strawberry festival sold barbecue sandwiches.

Third Annual Taste of Potomac Benefits Adoptions Together

FROM PAGE 3

vided an evening of tastings from 20 Montgomery County restaurants, music by two bands, The Neon Rush and Breaking Quarters, and a Chinese Auction which featured trips, jewelry, sports tickets and more.

More than 200 people gathered to support the work of Adoptions Together. Judy Sebring welcomed the guests: "I was an adopted child. I was always so grateful that I had a 'forever family' that I wanted to give back by helping other children and families. Every child deserves to have a family — no one should grow up without the love and support of a caring family."

Goldwater continued: "The gifts, food wine and other items that were donated for this event are indicative of the community

embracing Adoptions Together. Judy Sebring is a wonderful model of what it means to be adopted and to recycle it."

Although the evening was rainy, the spirit inside the tents represented the strength of Adoptions Together. Both Donna M. and her son spoke, sharing their story with the audience — and thanking Adoptions Together for changing their lives.

"I feel so lucky that I have an opportunity to succeed because of my forever home. Before we met our mom, my sister and I got to look at photos, so we felt as if we knew all about her," her son said. "I don't know who taught the classes my mom took before we became a family, but she must have had a good teacher because my mom is doing a great job. It wasn't easy leaving my birth family. It wasn't easy being in fos-

ter care and it wasn't easy becoming a part of a forever family. Here's what my birth mom said to my new mom when they met, 'I gave them life and with you they will fly.' She was so right and now I am flying — I got to play JV football this year, I was elected freshman representative and I'm doing well in my studies. I love my new family. On Mother's Day, we went to see the Nationals play. A lot like the Nationals, we are getting better and better as a team. It's a work in progress, but it's our family. It's my family!"

THE ADOPTIONS TOGETHER Agency offers a full spectrum of family support services. Their guiding principle is "no child in need of a family will be turned away and families will have the support and guidance

they need to thrive." They facilitate both national and international adoptions including children from Russian and China.

The organization is also involved in training area professionals including school counselors and therapists. They also focus on pre-adoptive counseling to help both the child and the families to prepare for their new relationship as a permanent family.

Adoptions Together is seeking families who would like the opportunity to change the life of a child by becoming a "forever family." Mature adults of all races, religions and family structures can make excellent parents. Opportunities are also available to serve in a volunteer capacity. For more information, contact Adoptions Together at 301-439-2900. The website is www.adoptionstogether.org.

Fix-It Fund for Animals

FROM PAGE 3

completed 77 trap-neuter-release (T/N/R) cases and six trap-neuter-place (T/N/P) in 2009. One particular case stands out. A neighborhood in Germantown continues to be plagued by dumped cats and feral cats continue to breed. FMCA has helped with T/N/R and other medical expenses to contain the colony. Without FMCA's help, the cats would have been trapped and euthanized by local animal control."

PROFFITT CHALLENGED the attendees to increase the group's abilities to help spay and neuter by contributing to the Fix-It Fund which she and FMCA Treasurer Winnie Reed agreed to match. At the end of the luncheon, \$700 had been donated and with the match, \$1,400 was added to the till to expand T/N/R and T/N/P efforts for feral cat colonies throughout Montgomery County.

Leigh Hughes, who has been involved with FMCA's cat rescue for over 20 years, emphasized the importance of the Fix-It Fund. "There's really no low cost spay-neuter clinic in Montgomery County. The certificate people can get from the Montgomery County Animal Shelter is income limited and it is basic spay-neuter. If the vet requires a painkiller for after care, it is not

included in the coverage. Many times the call we get for assistance is from someone who hasn't been to a vet and they are starting from scratch. Essentially, any additional costs are not covered through the county."

Cats and dogs are not the only recipients of FMCA's aid. "Days End Farm has received 20 horses in deplorable condition. FMCA this last weekend sent \$2,000 to Days End Farm and Winnie Reed added \$200 as a private donation. Ladies and gentlemen, this is what we do — help as many emergency cases as possible be they horses, dogs, cats, birds or wildlife," said Proffitt.

Veteran FMCA member, Nancy Murfin said she is drawn to the organization, "Because they help the animals and I'm interested in animals. I've also made some wonderful friends through Friends and love the wonderful homes I get to see." Bob Werner, who characterizes himself as an enthusiastic supporter, echoed Murfin's sentiments, "The historic house is a charm. I've wandered around and only seen a fraction of it." About the work of FMCA Werner added, "I'm impressed with the way they seem to be able to stretch their resources and the tremendous number of animals they've fostered this year. All the things they're committed to do is impressive. They gather the funds to disperse to the people who can carry out what needs to be done. I like that



PHOTO BY SHARON ALLEN GLUDER

From left: Friends of Montgomery County Animals' board members Nedra Basile, secretary; Ellie Brown, treasurer; Winnie Reed, president; Claire Proffitt, hostess; Cindi LaPietra, vice-president, Janet Lamkin, and Marion Webster, corresponding secretary.

they are so responsible to see that the monies go to the right places."

