

Lucas (left) and
Gavin Kaplan pause
for a moment at the
River Falls Carnival
on April 28.

River Falls Carnival

'County's Black Eye

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Mark Shriver Reflects
On His Father

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'Spring Fling' at
Community center

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Celebrating 100 Years

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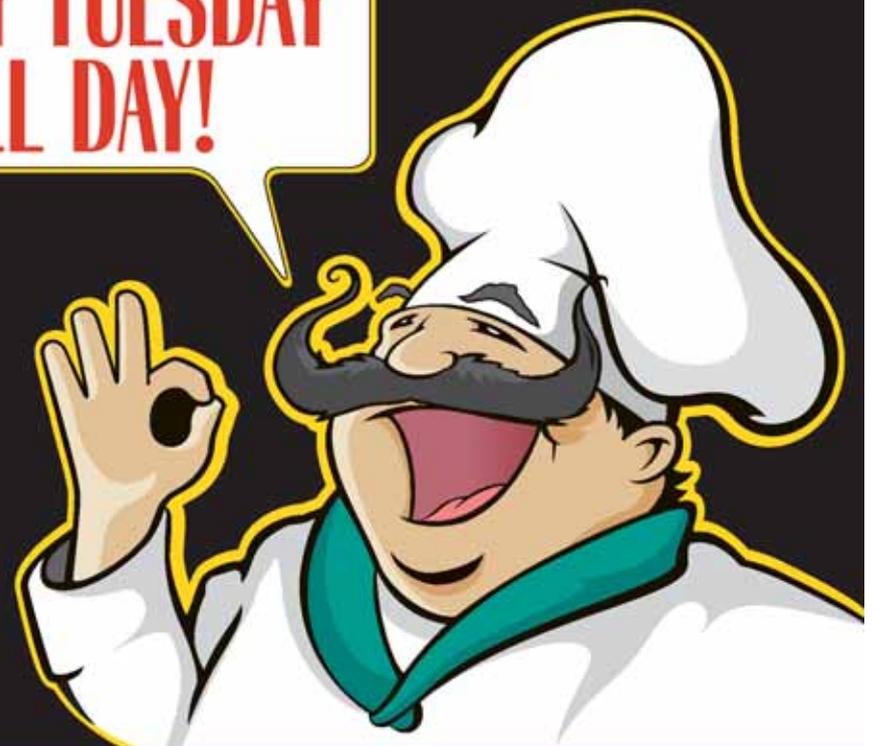
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Indoor Carnival

From left, James and Piper Snow, Molly James and Hillary Winton play on the Moon Bounce at the River Falls Carnival on April 28.



Caitlin Dougherty (left) and Trista Caydos dance.

PHOTOS BY
DEBORAH STEVENS/
THE ALMANAC



DJ Allen Dudley of Sports Etc. provides the music for the children for dancing.

County's Black Eye

MCPS has no plans to allow organic farm to continue; judge denies legal fees but scolds county, school board.

Get Involved

BY KEN MOORE
THE ALMANAC

Circuit Court Judge Robert A. Greenberg's ruling went far beyond the bottom line.

Greenberg denied the request by the Brickyard Coalition and organic farmer Nick Maravell to be reimbursed for legal fees spent in battling the county over the use of 20 acres of farmland on a future school site on Brickyard Road.

But Greenberg chastised both the county and Board of Education: "The entire episode left the oft-stated and under-exercised notion of government 'transparency' with a black eye." (See full text of Greenberg's ruling in sidebar.)

County officials welcomed the decision on legal fees.

MAY 10, 1 P.M.

Carver Educational Services Center (CESC)

850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville
Montgomery County Board of Education
The Board's policy committee will discuss "Guidelines for Leasing, Licensing, or Using MCPS Property that is Being Held as a Future School Site." (Policy DNA, Management of Board of Education Property)

MAY 15, 7 P.M.

Potomac Elementary School

10311 River Road, Potomac
The school system has scheduled a final PTA and Community Presentation for Wednesday, May 15 at 7 p.m. on Potomac Elementary's School's modernization. The study scope has been expanded to explore the possibility of relocating Potomac Elementary School to the MCPS property known as the Brickyard Road Site.

"Taxpayers should not foot the bill for lawsuits filed against the public interest by those seeking to

SEE MONTGOMERY, PAGE 10

In Judge's Own Words

Circuit Court Judge Robert A. Greenberg's ruling, entered April 23, 2013 in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County:

The matter is before the court on requests for attorneys' fees filed by the Petitioners, Nicholas Maravell, et al. and Curtis Uhre, et al. against Respondent Montgomery County Board of Education. The court has reviewed the extensive submissions of the parties, and is well aware of the history of the case. For that reason, it declines to hold a hearing in the matter.

By letter to the Board dated Feb. 19, 2012, Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett surrendered the lease to the Brickyard Road School Site, which had been given by virtue of a resolution passed on March 8, 2011. The surrender was accepted by the Board on the day it was received. As a result, this court did not issue its final ruling in the case, and the Petition for Judicial Review and Cross Petition for Judicial Review were dismissed, with prejudice, on Feb. 27, because the issues presented therein were moot.

A review of the record suggests that Petitioner Maravell and his family have been good stewards of the school board land on which their organic farm is located. They have worked diligently to perpetuate organic farming in the county for several decades. While it appears that legal notice of the Board's actions was properly provided to county residents, it is this court's opinion that Petitioner Maravell was treated quite shabbily by those responsible for passing the resolution at issue, as even several Board of Education members acknowledged at the time the lease resolution was passed.

Petitioner Maravell's current dismay can well be appreciated: after many months of litigation, and on the cusp of a final decision by the court, the county suddenly decided that the lease — initially claimed to be so beneficial that it had to be rammed through the Board of Education before a more thorough and thoughtful public discussion could take place — was not quite so vital to the county and its soccer-playing youth.

SEE VERBATIM, PAGE 10

Mark Shriver To Speak at Potomac Library on May 6

Son reflects on his father.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Mark Shriver commented that almost every day of his adult life, while at college and after college, his father, Sargent Shriver wrote a letter to him. “It might have been typewritten and copied to my brothers and sisters — or it might have been handwritten just to me. Often he would write about a favorite book, a sports event — his thoughts on the world news. Some I read, and some I put off reading until later. I have boxes of these letters that I have saved.”

Now Shriver has written his own letter to his dad in his book, “A Good Man: Rediscovering My Father, Sargent Shriver.” In this highly personal reflection of his life and his relationship with his father, Shriver asks the question, “How did my father accomplish all that he did, balancing faith, community, incredible work responsibilities, family,

friends — and do it with such joy?” Shriver will discuss his book on May 6 at 7 p.m. at the Potomac Library.

“I discovered when trying to answer this difficult question that his faith was the bedrock of all he did,” said Shriver. “He attended mass at 6 a.m. each day, he viewed everyone as coming from God — and treated each person the same from the President to the people who worked in his favorite restaurant. He had an incredible amount of energy, did not need much sleep, and lived by the highest of moral principles.”

Born in Westminster, Md. in 1915, Sargent Shriver was the driving force behind the creation of the Peace Corps. He founded the Special Olympics with his wife, Eunice Kennedy Shriver as well as the Job Corps, Head Start, VISTA, Upward Bound, Foster Grandparents and many other life-changing programs as a significant designer of LBJ’s “War on Poverty” programs. He served in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, was appointed ambassador to



Mark Shriver

Details

Mark Shriver discusses his book, “A Good Man: Rediscovering My Father, Sargent Shriver” on May 6 at 7 p.m. at the Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac.

France and ran unsuccessfully as George McGovern’s running mate in the 1972 Presidential election. In 1993, Shriver received the Franklin D. Roosevelt “Freedom From Want” Award. On Aug. 8, 1994, he received the “Presidential Medal of Freedom,” the United States’ highest civilian honor, from President Bill Clinton. Shriver was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease in 2003. He died on Jan. 18, 2011 at age 95.

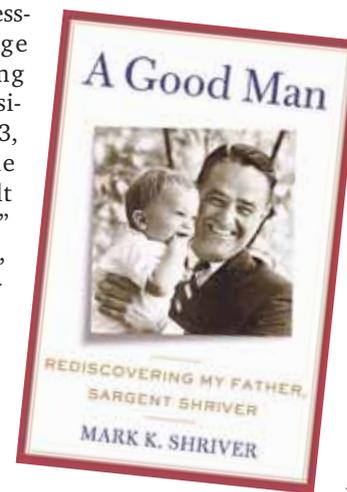
Through much soul searching, through people’s tributes when his father died, and through personal stories from friends and family, Shriver gained insight his father’s life — and discovered much about himself. He discovered that the three guiding principles

of his father’s life — faith, hope and love — energized his father and made everything possible. Sargent Shriver had boundless optimism and exuberance. He was always smiling and filled with idealism. Mark Shriver pulled all his

memories together in his book, making it the story of his father’s legacy, but also a revealing portrait of a son seeking to learn how to gain the inner joy and peace that his father had. It’s also the story of a son dealing with the loss of his father through the progressive stages of Alzheimer’s.

