

Potomac ALMANAC

It's a Blast

NEWS, PAGE 15

Alex Levenson, senior, performs "Strong Enough" with Jane Zankman, Michelle Pargament, Abby Newberger, Nikki Fraser, Rachel Weinstein and Tiffany Kazemi in Churchill High School's "Blast 2011 Revolution" this weekend.

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Soccer Fields:
A Done Deal?

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McPaw Seeks
\$2 Million-plus

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Churchill
Receives
Wake-Up Call

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Are Soccer Fields on Brickyard a Done Deal?

Decision appears already made as first opportunity for neighbor input is set for April 4.

BY MARY KIMM
THE ALMANAC

Kim and Paul London, who currently live in River Falls, came to the Avenel Homeowners Association building last Friday for “coffee and conversation” with Ken Hartman, director of Bethesda-Chevy Chase regional services. Renters, they had home-buying on their minds. Also soccer.

“We want to buy a house, we were ready,” said Kim London. “But I’m not buying in River Falls if they’re doing this on Brickyard. There are already traffic problems at the intersection of Brickyard.”

“This” refers to a surprise county decision to build multiple soccer fields on a 20-acre site along Brickyard Road. The site, which belongs to Montgomery County Public Schools for a future junior high school, has been leased to Nick Maravell, a nationally recognized organic farmer, for the last 31 years.

Maravell heard from the schools in early March that his lease would cease at the end of March because the county would take over the land for a public-private partnership for soccer fields. Maravell alerted people in the community about the plans just a few days before the Board of Education voted to lease the property to the county.



Nick Maravell, organic farmer, has farmed the 20-acre Brickyard site for 31 years. The county Department of General Services told him that they will extend his lease through January 2012, and try to help him find a new site.

The Londons, along with several other people who turned out for Hartman’s event, were hoping to hear that the county is still considering whether or not to build four soccer fields on 20-acres along Brickyard Road that is currently home to the organic farm. But it is clear, both from the meeting on Friday, March 25 and from the announcement of the first official public meeting on the topic that the decision has been made.

The county Department of General Ser-



This map showing the Brickyard site for soccer fields was distributed on a flyer announcing the upcoming meeting Monday, April 4. The headline reads “Brickyard Road Soccer Field Public Meeting.”

Get Involved

The Montgomery County Department of General Services will hold a public meeting about what they call the “Brickyard Road soccer field project.” County officials will present the scope of the project and seek community input about the specifics of a Request for Proposal (RFP) that will be prepared to solicit private non-profit developers to build soccer fields. Call Kassa Seyoum, Capital Projects Manager, at 240-777-6114.

vices posted a web site on Monday, March 28 about the development of soccer fields on Brickyard, including a flyer announcing the first public meeting on April 4 (there are no public hearings scheduled before the

Public comment can also be sent via mail to Seyoum at Division of Building Design & Construction, DGS, MC, 101 Monroe Street, 11th Floor, Rockville, MD 20850 The general services department posted a new website on Monday, March 28 about the soccer development process: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/content/DGS/DBDC/soccer.asp>

planning board or county council) as “Brickyard Road Soccer Field Public Meeting.”

“We are absolutely appalled by the Board of Education, horrified about the way that things are being done,” said Kim London at

McPaw Targets \$2 Million-plus Fundraising Goal

County Executive unveils model of new Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

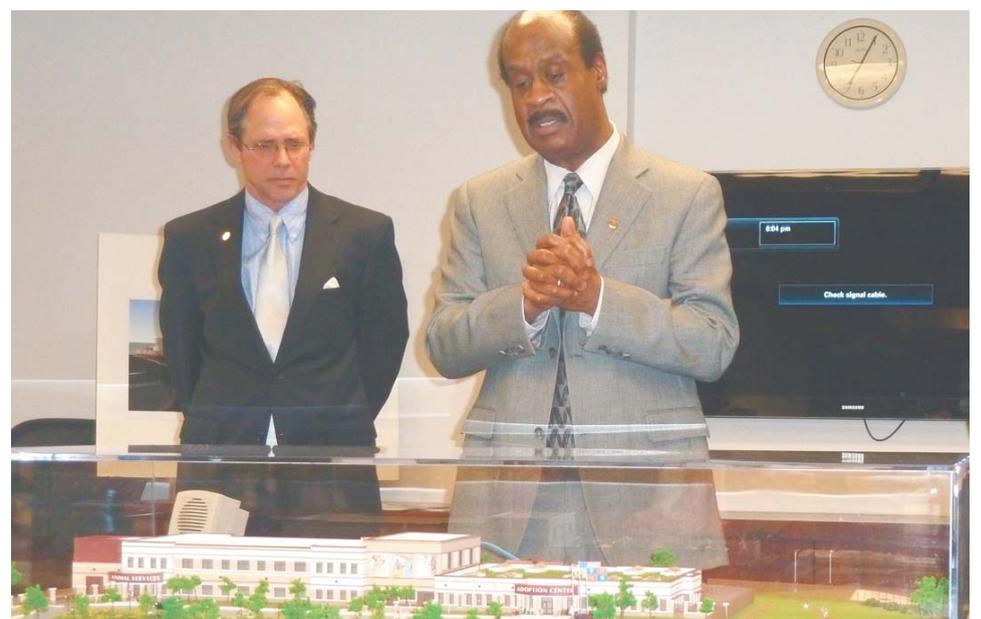
The room was silent and attendees waited in anticipation as County Executive Ike Leggett, County Council Members Phil Andrews and Roger Berliner and Director of General Services David Dise unveiled the model of the new Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center. The audience viewed the model as Leggett thanked everyone for helping to bring the plan to fruition.

“Our current shelter is not a good reflection on Montgomery County and on our community. We need to protect the animals

and keep them in a safe environment. Even though Montgomery County’s budget problems are enormous, we need to make this Animal Services and Adoption Center a priority. We cannot build and maintain it without the help of McPaw,” Leggett said.

McPaw (Montgomery County Partners for Animal Well-Being) is a recently founded 501(c)(3) non-profit. Its mission is to raise funds to build and support the Animal Services and Adoption Center. At its first meeting on Tuesday, March 22, the model was unveiled and animal lovers were encouraged to join one of three committees — fundraising, media and public relations and

SEE MCPAW, PAGE 11



Roger Berliner and Ike Leggett unveil the model of the new Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center.

New Office of Community Engagement?

One proposal to save \$2.8 million in the new budget is a proposal to create a new Department of Community Engagement, which would consolidate the five regional services centers, including the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center that covers Potomac and is headed by Ken Hartman, along with the Office of Community Partnerships, the Commission for Women and the Human Rights Commission.

The wide ranging group of organizations that currently seek to serve every part of the county and reach out to underserved residents would save money by having a single web site, one newsletter that could be localized, and would consolidate “back office” staff, for example would need only one finance person.

The five regional service center directors would no longer work exclusively for the area they are assigned to. For example, one area of Hartman’s expertise is aging in place, and he could advise other areas on that topic, while the Silver Spring director has particular expertise in working with non-profits. The goal is to be more efficient with staff and talent, Hartman said.

Other Issues in Brief

Other issues addressed when Ken Hartman, director of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, held his first community coffee in Potomac on Friday, March 25.

