

# Potomac

ALMANAC

At Swains Lock, Diane Seward, of Potomac, pulls the fast-growing, second-year garlic mustard plant, which can drop up to 1,000 seeds each spring.

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## Williams Praised

Community activist  
lauded for service  
to Potomac.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE ALMANAC

**A** long-time Potomac resident, community activist and volunteer was honored for her altruistic efforts recently. The West Montgomery County Citizens' Association praised Lois Williams during a ceremony at the Potomac Community Center earlier this month.

WMCCA president Susanne Lee said the group presented Williams with a plaque in recognition of her "extraordinary contributions to WMCCA and the Potomac community as WMCCA newsletter editor and board member."

Williams, who has lived in Potomac for 46 years, moved to the area when her children were young and began donating her time to such causes as the Girls Scouts of America. She later joined the WMCCA and has been a member for 40 years. "Our citizens' association is an opportunity for people who live in Potomac to have a voice in the halls of government," she said.

Through her WMCCA positions, Williams lobbied for roadside stream identification signs to promote watershed awareness. "For many years she led a WMCCA project honoring students who 'go outdoors for science' to do an environmental science project using data from a woods or stream site," said Lee. "She's worked on the new membership brochure, part of her long commitment to boosting WMCCA membership."

WMCCA members lauded Williams for  
SEE WILLIAMS, PAGE 5



### Potomac Health Day

Mary Urban (left) and Shivon Ramnarine with a Jump for Heart rope at the May 12 Fitness for the Heart Fitness Fair at Potomac Place, intersection of Falls and River Road.



From left: Kathryn Fusco with Potomac Place Merchants hands out roses for Mother's Day to Nusrat Parveen and Ruby Mir.



From left: Joel Pertofsky, Emma Plotnek, and Fitness Express owner Marilyn Menick. The fair offered free activities including fitness screenings and assessments, fitness demos, face painting, food and sidewalk sales.

PHOTOS BY DEBORAH STEVENS/THE ALMANAC



From left: Joni Renee Zalk with Divine Health, Colleen Vineer and Glenn D. Evans with the YMCA.

## Garlic Mustard Challenge

Invasive plant threatens  
forest understory,  
bird habitat.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE ALMANAC

**T**he invasive garlic mustard plant has advanced rapidly into the C&O Canal National Historical Park and endangers the ecology of native plants and animals.

"It comes earlier than everything else," said Jim Heins of the C&O Canal Association. "It forms a canopy that sucks up moisture, blocks sun and leaves chemicals in the ground that is detrimental to other plants."

Heins recruits and trains volunteers to help curb the growth of the invasive plant from the Potomac river banks.

"You have to consistently come back to the same place," he said. "It's going to take a while."

**"We need all the help we can get."**

— Jim Heins,  
C&O Canal  
Association

**EACH SPRING** the park service offers a series of hands-on training sessions at multiple places along the canal.

The training prevents volunteers from culling native plants. Garlic mustard must also be removed each year from the same identified area for at least five years to be effective. All projects must

SEE INVASIVE PLANT, PAGE 5

## Caregivers for Wounded Warriors Honored

Sharing stories of perseverance.

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

**"T**his country cares about you. We take pride in you and support you. You each have an inner strength which carries you through difficult times." These words spoken by keynote speaker Annie McChrystal, wife of U.S. Army General (Ret) Stanley McChrystal, describe the emotion in the air at the second luncheon to honor caregivers of our injured servicemen and women.

Hosted by the Chevy Chase Women's Republican Club (CCWRC) in partnership with The Yellow Fund (YRF), the event recognized and honored the courageous women who serve as caregivers of U.S. Military servicemen and women who are injured in the line of duty. These caregivers have

not only had to relocate to this area, cope with difficult and very serious medical issues, advocate for their loved ones, forfeit their jobs — but have also had to maintain a sense of sanity and self-esteem through it all.

Each of the 14 caregivers who attended the luncheon had an inspirational story of challenges and triumphs. Jessica Allen of Nashville, Tenn. explained that her husband is a double amputee — but is thrilled that he could have his injured arm fused at a 93-degree angle in order to be able to use his computer. "When we finally get home, he will start a computer repair business." Allen is a tax accountant and she and her husband have two daughters, 9 and 7.

Paulette Mason's 35-year-old daughter Staff Sgt. Stefanie was injured in an accident in Kabul, Afghanistan. It was the young reservist's third tour of duty when she suffered a traumatic brain injury and many other physical injuries.

SEE CLUB HONORS CAREGIVERS, PAGE 4



Carol Bowis, Annie McChrystal, and Caregiver Jessica Allen.



# Muslim Foundation Picnic Honors Volunteers

Organization receives  
“Exceptional Partner Award.”

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

**M**ore than 350 people gathered at Black Hill Regional Park to honor Montgomery County Muslim Foundation volunteers and to celebrate their “2012 Exceptional Partner Award,” presented by Giant Foods and Manna. County Executive Isaiah Leggett, County Councilmember George Leventhal, County Councilmember Nancy Floreen, Councilmember Phil Andrews and Kevin Gillogly, with U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin’s office, each praised the MCMF for their work and the dif-

ference the non-profit organization is making throughout Montgomery County.

The community cookout was held on May 6 as the culminating event for MCMF’s 2012 Food Drive to thank the volunteers whose energy and efforts were essential to the food drive and to all of MCMF’s work. Mother’s Day was also recognized, since the cookout was held one week prior. MCMF Board members decorated for the event, providing flowers and favor boxes with candies and balloons for the mothers and children.

The mission of MCMF is to enable the Muslim community to work on charitable and effective projects alongside like-minded



**Volunteers for Montgomery County Muslim Foundation.**



**Tufail Ahmed, Council member Phil Andrews, Guled Kassim and Jim Perkins, Regional Director Giant.**

volunteers and partner organizations in Montgomery County. Last month, MCMF held its annual food drive and in one weekend, collected approximately 10,000 pounds of food. For the first time, the volunteers were stationed inside Giant stores at 10 locations in the county where they were able to engage with customers and ask for donations of non-perishable items.

Jim Perkins, regional director with Giant Foods, applauded the group’s efforts: “MCMF’s efforts in this food drive will go a long way in helping families in need. All of the volunteers who participated in

this effort ought to be congratulated.” MCMF also set up drop-off points around the community where food items could be donated.

Guled Kassim, president of MCMF, said, “We are absolutely delighted and surprised by the kindness and generosity of complete strangers in giving food and clothing to help our mission. We could not do it without them. The Muslim members of MCMF have found it extraordinarily satisfying to help provide a safety net for people in need within Montgomery County.”

Other groups were recognized

by MCMF at the picnic. They thanked their high school student volunteers whose efforts garnered the most collected items while earning SSL hours, Giant Food and Manna for the growing partnership, and all volunteers who gave their time and talents to support the MCMF.

