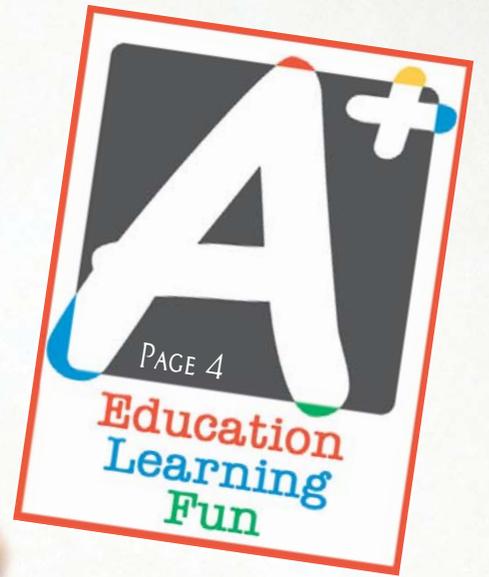


# Potomac ALMANAC



## What To Do?

NEWS, PAGE 3

### From Hobby To Business

NEWS, PAGE 2

### The Yoga Generation

A+, PAGE 4

### Geenen's Play Leads Churchill To Victory

SPORTS, PAGE 11

PHOTO BY KEN MOORE / THE ALMANAC CALENDAR, PAGE 6 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 11 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 10

County Council President Roger Berliner responds to questions about the Brickyard Road farm site at last week's meeting of West Montgomery County Citizens Association.



JANUARY 18-24, 2012

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## BUSINESS

# Honey Ogens Bakes with Feeling

A hobby turns into a career.

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

**H**oney Ogens launched the Honey Bee Baking Company last year from her Glenolden Drive home. She began baking many years ago because it made her feel relaxed and happy. When her children, Matt and Elissa came home from school, she always had home-baked goods ready for them.

Even though she was working with her husband, attorney Ronald Ogens, she made the time to surprise a sick neighbor, friend or someone celebrating a special occasion with a homemade coffee cake, cookies or other baked treat.

"I express my feelings through baking. I always feel a sense of pride and pleasure when someone enjoys my finished product. Baking is immensely satisfying and comforting," she said.

Last year, at the urging of friends and family, she founded the Honey Bee Baking Company and began selling her creations to the public. News of her business spread through word of mouth and she now delivers at least 10 orders a week — and the orders are coming in more and more frequently.

Coffee cake is her signature item. The 16"x 5" rectangular loaf is served on a plate wrapped with cellophane and ribbons — ready to be gifted or served. The shape, size and presentation make it different from any other coffee cake. Other specialties are banana cake, lemon cake with fresh lemons, almond



Honey Ogens with her cranberry orange scones

macaroons, cranberry-orange scones and many varieties of cookies and cupcakes. Ogens is more than happy to bake special requests.

Ogens explains her philosophy of baking: "I want everything to taste fabulous. I use the freshest of eggs, real butter, sugar — my desserts are definitely not low-fat. But these are the ingredients that make everything really yummy. It's definitely all about the ingredients and creating a home-tasting cake or cookies." Her husband Ronald, daughter Elissa Schwartz, her mah jong friends — and even the workmen remodeling her home are taste testers. "I get new recipes from everywhere — the Food Network, the internet — I read cookbooks like other people read novels. If I eat a fabulous dessert in a restau

SEE HONEY, PAGE 8

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## Soccer Timetable

**Jan. 10, 2012:** County issues its request for qualifications and development proposals for the development, construction and maintenance and operation of soccer fields at Brickyard Road. (See sidebar.) The County issues the request for proposals with the following timeline:

**Dec. 15, 2011:** Nick's Organic Farm lawsuit against Montgomery County Board of Education scheduled in Montgomery County Circuit Court; cancelled because of settlement the previous day.

**Dec. 14, 2011:** Settlement reached between Montgomery County and Nick Maravell. Maravell drops his lawsuit and his license to operate the farm on Brickyard Road is extended until at least Aug. 15, 2012.

**Dec. 8, 2011:** Montgomery County Circuit Court Judge Richard E. Jordan denies Board of Education's motion for summary judgment, which would have allowed the Board to avoid trial. Also, the judge disallows the Board's motion to quash subpoenas for seven school board members to be witnesses at trial.

**Nov. 3, 2011:** Montgomery County Board of Education files its motion to have case dismissed.

**July 22, 2011:** Nick's Organic Farm files lawsuit against Montgomery County Board of Education, alleging that school board violated the Open Meetings Act. The suit sought to void the lease from the Board of Education to the County for the land.

**June 9, 2011:** Meeting on Brickyard Road Soccer Fields Request for Proposal at Potomac Community Center Social Hall. More than 300 attend the meeting.

**April 19, 2011:** The lease between the County and the Board of Education signed. See March 8, 2011.

**April 4, 2011:** More than 200 people attend first public meeting on what the county calls "Brickyard soccer project."

**April 1, 2011:** Montgomery Countryside Alliance and other groups propose that the organic farm serve as an anchor for agricultural education as a part of a Food and Agricultural Policy Council in Montgomery County.

**March 8, 2011:** The Montgomery County Board of Education voted 5-2 to lease the 20-acre field for 10 years to the County to convert it into soccer fields. David Dice, head of general services for the county, says the site could hold four soccer fields and that parking would likely be the constraining factor. Planners say they often require 70 spaces for one soccer field.

**March 3, 2011:** First public announcement of proposal for soccer fields on future Brickyard Road Middle School site. Montgomery County Board of Education released documents showing it would vote to lease the Brickyard Road Middle School site to the county to contract with a private athletic organization to construct and operate private soccer fields.

**Oct. 19, 2010:** MSI Executive Committee Minutes, "Field Development Report — Future public-private partnerships to develop new soccer fields in the county were discussed. The county still has not released the RFP for field development at GXS, Brickyard, Potomac, Cabin John and Wheaton Regional Park. As soon as the RFPs are released, MSI will prepare and submit a bid where appropriate."

**October 2010:** U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack appoints Nick Maravell to a five-year term as one of four farmers on the 15-member National Organic Standard Board, which recommends standards for the definition of "certified organic."

**Thursday, Sept. 30, 2010, 5:02 p.m.:** David E. Dise, director of County's General Services, e-mails Kassahun Seyoum, capital projects manager of county's division of building design and construction. "I met with Roger Berliner this afternoon who asked that we postpone the Brickyard Road component until he has time to prep residents. I'll have to run that past the County Executive to see if he wants to delay. Berliner did recommend we have some realistic handle on traffic flow in and out of Brickyard before meeting with the community."