“I’m a work in progress,” Shriver said. “I’m always trying to be a better husband, dad — and social activist. I’m proud to be working with Save the Children. Every day

we are involved in making children’s lives better by providing food, health programs, ensuring their safety after disasters and much more. Our goal is to ‘create lasting change in the lives of children in need in the US and around the world.’”



JCCGW Celebrates 100 Years Creating Community

Year-long celebration of center’s centennial.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Throughout this year, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington (JCCGW) will be celebrating 100 years of “connecting people of the Jewish community with each other, Israel and the broader community.” They are celebrating a history of founders who saw the need for a special place to support Jewish cultural, recreational and spiritual needs and commemorating all that has been accomplished — and those who made it all possible. The organization is also honoring past and present leaders and setting goals for the next 100 years.

To celebrate the achievements of the past 100 years, more than 500 attended the JCCGW Centennial Gala held on April 24 — an event that raised more than \$270,000. One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the Benjamin Ourisman Memorial Award for Civic Achievement to Marcy and Neil Cohen. This award has been presented for over 50 years to individuals whose efforts and achievements have improved life in the community. Marcy Cohen served as president from 2003 – 2005; she and her husband are thrilled with the recognition. “We have been

involved for 30 years — everything from co-chairing the Capital campaign, to hosting the Maccabi Games which brought 2,000 elite athletes to our Center for competition, to serving on the board,” she said. “We raised our two children at the JCC — and never plan to be very far away.”

The JCCGW was formed by men and women from the Young Men’s Hebrew Association and the Young Women’s Hebrew Association in 1913. As it grew, the organization changed its name to the District of Columbia Jewish Community Center (DCJCC) and moved from its original location on M Street NW, to 11th and Pennsylvania Avenue to the present location at 16th and Q NW.

However, as a result of the 1968 race riots in D.C., the DCJCC closed. Since many Jews in the city had migrated to the suburbs, a new Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington was established on Montrose Road in Rockville, opening in 1969. This large campus houses the Hebrew Home of Greater Washington, the Jewish Social Service Agency and The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and hosts a variety of cultural, recreational, educational, health and fitness programs for all ages from infants to senior citizens. Summer camps, music programs, aquatics, after school programs, athletics, pre-natal classes, special needs camps and programs, and parenting support are just a few of the programs offered to the public regardless of religion, race, age, or ability.



CEO Michael Feinstein



Ronald Reagan visited the the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington in 1983.

“This organization was founded on the values of offering a warm, welcoming and accessible environment to all. These values have stood the test of 100 years — and everything we do is driven by them,” said CEO Michael Feinstein. “We have 2,800 member units — and that’s about 6,000 people. We offer something for everyone. But one does not have to be a member to take advantage of our outstanding programs and services. “Special events were held at the DCJCC for World War I veterans — making us the first USO in our country. No matter what race or religion, the vets were welcomed into the center where they were entertained, educated and assisted with their relocation and job searches.”

The JCCGW has been celebrating its centennial with events throughout the year that honor their past, present and future.

One centennial project is an exhibit featured at the Goldman Gallery, located in the JCCGW, called “100 Years of Creating Community – A Photographic Retrospective.” The collection has pulled together one-of-a-kind photographs from the past century,



Girls on the roof in 1929.

including photos of Ronald Reagan in 1983 when he visited the center, the founders from 1913 -1914, the 1918 YMHA baseball team, a 1923 pie-eating contest, some of the women atop the 16th Street building in the summer of 1929 — and many more images.

Member Brad Stillman describes the impact that one program at the JCCGW has had on his family: “My son Benjamin has been an inclusion camper at Camp JCC. The camp is unique in that kids of all abilities can attend — and Benjamin has the opportunity to go on the same bus with his siblings, pass them in the halls and see each other at the pool or at other activities. The camp has introduced him and his brothers and sister to a lot of very nice kids, both typically developing and those with special needs. This is one of the great benefits of a camp community that reflects the broader community filled with people of various backgrounds with all different abilities. It is a microcosm of what the JCC does for our community.”

'Spring Fling' Brings Crafts

Potomac Community Center's annual event to include community shred.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

The Potomac Community Center's annual "Spring Fling" on May 4 will offer Potomac area residents an opportunity to find that special gift for Mother's Day or to browse vendors for one-of-a-kind craft items, purses, clothing and jewelry. It's also a chance to clear one's house of unnecessary items — those things one just can't give away. Now one can bring them to the Potomac Community Center, rent a table for \$30 — and sell them for a little extra spending money. This "Spring Fling" event will feature crafts, collectibles, art, jewelry, and "gently used" items.

Penny Heltzer of Potomac, who serves on the Potomac Community Center board, said, "This event gives shoppers a chance to peruse a wonderful selection of gift ideas for everyone's budget. We have attracted some exceptionally unique artisans this year."

Among the vendors will be Trish Brooks Designs. Brooks combines several art techniques to create original jewelry of freeform wire-wrapped crocheted necklaces and pendants. These were featured at the juried James Renwick Alliance Show in December. Other items included in this event are the Honeré Collection by Beth Rosen — handmade jewelry and purses



Crafters for a Cause exhibited their belt buckles and jewelry at last year's event.

designed by Rosen — as well as her hand-embroidered raincoats and skirts.

A new feature this year is a gift to children. Nancy Delasos, education director of Abrakadoodle — the award-winning art and creativity program — will be on hand to provide art lessons for children 20 months to 12 years old while parents shop.

For those who get hungry, pastry chef Natalie Morelli, owner of "Made with Love" will be selling her cookies and cupcakes. She explains the name of her business with a smile. "Mami always taught me to do all things with love because they would just turn out better. She always said, 'If I wasn't going to do it with love, why do it at all.'"

The collectibles and craft fair will take place from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. this Saturday, May 4 at the Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac. All proceeds from the sale of vendor

spaces will benefit programs at the Potomac Community Center. To rent a table, call Heltzer at 301-983-9624.

In conjunction with the "Spring Fling," the community center will also host a Community Shred from 10 a.m. – noon. Bring boxes of documents to the center for shredding.

Potomac Community Center board member Jill Lavin said, "We hope Potomac residents will come out to support our Spring Fling. One hundred percent of our profits benefit the Potomac Community Center. It is such a vital part of our lives here in Potomac. The Community Center offers activities for every age — from infants to senior citizens — and hundreds of residents use it every week. This "Spring Fling" is a way for everyone to give back to our exceptional community center."

For more information contact the Potomac Community Center at 240-777-6960.

donations to a bus operator at any Ride On bus stop. Food collected through the drive goes to Manna Food Center, which feeds more than 3,600 hungry families a month.

elementary school serves their area should contact the Boundaries office at 240-314-4710. Parents can also access the School Assignment Locator on the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

SATURDAY/MAY 4

Spring Fling Fair. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road. Buy an 8'x8' space for \$30. All proceeds from the sale of spaces go to benefit programs at the center. 240-777-6960 to reserve a table.

THROUGH MAY 4

Ride On Annual Food Drive. Ride On bus passengers can help needy families and receive free bus rides by donating canned and nonperishable food during the Ride On annual food drive. Children's items are also needed, especially disposable diapers, formula, baby and toddler food and juice. Plastic containers are preferred. Non-riders who wish to donate can participate by giving their

THROUGH MAY 24

Kindergarten Registration.

Kindergarten orientation sessions will take place for children who will enter kindergarten in the 2013-2014 school year. During orientation, parents and students will meet the school principal, kindergarten teachers and other staff members. Parents will have an opportunity to ask questions about the school's procedures and programs; enroll students for next school year and complete important forms. The sessions will also help students become acquainted with the school environment. Parents should call their home school to make an appointment to register for that school's specific orientation date(s). Parents who are not certain which

TUESDAY/MAY 7

Remembering Mom and Dad. A workshop for adults who have lost a parent or parents. 7-8:30 p.m. Free and open to any Montgomery County resident. Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard Drive, Rockville. Registration required: 301-921-4400.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 8

Networking Event. 4-6 p.m. at Normandie Farms, 10710 Falls Road. Potomac Chamber of Commerce present this event. \$10/member; \$15/non-member. Enjoy hors d'ouerves and more. RSVP to www.potomacchamber.org or 301-299-2170 by May 6.

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OPINION

Tree Canopy — It's Important

BY SHAWN JUSTEMENT
WMCCA PRESIDENT

Several of this year's WMCCA meetings directly or indirectly focused on our area's tree canopy. There is good reason for this attention to tree canopy — everything from the quality of our streams to our enjoyment of the outdoors is dependent on trees. The need for trees to remove pollution from the air and water, reduce flooding and limit the heat-island effect cannot be overstated. Already under considerable stress from age, deer damage and the effects of pollution, our tree canopy is experiencing a net loss from ongoing infill and redevelopment, a loss exacerbated by Pepco's extensive tree removal.