For information about partnering, volunteering and/or donating to MCMF for the upcoming “Feed the Homeless” project which will be held July 22 – 29, contact Guled Kassim, president, MCMF at 301-760-7447/301-233-5115 or e-mail [info@mcmfusa.org](mailto:info@mcmfusa.org).

## Club Honors Caregivers for Wounded Warriors

FROM PAGE 3

Because Mason had to move to Bethesda to care for her daughter, she was let go from her job as vice president of marketing for an accounting firm. Every day, she faces the challenges of living here while her husband remains in Newark, Del. with the rest of their family, helping her daughter through multiple surgeries, sorting through medical red-tape and dealing with the on-going financial issues. However, there have been some triumphs. As a part of her recovery, Stefanie has become a competitive swimmer. Last month, she captured two Gold medals and a Silver medal at the Warrior Games in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Many of the caregivers had heartwarming stories of their loved ones learning to walk again after losing both legs, making plans to return for college degrees, and reconnecting with their children after being apart for a year or more. One caregiver was so proud of her hus-

band because “now that he has his prostheses, he once again stands six feet tall.” Another was excited because, “his legs are in the shop — and he will have them soon.”

Potomac’s Nancy Mattson has been a member of the CCWRC for many years. “I walk away from this luncheon feeling inspired by the attitude and courage of these women — they are truly amazing,” she said. “I wish every American could hear their meaningful stories.”

Ann Dickey, also of Potomac is moved by the bravery of the young women. “This luncheon is a wonderful way to recognize them. Too often they are in the background. They are a valuable part of recovery for our servicemen and women.”

The group was welcomed to the Kensington home and garden of Jayne Plank by Carol Bowis, “Caring for America” chair for the club. Marie Wood from the Yellow Ribbon Fund explained that the YRF is proud to support the caregivers of the injured servicemen by providing vouchers for rental cars and apartments, introducing

them to mentors, volunteering for baby-sitting, providing information concerning the D.C. area, setting up massages and get-togethers for the caregivers and their families and much more. Twenty-three-year-old Emily Ball of Winston-Salem, N.C. said, “When my boyfriend, CPL Jessie Fletcher lost his legs in an IED attack, I did not know where to turn. The YRF helped me obtain a rental car, locate a place to live and get through the challenges of living here and finding my way through the maze of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda. I don’t know what I would have done without their support.” Eliza Palmer who grew up in Bethesda was also aided by YRF after her husband Aaron was injured. She attended last year’s luncheon as one of the caregivers, and now serves as director of the Family Caregiver Program for YRF. “I received so much help from YRF. I completely understand the issues which face the caregivers, since I am also a caregiver.”

McChrystal and her husband both serve on the board of the Yellow Ribbon Fund. Annie McChrystal said, “This is a wonderful agency that truly supports the families of our servicemen and women. Americans are weary of war, but we have made a real difference in Afghanistan — and much good has come out of our presence there for Afghanistan, particularly for the women.” She saluted the caretakers for their resilience, strength and caring.

The CCWRC gave each attendee a gift bag to share with their families and a Giant gift card. A drawing was also held for raffle prizes for the caregivers.

CCWRC is the largest Women’s Republican Club in Maryland. As a part of the Montgomery County Federation of Republican Women, they offer members the opportunity to support political candidates, volunteer in the community and participate in a variety of social, service and political events. For more information, view the website at [www.mcfwr.org/CC/index.htm](http://www.mcfwr.org/CC/index.htm).



# Fighting Invasive Plant at C&O

FROM PAGE 3

be approved.  
Potomac resident Diane Seward, a conservationist, volunteered this past spring as she has in the past. "Garlic mustard is going to take over the forest," she said. "It's depleting the understory ... the habitat for birds."

Garlic mustard grows in shade or sun and can cross-pollinate or self-pollinate. It is a biennial and in its second year each plant sends out hundreds of seeds. It can soon take over a site and produce seed banks generating thousands upon thousands of seeds. Fast growth is



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

**Jim Heins trains volunteers to identify the plant in its second year and differentiate them from native plants.**

its hallmark, according to the park service.

Rachel Stewart, of Arlington, volunteered last month at Swains Lock. An area of garlic mustard along the canal further up River Road caught her attention. "You can take the entire population of Poolesville High School and have them stand elbow to elbow and you might get it," she said.

Consistent removal of all second year growth each year, identified by the flowers the plant produces, has proven to be the most effective way to curb the growth of the plant in the future. The second-year plant generally appears in early April and goes to seed be-

## Get Involved

To volunteer for the Garlic Mustard Challenge, contact Jim Heins, VIP coordinator, at vip@candocanal.org or 301-949-3518, or Steve Dean, Level Walker chairman, at levelwalker@candocanal.org or 301-904-9068.

ginning in late May and June. Once seeds are sown, they may lay dormant for two to three years before sprouting.

"The second year plant is easier to pull, easier to identify and easier to get a hold of," Heins said.

But at the same time, the plants drop 100 to 1,000 seeds per plant.

"Deer distribute the seeds. They are wonderful at spreading it," Heins said. "We do the same thing."

Last month at Swains Lock, two cyclists stopped after seeing the Garlic Mustard Challenge signs Heins placed on the towpath. After answering their questions about the project and about garlic mustard, Heins resumed his efforts pulling the plants with the dozen volunteers he had employed.

"We need all the help we can get," he said.



Gretchen Sanders reviews son Ari's classroom book.

## Young Writers' Celebration

On May 16, the children, ages 3 and pre-K, from B'nai Tzedek's Greenzaid Early Childhood Center displayed to their parents and relatives, the books and poems they created this year as part of the Center's Literacy Program. Guest author Rabbi Deborah Bodin Cohen read and signed her popular children's books.

The GECC Literacy Program is a year-long process which enables the children to refine their language and reading skills, while learning the mechanics of writing through the use of games, spelling, reading words and other techniques.



Rabbi Stuart Weinblatt of B'nai Tzedek and Beverly Rosenstein, grandmother of Jack and Leah Rosenstein in the pre-k class.

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## BUSINESS

# 'Reel Tributes' Preserves Family Histories

**Founder David Adelman believes that "Memories Matter."**

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

Most of us would like to leave a legacy of the history of our family — and of our personal lives for our children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren — and into perpetuity. However, many never record their personal histories, let alone that of their families. The research, interviews, writing and organization are just too overwhelming, confusing and time-consuming. But now, a company called "Reel Tributes" will help with the planning and implementation — and will make certain the project is completed in a professional manner with a meaningful result — a video documenting the history, genealogy and special memories of a family or a family business.

A little over a year ago, while a student at Wharton, David Adelman decided to forgo a career in finance to launch Reel Tributes. His impetus was a video his mom made and shared at his cousin's wedding which highlighted his family history and stories from his relatives, Adelman recalled. "I was blown away by the emotional impact of the video and what it meant to every family member. That's when I decided

to start a business to help families capture memories on film to honor the lives of loved ones as well as their history and genealogy."

