

# Potomac ALMANAC

# End of An Era

PASSAGE, PAGES 8-9

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Santa  
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Raymond and Billie  
Poole's "has everything"  
general store  
comes to an end Dec. 31.



## Spirit of The Season

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## National Honor for Bullis Teacher

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## Not Your Typical Scoring Threat

SPORTS, PAGE 13

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## Spirit Of the Season

Montgomery  
County Muslim  
Foundation  
delivers to  
those in need.

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

**T**he Montgomery County Muslim Foundation (MCMF) has the spirit of the season in their hearts. Holiday dinners, toys and clothing for more than 200 needy Montgomery County families were delivered Saturday, Dec. 17, as a part of its on-going humanitarian efforts.

Members of the foundation assembled baskets of turkeys, stuffing, vegetables, juices, milk and all the other ingredients for a bountiful holiday dinner. They delivered them to the grateful families on Saturday morning — families who would not otherwise be able to have Christmas.

The delivery was a part of the on-going mission of the foundation. Throughout the year, the group works with community partners to eliminate hunger, provide senior assistance and help with community development projects



**Montgomery County Muslim Foundation board members and volunteers on Distribution Day.**

in education, legal assistance and health care. In the spirit of Islam, this Muslim organization wants to give back.

“After 9/11, we felt a need to become more active in our communities as well as to encourage interfaith communication and promote understanding among the many faiths of our nation,” said Saba Rashid of Potomac, secretary of the organization.

Founded in 2003, MCMF has undertaken a number of projects to help the community. This past year, they fed almost 1000 people at the Community for Creative Non-Violence in Washington D.C. during Ramadan. They provided three full meals a day for 10 days to the Community Base Center in Rockville, a homeless shelter for women and their children. Another service was to relieve the workers on Christmas Day to



**Irma Hafeez, president of the Montgomery County Muslim Foundation, helps set up for distribution.**

be with their families. MCMF participates in the Annual Countywide Food Drive for the Montgomery County Manna food bank. This group of only 53 collected and donated over 10,000 pounds of food each year since 2004.

Muslims celebrate a religious holiday called Eid ul-Abha (Festival of Sacrifice). As a part of their Eid religious tradition, they share their meat (and food) with three groups:

SEE GIVING SPIRIT, PAGE 10

## Bullis Teacher Honored

National Park Trust  
bestows first  
“Buddy Award.”

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

**C**arolyn Cohen’s third grade students at The Bullis School in Potomac have met the National Park Trust (NPT) challenge — to take Buddy Bison to as many parks as possible. Buddy, the NPT’s fuzzy mascot is a miniature stuffed bison who has accompanied the students of Cohen’s third grade class to Black Rocks Regional Park, Cabin John Park and the National Mall as part of the NPT’s environmental and ecological education program called “Where’s Buddy Bison Been?” Their teacher, Carolyn Cohen, is passionate about incorporating Buddy into her multidisciplinary curriculum. Cohen is the first educator to receive the NPT’s “BUDDY” award. She was chosen for her innovation and the inspiration she has instilled in students and families to “get outdoors and enjoy our parks.!” This is a part of Michele Obama’s “Let’s Move” initiative.

A Potomac resident and native Washingtonian, Cohen was honored on Nov. 9 at an awards luncheon in Washington D.C. along with Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. Cohen received “The Buddy” award, while Salazar accepted the American Park Experience Award for connecting young adults and communities to the outdoors and public parks. The goal of these programs is to promote wellness and to encourage the next generation of conservationists.

“I first became aware of the Buddy program when a friend, Grace Lee who is executive director of NPT, asked if I would like to pilot the program in my third grade,” said Cohen. “I became excited when I saw the curriculum, met Buddy and saw his tool kit, and realized the possibilities. I have integrated this program into studies of ecology, geography, writing, science, art and music. It lends itself to be included in every part of our third grade curriculum. Each student in my class received their own Buddy Bison and a Buddy Bison t-shirt. Buddy accompanies us on all our park outings, and has traveled with students and their families to parks in Maryland and all over the U.S.”

One of the classes’ activities was



**Carolyn Cohen**

SEE TEACHER, PAGE 10

## Women’s Club Extends Hand of Friendship

Gathering at TOC  
at Avenel Farm.

BY SUSAN C. BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

**T**he Japanese word “otomodachi” means “adult friend” or a “big friend” — and friendship is the theme and purpose of the Washington-Tokyo Women’s Club. As President Charlene Huggins of Arlington, Va., said, “My husband and I spent many years in Japan —

and the Japanese are in our hearts. This friendship organization gave me the opportunity to remain connected to the Japanese culture, customs and people.”

The Washington-Tokyo club membership consists of Japanese women who now reside in the U.S. as well as American women who have resided in Japan. The goal is to provide opportunities for friendship among the membership and their families. Cultural differences between Japan and the U.S. are many — and overwhelming to a newly arrived Japanese spouse who must learn the language and new customs while trying to

adjust to living far away from her native country and extended family. Another group who often has difficulty re-Americanizing are those US citizens who have resided in Japan for a length of time — but who have transferred back to the U.S. only to long for the people and tranquility of the Japanese life style.

This is how the Washington-Tokyo Women’s Club was born in 1951. Today, its membership is over 200 strong. On Dec. 16, they held their holiday luncheon at The

SEE HANDS OF FRIENDSHIP, PAGE 10



## GETTING AROUND

# Friends Gather for Christmas Cheer

BY CISSY FINLEY GRANT  
THE ALMANAC

A fellow named Thomas Tusser, back in the 16th century, could not have said it better: "At Christmas, play and make good cheer, for Christmas comes but once a year."

There was no shortage of good cheer at Diana and Bill Conway's annual Christmas party Sunday night. Their River Road home, purchased in 1996, has been chock full of holiday revelers almost every year since. "We had admired it for several years and, when it came up for sale, we looked. "Diana didn't want an older house. She said, 'No more plastering. I want a new house,'" Bill Conway recalled.

It took only one walk-through before his wife declared, "We could have a really good Christmas party here." As they say, "The rest is history."

"We meet here every year," Nancy Dacek, well known in Montgomery County political circles, remarked about her friend Lois Williams, a 44-year Potomac resident and a board member of West Montgomery County Citizens Association. But, forget all that. The story with these two is that 35 years ago they were both Girl Scout leaders for their daughters' troop, at Potomac Elementary School.

Typical of the more than 200 guests who arrived for the 5-9 p.m. cocktail-buffet party, complete with the traditional 7:30 p.m. bonfire, was another what goes-around-comes-around story. A nearby neighbor of the Conways, Dieter Waldschmidt, there with his wife, Nina, and daughter, Laura, told how he arrived in this area from Munich, Germany in the 1960s. At the time, the late Congressman Newton Steers was married to his lovely wife, "Gabby." Steers helped Waldschmidt "get my Green Card." It seems, Waldschmidt and "Gabby" were old skiing friends in Munich. "She now lives in Paris," he said.