Many trees are lost in older neighborhoods as the small houses built a half-century ago are replaced with much larger houses, and, with the county's decreasing inventory of buildable lots, there is more pressure for infill development. Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is endeavoring to switch large areas of the Glen Hills neighborhood from septic systems to sewer service. If this change is approved, the infill development will thin the lush Glen Hills tree canopy as well as damage sensitive stream valleys. And it seems that DEP is looking at bringing sewer into neighborhoods similar to Glen Hills.

The Maryland Public Service Commission, in an attempt to improve reliability, has directed Pepco to increase tree cutting along power lines. At our April meeting Pepco representatives told us that, in the past, trees were pruned sufficiently to last two years before needing to be trimmed again. The current standard is now four years, and trees that can't be cut back enough to last four years need to be removed. The resulting tree removal has been substantial, and the power company's drastic pruning may stress many trees too much for survival.

Two bills being considered by the County Council are designed to limit the loss of tree canopy by providing incentive to preserve trees where possible and bringing in funds to replant trees when removal is necessary.

* Tree Canopy Conservation (Bill 35-12, proposed by County Executive Leggett and sponsored by the Council President) endeavors to limit the amount of tree removal when properties are redeveloped or new development occurs. Legislation would not prevent a development from being approved, but if trees on a property cannot be saved, a fee would be collected to provide funds to replant trees, either on the same property or elsewhere.

* Roadside Trees Protection (Bill 41-12, sponsored by Councilmembers Berliner and Elrich) would require a permit and ensure protection of trees in the right-of-way. As in Bill 35-12, if a tree cannot be saved, a payment to a tree-planting fund would be required to replace the lost tree canopy.

Efforts to slow the loss of tree canopy are essential. The two tree bills being considered by the County Council work together to reduce canopy loss and provide protections to trees

WMCCA Meeting

The West Montgomery County Citizens Association will meet at the Potomac Community Center on Wednesday, May 8, 7:15 p.m. If schools are closed because of inclement weather, the meeting will be cancelled.

Speakers will be District 15 state Sen. Rob Garagiola and Delegates Brian Feldman, Kathleen Dumais and Aruna Miller.

Each year WMCCA asks the District 15 senator and delegates to give a wrap-up of Maryland's legislative session in Annapolis. Join the association for insider views of the just-ended 2013 session as the legislators provide their recap of the session and describe the work done on residents' behalf. The public is welcome.

not covered by the Forest Conservation Law. The proposed bills are facing opposition. These bills are an important step in slowing canopy loss and need our support.

Glen Hills Sewer Study Update

BY SUSANNE LEE

Close to 200 residents of Glen Hills and surrounding neighborhoods attended Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection public meeting on the Glen Hills Sanitary Study on April 18. As with all past meetings, DEP used it to provide information on what it has done in response to the \$350,000 appropriation by the County Council for the Master Plan study of failed septic systems in Glen Hills. Once again DEP failed miserably in providing any meaningful forum for public input. Residents again asked pointed questions about violations of the Master Plan study requirements, the disastrously flawed study design and application of the results, and the impact of these bogus results on property values. And once again DEP representatives failed to concede that there were any problems with the study. When asked whether residents who have fully functioning septic systems are legally required to tell potential homebuyers that they have been declared "not sustainable" based on this bogus study, DEP representatives said they couldn't answer that question without consulting County legal counsel! WMCCA is submitting detailed written comments on the Phase 1 and Phase 2 studies — again. The studies and DEP recommendations then go to County Executive Ike Leggett for transmittal to the County Council, the ultimate decision-making authority regarding the fate of Glen Hills.

Brickyard Coalition Update

BY CURT UHRE

Circuit Court Judge Robert A. Greenberg made some very pointed comments in a recent Court order regarding the Brickyard dispute. The Court found that "... [T]he entire episode left the oft-stated and under-exercised notion of government 'transparency' with a black eye." The

Court added the actions of the county government and the Montgomery County Board of Education (BOE) "resulted in an enormous waste of private, county and state resources." Describing the last minute decision by the County Executive to rescind the Brickyard lease and return the property to the BOE, Judge Greenberg wrote, "After many months of litigation, and on the cusp of a final decision by the court, the county suddenly decided that the lease — initially claimed to be so beneficial that it had to be rammed through the Board of Education before a more thorough and thoughtful public discussion could take place — was not quite so vital to the county and its soccer-playing youth." The Court order rhetorically reflected, "Why county officials suddenly changed their minds is unknown to the court," and suggested that "perhaps the decision to abandon the lease was a matter of political expediency, or maybe county officials read the judicial tea leaves and believed the county would ultimately not prevail before this court."

The Brickyard Coalition is pleased to note that Court has pointedly told the County and the BOE that their process was not "transparent," and resulted in unwarranted governmental expenditures. It is our hope that the BOE and the County will heed the Court's findings and will follow an open and transparent process in their future actions."

Potomac Elementary School Modernization

BY CURT UHRE

Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) staff held the first public meeting regarding the modernization of the Potomac Elementary School (PES) since the decision was made by MCPS to consider building a new PES at the Brickyard site. Approximately 50 people attended. Traffic concerns and the added travel time for the students to the Brickyard site was the top concern expressed. About 90 percent of the PES students would be traveling through the congested Falls Road/River Road intersection during morning rush hour traffic. The lack of public notice of the decision to consider Brickyard as a school site was also raised by many attending. Most citizens preferred building a the new PES at the current site rather than moving the school to the Brickyard site. In a straw poll taken by the MCPS there were no votes for the Brickyard site.

Write

The Almanac welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon

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OPINION

Take a Hike

Find Serenity in rural Maryland's transcendent Peace Park.

BY CAROLE FUNGER
THE ALMANAC



Peace Park

Located just off of River Road in Poolesville, Kunzang Palyul Choling Temple's 65-acre Peace Park offers a quiet refuge from the hustle and bustle of everyday Potomac life. The heavily wooded garden property encloses a chain of rambling walking paths leading to quiet, meditative spaces and magnificent stupas, symbols of Buddhist enlightenment. A recent visit to the park provided an afternoon of restful reflection amidst early spring foliage and the murmuring sounds of tiny woodland animals.

Visitors enter the Peace Park by climbing up a short wooden staircase from River Road. At the top of the rise is a small clearing with a park map and information on the diverse wildlife found on the property. Three distinct walking paths, thickly carpeted with last year's leaves and tiny patches of green, extend tantalizingly out of view in opposite directions. Overhead, multi-colored translucent prayer flags, strung between old black oaks, flap softly in the wind. To the right, the trail descends rapidly downwards, crisscrossing a small streambed over a series of arched wooden bridges. To the left, the trail ascends upwards, flanking a large open field and providing access to a magnificent sheltered stupa garden.

The central of the three walking paths leads directly to the principal feature of the park, the golden Migyur Dorje Stupa. Towering 35 feet above a grassy clearing, the large yellow stupa contains relics of 17th century teacher, Migyur Dorje, and is believed to be an important healing site. Convention dictates that visitors circumnavigate the stupa in a clockwise direction while offering well wishes for all those who are suffering.

The expansive hilltop space is warm and inviting, surrounded by tall black oaks and dusty green cedars. Rough-hewn granite benches, positioned at discreet distances from the monument, offer quiet places for contemplation.

In the thickly wooded area surrounding the Migyur Dorje Stupa are five other smaller stupas. Hidden away in tiny meditation gar-

dens sited at the four points of the compass, each is embellished with aged-bronze prayer wheels, stone obelisks with crystals and colorful prayer flags. Presumed to be the metaphysical "center" of the property, the White Garden is accessed by crossing a miniature creek over a graceful arching bridge. In the western direction, the Red Garden symbolizes wisdom, while at the southern end of the park the Yellow Garden is dedicated to generosity and the purification of pride. In the rear of the garden are the Green and Blue Gardens, which symbolize the purification of envy and jealousy as well as "mirror wisdom," or the quality of the imperturbable mind. The Blue Garden, attained via a steep woodland trail, marks the highest point in the park.

A short climb back up the northern side of the property rewards the visitor with an unobstructed view across an expansive green meadow, the sudden appearance of sunlight reflecting like diamond shards through the semi-bare trees. A short left turn reveals the Stupa Garden, a serene and meditative space composed of a large yellow stupa flanked by four smaller monuments set in a flagstone terrace. As in every other area of the garden, silence governs, only occasionally interrupted by the whistling of wind through the leaves or the high-pitched chirp of early spring birds.

Visitors complete the walk by heading out up the meadow path and turning left to close the loop and arrive back at the original park entrance clearing. If you're still looking for more, the Kunzang Palyul Choling Temple is located right across the street and offers a 24-hour spiritual refuge for quiet contemplation.

The Peace Park is located at 18400 River Road, Poolesville, MD 20837. The park is open from dawn to dusk.

<http://www.tara.org/visit-us/peace-park/>

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LET'S TALK Real Estate

by Michael Matese

Kermit Was Wrong – It's Easy to Be Green!