Adelman pulled together a management team that is "as passionate about film as you are about the stories you want to commemorate. Together we transform stories into a timeless tribute." The team consists of Founder and CEO Adelman, Chief Videographer and Editor Caleb Green, Interviewer Lin Joyce, Director of Genealogy Rebecca Whitman Koford and Videographer and Editor Robert Lodge.

Most of Reel Tributes' films are for special celebrations such as birthdays, anniversaries, family reunions and holidays, or to honor one's life accomplishments.

The company also produces videos for multi-generational businesses that would like to preserve their history for both the owners and the employees. Reel Tributes is producing a film for a family business's 120th anniversary and another for a CEO's retirement.

Potomac resident Ellie Slotkin is planning to make a film for her family. Currently, she is using the services to research her family genealogy. "I was thrilled to hear about Reel Tributes. I'm a fan of NBC's 'Who Do You Think You Are?' Learning about a family's heritage is an amazing adventure. It's not just for celebrities anymore. I'm eager for the Reel Tributes team to uncover my family's roots and capture it on film."

The process begins with a meeting in which the family explains their purpose and



David Adelman of Reel Tributes

goals. Members then complete a questionnaire documenting important dates and materials they have in their possession, including photographs, certificates, records, etc. Personal historian Lin Joyce works with families to decide what is important to include in the film and also helps them collect and organize their photos and documents. She also aids them in sorting out the oral history and gathering the stories that are most important. Genealogist Koford assists families in finding their roots or confirming them. Joyce then interviews family members, employees, and significant

friends — anyone that the family deems important to the story. These interviews are then edited into a 30-minute video.

"Every project is customized," said Adelman. "We preserve the film on DVDs and hard-drives and also keep them on our back-up files. The video can be kept forever as a living document for each family. Memories are so important. Stories have the power to connect us with generations past, while at the same time preserving our own gems for future generations. Imagine how disappointed you'd be if in 2-3 generations, nobody remembers you. If we don't record our stories, so much rich history will be lost. We work so hard in our lifetimes to do well and do good; it's a shame if that doesn't get remembered."

Reel Tributes is partnering with the Alzheimer's Association to raise awareness for the disease and of the importance of preserving memories. Adelman said, "Through our partnership, we've met many families that have been impacted by this terrible disease. Very few recorded their stories and for most families it is too late. We're trying to spread the message that as soon as someone in your family is diagnosed with Alzheimer's or dementia, the family should spend some time getting their story down. Film is the best format, but even writing stories on paper and recording them in audio is much better than doing nothing and regretting it for many years."

Adelman has a goal in mind for his company. "My team and I would love to see every family record their story."

To find out more about Reel Tributes, go to [www.reeltributes.com](http://www.reeltributes.com) or contact Adelman at 202-631-3456.

# Miriam Ostria Launches Biz Sports & Leagues

**Encouraging fitness for companies' employees.**

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

Potomac resident Miriam Ostria has a vision that will change the Washington workplace — and improve the health, fitness, weight management and wellness of residents in the D.C. environs while promoting sports. She has just recently embarked on a mission with her new company Biz Sports & Leagues, LLC: "I want organized sports activities to be incorporated into every company's wellness program as another form of intervention and Biz Sports & Leagues to be the driver of this process."

Ostria participated in tennis, volleyball and many other sports as a child growing up in the Dominican Republic. She always

stayed active — but instead of consistently working out in a gym, she preferred sports, competition and team relationships. "The essence of this business is to target those individuals who find greater motivation in organized sports than at a fitness center, as a means to stay active and fit. It is about enabling organizations to use sports programs to promote and encourage a healthier workforce," she said,

In addition to the wellness benefits, Biz Sports & Leagues programs promote teamwork among employees, encourage cross department interactions, and help build "one company" spirit. The value of employee participation in sports programs includes providing greater work-life balance, promoting an ac-

tive life-style, reducing employee stress, building relationships inside and outside the workplace, and giving the employee the opportunity to learn and/or prac-



Miriam Ostria of Biz Sports & Leagues.

tice a life sport.

Ostria believes that "Biz Sports & Leagues will help reduce healthcare costs, increase productivity and enhance corporate spirit through an integrated approach to orga-

nized sports activities. Our clients will maximize the value of team sports resulting in a healthier, more motivated and less stressful workforce."

SEE BIZ SPORTS, PAGE 7





## Correction

**Tufall Ahmad of Potomac receives the Neal Potter Award. An incorrect photo was published in the May 9-15 Almanac.**

## Biz Sports

FROM PAGE 6

Tennis will be the first sport that Biz Sports & Leagues launches. Three corporate wellness tennis leagues have been organized for this fall at the Potomac Tennis and Fitness Club, Potomac, at the GW Tennis Center in Washington D.C., and at the Bethesda Sport & Health Club. Additional leagues will be held in Northern Virginia. The company will also offer tennis fitness programs for all levels and abilities. Corporate leagues in additional sports will be added in the winter. In addition to inter-company sports leagues, the company will also organize corporate charity sports tournaments, coordinate and direct intra-company sports leagues, offer sports team building programs and set up and manage corporate walking running, biking and hiking clubs.

Ostria feels that her company's programs are appropriate for both large and small businesses, as well as for the public and private sectors. "Biz Sports & Leagues will provide every organization with a solution that is as unique as the company and managed to fit its style." She said. The company is in the process of becoming a wellness vendor for United Health Care.

Organizations interested in learning more about the company and/or reserving space in the fall leagues and programs should e-mail Miriam Ostria at mostria@bizsportsleagues.com or call 301-469-PLAY (7529). The company's website is launching in the next few weeks. Visit them at www.bizsportsleagues.com or follow them on Facebook.

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### PUBLISHER

Mary Kimm  
703-778-9433  
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com  
@MaryKimm

### EDITORIAL

PHONE: 703-821-5050  
E-MAIL:  
almanac@connectionnewspapers.com

### EDITOR

Steven Mauren, 703-778-9415  
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

### SPORTS EDITOR

Jon Roetman,  
703-224-3015  
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com  
@jonroetman

### ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Steve Hibbard, 703-778-9412  
shibbard@connectionnewspapers.com

### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Cissy Finley Grant, Carole Dell,  
Kenny Lourie, Ken Moore,  
Susan Belford, Colleen Healy

### Contributing Photographers

Harvey Levine, Deborah Stevens

### Art/Design:

Laurence Foong, John Heinly,  
John Smith

### Production Manager

Jean Card  
Geovani Flores

### Special Assistant to the Publisher

Jeanne Theismann  
703-778-9436  
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com  
@TheismannMedia

### ADVERTISING

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### ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Display Advertising:  
Kenny Lourie 703-778-9425  
klourie@connectionnewspapers.com

### Andrea Smith

703-778-9411  
Classified Advertising  
asmith@connectionnewspapers.com

### Debbie Funk

National Sales & real Estate  
703-778-9444  
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

### Jerry Vernon

Executive Vice President  
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

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## LET'S TALK Real Estate



by

**Michael Matese**

## Don't Let These Three Facts Slip Through the Cracks!

Buying a new home often involves facing a torrent of new information, from convoluted rates and percentages, to forewarnings, suggestions, tips, advisements, and downright imploration. Unfortunately, few home buyers ever feel truly prepared to make the big decision, and so it becomes incredibly important to find a broker or agent you can truly trust while conducting as much research as possible on your own. All too often, despite this safety net of expert advice and self-directed study, some things still go unnoticed. Here is a brief list of three facts that routinely go unmentioned, undiscovered, and undisclosed.