**June 15, 2010:** MSI Executive Committee Minutes — "Field Development Report — We anticipate the county will release an RFP for field development at GXS and possibly Brickyard later this summer/fall. In addition, we are

SEE SOCCER TIMETABLE, PAGE 8



West Montgomery President Susanne Lee and George Barnes listen to Roger Berliner last week. Lee said the decision to turn the school site on Brickyard Road into soccer fields did not follow the Potomac Master Plan.

PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE/THE ALMANAC

## County Dribbles to Goal

County issues request for proposals for soccer fields on Brickyard Road site.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE ALMANAC

One in an ongoing series of articles.

Council President Roger Berliner (D-1) looked to the colorful banners in Potomac Presbyterian Church — "peace, love, joy" — before he alerted more than a hundred angry citizens that Isaiah "Ike" Leggett and the county would issue its request for proposals to build soccer fields on Brickyard Road the next day.

The next morning, Thursday, Jan. 12, the county publicly issued its specific plans to build soccer fields on the 20-acre Brickyard Road site that Nick Maravell has organically farmed the last 31 years.

The request for proposal calls for a private organization to build at least two FIFA

full size soccer fields, parking and related amenities on the Brickyard Road farm.

The deadline for project submissions is March 1 and the county plans to select its applicant for the site this summer. Maravell's license to farm the land expires Aug. 15.

The County document soliciting proposals encourages plans that include some reduced scale of the farm or related education center, community gardens, playground/tot lot, exercise area and fitness trail, or other "beneficial use."

But by submitting a proposal, "applicants acknowledge that the County reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to impose on the selected applicant any terms, conditions, requirements and specifications that the county deems necessary to fulfill its objectives for the project," according to the request for proposal.

At the West Montgomery meeting on Jan. 11, residents confronted Berliner with an email that indicated he knew about the proposal in September 2010, six months before the community knew.

Local residents found out in March 2011  
SEE COUNTY DIBBLES, PAGE 8



County Council President Roger Berliner faced an angry crowd in Potomac last week, in contrast to the banners behind him.



Curt Uhre asks County Council President Roger Berliner about what he is doing to help citizens.

## County's RFP: Verbatim

"The County reserves the unilateral right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to reject any or all Proposals, which may or may not include a dual use of the property, submitted in response to this RFQ-DP, advertise for new Proposals, or to accept any Proposal deemed to be in the best interest of the County. ...

"By submitting a Proposal to this RFQ-DP, applicants acknowledge that the County reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to impose on the selected applicant any terms, conditions, requirements and specifications that the county deems necessary to fulfill its objectives for the project."

### OBJECTIVES: COUNTY'S EXACT WORDS

The Applicant selected by the County must meet the conditions listed in Section IV (see Project Description and Conditions below) and address, to the extent reasonably possible, the following objectives:

1. Solve the unmet recreation need for high-quality fields in Bethesda and Potomac developed in accordance with the vision of the Master Plan for Youth Soccer.
2. Provide design of high-quality fields that can be used by youth soccer organizations throughout the year at affordable rates.
3. The County prefers the development of the Property to include at least two FIFA full size soccer fields and an additional community use.
4. In recognition that the Property has to this point been the site of an organic farm and that the community has expressed support for a farm or some other community benefit to continue on the Property together with the soccer fields, the County encourages proposals that consider an additional use that may include; some reduced scale of the farm or related education center, community gardens, playground/tot lot, exercise area and fitness trail, or other beneficial use.
4. Alleviate community concerns regarding traffic and parking.
5. Alleviate community concerns regarding Storm Water Management and overall environmental impact.
6. Alleviate community concerns regarding fields operation and management including: service hours, noise, security, and maintenance.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS

The Project will consist of private development, construction, maintenance and operation of soccer fields at no cost and expense to the County.

The selected Applicant will be required to execute a License Agreement with the County and pay the County a nominal annual fee in an amount not less than \$1,500 per year.

The selected Applicant will be required to design, construct, operate and maintain the Property, soccer fields, other dual use facilities, parking facilities, storm water management facilities, and any other required improvements, in compliance with applicable County, State and Federal laws.

No permanent toilet facilities will be permitted on the Property. The selected Applicant must furnish and maintain accessible portable high standard trailer-type restrooms (no Porta-Johns).

The selected Applicant will be responsible for all trash pickup for the Property.

The selected Applicant will be required to build, at a minimum, two FIFA full (or equivalent) size soccer fields.

### NOISE AND TRAFFIC

A Proposal must include a plan to buffer noise and keep balls within the confines of the fields. The following conditions are imposed on the Project:

1. A traffic study must be conducted by a traffic consultant selected by the Applicant and approved by the county during the design phase.
2. Artificial turf fields are not permitted to be installed on the Property. Only grass fields.
3. No lighting system will be allowed to illuminate the fields.
4. No public address system will be allowed.
5. No activity will be permitted from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m.
6. No more than five tournaments, playoffs, and championship games are permitted to be played on the property per year.

SEE COUNTY'S RFP, PAGE 8

# The Yoga Generation

Yoga credited with relieving stress, boosting self-esteem and improving grades in children.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE ALMANAC

**H**annah Ticardi deals with the pressure of competitive soccer games or rigorous science classes by striking a pose. The 16-year-old Vienna student usually prefers downward facing dog or cobra.

"It is really important to have a stress reliever, and yoga is really good for that," said Ticardi who is an 11th-grade student at James Madison High School in Vienna.

Katherine Harris, who has practiced yoga since middle school, agrees. "What I like best about yoga is the feeling I have after class where I feel like I'm floating," said Harris, a high school junior who takes classes at Sun and Moon Yoga Studio in Arlington.

Ticardi and Harris are part of a generation of children who are growing up with yoga, the practice impacting their lives from in utero through high school. Most studios now offer prenatal classes as well as instruction for toddlers, elementary, middle and high school students.

"When I visit my prenatal students in the hospital after they have their baby, I can pick up the newborn child and they almost always take a deep breath and say 'om,'" joked Luann Fulbright of Dream Yoga Studio and Wellness Center in McLean.

Aficionados, educators and researchers credit the discipline for addressing issues ranging from self-control to self-awareness. A study conducted by researchers at the California State University, Los Angeles' College of Education showed that regular yoga practice boosted students' self-esteem and improved their physical health, behavior and academic performance.

"It is amazing to watch what happens with these children. Their focus and concentration is improved," said Dawn Curtis, owner of East Meets West Yoga Center in Vienna.

Yoga classes for middle and high school students incorporate exercises that deal with issues like peer pressure and body image. "We use warrior pose, for example, where kids come into the pose with their arms stretched up to the ceiling or out to their sides, and we say 'Feel how strong you are,'" said Annie Moyer of Sun and Moon Yoga Studio in Arlington. "It is a gesture of opening oneself up to the world and creates the feeling of real confidence."

Instructors say it's good exercise. "It helps them to get physically fit," said Freddy Margolis of Village Yoga in Potomac.

