

Potomac ALMANAC

'The Flowers Are Back'

NEWS, PAGE 3

Thrilled with the glory of spring, little Olivia Sordo, 3, of Poolesville, sits amid a rampage of color at Poole's Country Store. Their perennials have arrived, along with annuals, vegetable plants and all the tools and fertilizer to keep them looking their best this summer.

Campaign To Benefit
Leukemia &
Lymphoma Society

NEWS, PAGE 3

Rescues
Follow
Flooding

NEWS, PAGE 3

Ruben, Hall,
Flax Have Churchill
Undefeated

SPORTS, PAGE 12

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PHOTO BY CAROLE DELL / THE ALMANAC CALENDAR, PAGE 8 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 14

APRIL 20-26, 2011

ONLINE AT POTOMACALMANAC.COM

'The Flowers Are Back! The Flowers Are Back!'

Poole's Store ready for spring.

BY CAROLE DELL
THE ALMANAC

As Francie Johnson drove by Poole's General Store last week, color flashed in her mirror. There, as in past years, sat a familiar sight: spring flowers beckoning from their trailer in myriad shades of yellows, pinks and purples. "I come every year and am so excited to see the wagons with the perennials back," said Johnson. "The plants are so healthy, the best at the best prices."

But, the sight heralded more. It meant that the sisters, JoAnn and Marilyn Poole, are also back. They are the last of the Poole family to oversee and run what is left of the old general store. They are back to welcome all those customer-friends, who, for more years than can be counted, considered Poole's store their destination for fresh-as-can-be plants and more.

Johnson and others had worried that possibly this year the plants would be missing because of the sudden departure of Billy and Raymond Poole. It was with sadness that locals and friends watched the dismantling of the store and the dispersal of 50-plus



Flowers overflow at Poole's store

years of accumulated goods earlier this year. Due to a sudden refusal of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to renew the Poole's lease for the property, the Poole family was faced with eviction as the holidays approached. But an unprecedented response from the community, plus media attention, encouraged the department to reverse its decision so that the

Pooles would have the time they needed to empty out the place.

With pressure to continue providing agricultural supplies and farm animal feed for local farms that relied on the store, the parks department and Calvin Day and his son Mickey of Farm and Home Services, Inc. of Germantown, signed an agreement where they will continue running the store until

"Customers are just finding out that we are still in business."

— JoAnn Poole



Marilyn Poole and sister JoAnn, right, help young Olivia Sordo, 3, of Poolesville, choose a few flowers for her mom's garden.

June 30. The Poole sisters are employed at the site to oversee and continue offering supplies to customers.

Besides the flowers, they continue to carry tools and fertilizers and food for every type of animal, from horse, to pony, to rabbit, chickens and ducks, llamas, alpacas, and mini pigs.

Everything may not be immediately on hand, but Marilyn Poole said they could get just about everything. Buckets, salt blocks, horse wormers and specialty dog foods such as Iams are available. There are still deliv

SEE FLOWERS, PAGE 4

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PHOTO GALLERY!

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photoP@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to:

The Potomac Almanac,
"Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,"
1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

NEWS



The Potomac River at Swains Lock

Rescues Follow Flooding

The Potomac River hit flood stage on Monday, April 18 and crested at about 11 feet mid to late in the day.

Prior to the flooding, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service personnel from Fire Stations 31 (Darnestown), 30 and 10 (Cabin John/Potomac) had gone to flood prone areas to ensure residents were aware of potential danger.

They also checked all boat launching areas — twice a day until Wednesday — to assess any limitations of vehicle access and boat launching for the River Rescue Team.

The following sites were areas of concern when the Potomac River reached or exceeded flood stage:

- ❖ Riley's Lock Road (Seneca Boat Ramp)
- ❖ Lock 10
- ❖ Park areas near Swains Lock
- ❖ Park areas near Pennyfield Lock
- ❖ Park/Picnic area at Violet's Lock.

The following incidents were reported:

❖ River Rescue – River Rescue Team responded to a report of two adult males in a canoe missing for an extended period. Multi-jurisdictional efforts provided successful rescue of an 18-year-old male and a 65-year-old male with no reported injuries. The boaters entered Algonkian boat ramp in Virginia with plans on exiting at Rivers Bend Park in Virginia when their canoe capsized north of Watkins Island. The incident involved numerous units from Fairfax, Loudon and MCFRS.

❖ Water Rescue at 1408 Dickerson Regional Park - River Rescue Team was dispatched for a report of four stranded in waist-high water by the canal. All four persons were retrieved by Boat 714B. No injuries.

❖ Water Rescue at Whites Ferry - River Rescue Team was dispatched for a report of 20 Scouts stranded. All personnel were removed by land or air, then moved to Fire Station 14 for shelter. No injuries.



Above, the Potomac River at Great Falls. At left, sand bags are lined up.

PHOTOS BY
DEBORAH STEVENS/
THE ALMANAC

Shariat Leads Local Leukemia Fundraising Effort

Ten-week campaign to benefit Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

BY COLLEEN HEALY
THE ALMANAC

Elly Shariat, a Potomac resident and Winston Churchill High School graduate, has been nominated for the 2011 Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Woman of the Year.

Shariat will participate in a 10-week fundraising campaign to raise awareness and money to help advance the mission of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS): to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the

quality of life of patients and their families.

"I am both honored and privileged to be nominated as a Woman of the Year candidate," said Shariat. "Blood cancers can affect anyone, anywhere, and at any time, so we must do everything we can to further research projects and develop treatment programs. I am proud to participate in the 20th anniversary of this campaign, in hopes that the funds we raise can help The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society move closer to its goal of finding a cure for blood cancer."

Shariat calls the campaign "is inspiring and touching. Giving back is something I wanted to do. When I attended Churchill we did community service and planted a garden to remember a friend. Blood cancer touches all of our lives. Growing up, my father was a doctor and I often heard of patients beating the odds and coming back."

Shariat is not alone in her journey. Her



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Elly Shariat has been nominated for the 2011 Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Woman of the Year award.

team, Love4LLS, brings together professional athletes such as Houston Texans Wide Receiver Jacoby Jones and Arizona Cardinals Defensive Back Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, national and local celebrities such as Actress Azita Ghanizada and Miss Maryland USA 2010 Simone Feldman, along with key political, social, and philanthropic figures as well as local business owners to help fuel the campaign for Woman of the Year and expand the reach of her work and raise more funds and

awareness for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

The campaign began on March 31 and culminates on June 11, celebrating the efforts of all nominees with a black-tie gala at the Ritz-Carlton in Washington, D.C. The 2010 candidates raised a total of \$870,000 for blood cancer research and patient services. In 2011, the fundraising goal is \$1 million. The Love4LLS team can be followed on Facebook and Twitter.

Shariat is the managing director of PEKvida, an integrated lifestyle marketing firm, and HR Business Partner/Recruiter at Sawyer Realty Holdings LLC, a privately held real estate investment and management firm. Her team will be holding a yard sale as well as a bake sale at the Cabin John Giant grocery store. For more information and to donate to the campaign go to <http://nca.mwoy.lsevent.org/ellyshariat>.

One Project Moves Forward, Other in Limbo

Potomac Community Center proposal in selection committee; Brickyard lease still pending.

While county officials won't even say how many responses came in after a request for proposal was issued for a public-private partnership for the soccer field at the Potomac Community Center, a selection committee of county employees is currently evaluating one or more proposals that were submitted in February, said Kassa Seyoum, project manager for public-private partnerships for soccer fields.

"This will be very transparent once that evaluation is processed, that should be coming very soon," said Seyoum, who would not say how many proposals were filed. "Any time we have a selection process, we don't talk about that until the review is complete. But everything will be on the table shortly."

In addition to the proposal for a

public-private partnership at the community center, the county is in the midst of a controversial process of seeking a contractor to build and operate four soccer fields on Brickyard Road. The property, an organic farm for the past 31 years operated by Nick Maravell, belongs to the school system.

The Board of Education voted March 8 to lease the property to the county for private development as soccer fields. Neither the schools system nor the county engaged neighbors or community organizations in the decision before hand, resulting in a boisterous meeting April 4 at Potomac Elementary with more than 200 attendees.