### Knowledge is Power

• **Fact #1: Don't count yourself out until you gather all the information.**

While the traditional notion behind previous foreclosure would contend that you are financially sunk and therefore ineligible from qualifying for a loan to become a home-owner, in actuality this circumstance is less dire than typically assumed. While it is true that foreclosure remains on your credit rating for up to seven years, large scale government-backed lenders such as Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae have begun imposing just three year penalties for foreclosure. Though you may be required to pay a higher down payment or pay slightly higher interest rates, you aren't disqualified from the dream of home ownership as easily as you may assume.

• **Fact #2: Be sure to check into the housing codes and regulations pertaining to properties you are interested in.**

Prospective buyers would do well to work diligently to ensure that recent renovations, additions, and improvements were conducted in conjunction with guidelines set by now-starving city planning departments. If you purchase a home with violations, you may be saddled with the responsibility of bringing them to code.

• **Fact #3: Hire your own people.**

It is important not to expose yourself to liability by accepting the seller's offer to use their agent, appraiser, or inspector. These professionals owe an allegiance to the person paying for their service, so it's best to hire your own team of licensed home specialists.

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**BOOTHBAY HARBOR, MAINE, June 10-16,.....\$995**  
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# ENTERTAINMENT



Tea with Mrs. B.



The crowds at last year's Imagination Bethesda.

## Imagination Bethesda Celebrates Children and the Arts on June 2

The 18th annual Imagination Bethesda, a children's street festival celebrating children and the arts, is scheduled for Saturday, June 2 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Musical performances and professional children's entertainers will light up the stage, while hands-on art and craft activities will line the streets along Auburn and Norfolk Avenues in downtown Bethesda.

Organized and managed by the Bethesda Urban Partnership, the festival will host local businesses and

arts organizations that will provide a variety of hands-on art and craft activities to entertain and energize the 12-and-under crowd. Additionally, the festival will feature face painters, balloonists, a stilt-walker, free giveaways and more.

Imagination Bethesda is a free event produced by the Bethesda Urban Partnership and is sponsored by MIX 107.3 FM, Renewal by Andersen, Washington Parent and Bethesda Magazine. Call 301-215-6660 or visit [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org).

### HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

Adventure Theatre  
Paper fan craft, white picket fence craft  
American Plant  
Plant a flower in a clay pot  
Artworks  
Draw with pastels  
Be With Me Playseum  
Make air-dry cupcakes and wood painting projects  
Beanstalk Montessori Mommy & Me  
Make a "classroom" in the tent  
Bethesda Green  
Making paper chain necklaces and bracelets  
Bethesda Magazine  
Balloons and bubbles  
Bundles of Cookies  
Cookie Decorating  
Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture  
Teach kids how to make their own carousel  
Gymboree Play & Music of Bethesda  
Movement to music with props and bubbles  
Imagination Stage  
Animal crown creation  
Iran Cultural & Educational Center  
Face painting, make a bookmark and coloring  
Joy of Motion Dance Center  
Coloring and ballerina puppets  
Kidville  
Crafting frames with stickers and markers

Language Fundamentals  
Singing songs in Spanish  
Language Stars  
Various crafting activities and interactive story time  
Musikids  
Explore musical instruments  
Plaza Artist Materials  
Create your own photo mat  
Round House Theatre  
Create Robin Hood hats and Maid Marion crowns  
Strathmore  
Arts & crafts  
Tea with Mrs. B  
Imaginary tea parties with dress-up and manners  
Washington Parent  
Prize wheel and giveaways  
Waygoose Redux  
Create glass marble magnets

### PERFORMANCES ON STAGE

11 a.m. — The Funny Guy  
12 p.m. — Alex & the Kaleidoscope Band  
2 p.m. — Joy of Motion  
2:30 p.m. — Rockin' Railroad  
3:15 p.m. — Rocknoceros

### FOOD VENDORS

Naked Pizza, Haagen-Dazs, Hard Times Café, M&N's Pizza and Smoothie King.

### SATURDAY/JUNE 2

**Private Gardens of Bethesda.** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit some of the most fabulous private gardens in the Bethesda and Chevy Chase area at the height of the gardening season. Join Brookside Gardens for its second annual private garden tour for your only opportunity to visit several extraordinary, designer showcase properties — guaranteed to provide inspiration to the most avid gardeners and designers as well as garden hobbyists. Pre-register through [www.ParkPASS.org](http://www.ParkPASS.org). Visit one garden for \$5, course # 202399, three for \$15, course #202400 or all eight of the gardens for \$20, course # 202401 on this exclusive tour, including one designed by Oehme van Sweden & Associates. Visit [www.brooksidegardens.org](http://www.brooksidegardens.org) or call 301-962-1402. Check-in location is McCrillis Gardens, 6910 Greentree Road, Bethesda.



Irish dancers



Snakehead Run

## Washington Folk Festival Is June 2-3

The 32nd Annual Washington Folk Festival will be held on June 2-3 at Glen Echo Park in Glen Echo. From noon to 7 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, the festival will showcase more than 450 of the finest traditional American and international musicians, storytellers, dancers, and crafters who make their home in the greater Washington area. The festival is free to the public and held rain or shine.

The Washington Folk Festival is a celebration of this region's rich cultural diversity. International performers share the music, dance, and cultural traditions they brought from their original homes while American performers showcase a variety of musical traditions that developed in this country.

The Festival offers a weekend bridge to this cultural treasure, inviting Washingtonians to come enjoy these living traditions among the trees and pavilions of historic Glen Echo Park.

With performances on seven stages, Festival guests can take an imaginary trip around the world to experience international music and dance traditions from Africa, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Russia, and more. They can enjoy a broad range of uniquely American art forms such as bluegrass, blues, Cajun Zydeco, contemporary singer-songwriters, old-time string bands, and swing.



Roy Speedy Toliver

The Washington Folk Festival is honored to present many local artists who are recognized as among the very best. At the national level, legendary singer-songwriter Tom Paxton received a 2009 Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award and songster-guitarist Warner Williams was named a 2011 National Heritage Fellow by the National Endowment of the Arts. At the state level, master fiddler Speedy Toliver received a Virginia Heritage Award, West African dance company KanKouran was named an Outstanding Artist by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and Israeli storyteller Noa Baum was honored by the Maryland State Arts Council.

The Washington Folk Festival is free to the public and held rain or shine. Glen Echo Park is located at 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. There is a free shuttle available from the GEICO Parking Lot at 4608 Willard Ave Chevy Chase, just blocks from Friendship Heights Metro. Visit [www.washingtonfolkfestival.org](http://www.washingtonfolkfestival.org).