**SISTERS** Joey and Eva Schulman, who practice at Budding Yogis studio in Washington, D.C., agree. "My favorite yoga pose is eagle pose, said 11-year old Joey. "It challenges your body to balance, to twist and to be strong all at the same time."

Eva gets a charge from the down dog tunnel. "You have to run, stretch into downward dog and then hold that pose for a long time. It's like a cardio, stretch and



**Yoga students, including Maya Ettleson (center) practice a downward dog tunnel at Budding Yogis studio. Experts say yoga is good exercise for children.**



**Akari Davidson, Eva Schulman and Joey Schulman practice goddess pose at Budding Yogis studio. Yoga has been credited with improving focus and concentration in children.**

strength workout. I like it because it challenges all of your body," said the 14-year old.

Classes are structured to appeal to children at each age group. "For smaller children, everything is done on a theme. Sometimes classes are themed around the holidays or seasons or animals or stories," said Curtis.

Moyer's young yogis often pass a swath of brightly colored fabric across the room by balancing it on their heads or grasping it with their elbows. The object is for the students to work in tandem to get the cloth from one side to the other without using their hands.

"We're all pursuing this goal together," said Moyer. "It is a group effort. It's team building. None of the games we play are about winning. We all win. Some of the

things kids do at school are goal oriented and have a component of pressure and stress. In yoga, there is never anything that you have to achieve or attain except for a good feeling inside."

Teachers keep students engaged by using age-appropriate language and adapting traditional yoga poses for children. "We learn poses that relate to nature or animals," said Cynthia Maltenfort, an instructor at Sun and Moon Yoga in Fairfax. "There is a lot of interaction and developing a connection with themselves and with each other. We start to address feelings and emotions."

Each class ends with a relaxation technique often referred to as shavasana. "We teach them how to calm themselves," said Moyer. "They lie down or curl up and listen to a story, a poem or music. Often, the most fidgety kids you've ever seen in your life

will just chill and let go of everything when you set the right tone."

Many yoga studios also host yoga summer camps and yoga birthday parties. There is also yoga for families. "Family yoga classes give parents and children a chance to be together in a supportive, non-threatening, non-hierarchical way," said Fulbright. "They can just interact and enjoy each other without the parents having to discipline. There's lots of laughter and lots of fun. You build a stronger, healthier connection with your child."

**SOME LOCAL SCHOOL** officials have embraced yoga for children. Potomac Elementary School students are offered yoga classes from instructors at Village Yoga in Potomac.

"I believe that exercise and relaxation techniques should start at a very early age," said Linda Goldberg, principal of Potomac Elementary School. "Children will enjoy exercise throughout their lifetime when they experience pleasurable learning when they are young."

YoKid, a non-profit organization that makes yoga available to at-risk and underserved youth, also deploys instructors to a growing number of public schools in Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties and the District.

"I have some teachers who, when the class is getting too busy, say to the students, 'Stand up and everybody take some deep breaths,' and they do a yoga position, sometimes just to calm children down," said Marjorie Myers, Ed.D., principal, Francis Scott Key Elementary School in Arlington. "We have an after-school yoga class that the parents put together, and there is a family yoga night where parents come in with their children and everybody does yoga together. One of the pluses is that these activities have demystified yoga for the children."

YoKid runs Key's after-school yoga program. Alexandria resident Michelle Kelsey Mitchell, the program's co-founder and executive director, says yoga's principle of self-acceptance can help boost self-esteem and confidence. "In yoga, kids don't have to prove anything to anybody. They can just come and be who they are."

**YOGA HAS BEEN** criticized for having religious overtones. "We often 'om'" at the end of class .... We also say namaste. While the words aren't religious, they can be construed that way," said Linda Feldman, director of Budding Yogis, a studio that caters solely to children. "I tell our teacher trainees that if they're in a public school scenario or where there are concerns over religion, they can use a word other than om or namaste."

As with any physical activity, injury is possible, but preventable. "Sometimes [children's] muscles haven't yet developed to hold things where they need to be, so

PHOTOS BY JIM VECCHIONE

# Participating in Yoga Focuses Students for Learning

FROM PAGE 4

we have to be strict with them in making sure their alignment is proper," said Margolis.

Instructors say incidents are rare, even among the most vulnerable students. "I've had kids with all sorts of limitations like partial paralysis due to stroke, cerebral palsy, ADHD, Asperger's syndrome and

others," said Feldman. "All have been able to practice yoga with no concerns or injuries."

While many doctors agree that yoga is a healthy practice, they say the benefits children get from yoga can also be found just as effectively elsewhere. "The good thing is that there [are] a variety of cost-efficient and simple ways for children and teens to relax and unwind," said Kristin Anderson,

M.D., M.P.H., family and preventive medicine physician for Molina Healthcare, Community Health Care Network clinic in Reston. "Going on walks as a family can also help everyone get the exercise they need as well as spend quality time together while they de-stress. This can help kids and their parents improve posture, relieve anxiety, practice deeper breathing, build lungs and stretch muscles."

But Ticardi, who is planning for college and preparing to take the SAT this spring, believes that yoga is the best stress reliever for her. In fact, she approached Curtis about starting a Yoga club for teens at East Meets West Yoga Center. Curtis agreed and will begin classes later this month.

"It's nice to have an hour every week where I don't need to think about anything but my breath," said Harris.

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by  
**Michael Matese**

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 18

**Book Discussion.** 1 p.m. The Potomac Library Adult Book Club will meet to discuss "The Middle Place." No registration required. At the Potomac Library in Potomac.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 19

**Seniors Organized for Change.** 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. With Ori Figura, Israeli Emissary (Slich): Life of an Israeli Soldier. At Ring House 1801 E. Jefferson St. Rockville. Lectures free, then lunch, \$5 reservations required. Debbie Sokobin 301-348-3760.

**Slow Blues and Swing Dance.** 9 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](mailto:info@CapitalBlues.org) or [www.CapitalBlues.org](http://www.CapitalBlues.org).

**Storytime with Potomac Toddlers.** 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and rhymes for toddlers 12-to-36 months and their caregivers. No registration required. At Potomac Library in Potomac.

**Encore Chorale.** 1:30 to 3 p.m. The nation's largest and fastest growing choral program for Singers Age 55+, announces start of winter/spring season for Montgomery County Encore Chorales at Washington Conservatory of Music at Glen Echo Park. Conducted by Jeanne Kelly, past conductor of the United States Naval Academy Women's Glee Club and Georgetown University Concert Choir. At 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Bethesda. Call Jeanne Kelly at 301-261-5747 or email [Jeanne.kelly@encorecreativity.org](mailto:Jeanne.kelly@encorecreativity.org)

## FRIDAY/JAN. 20

**Off the Cuff Concert.** 8:15 p.m. Marin Alsop Leads the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in a concert that explores explores R. Strauss' Also sprach Zarathustra. Tickets range from \$28 to \$88 and are available through the BSO Ticket Office, 410-783-8000 or [BSOmusic.org](http://BSOmusic.org). At the Music Center at Strathmore in North Bethesda.