Attendee and animal activist, Pam Cota said, "Nobody can speak for animals except us individuals. It's up to us to care for them and speak for them. I like FMCA because they put animals up for adoption, see that they are neutered and spayed and have general interest in helping animals." Phillip Cota added, "I think these people are very dedicated to animal welfare. They're doing a very good thing."

Proffitt shared updates regarding FMCA's adoption group. "One hundred eighty cats and kittens and two dogs were placed in

2009. However, FMCA is desperate for foster homes. Please contact us if you can help."

There is a tribute in the LaPietra kitchen created by their dogs. When the kitchen was painted, the dogs placed their paws on the windowsills before the paint was fully set. LaPietra said she told the painter not to paint over them. "I thought it was cute and had character about our family. It's like fingerprints of a child. We love our dogs. They are just as important as any family member."

For more information about FMCA visit: www.friendsofmontgomerycountyanimals.com

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CALENDAR

To have community events listed free in The Potomac Almanac, send e-mail to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos and artwork encouraged. Call 703-778-9412.

EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT

Live Standup Comedy. 8 to 10 p.m. Five local comics. At the Laugh Riot at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda Hotel, 7400 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. Call 301-657-1234 or visit www.Bethesda.Hyatt.com.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 26

Psalm Enchanted Evening. 8 p.m. Psalms will be presented in Hebrew, English, Old Church Slavonic, Latin, Creole, Malayalam, Anglo Saxon and more. Presented by Zemer Chai, Washington's premier Jewish Choir. At Ohr Kodesh Congregation, 8300 Meadowbrook Lane, Chevy Chase. To purchase tickets, go to www.zemerchai.org or call 301 963 3462.

THURSDAY/MAY 27

Blues Dance. 8:15 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. Beginner workshop from 8:15 to 9 p.m. Dancing from 9 to 11:30 p.m. Rotating DJs and instructors. At the Ballroom Annex of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo.

FRIDAY/MAY 28

Contra Dance. 7:30 - 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$9. Contra dance lesson from 7:30-8:15 p.m. Dancing to live music from 8:30-11:30 p.m. At the Bumper Car Pavilion of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo. Email: fndcontra@yahoo.com

SATURDAY/MAY 29

Swing Dancing. 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. 8-9 p.m. drop-in beginner swing lesson; 9 p.m. to midnight dancing. With Pinetop Perkins with Daryl Davis, Liz Lohr and the Bob Margolin Band. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo. 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.

MAY 29 AND 30

Taste of Rockville. Noon to 9 p.m. Sponsored by the Rockville Chamber of Commerce. Volunteers are needed to sell food tickets for three hour shifts on Saturday or Sunday. Volunteers are needed for the following shifts on both Saturday and Sunday: Noon - 3 p.m.; 3-6 p.m.; 6-9 p.m. Sign up early to reserve a spot by emailing rockville@rockvillechamber.org

Rockville's 22nd Annual

Hometown Holidays. 1-10 p.m. Features 40 bands and entertainers on 10 stages, with Soul Asylum as headliner. Also includes children's activities, a green festival, Taste of Rockville, arts and crafts festival with 50 artisans, a free-style dance stage, a Saturday night teen dance on The Rooftop, and a living history stage. Also features a Memorial Day celebration, including a performance by the Rockville Concert Band and Chorus, the 66th annual Memorial Day parade and ceremony that remembers and honors those who died serving their country. Concert performances start at 9 a.m., followed by the ceremony at 9:30 a.m. and the parade at 10:30 a.m. United States Army Nurse Corps Col. Richard Ricciardi, a Board Certified Pediatric and Adult Nurse Practitioner, will serve as the parade grand marshal and Brian van de Graaff, the morning weather forecaster for Good Morning



SATURDAY/JUNE 5

Imagination Bethesda. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. A children's street festival celebrating children and the arts. Features hands-on craft activities, international dance troupes, theatre performances, costume characters, face painters and balloon artists for children 12 and under to enjoy. At Woodmont Avenue and Elm Street in downtown Bethesda.

Washington, ABC 7 News, will serve as emcee. Go to www.rockvillemd.gov/events/hth.

SUNDAY/MAY 30

Contra and Square Dance. 7-10:30 p.m. Admission is \$12/nonmembers; \$9/FSGW members. A beginner lesson at 7 p.m. Dancing from 7:30-10:30 p.m. The evening can include square dances, mixers, waltzes and other couple dances. With the band Serpentine. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo. Visit fsgw.org.

Waltz Dance. 3:30-6 p.m. Admission is \$8. Introductory waltz workshop 3-3:30 p.m. With the band, Honeysuckle Rose. This versatile band will provide a lively mix of folk waltzes with a few other couple dances, including Hambo, Schottische, Swing, Tango, and Polka. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Joan Koury at 202-238-0230 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 2

Introduction to Myers Briggs Type Indicator. 5-6 p.m. Presented by Ellery Owens, LCSW-C. Free. For information visit www.accirockville.org. To register, call Affiliated Community Counselors, Rockville at 301-251-8965 or email accirockville@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/JUNE 3

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. 8:15 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. DJ Mike Marcotte and guests. Beginner workshop from 8:15 to 9 p.m. Dancing from 9 to 11:30 p.m. At the Ballroom Annex of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo. Email: info@capitalblues.org.

