

Potomac ALMANAC

Spring Fun & Entertainment

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Philip Hahn, first grader at Congregation B'nai Tzedek, and his father Christopher Hahn put flowers in pots that were hand painted by volunteers for Jewish Group Homes.



Churchill's
Cuddapah Clutch
In Victory

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Builds Over
Brickyard Site

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CALENDAR, PAGE 8 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY BETH SOREF

APRIL 6-12, 2011

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SPRING FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

Tantalizing Torrontés from Argentina Wine beyond Malbec, available locally.

BY DON WINKLER
AND MIKE POTASHNIK
INTERNATIONAL WINE REVIEW

From south to north, Argentina's wine country covers almost a thousand miles, mostly nestled in the foothills of the Andes and irrigated using the cool waters of melting snow and mountain ice. Patagonia lies to the south, Mendoza is in the middle, and Salta sits at the northern end of wine country. We recently toured Patagonia and Mendoza and tasted the wines of Salta with winery representatives in Buenos Aires. Our evaluations of the more than 600 wines we've tasted will appear next month in the next report of the International Wine Review, "The Diverse Wines of Argentina."

ABOUT WINE

Argentina produces a lot of wine, and a lot of that wine is Malbec. Just a decade ago Malbec was barely known in the U.S. Today, it's very popular and widely known as the grape of Argentina. But the fact is that Argentina makes much more than Malbec. This article focuses on another grape, unique to Argentina, and rapidly growing in sales and popularity in the US. That grape is Torrontés.

Torrontés. What is Torrontés, you ask?

The latest genetic research shows it to be a cross, spontaneously created in Argentina, between Moscato (Muscat) and Criolla, the latter being the grape the Spanish priests brought to Argentina, and California, centuries ago. In California, it's known as the Mission grape. Torrontés shows its Moscato origins, especially in the nose, but it also can have a depth of flavor and complexity not found in Moscato.

If you've not tried Torrontés, we encourage you to do so. As a wine, it's very likeable. It usually has a very powerful, floral aroma that recalls rose petals, jasmine, and ginger. On the palate, it's dry but soft. The less expensive Torrontés are a bit shocking. Their effusive, floral bouquet isn't matched by an equally attractive palate. It's still a very nice wine but one that is best drunk well-chilled as an aperitif.

Ironically, the better, and more expensive, Torrontés are less fragrant on the nose, but they offer more flavor and weight on the palate. These wines are better drunk with food.

So, how does one know which Torrontés to purchase? We give some recommendations below. But the simplest choice is to pick a wine from the north of Argentina, up near the border with Bolivia. The label

SEE TORRINTÉS, PAGE 5



PHOTO BY BETH SOREF

From left: Blake Guterman (3rd Grade), Sandy Ressin, and Aaron Strauss (4th Grade) paint pots for Jewish Group Homes.

Gathering for Mitzvah Day in Potomac

Congregation B'nai Tzedek in Potomac, held a Mitzvah Day on Sunday, April 3, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. More than 200 people, including members of the congregation and community, joined together to help those in need. They participated in social action projects for local nonprofit and charitable organizations including: DC Central Kitchen, Gude Men's Shelter, Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary, Jewish Group Homes, Manna Food and Wider Circle.

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SPRING FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

Potomac Spring House Tour Is May 15-16

Discounted house tour tickets deadline is April 14.

Congregation Har Shalom's annual Potomac Spring House Tour is scheduled for Sunday and Monday, May 15-16 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The house tour features five area homes — three in Potomac and two in Bethesda, including the Bethesda home of Chevy Chase-based kitchen designer Jennifer Gilmer. The work of two Bethesda-based architects — Dean Brenneman and Mark MacInturff — are on display in two of the tour homes.

The houses represent a variety of styles and sizes and offer opportunities to gather ideas for home renovation and decorating.

The deadline to buy discounted tickets is Thursday, April 14. Tickets for the house

tour are \$20 each until April 14. Prices for house tour tickets will be \$25 each after April 14. Tickets may be purchased on-line at www.PotomacHouseTour.org.

Raffles are also being sold, at \$5 each or 6 for \$25, with raffle prizes that include art work by Potomac artist Renate Chernoff and gift certificates to area restaurants, including a \$400 certificate for Morton's Steak House. Raffles may also be purchased on-line.

Congregation Har Shalom is a nearly 50-year-old conservative Jewish synagogue in Potomac, comprised of more than 800 families. The address is 11510 Falls Road, Potomac.

The annual Potomac Spring House Tour benefits the congregation and its many projects that help local and national charitable organizations.

More information on each of the homes on the House Tour, advertising opportunities and on-line ticket and raffle sales are available at www.PotomacHouseTour.org, or by calling 301-299-7087, ext. 336.



This Potomac home sits on a 14-acre estate.



This 4,000 sq.ft. Bethesda home is filled with cozy, human-scale rooms. Renovated in 2004-2005, the home represents a fusion of traditional American bungalow and Asian.



This 6,000 sq.ft. contemporary Potomac home incorporates the outdoors with the indoors.



This home in Potomac features a light-filled addition with a rotunda, clerestory windows and an art studio.



This 10,000-sq.ft. Bethesda home has cherrywood floors with black marble details.

Frustration More than 200 people turn out for meeting on Brickyard proposal.

BY MARY KIMM
THE ALMANAC

For the passionate advocates of local, sustainable, organic agriculture, the 20-acre organic farm tended by Nick Maravell for the past 31 years is an irreplaceable gem, protected for more than a generation from chemical fertilizers and pesticides. And rarer than hen's teeth, the farm is insulated miles away from any commercial farming, allowing for cultivation of heirloom seeds free from contamination by any genetically modified organisms.

Fifteen organizations including the Chesapeake Bay Foundation have proposed the creation of the Montgomery County Food and Agricultural Policy Council, with Nick's

Organic Farm as an anchor for agricultural education.

NEWS ANALYSIS

For the passionate supporters of competitive soccer, possible access to four more soccer fields is an opportunity not to be missed. Montgomery Soccer Inc., with 14,000 members, says the shortage of fields, especially quality fields, is overwhelming. Will four more fields solve the problem? "It won't even make a significant dent," said Gabriel Albonoz, director of Recreation for Montgomery County.

"The reality is that there are far too few fields ... and we overuse the ones we have to death," said Doug Schuessler, president of Montgomery Soccer Inc., one of just two soccer advocates to speak.

For the passionate stewards of the Potomac Master Plan, the way county employees from Ike Leggett's office twisted and



PHOTO BY MARY KIMM/THE ALMANAC

A meeting at Potomac Elementary on Monday, April 4 focused on a county proposal to create a public private partnership to build four soccer fields and parking on a Brickyard Road school site. The proposal would displace an organic farm that has operated there for 31 years.

spun the language around the Brickyard site from the 2002 plan to justify the action amounted to heresy and worse. "If this goes forward, we will see this happen over and over again," said Ginny Barnes, president of West Montgomery County Citizens Association. "Everybody loses if this goes forward."

BUT MOST of the nearly 250 people who turned out at Potomac Elementary on Monday, April 4, for the first county meeting on the "Brickyard Soccer Project" were simply astonished to discover that the county fully

intends to go forward with a plan for a public-private partnership for what could be four soccer fields and hundreds of parking places without paying any attention to reaction or feedback from neighbors and residents.

"There is no process here," said Elie Pisarra Cain, who along with Barnes and Diana Conway, were three people in attendance who served for more than two years on the Potomac Master Plan advisory committee. "I'm losing faith in our elected officials. All of the sudden we find the process

More

❖ The county posted a new website on Monday, March 28 about the soccer development process. Public comment can be sent to Kassa Seyoum, Capital Projects Manager, at 240-777-6114, Division of Building Design & Construction, DGS, MC, 101 Monroe Street, 11th Floor, Rockville, MD 20850. See <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgmpl.asp?url=/content/DGS/DBDC/soccer.asp>

❖ Nick's Organic Farm, www.nicksorganicfarm.com

❖ Montgomery Countryside Alliance, www.mcoalliance.org

❖ Montgomery Soccer Inc., www.msissoccer.org

has been ignored."