"Green" renovation is a trend that engineers, constructors and designers are encountering more and more each day. Going green is not only an ecologically aware choice, but it is also one that is becoming economically sound, with many green renovations providing tax deductions and reduced energy costs, offsetting or negating the cost of their installation in immediate terms—and proving priceless over time, as green renovations reduce the harm of civilization on nature and ecology. Even luxury homes are going green, trying to help the environment and shaking off the image of wasteful opulence that has dogged this niche market for years. Gone are the days of the gold-plated toothbrush holder—welcome to the new world of eco-friendly, green luxury! Some tips that home owners are finding handy are:

- Use CFL's - Replace those incandescent light bulbs with qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). By replacing just five of your mostly frequently used light bulbs, you'll save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by one trillion pounds!
- Plug Air Leaks - Air leaks are the biggest energy waster in homes, but they're also an easy fix. Have decorative weather stripping and caulk installed to stop those drafts
- Program Your Thermostats - Save on your heating and cooling bill while helping reduce emissions from your heating/a/c unit.
- Tune Up Your HVAC - Get a professional tune up every two years and clean or replace your filter every month. Dirty filters block normal airflow and reduce the efficiency of your system.
- Go Low-Flow - Install low flow showerheads and faucet aerators without sacrificing water pressure. They're easy to install too, just screw them on.

Bonus Green Tip: The average home emits 27,000 pounds of carbon dioxide annually; almost three times that of a midsize sedan! Following these simple steps will reduce your home's emissions, your carbon footprint, and lower your utility bill!

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ONGOING

The Puppet Co. at Glen Echo Park has announced its 2012-2013 season.

There are favorite fairytale princesses, and a special guest artist with a bilingual twist. 301-634-5380 or www.thepuppetco.org.

Cinderella, through June 9, Thursdays and Fridays at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Flower Stakes. Choose from multiple dates and learn how to use fused glass to create flowers or garden sticks. Through May 8, at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. \$40. Visit www.visartscenter.org or call 301-315-8200.

Art Exhibit. Through Sunday, May 12, see "Fletcher Mackey: Arc" at the Gibbs Street Gallery. Free. Visit www.visartscenter.org or call 301-315-8200.

Art Exhibit. Through Sunday, May 12, see "Mixtopias" at the Kaplan Gallery. Free. Visit www.visartscenter.org or call 301-315-8200.

Theater Performance. See "James and the Giant Peach" and "The Magic Finger" at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Through Sunday, May 26. Best for children ages 4-10. Tickets range between \$12-\$25. Visit www.imaginationstage.org or 301-280-1660.

Art Exhibit. Through Monday, May 27, see images of works by William Gudenrath at Partnership Office Gallery at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Free. Hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

Art Exhibit. Through Monday, May 27, see photographs of William Gudenrath's works at Ballroom Annex at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. He is a glassblower. Free. Visit glenechopark.org.

Spectacular Saturday Fun. Every Saturday through August there will be a new media for a child to try at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Sign up for one or for all, it is not a series. Visit www.visartscenter.org or call 301-315-8200 to register for a class.

Group Bike Ride. Thursday nights through September at 7 p.m. enjoy a bike ride. Meet at Freshbikes Bethesda store, 7626 Old Georgetown Road. All abilities welcome. Free. Visit www.freshbikesbicycling.com for more.

The **Fresh Market** is now a national partner of Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry campaign beginning this spring. The Fresh Market will raise funds and awareness for No Kid Hungry starting this May. Beginning May 1, customers will be able to purchase two limited-edition reusable shopping bags, with 50 percent of the retail price going to No Kid Hungry. From May 1 through May 19, customers can make a donation to No Kid Hungry by purchasing paper cupcakes at The Fresh Market's checkout counters to show support for this important cause.

ARTS8 is a group of eight talented **Artists in Residence** at the Stone Tower Gallery, Yellow Barn, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. They can be visited while working and showing their art, during May and June. Open to the public from Tuesday to Sunday, noon-5 p.m. The eight artists are Carolina Correa, Eliot Feldman, Mariana Kastrinakis, Sarna Marcus, Joan Mazer, Jan Rowland, Felipe Sierra and Jill Spearman. The art runs the gamut from purely abstract to representational. Visit www.glenechopark.org/ARTS8.

Accidental Architecture: Depictions Of Demolition

Photoworks Gallery and Photography School in historic Glen Echo Park presents **Accidental Architecture: Depictions of Demolition**, a photography exhibition by Julie Miller. Between deliberate architectural patterns and a jumbled splatter of rubble are the unpredictable forms of a structure on its way down. In her images of demolition sites in the Washington, D.C., area, Julie Miller captures edifices in their final hours. Some remain proud, others become mysterious or even whimsical. Rather than gloomy depictions of decay, these photos reflect optimism—the old making way for the new—while providing a gentle reminder that just a few decades ago, each structure promised lasting appeal. A resident of Silver Spring, Miller took most of the demolition photos in D.C., Silver Spring, and Rockville.

The exhibition runs May 3 - June 10, Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. and Sundays, 1-8 p.m. (and anytime there is a class in the photography school); with a reception and gallery talk on Friday, May 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Visit www.glenechophotoworks.org.



"Open Stairway," by Julie Miller

MONDAYS THROUGH JUNE 17

Art Class. 7-9:30 p.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Work in oils or acrylics to paint a series of still life setups. \$200 for eight-week class. Visit www.visartscenter.org or call 301-315-8200.

THURSDAY/MAY 2

Spring Auction. 6:15 p.m. at Congregation Har Shalom, 11510 Falls Road. Enjoy cocktails, dinner and bid on items. \$80/person. 301-299-4602.

Free Thursday Concert. 6-8 p.m. at Veterans Park, corner of Woodmont and Norfolk Avenues, Bethesda. Hear music from Joker's Wild. Visit www.bethesda.org or 301-215-6660.

Contra Sonic. 7:30 p.m. lessons start; 8:30 -11 p.m. dancing at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. \$8/ nonmember; \$6/FSGW member or 17 and under. Visit www.fsgw.org.

Blues Dance. 8:15 p.m. lessons start, dancing from 9-11:30 p.m. in the Ballroom Annex, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. \$8. Capital Blues presents the dances. Visit www.capitalblues.org for more.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Chelsey Green returns to perform a new work by composer Robert Miller. \$20. Visit www.strathmore.org for more.

FRIDAY/MAY 3

Contra Dance. 7:30 p.m. lessons start; 8:30-11:30 p.m. dancing at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Squirrel Hunters provide music. \$10/adult; \$5/17 and under. Visit www.fridaynightdance.org for more.

Argentine Tango. 8 p.m.-midnight at Bumper Car Pavilion, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Tango Mercurio Community Orchestra will provide music. \$15/person. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 3-5

Azalea Garden Festival. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Landon School, 6101 Wilson

Lane, Bethesda. Free. Visit www.landon.net.

MAY 3 THROUGH JUNE 2

Musical. See "Big Nate" at Adventure Theatre MTC, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. \$19. Visit www.adventuretheatre-mtc.org or 301-634-2270 for showtimes.

SATURDAY/MAY 4

F.E.A.S.T. 7-10:30 p.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St. Enjoy a dinner while reviewing a series of project proposals and conversing with the artists behind each idea. \$30. Buy tickets at www.visartsatrockville.org/feast.

Dare to Draw: The Watercolor Edition. Children in grades K-2 can enjoy a class at 9:30 a.m., children in grades 3-5 at 11 a.m., can enjoy a class at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Visit www.visartscenter.org or call 301-315-8200 for pricing and to register.

Craft Fair. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road. Tables cost \$30, proceeds benefit the community center. Call 240-777-6960 for information.

An Evening with Strauss. Lessons at 8 p.m. with dancing from 9 p.m.-midnight at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Hear music in the style of Olde Vienna. Dancers will enjoy refreshments, dance card, a Grand March and are encouraged to wear formal attire. \$20/person. Visit waltztimeanddances.org for more.

Family Day. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Celebrate the opening of Dentzel Carousel, enjoy performances, face painting, stories and more. Free, but carousel rides are \$1.25. 301-634-2222.

Swing Dance. 8 p.m.-midnight in the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Live music from Drew Nugent and the Midnight Society. \$16. All ages welcome. Visit www.thejamcellar.com for more.

Professional Development for Musicians. 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. at Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Enjoy seminars for

musicians. \$18/class. Visit www.strathmore.org for a list of classes and to register.

MAY 4 THROUGH MAY 25

Art Exhibit. See a painting collection by Sayeh Behnam, at 10116 Lloyd Road. It is an exhibition of color, harmony and rhythm. Free. 202-276-9419 for hours.

MAY 4 THROUGH JUNE 13

Creative Crafts Council. Browse a crafty collection featuring works by local artists. Free. At Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Visit www.strathmore.org for more.

SUNDAY/MAY 5

Fun Fair and Silent Auction. Noon-3 p.m. at 11810 Falls Road. Enjoy carnival rides, live DJ, food, arts and crafts and more. Free, but tickets required for rides, games and food, which can be purchased on site. Visit www.whcecc.org or 301-279-7505.