❖ Hartman discussed a March 16 meeting involving State Highway officials, the Potomac Chamber of Commerce and the garden club. It looks like the State is willing to collaborate with the community to get the beautification project for Potomac Village medians done.

❖ Marilyn Block, a Literacy Council volunteer, asked about the status of the Literacy Council funding in the recommended FY2012 budget. Hartman followed up and confirmed that there are no changes to the County’s contribution to the Literacy Council in the County Executive’s Budget

❖ Two residents of Pleasant Gate in Avenel voiced concerns about the maintenance and oversight of the 18 rental units that the Housing Opportunities Commission owns in Avenel. A follow-up meeting is planned.

❖ Melanie Williams, an Avenel resident who is active with Potomac Theatre Company, was looking for more community participation and urged Hartman to help publicize PTC productions. Wilson said that PTC is looking for a possible smaller venue for children’s plays. “Music Man” is up next, she said. The company just finished production of “Mouse Trap.” See www.potomactheatreco.org

Library Changes Ahead

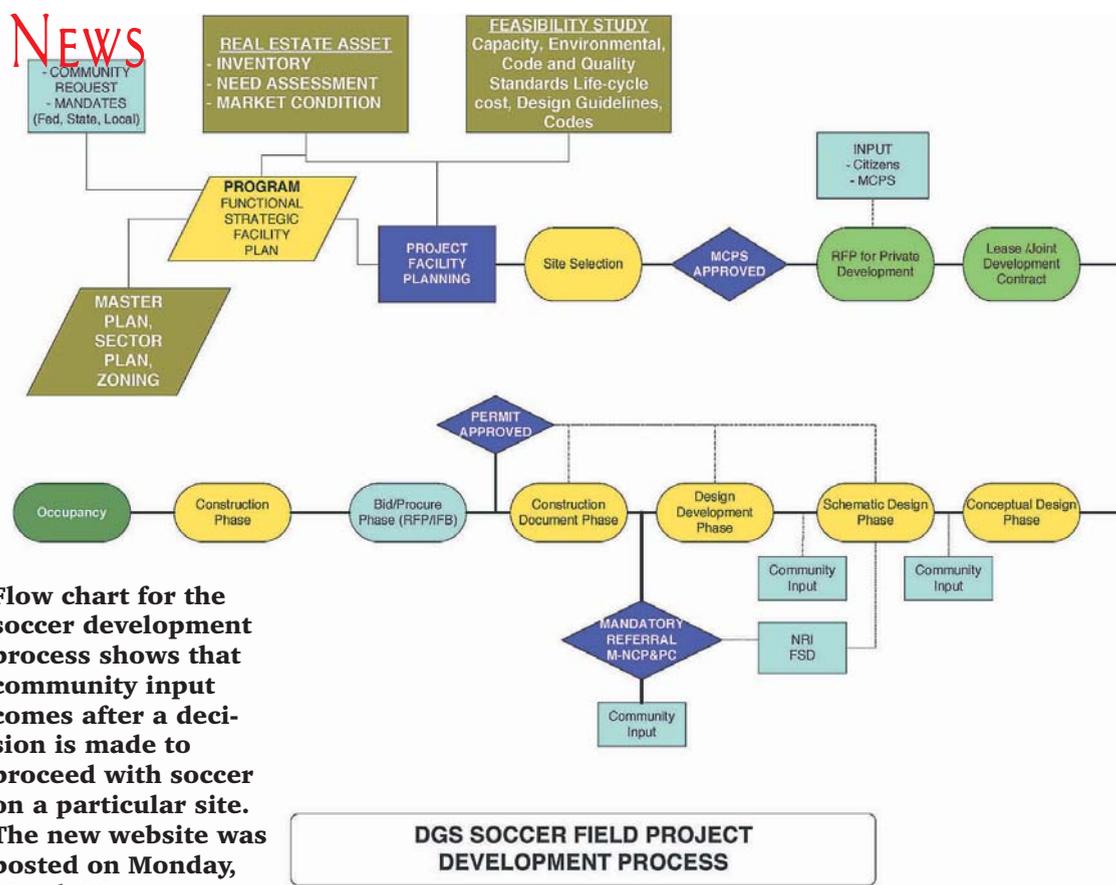
The Potomac Library, along with other county libraries, will face a number of changes as the proposed budget progresses. Consolidation will lead to a single manager for a cluster of libraries, and reduction in resource librarians on the weekends, when those librarians would only be available at regional libraries like Davis or Bethesda.

The budget for collections will be reduced, and community libraries will be dependent on more donations and more help from Friends of the Library groups.

Public Hearing on New Budget

How will the County’s new FY 2012 Operating Budget affect residents? County officials will address that topic and answer questions at the next monthly meeting of the Montgomery County Civic Federation, 7:45-10 p.m., Monday, April 11 at the County Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville. Free parking is available in the adjacent County garage.

The one-hour program will be followed by discussion of other key local issues. All County residents and representatives of civic organizations are welcome. No admission charge. For more information, visit www.montgomerycivic.org.



Soccer Fields: A Done Deal?

FROM PAGE 3

the Hartman’s coffee. “If they want to make a school, God bless them it would build up a sense of community, and that’s lacking.”

Montgomery Soccer Inc., one of the organizations likely to seek to be an operator of the site, sent an email encouraging its many members to support the plan. “This is a rare opportunity to provide more and improved conditions for our children, and should not be missed,” wrote Doug Schuessler, executive director of MSI, in the email.

At least one person came to Hartman’s Avenel coffee to express support for soccer fields, and several residents have posted positive comments about soccer on neighborhood email exchanges, but did not want to be quoted.

In an interview, Ginny Barnes, president of the West Montgomery County Citizens Association, Potomac’s umbrella citizens group, also expressed dismay that there has been no community input.

“It’s beyond the pale. There’s no process here except the one that the county executive is making up. It’s one of the most outrageous things I’ve ever seen in Montgomery County. It’s a complete betrayal.” Barnes contrasted this with the development of Greenbriar Local Park on Glen Road during which citizens had input on almost every detail throughout the process.

MARAVELL, WHO produces organic corn and soybean seeds, was recently appointed by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to the National Organic Standards Board. “This is the only place I can raise corn and soybean seed free from genetic contamination,” he said. Maravell has other farmland in Frederick County, but the proximity of commercial farms means that he cannot guarantee the corn and soybean seeds would be GMO pollen-free.

“County farmers, wherever they are growing, deserve support and, in this case, certainly better than a few weeks’ notice,” said Caroline Taylor, of the Montgomery Countryside Alliance. “Those of us who eat, expect a modicum of vision from our local government and that they not pave, turf, and build our working farms into oblivion.”

Because the property belongs to the schools, during the Potomac Master Plan process and other discussions about possible uses, local residents were assured that nothing would go forward unless the Board of Education declared that the property was surplus; that is, it would never be needed for a school. But with no public notice, the Board of Education is circumventing that process by leasing the property to the county with the understanding that it can get it back if it is needed for a school in the future.

The upcoming meeting will be “the first of two meetings to receive community input on parameters on the use of this property for soccer fields,” Hartman said in an interview. “We want to hear from the community about hours, what other recreational features they might want.” Hartman acknowledged that the first meeting is likely to address residents’ concerns about process, but he hopes the second meeting will allow for agreement with neighbors on details. “Never pass up an opportunity to talk to your government,” he said. “It’s an opportunity for people to be heard.”