One of many signs in the packed room read: "No Chemicals = Good; No Transparency = Bad."

Three county employees endured the heat and anger while continuing to assert that their actions were justified and that the project would move forward. David Dise, director of General Services, pointed to a slide that showed the process beginning on March 8 with the school board voting to lease the property to the county for soccer fields.

"We regret that of course the school board announced this in a sudden manner," Dise said, placing blame on the Board of Education for not engaging the public. The Board of Education is leasing the land to the county for an initial 10-year term for "interim" use as soccer fields. The county plans to turn the land over to a private soccer organization to develop four soccer fields and parking.

The purpose of Monday night's meeting

SEE DIVIDED, PAGE 11

Leadership Montgomery Recruiting for 2012 Class

Search is on for people who want to make a difference in county.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

In 2007, when I retired from Montgomery County Public Schools after a 30-year career, I found myself looking for a meaningful way to spend my time besides tennis, golf, traveling, reading and working out. Seems as if that should be enough, but I wanted to learn more about the community I live in, to try some new activities, to grow as a person and to expand my friendships. I found Leadership Montgomery — and they found me.

I attended an information session in which I met Esther Newman, the dynamo who founded Leadership Montgomery in 1989. I was also introduced to graduates of Leadership Montgomery and other prospective members. Esther's mission was to start

a program which would "educate, connect and inspire leaders to improve our community." Her vision has exploded into three separate yet intertwined groups — Core, Youth and Senior. All groups attend monthly classes focused on various aspects of Montgomery County — safety and security, the arts, transportation, parks and planning, housing and much more.

I was accepted into the Senior Leadership Class of 2008. During the course of nine months, I found myself with many exceptional opportunities to learn more about our county than I ever imagined. I soared in a traffic plane over the 5 p.m. gridlock, sped to a home fire in a fire truck, and held on ever-so-tightly as we dodged traffic hurrying to an emergency scene in an ambulance.

One morning, I was required to walk to a bus stop from my home (two miles) to catch the bus for a meeting at the Rockville Council building. To get to a 9:30 meeting, I had to leave before 8 a.m. on a 20 degree day. Through this activity, I learned the pluses and minuses of public transportation and what I would face each day if it were my only mode of transportation. Another exciting and interesting activity was visiting the Fire Training Academy. On this day, I



Esther Newman

saw a building catch on fire, watched a taser demonstration, met a police dog detail and learned to shoot a pistol — deciding on the spot if I must shoot to kill. Our group also toured behind the scenes at Strathmore and Glen Echo and met with the Montgomery County Council. Everyone in my class was impressed with the planning, the organization and how encompassing Leadership Montgomery turned out to be.

Besides the understanding I gained through the experiences, I met long-lasting friends and networked with many leaders in the community. I was invited to join other organizations, attend breakfasts and luncheons with community leaders and became

Get Involved

CORE Program: Deadline: May 6

WHO: Senior management, business owners, emerging leaders who live or work in Montgomery County. Explore social and economic issues and community resources while building trust, rapport and valuable networks.

SENIOR Program: Deadline: April 22

WHO: People who are 55 and older who are retired, semi-retired or about to retire, ready to share their wisdom and talent with like-minded individuals who want to get involved, learn about resources, feel useful and give back to the community

YOUTH Program: Deadline: April 15

WHO: A program for students in grades 9 – 12 to give them the skills for success in life. Youth Leadership Montgomery partners with Maryland Leadership Workshops (MLW) to develop leadership skills and community awareness.

aware of the many opportunities that await each of us in Montgomery County.

I would encourage you to consider Leadership Montgomery. Information, fees and applications are available at www.leadershipmontgomerymd.org. A schedule of the dates of the informational meetings is also available on-line. As Rick Wiczorek, Jr. Class of 2010 and President and CEO of the Mid-Atlantic Federal Credit

SEE LEADERSHIP, PAGE 11

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SPRING FUN

Torrontés

FROM PAGE 2

may say Salta, the name of the province, or it may say Cafayete, the name of the valley where the best grapes are grown. It is this area where the combination of the dry climate, high altitude, and old vines combine to produce the very best fruit. Of course, it doesn't hurt to have good winemakers, too, and one of the very best Torrontés winemakers, Jose Luis Mounier, is a consultant to the best wineries in the region.

Our Recommendations. It would be nice if one could walk in the neighborhood wine store and immediately find a dozen Torrontés to choose from. But reality is that you're more likely to find at most three or four. Hopefully, one of those will be the **Críos de Susana Balbo 2010 Torrontés** from Salta. This is a very good wine that is widely distributed. Another very good wine is the **Nuna 2010 Torrontés Reserva**, also from Salta. Since this wine is brought in by local importer Kysela, it, too, should be readily available. A third, very good wine that is widely available is the **Trapiche 2010 Broquel Torrontés** from Cafayete (in Salta). None of these wines is above \$15 in price.

More difficult to find, but well worth the search effort, are our highest-rated wines. Some of these are a bit more expensive, but nothing sells for more than \$20. Here are some great Torrontés to search out: **Finca Las Nubes 2010 Mounier Torrontés**; **Doña Paula 2010 Estate Torrontés Cafayete**; **El Porvenir 2010 Laborum Torrontés Cafayete**; **Finca El Origen 2010 Torrontés Reserva Cafayete**; and the outstanding **Tukma 2009 Torrontés Reserva Cafayete**.



Callie: "I just want a home."

Adopt a Pet

PetConnect Rescue is hosting "I Just Want A Home," an adoption event at Bark, 1643 Rockville Pike, Unit #14, Rockville, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Sunday, April 10.

Visit www.petconnectrescue.org

LET'S TALK Real Estate



by **Michael Matese**

Insulation Your Comfort

Insulation is the first line of defense for keeping cooling and heating costs in check. Winter lets out the warm air and summer lets in the hot, so good insulation is essential to help resist the heat flow to keep the 'good' air in and the 'bad' air out. Today's homes are usually well insulated, but even a home less than ten years old can almost always benefit from added padding.

Start at the top with your house. More heat moves up and through the roof than through your walls and floor, so head to the attic first. Adding insulation to existing walls can be cost prohibitive, but keep it in mind if you're planning a remodel.

Also find out what the right amount of insulation would be for your home. Things to keep in mind are the climate you live in and your home's design. The Energy Department will provide rough estimates for minimum installation levels in six climate zones, but for a more accurate answer, check with a local building department. Radiant barriers aren't a type of insulation, but they can reduce cooling costs anywhere from 2-10%, depending on the climate and the insulation in the attic.

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To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Potomac Almanac will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to:

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Potomac Master Plan Is Being Abused

BY GINNY BARNES
WMCCA PRESIDENT

It is ironic that when citizens of this county defend their Master Plans to government officials, we are told repeatedly the Master Plan only serves as “guidance.” But Monday night at a packed meeting in Potomac Elementary school, the County Executive’s office treated their selected reading of the Potomac Subregion Master Plan as a holy edict in defending their decision to lease the Brickyard Road school site for soccer fields, using a public/private partnership as the implementing tool. The secret deal with the school system has been in the works for roughly two years without the community having the slightest clue about what was afoot.

Curiously, they reference only those parts of the Master Plan that suit their purpose, simply ignoring any qualifying language or the actual recommendation for the Brickyard school site. I served on the Master Plan Advisory Committee and I can bear witness that the Master Plan Committee discussions never envisioned a scenario like the one promulgated by County Executive Ike Leggett — who could not even be bothered to show up at the “public meeting” to at least feel the heat generated by his complete disregard for the public he serves.