At the April 4 meeting, county official said the lease between the schools and the county would be complete within days, and that a

More

❖ Montgomery County has a website 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/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/content/DGS/DBDC/soccer.asp>

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

❖ Montgomery Countryside Alliance, www.mcoalliance.org

❖ Montgomery Soccer Inc., www.msi-soccer.org

second community meeting would be scheduled, but at presstime, the lease was still not complete and the meeting was still in the works.

Seyoum said he was working on the meeting time and place, and anticipated knowing more by the end of the week. He said community members would have ample time before the next meeting.

"We're going to go back out to the community to have open discussion," he said.

He said the lease from the school system was a "routine process."

For more information, contact

Kassa Seyoum, at left, runs the presentation about the proposal for soccer fields on Brickyard Road at an April 4 meeting at Potomac Elementary.



PHOTO BY MARY KIMM THE ALMANAC

project manager Kassa Seyoum, 240-777-6114, kassa.seyoum@montgomerycountymd.gov Or see http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/content/DGS/DBDC/soccer.asp#Potomac_Community_Recreation_Center

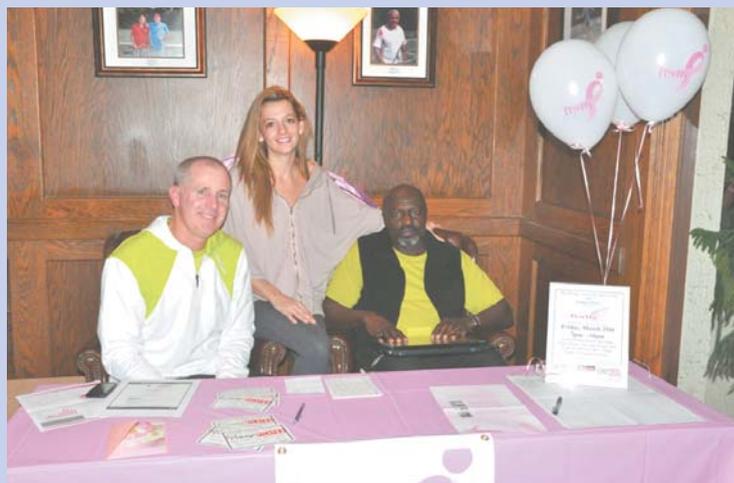
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PHOTOS BY DEBORAH POST STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

For Good Cause

Attending the Rally for the Cure event — raising money for breast cancer research — on Friday, March 25 at Potomac Tennis and Fitness Club are, from left, back to front, Jay Colla, Doug Jasinski, Prasad Nataraj, Wayne Shore, Kobina Ansah, John McDaniel, Reina Offutt Pratt. Front row: Jody Jasinski, Karen Beling, Cuong Vu, Liz Shore — 6-year cancer free, Orbelina Denitez — in cancer treatment now, and Noriko Nishitani.



From left: John McDaniel, tennis director of Potomac Tennis and Fitness Club; Reina Offutt Pratt, owner of Potomac Pilates, and Kobina Ansah, evening manager of Potomac Tennis and Fitness Club.

Flowers at Poole's

FROM PAGE 2

eries and the Days can handle the larger items such as gates and feed troughs from their Germantown store.

Janis Glenn, a neighbor who lives nearby at Rocklands Farm, arrived with Megan Johnson, a summer intern from Minneapolis, Minn.

Glenn saw the colorful plants beckoning and stopped by for her yearly armload of flowers. "We have been coming here for years," she said.

They are developing an organic side to their farm with vegetables, chickens, eggs and cattle.

Glenn said that a sense of community ended with the departure of the Pooles. "It breaks my heart. It was like the Cheers Bar, like a local pub, but a place where you bought your cat food," she said.

The store may be empty, the house looks forlorn without Billy Poole on the porch, but the big shed in the front is laden with the same bounty. "Customers are just finding out that we are still in business," said JoAnn Poole. And business is picking up as the same people return. "They realize how bad it was losing Mom and Dad and still want to support a farm store in the area," she said.

CRIME REPORT

❖ There were two thefts from vehicles in the same area. Both occurred overnight between Sunday, March 20 and Monday, March 21. Between 9 p.m. and 8:54 a.m. in the 8400 block of Tuckerman Lane, Potomac. Unknown means of entry; property and cash were taken.

❖ Between 10:30 p.m. and 4:30 a.m. in the 11100 block of Powder Horn Drive, Potomac. Unforced entry; property was taken.

❖ A residential burglary occurred in the 11200 block of Quelway Road, North Potomac on Tuesday, March 15 between 9 a.m. and 5:56 p.m. Forced entry; property was taken.

❖ Three residential burglaries occurred on Wednesday, March 30 in the 600 block of Watts Branch Parkway, Potomac, in the early evening hours. In one incident, entry was forced and property and cash were taken. In a second incident, a forced entry was attempted, unsuccessfully. And in the third incident, there was an unknown means of entry; unknown whether anything was taken.

❖ On Wednesday, March 30 at 12:43 p.m. in the unit block of Settlers Landing Court, North Potomac. Officers responded for an alarm call and found the front door kicked open but no entry was made.

PEOPLE



The Azalea Garden Festival at The Landon School kicks off Friday, April 29.

Azalea Garden Festival at Landon

Back for its 58th consecutive year, the Azalea Garden Festival, a three-day springtime celebration for the greater Washington community, returns to The Landon School.

The 2011 Festival kicks off Friday, April 29 and runs through Sunday, May 1 on the school campus, located at 6101 Wilson Lane, Bethesda.

Festival hours run from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily; general admission and parking are free.

A weekend celebration for all ages, guests will enjoy an array of entertainment, live music performances, garden-related seminars and fun, including:

- ❖ Perkins Garden: 2-and-a-half

acres with its display of color as more than 15,000 azaleas reach their peak;

- ❖ Plant Sale featuring azaleas, annuals, flowering shrubs and roses, herbs and vegetables, wildflowers, perennials and all the essentials for a summer garden;

- ❖ Specialty Boutiques spotlighting over 50 community vendors offering one-of-a-kind gifts;

- ❖ Funland: with games, crafts, inflatables, carnival games, and boardwalk-style food.

- ❖ Mark's Run, a 5K race and 1 mile "family fun run," Sunday May 1.

For more details about the festival and a full schedule of activities, visit www.Landon.net/azalea.

Three Arrested for Arson at School

Fire and explosive investigators from the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service have arrested three individuals, one adult and two juveniles, in connection with a classroom fire that occurred at Whitman High School in Bethesda.

Shortly before midnight on April 8, units were dispatched for an automatic fire alarm at the school. When crews arrived, the sprinkler system had activated and con-

tained the fire. Firefighters extinguished the remainder of the fire and determined that an ignitable liquid had been used to set a fire in a classroom in the rear of the school building. The suspects have also been charged in two separate arson fires that occurred at the White Flint Neighborhood Park on

SEE THREE ARRESTED.
PAGE 13



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OPINION

Please Share Call for Mother's Day Photos, and Father's Day; prom photos also.

Every year at this time, the Almanac puts out the call for photographs of moms and their children, grandmothers and their children and grandchildren. Most years, we're lucky enough to receive a photo or two that includes four generations, great-grandma and all the rest.

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 8, and once again the Almanac will publish a selection of Mother's Day photos, celebrating the mothers who make so many things possible in families, businesses, communities, schools and other institutions in local neighborhoods.

Send in photos in jpeg format as soon as

possible, including the full names of the people in the picture, hometowns, the approximate date and location the picture was taken, the ages of the children and sentence or two about the people and/or event.

EDITORIAL

Father's Day is June 19, so a few weeks from now it will be time to send photos of Dads and children, grandfathers and children and grandchildren.

PROMS AND ... While Almanac photographers and writers will likely attend some proms as schedules permit, we also urge parents and students to document their proms (or alternative activities) and send in photos in jpeg for-

mat, and also including who, what, where, when and why.

Send photos and text to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com.

Share Your Poetry

April is National Poetry Month, and we're extending an invitation a little late in the month this year, but we invite poets to send in submissions for inclusion in our papers and/or online.