The Department of General Services which will issue the request for proposal refused the Almanac’s request to see a copy of the lease agreement or a sample or similar lease, and also did not produce details of the Board of Education resolution which it said would guide the writing of the lease.

“The upcoming ‘public meetings’ regarding the Brickyard property are simply a charade,” said Dolores Milmo of the Audubon Naturalist Society, who nevertheless urges residents to attend. “The decisions on how the land is to be used and who would lease the property have already been made behind closed doors. It’s a disgrace — land use by fiat.”

“I am troubled by the fact that the School Board clearly did not seek community input about changing the land use of their property on Brickyard, that they are planning soccer fields but we don’t know what kind of soccer fields — who will be running them, how much access our kids will have,” said Elisabeth Waugaman, a River Falls resident, in an email. “One wonders why all of this seems to have been done in such an opaque manner.”

Peggy Dennis summed up a lot of local concerns: “No one has asked the question, ‘what is the best use of this 20 acres?’”

PEOPLE



PHOTO BY COLLEEN HEALY/THE ALMANAC

Artist Terri Cunningham with her painting "Color."

'Two Brushes' at Gallery

Cunningham, Prinsloo featured.

BY COLLEEN HEALY
THE ALMANAC

This month at The Art Gallery of Potomac: The works of local artists Terri Cunningham and Yolanda Prinsloo will be featured in the show "Two Brushes."

The art gallery has monthly shows featuring a range of visiting artists and resident artists. Cunningham is "so happy to be here at home base. I have lived in Potomac for 45 years and am pleased to see the area have an arts center where Potomac artists



Artist Yolanda Prinsloo and her portrait of fellow artist Anne Martinez.

can show their work. My work is mostly plein air (in the open air) landscapes which I love to do because it captures nature in its own setting rather than painting from photos.

"You can be more spontaneous and have more color. My work is a journal of everyday life and trips. I have painted the Potomac river, the canal, farms in Montgomery County and seascapes at the Outer Banks."

Yolanda Prinsloo describes her work as "eclectic. I have a restless curiosity for things and an appreciation for different styles. Many things interest me and it is reflected in what I do. This show is a homage to the way I grew up and the way I live now. It is a reflection of my life.

"I lived in Stellenbosch, South Africa near the ocean so I painted ships and seascapes and I also have painted Potomac scenes of the canal and animals. It is great to see the gallery celebrating the artistic community. It is exciting that people have come here and had their first experience at our gallery. We have had students show here and then continued on further with their art."

Cunningham and Prinsloo will be the featured artists at The Art Gallery of Potomac from March 31-May 1, 2011. Gallery hours are Thursday-Sunday, 12-4 p.m. The gallery is located at 10107 River Road in Potomac. Phone: 240-447-9417.

There will be an opening reception on April 2 from 6-8 p.m. For more information go to www.potomacartists.org. For information on school field trips call 301-765-7617.

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OPINION



PHOTO BY MARY KIMM/THE ALMANAC

Nick Maravell walks his organic farmland on Brickyard Road. The county has ended his lease, effective at the end of this growing season, after 31 years. See story page 3; letters below.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why in Such Opaque Manner?

To the Editor:

I am troubled by the fact that the School Board clearly did not seek community input about changing the land use of their property on Brickyard. They are planning soccer fields but we don't know what kind of soccer fields — who will be running them, how much access our kids will have, or if they will serve primarily kids from other areas, if the fields will be fenced and locked when not in use so they will not really be community fields, what kind of turf they will have, what the effect on traffic in the area will be at rush hour every week day (with 880 additional cars on Brickyard if there are four fields with 60 parking spots and four time slots: 4pm-8pm) and 2,680 on Saturday and Sunday (if games are played from 9am to 8pm)—all this additional traffic on Brickyard Rd, a narrow residential road with 10 speed humps, three traffic circles, and no sidewalks.

New fields are going in at Potomac Community Center and Glen Road with another nearby being enlarged from one to two

fields.

None of this addresses the issue of Nick Maravell's farm. Mr. Maravell was recognized by the Secretary of Agriculture and placed on the US Board of Standards for Organic Farming. His farm is a nationally recognized organic farm, which supplies seed, feed, and organic vegetables for residents concerned about feeding their families organic meats, milk products, and vegetables. If Mr. Maravell is put off this land, he will not be able to find another site free from genetic contamination from neighboring farms. Because the community was not informed in a timely fashion, none of these issues have been addressed.

One wonders why all of this seems to have been done in such an opaque manner.

Elisabeth Waugaman
Potomac

Breach of Trust

To the Editor:

I remain concerned about the Board of Education's decision to terminate the Brickyard School Site lease to farmer Nick Marvell and instead enter a public-private

partnership with MSI to build soccer fields on this site. The outrageous details of this issue are well reported, but I would like to get at the real issues behind this land use decision that should be of concern to everyone in the County, from the organic farmer or farmer's market shopper to the ardent soccer parent or player.

The wheels have been turning behind the scenes on this land use change since 2009 with no notice given to the public. Planning Staff advised the County Executive a year ago that public dialogue needed to be started on this controversial land use change; and yet both the tenant of the property and the public at large did not find out about this change until three days before the Board of Education hearing.

The Board of Education and the County have maintained that legally neither one was obligated to alert the public. Legal or not, these actions represent a serious breach of trust and transparency, Montgomery County citizens expect and demand better.

This is where the issue remains today — the upcoming public meeting on April 4 at Potomac Elementary School is a chance to weigh in on the land use as soccer

fields. The FIFA regulations that apply to the fields dictate how the fields must be cared for (no doubt chemically enhanced to keep them green in the summer), the development review process in the County already stipulates 60 parking spaces/ field. The important decisions that would impact this community have been decided long ago — there has been no public hearing on the use of this public land — and no hearing is scheduled that takes a use other than soccer fields into account.

People across the county and in the Brickyard neighborhood have different ideas of the best use of this publicly held land, all valid opinions. To choose one use without a proper public process that takes all these opinions into account is not just a breach of public trust and transparency — but I fear it is a troubling trend. Those who rely on this particular farm as a critical hub for our local food system and those who have trouble instilling the values of fair play and teamwork on bedraggled fields, can both agree that when the County starts making land use decisions without public input, everyone loses, even if your pre

SEE LETTER, PAGE 15

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POETRY

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 The city is bright, with all its light
 The city is loud, because of its crowd,
 The city smells, that's what every-one tells
 The city is polluted, because it cannot be muted
 Do you think city is fun?
 Wait, I got to run!

— Gautom Das

Grade 3, Beverly Farms Elementary School

LET'S TALK Real Estate



by **Michael Matese**

Your Vacation Home and Taxes

Renting out your luxury vacation home can be a great source of income as well as income tax deductions, but you must be careful. If you receive the income, you can deduct certain expenses which may include interest, taxes, casualty losses, maintenance, utilities, insurance and depreciation. If you rent to make money and don't use the house as your main residence, your deductible rental expenses can be more than your gross rental income.