# ENTERTAINMENT

## NOW THROUGH SEPT. 28

**Friday Night Live Concert Series.** 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. Activities: Live music, food, and beverages. Bands include Joker's Wild (Swing), Junkyard Saints (New Orleans/Zydeco), Gonzo's Noise (80s and 90s cover band), Darryl Davis Band (Blues) and more. At Rockville Town Square, 200 East Middle Lane, Rockville. Visit [www.rockvilletownsquare.com](http://www.rockvilletownsquare.com) for details.

**Zumba at Village Yoga.** Are you ready to party yourself into shape? That's exactly what the Zumba program is all about. It's an exhilarating, effective, easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning dance fitness-party that's moving millions of people toward joy and health. Come join the fun at Village Yoga! Classes are held on Tuesday nights, 7:15 p.m.-8:15 p.m., and Saturday mornings 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Village Yoga, 10154 River Road, Potomac. Call 301-299-1948.

**Beginner's Yoga Classes at Village Yoga.** Village Yoga is adding a new Beginner's Yoga Class on Mondays, 8-9 p.m. Continues our Thursday, 7:30-8:45 p.m. Beginner's Gentle Flow class as well. For all new local students - \$10 for the entire first week. Must be used on your first visit to the studio. Special for all yogis this month – 4-pack of classes for \$48. Village Yoga, 10154 River Road, Potomac. 301-299-1948. [www.villageyogayogi.com](http://www.villageyogayogi.com).

## NOW THROUGH JUNE 23

**Strathmore Unleashed.** Canine-themed art exhibit at Strathmore. Opening reception on Thursday, May 3 from 7 to 9 p.m. A Yappy Hour is from 6 to 7 p.m. Well-socialized dogs are welcome in the Mansion for Yappy Hour. Call 301-581-5100 or visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org).

## NOW THROUGH SEPT. 16

**Wings of Fancy - Live Butterfly and Caterpillar Exhibit.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily. Surround yourself with hundreds of African, Asian, Costa Rican, and North American species of butterflies flying freely inside a Conservatory. Enjoy learning about the life cycle of these amazing creatures, and what you can do to attract native caterpillars and butterflies to your backyard as we "think globally, and act locally." Fees: \$6 adults; \$4 ages 3-12; or purchase a "Frequent



## SATURDAY/JUNE 2

**Tommy Tune.** Steps in Time, A Broadway Biography in Song and Dance. 2 and 8 p.m. Tickets: \$28-\$58 (Stars Price \$25.20-\$52.20). At the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org) or call 301-581-5100.

Visitor Pass" and enjoy unlimited return visits this season. Groups of 15 or more by appointment only, call 301-962-1467 for reservations. Call 301-962-1453. [www.brooksidegardens.org](http://www.brooksidegardens.org); Brookside Gardens South Conservatory, 1500 Glenallan Avenue, Wheaton.

## NOW THROUGH OCT. 27

**Bethesda Freshfarm Market.** Held Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Will offer fresh fruits, vegetables, organic meats and artisan cheeses. At Norfolk

Avenue, between Fairmont and St. Elmo Avenues in Bethesda. In addition, the market will feature special events. On the first Saturday of each month, Master Gardeners will table at the market to answer gardening questions. From July 7 through Aug. 11, Boordy Vineyards will be a market guest selling wines made from Maryland grown grapes. And on the last Saturday of each month a local chef will give cooking demonstrations at the market. Featured chefs include Frederik de Pue of Smith Commons; Domenico Cornacchia of Assaggi Restaurant and Mozzarella Bar; James Gee of Jaleo (Bethesda) and Debbie Amster of Nourishing Possibilities. Call 301-215-6660 or visit [www.bethesa.org](http://www.bethesa.org).

## WEDNESDAY/MAY 23

**Matthew Modine: Screening & Conversation.** 7:30 p.m. Three short films by Matthew Modine: "Jesus Was a Commie," "I Think I Thought," and "To Kill an American." Followed by a Q&A with Matthew Modine. At the AFI Silver Theatre, 8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring. **Soprano Laura Strickling.** 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Part of Strathmore Art After Hours. At the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org) or call 301-581-5100.

## THURSDAY/MAY 24

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

## SATURDAY/MAY 26

**BSO Concert: Beethoven's Ninth.** 8 p.m. With Peter Oundjian, conductor; Joyce El-Khoury, soprano BSO Debut. Tickets range from \$34 to \$68 and are available through the BSO Ticket Office, 410-783-8000 or BSOmusic.org. At the Music Center at Strathmore.

## MAY 26 TO MAY 28

**Hometown Holidays Festival.** Featuring two days of music, entertainment, food, crafts and the City of Rockville's annual Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade. Rising Country Star Easton Corbin to headline. With 40 bands and entertainers on seven stages at Rockville's Town Center. For more information about the weekend's events, visit the website at [www.rockvillemd.gov/hth](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/hth), or find the festival on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/RockvilleHometownHolidays](http://www.facebook.com/RockvilleHometownHolidays) or twitter @RockvilleHHTH.

## SUNDAY/MAY 27

**"Bach: From Practice to Performance."** 11:30 a.m. Charles Powers, a cellist with the U.S. Marine Corps' orchestra, "The President's Own," will perform at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation. He will also discuss the music he will be playing — selections from the Bach "Canon." At River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Fireside Room, 6301 River Road, Bethesda; visit [www.rruuc.org](http://www.rruuc.org), or call 301-229-0400.

## WEDNESDAY/MAY 30

**Singer-songwriter Flo Anito.** 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Part of Strathmore Art After Hours. At the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org) or call 301-581-5100.

## THURSDAY/MAY 31

**BSO Classical Concert: Mozart and Beethoven.** 8 p.m. Featuring Günther Herbig, conductor; Jonathan Biss, piano; Mozart: Symphony No. 40; Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 3; Schubert: Symphony No. 6. At the Music Center at Strathmore. Tickets range from \$28 to \$88 and are available through the BSO Ticket Office, 410-783-8000 or BSOmusic.org.