JUNE 3-6

"Sweeney Todd." Shows are June 3-6, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$19/adults, \$17/students, \$12/unreserved. At Georgetown Preparatory School's Figge Theatre, 10900 Rockville Pike. Visit www.ActTwo.org or call 888-402-ACT2. Presented by Act Two Performing Arts of Rockville.

FRIDAY/JUNE 4

Contra Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. Admission is \$9. Contra dancing, square dancing and waltzes. Contra dance lesson from 7:30-8:15 p.m. Called dance with the band, Anadama from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen

Echo. Email: fndcontra@yahoo.com.

Bells Mill Bash. 5:30-8 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering, email Terry-Ann Gardemal at terry_ann@verizon.net. Questions: Contact Linda Cox shiloh61@verizon.net or Terry-Ann Gardemal terry_ann@verizon.net.

SATURDAY/JUNE 5

Swing Dance. 8 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. With Big Joe and the Dynafloes. Beginner swing dance from 8 to 9 p.m. Dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo. Email: wscdvolunteer@hotmail.com.

Washington Balalaika Society. 8 p.m. A 60-piece Russian folk orchestra with Alexander Tsygankov, the world's preeminent domra artist, Andrei Saveliev and Irina Petryk. At the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmondston Road, Rockville. Tickets are \$20/general; \$18/seniors; \$15/students; children under 12 free. Order tickets at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre or call 240-314-8690.

Lucky Dog Fund-Raiser. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Silent auction, raffle, off-lease play in 1 1/2-acre fenced in yard, BBQ, Dogma bakery treats and doggie ice cream, Silapada Jewelry on sale, Pet Junkie Pet supplies on sale. Tickets to benefit Lucky Dog (\$20/person; \$45/family, www.luckydoganimalrescue.org). Or \$25/door; \$55/family. Proceeds will help get future Lucky Dogs out of shelters and into loving homes. At 8601 Falls Road, Potomac (@ Suzie's), at the corner of Falls and MacArthur.

Grateful Shred II. 9 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$5/box of paper. Sponsored by the Friends of the Clara Barton Community Center. At Clara Barton Community Center, 7425 MacArthur Blvd., Cabin John. Call 301-229-0010.

National Trails Day. 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Celebrate National Trails Day! Volunteers are needed to help restore areas of the C&O Canal towpath surrounding the River Center at Lock 8. At River Center at Lock 8, 7906 Riverside Ave., Cabin John. Contact Deanna Tricarico, Outreach Coordinator, at tricarico@potomac.org or 301-608-1188 x.204.

An Evening of Classical Proportions. 7 p.m. Presented by the National Institute of Health Community Orchestra and Chorus. Will feature orchestral and choral music of Johannes Brahms and Franz Schubert as well as American composers Daniel Gawthrop and Morten Lauridsen. In the sanctuary of North Bethesda United Methodist Church, 10100 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda.

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Trees of Life II. At the Chevy Chase Pavilion's Zenith Gallery. Meet the Artists Reception: Wednesday, May 19, from 6-8 p.m. 10 percent of sales from this exhibit will be donated to American Forests' Global ReLeaf Campaign. At Chevy Chase Pavilion, 5335 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Chevy Chase.

JUNE 5 TO 27

"Fine, Functional... and Fabulous." The Popcorn Gallery will be aglitter all through June with translucent, brilliant art objects and functional pieces when The Art Glass Center presents "Fine, Functional.... and Fabulous," its annual exhibition at Glen Echo Park. Resident Artists, Studio Artists and Faculty members will display bowls, sculptures, and other fine art and functional art glass pieces produced at the Center, Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 6 p.m. An Artist Reception will be held Saturday, June 12, 3 p.m. Visit artglasscenteratglenecho.org or glenechopark.org.

JUNE 5 - 6

Paintings by the Noland Family. The Yellow Barn Studio at Glen Echo Park presents works by the Noland Family. In the Yellow Barn Studio & Gallery. 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Call 301-371-5593 or visit yellowbarnstudio.com.

SUNDAY/JUNE 13

Coffee & Critique. A monthly Sunday morning photo jam session at Photoworks studio. Bring photos to a morning critique led by a Photoworks faculty member. Enjoy the camaraderie of your peers, along with coffee and bagels and a lively discussion of your images. In the Photoworks Studio from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Call 301-634-2274 or visit glenechophotoworks.org.

JUNE 19-20

Paintings by Patty Jannotta. The Yellow Barn Studio at Glen Echo Park presents works by Patty Jannotta. In the Yellow Barn Studio & Gallery. 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Call 301-371-5593 or visit yellowbarnstudio.com.

JUNE 25-27

Paintings by Edith Sievers. The Yellow Barn Studio at Glen Echo Park presents works by Edith Sievers. In the Yellow Barn Gallery. 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Call 301-371-5593 or visit yellowbarnstudio.com.

