

Potomac ALMANAC

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Bonnie and Ron Roth
dance at the Red
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PHOTO BY DEBORAH STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

FEBRUARY 13-19, 2013

ONLINE AT POTOMACALMANAC.COM

Addressing ‘Learning Differences: What Works?’

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

More than 200 parents, family members, and educators flocked to Potomac’s McLean School on Saturday, Feb. 9 to take advantage of the 4th annual “Cecily’s Advocacy Workshop” — a seminar which disseminates information and the latest research on strategies for coping with children with ADD, ADHD and other learning differences.

The seminar is held each year in memory of Cecily Kaufman of Potomac who was a member of the McLean School Parents Association Executive Board and always the first to volunteer at the school. After she died from breast cancer in 2009, her friends and fellow McLean volunteers planned the first advocacy workshop to pay tribute to Kaufman’s devotion to the school and to honor her husband Joel and children Ben and Rachel.

Each year the workshop has attracted more and more registrants — and this year’s workshop was no exception. The keynote address was standing-room-only. After this address, participants had to decide which informational break-out sessions to attend. The common comment overheard was that “there are just too many interesting and helpful sessions. I wish I could attend more



**Dr. Edward Spector,
Psy.D.**



**Chairperson Laurie
Friedman**

than two of these valuable programs.”

“This program is put on by parents who have kids with learning differences for other parents whose children also have learning differences. We found this is absolutely the best help for other parents. The seminar is a long culmination of parents helping parents and learning together,” said Chairperson Laurie Friedman. “It’s a challenge to keep making it better each year, but parents always report they gain a wealth of useful information from this workshop.”

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Edward Spector, Psy.D. on “The Healthy Use of Technology: Setting Limits on the Virtual World.”

Spector gave the warning signs of the compulsive use of these technologies but

also indicated what is appropriate use — and the risks as well as the value of youth’s utilization of technology. “I recommend that all parents initiate a family game night where parents play their children’s games with them. It is an educational activity for the entire family. Well designed games are great teachers and actually elevate problem solving skills and inductive reasoning,” he said.

Parent and McLean School board member Eric Greenberg found the seminar very helpful: “Raising kids is always complicated, and this seminar offers parents a chance to speak with experts and share their experiences and questions with the other parents. The McLean School serves as a bridge; they are more than just a school — they serve as a resource for helping families and teachers — as well as our entire community.”

Parent Stacey Wills, spouse of a McLean School alumni and mother of two McLean School students attended the workshop for the second year: “The seminars give me a factual framework for making decisions concerning my children. Each year their topics are timely and provide information that I need. I plan to attend the “What’s Eating Your Child?” workshop to learn more about nutrition and how it affects my chil-

dren. The experts are excellent and I am pleased to have accurate information.”

For the first session, participants were given the choice of attending one of the following seminars: “Parenting under Complex Conditions: Creating a Nurturing Stepfamily Environment” led by Jonah Green, LCSW-C; “What’s Eating Your Child?” (nutrition strategies for better learning and mood) facilitated by Kelly Dorfman, MS, LND; “Raise Your Child’s Social IQ” led by Cathi Cohen, LCSW, CGP; “Adoption Through the Eyes of Children: A Developmental Perspective” with Debbie Riley, MS, and “Medication Management of ADHD in the Teen Years: Keys to Success and Pitfalls to Avoid” with Dr. Chuck Conlon, MD.

The topics for the second seminar were “Understanding Adolescent Social Culture: From Bonding to Bullying, led by Julie Baron, LCSW-C; “College Considerations for LD/ADHD Students,” chaired by Hannah Serota, McLean’s College counselor, along with Rachel Masson, director of admission at Landmark College; “Raise Your Child’s Social IQ” with Cathi Cohen LCSW, CGP; “Beneath the Mask: Adoption Through the Eyes of Adolescents” by Debbie Riley, MS, and “Dyslexia: What Every Parent Needs to Know” with Ann Dolin, M. ED.

At 12:30, lunch was held and registrants were able to attend an exhibit fair as well as ask questions of the presenters.