Are you a poet? The Almanac will print poetry submitted by readers this spring, and occasionally throughout the year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Soccer Fields Are Needed

To the Editor:

I applaud the county decision to find places for more athletic fields, including the Brickyard Road Middle School site.

Let's have a look at the two possible lessors.

One potential lessor is a private business who, like any business, is operating in the hope of earning a profit. It is true that this potential lessor has a dedicated clientele, but Mr. Maravell's farm is

a private enterprise nevertheless. There are thousands (yes, that's right, thousands) of acres that are now leased for field crop production no more than 20 minutes away from this future Public Middle School site. Nick could easily lease some of this land rather than fighting for public middle school land that is much more conveniently located for kids' education (including physical education) activities.

Another potential lessor is a nonprofit kids sports organization that serves over 15,000 kids in the county, Montgomery Soccer Inc.

MSI has a small paid staff but is manned almost entirely by volunteers. Even though there are a lot of fields in the county, there are not near enough for all these kids. When I volunteered to coach soccer in Potomac, I was limited to a single one-hour practice per week because there was such a huge demand for fields. Given the current trend in the USA toward childhood obesity, I think it would be a huge benefit to get more kids involved in this physical activity for three to four hours a week rather than just one hour.

Importantly, this is a county pub-

lic school facility, not a wilderness area or a business park. Although it would be really generous of us taxpayers to provide this publicly owned land to Mr. Maravell's small business at the current extremely low price, the correct decision is clear: Use this land for kids' sports (soccer, lacrosse, field hockey etc.)

I am also surprised, and a bit disappointed, that a few neighbors are objecting to the proposed athletic fields as though they are a halfway house or public housing projects. For gosh sake, it's our own kids playing sports! Perhaps we would rather have our kids sitting in front of the TV, playing video games, or hanging out at the mall.

Bernie Mihm Jr.
Poolesville

Behind The Curtain

To the Editor:

As a long-time resident of the River Falls neighborhood in Potomac and a neophyte in public land use, I found County Executive Isiah Leggett's current silence on the Brickyard Road lease matter "deafening," particularly given the County's espoused value of transparency in government.

However, I have finally connected the dots: Mr. Leggett is the Wizard of Oz behind the Brickyard Road development effort. Residents were given less than a week's notice of the school board's plans to cancel the organic farmer's lease. On April 4, Mr. Leggett was not present at the Potomac Elementary School meeting attended by affected residents. However, he met with MSI, per their April 13, 2010 minutes: "Field development Task Force met with Ike Leggett to discuss possible

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10



Visit from Walter Reed

Washington Episcopal School's seventh-grade science classroom was transformed into a makeshift M.A.S.H. unit during a recent visit by Col. Betsy Vane, Chief Perioperative Nursing at Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC), and a team of OR technicians from WRAMC. The Army and Air Force staff conducted demonstrations and gave presentations at stations for the students. A group of students, dressed in surgical gowns, hats, gloves, and booties, gathered around Operating Room Technicians as the group transported the "patient," a classmate, on a stretcher to the operating table and performed a mock operation on him.

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PEOPLE



Kylie and Ashley Donatelli



Mary Virginia Merrick

Brownie Plays Role In Historic Charity

When Potomac resident and member of Brownie troop #4013 at Our Lady of Mercy School Kylie Donatelli sent out a blast email to family, friends and neighbors in February, she had no idea she would get such an overwhelming response.

Kylie sold 250 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies, of which she donated 58 boxes to the children of the City Gate after-school program at the Mary Virginia Merrick Center in Southeast Washington, D.C.

The Mary Virginia Merrick Recreation Center, a Victory Youth Center www.victoryyouthcenters.org, is named after the founder of the Christ Child Society. Mary Merrick was born to a prominent Washington, D.C. family in 1866. At an early age, Mary thought of others and hoped to become a Sister of Charity and "take care of all the little children who had no one to take care of them." An accident in her teens changed her plan. She fell from the window seat of her playhouse, damaging her spine and confining her to a life of pain and partial paralysis. She spent the next 75 years propped up in bed or in a reclining chair.

This disability did not stop her from the second part of her plan: taking care of the "little ones." In 1884, learning of a mother who had no clothing for her expected child, Mary gathered a group of friends who sewed a layette. This was the beginning of a program that spread nationwide. In 1887, the group became The Christ Child Society (www.christchilddc.org) and other programs were established as needs became apparent. In 2004, the Christ Child Society

D.C. sold a camp property and \$1 million of proceeds was provided to Victory Youth Centers to build a recreation center adjacent to St. Thomas More Church and School in Ward 8 of Southeast, Washington.

Today, the Merrick Center is a state of the art community center, with a regulation sized basketball court, classrooms, computer lab, stage and concession/pantry area. Programs at the center provide children a place to attend programs after school and weekends. A hot meal is served nightly to the children that attend the City Gate after-school program, in addition to help with homework and free play. Another program, My Hoop Dreamz, using basketball as the vehicle, provides grade school age boys with the opportunity to improve their overall physical fitness, develop sportsmanship, self confidence, and gain an understanding of the game of basketball.

SEE BROWNIE, PAGE 13

LET'S TALK Real Estate



by Michael Matese

It's Showtime!

All right then. You've listed your house, the sign's up, your Realtor has brought the book and information sheets by for prospective buyers, and now...you've got to keep the house in tip top condition until it sells.

This means no dust bunnies, no tub rings, no hand prints on the French doors to the deck. Can it be inconvenient? Perhaps, but as a seller, you want the property to look spotlessly attractive no matter when a potential buyer comes and you want them to see the house in prime showing condition.

As hard as it can be to make sure the beds are made every day, the dishes are washed and put away and Bailey the dog hasn't left any surprises on the hard wood floors, in the end it will be worth it if the buyer walks into the house and gasps, "I love it!" If they walk in and see dusty vents they could very well think we might need to replace heating and air soon. A drippy little faucet with a bathtub ring might not bother you, but a buyer could think future plumbing problems.

So, in the end, one of the key essentials of selling your house is you!

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ENTERTAINMENT

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 20

Film Screening. 7 p.m. "Life in a War Zone: Montgomery County during the Civil War." At the Universities at Shady Grove, Conference Center Auditorium (Building 1), 9630 Gudelsky Drive, Rockville. RSVP to heritagemontgomery@gmail.com or 301-515-0753.

THURSDAY/APRIL 21

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 22

Story/Stereo. 8 to 11 p.m. Free. Emerging Writer Fellowship recipients Andrew Foster Altschul (Deus Ex Machina) and Eli Hastings (Falling Room) will read. Musical guest is cellist Amy Domingues. At The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh Street, Bethesda. Visit www.writer.org.

Earth Day Cleanup at Lock 8. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Join Potomac Conservancy along the C&O Canal for a day of environmental stewardship. Cleanup activities include picking up trash, pruning vegetation along trails, and repairing the towpath and trails. Stop by for a few hours with friends, a group of coworkers or your family, and make an impact for the environment. Wear clothes that can get dirty — the Conservancy will provide all the necessary tools and equipment. No registration necessary. At The River Center at Lock 8, 7906 Riverside Drive, Cabin John.

Swingin' the Blues. 9 p.m. to midnight. Slow Blues and Swing Dance. Admission is \$15. With BG and the Mojo Hands. Two dance workshops from 8 to 9 p.m. — Slow Blues or West Coast Swing; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. At the Bumper Car Pavilion, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Donna Barker at dbarker@glenchopark.org or 301-634-2231, call Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222.

Potomac Basset Hound Club 51st Annual Spring Specialty Show. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free. More than 70 long-eared, sad-eyed hounds will compete in a variety of American Kennel Club events including conformation, obedience, rally, and junior showmanship. Puppies up to 18 months and veterans over 7-years old will compete in sweepstakes for cash prizes. A Parade of Veteran Bassetts is also scheduled. At Colonial K-9, 30 Big Spring Lane, Stafford, Va.

SATURDAY/APRIL 23

Paws in the Park Dog Walk & Fest. Noon to 4 p.m. Walk begins at 1 p.m. Cost is \$20/individual; \$35/family. One of the largest dog walks in the DC area. Sponsored by the Montgomery County Humane Society. At Bohrer Park, 506 S. Frederik Ave., Gaithersburg. Visit : http://mchumane.org/Paws11.shtml.