NOW THROUGH MAY 30

Many Textures Many Colors. With the artists Fran Abrams, Meg Branzetti, Elaine Brandes, Marcia Jestadet, Vicky Kokolski Nancy Smeltzer, Alfreda Southerland. At the Dennis and Phillip Ratner Museum, 10001 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Call 301-897-1518.

NOW THROUGH JUNE 1

Rockville Art League Juried Show. Free admission. Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. At the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/arts or contact Julie Farrell at 240-314-8682 or jfarrell@rockvillemd.gov.

NOW THROUGH JUNE 13

Roy Sewall Photos. Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National



JUNE 12-13

Paintings by Anne O'Neill Kolyer. Artist, teacher and Bethesda resident Anne O'Neill Kolyer will present her recent oil paintings on Saturday and Sunday, June 12-13 from 12-5 p.m. A reception for the artist will be held on Saturday June 12 from 5-7 p.m. This event is in cooperation with the National Park Service and the Glen Echo Partnership for Arts and Culture. At the Yellow Barn Studio and Gallery at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Call the Yellow Barn Gallery at 301-371-5593 or the National Park Service, Glen Echo at 301-492-6229.

Historical Park Great Falls Tavern visitor center is hosting an exhibit of photographs by Roy Sewall. The photographs illustrate daily life on the C&O Canal during its heyday. Persons depicted in these images include canal boat operators, muleskinners, lockkeepers, children, cooks, stone masons, musicians, horseback riders, and civil war soldiers. The black-and-white photographs are sepia toned to capture the warmth of old-fashioned photos. Sewall, a Bethesda-based photographer, is well known for his two coffee table books, *Our Potomac* and *Great Falls and Mather Gorge*.

JUNE 8 THROUGH JULY 3

Plant Portraits. Paintings by Eleftheria (Lilina) Williams. A reception will be held on Friday, June 11 from 6-9 p.m. At Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Call 301-951-9441.

NOW THROUGH JUNE 5

The Magic Hours. Recent works by Loriann Signori and New Work by Gallery Artists. Artist's reception on Friday, May 14 from 6-9 p.m. At Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Call 301-951-9441.

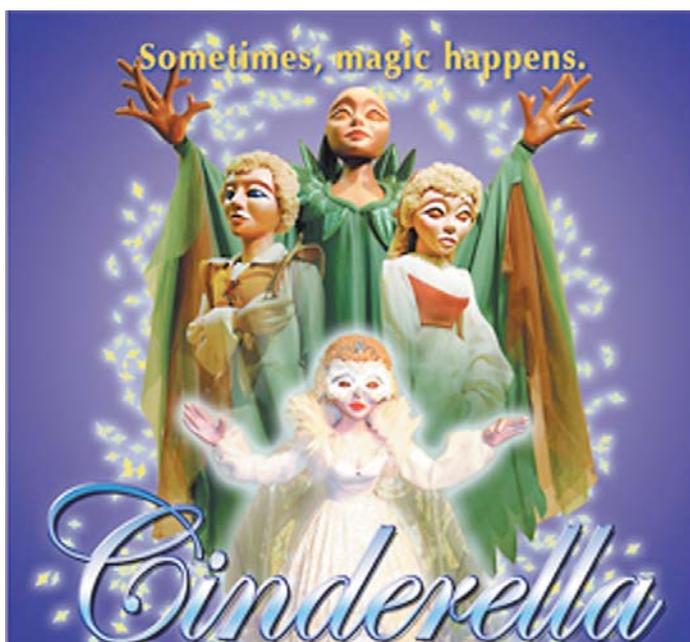
THEATER

NOW THROUGH JUNE 3

"Cinderella." Wednesday performances at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. have been added. Running time: 45 minutes; recommended for age 5 and older. Tickets are \$10. There will be no 10 a.m. performance of "Cinderella," on the following Wednesdays due to "Tiny Tots" performances: May 12, May 26 and June 2, however the 11:30 a.m. performance on these days will still be performed. At The Puppet Co. Playhouse, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call 301-634-5380. Visit www.thepuppetco.org.

JUNE 10-13

"Annie Get Your Gun." Shows are Thursday 6/10, Friday 6/11 and Saturday 6/12 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 6/13 at 2 p.m. Tickets prices are \$19/adult, \$17/students and \$12/unreserved balcony seats. Email groupsales@acttwo.org. For tickets or additional information, visit www.ActTwo.org or call 888-402-ACT2. At Georgetown Preparatory School's Figge Theater, 10900 Rockville Pike.



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Churchill Loses in Semis, Happy with Season

Bulldogs advance to state semifinals for first time in school history.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE ALMANAC

Members of the Churchill girls lacrosse program enjoyed themselves on the sideline as time wound down. Senior midfielder Zoe Kabelac, the Bulldogs' leading goal scorer, smiled while answering a reporter's postgame questions.

Churchill lost to C. Milton Wright 22-2 in the state semifinals on May 22 at Arundel High School. The Bulldogs fell behind 11-0 and trailed 13-2 at halftime. While Churchill didn't plan to be on the wrong end of a season-ending blowout, there was no sorrow exuded from the Bulldog Blue. The team appeared at peace with its fate and all it had accomplished throughout the season.