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PHOTOS BY DEBORAH STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

At the Red Dress Ball

The Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo filled with dancers for the Saturday, Feb. 9, Red Dress Ball.



The Eric Felten Jazz Orchestra, featuring big band arrangements of Count Basie, Billy May and others, performs.

Environmental Concerns Prompt Dissenting Vote

County Council approves spending for artificial turf at Wootton.

BY KEN MOORE
THE ALMANAC

Councilmember Marc Elrich took an authentic stand against artificial turf. “I continue to be concerned with the health and environmental impacts,” he said. “I’ve talked with toxicologists and in the space of five minutes I get information that is reassuring and then I get information that is disconcerting. It’s hard to know where to come out.”

The Montgomery County Council approved a \$1.1 million appropriation for the building of an artificial turf field at Wootton High School at last week’s council session on Feb. 5.

Elrich was the lone dissenting vote on the nine-member council.

“I wish we would take a moratorium on artificial fields and ask the state [Environmental Protection Agency] to do some serious studies. I think we should be more cautious,” Elrich said.

“We should make this a matter of regulatory concern.”

“I continue to be concerned with the health and environmental impacts ... I think we should be more cautious.”

— Councilmember Marc Elrich

which will pay \$900,000 in exchange for 900-1,000 hours of use per year for the next 10 years, according to council documents. The Wootton Booster Club will raise the final \$200,000 necessary for the project.

Montgomery County Board of Education requested the \$1.1 million of private funds in November, and County Executive Isiah Leggett (D) recommended approval in December.

The project’s timetable is “very tight,” said James Song, director of the school system’s Department of Facilities Management. The goal, according to Song and school officials, is to complete installation of the field by the time fall sports begin.

Wootton High School is scheduled for its next modernization project in August 2020, with site completion in August 2021.

“This is the first artificial field installed outside a regular construction project,” said Essie McGuire, senior legislative analyst for the council at a council education subcommittee work session the week before the council’s vote.

Richard Montgomery High School and Walter Johnson High School have artificial

turf fields; there are artificial fields at Blair Recreational Park, Fairland Recreational Park and three at the Germantown SoccerPlex, according to County Council documents. Some private schools in Potomac and Bethesda, including Bullis, have artificial turf fields.

THE WOOTTON PROJECT will be funded in part by the Bethesda Soccer Club,

SEE COUNCIL APPROVES, PAGE 4

Fate of Brickyard Road Nears Conclusion?

Circuit Court judge’s decision on fate of organic farm on Brickyard expected by next week.

BY KEN MOORE
THE ALMANAC

The fate of a 20-acre farm on Brickyard Road and its 30 years of organic soil are now in the hands of Montgomery County Circuit Court Judge Robert A. Greenberg.

Judge Greenberg is expected to make a ruling by next week on the legality of the Board of Education’s lease of the land to the county for use as soccer fields.

“You’ll have something soon,” Judge Greenberg said Friday, Feb. 8, at the conclusion of an hour-long hearing about the battle that has lasted two years.

“The board’s resolution authorizing the lease of the Brickyard Road Site to the

county for the use by a private athletic organization for the construction and use of ball fields was arbitrary, unreasonable and illegal,” according to legal documents filed by Brian E. Barkley, attorney for the Brickyard Coalition, for Friday’s hearing. “Violations of the Open Meetings Act resulted in a lack of transparency about the decision-making process.”

In court, Barkley said, “Montgomery County has a long history of open government. That makes it all the more puzzling when the county is defending a decision made under a flawed process that was not open.”

Attorneys for the county and the Board of Education rejected “lack of transparency” claims by opponents of the plan to turn the

land into soccer fields.

“Petitioners and cross-petitioners seek to dictate, for their own parochial benefit, the use of public land and deny its use to the people of Montgomery County at large in what is yet another attempt by a small group of people to use litigation to thwart the legitimate action of an elected body acting for the public good,” according to Patrick Clancy and Kristin M. Koger, counsel for the Board of Education of Montgomery County.