Easter Concert. 6 p.m. Free. With Donnel Josiah, classical praise pianist. Reception to follow and CDs will be on sale. At Rockville Seventh Day Adventist Church, 727 West Montgomery Ave., Rockville.

MONDAY/APRIL 25

Kinobe and Soul Beat Africa. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20/advance; \$25/door; \$15/student. At IMT Rockville, Saint Mark's Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, Rockville. Call 301-754-3611 and visit www.imtfolk.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 26

Singer-songwriter Danny Schmidt. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$18/door; \$15/advance. At Unitarian Universalist Church, 100 Welsh Park Drive, Rockville. Visit www.FocusMusic.org.

THURSDAY/APRIL 28

Rockville Mayor Phyllis Marcuccio. Initiatives and Direction for Rockville. 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



WEDNESDAY/APRIL 27

The Sweater Set. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12. Maureen Andary and Sara Curtin perform at the Mansion at Strathmore. Combined, the two members of The Sweater Set perform on ukulele, guitar, flute, accordion, glockenspiel, maracas, banjo, piano and kazoo. At the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. To purchase tickets, call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

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.

APRIL 29-30

Call It Anything: Miles Davis' "Electric Period" 1968-1991. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Free. Through the use of film footage and excerpts from recordings like "Live-Evil" and "On the Corner," poet and music critic Reuben Jackson will discuss this chapter of Miles Davis' career. At The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh Street, Bethesda. Visit www.writer.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Shamar Rinpoche Book Signing. 4 to 6 p.m. Shamar Rinpoche will sign the new English translation of his book, The Path to Awakening, a commentary on Chekawa Yeshe Dorje's Seven Points of Mind Training. At Bodhi Path Washington DC Metro Area, 12540 Falls Road, Potomac. Email: admin@bodhipathmd.org or call 240-453-9200.

Irish Piano Music. 8 p.m. With Thérèse Fahy on piano. Free. Presented by Washington Conservatory of Music, Imagine Ireland, and the Fulbright Commission. At Westmoreland Congregational Church, One Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. Visit www.washingtonconservatory.org or call 301-320-2770.

APRIL 29 THROUGH MAY 1

Azalea Garden Festival. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free. Plant sale featuring azaleas, annuals, flowering shrubs and roses, herbs and vegetables, wildflowers, perennials and all the essentials for your summer garden. Also specialty boutiques, Funland, games, crafts, inflatables, carnival games, and boardwalk style food; Mark's Run, a 5K race and 1 mile "family fun run", Sunday, May 1. At Landon School, 6101 Wilson Lane, Bethesda. Visit www.Landon.net/azalea.

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Spring Festival and Native Plant Sale. 1 to 4 p.m. Take part in woodland hikes, play nature games, make crafts, view exhibits, watch a live animal show and purchase native plants. At Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road, Rockville. Go to ww.rockvillemd.gov/



Front, from left: Keara Hailey, Mary Faber, and Jill Abramovitz; back, from left, Adam Overett, Michael McCoy, and Darius Nichols.

SATURDAY/APRIL 23

Junie B. Jones. 11 a.m. Tickets are \$7/Adults, \$6/ Seniors/Students/Children. Recommended for ages 5 and up. Part of the Saturday Morning Children's Series. A musical that follows the adventures of Junie B. during her first grade year. 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.

croydoncreek/ or call 240-314-8770.

An Evening with Strauss Waltz Ball. 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$20. With the band, Olde Vienna with Dave Wiesler, Alexander Mitchell, Barbara Heitz, Ralph Gordon and Elke Baker. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Joan Koury at 202-238-0230 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, or go to www.WaltzTimeDances.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 1

Audubon Nature Fair. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Entertainment, Wildlife Ambassadors, Scales and Tales, Banjo Man Frank Cassel, rock climbing wall, hands-on nature fun and more. At Woodend Nature Sanctuary, 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase. Call 301-652-9188 or visit www.ANShome.org.

The Art of the Balalaika. 3 p.m. The program will feature Olga Orlovskaya, the orchestra's balalaika concertmaster, Andrei Saveliev, formerly with the legendary Andreyev Balalaika Orchestra of St. Petersburg, Russia. Tickets are \$25/door; \$20/advance. For tickets, call 240-314-8690. At the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville.

Teaching by Shamar Rinpoche, "Day-to-Day Meditation." 10 a.m. to noon. Free. At Bodhi Path Washington DC Metro Area, 12540 Falls Road, Potomac. Email: admin@bodhipathmd.org or call 240-453-9200.

Yom Ha'shoah/Holocaust Commemoration. 4 to 6:30 p.m. Dor L'Dor Youth Program runs from 4-5 p.m. while adults are invited to participate in "Unto Every Person There is a Name" or view art on display in the lobby. The community commemoration begins at 5 p.m. Keynote address by Nathan Lewin, a Sugihara survivor and community leader, memorial candle lighting, Kaddish, reflection, music and poetry. At Congregation B'nai Tzedek, 10621 South Glen Road, Potomac. Contact Arielle Farber at AFarber@jcouncil.org or 301-348-7365.

From Fear to Confidence. 2 to 4 p.m. Help your dog overcome his fears. With speaker Jeni Grant, CPDT-KA; Train Your Best Friend (www.trainyourbestfriend.com). At Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac. Register by emailing register@yourdogsfriend.info or by calling 301-983-5913.

Open Door Reading: The Return of Halley's Comet. 2 to 4 p.m. Free. A reading of Donald Bliss', The Return of Halley's Comet, a play about Twain's dictation of his autobiography written by the great-grandson of one of his publishers. At The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh Street, Bethesda. Visit www.writer.org.

MONDAY/MAY 2

PEN World Voices Festival. 7 p.m. Cost is \$5/\$10. Featuring Jonas Hassen Khemiri, Montecore; Daniel Orozco, Orientation: And Other Stories; Leila Aboulela, Lyrics Alley. Moderated by Lisa Page, President of PEN/Faulkner Board of Directors. At The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh

Street, Bethesda. Visit www.writer.org or call 301-654-8664.

THURSDAY/MAY 5

Old Angler's Inn Spring Fashion Show. 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Cost is \$50 to attend. The fashion show, with fashions provided by Bloomingdale's, will feature mother-daughter models. A benefit for the National Rehabilitation Hospital and patients who suffer from brain injuries. Honorary chair is WUSA-TV anchor Anita Brikman. Julia Palmer, manager of Bloomingdale's at Tysons Corner, will serve as master of ceremonies. To RSVP for the event, call 301-365-2425 or email info@oldanglersinn.com.

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

SATURDAY/MAY 7

The Folger Consort. 7:30 p.m. Medieval and Baroque music with featured. Guest artists Marcia Young, Soprano and Harpist, and Mark Rimple, Lutenist. Led by Robert Eisenstein. Admission is \$20/door; no tickets required. At Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, 6601 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda. Call 301-365-2850 or visit www.bradleyhillschurch.org.

Author Talk. 2 p.m. "The Geeks Shall Inherit The Earth: Popularity, Quirk Theory, and Why Outsiders Thrive After High School." New York Times author Alexandra Robbins (who wrote "The Overachievers," about Walt Whitman High School) will discuss her new book, which is about popularity and outsiders, and sign books at the Bethesda Barnes & Noble, 4801 Bethesda Avenue, Bethesda, Phone: 301-986-1761.

Encore Chorale Spring Concert. 2 p.m. Free. Presents "From Berlin to Beatles." Performing will be the Encore Chorales from: Washington Conservatory of Music at Glen Echo Park; Schweinhaut Senior Center. At Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Visit encorecreativity.org or Jeanne.kelly@encorecreativity.org or call 301-261-5747.

Montgomery Potters Sale. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Huge selection of functional and decorative handmade pottery by more than 30 local potters. At Colesville Presbyterian Church, 12800 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring. Visit www.MontgomeryPotters.org.