Third-seeded Churchill defeated No. 4 Sherwood 17-7 on May 19 to capture the 4A West regional title and for the first time in school history advance to the state semis. One year after losing with an undefeated record in the regional championship game, it felt good to break through.

Making school history is "defi-

nately a good feeling," Kabelac said after the loss to Wright. "We expected it to be tough [against Wright]. This is definitely not a team we ever see in Montgomery County. ... I'm really proud of our team for getting this far. [My] freshman year I didn't think we were going to go very far, but over the years we've definitely built up a lacrosse program." No Montgomery County team has won a state championship in boys or girls lacrosse. The Wootton boys lost in the 2007 state championship game and will take on Severna Park in this year's title game.

Churchill finished 13-3 in 2010 and is 27-4 in two seasons under head coach Christen Gjeldum. The Bulldogs will return three of their top five goal scorers in 2011 and Gjeldum said the experience of advancing to states should help the program, which has several athletes who played the sport for the first time in high school.

"They needed to get past the regions in order to understand that it is possible," Gjeldum said. "Girls who have never even played lacrosse before [high school] — this was their third, fourth year — were able to go to states, and it's a new sport to them."

Kabelac, who scored 79 goals as a junior, scored the 73rd goal of her senior season late in the first half against Wright.

"Zoe did set a good precedence," Gjeldum said. "The day of the regional championship, [she] took the time to make quotes [for her teammates] to open up just for the mental side. She's a good example and the team would look to her. If Zoe was on, the team would say, 'OK, OK, if Zoe thinks we can do this, we can do this.'"

Gjeldum said senior attack Sophia Ein, the team's fourth-leading scorer with 32 goals, was another team leader.

Sophomore midfielder Mairin Hall also scored against Wright, her 55th of the season. Hall (second-leading scorer), junior attack Katie Ruben (46 goals) and sophomore Madelyn Flax (30 goals) will be three of the team's top returners next season.

"Now we know what it's like — we've never been this far, ever," Ruben said. "Now we know what to expect and how much harder we have to work to even get here again, and win."

PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE
THE ALMANAC

Churchill sophomore attack Madelyn Flax, seen earlier this season, will be one of the Bulldogs' top returners in 2011.



SPORTS BRIEFS

Wootton Boys Prepare For State Title Game

The Wootton boys lacrosse team will take on Severna Park at 8 p.m. on May 26 in the 4A-3A state championship game at UMBC.

Wootton, the West's top seed, has won five consecutive regional championships and will play in the state title game for the first time since 2007. While the Patriots have a decorated resume, they face an uphill battle against history when they take on Severna Park, the East's top seed: no Montgomery County lacrosse team — boys or girls — has ever won a state championship.

"It would be huge," Wootton head coach Colin Thomson said of what it would mean for the Patriots to make history with a victory. "I don't even have the words that can describe that." Thomson said Wootton will need to play error-free to win. Severna Park doesn't "make many mistakes, if at all," the coach said. "We need to make sure [we're taking care of] fundamentals and we're doing things correctly."

Churchill Baseball Loses in Region Semis

The Churchill baseball team's goal entering 2010 was to surpass its total of six victories from the pre-

vious season. The Bulldogs accomplished that and then some.

Churchill ended its season on May 19 with an 18-7 loss to Sherwood in the 4A West regional semifinals. Under first-year head coach Scott Blackwood, the Bulldogs finished 13-4, earned the No. 3 seed and a bye in regionals and defeated Bethesda-Chevy Chase 7-1 in the quarterfinals.

Blackwood said he considers his first season as the Bulldogs' skipper a success.

"Hopefully we were able to let people know that we have talent," the coach said, "and we're not a team that people can just come walk all over. ... The kids have started to buy into my philosophy and the program I brought to Churchill."

Blackwood said seniors Bryce Shemer and Harris Fanaroff were the team's standouts. Shemer hit .508 with three home runs and 20 RBIs. He also went 7-0 with a 2.26 ERA on the mound. Fanaroff hit .464 with three home runs and 30 RBIs. He went 1-3 with a 4.99 ERA on the mound, facing some of the toughest teams on Churchill's schedule, Blackwood said.

Brett Mead hit .365 for Churchill and Eric Skrzyniarz hit .340.

Looking ahead to next season, Blackwood said the Bulldogs need to become more fundamentally sound.

"We try to teach them what it takes to win ball

5Qs Five questions with Churchill senior midfielder Zoe Kabelac

Q: What location is the farthest from the Washington D.C. metro area that you have traveled?

A: Japan [during] spring break sophomore year.

Q: Who is your favorite music artist?

A: Cage the Elephant. I like a really unique style. It's kind of like rock 'n roll but kind of like [a] funky beat. It's a lot of fun to listen to. You can dance to it, you can just sit and listen to it. It's all around good.

Q: What are your plans for after high school?

A: I'm probably going to go to Maryland-College Park. I'm kind of undecided.



Q: What is your favorite movie?

A: "Pride and Prejudice" with Keira Knightley. I love Keira Knightley. It's such a good movie.

Q: What do you like to do in your free time?

A: Go to concerts [and] hang out with my friends.