If you live in the house more than fourteen days of the year or more than 10% of the total days you've rented it to others, the IRS considers the house to be your main home as well, though. If you don't rent it 300 days a year and live in it the other 30 days, your vacation home is your main home as well. However, if you have rented it during those 300 days and you've spent more than two weeks there, it qualifies. The key is to have rented it at least those 300 days, that is what will qualify it to be deductible.

As always, see your tax professional for any questions you may have. They will be able to guide you through.

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THURSDAY/MARCH 31

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. 9 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. Beginner lesson at 8:15 p.m. With DJ Mike Marcotte and Guests. At the Back Room at 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.

APRIL 1, 2, 3, 8, 9

"Blast 2011 Revolution." At Winston Churchill High school. 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday April 1, 2, 8, 9; matinee on 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 3. An energetic, sparkling, and song and dance soundtrack of change across society, music, and life! The show is performed by 200 student singers, dancers, musicians, and technicians. Reserved tickets are \$20/person; open seating is \$14/person. Purchase online at www.wchsmusic.com or at the lobby box office outside the Bish Auditorium, 11300 Gainsborough Rd., Potomac.

FRIDAY/APRIL 1

Swing Dancing. 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. With the band, Big Four Combo. Drop-in beginner swing lesson from 8:30 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. At the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.

SATURDAY/APRIL 2

"Winners Take All." 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The featured speaker will be Fred Bowen, author of "Winners Take All," the baseball story of a good kid who makes the bad decision to cheat in a game. Part of the Family Read Program at Rockville Memorial Library, Meeting Room #1, Ground Level, 21 Maryland Ave., Rockville. Email RockvilleReads@aol.com.

Literary Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$65. Features Ted Leonsis, Robert Krantz, Nick Tsiotos, and Eva Kalivas — all noted Greek-American writers who will reflect on their craft. Sponsored by The Greek Orthodox Church of St. George. At Bethesda Country Club, 7601 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda. Contact Catherine Sarlis at 301-469-7990.

APRIL 2-3

All Beethoven Festival. Saturday, April 2 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, April 3 at 3 p.m. with Seymour Lipkin, piano; Piotr Gajewski, conductor. Featuring Beethoven's "Coriolan Overture," "Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major" and "Symphony No. 7 in A Major." At the Music Center at Strathmore, North Bethesda.

SUNDAY/APRIL 3

C Street Brass Concert. 3 p.m. Admission is \$15/\$10. At Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, 6601 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda. Call 301-365-2850 or www.bradleyhillchurch.org.

Open Door Reading. 2 p.m. Free. The Writer's Center welcomes poets Ellen Doré Watson, author of *Dogged Hearts*, and Carol Moldaw, whose most recent collection is *So Late, So Soon: New and Selected Poems*. At 4508 Walsh Street, Bethesda. Call 301-654-8664 or visit www.writer.org.

Waltz Dance. 3:30 to 6 p.m. Admission is \$10. Introductory waltz workshop from 2:45 to 3:30 p.m.; dancing from 3:30 to 6 p.m. With the band, Waltzing



SATURDAY/APRIL 9

Out of the Blue Concert. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12/adults; \$10/students and seniors. Concert of Oxford University's premier all male cappella singing group. At Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac. Visit www.ootb.org.uk.

Stars. 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.

Rockville. For reservations, call Debby Sokobin at 301-348-3760.

FRIDAY/APRIL 8

Blues and Soul Fusion Dance Party. 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$10. With DJ Ken Roesel. Soul swing lesson from 8 to 8:30 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. At the Back Room at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Visit <http://www.dancebuddies.com/> AllThingsBlues.htm or contact Ken Roesel at 703-282-4187 or at DanceBuddies@Starpower.net.

Stravinsky's Russian Accent. 8 p.m. Featuring Post-Classical Ensemble and Angel Gil-Ordóñez, conductor, with Alexander Toradze, George Vatchnadze, Genadi Zagor, Vakhtang Kodanashvili and Edisher Savitski, piano, and The Washington Bach Consort Chorus. Tickets are \$21 to \$49. At the Music Center at Strathmore, Bethesda.

Swing Dancing. 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. With the Jimmy Cole Band and Ron Holloway. Drop-in beginner swing lesson from 8:30 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. At the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.

Stravinsky Festival. 8 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$21 to \$49. At the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org/stravinskyproject.

APRIL 8-10

Sugarloaf Crafts Festival. More than 250 artisans will display and sell their unique creations in ceramics, sculpture, glass, jewelry, fashion, furniture and home décor, fine art and photography with the theme, *Artful Outdoors*. Hours are Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$7/online; \$9/door. At the Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut Street, Gaithersburg. Visit www.sugarloafcrafter.com or call 800-210-9900.

APRIL 9 TO MAY 29

George & Martha: Tons of Fun! 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. At Imagination Stage 4908 Auburn Avenue, Bethesda, MD. Imagination Stage offers discount ticket packages with benefits that emphasize the flexibility that parents and grandparents value, as well as significant savings. Details are on the website, www.imaginationstage.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 5

"How to Take the Keys Away." 12-1:30 p.m. Free Dementia Education Series. A panel of community experts will help you handle the decision of taking the keys away and approaches you can use to navigate through the situation. Panel members include Dr Anya Gill of Axis Healthcare Group, Officer Ed Dix from the Montgomery County Police Traffic Division and Wendy Johnson of the Alzheimer's Association. Lunch will be served so RSVP in advance by calling 301-983-3620 or email potomac@arden-courts.com. Arden Courts of Potomac, 10718 Potomac Tennis Lane, Potomac.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 6

Open House. 10 a.m. to noon. At Har Shalom Early Childhood Education Center. Full and day programs. Tour the building and observe classes in progress. Meet with director Liran Laor and current ECEC families. RSVP at 301-299-7087, x244.

Pennyfield in the Spring, Tra-la: Easy walk while looking for lingering winter visitors and early spring migrants and wildflowers. For adults. Free. 8 a.m. at Pennyfield lot on the C&O Canal. Limit 8. Reservations required. Leader: Lydia Schindler, lydiaschindler@verizon.net, 301-977-5252. See www.audubonnaturalist.org

THURSDAY/APRIL 7

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. 9 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. With DJ Mike Marcotte and Guests. Slow blues lesson from 8:15 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 to 11:30 p.m. At the Back Room at 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.

Movie. "The Danish Solution, The Rescue of the Jews in Denmark." 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$5. Part of the JCC Seniors Organized for Change. At Ring House, 1801 E. Jefferson Street,

FINE ARTS

Bethesda Art Walk Is Scheduled for April 8

The Bethesda Art Walk will feature seven art galleries hosting art exhibitions on Friday, April 8 from 6-9 p.m. The opening exhibitions will include painting, sculpture, photography, pottery, mixed media and more. The Bethesda Art Walk takes place the second Friday of every month from 6-9 p.m. Additional information including a map showing each gallery location can be found at www.bethesda.org.

PARTICIPATING GALLERIES

❖ **Artery Plaza Gallery**, 7200 Wisconsin Avenue
Nature's Elements: Beauty and Structure

This exhibit features paintings by Freya Grand and sculpture by Michael Enn Sirvet.

❖ **Gallery 360**, 4836 Rugby Avenue
The People of Guatemala
Featuring photographs by Chris Hanessian including a series of photos depicting native Mayans living in villages surrounding Lake Atitlan in central Guatemala.