**Oli Brown Band with Margot MacDonald.** 8:30 p.m. Part of Strathmore's Friday Night Eclectic in North Bethesda. Tickets are \$10/advance; \$12/door. At the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. For tickets, call 301-581-5100 or visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org).

**Friday Night Dinner.** 6:30 p.m. Join the Magen David Sephardic Congregation for a warm and wonderful Friday night dinner as it welcomes guests from Israel. Cost is \$12 per person, \$10 per child under Bar/Bat Mitzvah. At Magen David Sephardic Congregation, 11215 Woodglenn Drive, Rockville. Call 301-770-6818 or visit [www.magendavidsephardic.org](http://www.magendavidsephardic.org).

## SATURDAY/JAN. 21, 28

**Zumba at Village Yoga.** 11:45 to 12:45 p.m. Zumba Fitness is the Latin-inspired dance-fitness program that blends international music and steps to form a "fitness-party" that is addictive.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 21

**Saturday Night Hafa.** Celebrate the Sephardic cultural traditions of Israel in a night of music and culinary tastings presented by a delegation of Israeli musicians and cooks from Mateh Yehuda-Beit Shemesh. Open Wine Bar included. Cost is



## MONDAY/JAN. 23

**Branford Marsalis and Joey Calderazzo Duo.** 8 p.m. Songs of Mirth and Melancholy. At the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville.

\$15/advance; \$20/door. At Magen David Sephardic Congregation, 11215 Woodglenn Drive, Rockville. Call 301-770-6818 or visit [www.magendavidsephardic.org](http://www.magendavidsephardic.org).

## Lunar New Year Celebration and Parade.

10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Parade begins at 11 a.m. Free. Activities include Tai Chi performers, lion dancers, 18-person golden dragon, VisArt Center exhibitions, vendors, arts and crafts. At Rockville Town Square, 200 E. Middle Lane, Rockville.

## "Introduction to Holistic Medicine for Pets."

1:30-3:30 p.m. Free workshop. St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 6030 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda. Holistic vet Dr. Jordan Kocen of Southpaws will unveil the mysteries of acupuncture, Chinese herbal medicine and homeopathy, and shed light on when it is appropriate to explore these non-conventional therapies for your pet. To register call 301-983-5913 or email [register@yourdogsfriend.info](mailto:register@yourdogsfriend.info).

**"Learning About Your New Dog."** Free workshop. Your Dog's Friend Training Center, 12221 Parklawn Dr, Rockville. Jeni Grant, CPDA-KA will advise anyone who has recently adopted a dog or is considering adoption. Puppy parents welcome. Leave your dog at home. To register call 301-983-5913 or email [register@yourdogsfriend.info](mailto:register@yourdogsfriend.info).

**Swing Dancing.** 9 p.m. to midnight. Cost is \$16. With the California Honeydrops. 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.

**Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. Enjoy stories, songs and rhymes for the whole family to share. Free. No registration required. Meets at the Potomac Library.

## SUNDAY/JAN. 22

**"Mark Rothko."** 10:25 a.m. Edward Gero will discuss his insights about art and life from preparing for and performing the role of Mark Rothko in the play "RED." Gero will appear at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Bethesda. The play runs at Arena Stage from Jan. 20 through March 4. In the play, Rothko and his assistant grapple with form, history, loss, and the meaning of the color red.

**Washington Saxophone Quartet.** 4 p.m. Free. At the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, One Chevy Chase Circle, NW, Washington, D.C.

## MONDAY/JAN. 23

**"Books! The Magic is Real."** 10 a.m. The MOMS Club of Potomac is hosting Joe Romano, magician. The presentation is tailored to preschool and elementary-aged children. Visit <http://www.booksthemagicisreal.com/>. No RSVP is



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**Off the Cuff Concert.** 8:15 p.m. Marin Alsop Leads the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in a concert that explores explores R. Strauss' Also sprach Zarathustra. Tickets range from \$28 to \$88 and are available through the BSO Ticket Office, 410-783-8000 or [BSOmusic.org](http://BSOmusic.org). At the Music Center at Strathmore in North Bethesda.

necessary, but admittance will be awarded on a first come first served basis. At the Potomac Community Center.

## Branford Marsalis and Joey Calderazzo Duo.

8 p.m. Songs of Mirth and Melancholy. At the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville.

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 25

**Design Seminar.** 6 to 8 p.m. How to Fall In Love With Your House Again. All seminars include either lunch or supper. You will learn the basics on how to successfully remodel, an enterprise which can appear to be both nerve-rattling and mind-boggling. Bring your questions and plans for your own house, and share a meal on us where the experts will personally address your particular design concerns. At the Offices of Hopkins & Porter Inc., 12944-C Travilah Rd., Suite 204, Potomac. Call Debbie Ciardo at 301-840-9121.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 26

**Slow Blues and Swing Dance.** 9 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](mailto:info@CapitalBlues.org) or [www.CapitalBlues.org](http://www.CapitalBlues.org).

## Potomac Cuddleups Storytime.

10:30 a.m. Stories, rhymes and songs for babies from birth to 11 months and their caregivers. No registration required. At the Potomac Library in Potomac.

**Seniors Organized for Change.** 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. Movie (to be announced). At Ring House 1801 E. Jefferson St. Rockville. Lectures free, then lunch, \$5 reservations required. Debbie Sokobin 301-348-3760.

**Imani Winds.** 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 (Stars Price \$27). Part of Celebrating American Composers. At the Music Center at Strathmore, North Bethesda. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 301-581-5100 or visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org).

**Open House.** 10 a.m. Christ Episcopal School, a preschool - 8th grade school, will be hosting an Admissions Open House. Guests take part in an interactive, dynamic presentation, meet with current parents, teachers and students, and tour our beautiful campus to see the school in action. Visit [www.ces-rockville.org](http://www.ces-rockville.org) or call 301-424-8702.

## FRIDAY/JAN. 27

**Justin Trawick's "The 9" Songwriter Series.** 8:30 p.m. Performers include Trawick himself with Becky Warren, Gideon Grove, Jonny Grave, Amanda Lee, Max Kuzmyak, Nita Chawla and Strathmore Artist in Residence chanteuses Victoria Vox and Mary Alouette. Part of Strathmore's

Friday Night Eclectic in North Bethesda. Tickets are \$10/advance; \$12/door. At the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. For tickets, call 301-581-5100 or visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org).