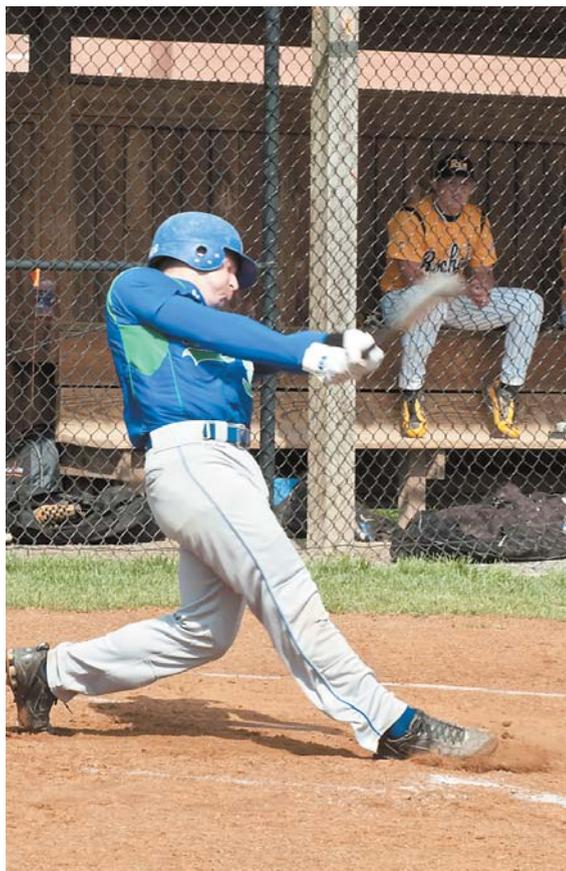
— JON ROETMAN

SPORTS



PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

The Wootton boys lacrosse team will face Severna Park in the 4A-3A state championship game on May 26.



Bryce Shemer hit .508 for a Churchill baseball team that reached the regional semifinals.

SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 8

games," Blackwood said. "A lot of the games we lost this year we had errors that should have been routine plays. If you want to be a good team — not only that, a good program — you have to make the fundamental, routine plays. You can't beat yourself."

SCHOOL NOTES

To have an item listed mail to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Call 703-778-9412

Local Potomac students have won corporate-sponsored National Merit Scholarships.

The students are among 20 scholars in Maryland. Nationally, about 1,000 scholars were chosen from a group of 15,000 finalists.

The winners, intended career fields and sponsors are:

❖ **Walt Whitman High School** — **Surbhi Agrawal**, biology, Northrop Grumman;

❖ **Thomas S. Wootton High School** — **Rowana Ahmed**, chemical engineering, Macy's Foundation, and

❖ **Alexis D. Reineke**, biology, Northrop Grumman;

❖ **Anand D. Oza**, mathematics, Lockheed Martin Corp.;

❖ **Melvin J. German Hebrew Academy** — **Yael R. Nagar**, anthropology, Lockheed Martin Corp.;

❖ **Wootton High School** — **Alexis D. Reineke**, biology, Northrop Grumman Corp.

❖ **Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School** — **Ezra J. Rudman**, engineering, The MITRE Corp.

Karl Erich Kador of Potomac received his doctor of philosophy degree

Whitman Upsets Wootton, Reaches Region Semis

The Whitman baseball team, seeded No. 8 in the 4A West regional bracket, upset No. 1 Wootton in the quarterfinals, 6-3,

before losing to Gaithersburg 3-1 in the semis. Whitman's Ross Olchyk picked up the win against Wootton, allowing three earned runs and four hits over four innings. Michael Flack pitched three innings of two-hit, shutout relief. Offensively, James Dionne, Danny Lee and Olchyk each had two hits for the Vikings.

at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in commencement exercises on May 7 and 8.

David T. Iselin of Potomac has been honored as a student leader at Bucknell University. Iselin received the Bison Award for Excellence in Co-Curricular Activities. Iselin is the son of Amy and Richard Iselin of Potomac, and a 2006 graduate of Winston Churchill High School in Potomac. He is a member of the Class of 2010 majoring in Political Science and History.

Sarah James of Potomac was one of 66 students inducted into the Delta Epsilon Sigma National Scholastic Honor Society. Sarah is earning her B.A. in Psychology.

Justin Levy, a senior at Connecticut College and a 2006 graduate of Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, played the bass in the Connecticut College Spring Orchestra Concert May 4. Levy is the son of Liza and Michael Levy of Potomac.

Isabelle Kramer, a 7th grader at Washington Episcopal School, has been selected as one of 15 finalists in The Washington Post and The Children's Inn at NIH "Hip, Happy and Healthy" essay contest. The contest featured 7th graders from around the greater Washington, DC metro area explaining

why fitness is important to them. Winners will be officially announced on May 15 at The Washington Post auditorium.

Alayne Lynch, an 8th grader at the Washington Episcopal School, received second place in the Letters about Literature Contest for her letter to author Elizabeth Moon about the book, *Speed of Dark*. Other finalists in the contest were WES 8th graders **Nora Dahlberg**, **Marina Jackson**, **Daniel Wagner**, and **Rachel Weinberger**.