In the courtroom, attorney Clifford L. Royalty with the Office of the County Attorney, said “aspersions have been made on the county which have been unfair and unfounded.”

“To void the board act would be draconian because there would be collateral dam-

age to the county,” he said.

Barkley and James L. Parsons, attorney for organic farmer Nick Maravell, argue that the Montgomery County Board of Education violated Open Meetings Act laws. The lack of transparency kept citizens unaware of decisions the county and Board of Education were making.

“There is no doubt there was a violation of the Open Meetings Act; the question is what can the board do about it now?” said Barkley.

“We are asking to go back to square one when citizens can have open access to the whole process,” said Barkley.

“The only way to cure this is to void the resolution of the board,” said Parsons.

SEE JUDGE’S DECISION, PAGE 4

LET'S TALK Real Estate



by Michael Matese

Inside Out: Personalizing the Luxury Home

The vibrant market for luxury homes is one that is defined by constant change, keeping pace with a modern world and the changing needs of its unique clients. Over the past decade, the very definition of luxury has seen a dramatic shift—in the past, the measure of square footage was the primary aspect defining a property as a “luxury home”. Today, both the market and the clientele have adjusted their needs, wants and long-term goals when purchasing luxury real estate. Gone are the days of the “McMansion”, traded in so that luxury homeowners can trade up. Elegance, amenities and attention to details are the qualities the modern homebuyer is interested in. The new definition of “luxury home” places more emphasis on the ease, comfort, convenience and magnificence of the home’s details, features and amenities, rather than the space that they take up. The livability of the modern luxury home is the key feature that modern buyers are looking for, a measured consideration of four main factors: the flexibility of their living space, the storage area available, the entertainment areas and their features and the stress-free ambiance created by the home’s amenities. Fun, fitness, attention to detail, technological conveniences and security are the new premiums in luxury homes. Space is nice—but what’s in the space is the key selling point of the modern world of luxury homes. Home designs incorporating fun, leisure, flexibility and fitness are at an all-time high demand. Privately located master suites, walk-in showers and whirlpools, split vanities, home fitness facilities, state-of-the-art media rooms, completely equipped functional offices, well-designed generous closets, in-law suites, home wine cellars and upstairs auxiliary kitchens are a few of the more popular features the contemporary luxury home buyer is looking for. Home automation and security are technological additions that make luxury homes stand out, even in the specialized market, with many modern luxury homes having daily automated chores programmed into their operating systems, allowing homeowners more free time—and automated security systems allow phone and internet access, so homeowners can relax while they’re away, confident that their home doesn’t appear empty while they’re away and secure in their ability to “check in” remotely. Home swimming spas, in-home saunas, private bathroom suite spas, massage rooms, treadmill pools, endless pools, luxury home theatres, game rooms and professional kitchens are also rising in popularity, emphasizing the idea of the luxury home as a relaxing, indulgent refuge from the fast-pace of the stress of the outside world. As more and more homeowners seek a more casual, elegant approach to their entertaining, big vistas, outdoor kitchens, greenhouses, solariums, atriums and porte cochères are becoming popular additions that can increase a home’s value and overall attractiveness to potential buyers, as well as being features that allow current luxury homeowners added years of comfort and enjoyment over time.

For professional advice on all aspects of buying and selling real estate, call:

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News



PHOTOS BY BETSY BADEN

Jewelry by designer Betsy Baden will be shown at The Art Gallery of Potomac this month.

Local Art Exhibit Offers Valentine’s Day Theme

This month the Art Gallery of Potomac presents “Be My Valentine” featuring painting and jewelry for Valentine’s Day through Feb. 24.

Jewelry from designer Betsy Baden will be featured. “Making jewelry has been more of a pastime than a business,” she said. “I have been so happy that I have been able to use jewelry making as a fundraising activity for ALS associations and as a way to honor my dear friend who died of this illness this past summer. I love colors and stones and the artistry of making unique items. When I find materials I love, I can’t wait to turn them

into something wearable.”