The Master Plan text reads: “The Brickyard Junior High School, Kendale Elementary, and Churchill Elementary School sites could be developed as local parks with ball fields or other recreational uses. ... Any site acquired for parkland should be evaluated to determine whether it is appropriate for recreational opportunities (e.g. trails, ball fields, etc.)” However, the County Executive is ignoring the spe-

WMCCA Meeting

The next West Montgomery County Citizens Association meeting is Wednesday, April 13, 7:15 p.m. at the Potomac Community Center. The speakers will be District 15 State Senator Rob Garigiola and Delegates Brian Feldman, Kathleen Dumais and Aruna Miller. Each year the District 15 Representatives give a wrap-up of Maryland’s legislative session in Annapolis.

As always, the public is welcome to attend. If schools are closed because of inclement weather, the meeting will be cancelled.

cific recommendation in bold type on page 135. The latter contains the unambiguous qualifier, “if they are declared as surplus.” The Master Plan goes on to state that three school sites “could be developed as local parks with ball fields or other recreational uses.”

This means local parks with ball fields or local parks with other recreational uses. It does not mean recreational uses without a local park. The evidence for this is the last sentence of the same paragraph: “Any site acquired for parkland should be evaluated to determine whether it is appropriate for recreational opportunities (e.g., trails, ball fields, etc.)” Local Park has a prescribed definition in the Park Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS). It is specifically intended for use by the local community. More importantly, the creation of such a park goes through an extensive public participation process and then is voted on by the Planning Commission. The PROS Plan says nothing about using a public/private partnership to operate such a park.

My research to date has not turned up any other school site in Montgomery County being handled in this way — circumvention of the surplus process, no evaluation, no public input, no planning, and absolutely no trans-

parency. It is essentially a “taking” by the County Executive and turning it over to a private enterprise for a single use — soccer fields. Worse, it will not be a local park for free use by the surrounding residents, but instead intended to draw players from all over the region to a community of narrow roads without sidewalks. If this is allowed to go forward, it will become a precedent for other such misuse. Imagine the Kendale school site, steeply sloped and forested, adjacent to a stream, at the end of a narrow winding road. With a little more of the same vivid imagining that the Executive has put into the Brickyard site, they could deforest and regrade Kendale to accommodate more soccer fields.

Given the public outcry, the national stature of organic farmer Nick Maravell, the strides we’ve made in fostering sustainable locally produced food, and the tawdry air of a backroom deal with soccer organizations, the best move for Mr. Leggett now is to tear up the lease between his office and MCPS and re-evaluate this decision. If not, he faces a long, hard, ugly confrontation with our determined and justifiably outraged community.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Implementing MS-4 Stormwater Permit: Montgomery County’s most recent NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) MS4 stormwater permit was issued last year and requires implementation of restoration on 20 percent of all impervious surfaces not currently controlled to the maximum extent practicable (MEP) over the next five years, in addition to a 10 percent restoration requirement from the previous permit cycle. Restora-

SEE POTOMAC MASTER PLAN, PAGE 15

of Education for school use at a future date as defined by the MCPS lease to the County.

The County is meeting with the community and neighborhoods around the site to elicit comments and feedback on development of the recreation fields before issuing any request for proposals. Following contractor/operator selection the County will again meet with communities to ensure the contractor understands residents’ issues of concern. It would have been wholly inappropriate and presumptuous for the County to have initiated meetings prior to our being leased the land by the Board of Education. The County does not gather feedback on use for property that we do not control.

The cost of the project will be borne by the to-be-selected private partner, not by the County, and the plans will be submitted to the County Planning Board for review which will — of course — provide an additional opportunity for public comment and input.

Patrick Lacefield

Director
Office of Public Information
Montgomery County

Editor’s note: The Potomac Master Plan says that this site, if declared surplus by the schools, could be used for

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ballfields Are Appropriate

To the Editor:

As a Potomac resident myself, I’m surprised at Barbara Hoover’s inaccurate information in her letters on the Brickyard Road tract. I join many Potomac and Bethesda residents in looking forward to more playing fields for our families.

Here are the facts:

Montgomery County is home to approximately 25,000 youth and over 10,000 adults participating in soccer activities. Due to limited soccer facilities, there is a need for properly built and maintained fields. Soccer leagues are an important part of positive youth development and well being.

The Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission in its 2005 PROS plan referenced the need for more multipurpose rectangular fields, especially in the Down County. Specifically, it calls for an additional 73 multipurpose rectangular fields by 2020, including 43 of these in the Down County.

Contrary to what Ms. Hoover has now said in two Almanac letters, the Potomac Master Plan, approved by the County Council in 2002 explicitly includes ballfields as an appropriate

use for this property if the property is not in use as a school, stating “(t)he Brickyard Junior High School ... could be developed as local parks with ballfield or other recreational use.” (Potomac Subregion Master Plan, p.135)

Ms. Hoover states she has “personally spoken to the writers of the Potomac Master Plan” but, perhaps, she should just read what’s down there in black-and white.

The County will work with the private farmer who previously leased the land from MCPS (20 acres for only \$1300 a year) to remain through the upcoming growing season. Putting this site to its proper use will not harm, nor impact the Agricultural Reserve which comprises nearly one-third of the County’s land area — an area that is protected from development and available for agricultural use.

The site was originally acquired for use that would benefit County children, including recreational use that would accompany a possible school. The site is not currently needed for a school and is intended to be put to use for County youth and recreation needs. The Master-Planned use would benefit many County residents rather than a private farming operation. And the public/private partnership will be designed to minimize costs to the county of providing needed recreation fields.

The property can be reclaimed by the Board

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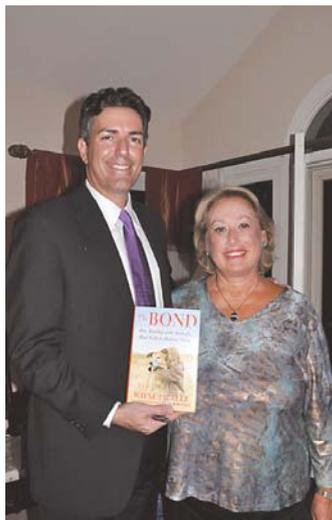
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Wayne Pacelle signs his book "The Bond" for a guest at the book launch Monday night at the Potomac home of Joyce Doria.



Author Wayne Pacelle and hostess Joyce Doria.

PHOTOS BY DEBORAH POST STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

Potomac Home Hosts Book Launch

Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States, talked about his book, "The Bond: Our Kinship with Animals, Our Call to Defend Them" at a book launch party Monday, April 4, at the Potomac home of Joyce Doria.

In the book, Pacelle discusses the links of the human-animal bond, as well as the conflicting impulses that lead to widespread and systematic cruelty to animals.

In an excerpt from the preface, Pacelle writes: "As harsh as nature is for animals, cruelty comes only from human hands. We are the creature of conscience, aware of the wrongs we do and fully capable of making things right. Our best instincts will always tend in that direction, because there

is a bond with animals that's built into every one of us. That bond of kinship and fellow-feeling has been with us through the entire arc of human experience — from our first bare-footed steps on the planet through the era of the domestication of animals and into the modern age. For all that sets humanity apart, animals remain 'our companions in Creation,' to borrow a phrase from Pope Benedict XVI, bound up with us in the story of life on earth.

"Every act of callousness toward an animal is a betrayal of that bond. In every act of kindness we keep faith with the bond. And broadly speaking, the whole mission of the animal welfare cause is to repair the bond — for their sake and for our own."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6

a local park including ballfields. This site has not been declared surplus by the schools and the proposed use does not meet the definition of a local park.

Citizens For Transparency

To the Editor

The following letter was addressed to U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin, U.S. Sen. Barbara Mikulski and U.S. Rep. Chris Van Hollen:

I write to you today on behalf of Citizens for Transparency, a group of Montgomery County residents who are appalled by the lack of transparency in a decision recently taken by Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett and the Montgomery County Board of Education. Since you represent all of us in Maryland (Montgomery County), we thought it would be best to bring this issue to your attention in hopes of allowing us, the key stakeholders, to have some say in the future of our neighborhoods.