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

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# Potomac REAL ESTATE

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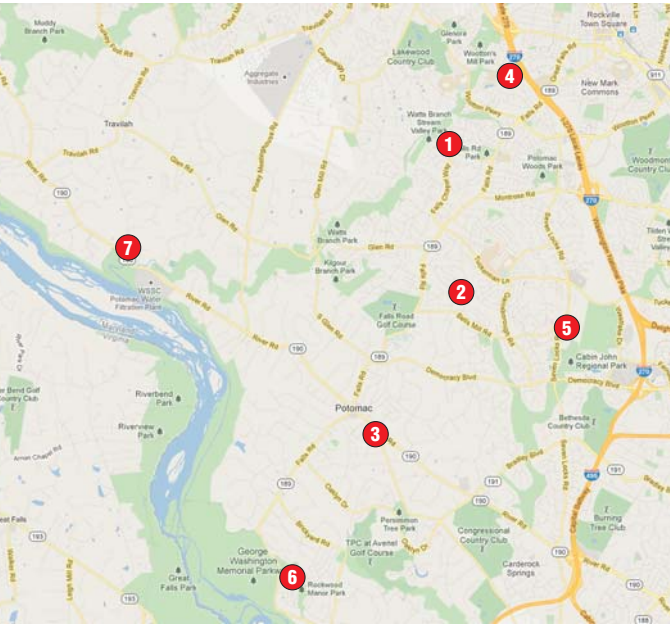
2 11204 Willowbrook Drive,  
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3 9629 Accord Drive,  
Potomac — \$700,000



7 11711 Stoney Creek Road,  
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© Google Map data

4 1423 Fallswood Drive,  
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5 7840 ORACLE PL .....	3	..	2	..	2	POTOMAC	\$680,000	....	Townhouse	....	0.06	20854	.....	BELLS MILL SPRINGS	.....	03/21/12
6 7831 WHITERIM TER .....	3	..	4	..	1	POTOMAC	\$675,000	....	Townhouse	....	0.06	20854	..	FAWSETT FARMS MANOR	..	03/09/12
7 11711 STONEY CREEK RD .....	4	..	2	..	1	POTOMAC	\$649,000	....	Detached	....	5.68	20854	...	DARNESTOWN OUTSIDE	..	03/09/12

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## REAL ESTATE

# Rot Never Sleeps

BY MIKE DENKER  
AND TODD MCPHEE  
SPECIAL TO THE ALMANAC

**A**lthough it may be an unappealing subject to address, we Marylanders must acknowledge our mid-Atlantic location to be a perfect setting for fungus, mold, mildew, and rot, not to mention insect infestation. This is one aspect of the natural world we live in. On the other hand, we live in an increasingly synthetic world of our own making and becoming more synthetic all the time. As a builder/remodeler I don't mind this development. I may prefer eating organic food, but when it comes to the outside of my house, I want something that will not rot. Our construction company's revenues come in part from repairing the rotting exteriors of homes. Still, I am not happy when I have to replace the facades of our customers' homes before their time.

Builders and remodelers make their choice of materials based on various factors using the best available knowledge at the time. If we ever got it wrong, it was during the transition period from traditional wood to synthetics. An architect friend of mine once remarked that he did not care if the building fell apart later on as long as he got some great photos of it at first. I did not quite believe that he was being serious, and I know no builder thinks this way. No home builder or remodeler wants to receive that phone call which calls into question his integrity, his professionalism, or his good name, "My siding (or my windows or my roof) is rotting." It is every homeowner's nightmare to walk outside in the springtime to view his home, his pride and joy, perhaps his largest single investment, and find decay. Then again, in this part of the country it happens to most of us.

Let's be honest, nothing is forever, but we would all like the skin of our homes to last, to resist fungus, insects, rain, snow, hail, and the sun, as well as the occasional baseball. We want this certainty for the same reason we protect our own skin: it protects the innards. In the case of a house, it guards the framing, the insulation, and all of our possessions. Fifty years I think is a good and reasonable amount of time to expect our exteriors to last, which poses the question of which components are better than others and why.

As the story of the little pigs told us, a brick house will not blow

## HOME WORK



Mike Denker, left, and Todd McPhee.

down no matter how much you huff and puff. Brick and stone form one of the toughest exteriors in housing today. Unless your home is clad with recycled brick (and much of that kind of brick on the outside of a house was never meant to see the light of day), then you have little to fear. Mortar in between the brick does degrade with the weather and acid rain, but for the most part it will last at least 50 years before it needs to be "re-pointed." Typically a brick house has wood trim and windows and perhaps roofing, but this is changing. Houses built and trimmed of old growth wood, that

wonderful and almost totally depleted resource of slow grown, tight grained, dense, high mineral content lumber from our virgin forests, seems to last hundreds of years, while the wood grown in our replacement forests sometimes wimps out in less than five years.

Because of this, builders are cladding their homes with new man-made materials, and repair specialists are replacing rotted trim, windows and siding with a variety of synthetic replacements. Many of these have yet been given the test of time, and some are already being replaced. In the '60s, '70s and '80s, many homes were sided with Masonite\* and other similar wood fiber-based clapboard. We have a long tradition of clapboard in North America, and our preference for horizontal shadow lines is part of our national aesthetic.

**MASONITE SIDING** failed before its time, often first on the southern and western exposures.

SEE ROT, PAGE 14



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# Bulldogs Boys' Lax Ends Season at State Semifinals

Churchill falls to Westminster, 12-6.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE ALMANAC

May 16 was day of euphoria for the Churchill boys' lacrosse program as it won its first region championship since 2002. May 19 was a day of disappointment for the Bulldogs, who let a third-quarter lead slip away against Westminster in the state semifinals. While Churchill experienced emotional high and lows, the Bulldogs are hoping the 2012 season acts as a foundation for a formidable future.

Three days after beating Sherwood, 12-6, at CHS to capture the 4A/3A West Region title, Churchill's season came to an end with a 14-10 loss to Westminster at Franklin High School in Reisterstown. The Bulldogs led, 9-8, with less than five minutes remaining in the third quarter, but couldn't hold on. While the loss was painful, players realized the Bulldogs could be building something special.

"It hurts, but we worked so hard," senior midfielder Cameron Moshyedi said. "I feel like we really took the program to a whole new level. Finally getting ourselves out of the 10-year slump, getting out of the region I think is going to do big things for years to come. Although we didn't accomplish our final goal [of a state championship], I really feel like what we've done here this year has really set a standard for Churchill lacrosse for the future."

"That's something we're going to look back on in 10 years when Churchill is winning state championships, saying we set the foundation for that. I'll always be proud of that for the rest of my life."

**CHURCHILL LED**, 5-4, at halftime, but Westminster opened the third quarter with a trio of goals to take a 7-5 lead. The Owls led, 8-7, midway through the third before



**Freshman attackman Louis Dubick helped the Churchill boys' lacrosse team capture the program's first region title since 2002 with a 12-6 victory against Sherwood on May 16 at Churchill High School.**

Moshyedi and freshman attackman Louis Dubick scored to give the Bulldogs a 9-8 advantage. Westminster would score six of the final seven goals, however, holding Churchill scoreless for the final 10 minutes, 28 seconds.

Dubick, who finished with a team-high four goals, said the Bulldogs can learn from the experience.

"We really get the feeling of what it's like to be on the big stage and we know what it feels like to lose," he said. "It just makes us work that much harder to not have this feeling next year."

Junior attackman Matt Leonard and sophomore midfielder Matt Moshyedi each scored two goals for Churchill and junior midfielder Morgan Rhodes had one.

Against Sherwood, Churchill built a 4-1



**Sophomore midfielder Matt Moshyedi scored five goals for Churchill in the 4A/3A West Region final against Sherwood on May 16.**

first-quarter advantage and led for the final 45 minutes of the contest. The Warriors pulled within one at halftime, but the Bulldogs gradually pulled away in the second half.