This was definitely not an adults-only gathering. There were youngsters of all ages scurrying around. "I think the children are outnumbering us," the hostess cheerfully remarked. The 200 invitee parents



**Ted and Elie Cain greeted Polly Webster (seated) with a holiday kiss at the Conway party.**

were asked to bring their families.

"I want you to meet my almost father-in-law," Diana Conway remarked to a guest. She introduced "Rocky" Suddarth, and his wife, Michele. Suddarth and Diana's father were attached to the Jordanian embassy when their son, and Diana, were third graders in Arman. "We were madly in love," Diana admitted.

Suddarth, who returned to Jordan in 1987 as American Ambassador, now lives in the Potomac area. He is chairman of the board for contemporary Arabian studies at Georgetown University. Not that that consumes all of his interests. "When I retired from the diplomatic corps I went to the University of Maryland and got a master's degree in musicology. I would recommend it for any retiree," he enthusiastically advised.

Enthusiasm didn't stop with Ambassador Suddarth. Potomac's ambassador of good will is Maria Fusco, who, when she is not leading a Girl Scout troop or giving a hand to any in need, is involved with Safe Shores — an organization that helps women and children escape abuse. When asked about the project, she responded, "We will be filling wish lists and wrapping presents all week." But that's the proverbial tip of the iceberg for her as it is for most volunteers. It's an ongoing project. Maria also wants the whole village to remember that MANNA will be accepting non-perishable goods at Potomac Safeway and Chicken Out until December 31. "There are just so many in



**Anne Camalier, center, took a break from her hostess duties to join her grandchildren singing Christmas carols at Anne's annual Christmas party.**

need. Every can counts," she emphasized.

### FRIENDS ABOUND

With a huge, heated tent attached to her Potomac Falls home, Anne Camalier had no trouble in accommodating her guest list of 200 "all friends of many years," and family members. There were food stations all around and tables and chairs for dining. This created a relaxing Sunday evening event.

There was no doubt Christmas was in the air, particularly when seven of Anne's grandchildren, Hilary, Heather, Colin, "Sam" and Teddy Diefenbach, and Lauren Walker and Tyler Hunt presented a musical, singing carols while their "audience" accompanied them with hand-held jingle bells.

This was another Sunday evening, 5-9 p.m. party, where Christmas spirit was in abundance. Christmas trees aglow with all their trimmings adorned several rooms. The piece de resistance however — large dolls of many descriptions, descending down the curved staircase. They seemingly greeted guests as they entered, or at best said, "Get ready for a good time."

It is doubtful that there were any disappointments in this crowd, many of whom have been close friends for years, including Helen Hellmuth, Kay Diane Bowles, Peggy Cunningham, Fran Bisselle, Mary Anne Veirs Rohrbaugh, and Jan Murchison, all of whom at one time or the other have been involved in various philanthropic endeavors.

Austin Kiplinger, there with Bonnie Nicholson, had the closing of Poole's Store on his mind. The Raymond Poole Family has run the store for many years. They have been notified by Park and Planning that they must be out by Jan. 1, 2011. "We need to retain some kind of up-county store that will serve the horse and farm community," he said. A nearby neighbor, Kiplinger said he remembered when Guy Allnutt owned the store and there were Pitch Parties (cards) every Tuesday and Thursday nights. Kiplinger recalled that the River Road store was built in 1901.

There is no small amount of history one



**Helen Hellmuth, left, Jan Murchison, center, and Mary Anne Rohrbaugh were among the 200 friends at Anne Camalier's Potomac party.**

can learn at a party. Pat Bush, there with daughters Dannye Ayre and Dorthea Frye, with her husband, Larry, was telling friends that she used to regularly fly a Piper Cub airplane out of Congressional Airport, known today as Congressional Shopping Center on Rockville pike.

Pat, whose late father was Sen. Daniel McGehee from Mississippi, said she first took lessons in her hometown and resumed when the family moved to Washington. Her interests soon changed to politics and the arts when she married her late husband, Bill Bush.

It is the season for good cheer, and for giving. In Potomac, both seem to be in abundance.

Merry Christmas.



**Fran Bissell, left, and Joanne and Don West were among the Camalier party guests.**



**Ambassador "Rocky" Suddarth and Diana Conway recall times when both lived in Arman, Jordan.**



**Lois Williams, left, and Nancy Dacek meet each year at Diana and Bill Conway's annual Christmas party. They were Girl Scout troop leaders at Potomac Elementary School.**

PHOTOS BY CISSY FINLEY GRANT/THE ALMANAC



# Hands of Friendship

FROM PAGE 3

Player's Club at Avenel Farm in Potomac. They will celebrate their 60th Anniversary on Feb. 17, 2011 at Congressional Country Club, Potomac.

The history of the Washington-Tokyo Women's Club began 60 years ago when four Japanese women offered friendship and assistance to newly arrived wives of the staff at the recently established Japanese Government Overseas Agency in Washington D.C. Soon after, the Japanese Embassy was opened and membership expanded quickly. The group formed special interest groups in Japanese Cooking, The Art of Ikebana (Flower Arranging), English Conversation, Art Appreciation, Mah Jong and Bridge. These groups meet in members' homes. Many of the members reside in Potomac, McLean and Arlington.



Jane Redmond demonstrates the art of ikebana to the Washington-Tokyo Club.

Washington D.C. More special interest groups were started, including Japanese Language Study, Life in the American Way, Tour Washington, children's celebrations, tennis, golf, handicrafts, birding and many others. The club published a cookbook and contributed money to plant two cherry trees along the Tidal Basin.

This month's holiday celebration on Dec. 16 included a multimedia demonstration by Ann Beyreis entitled "Living in Harmony with Nature — A Japanese Celebration of the Seasons" in conjunction with an exhibition of how to create ikebana representing each season by Jane Redmond. Both are experts in the art of Ikebana and shared in making the event symbolic of the traditional culture of Japan.

Prospective members should consult the Washington-Tokyo Women's Club website [www.washingtontokyowomensclub.org](http://www.washingtontokyowomensclub.org).

**POTOMAC RESIDENT** Masumi Tochisako has been a member for many years. "The group helped me to connect with both Japanese and Americans, learn English and not feel so isolated. I have learned so much about the U.S. through the special interest groups — and have formed lifelong friendships. We all have our love for Japan in common."

In the 1960s the idea of "Nakayoshi" began. A "nakayoshi" is a "good friend" or a mentor. New members were assigned a mentor and groups were established to acquaint newcomers with life in



Members and guests attend holiday luncheon of Washington-Tokyo Club at TPC at Avenel Farm in Potomac.

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# OPINION

## Merry Christmas, Happy New Year

**W**e wish our readers, our clients and everyone who lives, works, studies, plays, shops or pursues their avocations here all the best over this holiday week and beyond into the New Year. Thank you for making the Almanac a part of your week, a part of your year.

This is our last news edition of 2010; next week shortly after Christmas, readers will receive the Children's Almanac, our traditional issue devoted to the writing and artwork of local children and teens.