The decision in question concerns a plot of property owned by

the Montgomery County Public Schools located on Brickyard Road in Potomac.

For the past 30 years, this property was leased to a very prominent organic farmer named Nick Maravell.

Nick has established one of the only certified organic seed and feed farms in the State of Maryland, and was recently appointed by Secretary Tom Vilsack to a 5-year term on the National Organic Standards Board.

The citizens of Montgomery County and Nick were given only three days notice of the intent by the Board of Education to revoke his lease and transfer the property to County Executive Ike Leggett so he could build soccer fields in the 20-acre property.

Besides all the practical issues of traffic and environmental damage surrounding a decision such as this, the issue that most concerns us is the lack of transparency by County officials in the decision process.

Mr. Leggett and the Board of Education had been planning this project since 2009, but purposefully chose not to inform those of us who live near the sight. This

was confirmed in a meeting [April 4] held in Potomac, where we were told by the representatives of Montgomery County that this was a "done deal" and that Mr. Leggett and the Board were signing the lease today.

We are shocked and dismayed by this process. We were never given an opportunity to participate in the democratic process of deciding the best use of this land. It was originally set aside for an additional school — but the perversion of the process produced a secret, underhanded, backroom deal forcing many of us to lose our faith in the politicians which represent us.

I do hope you will help us restore our faith in the political process by contacting Mr. Leggett to inform him of the careless nature in which he conducted this transaction and urging he and the Board of Education to reverse their decision until a proper public comment process can be instituted.

Randa Hudome
Citizens for Transparency
Potomac

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

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SPRING FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

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, Rockville. For reservations, call Debby

Sokobin at 301-348-3760.

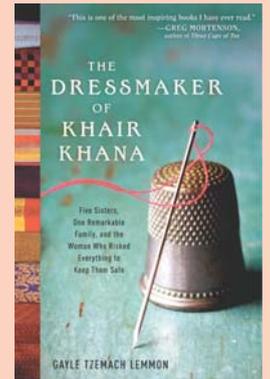
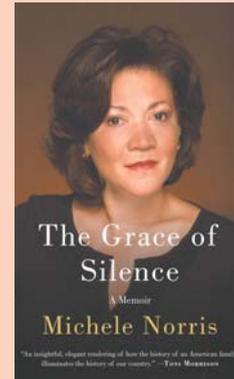
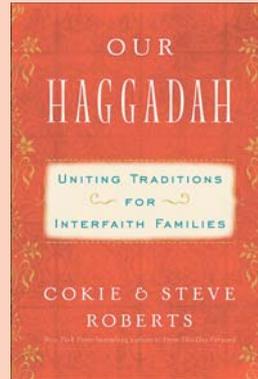
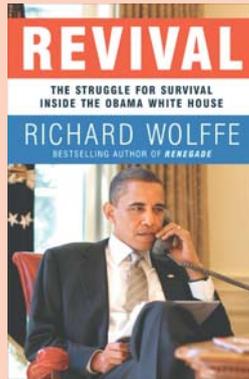
FRIDAY/APRIL 8

Sin Miedo. 9 p.m. Tickets are \$10/advance; \$12/door. Led by French pianist Didier Prossaird, Sin Miedo's 8-piece orchestra performs original music with Spanish and French lyrics and salsa hits from the '70s to today. At the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

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.



APRIL 15 TO 17

Bethesda's Annual Literary Festival. Free. Literary guests include Michele Norris, Steve and Cokie Roberts, Gayle Tzemach Lemmon, Richard Wolffe and Marie Arana. Highlights of the Bethesda Literary Festival include the Reading and Awards Ceremonies for the Essay & Short Story Contest, the Youth Writing Contest and the Bethesda Poetry Contest; a meet-and-greet with over 15 of your favorite authors, and author events for children and teens. Held in and around Bethesda. Sponsored by the Bethesda Urban Partnership.

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.

APRIL 8-9

"Blast 2011 Revolution." At Winston Churchill High school. 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday April 8, 9. 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.

Rummage Sale. Friday, April 8 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, April 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Includes jewelry, furniture, collectives, books, kitchenware, household items, toys, tools, baby gear, art, bicycles and more. At St. James' Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Road, Potomac.

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.sugarloaforcrafts.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. The two endearing hippos from the James Marshall picture books stomp onto stage in this warm and funny musical adaptation. George and Martha are best friends. They play music together and share meals, presents, picnics, and exciting adventures like flying a balloon. Sometimes they have differences as all friends do. But it cannot last. Like all good friends, George and Martha just can't stay angry for long! This simple story says much about our relationships at any age. Geared for our youngest theatre-goers but enjoyable for all, this new musical by Joan Cushing sparkles with clever lyrics and laughter. 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.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

Spring Peepers: No bigger than a fingernail, spring peepers make an amazing spring chorus. Listen for these amazing creatures and look for other nighttime friends including bats and owls. 7-8:30 p.m. Ages three and up, with an adult. Woodend Sanctuary, 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, 20815. 301-652-9188. www.ANShome.org

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Potomac Library used book sale with most hardback books and large paperback books are \$1 and all regular paperback books are \$.50. All books are donated by local residents and proceeds benefit the library. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac.

Au Pair Cultural Fair. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. The fair provides an opportunity for families who are looking for child care to learn more about the program. At Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. RSVP to Au Pair in America community counselor Pat Van Haste, 703-888-1599, patavh@gmail.com. Or call 800-928-7247 or visit them on the web at www.aupairinamerica.com.

Swing Dancing. 9 p.m. to midnight. Cost is \$15. With the legendary Roomful of Blues. 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 Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.

SUNDAY/APRIL 10

Open Door Reading. 2 p.m. Free. Erika Meitner reads poems from her latest

collection, *Ideal Cities*. She is joined by novelist Candace Katz, author of Schaeffer Brown's Detective Observations. At 4508 Walsh Street, Bethesda. Call 301-654-8664 for details or visit www.writer.org.

Stravinsky Festival. 4 to 6 p.m. Tickets are \$20 to \$45. At the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org/stravinskyproject.

SUNDAY/APRIL 11

Cajun and Zydeco Dance Party. 3 to 6 p.m. Admission is \$12. With the band Squeeze Bayou. Introductory Cajun lesson from 3 to 3:30 p.m.; dancing from 3 to 6 p.m. At the Bumper Car Pavilion 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.

Bluegrass Concert. 7:30 p.m. With Cathy Fink, Marcy Marxer and Barbara Lamb. Tickets are \$18/advance; \$22/door; \$15/student. At IMT Rockville, Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, Rockville. Call 301-754-3611 and visit www.imtfolk.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 12

Singer/Songwriter Randall Williams. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$18/door; \$15/advance. At the Unitarian Universalist Church, 100 Welsh Park Drive, Rockville. Visit www.FocusMusic.org.

THURSDAY/APRIL 14

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 9



The 2010 Potomac River Watershed Cleanup, The River Center at Lock 8.

23rd Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup is April 9

The 23rd Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup will take place on Saturday, April 9 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Volunteers are needed to pick up trash at any existing cleanup site. Register to host a cleanup site. Since 1989, more than 90,000 volunteers have teamed with 425 partner organizations to tug over 5 million pounds of trash from the watershed's streams, rivers and bays. Last year's haul of over 250 tons included more than 15 tons of recyclables, 21,597 plastic bags, 1,844 tires, 14,802 cigarette butts, 3 canoes and 2 couches!

The 2010 Cleanup took place at over 575 sites in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and West Virginia — all part of the lands,

or watershed, that drain into the Potomac. Locations included fields, forests, parking lots and other 'inland' sites, where the trash can be removed before it enters creeks and other waterways.