A Little Night Music Cabaret. 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Har Shalom, 11510 Falls Road. Listen to tenor David Merrill and soprano Melissa Chavez sing selections from opera to Broadway to popular music. \$15/advance; \$20/door. Register at <http://tinyurl.com/MusicCabaret> or call 301-765-2083.

Spring Concert. 3 p.m. at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, 6601 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda. Encore Chorale will give a free concert. Visit encorecreativity.org or 301-261-5747.

Open House/Community Day. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Potomac Horse Center open house and North Potomac community day — a fun-filled day for families, with tractor drawn hayrides, free horse and pony rides for children, barn tours, horseback riding demonstrations, moon bounce and more. Free. Potomac Horse Center is located at 14211 Quince Orchard Road, North Potomac. Visit www.PotomacHorse.com or call 301-208-0200.

Opening Reception. 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Glenview Mansion Art Gallery, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville. See works from Rockville Art League. Free.

DJ Dance Party. 8-10 p.m. at McGinty's Public House, 911 Ellsworth Drive, Silver Spring. Free. Visit www.gottaswing.com for more.

Argentine Tango. 8 p.m.-midnight at Ballroom Annex, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. DJ Rene Davila will mix the music. \$15/person or \$10/dance only. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

Contra Dance. 7 p.m. lessons start; 7:30-10:30 p.m. dancing at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Squirrel Hunters provide music. \$13/nonmember; \$10/FSGW member; \$5/17 and under. Visit www.fsgw.org for more.

Dance Out for Jane. Irish dancers are holding events and fundraisers for 7-year-old Irish dancer Jane Richard of Dorchester, Mass., who was injured during the Boston Marathon bombing. Dancers will dance for tips, and a portion of the sales will go to the fund. Visit McGinty's Public House, 911 Ellsworth Drive, Silver Spring from 2:30-5:30 p.m. or P. Brennan's Irish Pub & Restaurant, 2910 Columbia Pike from 4-7 p.m. Visit culkinschool.com/do4jdc for more.

Horse Center Open House. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at 14211 Quince Orchard Road, North Potomac. Enjoy a horse show, horse and pony rides, tours, food and more. Free. Visit www.potomachorse.com or 301-208-0200.

Opening Reception. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. see "Working Small," which includes works by Potomac resident Paulette Baron, at Congregation Har Shalom, 11510 Falls Road. Free. 301-299-7087.

THROUGH MAY 5

Art Exhibit. See "Braugh Morrison: Cap Shots" at the Common Ground Gallery at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Free. Visit www.visartscenter.org or call 301-315-8200.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11

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Montgomery County's Black Eye

FROM PAGE 3

keep public land from being used for private commercial interests instead of soccer fields for our kids," said Patrick Lacefield, spokesperson for the county.

But Greenberg's ruling faulted the county and Board of Education on several levels.

"The county's actions — and the Board [of Education]'s — resulted in an enormous waste of private, county and state resources," wrote Greenberg. "It is this court's opinion that Petitioner Maravell was treated quite shabbily by those responsible for passing the resolution at issue."

The Brickyard Coalition, a group of citizens associations including West Montgomery County Citizens Association, Citizens Association of River Falls and Brickyard Association, battled the county and Board of Education for two years.

Curt Urhe, speaking for the Brickyard Coalition, welcomed the court's admonishment of county and school board behavior.

"The court has pointedly told the county and the BOE that their process was not 'transparent' and resulted in a huge waste of unwarranted governmental expenditures," said Uhre. "It is our hope that the BOE and the county will heed the court's findings and will follow an open and transparent process in their future actions."

THE BOARD'S POLICY COMMITTEE will discuss "Guidelines for Leasing, Licensing, or Using MCPS Property that is Being



Future school site?

Held as a Future School Site." (Policy DNA, Management of Board of Education Property) at its May 10 meeting.

"Please keep in mind, this will not be a conversation about the Brickyard property," said school spokesman Dana Tofig.

This topic is scheduled for 20 minutes of discussion at the 1 p.m. meeting.

Pat O'Neill is chair of the policy committee and other members are Shirley Brandman and Rebecca Smondrowski according to the Board of Education website.

The Board of Education has 13 future schools sites in inventory, totalling 211 acres. Sites in Potomac include Brickyard's 20 acres for a future middle school and 10 acres at 9655 Kendale Road for a future elementary school.

WHILE JUDGE GREENBERG includes in his ruling a wish that the Brickyard site

might continue to serve as an organic farm, the school system has no plans to act on a lease for the site.

"It would be wonderful to continue to have an organic farm in the heart of Potomac, and maybe that will come to pass," Greenberg wrote. "For now, however, this tract of land belongs to the Board of Education."

"At this point, the property remains a future school site and there is no active lease for the property," said Tofig. "No future plans have been discussed."

Sophia Maravell, who operated the Brickyard Educational Farm and has asked the Board of Education to allow that to continue, told West Montgomery County Citizens Association last month that the organic farm needs maintenance. Without planting cover crops and other organic farming routines, more than 30 years of organic farming are at risk. For example, weeds that have been long vanquished by organic methods on the site could re-establish themselves, and it could take several years to recover, Maravell said.

Meanwhile, MCPS has been discussing the modernization of Potomac Elementary School, which now includes possibly building a new school on the Brickyard site, although that would be several years away.

The school system has scheduled a final PTA and Community Presentation for Wednesday, May 15 at 7 p.m., to be held at the school at 10311 River Road.

Brickyard Educational Farm, Ongoing Plans

BY SOPHIA MARAVELL

Brickyard Educational Farm piloted a successful farm to school field trip program in 2012 at no cost to the county, school system or tax payer. This same experiential, farm-based educational program could continue in 2013 to meet environmental literacy requirements to MCPS students until, and if, the site is needed for future developments.



The recent court ruling doesn't have any bearing one way or the other on Brickyard Educational Farm, we are continuing with our course of action.

Currently Brickyard Educational Farm is continuing to develop its curriculum with the help of our teacher advisory board, and plan to test it on a small garden plot with campers, students and teachers. We see no reason for the land to be left vacant while we have a program that could be up and running this season at no cost to the school board that would connect children with where their food comes from.

We are continuing to build and develop the program in preparation for a second pilot year to fulfill our vision of environmental literacy and farm-based education for the children of Montgomery County.

Brickyard Educational Farm has been going into MCPS schools to lead interactive activities and give presentations about food and farming. We are building our vision by honing our in-class and on-farm curriculum with the help of our teacher advisory board, and we are building our program, organization and vision in order to better collaborate with the school board in the future.

As of right now, the property is not being used. Instead of being left vacant, this property could serve as a model pilot program in the interim at no cost to the county, school board, or tax payer that could be replicated across the state or nation. We see no purpose being served in leaving the site abandoned when we could be honoring the agriculture heritage of the land and state by utilizing this fertile organic soil solely for educational purposes. Students not just from Potomac Elementary School, but any MCPS school would benefit from Brickyard Educational Farm as it is located within a ten mile radius of 67 MCPS schools, and three special schools making field trips an easy commute.

Our vision remains to connect children with where their food comes from through on farm field trips, train the next generation of beginning farmers through our farm incubator program, continue saving rare heirloom varieties of corn and soybean seeds through our seed saving program, and grow food for the local schools through the farm to cafeteria program.

Verbatim: In Judge's Own Words

FROM PAGE 3

Why county officials suddenly changed their minds is unknown to the court. Petitioner Maravell's quest to remain on the farm became a cause celebre, and even Governor O'Malley publicly weighed in on the issue. Perhaps the decision to abandon the lease was a matter of political expediency, or maybe county officials read the judicial tea leaves and believed the county would ultimately not prevail before the court. It matters not; the county's actions — and the Board's — resulted in an enormous waste of private, county and state resources. Whether the Board's actions when it met in closed session — conceded by its attorneys to be in violation of the Open Meetings Act — were lawful or not, the entire episode left the oft-stated and under-exercised notion of government 'transparency' with a black eye. To suggest, however, that Petitioners are ipso facto entitled to attorneys' fees under Md. Code Ann., State Government 10-501, et seq., is another matter entirely.

The Board raises valid arguments regarding notice and waiver of the right to attorneys' fees which are of concern, but the

court does not need to reach those issues, nor the others set out in the Board's response.

At the end of the day, Petitioner Maravell has no viable legal claim to continued occupancy of this tract. This has been emphasized by the court at every hearing held in this case. His interest in pursuing this litigation was for the purpose of renewing or reinvigorating his expired lease, or gaining negotiating position to do so. In that way, he could continue to farm the school board's land at substantially below-market rental, in a county where farmland is dwindling. Petitioner Uhre's interest piggybacks Maravell's, and it doesn't take a jaundiced observer to deduce that, perhaps understandably, the Petitioners had no desire to see an influx of soccer players and parents regularly invade their affluent Potomac neighborhood.