In the meantime, we are looking for input on New Year's resolutions. Share one or more of the resolutions you will make for 2011, or tell us about a past resolution and how you approached it, for better or worse. Do you have

some tips to share for achieving your goals? Send us 50-200 words, and please share a photo as well. We'll print selections in our first issue of the New Year, Jan. 5-12, 2011.

Send your submissions to [smauren@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:smauren@connectionnewspapers.com).

Another opportunity to be a part of the Almanac: The Pet Almanac will publish on Feb. 2, 2011, send us photos of you and your pet by Jan. 20.

### Alternatives to Drinking and Driving

With the season for holiday parties comes the increased incidence of driving under the influence.

Don't take the risk. Plan ahead, leave your car at home, take public transportation, arrange for a designated driver, or choose to abstain if a designated driver isn't available.

But if you find yourself in the unfortunate position of drinking without a safe way home on your own this holiday season, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program has provided you with a safety net called SoberRide. Take their number with you when you head out, and be sure any young adults (must be 21 or over) in your family are similarly armed.

WRAP's 2010 Holiday SoberRide program is available now through 6 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011.

To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$30 fare), call 800-200-8294. You must be 21 or older. (Callers are responsible for anything over \$30.)



From left: St. Elizabeth School 8th grade students John Paul Fox, Michael Pullano, John Crusier and Tommy McAleer ate with shelter residents during lunch and later sang carols for their guests.



From left: St. Raphael 5th Grade students Jamie Mitchell, Marita Gonzalez, Schuyler Johns and Belen Ruiz refill the lunch guests' soda glasses.

PHOTOS BY COLLEEN HEALY/THE ALMANAC

## Ringling in Cheer for D.C.'s Homeless

**F**or 15 years St. Raphael's Catholic Church has hosted homeless shelter residents for its annual Christmas Party. On Dec. 14, more than 130 residents from several D.C. area shelters attended the annual Christmas Mass and luncheon.

The St. Raphael School students served the guests a feast of ham, turkey, stuffing, potatoes and apple pie a la mode. There were Christmas songs by the piano and all of the guests joined in with singing and made favorite song requests.

The St. Raphael School 5th graders and St. Elizabeth School 8th graders sang several Christmas carols.

Each guest received a special gift of a backpack containing a Redskin colored hat, socks, a bag of toiletries, candy and a picture of the Last Supper.

Several Potomac residents helped with the cost of the luncheon. In addition, local Potomac families who own restaurants donated food including Potomac residents and St. Raphael's parishioners Cary and Margie Prokos, who own Normandie Farms and Mark and Sara Regis from Old Angler's Inn.

— COLLEEN HEALY



St. Raphael school 5th grade students sang carols at the luncheon.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## NOW THROUGH JAN. 1

**Festival of Lights.** Free. Nightly indoor concerts at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. They include Sandra Turley, the Harbor City Music Company Show Chorus and the McDonough High School Chamber Choir: "The Madrigal Lords and Ladies." Bell choirs, flute ensembles, vocal choirs, dance troupes and other forms of holiday entertainment will be presented in the Temple Visitors' Center's theater. Open daily until 10 p.m. Lights illuminated at dusk with nightly performances at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. At the Washington D.C. Temple Visitors' Center at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Temple Grounds, 9900 Stoneybrook Dr. Kensington. Visit [www.dctemplelights.lids.org](http://www.dctemplelights.lids.org).

## NOW THROUGH DEC. 30

**International Exhibition of Fine Art in Miniature.** Free. Gallery hours are Monday,

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information call 301-581-5200 or visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org).

**Michael Bignell & Mikhail Kononov.** Free. Explore Bignell's works in acrylic and Kononov's works in oil. Gallery hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information call 301-581-5200 or visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org).

## NOW THROUGH JAN. 9

**Holiday Art Show and Sale.** Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The exhibition will feature works by resident artists, instructors and invited artists and will include glass, ceramics, jewelry, photography, painting, and more. In the Popcorn Gallery of Glen Echo Park. Call 301-634-2222 or visit [glenechopark.org](http://glenechopark.org).

## NOW THROUGH JAN. 1

**Winter Lights Festival.** A 3.5-mile drive through a holiday light show at Seneca Creek Park with more than 350 illuminated displays. (Closed Mondays and Dec. 24). Proceeds from the Festival benefit local charities. Call 301-258-6350 or visit [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov).

## TUESDAY/DEC. 21

**A Candlelight Christmas.** 7:30 p.m. With the splendor of brass, organ, percussion, and the 200-voice Washington Chorus, this beloved holiday event features Christmas classics, sing-alongs, and the glorious candlelight processional. Music Director Julian Wachner. Tickets are \$15. At the Music Center at Strathmore. Pick your seats online: [www.thewashingtonchorus.org](http://www.thewashingtonchorus.org)

## THURSDAY, DEC. 23

**Slow Blues and Swing Dance.** 9 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. Slow blues lesson from 8:15 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 to 11:30 p.m. With DJ Mike Marcotte and guests. At the Back Room of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Donna Barker at 301-634-2231 or go to [info@CapitalBlues.org](mailto:info@CapitalBlues.org) or [www.CapitalBlues.org](http://www.CapitalBlues.org).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 25

**"Lost Islands" (Eyim Avudim).** 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$5. Directed by Reshef Levy and the winner of four Israeli Academy Awards, will be the feature presentation at Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation. Potluck vegetarian Chinese dinner and dessert at 6:30 p.m. At 7727 Persimmon Tree

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11

## LET'S TALK Real Estate



by  
**Michael Matese**

### Trends in Kitchen Colors

Each year brings a new trend in kitchen color and 2010 has been no exception. This year the goal is to use the kitchen color to make it stand out from the other rooms in the house. The kitchen is no longer allowed to be the boring, but functional room, but the room the family wants to spend time in.

How do you pick the color that's right for your kitchen? With stainless steel or black appliances, shades of grey are everywhere. The industrial kitchen is sure to make even a part time cook feel like a gourmet chef. It will make your kitchen look like it traveled back from the future. Accent walls that are a darker shade of grey or black will help turn your kitchen into a showplace.

Kitchen colors in shades of yellow, purple and blue are also popular right now. Any shade of these colors will be a crowd pleaser for any buyer. The key is to be unafraid to experiment. Add a little color to your kitchen, and make it the happy heart to your home.

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## OPEN HOUSE LISTINGS

Will Return after the Holidays



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# End of an Era

Department of Parks orders Poole Family to vacate — after 46 years.

BY CAROLE DELL  
THE ALMANAC

The Pooles are leaving. On Saturday, families showed up to see Santa on his annual visit and enjoy the warmth and camaraderie of Raymond and Billie Poole's homespun "has everything" general store. But, they also came to say goodbye to the Poole family and farewell to an era.

Raymond and Billie Poole's advancing age has run up against the economic downturn and news of their pending departure generated what could be called a family crisis in the community.

Laura Beck, of Potomac, is circulating a petition to protect the future of the store. "It is the Poole's history in the reserve and a story of family and a story of a zone that the county created to preserve the agriculture," said Dolores Millmoe, of Seneca, a conservation advocate for the Audubon Naturalist Society. "It is a no-brainer to preserve an agricultural business at the site."