To volunteer, contact Deanna Tricarico at tricarico@potomac.org or 301-608-1188, ext. 204. The Conservancy will host cleanup events at several locations throughout the watershed, including:

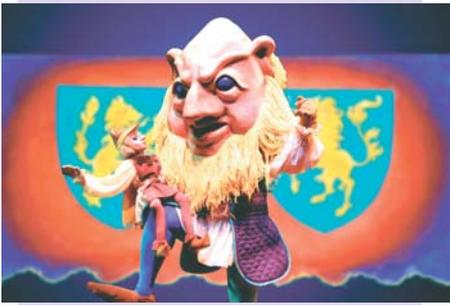
- ❖ The River Center at Lock 8, 7906 Riverside Drive, Cabin John (9 a.m. – 12 p.m.)
- ❖ Lake Artemesia Conservation Area, Berwyn Heights, MD (10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)
- ❖ Chancellor's Point, St. Mary's City, MD (10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)
- Theodore Roosevelt Island, Washington, D.C. (9 a.m. – 12 p.m.)
- North Fork Shenandoah River, Woodstock, VA (8:15 a.m. – 12 p.m.)



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.oob.org.uk.

THEATER



NOW THROUGH APRIL 10

“Jack and the Beanstalk.” Performances Thursdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., and Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. It is recommended for K-Grade 6 and runs 45 minutes. Tickets are \$10, with group rates available. Presented by The Puppet Co. Playhouse at Glen Echo Park. Call 301-634-5380 or visit www.thepuppetco.org

APRIL 15 THROUGH JUNE 2

“Snow White and the 7 Dwarves.” Show times are Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m.; Thursdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tickets are \$10/adults and children. Recommended for K-6. Group rates available. Presented by the Puppet Co. and based on the Grimm fairytale. Call 301-634-5380 or visit www.thepuppetco.org.

APRIL 15 TO MAY 29

“The Day John Henry Came to School.” Appropriate for ages 7 and up. Tickets are \$10 to \$22. Visit www.imaginationstage.org, at the Imagination Stage box office, or via phone at 301-280-1660. Group rates are available. Box office hours are 10 to 5 daily. At the Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Call 301-280-1660 or www.imaginationstage.org.

www.imaginationstage.org, at the Imagination Stage box office, or via phone at 301-280-1660. Group rates are available. Box office hours are 10 to 5 daily. At the Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Call 301-280-1660 or www.imaginationstage.org.

NOW THROUGH MAY 29

“Tiny Tots @ 10.” 10 a.m. “Tiny Tots @ 10” is designed for young children ages 0-4. The program features master puppeteer Bob Brown. The lights stay on, the doors stay open, and everyone has a great time! Tickets are \$5. All individuals must have a ticket, including babes-in-arms. Running time is 30 minutes. Email: c.piper@thepuppetco.org or visit www.thepuppetco.org. For reservations, call 301-634-5380.

- ❖ April 6 — “Animal Crackers”
- ❖ April 9 — “Penguins’ Playground”
- ❖ April 10 — “Panda-Monium”
- ❖ April 20 — “Bunny Business”
- ❖ April 23 — “Bunny Business”
- ❖ April 27 — “Teddy Bear’s Picnic”
- ❖ April 30 — “Teddy Bear’s Picnic”
- ❖ May 4 — “Baby Bear’s Birthday”
- ❖ May 7 — “Baby Bear’s Birthday”
- ❖ May 8 — “Bunny Business”
- ❖ May 11 — “Old McDonald’s Farm”
- ❖ May 14 — “Old McDonald’s Farm”
- ❖ May 15 — “Clowning Around”
- ❖ May 21 — “Merlin’s Magic”
- ❖ May 22 — “Magic Toyshop”
- ❖ May 25 — “Merlin’s Magic”
- ❖ May 28 — “Magic Toyshop”
- ❖ May 29 — “Panda-Monium”

THEATER

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 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.

NOW THROUGH APRIL 25

Prints Charming. Free. Paper works with Philip Bennet, Cindy Cole, Dorothy Frye, Linda Goldberg, and Westen Muntain. At the Dennis and Phillip Ratner Museum, 10001 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Call 301-897-1518.

APRIL 5 THROUGH 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 waverlystreetgallery.com.

Auburn Avenue, Bethesda, MD. Imagination Stage offers discount ticket packages. Details are on the website, www.imaginationstage.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 17

The 21st Century Consort. 3 p.m. Admission is \$20/door. Music will include pieces by Joan Panetti, John Cage and Olivier Messiaen. At Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, 6601 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda. Call 301-365-2850. Visit www.bradleyhillchurch.org.

Open Door Reading: Poet Lore Launch.

2 p.m. Celebrate the launch of Poet Lore’s spring/summer issue. The nation’s oldest continuously published poetry journal, at 122 years old, hosts readings by local poets Janice Lynch Schuster, Melanie Figg, and R. Dwayne Betts. At The Writer’s Center, 4508 Walsh Street, Bethesda. Call 301-654-8664. Or www.writer.org.

Waltz Dance.

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

MONDAY/APRIL 18

Orquestra de Guitarras de Barcelona. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$30/regular; \$28/seniors and students. The ensemble features 25 of Spain’s most gifted guitarists lead by Director Sergi Vincente. At the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center at Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville. Call the Box Office at 240-567-5301 or visit www.montgomerycollege.edu/PAC.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 8

Debbie Sokobin’s Talk on

Passover. 10:30 a.m. Part of the JCC Seniors Organized for Change. At Ring House, 1801 E. Jefferson Street, Rockville. For reservations, call Debby Sokobin at 301-348-3760.

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.

FRIDAY/APRIL 15

Google and our Society.

7:30 p.m. Free. Join senior writer for Wired magazine, Steven Levy, as he talks about how Google thinks, works, and shapes our lives in his new book, *In The Plex*. At The Writer’s Center, 4508 Walsh Street, Bethesda. Visit www.bethesda.org.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

Walk Among the Giants: Walk with Audubon’s senior naturalist among the sycamores, oaks and river birches along the Potomac River just upstream of Great Falls. 2.5 mile walk. For adults. 8-11:30 a.m. In conjunction with walks on Sunday July 3 and Saturday, Oct. 29. Call 301-652-9188. www.ANSHome.org

APRIL 16 TO MAY 21

The Day John Henry Came to School. 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. Johnny is a typical 5th grader, way into video games and not especially motivated at school. Imagine his surprise one



Alexej Gorlatch

SUNDAY/APRIL 10

Pianist Alexej Gorlatch in Concert. 3 p.m. Free. Dublin International Piano Competition Winner. Performed at Westmoreland Congregational UCC Church, One Westmoreland Circle, Massachusetts and Western Avenues.

night when there’s a loud knock at the door and his ancestor John Henry bursts into his bedroom, wielding a 12 lb. hammer and insisting that he will visit Johnny’s class the next day for “Show & Tell.” At first unimpressed by John Henry’s tragic tale about his race with the steam engine, the children in Johnny’s class come to appreciate the importance of his ultimate sacrifice. The award-winning playwright of *Lost & Foundling* has created another witty and insightful contemporary comedy. At Imagination Stage in the Annette M. and Theodore N. Lerner Family Theatre. At Imagination Stage 4908