The following Washington Episcopal School students were recognized at the annual MAESA (Mid-Atlantic Episcopal School Association) Fair, Friday, April 16 at National Cathedral School:

Art - Grades 4-6 Two-Dimensional
Aaron Lee, 1st Place
Mary Butler, 3rd Place
Art - Grades 7-8 Three-Dimensional
Rachel Weinberger, 1st Place
Julia Currie, 3rd Place
Art - Grades 7-8 Two-Dimensional
Nora Dahlberg, 2nd Place
Multi-media - Grades 4-6
Michaela Karam, 3rd Place
Multi-media - Grades 7-8
Ali Ahmed, 1st Place
Science Fair - Grades 4-6
Alya Ahmed, 1st Place
Max Nieblyski, 3rd Place
Spelling Bee - Grades 4-6
Laura Abbott, 1st Place
Geo Bee - Grades 4-6
Katherine Bowles, 3rd Place

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LET'S TALK Real Estate



by **Michael Matese**

GARAGE DOORS ADD TO CURB APPEAL

Good curb appeal can significantly increase the value of your property and there are a lot of ways a homeowner can improve their home's curb appeal, such as new landscaping and fresh paint. One area that is often overlooked, though, is the garage. As just a storage space it doesn't seem as important as the rest of the home, but architecturally, it is one of the largest features of the house and the first thing a prospective buyer will see from the street. So it's a good idea to consider whether your garage could use an upgrade. New garage doors could give the whole house a much needed facelift.

Home designers recommend that you choose a style that complements the look of the rest of your house. Stable or carriage house style doors are most popular right now, but styles range from the rustic to the ultra modern and come in a wide array of materials.

Along with kitchen and bathroom remodels, a new garage door can be one of the best and most cost effective home improvements you can make when preparing your home for sale. First impressions are everything, and a beautiful garage could put your home in front of the competition.

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What Could Be In A Name



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that I want to put the cart before the horse, but I have taken notice recently of public things identified with names of previously deceased private-type people: highways, bridges, overpasses, schools, etc. Unlike the commercialization and common revenue-generating naming rights of professional and collegiate sports Arenas, Stadiums, Centers and Fields, these properly-named, public-type Works projects don't generate revenue like FedEx Field, The Verizon Center or Chevy Chase Bank Field at Byrd Stadium do. However, since I don't know many of the names I've seen signed and "plaqued," I'm guessing they are being so honored based on merit and/or their meritorious service. Now whether Gloria Spellman or Bishop Melvin R. Peebles, as but two examples, had any real connection to the roads that bear their names, I do not know. Perhaps these naming rights/dedications were compensation, so to speak, for past wrongs. Or perhaps, the business of municipal politics does not get done/agreed to without the benefit/inclusion of honoring the individuals so named – for the good of the community. Not being involved in the political process, other than as a regular voter, I am clueless as to the process and/or steps necessary to propose, budget, agree, secure financing, award and sign contracts, and ultimately break ground and actually see the project through to its final construction/ceremonial grand-type opening. I would imagine though, that the "greater good" is often not quite "good" enough.

Nevertheless, seeing names on more things than I can remember seeing previously got me thinking (I know, always dangerous). Given my rather precarious health predicament/prognosis, would it be presumptuous on my part to be thinking about my name potentially appearing on something (other than my headstone/marker) after the sun goes down for that final time? Do average people like me, ones that are not politically/socially/spiritually/commercially connected, ever get their names considered for such posterity-defining placement? Not that I'm maneuvering for such recognition, but if the momentum is in the finished projects needing a name/being named, then isn't my name as good as any other?

Most of the ordinary-sounding names (not political, not military; not famous) I see associated with these Public Works projects seem unfamiliar to me, totally unknown, so their presumptive pursuits, accomplishments, sacrifices, etc., while they were alive which earned them the posthumous honor bestowed on their family name could just as easily/similarly be bestowed on my family's name, couldn't it? I don't know what the two Troopers "plaqued" (on two overpasses on Interstate 95 in Virginia) did to have their names so honored any more than their families would know why my name was affixed to some municipal project. Nevertheless, names are appearing and attached to all sorts of completed Public Works.

Granted, I wouldn't want to be associated/named with a Sewage Treatment Plant or a Waste Disposal Facility, but perhaps my family wouldn't have a choice. Perhaps the powers that be, for whatever reason, would see honor in connecting Lourie with The Shady Grove Transfer Station (see waste disposal in Montgomery County). But if the "greater good" would be served then let me state for the record, unequivocally, I'm all for it. As much as my columns have been about me, I haven't mattered nearly as much as the subjects written about have mattered. I've merely been the voice of semi reason. It's helped me to write them. I hope it's helped others to read them. Thanks for your time.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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SCHOOLS

Change at Churchill

By DANIELLE COLLINS
FOR THE ALMANAC

In the Potomac bubble, life at Churchill seems idyllic. The grounds are meticulously maintained with flowering plants in bloom, the parking lot is filled with shiny new cars, and flat screen televisions hang in the hallways of a nicely renovated building. Though even amidst all this perfection, Churchill students have change on their minds, and responded enthusiastically when asked the question, "What would you change at Churchill?"