Gallery hours are Thursday-Sunday, 12-4 p.m. The gallery is located at 9945 Falls Road in Potomac. It has relocated within the same shopping center and is now next to Big Wheels Bikes behind Walgreens. Phone 301-365-7161. For more information, go to www.potomacartists.org or www.theartgalleryofpotomac.com.

— COLLEEN HEALY

Painting by Claire Howard: “He Loves Me.”



Council Approves Spending for Artificial Turf at Wootton

FROM PAGE 3

The last six years the council has “learned more about artificial turf than we ever thought we would,” said Valerie Ervin, at the subcommittee work session the week before.

“I would like to challenge MCPS and the Board of Education to work with the environmental community of Montgomery County,” she said. “This is not the end, this is where we’re just getting started.”

West Montgomery County Citi-

zens Association continues to express concerns about both the health and environmental safety of artificial turf.

“It is something that causes people to be anxious,” said Councilmember Roger Berliner (D-Potomac). “But our county has done its due diligence.”

“No community in America has put a ban on artificial turf,” he said.

Phil Andrews applauded the efforts of environmental advocates such as Peggy Dennis, Diana

Conway and Kathleen Michaels, who have all testified against the county’s use of artificial turf fields. They cite data from scientific studies across the United States, including one conducted in New Jersey that found that lead particulates can be found in the air and breathing zone of players on artificial athletic fields.

“Part of the issue is there are no Montgomery County guidelines or regulations for materials used in artificial fields,” said Michaels, a neuroscientist.

But Andrews said the council had to go with the best science available to it at this time.

“This is an outdoor field and will have a clear benefit to thousands of users,” he said. “We should continue to listen to the science, but at this point, the council is well justified in approving these fields.”

Conflicting science does raise concern, but the “conflicting evidence doesn’t rise to the level of a moratorium. I feel like we are doing the right thing as painful as it is,” said Berliner.

Judge’s Decision on Farm Expected by Next Week

FROM PAGE 3

But Clancy and Royalty defended the county’s and board’s actions.

“This is not a soccer site, this is a school site. Right now, it is a site

that can be taken by the board and used for a school site within two years,” Clancy said before Judge Greenberg. “The board has not leased it to MSI, the board has leased it to the county for use as

ball fields.” Judge Greenberg didn’t give any indication of his legal conclusion. But in the hearing he called “transparency,” one of the “most overused” but “least utilized” terms in government.

“The Open Meetings Act is an attempt to make sure that we have good government,” he said.

“Why can’t I know at least in broad terms what happened in there?” Judge Greenberg said.

All Tied Up New clinic teaches children how to tie their shoes.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE ALMANAC

Like many parents of young children, Mary Hanlon decided it was time for her five-year-old son, Hank to reach another milestone: learning to tie his shoes.

"I was done either choosing to limit his shoe choices to Velcro, or having to tie his shoes for him every time we left the house," said Hanlon.

Hanlon thought enlisting the help of an expert was a good starting point, so she registered her son for a free clinic at the Shoe Train in Cabin John. "Shoe Tying with Mr. Bill" is a complimentary class held on the second Wednesday of every month.

"Hank was reticent to try to tie shoes or be shown how, but is a very competent and independent kid with good manual dexterity, and we just thought it was time,"

said Hanlon. "I think the idea of learning to tie shoes can be intimidating, and sometimes instruction on things like that comes more easily from someone who's not the parent."

The shoe-tying clinics were the brainchild of Shoe Train owner Marina Fradlin. "It was immediately apparent that one of the top concerns for parents of young kids is how and when to teach them to tie their shoes," she said. "It's a life

Free Shoe Tying Clinic

Clinics offered 2nd Wednesday of each month, 4-4:30 p.m. at Potomac's Shoe Train. For children 5 and up. Reservation required, visit <http://shoetrainpotomac.com/>

decades. "Over the years, it was apparent that Bill's technique 'spoke' to children and piqued their interest, so he was the obvious person to have host the clinic," said Fradlin.