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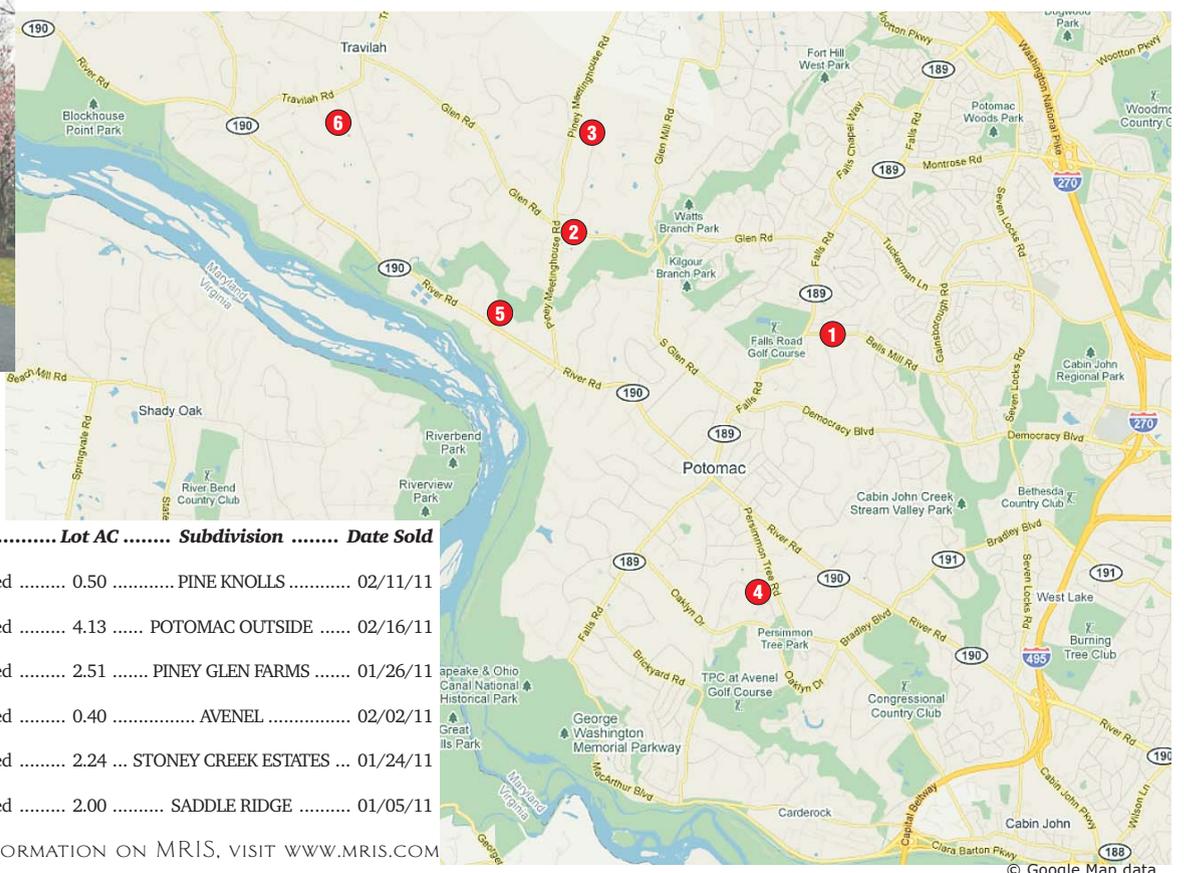
3 12317 Piney Glen Lane, Potomac — \$1,390,000



4 10116 Meyer Point Terrace, Potomac — \$1,475,000

5 12413 Bacall Lane, Potomac — \$1,475,000

6 11621 Swains Lock Terrace, Potomac — \$1,475,000



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1 9215 BELLS MILL RD	6	5	1	POTOMAC	\$1,475,000	Detached	0.50	PINE KNOLLS	02/11/11
2 11221 GLEN RD	4	4	1	POTOMAC	\$1,460,000	Detached	4.13	POTOMAC OUTSIDE	02/16/11
3 12317 PINEY GLEN LN	5	5	3	POTOMAC	\$1,390,000	Detached	2.51	PINEY GLEN FARMS	01/26/11
4 10116 MEYER POINT TER	4	4	1	POTOMAC	\$1,319,900	Detached	0.40	AVENEL	02/02/11
5 12413 BACALL LN	5	4	1	POTOMAC	\$1,156,000	Detached	2.24	STONEY CREEK ESTATES	01/24/11
6 11621 SWAINS LOCK TER	4	4	1	POTOMAC	\$1,155,000	Detached	2.00	SADDLE RIDGE	01/05/11

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

Divided over Best Use of Land

FROM PAGE 4

was to gather information from the community before issuing a request for proposal for soccer fields, said Dise, Ken Hartman of the Bethesda Chevy Chase regional services, and Diane Schwartz Jones, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer who previously worked for the Montgomery County Attorney handling major public/private initiatives, real estate transactions and real estate litigation.

"The County Executive [Ike Leggett] believes this is an appropriate use of this site," said Dice.

While the county employees emphasized participation in the details about soccer fields, whether there could be a tot lot or other things for community use, most citizen speakers asked to start over with a different process.

"We don't want the RFP," said Diana Conway, president of the Montgomery Countryside Alliance and board member of West Montgomery. "We want to reopen the question of what will we do with this land." Conway identified secret collaboration dating to 2009 between Montgomery Soccer, the county executive's office and the Board of Education laying the ground work for the soccer field proposal. The community "was not part of those discussions," Conway said, adding that officials had a responsibility to inform and consult residents.

Leggett, the county's top elected official, did not attend the meeting. But on Sunday, April 3, he did pay a visit to Nick Maravell and walked around the farm with him.



Diana Conway, of West Montgomery and Montgomery Countryside Alliance, said residents want to begin with discussing what the correct use of the property is, not details of a request for proposal.



Doug Schuessler, president of Montgomery Soccer Inc., said that more playing fields are badly needed and that MSI continues to "ping" the county for possible sites for more fields.

"He asked a lot of insightful questions about aspects that make this site unique," Maravell said. "He expressed a sincere interest in my plight as a farmer."

Marvell said that Leggett expressed hope that some part of the site could be preserved for organic farming alongside the soccer fields.

Councilmembers Roger Berliner (D-1) and George Leventhal (D-at large) wrote to Leggett also suggesting that "both uses could be incorporated into the 20-acre site."

Many speakers raised concerns about traffic and safety, with thousands of new vehicle trips expected on Brickyard Road every week. Neighbors of a soccer field at Buck Branch Park in Potomac complained about the impacts of traffic, overuse and unruly behavior in the park.

Gordon Clark of Montgomery Victory Gardens, emphasized the importance of the organic farm.

Sophia Maravell, 23 and daughter of Nick Maravell, came into town for the meeting from The Farm School in western Massachusetts where she studies new techniques for small-scale sustainable farming. She spoke about the importance of small, organic farms in education and fighting childhood obesity.

"I think it would be great to have soccer fields there," said Tom Keane, a River Falls resident, who brought his 13-year-old son to the meeting "to see democracy working." Keane asked when residents would have a chance to comment on the details of the request for proposal, and Dise answered that would come at the next, as yet unscheduled, meeting.

Leadership Montgomery Recruiting

FROM PAGE 4

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St James' Rummage Sale This Weekend

Those living in the Potomac Woods neighborhood have probably seen a blue van with a rainbow painted on the side cruising around. That "Rainbow Van" belongs to Don Schuessler and his wife Isabelle, residents of Potomac Woods for 45-plus years. The Schuesslers are active members of St James' Episcopal Church, and for the past 20-something years, they've orchestrated the church's rummage sales.

For Don Schuessler, the treasure-troving is a year-long endeavor. That's because he's been able to par-

lay his "eye" into a major fundraising program for St. James' and its missions — through sales of antiques, collectibles, furniture and "stuff" on Craigslist and eBay.

Days and times for this weekend's rummage sale, which includes jewelry, furniture, collectibles, books, kitchenware, household items, toys, tools, baby gear, art, sports equipment are Friday, April 8, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. and Saturday, April 9, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

St. James' is at 11815 Seven Locks Road. The phone number is 301-762-8040.

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Churchill's Cuddapah Clutch in Victory

Bulldogs in search of first .500-or-better season since 2000.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE ALMANAC

With the bases loaded and no outs in the bottom of the seventh inning, Churchill head softball coach James Collins wasn't relying on Kara Cuddapah to win the game. In fact, Collins hoped for nothing more than damage control from the senior.