"Over the last several years the Poole family battled heroically on a number of fronts: a bad economy, historically bad weather and a landlord that seemed determined to end the Poole's tenancy at the



Charlie Ugaz, of Potomac, reminisces with Jack Poole, Ray's son, about the old days. "I come for sandwiches and feed," he said. He remembers how hunters from all around showed up at Poole's store to use their deer weighing station and get a good bite to eat. Today, Maryland no longer requires the weighing station, so it sits idle behind the store.

general store," said their attorney and business advisor, Tom Gutierrez. "Eventually, they were simply overwhelmed and the younger generation decided to focus on helping their aging parents."

The news arrived in the form of a registered letter from the Montgomery County Department of Parks, the property's owner, on the Monday after Thanksgiving. They announced to the Poole family,

who have been in business for 46 years, that they must vacate by Dec. 31. When the family asked for more time, the Parks Department refused. "I'm not ready to leave," said Raymond Poole, 84, who spent much of his life working in the store. "Maybe I'll wake up one morning and hear they'll let us stay."

**BOTH THE STORE** and house, which are historical preservation buildings, will remain vacant and possibly subject to vandalism, making some customers wonder what all the fuss was about in getting the Pooles to vacate so quickly. It is not only about their departure, said Elie Cain, of Potomac, but also about the fate of the store. It is listed as the "oldest general store in continuous operation." Francoise Carrier, Planning Board Chair of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, has not responded to calls. "Throughout this year Montgomery Parks staff has been very uncommunicative — indeed, almost secretive — about its plans for the future of Poole's Store," said Knight Kiplinger, Seneca neighbor and customer of Poole's Store since 1959. "We're now heartened to hear a new tone from them."

That new tone showed up suddenly on the Parks and Planning website on Friday morning as the news spread to the press and a wider community. In the announcement, Mary Bradford, Director of Parks, stated: "We are working with them to give them whatever time they may need as they prepare to relocate." That will allow the Poole family to facilitate an auction on Jan. 8. The announcement continued with a



If the Poole's general store is known for having a diverse inventory, can this be true? Can this be a Lady Gaga bra hanging there with the harness? Wrong. It is a pair of leather protectors for a horse's fetlocks, usually used during competition.

pledge to include the public in their decision-making.

"We look forward to meeting with the staff to offer our ideas and hear theirs. This open airing of ideas, we feel, should precede any negotiations with prospective tenants," said Kiplinger.

**POOLE'S GENERAL STORE** serves many of the 577 farms and 350 horticultural enterprises that make up much of the Agricultural Reserve in Montgomery County. "What I hate is that these fine customers come here to pick up their stuff and what are they going to do now," said Ray Poole as he sat



PHOTOS BY CAROLE DELL/ THE ALMANAC



Marilyn, Carolyn and Jo Ann surround Santa on his last visit. The Poole daughters and sons have been the backbone of the store in recent years, keeping up the business as their parents have slowed down.

in his wheelchair at the dining room table, a checkbook and receipts in front of him.

"This could be a catastrophic failure to the Ag Reserve. If we lose our main input feed supplier it makes it harder to farm here," said Carol Rae Hansen, a neighbor in Poolesville.

Those who stepped through their door could count on Billie and Raymond Poole to be Mom and Pop. Then, those friends growing older brought in the next generation to be introduced to a past still sitting right there in the present. "The children will never know this way of life," said Debbie Miller of Darnestown. "There are no words, I just don't understand."

## The Agricultural Reserve

Over half of the 93,000-acre agricultural reserve is preserved through transfer of development rights or easement purchase initiatives. The County's diverse agricultural industry — 577 farms and 350 horticultural enterprises — produce millions of dollars in economic contribution from farm products and operations. The majority of Montgomery County farms are family-run operations, many reaching back several generations, which employ more than 10,000 residents. Fifty percent of the County's farmers work full time in farming.

— from the **Montgomery Countryside Alliance**



At the Poole family general store there was always something for everyone. Harness and horse feed, winter boots, baby chicks, chili dogs, hand tools, toys, hay, straw and sandwiches, garden supplies, seed and sawdust. "I would like those oysters again this year," called a voice from the back of the store. "I thought this was a hot dog and chili spot," someone answered. The oysters were ordered.

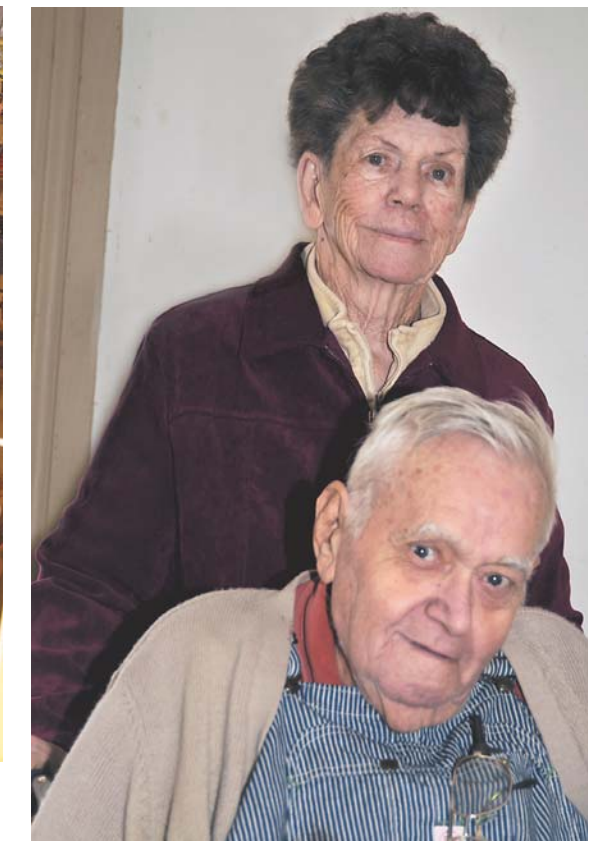
Visiting the store last week, Sharon Wine, of Potomac, reeled back at the news. "I don't need a museum here, I need a store," she said. "This is a tremendous loss."

When Chris Gordon of NBC4 came to interview the family last Thursday, they kept much of the politics out of the story. The camera revealed more than they did as it briefly caught a view of shelves, once tightly cluttered, now eerily bare. But, those back burners still sizzle with smacking good hot dogs; and the kettle of soup still simmers, its aroma mixing with a healthy whiff of harness leather.

It is as much a community center as a general store. "We've never had customers, we've always had friends," said Billie Poole to those standing around as she helped her daughter Jo Ann behind the counter. Another daughter, Carolyn left to deliver feed. Things went on as usual.

Billie Poole, 80, who used to heft a sack of horse feed as if it contained potato chips, stays in the big white house behind the store these days, tending to the packing, and helping Ray, who is in a wheelchair after several recent hospitalizations. It is here where they raised their six children who, at one time or another, worked in the store.