Children must be at least five years old to attend a clinic. "[T]hat's when the fine motor skills for tying start to kick in," said Wong. "Usually that's also when children really start wanting to learn. The interest co-

incides with the start of kindergarten and the desire to feel independent. Of course, there are variances on either side of five, but in my four decades of teaching experience, five is the average age

"I think the idea of learning to tie shoes can be intimidating, and sometimes instruction on things like that comes more easily from someone who's not the parent."

—**Mary Hanlon, Potomac parent**

event that's often a stressor."

The classes, which are limited to six children per session and require reservations, are taught by Bill Wong, an expert who has worked at the Shoe Train for three



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARL SHANE

Mary Hanlon's son Hank Amaditz learned to tie his shoes at a clinic taught by Bill Wong, called "Shoe Tying with Mr. Bill" at the Shoe Train in Cabin John.

for success in teaching kids to tie their shoes."

How does a parent know that a child is ready to begin learning to tie a pair of shoelaces? "If a child wants to tie, then she or he will learn to tie," said Wong. "If a child fights a parent because she or he just doesn't want to do it, for what-

ever reason, it will be virtually impossible to teach him or her. [The] key to anything is wanting to do it."

Children who complete the clinic receive a certificate that is rolled and tied with a new pair of shoelaces. For more, visit: <http://shoetrainpotomac.com/>



Corina Guo and Teddy Ye at the library's used book sale.



Joyce Rudick

Used Book Sale

The Potomac Library hosted its monthly used book sale on Saturday, Feb. 9. All books are contributed by the local community and proceeds benefit the library. Most books were 50 cents - \$1.

PHOTOS BY
DEBORAH STEVENS
THE ALMANAC

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PEOPLE

Talking Business

The Potomac Chamber of Commerce gathered for a night of networking at Normandie Farm Restaurant on Feb. 7

PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC



Sharing a laugh: Dave Drake (Kiwanis Legislative District 15), Nike Cronin (Kiwanis past president), Jill Phillips (Squeals on Wheels), and Bill Richbourg (Kiwanis Legislative District 15).



Jeff Kaufman (Morgan Stanley Brokerage) shares a laugh with Alex Ramdin (Nepali by TDM).



Potomac Chamber of Commerce President Adam Greenberg talks with Luis Cardenas (Bargain Movers).



Tyler Phillips (RentACoop) talks to Alex Ramdin (Nepali by TDM).



Dr. Barbara Johnson, a Potomac optometrist, talks with Diana Samata of RentACoop.



Tyler Phillips (RentACoop), his mother Jill Phillips (Squeals on Wheels) and Jennifer Matheson (Potomac Chamber Secretary) raffle off two dozen eggs from RentACoop.



Carol Leahy of the Potomac Theatre Company hands a postcard with the information on their upcoming show, "Blithe Spirit," to Mike Cronin, the past president of the Kiwanis Club.



Jennifer Matheson, the Potomac Chamber of Commerce's Secretary and organizer for the quarterly mixers, is ready to raffle off the door prizes.

BULLETIN BOARD

MONDAY/FEB. 18

Job Search Training for Seniors.

Features help with resumes, interviewing skills, personal job search plans and more. Classes are held at the Ann L. Bronfman Center, 12320 Parklawn Drive, Rockville. Visit www.accessJCA.org or 301-255-4215 to register.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 20

Volunteer Session.

The Literacy

Council of Montgomery County will hold information sessions for volunteers interested in helping adults with learning to read, write or speak English at 7:30 p.m. at Rockville Library. Visit www.literacycouncilmcmd.org or 301-610-0030.

THURSDAY/FEB. 21

Design and Remodeling Seminar.

6-8p.m. at Hopkins & Porter, 12944-C Travilah Road, #204. Free. Many

subjects will be discussed, including how to let light in. Discuss your project with professional staff and more. Reservations required, 301-840-9121 #17.