The Bulldogs trailed Northwest 3-2 when Cuddapah stepped to the plate, having gone 0 for 3 with two strikeouts in her previous at bats on Saturday morning. No. 3 batter Maddie Ulanow was on deck and cleanup hitter Katie Jenkins was in the hole, each capable of coming through with a game-winning hit.

Cuddapah made sure their services wouldn't be needed.

The senior hit a groundball into center field for a two-run single, giving the Bulldogs a 4-3 win over the Jaguars at Churchill High School. The victory improved Churchill's record to 3-1, but could have a greater long-term effect for a program that hasn't finished .500 or better since 2000.

"The funny thing is: on deck, I've got my two best hitters," Collins said. "I'm like, well, if [Cuddapah] strikes out we're still OK. If she gets a walk, even better, but just don't hit into a double play. Then I see a grounder up the middle and I winced — but then it gets through. ... She did a fantastic job."

THE CLUTCH EFFORT ended a seesaw affair during which the Bulldogs persevered through adversity.

"It was really tense," Cuddapah said. "... When I went up to bat, I just thought, 'This is the first inning. It's clean, it's all new and I'm just going to do what I do.'"

Churchill entered the seventh inning with momentum on its side after



Churchill sophomore shortstop Katie Jenkins, a transfer from Holy Cross, was a first-team all-WCAC selection as a freshman.

catcher Mariah Schoch singled in the go-ahead run in the bottom of the sixth, giving the Bulldogs a 2-1 lead. However, Churchill quickly found itself on the wrong end of an emotional swing, as two Northwest triples and a Bulldog error in the top of the seventh gave the Jaguars two runs and a 3-2 advantage.

While Churchill failed to close out Northwest in the top half of the inning, the Bulldogs would not be denied. Junior Liz Berriman and sophomore Morgan Messner singled and junior Sarah Adams walked to load the bases prior to Cuddapah's walk-off single.

"Losing wasn't an option," sophomore shortstop Jenkins said. "I thought we were going to come through and we were going to win that game."

Churchill fell behind 1-0 in the third inning after Northwest head coach Kevin Corpuz won an appeal of an umpire's call at first base.

With two outs and a runner on third base, Northwest's Jenna Brown hit a line drive that was knocked down by the Churchill third baseman, who threw to first for an out. Corpuz appealed that the Bulldog first baseman's foot was on the orange "safety

base" rather than the first-base bag. Corpuz's appeal was upheld, giving Brown first base and allowing the Northwest runner who was on third to score. Collins argued the overturning to no avail.

THE BULLDOGS bounced back in the bottom of the frame, tying the score 1-1. Ulanow drew a two-out walk, took second base on a wild pitch and scored on Jenkins' single to right.

"It shows that a team has a lot of character, a lot of strength so they can brush [adversity] off," Collins said. "Everybody was upset at first [with the disputed ruling] but we brushed it off and kept playing good softball. In the past here, we've had issues where something like that would [cause] everybody [to] talk about that the rest of the game and we would end up losing because we're not focused."

Collins also said Saturday's victory could help Churchill turn the corner toward its first winning season in more than a decade. One reason for the coach to be optimistic is the arrival of Jenkins, a transfer from Academy of the Holy Cross in Kensington. Jenkins was a first-team all-Washington Catholic Athletic Conference selection as a



Churchill senior Meghan O'Lone struck out 11 Northwest batters en route to a complete game victory on Saturday.

freshman.

"Katie is a fantastic player," Collins said. "She's a model for the other players. She's a very aggressive, competitive girl and it's contagious."

They see her sliding head first into the bases, diving onto the ground to get balls, going up to bat, being aggressive on the bases; it's contagious. As a 10th-grader — we have a lot of seniors — but the seniors are looking to her for leadership and she's providing it."

ANOTHER SENIOR who made a big impact on Saturday was pitcher Meghan O'Lone, who earned a complete game victory in the circle. O'Lone allowed three runs — one earned — and nine hits while walking none and striking out 11.

"The thing about Meghan, she's going to get hit, but she throws strikes, she doesn't walk a lot," Collins said, "... and we've got a solid defense to back her up. We're going to give up 2-3 runs a game but were going to score 4 or 5 and that's how we want to play."

Churchill will host Walter Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on April 6 and will travel to Richard Montgomery at 3:30 p.m. on April 8.

SPORTS



Whitman's Sarah Backenstoe, left, defends Churchill's Jamie Oppenheimer.

Churchill Girls Lacrosse Beats Whitman

The Churchill girls lacrosse team defeated Whitman 22-7 on Saturday at WHS, improving its record to 4-0. The Bulldogs defeated Quince Orchard 21-7 on March 16, Bethesda-Chevy Chase 20-8 on March 22 and Sherwood 12-11 on March 25. Churchill will travel to face Richard Montgomery at 7 p.m. on April 7.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Whitman Baseball Rallies To Beat Wootton

The Whitman baseball team scored two runs in the bottom of the seventh inning to beat Wootton 6-5 on March 31. Wootton scored four runs in the top of the seventh but couldn't hold a one-run lead.

Michael Flack earned the complete game win for Whitman, allowing five earned runs and 10 hits while walking two in 111 pitches.

James Dionne and Dan Duffy each had two hits for the Vikings. Dionne, Drew Aherne and Duffy each had two RBIs.

Whitman will host Gaithersburg at 3:30 p.m. on April 6 and Northwest at 7 p.m. on April 8. Wootton will travel to face Northwest at 3:30 p.m. on April 6 and Gaithersburg at 3:30 p.m. on April 8.

Sports Updates on Twitter

Follow sports editor Jon Roetman on Twitter at @jonroetman for sports updates around Montgomery County, Md., and Northern Virginia.

PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

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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@connectionnewspapers.com.

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-William Van Horne

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OPINION

More Things I Know, Sort Of



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

While I'm discussing problems (see last week's column titled, "What It Is I Do Know"), let me tell you something else I know – and sort of understand: not admitting – to myself, that I may have worsening symptoms which indicate that the semi, symptom-free honeymoon I've been on since my treatment began two years ago is taking a turn for the worse – which it's not (so I say, ergo the problem). My thinking is, if I don't admit to it, it's not really happening (sort of like George Costanza's advice to Jerry Seinfeld on how to beat a lie detector test: "It's not a lie if you believe it").

As asymptomatic as I've been, generally speaking/comparatively speaking, I'm always looking for a sign that might portend trouble, health-wise. My oncologist has answered my "How will I know?" questions with a simple explanation: "Any change or worsening of symptoms, a persistent cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, please call." Logically then, if I'm not experiencing these kinds of symptoms/changes then I'm not slipping away; "slipping" refers to the "slippery slope" reference a few columns ago.

And let's be honest here: my diagnosis, stage IV lung cancer, is hardly the 24-hour flu. It's not going away. It's not getting better. It is, as my oncologist said way back when: "Incurable." He "can treat me, but he can't cure me." Consequently, every day where I don't feel a worsening/change of symptoms is one day closer to the day when I will. I don't know that this is an absolute fact, but stage IV lung cancer survivors are fairly rare. In fact, when we specifically asked my oncologist, after he gave us my 13-month to two-year prognosis, what percentage of lung cancer patients survive beyond two years, his answer was that the percentage was in the low single digits, and as for five years, his answer was "Zero percent." Not emphatically, mind you, but rather convincingly. Then he added: "Could you be the first? Absolutely!"

Hearing that then and continuing to live with it now (25 months post-diagnosis/prognosis), is the basis for the underlying mental challenges I endure every day. As a long-time salesman, I can characterize my thought process with two well-worn sales adages: "Waiting for the other shoe to drop;" meaning, something bad/discouraging is ultimately going to happen and, "Every no is one step closer to a yes;" meaning, results are just a matter of time, sort of. As the son of a salesman, having grown up in the world of sales and spent my entire adult career as a salesman, I am sensitive to and clearly effected by, these extremely familiar expressions/explanations.