## JAN. 27 TO FEB. 5

**"The Royal Family."** Tickets are \$14 and \$16. Performances are Fridays, Jan. 27 and Feb. 3 at 8 p.m.; Saturdays, Jan. 28 and Feb. 4 at 8 p.m.; and Sundays, Jan. 29 and Feb. 5 at 2 p.m. To purchase tickets from the box office visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre) or call 240-314-8690 between the hours of 2 and 7 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. At Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 28

**English Language Conversation Club.** 3 p.m. Join in practicing and improving your spoken English with the help of volunteers leading discussions. Two hours. Drop-in. No registration. Meets at the Potomac Library.

**Swing Dancing.** 9 p.m. til midnight. Admission is \$15. One-hour lesson from 8 to 9 p.m. With the Tom Cunningham Orchestra. At Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Visit [www.tomcunningham.com/calendar](http://www.tomcunningham.com/calendar).

**Open House.** 2 to 6 p.m. Free. Kids can play and check out the facility for free. There will be discounts on classes, birthday parties, camps plus raffles. At My Gym Potomac. Visit [www.mygym.com/potomac](http://www.mygym.com/potomac).

## SUNDAY/JAN. 29

**Bridal Expo.** Noon to 4 p.m. Featuring 30 vendors, including caterers, florists, cake makers and designers, musicians, and DJs, photographers and videographers, and more. At Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville. Tickets for the event are \$5 and can be purchased at the door. Call 240-314-8660.

## Pianist Simone Dinnerstein.

7 p.m. Tickets are \$23 to \$85. At The Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Call 202-785-9727 or visit [www.wpas.org](http://www.wpas.org).

**Open House.** 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Free. Kids can play and check out the facility for free. There will be discounts on classes, birthday parties, camps plus raffles. At My Gym Potomac. Visit [www.mygym.com/potomac](http://www.mygym.com/potomac).

**"Riddle of the Arab Spring."** 10:25 a.m. Lawrence de Bivort, Ph.D., a specialist in Arab and Muslim affairs, will explain the daunting policy issues that the countries of the Arab Spring now face. At RRUUC, 6301 River Road, Bethesda. Visit [www.rruuc.org](http://www.rruuc.org) or call 301-229-0400.

**Waltz Workshop.** 1 to 3 p.m. Cost is \$15. The intermediate/advanced waltz workshop taught by Donna Barker and Mike Marcotte is open to waltzers who are competent with waltz rhythm and footwork and comfortable with the basic half-turn. No partner required. Then stay for the Sunday Afternoon Waltz that begins at 3:30 p.m. At the Back Room Annex, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Go to [www.WaltzTimeDances.org](http://www.WaltzTimeDances.org). Contact Diana Hrabosky, at [hbrabosky@comcast.net](mailto:hbrabosky@comcast.net) or 703-309-7584.

**Waltz Dance.** 3:30 to 6 p.m. Admission is \$10. With the Waltzing Stars Band. Waltz workshop from 2:45 to 3:30 p.m.; dancing from 3:30 to 6 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Joan Koury at 202-238-0230 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, go to [www.WaltzTimeDances.org](http://www.WaltzTimeDances.org) or e-mail [info@WaltzTimeDances.org](mailto:info@WaltzTimeDances.org).

**Clancy Newman, cello.** 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 (Stars Price \$27). Part of Celebrating American Composers. At the Music Center at Strathmore, North Bethesda. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 301-581-5100 or visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org).

## MONDAY/JAN. 30

**"Knife in the Water" Film.** 7 p.m. Roman Polanski's first feature in Polish, B&W. At the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville.

**Transitions.** 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Dr. Julie Bindeman, a clinical psychologist who specializes in transitions, will speak on the topic, Transitions: cruising, walking, running. This event is free and open to the public. Sponsored by Shoe Train, this inaugural speaking engagement will kick off a quarterly series (April: sports & young athletes; July: movement, motion & motivation; November: Pediatrician: FAQ-thumb sucking to the terrible 2's/dentistry to diapers). At Cabin John Mall, 11325 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac.



## Simone Dinnerstein

## SUNDAY/JAN. 29

**Pianist Simone Dinnerstein.** 7 p.m. Tickets are \$23 to \$85. At The Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Call 202-785-9727 or visit [www.wpas.org](http://www.wpas.org)

# Potomac's Matt Belford, Champion Skier — Now Teaches

He also heli-guides in Alaska.

BY SUSAN BELFORD<sup>o</sup>  
THE ALMANAC

**T**wenty-three years ago, The Potomac Almanac published the story of 14 year-old local skier Matt Belford. Belford had placed third among Maryland's ski racers in the Coca-Cola Jr. NASTAR standings while racing at Jackson Hole, Wyo. He won the Maryland Governor's Cup Championship with the best combined time for the Giant Slalom and Slalom races at Wisp Ski Resort. He raced every weekend in the winter with the Liberty Ski team, competed in the Canaan Valley Giant Slalom, the Jeep Ski Challenge at Silver Creek, W.Va., and other races in the Mid-Atlantic and the Northeast. He attended summer ski camp at Mt. Hood, Oregon and worked at Rockville's Ski Haus. By the time he was 16, he had determined his life's goal — to find a way to make a living in skiing — and to live permanently in Jackson, Wyo., a ski resort he had visited frequently with his family.<sup>o</sup>

Fast-forward to 2012. Four months a year,



An article from the December 1988 Almanac.

Belford is an instructor for the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. In April, he travels to Valdez, Alaska to the Rendezvous Mountain Lodge where he serves as a heli-ski guide, coaching adventure-seekers through the steep and deep powder of the Valdez mountain range.

"I accomplished my original goals — but now I'm living the dream that I never-ever thought to dream up," said Belford. In addition to his skiing activities, he and business partner, Rick Wieloh also own Apex Real Estate and Property Management.<sup>o</sup>

Belford started skiing at age 2 and a half, when his parents took him to Snowshoe, W.Va.

At Churchill, Belford played football, baseball and continued his racing career. He headed to Arizona State University and earned a degree in electronics engineering technology. The day after ASU's graduation, he and his mom drove to Jackson for his first ski instructor experience. He had attended the hiring clinic in October, but could not make the training clinics because of college finals and graduation. He said, "I showed up to teach and was issued only ski pants and a vest — they had run out of jackets. My mom bought me a lot of expedition weight long underwear. I immediately fell in love with teaching and earned my PSIA (Professional Ski Instructors of America) level 1 and 2 within the first year, and my level 3 the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Within four years, I became a DECL (Divisional Examiner and Clinic Leader) which qualified me to train instructors. Originally, I had thought I wanted to become a Ski Patrol, but once I started teaching, I realized I had found my niche."<sup>o</sup>

Belford is also trained as a Wilderness First Responder and has earned the Avalanche level 3 certification. Seven years ago he made his first trip to the Rendezvous Lodge in Alaska to learn to be a heli-guide in the Chugach Range — "the most chal-



Matt Belford getting big air at Jackson, Wyo.

lenging and best mountains for heli-skiing in the world," according to Belford. "Heli-skiing is the most exciting skiing experience ever. We make certain our guests are safe, yet experience the adrenalin rush of their life."