SATURDAY/FEB. 23

Mini-Conference. Montgomery County Master Gardeners is holding its conference at Agricultural History Farm Park, 18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood. Enjoy a day-long event with workshops, door prizes, networking

and more. Registration ends Feb. 15. \$50 or \$90/two people. E-mail mgminiconference@gmail.com.

Free Workshop. 1:30-3:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 6030 Grosvenor Lane. Learn what to expect during a dog's adolescence and how to get through it. Leave dogs at home. Visit www.yourdogsfriend.info or 301-983-5913.

Seminar. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda. "Understanding Trauma and Sexualized Behavior in Children and Teens" will be discussed.

Visit www.adoptionstogether.org or 301-439-2900 to register.

SATURDAY/MARCH 2

Seminar. 9 a.m.-noon at Adoptions Together, 4061 Powder Mill Road, Suite 320, Calverton. "Talking to Your Child About Adoption" is the topic. \$45/family. Visit www.adoptionstogether.org or 301-439-2900 to register.

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WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6

THURSDAY/MARCH 7

Webinar. 7-8:30 p.m. "Transracial Adoption: What You Need to Know." \$25. Visit www.adoptiontogether.org or 301-439-2900 to register.

SUNDAY/MARCH 17

Shrimp and Oyster Feast

Fundraiser. 1-5 p.m. at Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad, 5020 Battery Lane, Bethesda. \$45/person for all-you-can-eat steamed shrimp, fresh shucked and fried oysters, potato salad, sliced ham and more. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Visit www.bccrs.com or 301-977-6634.

TUESDAY/MARCH 19

Volunteer Session. The Literacy Council of Montgomery County will hold information sessions for volunteers interested in helping adults with learning to read, write or speak English at 7:30 p.m. at Rockville Library. Visit www.literacycouncilmcmd.org or 301-610-0030.

JUNE 17 THROUGH AUG. 9

Social Skills Summer Camp.


Children in grades 1 through 6 can attend camp and learn friendly behaviors, working as a team, anger management and more. Held by the Jewish Social Service Agency and the McLean School of Maryland. All potential campers will be interviewed to make sure the camp is appropriate for their needs. Visit

www.summeredge.org/ for more.

ONGOING



Alzheimer's Association support

groups provide a place for people with Alzheimer's, their caregivers, family members, and/or friends to share valuable information, caregiving tips and concerns throughout the Alzheimer's journey. Groups are facilitated by trained group leaders and are ongoing, free and open to the community. Call the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at 703-359-4440 or 800-272-3900 before attending a group for the first time to verify meeting information, obtain directions or other information about the group. A complete list of all groups in the National Capital Area region can be viewed at www.alz.org/nca.