I am not a fatalist, though. Nor am I a pessimist. And I'm not morbid about my rather less than favorable health circumstances. I am a realist, though. And my real approach, given my personality and career choices is: to not accept the reality of my circumstances, think positively and hope that somehow, that combination will win the day (and the night, and the month, year, decade, etc.). Nevertheless, it's impossible to ignore the underlying facts. And occasionally, they are overwhelming and probably the cause for my incessant need to arrange, interpret and clutter those facts/feelings in the confusing and haphazard manner that I do in order to not be driven completely insane by them.

Still, if I were to be really honest here, I'd have to say that my initial diagnosis, given that I'm a lifelong non-smoker, was plain bad luck; and that my most recent, much-better-than-predicted, life expectancy/quality of life, has been just the opposite: good luck. Whether – and how – control or mental fortitude (or diet and exercise) played a role in any of it, I'll never know. And how much longer can I go on not knowing? That's something I definitely don't know. That much I do know.

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

Potomac Master Plan Is Being Abused

FROM PAGE 6

tion is defined as managing stormwater from impervious surfaces (such as roads, parking lots, driveways, buildings) using either structural treatments (such as engineered ponds) or equivalent non-structural practices like infiltration of parking lot runoff into a forested buffer areas, stream restoration, riparian reforestation, and public education and outreach. We must control runoff on an additional 4,300 acres of impervious surface, county-wide.

Montgomery County now has an overall impervious cover of 12 percent or 35,965

acres. Runoff is funneled at a high volume and velocity off these hard surfaces during storms, causing further flooding and erosion problems as well as carrying pollutants such as bacteria, trash, nutrients and sediment — all contributors to a dying Chesapeake Bay.

Our permit requires limits (called Total Maximum Daily Loads) on these pollutants, but our implementation strategy needs to focus more on boosting the role of green growing plants such as trees, forest and green roofs in attenuating, filtering and infiltrating runoff.

Piney Meetinghouse Road Bridge replacement: The Division of Transportation Engineering has issued notice that the design of this project has been altered to include widening the bridge and approach roadway. The changes will now provide for a 24-foot roadway with 4-foot paved shoulders on each side for an on-road bicyclist, for a 32-foot wide clear roadway. The previous design was for a 24-foot wide bridge. The bridge will be closed for construction, with completed design expected in the summer of 2013 and construction completed over the summer of 2015.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 7

Green Support From White House?

To the Editor:

The following letter was addressed to The First Lady of the United States of America Michelle Obama

We desperately need your help to save the only organic seed farm in Montgomery county — one of only two certified organic seed and feed farm in the state of Maryland. The farmer Mr. Nick Maravell, who has farmed the land for 31 years, was recently recognized by the Secretary of Agriculture and placed on the U.S. Organic Board of Standards. His seeds are sold to farmers around the country. His feed supplies local farmers providing organic beef and dairy products, who will have difficulty finding organic feed for their crops if Mr. Maravell is pushed off his farm. His farm is also an educational treasure: he provides internships for young farmers, teaching them how to create an organic farm. We

have several other options for soccer fields, but Mr. Marvell cannot find another field free from contamination by neighboring fields growing genetically altered crops.

The farm is only 30 miles from the White House. Potomac is rapidly losing its green space. Soccer fields are placed on large parcels, rather than scattered, which would require less driving for parents and help spread out traffic.

Three soccer fields were built less than a mile from Mr. Maravell's farm two or three years ago. Now they want to put four soccer fields on his farm which would bring in 800 to over 1,000 cars during rush hour on the weekdays and over 2,500 on Saturdays and Sundays on a narrow country with no sidewalks, 12 speed humps and three traffic circles. (Before these were installed commuters used the road.)

They now use a different road without houses lining both sides of the street.) This is not a question of soccer or the farm. It's a question of preserving a nationally recognized organic farm and scattering soccer

fields throughout the community rather than creating large complexes that require large green tracts and concentrate traffic on roads that were not built to handle thousands of cars at once. (The roads will not be improved. Traffic, already almost gridlocked at rush hour, will be totally out of control if these fields are glommed together on this commuter route.) The failure to recognize the importance of this farm or to consider the implications for traffic are totally unacceptable.

Our community leaders have not only failed us, they even lied to us in the meeting held for public input.

If we had your voice supporting Mr. Maravell's farm, it would be a great help and send a message across the country that we do need to retain our local farmers.

Thank you for your time and attention and for all your work for children and nutrition.

Elisabeth Waugaman
Potomac

Heart-felt Message To Japan

In response to the natural disasters and resulting nuclear scare in Japan, Green Acres Middle School students assembled in the gym on Friday, April 1 to arrange themselves in a rectangle with a red heart in the middle, to symbolize the Japanese flag and their compassion for the Japanese people's current struggle.

Students developed the idea and presented it to staff and peers. Fifth graders wore red to form the heart; all other students wore white. Teacher Victor Stekoll took the photo, which will be sent by teacher Connie Coker to Chuba Nisha Elementary School, Yokkaichi Municipal Junior High School, and Mie University in Japan. Science teacher Nic Ryba reports that 5th and 6th grades have been thinking a great deal about the plight of people of Japan in the past three weeks. The 6th grade already had been studying natural disasters, including earthquakes and tsunami. The 5th grade then also undertook an investigation into rebuilding and planning a Japanese town that would include earthquake resistant buildings and would protect the population from tsunami waves.

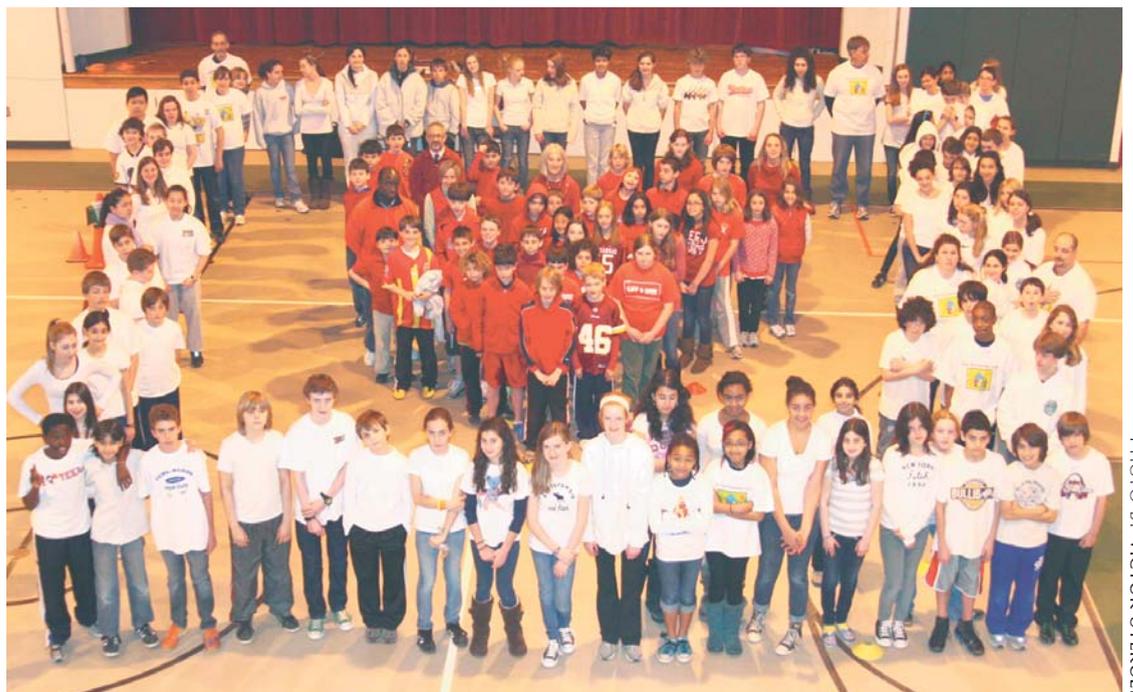


PHOTO BY VICTOR STEKOLL

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