❖ **The Mindfulness Center**, 4963 Elm Street
Great Falls and Mather Gorge
Roy Sewall presents photographs from Great Falls and Mather Gorge. The book explores Great Falls on the Potomac River, including two National Parks: Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, Maryland and Great Falls Park, Virginia

❖ **Orchard Gallery**, 7917 Norfolk Avenue
Fresh Breeze



Acrylic, oil and mixed media paintings by Virginia artist Songmi Park.

❖ **Upstairs Art Studios**, 4948 St. Elmo Avenue
Artwork by members Sheryl Staren and Cookie Kerxton
Staren works with mixed media to create original abstracts, and Kerxton uses acrylic and prints.

❖ **Waverly Street Gallery**, 4600 East West Highway
Shore Houses
Jean Hirons, an adjunct professor at Montgomery College, explores the love of "a house by the sea" in her show Shore Houses. The houses range from the Mid-Atlantic coast to the rugged and disappearing coastline of California. The pastel paintings depict houses beaten by the forces of wind and fog, but lovingly maintained over time. For more information, call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org.

FINE ARTS

APRIL 16-17

Together Again. Noon to 5 p.m.
Paula Rubin-Wexler and Meryl Silver, two friends. Paula Rubin-Wexler will be showing her latest work in oils and works on paper. Her work is known to have almost a zen-like quality, featuring plein air contemporary, impressionistic landscapes. Meryl Silver will be showing her latest digital work, including colorful and compelling images of reflections in water. Reception is April 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. At the Yellow Barn Gallery, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo Park.



Paula Rubin-Wexler and Meryl Silver

Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Call 301-951-9441 or visit www.waverlystreetgallery.com.

APRIL 5 TO MAY 7

Shore Houses. Pastel paintings by Jean Hirons and new work by gallery artists. Artist's reception is Friday, April 8 from 6 to 9 p.m. At Waverly Street Gallery. contact: Jean Hirons jeanhirons@comcast.net or 301-340-3198. Visit www.waverlystreetgallery.com.

APRIL 21 TO MAY 19

Artist Mark Lovett. Selected into the juried show, The First Annual Scottsdale Salon of Fine Arts, hosted by the Legacy Gallery. Mark Lovett Studio, 4 Echo Court, Potomac. Visit www.scottsdaleartsalonoffineart.com.

NOW THROUGH APRIL 27

Focus on Color. An exhibit by photographers Deborah Gillham, Marsha Liebl, and Judy Reisman and glass-on-metal artist Susana Garten. At Gallery Har Shalom, 11510 Falls Road, Potomac, MD. Call 301-299-7087.

APRIL 30 AND MAY 1

Paintings by Sydney Rose Markus. Noon to 5 p.m. At the Yellow Barn Studio Gallery at Glen Echo. Artist's reception is May 1 from 3 to 5 p.m. Call 301-371-5593.

MARCH 31 TO APRIL 25

Prints Charming. Free. Paper works with Philip Bennet, Cindy Cole, Dorothy Frye, Linda Goldberg, and Westen Muntain. Meet the Artist's Reception is Sunday, April 3 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. At the Dennis and Phillip Ratner Museum, 10001 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Call 301-897-1518.

APRIL 2-3

Four Figurative Artists. Noon to 5 p.m. Nancy Abeles, Jan Rowland, Elaine Lozier, and Cathy Sawdey explore different imagery and meanings. A reception is scheduled for Saturday, April 2 from 5 to 7 p.m. At the Yellow Barn Gallery, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call 301-371-5593.

NOW THROUGH APRIL 2

International Symmetry. Photographs by Don Bandler and New Work by Gallery Artists. At

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* By readers of the *Virginia Gazette* 2007-2009



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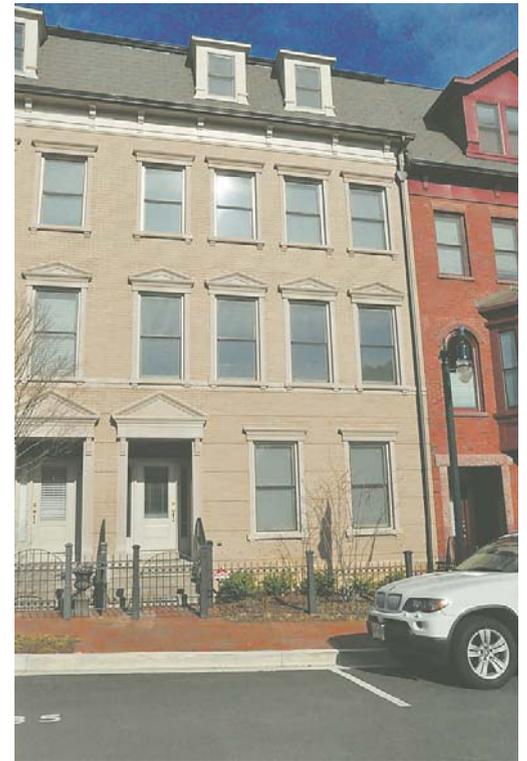
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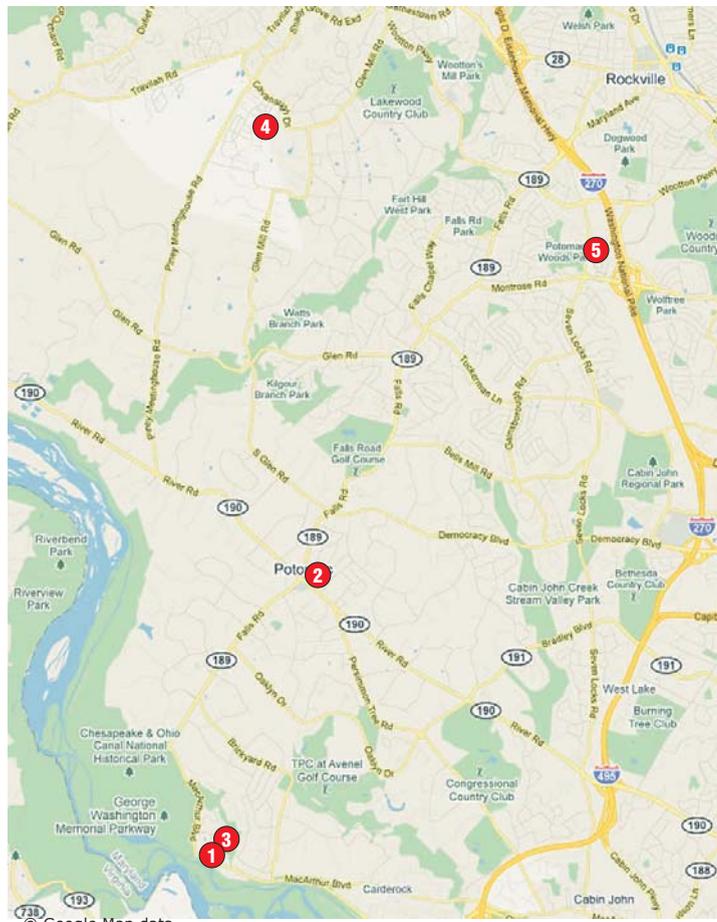
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3 7801 STABLE WAY	4	3	1	POTOMAC	\$1,070,000	Detached	0.21	RIVER FALLS	02/28/11
4 10402 BROADFIELD CT	5	4	1	POTOMAC	\$1,069,000	Detached	0.24	PINEY GLEN VILLAGE	02/14/11
5 12519 LINDA VIEW LN	5	4	1	POTOMAC	\$1,000,000	Townhouse	0.04	WHEEL OF FORTUNE	02/14/11

SOURCE: MRIS, INC. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MRIS, VISIT WWW.MRIS.COM.