Jack, Jo Ann, Marilyn and Carolyn have recently been carrying on the daily work for their aging parents. Ray Poole said he al-



Billie Poole, 80, and her husband, Raymond Poole, 84, have been the Mom and Pop of Poolesville to so many members of the community that their departure from that warm, inviting store and its closing will leave a void that many say may never be filled.

## Sign Me Up

Those interested in signing the petition can also find it at Poole's Store, The Surrey in Darnestown, and at Callithea Farm in Potomac. To register support for the continuation of an agricultural store contact the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Francoise Carrier, Planning Board Chair and Mary Bradford, Director of Parks.

ways pictured them living out their lives, as he did, tending to the community out of this family store.

The Allnutt family built the store, originally called the Seneca store, in 1901 and sold the property to the parks department after flooding from Hurricane Agnes in 1972.

The Pooles have been leasing the five-acre property ever since.

Raymond Poole began working at the store at the age of 21. "I was raised in Poolesville and never went more than three miles up the river," he said. When they leave the store, Ray and Billie Poole will move into the apartment in downtown Poolesville where Billie grew up. "I'm going home," she said.

For years, the Poole's General Store has given more than supplies to the wide and diverse community it served; it has given them a destination, a meeting place and an escape back to another, more gentle day.

Behind the store, chickens scratched the earth and sheep grazed nearby. "I guess it is all over," said Ray Poole, as he watched them out of the window. "I enjoyed almost every minute I was here."



Olivia Sordo, 3, has other things on her mind besides the closing of Poole's store. Santa, (whose beard is real) is called Michael Reed in his other world, and Mrs. Santa, Jeannie Reed, of Frederick. They have been coming to the store for nine years as Mr. and Mrs. Claus. "This is really emotional," said Jeannie Reed. Mr. Claus said that they will miss it. "It has been a gift of love from Santa and his wife."



Another day of business for Billie Poole, on right, and her daughter, Jo Ann Clemens, as they greet customers and say goodbye to old friends. A petition on the counter waits for signatures protesting the Park Service's treatment of the family and a future in doubt for the store.



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## NEWS



PHOTO BY TAMI HEILEMANN/U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Carolyn Cohen accepts "The Buddy" award from the National Park Trust. From left, Bill Brownell, Chairman, National Park Trust Board of Trustees; Diana Leon Taylor, Vice Chair, National Park Trust Board of Trustees; Cohen, third grade teacher, The Bullis School, and Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar.

## Teacher Receives 'Buddy Award'

FROM PAGE 3

partnering with the Elsie Whitlow Stokes Charter School in Washington D.C., a school for underserved students. Bullis students held a bake sale to fund the Stokes' third grade students' trip to Black Hills Regional Park in upper Montgomery County. There, each Bullis student was paired with a Stokes student, and the new friends went together on a Seneca Lake boat trip with a naturalist. Then the students engaged in a nature scavenger hunt through the park.

"The children were so excited to make new friends. The children who came from D.C. enjoyed the opportunity to try boating and hiking. It made my day when one little girl excitedly exclaimed, 'The water is just sparkling. I've never seen anything like it before.' What really made this a wonderful experience is that the children were able to see their new acquaintances again on Earth Day," Cohen said.

All 85 Bullis Lower School students spent Earth Day at the National Mall where they participated in environmentally friendly activities.



"Buddy Bison"

Another interdisciplinary activity was to create dioramas of a scene in a park which included a ceramic bison sculptured in art class. These dioramas were displayed on Earth Day at DAR Constitution Hall. Four dioramas were chosen to be exhibited at the White House. The children also wrote essays which are presented on the website, [www.buddybison.org](http://www.buddybison.org).

Cohen has involved her husband Rob in this educational program. A children's author and songwriter, he wrote the book, "Buddy Bison Goes to a Park" about Buddy visiting Yellowstone National Park. Each child in the class illustrated a page of the book. Rob also created an original song for the Buddy program. This song was performed by Bullis students at the awards luncheon.

To learn more about the National Parks Trust "Buddy" program, visit the website [www.nationalparktrust.org](http://www.nationalparktrust.org). The NPT currently has 24 schools across our nation in the program, but would like to encourage more educators to include this program in their curriculum.

## In the Giving Spirit of the Season

FROM PAGE 3

their family, their extended family and friends, and the needy. This year, Eid fell on Nov. 15; thus they provided food for Thanksgiving for many families.

**OVER THE PAST YEARS**, MCMF has partnered with HOC housing, the Montgomery County Volunteer Center and the Muslim Community Center to identify recipient families. Since 2005, this group has served as a zip code coordinator for the Montgomery County Holiday Gift Basket Program, providing food and toys to 500-900 families with children each year.

A future MCMF project is to establish a senior community center to replace at least one of the 11 that Montgomery County is forced to close in January due to a lack of funding. In past years, a 14-seat van

and driver were provided by MCMF to take seniors to their medical appointments as well as to the Muslim Community Center Free Medical clinic. This van was also used to transport seniors to church, social networking events and on field trips. They plan to continue this service and add to it, since many county services are being cut.

Irma Hafeez of Potomac has served as the transportation coordinator and the inspiration behind helping the seniors. She explains that her group loves helping the seniors: "We hold monthly socials for seniors at the Potomac Community Center and the Germantown Community Center. We try to meet the needs of seniors — they are so appreciative of all that we do for them. We would like to help in any way we can." If senior transportation is needed, call her at 301-760-7447.



# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 7

Lane, Bethesda. Call 301-767-3333, ext. 106.  
www.adatshalom.net.

## SUNDAY/DEC. 26

**Contra and Square Dance.** 7 to 10:30 p.m. Admission is \$12/nonmembers; \$9/FSGW members. The evening can include square dances, mixers, waltzes and other couple dances. There is a lesson at 7 p.m., followed by dances with live music from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. In the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Contact: fsgw.org.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 31

**Swing Dance.** 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Admission TBD. Flying Feet Enterprises welcomes the New Year with an exciting Swing dance and live music by Lush Life. Beginner Swing Dance lesson from 8 - 9 p.m. is followed by dancing from 9 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. In the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Contact: dance@flyingfeet.org.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 1

**Swing Dance.** 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. It's a New Year's Day Pajama Party with Connecticut's Eight to the Bar. Beginner swing lesson from 8 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Email: Debra@gottaswing.com

**Salute to Vienna.** 2 p.m. Featuring The Strauss Symphony of America led by European maestro Guido Mancusi, Hungarian soprano Anita Lukács, Hungarian tenor Zsolt Vadász European, dancers from the National Moravian-Silesian Ballet of and lastly, and famous operetta excerpts by "Waltz King" Johann Strauss Jr. Tickets are \$49. At 5301 Tuckerman Lane in North Bethesda, MD, or 301-581-5100. Visit strathmore.org.

## SUNDAY/JAN. 2

**Jewish Book Sale.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A Judaica book sale, the largest of its kind in the greater Washington area, with an estimated 1,600 titles. The used books will cover a wide range of subjects, including Bibles, Talmud and Rabbinic literature, philosophy and theology, American Jewish history, Holocaust studies, Israel and Zionism and Kabbalah and Hasidism. Nearly three-

fourths are hard covers, most of them nearly new. Proceeds will benefit Jewish studies in India. At Congregation Tikvat Israel, 2200 Baltimore Road, Rockville. Call 301-762-7338.