Belford is married with a 12-year-old son named Jackson — also a skier. Future plans include staying in his dream location in Jackson, continuing his heli-ski experiences and building his real estate business. "I can't believe I am so fortunate to live where I choose to live, do what I want to do — and actually make a living from it!"<sup>o</sup>

The writer is the mother of Matt Belford.

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## NEWS

# County Dribbles to Goal

FROM PAGE 3

just a few days before the Board of Education voted to turn the land over to the county for soccer fields. Negotiations had been underway for two years, documents show.

Advocate Ginny Barnes asked for the process to be rewound, restarted and redone, with transparency this time around.

“The fact is there was no transparent process and all we have been asking all along is that we back up and rewind the tape and start over with a process that includes the community,” Barnes said. “The real issue is a transparent process that we were promised when Mr. Leggett ran for office.”

Berliner told Barnes, “I couldn’t agree with you more.

“I did not know that they already committed and weren’t going to do what I asked them to do because they were already in,” he said. “I did not know that two years earlier [the County Executive] had written the board of education. And I’m the council representative. So you don’t think I was angry?”

Dennis Kelleher asked Berliner what he would do now.

“Here we are trying to fight the county executive on our own, and what you’re telling us is you don’t have the ability to help us with anything,” Kelleher said. “We’d like to know anything, anything that our representative is going to do to help us stop this.”

Kelleher read from a September 2010 email from David Dise, director of the county’s Department of

General Services. The e-mail said Dise had met with Berliner and discussed the Brickyard plans.

Berliner told the crowd why he didn’t take action between September and March. “I said, ‘Whoa! This is going to cause a problem if you go forward with this. Please explore options and do a traffic analysis before you take this any further.’ That was my expectation. That was why I did not go public.”

“I understand you wish I was in a position to do more,” Berliner said.

“Or anything,” said Kelleher.

“Well, I beg your pardon.”

**MARAVELL HAS LEASED** the property from the School Board for the last 31 years, growing organic, heirloom corn and soybean seed that is free from genetically modified organisms and chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Maravell learned on March 3, 2011 from the schools facilities office that his year-to-year lease would not be renewed.

In December, Montgomery County and Maravell reached a settlement extending Maravell’s license to farm the land until Aug. 15.

Meanwhile, the Brickyard Coalition and others are taking legal action. They claim the decision by the Montgomery County Board of Education to lease the property to the county for soccer fields was done in violation of open meetings law. The State Board of Education is scheduled to address this claim at its next meeting on Jan. 24-25.

## Soccer Timetable

FROM PAGE 3

looking at field development opportunities at Cabin John and Wheaton Regional Park.”

**April 13, 2010:** MSI Executive Committee Minutes — “The Field development Task Force is prepared to develop and submit a bid for soccer field development at GXS and Brick Yard [sic] when the RFPs are requested by the county.”

**Jan. 31, 2010:** MSI Board of Directors Meeting Minutes — Field Development Update — Lobbyist and consultant “Jerry Pasternak reports that of the nine possible sites under consideration only two have any realistic chance for development over the next 1-3 years. Cabin John may be achievable with a tentative availability for the fall 2011/spring 2012 seasons. No contracts or formal agreements have been signed, but MSI continues to work with various

governmental agencies to create possible field development opportunities in the future.”

**Dec. 23, 2009:** Letter to County Executive Isiah Leggett from Patricia B. O’Neill, president of the Board of Education — “This is in response to your letter regarding a proposal for the County to lease the future Brickyard Road Middle School site in Potomac from the Board of Education for Recreational purposes.” Letter states that a meeting is scheduled between County Executive’s staff and MCPS staff.

**Nov. 10, 2009:** Leggett letter to Shirley Brandman, Board of Education — “I have been encouraged by the partnership formed between the County and MCPS staff in expanding and coordinating after school programs — especially for those most

at risk. ... “I believe one of our vacant school sites provides a unique opportunity for us to provide additional recreational opportunities for many of our youth without sacrificing the intent of preserving future school sites ... I understand that the 20-acre Brickyard Road site is largely vacant and underutilized. “I would ask that MCPS lease this property to the County so we may provide additional ball fields to the County’s youth teams.”

**August 25, 2009:** MSI Board of Directors Meeting Minutes — “Field Development. The Task Force is working closely with our professional consultant to develop solutions to the shortage of soccer fields in Montgomery County. We are currently working on a public-private partnership proposal with the county government and MCPS to develop viable soccer field development opportunities.”

## County RFP

FROM PAGE 3

7. Noise impact analyses will be conducted ... during the design phase.  
 8. No permanent structures will be allowed.

### TIMELINE FOR RFP

The County has established the following preliminary schedule for review of the Proposals, but reserves the right to amend this schedule or, at its sole discretion, to cancel the RFQ-DP at any time.

Jan. 10, 2012: RFQ-DP Release  
 Feb. 6, 2012: Site Tour (Optional)  
 Feb. 16, 2012: Deadline for Questions  
 March 1, 2012, 2 p.m.: Proposal Submission Date  
 April/May 2012: Applicant Interviews  
 May/June 2012: Negotiations with Applicants  
 June/July 2012: Selection of Applicant

# Honey Ogens Bakes with Feeling

FROM PAGE 2

rant, I ask for the recipe — and they usually share it with me!”

One of Ogens’ favorite baking partners is her 5-year-old granddaughter, Chloe. “Since Chloe is allergic to dairy products and eggs, I have had to research to find special recipes. I actually have one for cupcakes that is excellent — and uses vinegar and margarine instead of butter and eggs. Chloe calls

me Bubboo — and always loves making a treat that she can eat.”

Some baking tips from Ogens are: “Use an ice cream scoop for making uniform cookies. Always cut brownies with a plastic knife — and put a lot of love in everything you bake.”

Ogens plans to continue growing her business. The cakes and other specialty baked goods can be ordered from Ogens by calling 301-299-5501 (home) or 301-706-9855 (cell).



PHOTOS BY COLLEEN HEALY/THE ALMANAC

Artist Martha Spak with her paintings "High Tide" (left) and "Late Daylight."

## 'Surface Appeal' At The Art Gallery

BY COLLEEN HEALY  
THE ALMANAC

This month The Art Gallery of Potomac will present an art exhibition titled "Surface Appeal." The show will feature paintings by artists Millie Shott and Martha Spak.