Chicago's Second City Performs. 8:45 p.m. The performance will feature some of the best sketches, songs and improvisations from Second City's 45-plus year history. Tickets are \$85, \$125 and \$150 per person and can be purchased by calling Marcia Newfeldt at 301-299-0225. At Congregation B'nai Tzedek, 10621 South Glen Road, Potomac.

FINE ARTS

SATURDAY/APRIL 23

Underground Art. Fataneh Dadkhah's new photography collection: Underground Art: the Hidden Generation. Opening receptions: April 23, May 14, and Art Talk: May 21. At Exhibit9 gallery in Potomac.

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.

MAY 7-8

"Exploring Earthtones." Paintings by Kay Layne. Artist's reception is Saturday, May 7 from 5 to 7 p.m. At the Yellow Barn Gallery at Glen Echo Park. Contact the artist at 202 554-5423.

APRIL 28 TO MAY 29

Miniature Marvels. Oils, watercolors, collages and mixed media with 12 artists: Jing-Jy Chen, Marilyn Devers, Bonita Glaser, Mimi Hegler, Linda Kozak, Pamela Patrick, Ellen Ratner, Genevieve Roberts, Nancy Still, Katherine Sullivan, Bonita Tabakin and Shirley Tabler. At the Dennis and Phillip Ratner Museum, 10001 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda.

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.

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,



NOW THROUGH JUNE

Fused Glass Exhibition. Free. An exhibition of fused glass by Kari Minnick and paintings by Deborah Brisker Burk. Artists' reception Sunday, May 22 from 1 to 3 p.m. At Gallery Har Shalom, 11510 Falls Road, Potomac. Call 301-299-7087.

Potomac. Call 301-299-7087.

NOW THROUGH MAY 7

Shore Houses. Pastel paintings by Jean Hirons and new work by gallery artists. At Waverly Street Gallery. contact: Jean Hirons jeanhirons@comcast.net or 301-340-3198. Visit 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.

THEATER



COURTESY OF SCOTT SUCHMAN

George (Michael John Casey) gives Martha (Sandra L. Murphy) a cuckoo clock for her birthday; Croc (Nickolas Vaughan) and Pig (Kate Guesman).

NOW THROUGH 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. Visit www.imaginationstage.org.

APRIL 21 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.

NOW THROUGH MAY 29

"The Day John Henry Came to School." Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 and 4 p.m. Some Saturday 11 a.m. performances. Johnny is a typical fifth-grader, way into video games and not especially motivated at school. Imagine his surprise one 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. 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.

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 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"

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Appreciating Wet But Extended Spring

BY ELISABETH WAUGAMAN

Spring is shy along the Potomac. You never know if she will come and stay for awhile, rush in and out chased away by summer, or tease us with coquettish comings and goings.

This year she appeared accompanied by lashing cold winds and rain that made the Star and Tulip Magnolias weary; but at least, she didn't bring Jack Frost as a constant companion, nipping away at the flowers. The daffodils did their best against the cold windy onslaught of spring this year, but, not surprisingly, they tired earlier than wont. We've had a cool, wet spring; but that is still much better than a spring that disappears quickly before the heat of summer, which makes spring flowers fade even more quickly than cold rain. Best not complain about a cool, wet spring at least this year, we can ease into summer.

The ancient Greeks had a love story to explain the comings and goings of spring. Persephone married Hades, the god of the underworld. When Persephone left her mother Demeter, the goddess of the harvest, her mother fell into such deep mourning, the sun no longer shone: there was only winter. To save the earth, the gods decreed Persephone had to be allowed to leave her husband in the underworld and return to her mother part of the year. Persephone's comings and goings give us our seasons.

The Greeks also had a story about the daffodil. The Greeks thought they were so beautiful, they named the flower Narcissus. According to the Greek myth, Narcissus was a youth so handsome, he fell in love with his own reflection in the water and pined away — a warning against vanity and fleeting youth. The gods turned the dead youth into a flower — the Narcissus.

The Greeks also believed the Elysian fields, the Christian equivalent of Paradise, were covered with narcissi. The Greeks also called them asphodel, from which we get daffodil. In the South, yellow daffodils used to be called jonquils, from the Latin and French. (Technically, the jonquil has several smaller yellow blooms, not just one.) Daffodils (or Narcissi, the names are interchangeable) are hardy flowers, often blooming in the snow. They come in an almost infinite variety of shapes and sizes — yellow, white, many different kinds of trumpets (noses) — big, small, rounded, with different colors — either single flowers, doubles, or clusters — a hundred different varieties. The green spears of the daffodils shooting up through the earth are one of the first signs of spring. Because they are poisonous, the deer don't eat them.

You don't see tulips like you used to in front yards further out in suburbia because the deer eat them, along with azaleas and almost everything else dear to a gardener's heart. The outer suburbs are gradually turning to boxwood, not to imitate English manor houses, but because deer don't eat boxwood. They used to say deer wouldn't eat plants that were not indigenous, but the



Forsythia competes with the sunshine.

deer are so desperate, they seem to eat anything — including laurel, which is supposedly toxic.

One thing that I've noticed over the years is that as a result of overpopulation and a shrinking food supply, the deer are getting smaller. When we first moved into Potomac in the '80s, the deer were majestic animals that could easily leap over anything less than seven feet tall. Now they are much smaller. This is the same environmental adaptation that leads to smaller species on islands. If this keeps up, maybe one day we will have deer the size of rabbits. You laugh? We already have dows. What

is a dow? It's a deer that looks like a cow. I see one regularly. It has a reddish-brown upper body, white spots on its sides and stomach, and white socks down to its knees. The rest of the leg is a tan-brown. If you see it from a distance in the woods, it looks like a cow. It's only if you see it up close that you can be sure it's a deer and not a cow. This genetic aberration supposedly started with a single albino around Lake Needwood. Because of inbreeding, we now have dows over a fairly large area. Soon, we'll have a fresh crop of fawns frolicking about. If only they didn't eat everything

Another harbinger of spring, the golden forsythia, is also fading. Just like the daffodils that originated in the southern Mediterranean, forsythias come from foreign lands — Europe and, primarily, Asia. Forsythias are named for the Scottish botanist William Forsyth, who discovered them and brought them back to Britain in the 17th century. The first wave of spring flowers is now giving way to the azaleas, the dogwoods, and the redbuds. There are over 10,000 varieties of azalea, both North American and Asian. They range from delicate bonsai bushes to towering flowering masses eight feet by eight feet.

Note

The Almanac welcomes letters to the editor and columns and poems and observations from the community. Email to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com.

In closing, I leave you with Wordsworth's famous poem, "Daffodils," and a wish that many others will write their own musings for "Seasons Along the Potomac" and send them to the Almanac to provide a moment's distraction from our too, too busy lives.

Take a deep breath and thank the nearest flower,

Elisabeth Waugaman

"Daffodils" (1804)

by William Wordsworth (1770-1850).

I WANDER'D lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills, When all
at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils; Beside the lake, be-
neath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the Milky Way, They stretch'd in
never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay: Ten thousand saw I
at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee: A poet could
not but be gay,
In such a jocund company: I gazed — and gazed
— but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood, They flash upon
that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude; And then my heart
with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

field development opportunities in the county. Positive discussions were conducted and points of contact were provided to help MSI continue to pursue future development opportunities." After the Potomac meeting, MSI launched an email campaign "Urgent oppty to help MSI build better fields for your kids!" for the Brickyard site.

County officials are acting in an advocacy role for the fields. Last week in the Gazette, Mr. Leggett's Director of Communications Patrick Lacefield, in "Clearing Up Points on the Brickyard Property Transfer" officially responded to various matters and then noted: "Speaking personally, as a Potomac resident myself, I join many Potomac and Bethesda residents who are happy that area families will have more opportunities to play soccer downcounty." In the federal government, associating one's private views along with one's government title in a public communication is an ethic's violation. Apparently, in Montgomery County such conduct is A-OK if it supports your boss.

Based on community chat traffic, many affected residents and conservationists are frustrated and feel oppressed. Individuals they elected to represent them, the Montgomery County School Board and the County Executive have ignored their pleas for transparency and due process. At a minimum, requests for traffic studies should be approved prior to the destruction of the organic farm. The two-lane roads which intersect Brickyard Road are already congested during rush hours with commuters heading to and from D.C. and Northern Virginia. Consequently, critical concerns have been ignored and the County's response to date indicates that the only thing Potomac residents may weigh in on is the future signage at the Brickyard property, soon to be known as Leggett Fields.