It would be wonderful to continue to have an organic farm in the heart of Potomac, and maybe that will come to pass. For now, however, this tract of land belongs to the Board of Education. It is likely that some day, in the not-too-distant future, a middle school will sit on this site. There will be automobiles and school buses, noisy ado-

lescents, outdoor tennis and basketball courts, and lots of traffic.

Petitioners should not be awarded attorneys' fees, which will ultimately be paid by the taxpayers of this county, for pursuing claims that were clearly personal to them and their immediate neighbors. That petitioners incidentally asserted Open Meetings Act claims in their quest to retain this property is not, in the court's view, sufficient reason to award them counsel fees. Even assuming that the Open Meetings Act was substantively (and not merely technically) violated (a finding that this court has not made), the court is satisfied from its review of the record that the diversion of public funds to the Petitioners to pay their attorneys is not reasonable under the circumstances.

Accordingly, it is this 19th day of April, 2012, by the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Maryland ordered, that Petitioners' request for attorneys' fees are denied.

ROBERT A. GREENBERG, JUDGE
CIRCUIT COURT FOR MONTGOMERY
COUNTY

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 9

Free Spring Concert. 3 p.m. at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, 6601 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda. Encore Chorale will perform. Visit encorecreativity.org or 301-261-5747.

MONDAY/MAY 6

Author Talk. 7 p.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Local author Mark Shriver will discuss his book "A Good Man: Rediscovering my Father, Sargent Shriver." Free.

Art Exhibit. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Glenview Mansion Art Gallery, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville. See works from Rockville Art League. Free.

Jazz Singing 201. 7:30-9 p.m. at Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Build on basic skills. \$330 for six sessions. Visit www.strathmore.org for more.

TUESDAY/MAY 7

Art Exhibit. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. at Glenview Mansion Art Gallery, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville. See works from Rockville Art League. Free.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 8

Art Exhibit. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Glenview Mansion Art Gallery, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville. See works from Rockville Art League. Free.

Pizza Night for McPaw. 4-9 p.m. at Potomac Pizza, 9812 Falls Road. Help raise money for a new animal shelter. Tell the server that you want to support them. Visit www.mcpaw.org for more.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Sixteen-year-old Daisy Castro will perform Gypsy jazz. \$15. Visit www.strathmore.org for more.

THURSDAY/MAY 9

Free Thursday Concert. 6-8 p.m. at Veterans Park, corner of Woodmont and Norfolk Avenues, Bethesda. Hear Irish rock music from Lloyd Dobler Effect. Visit www.bethesda.org or 301-215-6660.

Theater Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Herbert Hoover Middle School, 6300 Tilden Lane, Rockville. See "The Pirates of Penzance" presented by the middle school. \$5 at the door. 301-469-1010.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Mak Grgic performs. \$30. Visit www.strathmore.org.

FRIDAY/MAY 10

Bela Fleck and Marcus Roberts Trio. 8 p.m. Fleck brings a brilliant collaboration with one of today's most lauded jazz ensembles, with Marcus Roberts on piano, Jason Marsalis on drums and Rodney Jordan on bass. The Music Center at Strathmore 5301 Tuckerman Lane. Visit www.strathmore.org.

Theater Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Herbert Hoover Middle School, 6300 Tilden Lane, Rockville. See "The Pirates of Penzance" presented by the middle school. \$5 at the door. 301-469-1010.

Opening Reception. 6:30-8:30 p.m. see "Accidental Architecture: Depictions of Demolition," a photography exhibit by Julie Miller at Photoworks Gallery in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Visit

www.glenechophotoworks.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 11

Bethesda Fine Arts Festival. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. in downtown Bethesda. Artists from around the country will showcase painting, drawing, photography and more. Will feature entertainment, children's activities and more. Visit www.bethesda.org.

Grateful Shred VI. 9 a.m.-noon at Clara Barton Community Center, 7425 MacArthur Blvd., Cabin John. Clean out old files and shred them. \$5/box of paper. 240-777-4910.

Theater Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Herbert Hoover Middle School, 6300 Tilden Lane, Rockville. See "The Pirates of Penzance" presented by the middle school. \$5 at the door. 301-469-1010.

Opening Reception. 3-7 p.m. see a painting collection by Sayeh Behnam, at 10116 Lloyd Road. It is an exhibition of color, harmony and rhythm. Free. RSVP to 202-276-9419.

Solar & Green Home Expo. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Bethesda Green, 4825 Cordell Ave. Free event with presentations, displays and more. Visit www.bethesdagreen.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 12

Bethesda Fine Arts Festival. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in downtown Bethesda. Visit www.bethesda.org.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 15

Great Strides Event. 7 p.m. at Bethesda Row through the Capital Crescent Trail. Enjoy a fun 2-mile walk to benefit Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Register at www.cff.org/great_strides. Check-in starts at 6 p.m.

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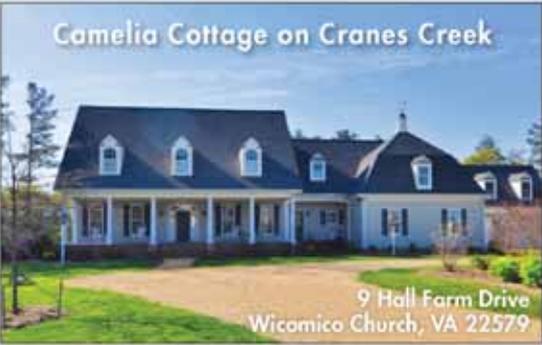
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Bethesda (20817)

5828 Conway Rd.....\$949,000..Sun 2-4.....Kay Beane....Long & Foster..301-215-6809
7420 Westlake Ter #1604....\$469,900..Sun 1-4.....Eunice Chu.....RE/MAX..301-215-6809

Potomac (20854)

11225 River View Dr.....\$2,295,000..Sun 1-4..Leslie Friedson....Long & Foster..301-455-4506
9804 Avenel Farm Dr.....\$1,359,000..Sun 1-4.....John Adler..Wash Fine Prop..202-274-4665
11421 Twining Ln.....\$1,299,000..Sun 1-4.....Harriet Kline....Long & Foster..301-466-4066
12400 Beall Mountain Ln..\$1,299,000..Sun 1-4.....Jackie Tillson....Long & Foster..301-807-6690
12432 Bacall Ln.....\$1,290,000..Sun 1-4.....Pat Willa....Long & Foster..301-219-2668
7708 Masters Dr.....TBD..Sun 1-4.....Adaline Neely..Wash Fine Prop..301-580-2214

Rockville (20850)

1015 Heritage Falls Ave.....\$719,900..Sun 1-4.....Paul Nam.....RE/MAX..301-299-1000
4 Radburn Ct.....\$649,997..Sun 1-4..Leslie Friedson....Long & Foster..301-455-4506

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

Everyone Voted Against Moving PES to Brickyard

To the Editor:

An open letter to the Board of Education and the community:

Recently, the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) decided to consider moving the Potomac Elementary School (PES) to the Brickyard site. On April 18, MCPS held the first public meeting at the PES to consider this alternative. Near the end of the meeting, the MCPS staff took a poll of the approximately 40 people in attendance. When the MCPS staff asked those favoring moving the PES to the Brickyard site to raise their hand, not a single hand was raised. Not a single person voted in favor of moving Potomac Elementary School (PES) from its present location to the proposed Brickyard Road site.

Composed largely of concerned parents of PES students, the approximately 40-member audience strongly rejected moving the PES to the Brickyard school site. As the BOE representative acknowledged, the result suggests firm opposition to the MCPS plans. The unanimity of the vote came as a surprise.

A few days later, the MCPS posted the minutes/notes for that meeting on the web site. The meeting notes do not even mention that such a poll was taken, much less the result — the unanimous opposition to moving PES to Brickyard. The failure to include the poll results in the notes of the meeting is troubling; especially in light of the recent court order stating that the BOE needs to improve transpar-