Martha Spak began painting after she had her second child and turned her "quiet hobby" into a career.

She hopes her work "conveys a sense of peace and gives the viewer a chance to pause. My paintings are peaceful, elegant and livable. Color inspires me especially the beach and shore. I appreciate water scenes. My pieces are very color driven. The idea at the end is to have a tranquil setting with a pop of color in the pieces. There is

something about the light that changes with the season that makes for a great painting. Every one of my paintings is about the light and its play on the subjects. A still life holds the same inspiration as a landscape for me, the way light falls across an object revealing it's form and essence."

For this show artist Millie Shott has selected paintings with more texture that have a 3-D effect. She has always liked art and is inspired by observing what is around her. She feels that with painting, "you are interpreting on your paper. Painting pushes your imagination button to work better. I like to recall what I have seen."

Shott mainly uses liquid acrylics to get a more fluid, water color effect. She describes her works as "more impressionistic than representational. It is more interpreting what you see rather than a photo



Artist Millie Shott with her paintings, "The Glow" (top) and "Oscar Diva."

image. I enjoy adding other things to the surface to achieve balance and color harmony rather than objects." A favorite technique of hers is to add an encaustic wax coat over the painting and use a hot glue gun to push the wax around. Her advice to artists is to just "let it happen."

Shott and Spak will be the featured artists at The Art Gallery of Potomac now through Feb. 25.

Gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday, 12-4 p.m. The gallery is located at 10107 River Road in Potomac. Phone 240-447-9417. There will be an opening reception on Jan. 21 from 3-5 p.m. An artist demonstration will be on Feb. 11 at 2 p.m.

For more information go to [www.potomacartists.org](http://www.potomacartists.org). For information on school field trips call 301-765-7617.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Unethical Behavior

To the Editor:

What else is the County covering up regarding its Brickyard giveaway? The scope of its cover-up widened considerably at the WMCCA meeting Wednesday night [Jan. 11]. In public, and before TV cameras, Council President Roger Berliner revealed that "Ike said he made a commitment" — referring to a deal between Leggett and some unnamed entity to deliver public school land at Brickyard for a soccerplex privately-owned and operated for paying members only. The next day, a Channel 7 TV reporter asked

Mr. Lacefield, spokesman for the County, about the Leggett "commitment." Lacefield claimed to know nothing, but he did not deny it.

Mr. Leggett has again broken the law, missing another deadline to turn over information on these backroom dealings. Lies, manipulation, and misrepresentation multiply. Facts revealed so far indicate unethical behavior, illegality, and conspiracy to defraud the citizens of the County. How far will the legal investigation go, and when will the huge proposed campaign contributions and political commitments reveal the true interest the County Executive has in this giveaway?

**Charles Doran**

## Oversight Responsibility?

To the Editor:

Council member Roger Berliner stated at the Jan. 11 meeting of the West Montgomery County Citizens Association that the County Executive "committed" to a soccer field development deal involving a private soccer organization before the public was notified.

I am appalled at the unethical conduct of Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett, for clandestinely repurposing taxpayer-supported public school property located on Brickyard Road in Potomac without due public process. I am equally appalled that the County Council members have

been publicly mute on this issue for more than two years. Who is responsible for oversight of a County Executive who, in his last term of office has become dedicated to political favoritism, lining the pockets of private corporations by giving away public land for private development under the guise of "Public-Private Partnerships?" This means the private partner gets land and the income from it and the public gets nothing. Mr. Berliner and County Council members should be impeaching the County Executive for intentionally circumventing the law and the democratic process. I would go further and recommend a recall.

**Mary Kathleen Ernst**

## POTOMAC ALMANAC

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by Connection Newspapers,  
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## Left To My Own Devices



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

And a lot of good it's doing me. I may be able to do what I want, but I don't really have a clue as to what it is I want to do – or can do. What I am referring to, specifically, are the various electrical “chargers” we now have in our house: for cell phones (smart and stupid), Bluetooth, Kindle, miscellaneous computers (laptop, tablet), etc.; they're almost as much of a nuisance as the stink bugs which every day it seems, still manage to find ways to get into the house. To me, all the cords look alike and, to compound the problem, most of the devices are plugged into the same outlet – for semi-convenience sake. As a result of this convergence, determining – without bending over, which male goes into which female (euphemistically speaking) is becoming increasingly more challenging – and frustrating.

Not that we're splitting the atom here, but more and more, part of our daily routine involves recharging devices and matching up those same devices with their respective male/female counterparts. It's a process that, though not particularly complicated, is nonetheless becoming anything but routine. To further complicate this technological two-step (or three- or four-step – for me), is the fact that the cords are all the same color. In addition to appearing relatively similar, some even fit multiple devices; although not always recharging as we anticipate, leading to a false sense of power security. “Universal” it's not. Moreover, since the cords are generally confined to one electrical outlet (to avoid multiple-outlet clutter), they're often tangled up in black (their color) and not so easily retrieved. To find the matching cord and then to extricate it from its electrical connection on the first attempt without further ado, is much easier said than actually done.

It's almost as if we need a confined, pantry-like area in-home in which to store and stow all the chargers; labeled and slotted on specific shelves. Presently, in my home anyway, when connecting or disconnecting any of these devices/cords, a “tip-toe through the tulips” it's not; it's more like a minefield. If an accidental step or grab is made, there won't be any explosions or loss of life (for perspective), but there still might be some screaming and/or loss of important assets with significant replacement cost to follow. Not to mention data lost – potentially, and lifestyle and/or work complications that together might cause an emotional upheaval the likes of which you've been anticipating and dreading since this 24/7 accessibility/timeline took over and made us all victims of our own electronic devices. Hal from “2001 Space Odyssey” it's not, but we're getting there.

I wish I could suggest an alternative or devise some sort of preemptive pursuit to prevent this inevitable meltdown of man and/or machinery. However, I know so little – as usual, of what I'm theorizing that I'm hardly qualified to offer an opinion. In fact, I probably should be disqualified. However, given the underlying fact that I am an actual victim of these circumstances, perhaps I'm able to think outside the box (from the mouths of babes, so to speak) and arrive at a Seinfeldian-type of solution similar to Jerry's riff on parking garages: colors and numbers are too easily forgettable, he observed on one episode; maybe identifying the areas with more unforgettable phrases/descriptions like “Your mother's a whore or your father was an abusive alcoholic” might help weary shoppers locate their vehicles. My suggestion is less perverse and more sensible, actually. Why not color-code the cords to match a specific device the same way Miss Utility marks respectively, the “underground facilities: buried power, sewer, gas and water” to avoid the inevitable confusion. And of course, “It's The Law. Dig with CARE.” Red, blue, yellow, green, etc. would equate with a specific device and its cord. All color coordinated – for dummies, like me.