Jeff Brindle
Potomac

BULLETIN BOARD

SECOND AND FOURTH WEDNESDAYS

Toastmaster's Club Meetings. Meets 4/27; 5/11; 5/25/ 6/8; 6/22. Effective Communicators Toastmasters Club welcomes guests in developing communications and leadership skills from 7 to 8:30 p.m. At Beall Elementary School, 451 Beall Ave, Room 101, Rockville. Free to newcomers. Call 301-762-7978 or visit <http://effectivecommunicators.freetoasthost.com/>

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Paper Shredding/Recycling. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Clothing/household goods donation collection. Bring papers for on-site shredding and recycling, and donate good, clothing and household goods in working condition to benefit residents in need. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling or call 3-1-1. At Walter Johnson High School, 6400 Rock Spring Drive, Bethesda.

HOME SALES

In March 2011, 38 Potomac homes sold between \$3,900,000-\$420,000.

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Subdivision
9822 SORREL AVE	8	7	2	POTOMAC	.....	\$3,900,000	Detached	2.38	.....	FALCONHURST
11705 CENTURION WAY	6	7	1	POTOMAC	.....	\$2,850,000	Detached	4.00	.....	PALATINE
11804 CENTURION WAY	8	8	3	POTOMAC	.....	\$2,550,000	Detached	2.00	.....	PALATINE
8911 DURHAM DR	4	4	1	POTOMAC	.....	\$2,500,000	Detached	3.50	.....	BRADLEY FARMS
11504 HIGHLAND FARM RD	8	8	3	POTOMAC	.....	\$2,500,000	Detached	2.02	.....	ROUND HILL
10631 BARN WOOD LN	6	4	2	POTOMAC	.....	\$1,675,000	Detached	2.05	.....	RIVER OAKS FARM
10421 RIVER RD	7	6	2	POTOMAC	.....	\$1,510,000	Detached	3.41	.....	POTOMAC OUTSIDE
10406 GREY FOX RD	5	4	2	POTOMAC	.....	\$1,370,000	Detached	0.60	.....	GLEN MEADOWS
9201 STAPLEFORD HALL PL	4	3	3	POTOMAC	.....	\$1,300,000	Detached	1.20	.....	KENTSDALE ESTATES
9316 CRIMSON LEAF TER	4	4	1	POTOMAC	.....	\$1,230,000	Detached	0.45	.....	AVENEL
13 TRAILRIDGE CT	5	6	0	POTOMAC	.....	\$1,115,000	Detached	0.61	.....	ROBERTS GLEN
11113 SMOKEY QUARTZ LN	6	5	2	POTOMAC	.....	\$1,097,000	Detached	2.00	.....	SADDLE RIDGE
10603 BEECHKNOLL LN	7	4	1	POTOMAC	.....	\$1,080,000	Detached	0.23	.....	PINEY GLEN VILLAGE
12408 BACALL LN	5	5	2	POTOMAC	.....	\$1,050,000	Detached	2.32	.....	STONEY CREEK ESTATES
11606 RIVER RD	4	3	0	POTOMAC	.....	\$1,015,000	Detached	2.52	.....	POTOMAC OUTSIDE
12101 DREWS CT	4	4	1	POTOMAC	.....	\$975,000	Detached	2.00	.....	BEALLMOUNT
10609 CLOVERBROOKE DR	4	3	1	POTOMAC	.....	\$960,000	Detached	0.35	.....	PINEY GLEN VILLAGE
12441 ANSIN CIRCLE DR	4	3	2	POTOMAC	.....	\$889,900	Townhouse	0.05	.....	WHEEL OF FORTUNE
7004 MASTERS DR	3	2	1	POTOMAC	.....	\$849,000	Detached	0.35	.....	RIVER FALLS
11016 OLD COACH RD	4	3	1	POTOMAC	.....	\$835,000	Detached	0.23	.....	FOX HILLS
10409 GARDEN WAY	4	3	1	POTOMAC	.....	\$820,000	Detached	0.55	.....	WILLIAMSBURG GARDENS
9709 WILDEN LN	5	3	1	POTOMAC	.....	\$815,000	Detached	0.37	.....	BEDFORDSHIRE
8148 BUCKSPARK LN E	4	2	1	POTOMAC	.....	\$800,000	Detached	0.27	.....	EAST GATE OF POTOMAC
9104 HUNTING HORN LN	3	2	1	POTOMAC	.....	\$775,000	Detached	0.24	.....	POTOMAC COMMONS
11216 BEDFORDSHIRE AVE	4	2	1	POTOMAC	.....	\$760,000	Detached	0.24	.....	BEDFORDSHIRE
12500 PARK POTOMAC AVE#701	2	2	1	POTOMAC	.....	\$750,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	.....	.....	PARK POTOMAC
9913 BEDFORDSHIRE CT	5	2	1	POTOMAC	.....	\$739,000	Detached	0.23	.....	BEDFORDSHIRE
1303 FALLSMEAD WAY	4	2	1	POTOMAC	.....	\$735,000	Detached	0.21	.....	FALLSMEAD
11708 KAREN DR	4	3	0	POTOMAC	.....	\$700,000	Detached	0.43	.....	LAKE NORMANDY ESTS
12 INFIELD CT S	4	2	1	POTOMAC	.....	\$700,000	Detached	0.18	.....	FALLSMEAD
8624 BUNNELL DR	4	2	1	POTOMAC	.....	\$666,000	Detached	0.18	.....	HIGHLAND STONE
1375 CANTERBURY WAY	4	3	0	POTOMAC	.....	\$603,000	Detached	0.21	.....	POTOMAC WOODS
7631 CODDLE HARBOR LN	3	3	1	POTOMAC	.....	\$550,000	Townhouse	0.09	.....	INVERNESS KNOLLS
11516 GAINSBOROUGH RD	5	3	0	POTOMAC	.....	\$510,000	Detached	0.20	.....	REGENCY ESTATES
8111 INVERNESS RIDGE RD	3	3	1	POTOMAC	\$509,000	Townhouse	0.09	INVERNESS FOREST TH
3 LAWNGATE CT	4	2	1	POTOMAC	\$470,000	Detached	0.38	SADDLEBROOK

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REAL ESTATE NOTES

Joan Reilly, Branch Vice President of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Potomac, recently announced the office's Top Agents for February 2011: **Shahab Nasrin** was the Top Listing Agent; **Donna Greenfield** was the Top Sales Agent, and **Rokhsan Fallah**

and **Frank Holliday** were the Top Producing Team.

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage offices in the Greater Washington, D.C. Metro collected 4,749 pounds of food during the company's annual "Harvest for the Hungry" food

drive for the Capital Area Food Bank. According to the food bank, this will allow them to provide nearly 4,000 meals to families and individuals in local communities. The Coldwell Banker North Potomac/Rockville office individually collected 2,310 pounds of food.

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Ruben, Hall, Flax Have Churchill Undefeated

Bulldogs looking to build on last season's region title.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE ALMANAC

Katie Ruben, Mairin Hall and Maddie Flax formed a scoring trio formidable enough to lead the Churchill girls lacrosse team to wins in its first six games. But on April 14, the Bulldogs hosted Gaithersburg without the services of Hall, who was recovering from an ankle injury.

While not being at full strength might hurt Churchill down the road, on this Thursday night, Flax and Ruben had no trouble picking up the slack.

Flax scored a career-high eight goals, Ruben added six and Churchill defeated Gaithersburg 19-7 at Shepherd Stadium. The Bulldogs improved to 7-0 entering spring break thanks to a dominant effort from two of its three standout scorers.

"I knew we weren't going to have Mairin, so I knew it was important that I had to ... do my part and more than" usual, Flax said. I was "playing for her, also, because I know she's disappointed not to be able to play with us tonight."

Flax, a junior attack, shifted to Hall's midfield position and thrived. Flax has experience playing the position for her club team and put in extra work on her own time.