## CONTRA AND SQUARE DANCE.

7 to 10:30 p.m. Admission is \$12/nonmembers; \$9/FSGW

members. Lesson at 7 p.m.; followed by dances with live music by Crowfoot from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.

**Waltz Dance.** 3:30 to 6 p.m. Admission is \$10. With the band, Crowfoot playing a lively mix of folk waltzes with a few other couple dances, including Hambo, Schottische, Swing, Tango, and Polka. Introductory Waltz Workshop from 2:45 to 3:30 p.m. 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, go to www.WaltzTimeDances.org.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 6

**Slow Blues and Swing Dance.** 9 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. With DJ Mike Marcotte & Guests. Slow Blues lesson from 8:15 to 9 p.m. At the Back Room, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Donna Barker at 301.634.2231 or go to info@CapitalBlues.org or www.CapitalBlues.org.

## FRIDAY/JAN. 7

**Contra Dance.** 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$9. Contra dance lesson from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. followed by the called dance to live music from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Email: fndcontra@yahoo.com.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 8

**New Year's Ball.** 11:30 a.m. Sponsored by the Eminence Dance Studio. A fun-filled family extravaganza at the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center at Montgomery College, 51 Mannake street, Rockville. Tickets can be ordered by calling 202-465-6465 or e-mailing eminencedance@netzero.net.

**Swing Dance.** 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. With New York City's George Gee Swing Orchestra. Drop-in beginner swing lesson from 8 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Email: Debra@gottaswing.com

**Israeli Film Fest.** 7:45 p.m. "A Matter of Size" ("Sipur Gadol"), about the adventures of four overweight friends from the Israeli city of Ramle. Film will be followed by moderated discussion and refreshments. Admission is \$10 for synagogue members, \$12 for the general public. At Congregation Tikvat Israel, 2200 Baltimore Road, Rockville. Call 301-762-7338.

## SUNDAY/JAN. 9

**Cajun and Zydeco Dance.** Admission is \$12. With the band, Savoir Faire Cajun Band. Introductory Cajun dance lesson from 3 to 3:30 p.m.; dancing until 6 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Michael Hart at 301-762-6730 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, or go to www.DancingbytheBayou.com.

**Contra and Square Dance.** 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Admission is \$12/nonmembers; \$9/FSGW members. There is a lesson at 7 p.m., followed by dances to live music by Toss the Possum from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Visit www.fsgw.org.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 13

**Slow Blues and Swing Dance.** 9 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. With DJ Mike Marcotte & Guests. Slow Blues lesson from 8:15 to 9 p.m. At the Back Room, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Donna Barker at 301.634.2231 or go to info@CapitalBlues.org or www.CapitalBlues.org.

**Open Rehearsals.** 2 to 3:30 p.m. Free. Encore



## TUESDAY/JAN. 11

**Erica Wheeler and the Harley String Band.** 8 p.m. Tickets are \$18/door; \$15/advance. At the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville, 100 Welsh Park Dr., Rockville. Visit FocusMusic.org.

Choral for singers 55-plus. Calling all former high school and college choristers, church, synagogue and community choral singers. Be a part of the Encore Chorale conducted by Jeanne Kelly, past conductor of the United States Naval Academy Women's Glee Club, Georgetown University Concert Choir and Senior Singers' Chorales of the Levine School of Music. Encore

Washington Conservatory of Music at Glen Echo Park. At the South Arcade, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Bethesda. Call Jeanne Kelly at 301-261-5747 or email Jeanne.kelly@encorecreativity.org.

## SUNDAY/JAN. 16

**Waltz Dance.** 3:30 to 6 p.m. Admission is \$10. With the band, Night Watch playing a lively mix of folk waltzes with a few other couple dances, including Hambo, Schottische, Swing, Tango, and Polka. Introductory Waltz Workshop from 2:45 to 3:30 p.m.; dancing from 3:30 to 6 p.m. 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, go to www.WaltzTimeDances.org.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 20

**Slow Blues and Swing Dance.** 9 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. With DJ Mike Marcotte & Guests. Slow Blues lesson from 8:15 to 9 p.m. At the Back Room, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Donna Barker at 301.634.2231 or go to info@CapitalBlues.org or www.CapitalBlues.org.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 22

**Pianist Brian Ganz.** 8 p.m. The recital, which

## NOW THROUGH DEC. 28

**"The Nature of Things."** Contemporary works by Nebiur Arellano, Anita Bretzfeld, Jo Fleming, Mina Oka Hanig, Geri Smith, and Novie Trump. At the Dennis and Phillip Ratner Museum, 10001 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Call 301-897-1518.

## NOW THROUGH DEC. 31

**Holiday Show.** Featuring pottery, jewelry, wearable art, paintings, prints, and photos—small and large, sculpture and mobiles. The Gallery will be filled with beautiful works of original design that make great holiday gifts. At Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Call 301-951-9441. Contact Jean Hirons jeanhirons@comcast.net or call 301-340-3198. Visit www.waverlystreetgallery.com

## JAN. 2 THROUGH JAN. 30

**Slices of Life.** A Meet-the-Artists reception is Sunday, Jan. 9 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Artists will include: Jerry Berry, Lucy Blankstein, Chuck Bress, Zandra Chestnut, Keith Egli, Nicholas Fan, Lee Goodwin, Michael Oberman, Arlene Polangin, and Jerry Weinstein. At the Dennis & Phillip Ratner Museum, 10001 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Call 301-897-1518.

## JAN. 4 THROUGH FEB. 5

**Artist Eric Harley Schweitzer.** Artist's reception is Friday, Jan. 14 from 6 to 9 p.m. Paintings and works on paper and new work by gallery artists. At Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Call 301-951-9441. Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 12 - 6 p.m. Visit waverlystreetgallery.com.

## JAN. 8 THROUGH FEB. 21

**Fabric of Survival and Portraits of Life: Holocaust Survivors of Montgomery County.** Free admission. Gallery Hours are

begins the series "Brian Ganz and the Strathmore Chopin Project," marks the start of his ambitious endeavor to perform the 250 works of Chopin over the next decade. Visit nationalphilharmonic.org or call the Strathmore ticket office at 301-581-5100. Tickets are \$34-\$44; kids 7-17 are free. At the Music Center at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike in North Bethesda.

## SHIR AMI - SONG OF OUR PEOPLE.

At 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$28 (Stars price \$25.20). Explore the rich mid-20th century musical heritage of the Jewish people. From Rimsky-Korsakov to Jewish composers who perished in the holocaust and became cultural leaders, this moving performance recovers and rejuvenates music from this tumultuous period of history. At the Mansion at Strathmore. Call 301-581-5109 or visit www.strathmore.org.

**Israeli Film Fest.** 7:45 p.m. "Dear Mr. Waldman" ("Michtavim L'America"), a coming-of-age story in 1960s' Tel Aviv written and directed by the son of Holocaust survivors. The latter film is rated R. Film will be followed by moderated discussion and refreshments. Admission is \$10 for synagogue members, \$12 for the general public. At Congregation Tikvat Israel, 2200 Baltimore Road, Rockville. Call 301-762-7338.