Matt Moshyedi led Churchill with five goals.

"Matt's that third guy that I think people overlook," Churchill head coach Jeff Fritz said. "Everyone tires to shut off Louis Dubick and Matt Leonard, and Matt Moshyedi is just as good as them, but for whatever reason he's flying under the radar. Not many teams have three poles to match up with three attackmen."

Matt Moshyedi credited his big game to Dubick's skills as an offensive catalyst. Dubick finished with four assists.

"We used Louis, who is an excellent feeder



**Junior goalkeeper Peter Hurd had 11 saves against Sherwood on May 16 in the region championship game.**

... and we just sent cutters in and we got a lot of easy goals in the crease," Matt Moshyedi said. "He's fed me on a lot this season and I've just had dunks."

Churchill, which finished 14-3 and earned the No. 1 seed in the 4A/3A West Region, will graduate several key contributors, including captains Cameron Moshyedi, Spencer Ralph (midfield), Tyler Wooster (defense) and Bryan Morritt (defense), but the Bulldogs have plenty of talent coming back. Matt Moshyedi, Leonard and Dubick will provide Churchill with an explosive offensive trio and goalkeeper Peter Hurd, who had 11 saves against Sherwood, will also return, giving the Bulldogs potential for a bright future.

"Now that we have the experience of playing these big games, these tight games," Leonard said, "hopefully we can finish them out."

# Churchill Girls' Lax More Competitive at State Level

Bulldogs capture third consecutive region championship.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE ALMANAC

After winning a third consecutive 4A/3A West Region championship, the Churchill girls' lacrosse team once again fell short in the state semifinals. This time, however, a more competitive contest gave the Bulldogs reason to believe they're improving.

Churchill lost to 4A/3A North champion Westminster, 18-8, on May 19 at Franklin High School in Reisterstown. In 2010, the Bulldogs lost to C. Milton Wright 22-2 in the state semis. Last season, Churchill was on

the wrong end of a 20-3 outcome against Severna Park. This year, the Bulldogs trailed 11-5 at halftime and 15-7 with 11:36 remaining against the Owls from Carroll County.

"I think that we're chipping away little by little each time we come here," Churchill head coach Christen Gjeldum said. "[Westminster is] a really good team. I think that we could have stepped it up more, definitely. I think that we gave away some balls that we probably shouldn't have, but overall, I was proud of the way they handled themselves and adjusted to this speed."

Standout senior midfielder Marin Hall ended her Churchill career with a team-high

four goals. Hall, who will play lacrosse at Bucknell next season, scored the Bulldogs' first three goals, helping to keep them in the game.

"I think that we really learned to hang with teams like this," Hall said. "This is a huge confidence booster having such a close game."

Senior attacker Maddy Flax, who will play at Wesleyan next season, scored two goals.

"I think once we got the jitters out the first five minutes, it was easier for us," Flax said. "When we settled it down, we did a great job moving it around."

Junior midfielder Emily Muscarella and

freshman midfielder Rachel Thai-Larsen each scored one goal.

On May 16, Churchill went on the road to defeat Sherwood, 20-19, and capture the region title. The Bulldogs have played in four consecutive region finals, winning the last three.

Senior goalkeeper Alex Fox said getting involved with lacrosse at a younger age could help Montgomery County athletes become more competitive with the rest of the state.

"I think that [Montgomery County] girls, if they start earlier, will be able to compete on a higher level with these girls in the near future," she said, "... [W]e were closer than we've been in the last two years. I think even next year, if we make it here again, we could have an even better chance."



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## Living Longer, Sort of Prospering



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Though my column has appeared in the newspaper as usual the last few weeks, I haven't felt much like writing. Typically, I'm weeks ahead with my column inventory, having regularly found the time and inclination to put pen to paper and provide the prose you regular readers have come to expect. To say I haven't been in the mood lately would be an oversimplification of epic proportions. To say that I've been depressed and dealing with the weight (subconsciously for sure, consciously for maybe) of my diagnosis, prognosis, life expectancy, and life as a cancer patient in general, would be more accurate. It's an admission I take no pride in making. I never wanted to be a victim of my own circumstances (unless I was quoting Curly Howard from The Three Stooges) and I never wanted to use my having cancer for an excuse/explanation for anything. However, given my mood and manner these last few weeks and minimal literary output, that's exactly what I'm now doing; and I'm not too happy about it either, which almost makes its use even more disturbing.

Obviously, living with a terminal disease is heavy duty. To think I could shrug it off – all the time, is a bit naive. Not that cancer has a mind of its own, but it does find a way to infiltrate your defenses and occasionally bring you to your knees, literally and figuratively. After all, I am human, not Vulcan. I am ruled by emotion, not logic. Though the good of the many outweigh the good of the one, this one is weighed down pretty good by the one not being so good. When I see and read and hear about real people and even fake people (television, movies, etc.) dying of cancer (and lung cancer is a particularly pernicious player), it's impossible for me, after repeated exposure, to not take it personally; as in: you're next!

So yes, I feel it. And the longer I live beyond my original prognosis, the heavier the weight of inevitability becomes. In spite of lifestyle choices and changes I've made, and the miscellaneous supplements and homeopathic-type remedies I've employed, there does seem to be a reality that one would be hard-pressed to ignore: a terminal diagnosis (which stage IV lung cancer is) is not identified as such because of where one was diagnosed (at the airport), it's how long one can expect to live based on the best medical and statistical information known at the time. And as much as I want to believe that such prognostications are merely educated guesses and subject to interpretation – and reinterpretation (which of course they are, to a degree), there is some reasonably acceptable medical data to support the notion that cancer kills. Though dismissing that notion and maintaining a positive attitude has thus far been my approach, there are days – and weeks, like now, where that approach seems arrogant and pretentious, and I suffer accordingly, mentally mostly.

Not because of any recent change in my health or results (although this new chemo drug I'm on is exhausting me), it's more about the evolution of the reality: one can't live with terminal cancer forever, can they? I mean, it wouldn't be terminal if you could. There must be an end in sight. Otherwise, the end wouldn't have been mentioned at the beginning, during the original Team Lourie meeting with my oncologist. Sure, doctors can be wrong and I could be an anomaly: "the exception," as my brother, Richard has said, "that proves the rule," statistically speaking, anyway. But betting against long odds seems illogical; and if my years of faithful "Star Trek" viewing have showed me anything, it's that one's feelings can sometimes get in the way of how one acts, and not always with great results.

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



## SPORTS

# Whitman Baseball Falls Short

Vikings lost to Northwest in extra innings in region final.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE ALMANAC

Whitman baseball coach Joe Cassidy stood near the third-base dugout of the Vikings' home field and talked about some of the reasons why 2012 was an ideal season for the program to capture its first region championship.

The team had 11 seniors, including standout pitchers Michael Flack and Ryan McGill. The Vikings went 15-2 in the regular season, earning home-field advantage throughout the region tournament.