"She went home because she knew she was going to play center and practiced ground balls and practiced draws," Churchill head coach Christen P. Gjeldum said. "It really showed."

Hall is expected to be ready to play after spring break. Flax and Ruben starred against Gaithersburg, but as Churchill works toward the postseason, the Bulldogs will need all three on the field. Ruben, a senior attack, is the team's leading scorer with 43 goals. Hall, a junior, and Flax each have 30. Part of the reason behind the trio's success is each girl's ability to buy into a team-first concept.



PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Senior Katie Ruben is the Churchill girls lacrosse team's leading scorer.

"It's kind of fun having a target on our back because we get to come out and prove that we really are where we're supposed to be."

— Churchill senior Katie Ruben

"I let them know that it's no individual player who puts us on the map, per se. It's a team," Gjeldum said. "No individual can do it. It's whoever has the best angle gets the ball. Whether somebody has 10 goals or you have none, you're still contributing to each goal, whether it's a ground ball, a draw win, they still feel a part of the goal."

"That's why it works so well — no one's being selfish."

Flax said the group gets along on and off the field.



Churchill junior Maddie Flax, right, scored a career-high eight goals against Gaithersburg on April 14.

"We work really well together," she said. "We kind of know where each other is going to be at this point. ... We're able to communicate off the field, also."

The trio will play a major role in determining whether Churchill can maintain the program's recent success. The Bulldogs reached the 4A/3A West Region championship game the last two seasons and in 2010 captured the program's first region title and berth in the state playoffs. So far, Churchill is outscoring its opponents this season by an average of 17-8 on its way to seven straight wins.

"It definitely drives us to work a lot harder," Flax said of the program's past success. "We knew we had a lot to live up to with the regional final [appearances], and it's something that's always over our head. It pushes us harder every day — every sprint, every game, every catch — we know

we have a lot to live up to and we want to be better than that."

Ruben said she wants to return to the state tournament and enjoys having other programs focus on beating the Bulldogs.

We "aren't letting up," she said. "We're confident, not cocky. We've played some really good teams, some easier teams, but mentally we've really been in it the whole [season]. ... It's kind of fun having a target on our back because we get to come out and prove that we really are where we're supposed to be."

Junior midfielder Eliza Farha scored two goals against Gaithersburg, and junior midfielder Shannon Quinn, junior attack Alex Fox and sophomore attack Nicole Hall each scored one goal.

"They [have] more confidence in themselves that different people can score," Gjeldum said. "When we start playing hard teams, they're going to know who our go-to players are. The fact that everybody can score really [will] help us in future games."

Offense hasn't been a problem for the Bulldogs, who have scored 18 or more goals in four of seven games and tallied at least 12 in each contest. The defense has also played well, holding six of seven opponents to fewer than 10 goals.

"To keep going far," Gjeldum said, "we need to have dynamic players, meaning they not only play offense, when they lose [the ball], they pick it up and play defense."

Gjeldum said senior captains Beatrice Matthews, a midfielder, and Sami Soma, a defender, have done well helping the Bulldogs handle pressure. Ruben, Flax and Mairin Hall are also captains.

Churchill will travel to face Poolesville at 7 p.m. on April 27 in its first game back from spring break. The Bulldogs' final four opponents of the regular season are Seneca Valley, Damascus, Walter Johnson and Paint Branch.

"The next [few] games that come," Gjeldum said, "will determine whether we're just a great team or a championship team."

SPORTS BRIEF

Churchill Baseball Beats Wootton

The Churchill baseball team defeated Wootton 9-2 on April 14, giving the Bulldogs three consecutive victories after a 0-5 start.

Churchill's Danny Weiss went 3 for 4 with a pair of doubles and three RBIs. Hayden Saunter was also 3 for 4. Matt Kogan went 2 for 3 with two RBIs. Hunter Strang, Ian Shemer, Russell Rentfro and Charles DeFilippo each had one hit.

Kogan earned the victory on the mound, allowing one earned run and four hits in

seven innings.

Wootton's Andrew Craig went 2 for 3, and Kevin Mooney and Greg Albertini each had one hit. Craig suffered the loss on the mound, allowing six earned runs in 4 1/3 innings.

Churchill lost to Paint Branch 9-6 the following day, dropping its record to 3-6. The Bulldogs will host Springbrook at 3:30 p.m. on April 27.

Wootton will face Avalon at 4 p.m. on April 21 at Povich Field in Bethesda.



Recognition The Winston Churchill High School ice hockey team was honored April 4 by the Maryland Senate and House of Delegates for winning the 2011 Maryland state ice hockey championship. In addition, on April 12, the team was honored by the Montgomery County Council with a proclamation for winning the state championship. Pictured from left: Conner Liu, Zach Satin, Alain Pankopf, Councilmember Roger Berliner, Matthew Spivak, Curtis Milkman, Assistant Coach Steven Bobys, Matt Senker, Nick Dourian, Zach Arden, Alex Dourian, Conner Martin, Aaron Shapiro, Noah Fleischman and Avi Kallemeyer.

SCHOOLS



The Washington Episcopal School Robotics Team members with their trophy at the Maryland State First Lego League Championship on Feb. 26 at UMBC

Dragonbots Win State Award

The Dragonbots, the Washington Episcopal School (WES) robotics team, won third place for Research Quality at the Maryland State First Lego League State Championship at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County on Feb. 26. The award recognizes the team whose presentation demonstrates dedication and perseverance of time and effort to formulate an in-depth understanding of the aspects that surround

the research question. In addition, they were selected to be the benchmark team to perform their research skit before all 24 of the research judges before the tournament began. The Dragonbots team, consisting of 10 WES students from grades 5-8, and were led by coach and Educational Technology Coordinator Jane Boynton, and parent coaches Gail and Dave Jackson, Gina Mirigliano, and Brenda Ortega. This trophy is the team's fourth overall trophy.

Three Arrested for Arson at Whitman High School

FROM PAGE 5

March 20 and April 2.

A 19-year-old man has been charged with second-degree arson, first-degree malicious burning and malicious destruction of property in the park playground fires. He has been charged with accessory to arson

in the school fire and is being held at the Montgomery County Detention Center. Two seventeen-year-old Whitman students have been charged with multiple counts of second-degree arson, first-degree burning and malicious destruction of property for their involvement in the fires at Whitman High School and at the White Flint

Neighborhood Park.

The fires at the park destroyed two large playground structures causing damage in excess of \$50,000. Damage from the fire at Whitman High School is also estimated at approximately \$50,000.

Brownie

FROM PAGE 7

Kylie's Aunt, Julie Donatelli, also a Potomac resident, is the executive director of Victory Youth Centers. The Brownie Troop is also donating the proceeds from the cookies sales this year to help pay for a new sign to go at the entrance of the center. The Troop is planning a trip to the center in spring in order to visit the after-school children and tour the facility.

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Stage IV Lung Cancer Notwithstanding



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Generally speaking, given my less than ideal health circumstances; my tolerance, my patience and my willingness to accommodate and/or understand alternative (not mine originally) points of view, opinions and/or actions is pretty much at an all-time low. Not that it's a conscious decision, although I am mostly conscious when I'm making it, it's more that, to quote Curly Howard from The Three Stooges: "I'm a victim of soycomstance," and I really can't help myself, sort of.

I imagine the feeling is similar to what soldiers, emergency responders, medical professionals, etc., experience when under stress: they focus and act on their training. However, I don't have any training – as a terminal cancer patient, that is. As such, I'm not exactly sure how to live my life, what's left of it, now that so much of what I thought remained has been remaindered. I guess what I've done then, is fall back on instinct, some of which I can control and some of which is a kind of emotional/personality reflex-type action. Reactions just sort of happen; I care, I don't care; I never really know in advance until the situation/conversation presents itself.

One recurring situation that is agitating me of late is excessive courtesy. And by excessive courtesy, I don't mean the simple "Please," "Thank you" or "Excuse me," one hopefully encounters throughout their day. No, my problem, my overreaction comes from customer servers expressing over-the-top gratitude and appreciation and offers of assistance – from my bank, my cable provider, my phone service, credit card issuer, even the M.V.A. Enough already! Too much of a good thing is still too much. I don't need all this emotional reinforcement. I'm OK, really. Just answer my question and stop with all the hand-holding (figuratively and euphemistically speaking).