## MONDAY/JAN. 24

**James Hill in Concert.** 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15/advance; \$20/door; \$10/students. At IMT at Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, Rockville. Call 301-754-3611 and visit www.imtfolk.org

## TUESDAY/JAN. 25

**Small Potatoes.** 8 p.m. Tickets are \$18/door; \$15/advance. At the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville, 100 Welsh Park Dr., Rockville. Visit FocusMusic.org.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 27

**Slow Blues and Swing Dance.** 9 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. With DJ Mike Marcotte & Guests. Slow Blues lesson from 8:15 to 9 p.m. At the Back Room, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Donna Barker at 301.634.2231 or go to info@CapitalBlues.org or

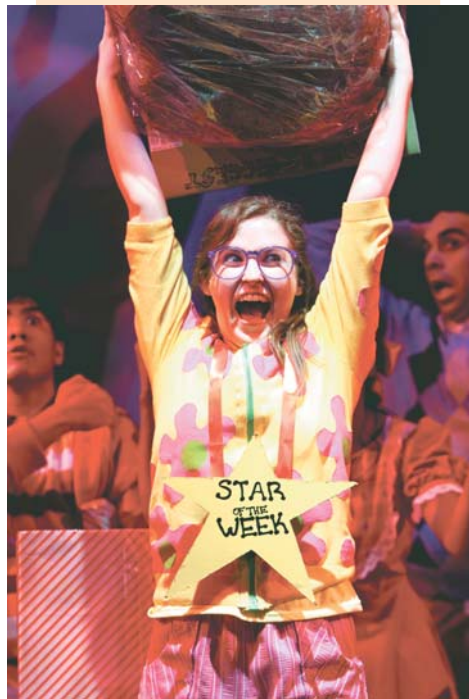


PHOTO BY SCOTT SUCHMAN

## Junie B. is a star ... in her dreams.

### NOW THROUGH JAN. 9

**Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!** Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 and 4 p.m. Some Saturday 11 a.m. performances. Single ticket prices range from \$10-\$22, with group rates available. It's holiday time in Room One and that means drama! Tattletale May keeps picking on Junie B., and things get even worse when Junie B. draws May's name for Secret Santa. She hatches a plan to give May a lump of coal, while getting an awesome Squeeze-A-Burp for herself. Will Junie B. have a last-minute change of heart and show her true holiday spirit? Just like its heroine, the show has laughs, verve and energy to spare! At Imagination Stage 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Visit www.imaginationstage.org or call 301-280-1660.



## JAN. 4 THROUGH FEB. 21

**"Brush, Stone and Wood."** Free. An exhibit by artists David Firestone, Carolyn Thorington, and Phil Brown. Artists' reception Sunday, Jan. 9 from 1 to 3 p.m. At Gallery Har Shalom, 11510 Falls Road, Potomac. Call 301-299-7087.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Visit www.strathmore.org or call 301-581-5100.

### NOW THROUGH JAN. 9

**Holiday Art Show and Sale.** Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Browse and buy fine artworks at Glen Echo Park's annual Holiday Art Show and Sale, presented by the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture. The exhibition will feature works by resident artists, instructors and invited artists and will include glass, ceramics, jewelry, photographs, paintings, and more. In the Popcorn Gallery. Additional holiday hours on weekdays and weekends will be posted at www.glenechopark.org. The Art Show will be open for the Winter's Eve event on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 6 to 9 p.m. Call 301-634-2222 or visit glenechopark.org.



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# Not Your Stereotypical Scoring Threat

Ceccone's offense,  
team defense lead  
Whitman girls  
basketball team.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE ALMANAC

**W**hitman junior Angelica Ceccone isn't tall, she lacks consistency as a free-throw shooter and her perimeter game won't strike fear in an opponent.

Sound like the attributes of an offensively challenged individual? Try one of the top scorers in Montgomery County.

The 5-foot-8 Ceccone averaged 23 points per game during the Whitman girls basketball team's 5-0 start to the 2010-11 season. She averaged 10 points as a sophomore, but head coach Pete Kenah said he didn't envision Ceccone's offensive outburst.

**"When she takes her shoes off, she's not that tall. It's pretty impressive."**

— Whitman head girls basketball coach Pete Kenah

Then again, how could he? Ceccone doesn't possess the skill set or physical traits one would expect from a prolific scorer. Instead, No. 23 uses hustle and an ability to finish around the rim to pile up the points.

"She has a nose for the ball — that's what everyone says who watches her," Kenah said. "How do you average over 20 points per game when you only shoot 60 percent from the free-throw line [and] you've only made one 3 on the season? You just have to have great touch around the basket and a great nose for the ball. ..."

"To go from 10 points a game that she averaged last year to [more than 20 points per game]; we've never had



**Whitman junior Angelica Ceccone is one of the top scorers in Montgomery County, averaging 23 points per contest.**

**Whitman senior Whitney Kolakowski, right, is a defensive presence for the Vikings.**

PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

a kid make a jump like that."

Saturday, Dec. 18 was an offensive struggle for Ceccone and the Vikings, who defeated Holy Child 50-43. Ceccone finished with 15 points, reaching double figures midway through the fourth quarter.

"I was doing pretty well up until this game," Ceccone said. "But Kenah expects me to do that well every single time."

While her point total was sub-par compared to other early season performances, Ceccone showed her eclectic scoring methods. She scored in transition. She scored off a steal. She buried a short jumper. She scored off an in-bounds play.

"The thing that's so great about Angie is it doesn't take her a lot of shots," Kenah said "It's not like she's taking 30 shots to

get her points. [Against Richard Montgomery on Dec. 17], she was 12 for 18. ... If I can show you tape [of] practice, this child just does not score. But she's money on those little short shots, great on the put-backs and the out-of-bounds plays. The shots from 10 feet and in, which some people sometimes miss, it seems like she never misses."

There are several factors that have contributed to Ceccone's increase in production. The graduation of last season's leading scorer, Susan Russell, has forced other Vikings to shoulder the scoring load. Also, with the graduation of standout pass-first point guard Caroline Kahlenberg, Whitman has switched from a methodical half-court offense to an up-tempo, run-and-gun attack. Instead of an offense set up to feature one or two individuals, nearly every Viking has a chance to get her hands on the ball. So far, Ceccone has taken advantage.

Junior point guard Rachel Sisco averaged 13 points through five games, senior center Whitney Kolakowski averaged 9.5 points and senior forward Clara Kelly averaged 7.5.

**AGAINST HOLY CHILD**, however, it was defense that propelled Whitman to victory. While a poor shooting performance led to the Vikings' lowest offensive output of the season, Ceccone's ability to anticipate and step in the Tigers' passing lanes and Kolakowski's shot-blocking presence kept Whitman undefeated. The Vikings held four of their first five opponents to fewer than 45 points and Kenah said the team has a goal of holding future opponents to less than 40.