McPaw To Make Center Possible

FROM PAGE 3

outreach. Many volunteers will be needed.

Allan Cohen, president of McPaw, opened the meeting with words of gratitude to the McPaw Board of Directors and to Leggett, Andrews, Dise and Berliner for supporting the project.

"There are 500,000 pets in 400,000 homes in Montgomery County and we sorely needed a new facility. Montgomery County did not have enough funds to complete this project and to maintain it as a state-of-the-art facility. Thus we founded McPaw. Some of our fundraising projects are partnering with BB&T which will sell 'PAWS' and also selling engraved bricks. We want every Montgomery County resident to know about McPaw — so spread the word," Cohen said.

Dise discussed the design of the building. The "green" facility is a sustainable building; it will have a vegetated roof with skylights throughout the building.

It is energy efficient and designed to have 12 air changes an hour.

It will be odor free and very



Roger Berliner, Ike Leggett, Phil Andrews and McPaw founder Allan Cohen.

healthy for the animals. He added, "The ground-breaking will take place this summer and two years from now, we will be attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony."

This new Animal Services and Adoption Center will cost \$17 million. However, Montgomery County has only budgeted \$15 million, leaving a \$2 million short-

fall — money that McPaw plans to raise through fundraisers, donations and in-kind contributions. In addition to the \$2 million, McPaw will need to keep raising money to keep the center technologically up to date.

To join McPaw, go to www.mcpaw.org or e-mail info@mcpaw.org.

Sports Freelancer Opportunity

The Potomac Almanac is looking for one or two writers to cover one or two high school sports events a week. Write interesting sports and recreation feature stories as well. On-the-beat training, nominal pay per story. Please send resume, statement of interest, to Jon Roetman, jroetman@connectionnews.com.

POTOMAC ALMANAC

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Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

Potomac (20854)

12420 Bacall Ln	\$1,349,000	Sun 1-4	Caryn Gardiner	Long & Foster	301-802-4182
10633 Willowbrook Dr	\$1,699,900	Sat/Sun 1-4	Autumn Ambrose	Potomac Heritage	240-45-9444
10401 Flowerfield Way	\$729,000	Sun 1-4	Margie Halem	Long & Foster	301-775-4196
10316 Gainsborough	\$775,000	Sun 1-4	Kurtis King	Weichert	301-257-4125
9825 Bettiker Ln	\$629,000	Sun 1-4	Hilde Dächtera	Weichert	301-509-6608
11000 Dobbins Dr	\$1,090,000	Sun 2-4	Adaline Neely	Washington Fine Prop	301-480-2214
9413 Holbrook Ln	\$950,000	Sun 2-4	Adaline Neely	Washington Fine Prop	301-580-2214
11409 Falls	\$1,838,000	Sun 1-4	Norman Domingo	XRealtyNET	888-838-9044
8505 Buckhannon Dr	\$599,900	Sun 1-3	Tracy Grubb	RE Teams	301-695-3020

Bethesda (20817)

6509 Bradley Blvd	\$1,095,000	Sun 1:30-4	Fran Baker	Washington Fine Prop	301-367-8854
6504 Elgin Ln	\$1,625,000	Sun 2:30-4:30	Shahab Nasrin	Coldwell Banker	301-814-8093
8016 Thornley Ct	\$849,500	Sun 2-4	Toni Cunningham	Prudential Carruthers	301-924-8200
9412 Rosehill Dr	\$2,475,000	Sun 1-4	Cecil Jackson	Jackson Premier	301-972-4181
7017 Natelli Woods Ln	\$1,795,000	Sun 1-4	Ashton Vessali	Weichert	703-760-8880
5805 Wilmet Rd	\$2,099,000	Sun 12-4	Glenn Donaldson	Par Realty	888-651-7763
7516 Sebago Rd	\$949,000	Sun 1-4	Debbie Cohn	Long & Foster	202-288-9939
7505 Democracy Blvd #311	\$203,500	Sun 1-4	Suzanne Floyd	Long & Foster	301-907-7600

North Potomac (20878)

571 Market St E	\$499,990	Sun 1-4	Leo Rosenblat	Realty Executive One	301-990-9090
161 Kent Oaks Way	\$899,900	Sun 1-4	Mike Aubrey	Re/Max Metro	301-947-6500

Rockville (20850, 20852)

4 Monterra Ct	\$1,199,000	Sun 1-4	Leslie Friedson	Long & Foster	301-455-4506
502 King Farm Blvd	\$359,000	Sun 1-4	Leslie Friedson	Long & Foster	301-455-4506
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11750 Old Georgetown Rd #2424	\$395,890	Sat/Sun 11-6	Bob Lucido	Toll MD	410-979-6024
11750 Old Georgetown Rd #2515	\$519,790	Sat/Sun 11-6	Bob Lucido	Toll MD	410-979-6024
11410 Strand Dr #R-112	\$534,900	Sun 1-4	Debbie Cohn	Long & Foster	202-288-9939
232 Great Falls Rd	\$595,000	Sun 1-4	Gloria Poole	Long & Foster	301-548-4376
4802 Wilwyn Way	\$349,900	Sun 1-4	Michael Ray	Sunshine Prop	301-570-0087
12624 Saint James Rd	\$725,000	Sun 1-4	Jenny Hughes	Long & Foster	301-907-7600

For an Open House Listing Form, call Deb Funk at 703-778-9444 or e-mail debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com
All listings due by Monday at 3 P.M.

Churchill Receives Wake-Up Call from Magruder

Bulldogs fall flat after starting season on promising note.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE ALMANAC

Despite returning just three starters, the Churchill baseball team played well against defending state champion Sherwood during the season opener, losing 2-1 on March 21.

However, any positive vibes stemming from the Bulldogs' confidence-building effort against the Warriors

"You can't just bring your glove to the field and expect everything's going to be OK."

— Churchill head baseball coach Scott Blackwood

said. "We play a fantastic game against

were squashed by a lackluster effort against Magruder on March 26. After the 7-0 home loss, an annoyed Churchill coaching staff shared its displeasure with the team during a post-game meeting in right field. The coaches' main beef: the Bulldogs' lack of intensity and focus.