Don't get me wrong. I want to – and deserve to – be treated like an adult, respectfully and courteously, but this recent depth of concern – for lack of a better word, is too intrusive, almost. I'm not that needy. I'm not that sensitive. I'm not that mad or distressed about any of it until – you're so busy caring and concerning yourself with my overall satisfaction/feeling about the exchange, that you're wasting my time (which, returning to my original point, I may not have a lot left of), rather than simply and efficiently answering my question and addressing or acknowledging my concern. Don't say you understand, understand! Don't tell me how glad you are to help, help! Do your job, politely of course, but stop trying to anticipate my angst about the process, just move the process forward to a logical and reasonable conclusion. I don't want to die waiting for an answer – or worse, a supervisor.

If I had to guess where this overreaching level of courtesy/willingness to serve a customer comes from, I would blame the "politically-corrected" world in which many of us inhabit. Not only can you not look at anybody cross-eyed (figuratively speaking), you can barely straight-talk anybody about a myriad of subjects – both personal and professional, without fear of reprisal or worse, a lawsuit. You're better off being safe (avoiding the subject/discussion altogether) rather than being sorry. "Sorry" will likely cost you your job or your reputation, and maybe even your cash reserves.

I don't want anybody bending over backwards for me. I would rather they just look me in the eye and speak to me directly. I realize my perspective may be a little skewed, but I hope I've made my point. And I'm not sorry if I haven't, and I don't need further assistance and I'm not interested in whether I've addressed all your needs, and I definitely don't want to wait to complete an automated questionnaire about the experience.

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

Community News Freelance Opportunity

The Potomac Almanac is looking for one or two writers to write one or two news stories a week. On-the-beat training, nominal pay per story. Please send resume, letter of interest to Mary Kimm, mkimm@connectionnews papers.com.

POTOMAC ALMANAC

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@connection newspapers.com.

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What 2011 Legislative Session Has Wrought

By BRIAN J. FELDMAN
STATE DELEGATE (D-15)

The Maryland General Assembly's 2011 Legislative Session concluded on April 11. The following is a summary of several important issues that may interest you.

A BALANCED BUDGET

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Budget discussions focused on addressing the State's structural deficit, passing a balanced budget for FY 2012 and finding viable solutions to allow the State to continue to fund key priorities. The General Assembly passed a balanced FY 2012 Operating Budget and passed a FY 2012 Capital Budget which cut the debt ceiling by \$215 million to \$925 million in new general obligation bonds. These bonds will fund \$250 million in school construction projects across the State and \$198 million for higher education facilities.

Our state pension costs are one of the largest cost drivers in the budget, with an overall State liability of \$1.5 billion in General Funds for FY 2012. The General Assembly made a commitment to maintain a defined benefit pension system for State employees and identify ways to relieve some of the burden on retirees for prescription costs. Changes were made to the vesting requirements, employee contribution levels and retirement ages. Also, a new prescription drug plan was developed. The savings from these reforms will be invested back into the retirement system to reduce the unfunded pension liability.

One of Maryland's greatest achievements is its educational system. I am proud of Maryland's designation from Education Week, the Nation's leading education newspaper, which ranked Maryland's public schools first in the Nation for a third year in a row. This distinction is a direct result of the significant investment the State has made in K-12 education over the last de-

cade. For FY 2012, K-12 public schools will receive \$ 5.8 billion in funding and higher education will receive \$ 1.4 billion. This accounts for over half of the State's General Fund. We were able to limit a tuition increase at Maryland universities to 3 percent (after being the only State in the Nation to freeze tuition for four straight years) and establish a special grant program that will cap community college tuition increases at 3 percent.

The General Assembly was able to leave nearly \$730 million in cash reserves, including \$681 million in the State's Rainy Day Fund and \$50 million in the General Fund. Maryland is one of only four states in the Country that did not use its Rainy Day Fund during the recession. Maryland has also retained its AAA bond rating, one of only eight states in the Nation to have such a rating. Moody's stated that the rating "reflects Maryland's strong financial management policies, stable economy with high personal income levels and ability to maintain positive available reserves despite sustained pressure on its budget."

FELDMAN BILLS

Mindful of budgetary constraints this year, I sponsored bills that were intentionally designed to have no fiscal impact on the Budget.

The most important piece of legislation I introduced that gained passage is the Maryland Electricity Service Quality and Reliability Act of 2011, commonly known in Montgomery County as the Pepco bill. The bill requires the Maryland Public Service Commission to set specific standards of service reliability for electric companies doing business in Maryland, while not passing the cost on to consumers. If the standards are not met, strict economic penalties will be imposed on those companies that do not comply. This legislation is an important step forward in holding Pepco fully accountable for its service performance and provides the

necessary incentives for Pepco to consider-ably improve their service record. I want to thank Governor O'Malley and Montgomery County Councilmember Roger Berliner for their assistance in drafting this legislation and gaining its passage.

I co-sponsored legislation which, for the first time, permits the direct shipment of wine to Maryland consumers from wineries located within our State and across the Country. Assigned to the Economic Matters Committee, my Committee was instrumental in crafting a compromise that allows Maryland to join 37 States and the District of Columbia in permitting direct wine shipping.

I also introduced and gained passage of six bills that will update, clarify and modernize our corporate laws. These updates will allow Maryland corporations to compete more effectively and efficiently. One corporate bill is a follow-up to last year's innovative, first in the Nation, "Benefit" or "B Corporation" legislation. This corporate structure has encouraged green businesses and socially-conscious corporations to settle and register in Maryland and has quickly become a model for the rest of the Nation. This year's Benefit Corporation bill allows Limited Liability Corporations to organize as Benefit Corporations.

STIMULATING MARYLAND'S ECONOMY

As the House Chair of the Joint Information Technology and Biotechnology Committee, I continue to focus my attention on issues relating to our technology sector. In January, the Milken Institute again ranked Maryland second in the Nation for technology and science assets.

As the original author and lead sponsor of the innovative Biotechnology Tax Credit program, I am pleased to report that this program has been extremely successful in incentivizing investors in small, early stage biotech companies in Maryland. This year,

I gained passage of a bill that will expand access to this program and am pleased to note that \$8 million has been allocated again to the program for FY 2012.

I also supported Governor O'Malley's initiative, InvestMaryland, which creates a premium tax credit program for institutional investors, like insurance companies, to fuel venture capital investment in Maryland businesses. While Maryland's job growth was twice the growth rate of the rest of the Country, we still need to invest in new and emerging technologies to keep Maryland competitive in the national economy.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DELEGATION

As the Chair of the Montgomery County House Delegation, I have enjoyed the challenge of leading the State's largest delegation. This year, Montgomery County will receive a 7.7 percent increase in K-12 school funding over last year. This amounts to a \$40 million increase, the largest of any county in Maryland. We also secured \$56 million in State Capital Funds for Montgomery County projects. These projects will create local jobs and are directed toward our County's community colleges, local schools, parks and recreational facilities, libraries, community centers, as well as charitable and cultural organization.

I also worked with my Delegation colleagues on behalf of the County to ensure passage of several improvements to the State's K-12 Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement, including a bill that will delay for one year any MOE-related penalty that may be imposed on our County. Counties and local school boards across the State supported this change in the law.

In closing, I value your input and if you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at Brian.Feldman@house.state.md.us or call me at 301-858-3186.

Har Shalom Turtles Learning about Babies

Rosario Cubillos, one of three teachers in Congregation Har Shalom's Turtles class, is pregnant. Her 3-year-old students noticed the changes in her appearance and were interested to know what happens. So the teachers — Barbara Halpern, Karla Silverman and Cubillos — decided to talk with their students about babies.

First they asked the students what they know about babies and then what they would like to learn about babies. The students were interested to know how to take care of babies. So, the class read books, interviewed mothers and learned how to feed babies, change diapers, put them to bed and take them for walks.

Congregation Har Shalom is located at 11510 Falls Road. Visit www.HarShalomECEC.org



Yael and Carmel learn about taking care of babies.



Sorrel and Sander are students in Har Shalom's Turtles class.

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