"I didn't know," Kenah said, "the defense would be as good as it has" been.

On three occasions, Kolakowski blocked a Holy Child shot attempt with both hands without needing to jump. At 6 feet 3, Kolakowski is Whitman's leading rebounder (8.5) and a defensive game-changer.

"Our shots weren't on today, but we definitely put in a lot of effort on defense," she said. "We're a very big defensive team. We went out there and we just decided to get in our gaps, get on our help side, really put a strong effort in and we were able to hold them even though we didn't have a great shooting game."

Kolakowski said she can tell when her shot blocking leads to an opponent losing confidence, admitting she's been on the other side of dominant defense.

"Even I'm like that: when you have an opponent that is stopping you every time, you're going to think twice every time up," she said. "When I was getting those blocks, I think she stopped going my way."

Whitman will travel to face Wootton at 7 p.m. on Dec. 22. After facing the rival Patriots, the Vikings will wait two weeks before resuming play against Bethesda-Chevy Chase on Jan. 4. During the break in action, maybe Ceccone will think of new ways to score.

"When she takes her shoes off, she's not that tall," Kenah said. "It's pretty impressive."

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Whitman Boys Off to 4-1 Start

The Whitman boys basketball team defeated Richard Montgomery 52-49 on Dec. 17, improving its record to 4-1. Daniel Voigt led the Vikings with 15 points and 12 rebounds. Through five games, Voigt was the team's leading scorer at 10 points per contest.

Whitman will travel to face Wootton on Dec. 22.

### Churchill Girls Fall to Springbrook

The Churchill girls basketball team lost to undefeated Springbrook 51-40 on Dec. 17, dropping the Bulldogs' record to 2-2.

Junior Sarafina Arthur-Williams had and

career-high game with 20 points and 16 rebounds. Senior Leeda Jewayni contributed 10 points. Churchill will travel to face Bethesda-Chevy Chase at 7 p.m. on Dec. 22.

### Wootton Girls Undefeated

The Wootton girls basketball team improved to 4-0 with a 50-44 win over Walter Johnson on Dec. 17. The Patriots have also

beaten Paint Branch, Magruder and Quince Orchard.

Wootton will host Whitman on Dec. 22.

### Wootton Boys at 2-2

The Wootton boys basketball team improved to 2-2 with a 63-54 win over Walter Johnson on Dec. 17. The Patriots will host Whitman on Dec. 22.



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# A Quarter for My Thoughts



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Wondering whether what I'm feeling physically is symptomatic of my having my stage IV lung cancer – or not, has become the bane of my existence. The presumed inevitability of it wears on me night and day. Though my overall stress level is significantly lower than when I was working full time, commuting two rush-hours a day by car and being "clock-radioed" at 5:30 a.m. Monday through Friday, I'd be lying if I said living with my diagnosis/prognosis is "no problem."

Having said – and admitted that out loud, I am however, reasonably able to get on with the activities of my daily living and pretty much be counted on to finish most of what I start. And what I find myself needing to finish most are my quarterly scans: Bone, CT and Brain MRI, which I have every three months per my participation in a Schering Plough "Randomized Phase 2 Study".

After 15 months in, my results have been, to quote myself (and referring to a previously published column): "Scantastic!" Nevertheless, future results/my health could change in a week – or so I've been reminded, professionally. As such, I've learned to take the so-far good news with the as-yet-not-received bad news. Still, if there's good news to be heard, given the terminal nature of my original prognosis, I want to hear it. More importantly – for me, I need to know how to process it, and where to place it in my compartmentalized/"defense-mechanized" brain – for self-preservation of course, so that I don't upset this delicate Libra balance that I strive to maintain. And it's about this time (eight to 10 weeks out) in my recurring quarterly scan cycle when my subconscious takes over.

I believe this happens because of something my oncologist said about eight months ago. That was when I first received unexpected and amazing news from him – following the previous week's scans. The tumors were not moving or growing. In fact, there seemed to be more scar tissue than tumors, the doctor said. Perplexed at what it all meant, since I came in experiencing what I thought were cancer-related symptoms, my oncologist attempted to put me at ease – and clarify as well when he said: "You've been scanned stem to stern in the last week, anything you feel over the next eight weeks, don't even worry about it. It's not the cancer," (the cancer that we know about, ergo the continuing mental problem). And as reassuring and wonderful as that answer/explanation was, it has however, had an unintended effect: anxiety.

Per my doctor's advice, for the first eight weeks after my scans and every-three-week appointment with my oncologist have been completed, I really don't worry too much (as much, to be honest) about whatever I might be feeling physically/the cancer. It's all good. However, once I'm into the ninth week or so, the worm turns and all presumptions, rationalizations and nothing-to-worry-about concerning my cancer/any miscellaneous symptoms I may be experiencing, are off. At that point on my mental calendar, the cancer window is officially open for business, or so my subconscious thinks. It's the next four weeks until I'm scanned again that my brain is in total control. It reacts, overreacts, wonders, worries, stresses about every little thing I feel, or think I feel. I can't stop it. I can only endure it.

Consequently, those/these next four weeks can't pass quickly enough. And as peculiar as it may sound, I'm not nearly as nervous for those scan results as much as I am eager for them. At least then, I'll know exactly where my cancer is or – more importantly, where it's not. Then I'll be back in control, for another eight weeks, anyway. It may not be an ideal way to live, but it is living and it is feeling, and it sure beats the alternative.

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

# NEWS



Jake with Helen McCall.

# A Tall Tail

## With a Christmas-story ending.

Three weeks after being rescued by a shelter in Kentucky, Jake a two-year-old large mixed breed dog went on the lam. His owner Liz McCall had dropped him off at her father Lyn's office in Potomac Village for the day on Nov. 22. When the pizza delivery man failed to close the door, Jake bolted.

For two days there was no news of him. His owner put up signs in the local grocery stores and coffee bars. Then they turned to a search group called FindToto.com. Right away the calls started coming in.

A tracker dog named Salsa was brought in to look for Jake. The tracker searched a 10-mile area for the missing Jake. He was spotted in several neighborhoods, on South Glen Road, River Road and finally a week later at Great Falls Park. Someone called from the towpath at the C&O Canal, and, after three hours walking the towpath with her father and Jake's dog buddy, a small Havanese, McCall saw Jake appear on the scene. McCall was stationed up river on the bridge and her father was near Great Falls Tavern. With a toss of a hot dog as a bribe, a leash was slipped on and Jake reunited with McCall who "wants to express my heartfelt thanks to all the people who allowed us to put up posters, called with updates and the people at Find Toto and PureGold pet trackers. My daughter is extremely happy to have Jake home. It is the best Christmas gift ever!"

— COLLEEN HEALY

## REAL ESTATE NOTE

Joan Reilly, branch vice president of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Potomac, recently announced the office's Top Agents for October 2010: **Marc Infeld** was the Top Producing Agent; **Rokhsan Fallah and Frank Holliday** were the Top Sales Team, and **Debra Marko and Madhu Anand** were the Top Listing Team.



# Best Wishes For The Holidays



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