"What we take away from it is that we come back to reality," second-year head coach Scott Blackwood



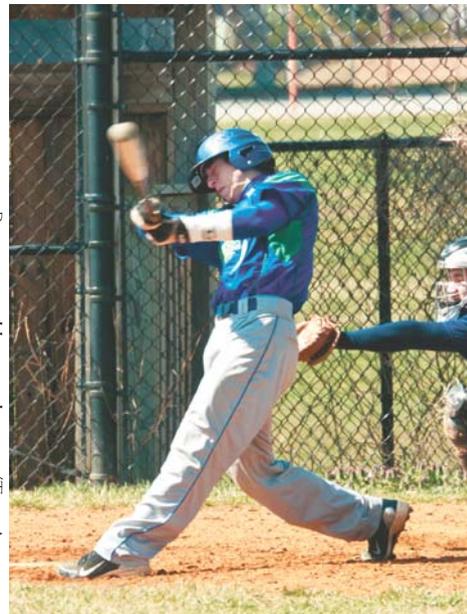
PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Senior Russell Rentfro will be a key member of the Churchill lineup.

Sherwood. ... We play the way we're capable of against the defending state champions, [then] we come out here with no intensity. It shows that it doesn't matter who you're playing, when you're playing, you've got to show up every single time ready to play, otherwise this is what's going to happen to you. ...

"It's a mentality thing. You can't expect to just show and play. You can't just bring your glove to the field and expect everything's going to be OK."

Magruder jumped out to a 3-0 first-inning lead and led 6-0 after three. After building their lead to 7-0, the Colonels continued to



Junior Ian Shemer said the Churchill baseball team needs to forget about past success and make its own identity in 2011.

steal bases, which Blackwood viewed as unnecessary and disrespectful. While the coach wasn't happy with his players' performance, he also wasn't pleased with what he viewed as a lack of intensity when it came time to respond.

Senior third baseman Russell Rentfro said the Bulldogs allowed Magruder to alter their focus.

"We mentally got rattled in the first inning with them talking trash," he said. "We didn't respond well. Unlike at Sherwood, [when] we threw strikes, made our plays, hit a little bit and we basically were in the game, we were all focused. I felt like, in

this game, we weren't all focused mentally as a team. We started to let the trash talking get to us and tried to talk trash back and that doesn't work. You can't do that. You've got to just play your game."

With former senior standouts Harris Fanaroff and Bryce Shemer having graduated, the Bulldogs are looking for new leaders to emerge.

"We don't have really those one or two guys that will step up and go, 'Hey, it's time to go. We need to flip the switch and it's time to go,'" Blackwood said. "We don't have that this year. But overall as a team, they still rely on each other. We're still trying to build that because it's really a brand-new team. I have five guys from the previous year that played on varsity. ...

"I don't want to sit there and say this person or this person can. It's: Somebody needs to step up."

Offensively, Blackwood said he is looking for the returning starters in the middle of the order — Rentfro and juniors Ian Shemer and Danny Weiss — to step up.

"We definitely have some big shoes to fill," Ian Shemer said of the loss of his brother, Bryce Shemer and Fanaroff. "We need to take last year and not look back. It's a new year. We need to play our game, we need to do our job on the field and as long as we do our job, we can do wonders."

On the mound, junior left-hander Kelby Spring pitched well against Sherwood. Junior Matt Kogan, who started against Magruder, and sophomore Charles DeFilippo are the team's top starting pitchers. Senior Matthew Brothers and Weiss will pitch in relief.

Churchill will host Northwest at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Harper Elder Inducted into Hall of Fame

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE ALMANAC

Rose Harper Elder, an original member of TPC Potomac at Avenel Farm, was inducted into the National Black Golf Hall of Fame in Tampa, Fla., March 5 as part of the organization's 25th anniversary celebrations. "I am very humbled and honored," said Harper Elder, a golf industry entrepreneur. "There are so many women before me who made significant contributions to the game of golf. I am standing on their shoulders."

Joining Harper Elder in the 2011 class of inductees were Joe Louis Barrow, Jr., CEO of The First Tee, and Dr. Calvin Sinnette, a physician, historian and author of "Forbidden Fairways."

"There is a rich history of African Americans in golf," Harper Elder said.

"Most people don't know that the golf tee was invented by an African American, Dr. George Grant, in 1899."

A life-long golfer and member of Avenel since it opened in 1986, Harper Elder is founder and president of The Grass Ceiling and the Art of the Deal. Through seminars around the world, she teaches how to use the game of golf as a global networking tool. "Golf is the business tool of choice by major corporate executives all over the



PHOTO BY EYSELMACHES

Rose Harper Elder, a founding member of TPC Potomac at Avenel Farm, speaks at her induction ceremony into the National Black Golfers Hall of Fame in Tampa, Fla. March 5.

world," Harper Elder said. "My mission is to get more corporate women involved so that the playing field is leveled for them in the business world."

Steve Mona, president of the World Golf Foundation, used the induction ceremony to announce plans for a World Golf Hall of Fame special exhibit to chronicle the story of African Americans in the history of the game. The exhibit is scheduled to open sometime in 2012 in Saint Augustine, Fla.

"It's very special being part of the 25th anniversary

SEE ELDER, PAGE 13

Whitman Baseball 3-0

The Whitman baseball team won its first three games of the season, defeating Einstein (23-0) on March 22, Magruder (11-10) on March 23 and Quince Orchard (7-3) on March 26.

Against QO, junior Michael Flack had three hits, including a double, and two RBIs. Mike West earned the win on the mound, allowing three runs over a complete-game seven innings.

Against Magruder, the teams went into extra innings and entered the ninth tied 5-5. Whitman scored six runs in the top half of the inning and survived a five-run rally to win. James Dionne had four hits for the Vikings. Flack finished with three hits and three RBIs.

Against Einstein, Whitman had seven players with multiple hits. Andrew Castagnetti led the way with three hits. Drew Aherne and Paul Balland each had two hits and three RBIs. Balland had a double and a triple. Flack, Michael Yang and Dan Duffy also had two hits.

Whitman will host Wootton at 3:30 p.m. on March 31.

SPORTS

Elder in Hall of Fame

FROM PAGE 12

sary induction ceremony," said Harper Elder, who is only the ninth woman to be honored by the NBGHE. "So many have worked so hard in what is a male-dominated industry, where it's difficult to get recognized. That makes this honor especially humbling."

The National Black Golf Hall of

Fame was founded in 1986 by the late Harold Dunovant, the first African American to complete the PGA business school. Its mission is "to recognize and honor the contributions of Black golfers for their skills, and to honor persons, regardless of race or ethnicity, who have done the most to promote golf in the Black communities."



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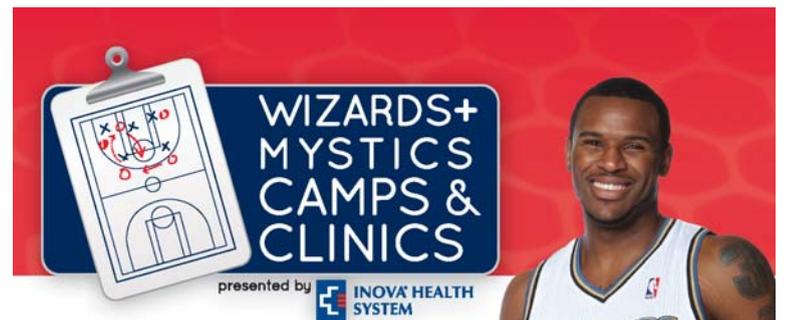
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What It Is I Do Know



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I'm having a problem of late (Oh really, just one?) concerning the fact – and the feelings I have – about having cancer. Specifically, talking about it with people I know. Let me amend that: talking about it with people with whom I'm familiar but who, for a million reasons, are currently out of my cancer loop (and thus, don't have the latest information). It seems that it's easier for me to talk to people I don't know who know about my having cancer; readers, people I've met over the last two years and/or people with whom I've remained in touch, than it is to talk with people I do know who don't know about my diagnosis. Do you know what I mean? If so, that probably makes one of us who does.