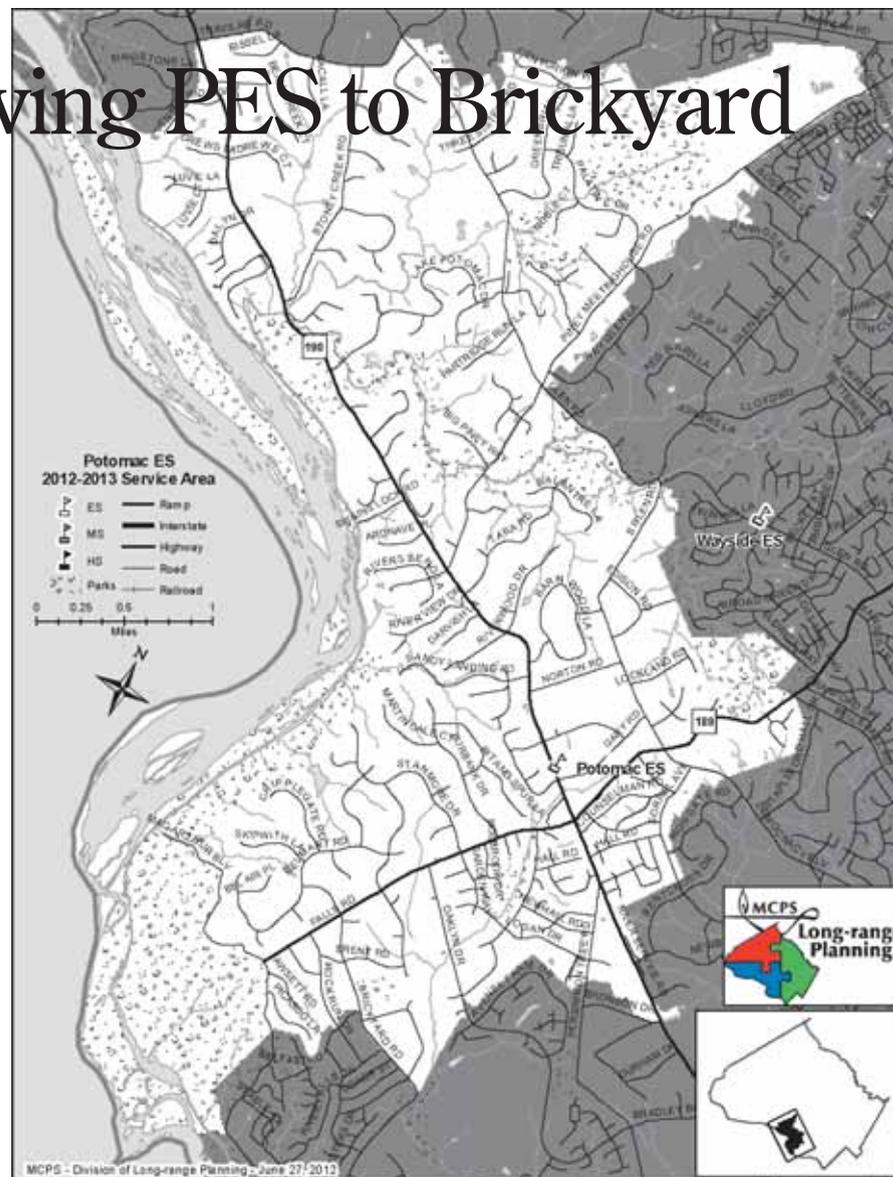
ency in dealing with the public. The measure of public sentiment is a critical aspect of that meeting and needs to be included in the public record and not kept secret.

The Brickyard site is at the extreme southeast corner of the PES service area, a long way to drive for most of the PES families. Fear of traffic, and the additional time it would require each day to navigate through Potomac Village at rush hour, was of concern to many attending the meeting. It was also discovered that the MCPS had failed to provide the required Notice to adjoining property owners and most community organizations.

The BOE had unveiled a detailed drawing of its design for a new school both at the current location of PES and at Brickyard. The architects were professional and engaging. But no one seemed interested in moving the school. For the parents, concerns about location trumped design. A new school should have been built 10 years ago. The existing PES is one of the oldest school structures in the county. The MCPS should be ashamed at the delays over the years in building a new school.

Parents wanted a new school, but at the present location in Potomac. We ask that the MCPS work with the PES community to build that school as quickly as possible. Further delay will not be tolerated.

Charles Doran
Brickyard Coalition



What's Next for the Brickyard Middle School Site?

To the Editor:

Two weeks ago I attended a meeting of the Potomac Elementary School PTA and other concerned residents of Potomac. The topic of the meeting was the long-awaited modernization of Potomac Elementary School (PES). Four community meetings had already been held to obtain community feedback on the design options under consideration by the school construction division of the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). Then two more community meetings were suddenly added to the meeting roster in order to obtain feedback on a new proposal — locating the new PES on the Brickyard Road school site.

History and tradition alone would urge keeping PES at its current location. The Potomac Village goes back into the 19th century, with the elementary school being a force in the community for over 90 years. Although the current school dates from the 1960s, its location has been a fundamental fixture of the village's footprint for many decades.

Smart Growth dictates that density and public services should be clustered and focused together. Facilities such as stores, libraries and schools — especially elementary schools — belong in close proximity. People with children at PES do their errands in the village after dropping children at the school, on their way to pick up kids after school, and as they come and go from volunteering at the school. Its location is part of the social and commercial fabric of the

village.

At the present location, the children can take walkable field trips to the library. With more sidewalks coming to the town center, the current location is perfect for a Safe Routes to School program to encourage more children to walk and bike to school. And parking! When there are big school events and overflow parking, the lot at the church next door and along the sides of Gary Road provide needed excess capacity.

The current location can be reached by public transit, being only a one block walk from the T2 MetroBus stop. River Road already has turning lanes for traffic entering the school, and the proposed rebuild options call for a second entrance/exit which would certainly improve traffic conditions.

The current location (see the map at <http://gis.mcpsmd.org/ServiceAreaMaps/PotomacES.pdf>) is highly rational when you look at a map of the area served by PES. Most of the children come from the area out River Road to the west of the Village. The Brickyard location couldn't be further removed from the majority of these families, and would increase the travel time for many children attending the school, especially during the morning rush hour. Potomac Village is already a bottleneck during rush hour and would become worse with lines of school buses stacked up at the traffic lights in the village center. Using the Brickyard site would also require a much larger parking lot, the widening of Brickyard Road and the construction of addi-

tional turning lanes. These three requirements would boost construction costs and probably push back the timeline for building.

Officials from MCPS acknowledged that the only advantage to relocating PES to the Brickyard site is that the children would be able to continue at the present school while the new school was under construction rather than being bused to a holding school during the year and a half that the modernization would require. Since this situation is endured by all MCPS students when their schools undergo modernization, sparing PES students the temporary inconvenience in order to create a school in a permanently inconvenient location makes no sense at all.

Finally, common sense dictates not moving PES to the Brickyard site because the Brickyard site is sized for a middle school. Given the population growth that our elected officials are forecasting and promoting, it is entirely possible that later in the current century the Churchill cluster will need an additional middle school. If the current PES site is "surplused" and put to another use, and the Brickyard site is encumbered by an elementary school, our options for future educational facilities growth will be severely restricted. Keeping PES at its present site gives us greater flexibility and resources to meet future needs.

I suggest that the Montgomery County Board of Education return to the status quo and resume leasing the Brickyard school site

for agriculture and related education. For the past 30-plus years, this land has been operated as an organic farm. Recently, the Brickyard Educational Farm (brickyardeducationalfarm.org) added an educational component that has been missing from our standard K-12 curriculum — teaching children about where our food comes from and how it is produced. In the short time it was up and running, the farm had more than 600 children visit on field trips to learn and gain hands-on experience. If it is permitted to resume its work, the Brickyard Educational Farm will provide the perfect setting for young people to learn about a range of topics, including soil, water, plants, composting, insects, seed saving, sustainable agriculture, organic food production, health, and the interconnections between them. This land could be so well used and benefit so many thousands of young students. We can only hope that those in charge of our educational system will have the vision to enable this remarkable group of young educators to continue and expand on their work. If the Brickyard Educational Farm continues to steward the land until such time as it is needed for a middle school, Montgomery County will be a better place for one and all.

Potomac residents who wish to send their own comments on the proposed modernization of the elementary school should email their thoughts to James_R_Tokar@mcpsmd.org.

Peggy Dennis

WELLBEING



PHOTO BY AMANDA LOMAX

Amanda Shipe, of Mind Your Body Oasis yoga studio in Arlington, assists a student with a downward facing dog yoga pose. Mind Your Body Oasis is one of several area studios offering free and \$5 classes during D.C. Yoga Week.

Yoga Week Comes to the Area

Local effort offers budding yogis a chance to improve their minds, bodies and spirits with free or \$5 classes.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE ALMANAC

Amanda Shipe presses the palms of her hands into the back of one of her students. The student's body forms a triangle, her head dangling upside down, the balls of her feet squeezing against the coarseness of the yoga mat beneath her. Shipe's touch sends the student's sitting bones skyward.

"[This] is called 'downward facing dog.' We do a lot of hands on alignment in our yoga classes to make sure students are doing their asanas [postures] correctly," said Shipe, who runs Mind Your Body Oasis yoga studio in Arlington, Va.

Shipe and other area yoga studio directors are welcoming new students into their doors this week as part of the eighth annual D.C. Yoga Week, an effort by the Washington-area community of yogis to raise awareness about the practice.

Participating yoga studios are offering free and \$5 classes along with discounts on merchandise and workshops. The weeklong event began April 26 and culminates with Yoga on the Mall, an outdoor yoga class of more than 1,000 yoga enthusiasts of all skill levels that will be held this Sunday, May 5, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"There are a lot of people who are afraid to take yoga. Some people have a misconstrued perception of what yoga is. This week they can take a class without making a large investment and become more familiar with yoga," said Dawn Curtis of East Meets West Yoga Center in Vienna, Va.

Shipe believes rampant misinformation fuels the trepidation that keeps some people at bay. "There are so many fears about yoga and so much talk out there in social media," said Shipe. "This event will raise awareness about how great yoga is for your

mind, body and spirit. It will bring new people into yoga classes and remind people that yoga is pretty mainstream and very available at many studios."