Whitman had talent, experience and success on its side. But after advancing to the region final with victories over Gaithersburg and Bethesda-Chevy Chase, the Vikings watched as some other team celebrated its first region championship.

Northwest defeated Whitman, 5-3, in eight innings on May 18 in Bethesda to earn the 4A West crown. After blowing out Kennedy in the opening round, the sixth-seeded Jaguars upset No. 3 Magruder, No. 2 Quince Orchard and the top-seeded Vikings to advance to the state tournament.

"There's nothing I can say to make the hurt go

away," Cassidy said. "I'm proud of the seniors. ... Sophomores and juniors, I tell them hopefully they learn from it and move on. You don't want to have this feeling next year and get over the hump."

Northwest took a 3-2 lead in the top of the fifth, but Flack responded with a two-out RBI single in the bottom half. After a pair of scoreless innings sent the game into extras, Jaguars catcher Mike Shannon delivered a two-out, run-scoring double to deep center field. Northwest added an insurance run and Whitman, despite having the leadoff batter reach base in the bottom half, could not answer.

"It's tough," Flack said. "I'm not that angry because we played well — we played our hearts out. That's just the way it is: sometimes you win, sometimes you lose, but it's tough going out like that."

Each team scored two runs in the first inning. After falling behind, Whitman countered with an RBI double by McGill and a run-scoring single by Andrew Castagnetti.

Flack finished 2 for 3 with a run and an RBI. Max Session also had a hit.

McGill started on the mound for Whitman and received a no decision. He allowed three runs and three hits in five innings, while walking three and striking out one.

Despite the loss, Cassidy and Flack each said they considered 2012 to be a successful season. Whitman finished the year with a school-record 17 victories. The Vikings lost just three games, including back-to-back regular season contests against Churchill (April 16) and B-CC (April 19). Whitman opened the sea-



PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Whitman senior Ryan McGill pitches against Northwest in the 4A West Region championship game on May 18.

son with eight consecutive wins and rode a nine-game winning streak into the region final.

The Vikings will graduate some of the athletes primarily responsible for making them one of the favorites to win the region in 2012, but Cassidy is hopeful Whitman can continue its success next season.

"No one thought Northwest would be region champs if you go back in March," he said. "Everyone thought they would be good, but sometimes it's not bad being the dark horse."

# Builder/Remodelers' Advice on Handling Exterior Rot

FROM PAGE 11

Aluminum siding was an early replacement, but asbestos-cement siding beat it by many years. You may have seen those homes all around the county still clad in it. Repairs are difficult because the repair stock comes from the recycled shingles of other homes. The idea was a good one, even if asbestos was a mistake. Today many new homes are being sided with a similar product: fiber cement siding, available as clapboard or shingles. Instead of the deadly asbestos (deadly for the factory worker who manufactured it) to give the cement extra strength, the Australians who invented it have substituted wood fiber. Today fiber cement siding is filling the siding gap on hundreds of thousands of homes each year. It paints and hold paint very well, and it even comes pre-painted which saves an enormous amount of labor. We don't really know how long it will last, but early indications suggest that it is a much better bet than Masonite which it replaces perfectly without any change in looks.

How do aluminum and vinyl siding measure up? Although aluminum has almost disappeared, vinyl is still probably the most economical siding material to install. Like its predecessor aluminum, it does not wholly serve the "I never want to paint again" desire of many home owners. It does go dull, and folks are painting their vinyl and aluminum to make it look new again. Both aluminum and vinyl never completely seal the house but depend a great deal upon

the house wrap underneath. Tar paper made of petroleum tar and animal hair felt is now being replaced by synthetic breathable house wraps like Tyvek. Whether your vinyl siding will last its 50 years depends upon the original quality of it. Some will, and much of it will become brittle and chalky and may need to be replaced by cement siding or something new we have not yet heard of.

Americans love their homes, and they want them to look good, pretty, beautiful, or even stunning. Aesthetics do drive the choices of exterior trim. I do not have data about the reasons for siding replacement, but the goal of improving the looks of the home has got to be one of the big factors affecting replacement. Another is the low maintenance "movement." Styles change, and geographical areas have different looks and regional preferences. Interestingly, in Cape Cod and especially the most expensive real estate on the coast and on islands like Nantucket, wood shingles are still the preferred siding. Eastern white cedar shingles and western red shingles are still very available although pricy. These materials last and last beyond 50 years, although they may need painting or staining and occasional repairs.

**SURROUNDING THE SIDING** is the rest of the exterior trim, at the corners and perimeters and the edge of the roofing, soffit, and fascias. Where redwood (no longer as available or economically viable), pine, spruce and fir (no longer durable) held

sway, we now have PVC, foam with a durable skin, specially manufactured, and treated wood lumber is available. Call me in 50 years, and ask me how long these will last, but they do trump pine-spruce-fir.

After brick, stucco is probably the most durable exterior siding. Traditional stucco was 1/2" to 1" of cement troweled by hand into a galvanized wire substrate over plywood or solid wood sheathing. It was often painted, so it needed to be repainted now and then. Today most stucco is a synthetic product call EIFS. It is a mixture of cement and plastic resins and is troweled over a plastic mesh and a substrate of expanded polystyrene foam. This material forms one of the most effective skins over a home, because the foam under the stucco surrounds the whole exterior of the home rather than just between the wood studs. By using different thicknesses of foam the exterior of the home can be styled to look like architectural trim and other 3-dimensional features. Another appealing feature is that the stucco is available in colors so that painting is put off for many years. Like any new product it had its growing pains and problems. One of these that occurred most commonly in the southern U.S. was internal rot caused by the build up of moisture behind the foam in the house framing. These problems have been eliminated by an internal moisture weeping/wicking layer. Another unusual problem occurs when woodpeckers try out the surface to find out if there might be critters making a home inside. Sometimes these

wood pecker test holes then let carpenter ants in who are always looking for moist warm homes for their colonies. Then the woodpeckers come back and really do find a meal which requires an even larger hole. For the most part synthetic stucco has been a success, as it resists the sun and keeps the home either warmer or cooler depending upon the season. Its longevity is an open question, but it can be repaired. Like any siding product, synthetic stucco creates an aesthetic statement. A stucco house is either more or less appealing than a shingle, clapboard, or brick home depending upon your visual prejudices and the style of home you are looking for.

What about the relative costs, you might ask? For new homes and complete renovations, the costs increase from vinyl to fiber cement, to wood siding, to stucco, to brick and stone. To some extent you get what you pay for as long as you are an educated homeowner. With almost any home these days that has wood on the exterior, rot may be lurking to ruin your day. The choice is yours to repair or replace. There are many knowledgeable and honest contractors who can help you decide.

Your questions and comments are welcome: [mike@hopkinsandporter.com](mailto:mike@hopkinsandporter.com)

*\* It should be noted that while Masonite did not work so well on the outsides of homes the basic material is still used to manufacture inexpensive hollow core doors that don't rot as long as they are inside the house.*



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