As I sift through the cords and devices now, trying to patiently find a match; while considering adding new devices – with their chargers/cords, as technology imposes its inexorable will on me – and society, a solution better be forthcoming. Otherwise, I'll be left powerless – and helpless. Remember, a chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

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

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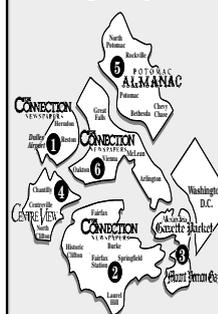
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# Geenen's Unselfish Play Leads Churchill to Victory

Senior grabs 15 rebounds against Walter Johnson.

By JON ROETMAN  
THE ALMANAC

Churchill senior Thomas Geenen, sporting long blue sleeves, squared up in the left corner and, with a smooth stroke, buried his first 3-pointer of the season during the second quarter against Walter Johnson on Jan. 13.

After the game, Geenen, teammate Sam Edens and head coach Matt Miller each acknowledged the display of perimeter potency. However, Geenen's biggest contributions to Friday's victory over the rival Wildcats were prolonging possessions and finding ways to get quality shots for his teammates.

**"I was just trying to get in good position to clean up their misses, keep that momentum going on the offensive end so if they did miss a bucket we'd still get something out of that possession."**

— Churchill senior Thomas Geenen

The 6-foot-6 Geenen grabbed a team-high 15 rebounds during a 62-56 victory at Walter Johnson. Geenen finished with nine points, but on several occasions he focused on settling the offense and working the ball to the open player rather than forcing a shot.



**Churchill senior Thomas Geenen scored nine points and grabbed 15 rebounds against Walter Johnson on Jan. 13.**

"I know my role on the team," Geenen said. "We have scorers around me with [Dominique Williams] and Sam [Edens] and to a certain extent Christian [Bonaparte], he was doing well tonight. I was just trying to get in good position to clean up their misses, keep that momentum going on the offensive end so if they did miss a bucket we'd still get something out of that possession."

Geenen grabbed four offensive rebounds, including a putback he converted in midair and turned into a three-point play after



**Churchill senior Sam Edens scored a game-high 16 points against Walter Johnson on Jan. 13.**

drawing a foul. Geenen had 10 first-half rebounds as Churchill built a 28-20 half-time advantage. What makes him such a strong rebounder? For Geenen, it's a finesse approach.

"I'm not going to lie, I'm kind of afraid of contact — I shy away," he said. "But I just see the ball pretty well off shooters' fingers. I see where the ball is going to miss, long or short, and I just try to get position and outjump everyone."

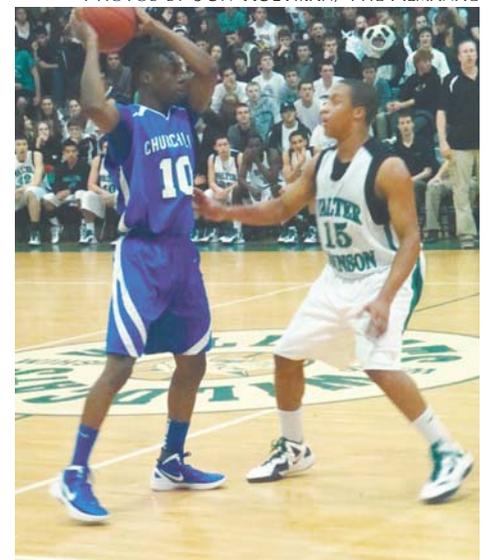
Geenen has twice scored 17 points in a game this season, but on this night he focused on getting the Bulldogs high-percentage shots.

"I thought he was doing a good job getting us extra possessions," Miller said. "He was trying to find the hot hand. I thought he made some key plays down the stretch and he was trying to make sure we were taking quality shots down the stretch instead of forcing the issue."

Two players who benefitted from Geenen's approach were Edens, who scored a team-high 16 points, and Kyle Edwards, who finished with 13.

"He gets like every rebound," Edens said.

PHOTOS BY JON ROETMAN/THE ALMANAC



**Churchill senior Christian Bonaparte, left, finished with eight points against Walter Johnson on Jan. 13.**

"When you need an assist or something like that, he'll come through. He's a leader. He'll do all the little things you ask and he'll score when he has to."

Walter Johnson scored the first eight points of the third quarter to tie the score at 28-28. Churchill responded with a 19-4 run, including a trio of 3-pointers, to take a 47-32 lead. The Wildcats battled back, using a 12-0 fourth-quarter run to cut the Bulldogs' lead to 55-53, but Churchill knocked down 7 of 14 free-throw attempts in the final 2 minutes, 15 seconds — compared to 3 of 4 for Walter Johnson — to secure the victory.

The win improved to Churchill's record to 9-3, including a first-place 4-1 mark in the 4A South Division. The Bulldogs improved to 5-0 on the road.

"I feel like we approach every [road] game real business-like when we walk in," Edens said. "Like we've got to get the job done."

Christian Bonaparte finished with eight points for Churchill and Louis Rothstein added six.

Churchill will host Bethesda-Chevy Chase at 5:15 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 20.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Wootton Boys Fall to B-CC

The Wootton boys basketball team lost to Bethesda-Chevy Chase 65-56 on Jan. 17 to fall to 9-4. On Jan. 10, the Patriots beat Whitman 46-44 on a buzzer-beating tip-in by Alon Aliverdi, according to the school's athletics Web site.

Wootton will travel to face Richard Montgomery at 5:15 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 20.

### Churchill Girls Extend Win Streak to 9

The Churchill girls basketball team defeated Walter Johnson 80-63 on Jan. 13, improving its record to 10-2 while extending its winning streak to nine games.

The Bulldogs opened the season 1-2, with losses

against Damascus and defending state champion Gaithersburg. Since then, the Bulldogs have gone a month without losing.

Churchill will host Bethesda-Chevy Chase at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 20.

### Whitman Girls Beat Richard Montgomery

The Whitman girls basketball team defeated Richard Montgomery 63-31 to improve to 7-3. The Vikings have responded to a three-game losing streak with a three-game winning streak.

Whitman will travel to face Walter Johnson at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 20.

### Softball Camp

The George Washington softball program will host a winter skills camp from Saturday, Jan. 28 to Sunday, Jan. 29 at the university's Mount Vernon Campus. Campers will receive instruction from the GW coaching staff as well as members of the Colonials softball team.

The two-day winter skills camp is designed for female players, ages 10-18, who wish to enhance their offensive and defensive game by developing softball knowledge, hitting approach and defensive skill set. The camp is broken up into two days — the first dealing with offensive instruction and the second with defensive and pitching instruction.

Registration forms can be found online at [www.gwsports.com](http://www.gwsports.com).

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