Jatin P. Ambegaonkar, Ph.D., an associate professor in George Mason University's College of Education and Human Development in Fairfax, Va., says the week-long focus on yoga is an opportunity to educate those who are unfamiliar with the practice.

"Scientific evidence has shown that the clear benefits of yoga include a sense of relaxation, a sense of well-being, a sense of cardiovascular wellness and musculoskeletal wellness," said Ambegaonkar, who lives in Centreville, Va. "The problem with yoga is that in the last eight to 10 years, there have been a lot of hybrids that have branched out from the original Indian art form of yoga, like power yoga and hot yoga, that are somewhat of a fad."

Ambegaonkar added that while such popular forms of yoga are not necessarily harmful, more research is needed. He also offered a caveat. "One of the basic tenets of yoga is the focus on the body and recognizing it as being a temple," he said. "People who practice yoga regularly know when they have reached their limit."

According to its co-founder, Annie Mahon of Circle Yoga in Washington, D.C., Yoga Week began as a way to expand the yoga community and increase cohesiveness. "One goal is to make yoga accessible to a wider audience," she said. "We'd like to be able to do more community-based yoga, like therapeutic yoga and support yoga in different areas of the [region]. We want to create more community in the yoga world."

"Yoga week really encapsulates what yoga is about, which is community, togetherness and unity," said Sara VanderGoot of Mind the Mat in Alexandria and Arlington, Va. "The word yoga itself means

unity. We're all part of the same whole and yoga week embodies that truth."

Freddy Margolis of Village Yoga in Potomac, plans to join Yoga on the Mall. He also hopes D.C. Yoga week will unite local yogis.

"The D.C. area has one of the strongest yoga communities in the country," he said. "People get worried about their own studios, but it's nice for us all to come together and have a nice day out on the Mall." For more information about D.C. Yoga Week, Yoga on the Mall or to find a list of participating studios, visit <http://dcy.org/>.

D.C. Yoga Week

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By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It wasn't exactly "Executive Clemency." There was no call from the Governor at 11:59 p.m. There was simply an enthusiastic greeting from my oncologist at 10:10 this morning supported by a widely-grinning, crinkle-eyed smile. When you're sitting in an oncologist's office anxiously awaiting the results of your most recent CT Scan, there's nothing more uplifting – especially for a "terminal" patient, one who could be characterized as living on borrowed time, considering my original prognosis in February 2009: "13 months to two years" – and life-affirming, than good news, make that great news, from the doctor that figuratively speaking, holds your life in the palm of his hands (actually, it's digital imagery on a computer screen).

And so I've received another reprieve, not because of any petitions I've written or had signed, but presumably due to changes in my diet and lifestyle that have contributed to a healthier mind and body. Not that I have the keys to the kingdom – so to speak, but my oncologist was extremely complimentary – and reassuring, in an indirect kind of way when he said, in response to one of my questions: "Whatever you're doing, keep doing it. And if I knew what you were doing, I'd tell all my patients to do it. You're doing really, really good." (Yes, he used two "reallys.") This was news (words) with which – as I'm fond of saying, I could live. Duh!

Moreover, for a stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer patient who was originally advised to "maybe take that vacation you've always dreamed of" by this same oncologist after he delivered the heart-stopping, jaw-dropping, life-ending diagnosis/prognosis four-plus years ago, receiving this kind encouragement (inexplicable almost and not typical) is as good as it gets. Not that I'm still living to spite him or prove him wrong, hardly; I'm just happy to be a success story for all concerned. And to be honest – and selfish, making my oncologist happy makes me happy, and I need to be happy. I'm proud to be his patient and prouder still to have persevered the way I have and not given in or up. To rework a quote from "Forest, Forest Gump": Cancer is what cancer does: it's a killer.

Apparently, not in all cases; at least not yet, anyway. I'm living proof (living being the operative word) of that. Still, as those of us living this cancer nightmare know, there are no guarantees, only definite maybes; which to quote Hubert H. Humphrey, the 38th Vice President of the United States, "I'm pleased as punch" to continue to receive, realistically understanding my situation.

No one said this cancer thing was going to be easy and other than watching Game Six of the 1986 World Series between my beloved Boston Red Sox and the hated New York Mets, specifically the 10th inning, it's been the most difficult thing I've ever had to endure. In fact, "easy" is the absolute last word I'd use to describe it.

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

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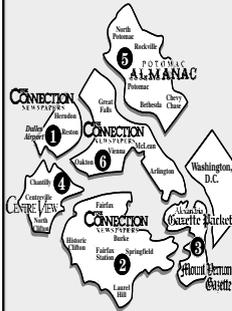
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Whitman's Alex Cladouhos pitched a four-hit shutout against Paint Branch on Saturday.



PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Churchill Boys' Lax Remains Undefeated

The Churchill boys' lacrosse team improved to 11-0 with a 17-3 victory against Springbrook on Monday.

The defending 4A/3A West region champion Bulldogs have outscored their opponents 192-63 this season. As of Tuesday, Laxpower.com ranked Churchill as the No. 2 public school team in the state of Maryland behind Westminster, and the No. 12 team in the region.

Churchill will close the regular season

with home games against Quince Orchard on Friday, May 3, and Watkins Mill on Monday, May 6. Each game starts at 5:15 p.m.

Whitman Baseball Having Strong Season

The Whitman baseball program graduated 11 seniors, including standouts Michael Flack and Ryan McGill, from its 2012 team that finished 17-3 and advanced to the 4A West region championship game, where the Vikings lost to Northwest in an extra-inning affair.

Yet, one year later, Whitman entered Tuesday's rematch with Northwest sporting a 12-2 record and riding a five-game winning streak.

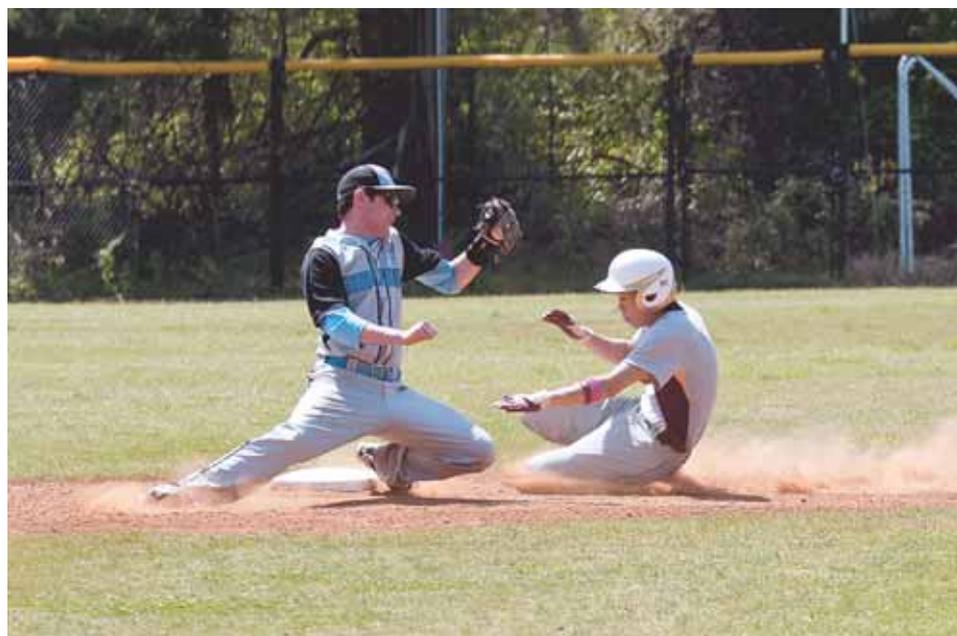
On April 27, Whitman defeated Paint Branch 10-0 in five innings. Pitcher Alex Cladouhos tossed a four-hit shutout and five Vikings had multiple hits.

Whitman's Drew Aherne went 3-for-4 at the plate with a run and an RBI. Nick Bode went 2-for-2 with two RBIs and Andrew Castagnetti was 2-for-4 with a run and three RBIs. Dylan Haynes went 2-for-3 with two runs and Max Vogel finished 2-for-3 with two runs and two RBIs.

Ben Castagnetti, Dan Duffy and Michael Yang each had one hit for the Vikings.

Whitman has also been winning despite the loss of head coach Joe Cassidy, who resigned for personal reasons during the season, Whitman Athletic Director Andy Wetzel confirmed. The Washington Post reported Cassidy stepped down on April 12 when the Vikings were 7-1, and assistant coach Pat Skellchock took over interim coaching duties.

Whitman was scheduled to face Northwest on Tuesday, April 30, after The Almanac's deadline. The Vikings will travel to face Clarksburg at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 2.



Whitman's Ben Castagnetti prepares to tag out a Paint Branch runner at second base on Saturday.



Whitman's Dylan Hayes went 2-for-3 with a pair of runs against Paint Branch on Saturday.



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