Not that I want to – or need to – avoid the subject, but other than writing about it as frequently as I do, I am not exactly looking to spread the Gospel of Kenny-has-cancer. So when conversations begin with people I know from my pre-diagnosed-with-cancer life, I have very little to say. I mean, how do you have a "normal-type" conversation with someone when the most important and dominant part of your life, your 24-7 life (cancer) is a subject which, for a variety of reasons, you're extremely uncomfortable discussing – with that particular person. It's not so much personal, as it is poor timing.

Let me try and explain that. With anybody who knows me and knows I have cancer – and I know they know, I am not uncomfortable discussing any of the cancer-related aspects of my life. I am an open book, as you regular readers know. "Discussing" I don't mind. However, dredging up all the sordid details from the past two years, where conversations invariably go when you haven't seen or talked to someone in those few years – and they're the least bit curious about you, causes me great consternation; anticipating their questions and in turn deciding on my answers.

I never know how much or how little to say. I never know if I can be totally honest or must I be totally sensitive – to their feelings, in the event they have some personal/family-type history. I never know exactly how to behave; to be self-effacing and self-confident concerning my own health status – and/or try not to not make them feel bad/awkward for having asked, and then try to delude myself by making light of the situation – so they won't feel sorry for me, or lie to them and not say anything of cancer substance. And if I choose the latter strategy and say nothing about the cancer, can you imagine how on guard I have to be to not let anything slip out about the last two years, two years which have been consumed by my having cancer? It's like pretending to be someone else just so you don't have to deal with/re-visit all the history that has preceded this conversation (much of which you'd like to forget, anyway) and placed you in this real-life predicament of truth or dare.

I have enough difficulty dealing with my own reactions to having cancer, along with the reactions of family and friends who know, to have to spend any time sorting through and processing the emotions of people who now know but previously didn't know. It's not being selfish as much as it is self-preservation. I really don't want to use my precious time bringing people up to speed and reinforcing the morbid and terminal nature of my diagnosis. I don't want to have to convince anybody of anything – about me. It's difficult enough keeping myself on the straight and narrow. I can't waste any additional mental energy on people I know who don't know. I want – need, actually – to spend it on people in the know. I don't know if I have enough time to spend it on people who don't know, well-meaning though they may be. Sometimes, it's just easier this way, although not always; and that's the problem I'm having.

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

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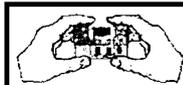
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All matinee tickets are \$14. Purchase online at www.wchs.music.com or at the lobby box office outside the Bish Auditorium, 11300 Gainsborough Road.

The Box Office is open one hour before each show, and daytime Monday through Friday from 10:50 to 11:50 a.m.



Eli Berman performs “End of the World” with Adam Winer, Matt Yinger, Luke Fuentos and Devin Egber.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6

ferred land use wins out this time. We can disagree about the use of these 20 acres but we have to have the opportunity for public discussion on this piece of land and all the others that will surely follow. It is simply an issue of fairness.

It is up to the County to set this right and restore trust, open and public hearings that consider all uses of this land need to be held as soon as possible.

Kristina Bostick

Senior Conservation Associate
Montgomery Countryside Alliance

Mockery of Transparency

To the Editor:

The County's new website devoted to public/private fields contains a curious statement:

“In keeping with the County Executive's commitment to transparent and accountable government, the Department of General Services is committed to routinely engaging residents and other interested parties in the development of County projects.”

It is apparent this “commitment” does not apply to the Brickyard Road school site. Here, the residents were not engaged at all. Instead they are the victims of a “behind the scenes” deal between MCPS system, organized soccer interests and County Ex-

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ecutive Isiah Leggett. The residents were not informed and knew nothing about it. The deal culminated in a vote at the School Board and ever since Mr. Leggett has been creating an illusion there is a process of public input. The so-called “public” meeting scheduled for April 4 is another piece of an ongoing fabrication that at best mocks the Potomac Master Plan and sets a precedent the community cannot allow. Officials have already done the deed. There is no engagement of residents, no transparency and certainly no accountability. We need to use this meeting as a vehicle to protest our exclusion.

Ginny Barnes, President

West Montgomery County
Citizens Association

No Soccer on Organic Fields

To the Editor:

The following letter was addressed to County Executive Isiah Leggett.

The Potomac Master Plan is the approved authoritative document that guides growth in our region — it was written and accepted by citizens and elected officials. Your decision on the Brickyard property is not in keeping with the Potomac Master Plan. You cannot ignore the Plan just because you do not like what it says. I know it is neither in keeping with the intent nor the letter of the

Master Plan because I have personally spoken with writers of the Potomac Master Plan, and what you are doing is not according to this plan. It is very difficult for me to accept that this is the type of legacy that you wish to leave in Montgomery County.

Montgomery County has well over 200 soccer fields, and there are many more in your soccer fields expansion plans. Montgomery County only has one Organic Seed Farm and once it has gone it will never be able to exist again due to the presence of genetically modified crops within the broader Agricultural Reserve in Montgomery County. The issue is that there has been a breach of public trust, a complete circumvention of the public process, a potential loss of a unique characteristic of Montgomery County, and just plain bad planning. The roads leading to the Marvell Farm are not designed, nor capable of handling the traffic that these fields will require to be a successful operation. The immediate neighbors who will be most impacted by this proposal were not notified nor consulted. The broader community has not been asked whether they think that the existence of a local, profitable, sustainable and successful business is a public benefit.

It is not too late! Please support reinstating the lease with Maravell Farm. It is the only decision that makes sense at this point.

Barbara Hoover
Potomac

Help Garden Club's Efforts

To the Editor:

A very fine article by Sharon Gilder appeared in your March 9 edition concerning the Little Farms Garden Club's effort to improve the median strip in the Potomac Village. This area is filled with knee-high weeds during the growing season and makes a very unsightly entrance to our community.

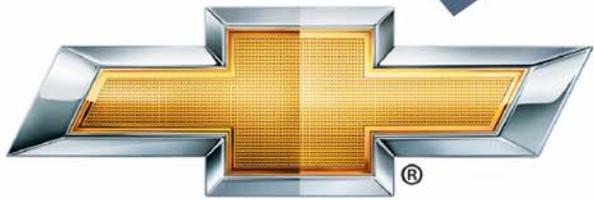
As mentioned in the article, the Garden Club has set aside some funds towards this project. Also we have met with County officials and they will assist as well. As a result of your article, we happily received, unsolicited, a check for \$100 from a local resident who remarked, “What a fabulous project of beautification for our Potomac Village!”

However, much more is needed before we can begin this effort. We are hopeful that more civic-minded residents would be led to contribute — in any amount — towards this improvement. Checks could be sent to the Potomac Chamber of Commerce at PO Box 59160, Potomac, MD 20859-9160.

We greatly appreciate any help that can be given us in this endeavor.

Eleanor Keyser
Little Farms Garden Club
Potomac

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