At Churchill, only seniors are allowed to leave the premises during lunchtime while all other students are required to eat at school. For Scott Wimer, Churchill junior, the biggest change would be a "push for open lunch for all students instead of just seniors. If everyone were allowed to go out for lunch, it would make lunch hour a lot more fun. I would also put more focus on Churchill bands and music groups. Music is really important so groups should have more chances to play for the school."

One of the strictest rules at Churchill is the cell phone policy, which provides that any phone seen during the school day will be confiscated by security. Evan Harvey, Churchill senior, wants to "make cell phones allowed in school. I think that students need them in emergency situations or if they forget something at home and need their parents to bring it. The restrictions on cell phones are really limiting in a lot of ways."



While many students complained about school rules, others saw different problems with the social interactions in the Churchill social scene. Junior Melissa Grimes thinks that public displays

of affection (PDA) are an annoying habit to face in the hallway. "I would change the amount of PDA in this school. I think it's ridiculous that I can't walk two feet in the hallway without seeing two freshmen swapping spit! High schoolers do not need to publicize their intimacy for all of Churchill to see. It makes people feel awkward. So go ahead, hold hands and hug as much as you want, but I would love to change the situation when people do more than that."

Melissa also dislikes the snobbish attitudes of some students, saying that, "it is ridiculous that people are so caught up in the wardrobes and appearances of other students. Why should someone be judged just because they wear sweat pants to school? Others show up flaunting the latest phone or technological device to try and fit in, hoping that it will make them popular and well liked. The search for the next best thing definitely contributes to some of the superficial attitudes at Churchill."

Cliques are present, not just at Churchill, but at every school. As freshman Rachel Jackson says, "I would change the cliques at Churchill. They started in middle school and everyone settled into a group really early. It is hard to get into a new group and make close friends outside your clique."



Scott Wimer and Evan Harvey

PHOTOS BY DANIELLE COLLINS



Rachel Jackson

On the first day of my freshman year, I realized that if I could change something about Churchill, it would be the odd lunch tradition of sitting on the floor in locker cubicles to eat. Let me explain: at Churchill, most people eat their sandwiches while sitting on the cold linoleum floor surrounded by three sides of lockers. Due to the lack of cafeteria



Melissa Grimes

space, the majority of kids are forced to balance their meals on their laps, hoping not to spill too much on their clothes. You try eating sushi or tossing a salad while wearing white pants! My Tide To Go stick has taken up permanent residence in my backpack. While the habit is so ingrained I cannot even imagine sitting in the cafeteria, I wonder what it would be like if I could eat my lunch at a table.

Eleven-Foot School Wall Incenses Community

FROM PAGE 3

Through photos and architectural drawings, he showed that the new school would be 156,000 square feet, compared to the current building of 126,000 square feet.

"The previous school was built on a hill. We had to level the site for the school, add tennis courts, bus lanes, extra parking spots [125] and a student drop-off. We wanted a safer traffic pattern for buses and cars. Because we had to cut into the hill, we had to build the retaining wall. The wall will be 10-11 feet tall with a four-foot metal decorative railing. The wall will round the corner onto Bells Mill Road and not go further."

He continued to clarify the lat-

est rendering: "The wall is necessary because of storm water management, zoning requirements, programming requirements for a larger level site and the existing condition of the property. We cannot remove the retaining wall and build the school lower because the back of the school would be built into the hill and the rooms would be dark and dank — with no natural sunlight." He also mentioned the issue of hauling off the excess dirt (60,000 cubic feet) which would cost the school system at least \$1.2 million.

One irate parent expressed that they should have realized that their architectural plans were unfeasible, and come up with a new design.

Weitz observed: "You are con-

structing a building that looks like a prison in our community." Many parents stated they were unable to find out anything about the changes to the plan, even though they viewed the website or called the MCPS Project planning office or the Division of Construction. They all felt a lack of communication was the heart of the problem. "When were the new plans finalized? Why weren't we informed?"

SONG'S SOLUTIONS were not well received by his audience. His suggestions were that MCPS will add landscaping to screen the retaining wall, put a decorative guardrail at the top of the retaining wall and add vine landscaping to improve the appearance.

The retaining wall will be brick and covered with a coating which would resist graffiti.

"The height of the retaining wall is not going to change," Song said. However, the officials of MCPS have agreed to suspend construction of the wall for a few weeks in order to meet with the community and negotiate the aesthetics. Although the community is unhappy and angry, they won a small victory. They will have input into the next decisions impacting their community and school.

For more information, subscribe to the Cabin John list serve. The address is: CJMSWall-Subscribe@yahoo.com.

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On behalf of our region's most vulnerable children and families,
Adoptions Together would like to thank:

- ♥ Judy and Stuart Sebring for the warmth and hospitality of their lovely home.
- ♥ Our guests for their generosity in supporting services that will build and strengthen families and help abused and neglected children find safe, permanent families that will love, nurture, protect, and guide them.
- ♥ Potomac area merchants and residents whose inspirational sense of community helped make this event our most successful Taste of Potomac.

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