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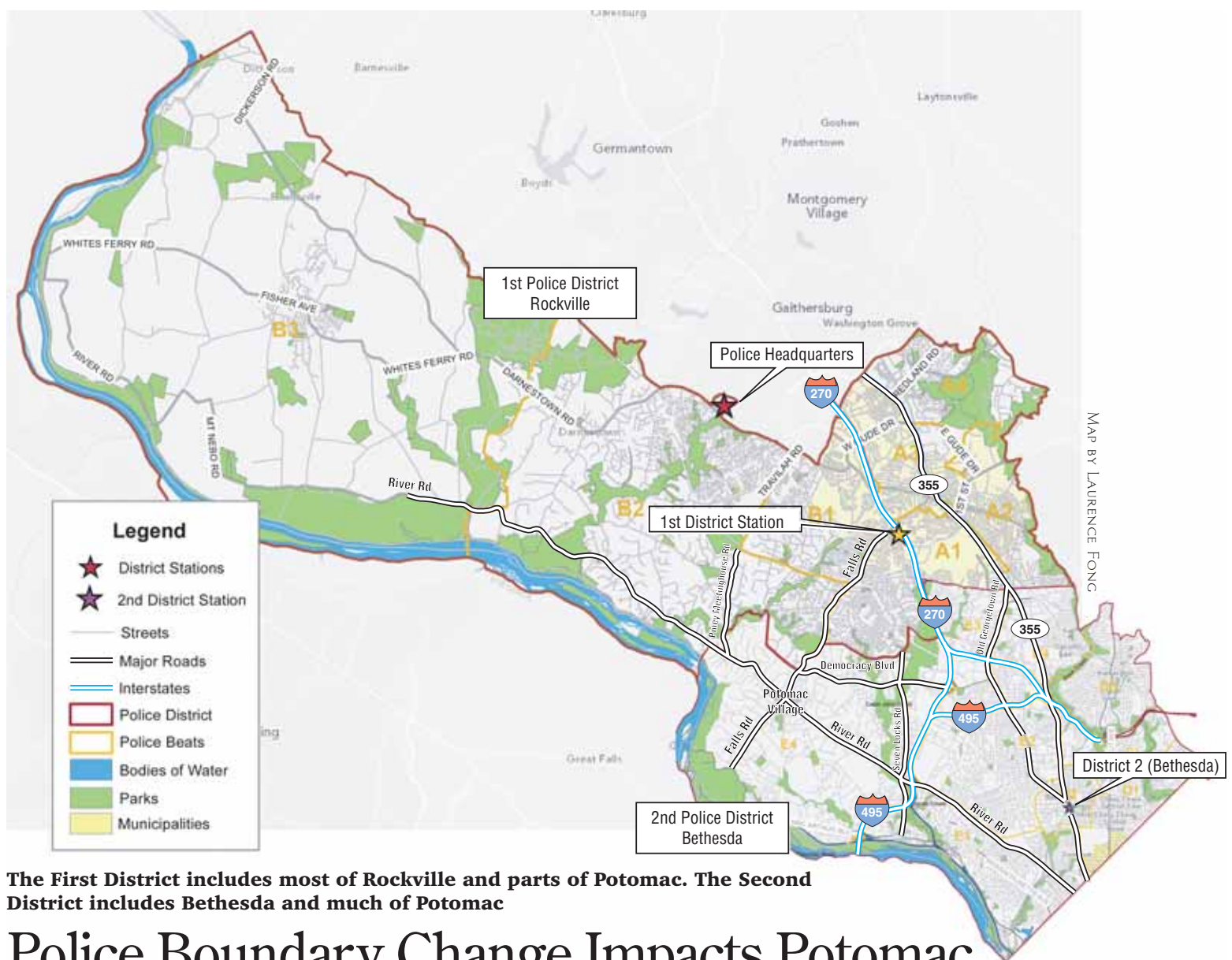
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Graphics and Design

NEWS



The First District includes most of Rockville and parts of Potomac. The Second District includes Bethesda and much of Potomac

Police Boundary Change Impacts Potomac

The Montgomery County Police Department began operations under new district boundaries on Monday, Feb. 4, which continue to divide Potomac between the first and second police districts.

Contact information for First District Station is: Captain James Fenner, Commander; 1451 Seven Locks Road, Rockville, 20854; Main number: 240-773-6070; Investigative Section: 240-773-6084; School Resource Officer, 240-773-6113.

Contact information for Second District Station is: Captain Dave Falcinelli, Commander;

7359 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, 20814; Main number: 301-652-9200; Investigative Section: 301-657-0112; School Resource Officer: 301-657-0118.

The Second District sponsors a monthly Senior Forum.

Join the Montgomery County Police Department for a morning of safety information, door prizes, and a free movie at The Movies at Westfield – Montgomery, 7101 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda, at 10 a.m. This program is sponsored by Montgomery County Police, The Movies at Montgomery Mall and Westfield –

Montgomery Mall. Questions about the program can be directed to Officer Stroman at 240-876-1277. To verify which movie is being shown, call 301-469-5180.

❖ March 6, “Moonrise Kingdom,” comedy/drama with Bruce Willis.

❖ April 3, “The Devil Wears Prada,” comedy/drama with Meryl Streep.

❖ May 1, “Second Hand Lions,” comedy/drama with Robert Duvall.

❖ June 5, “The Great Debaters,” drama with Denzel Washington.

❖ July 3, “Argo,” drama with Ben Affleck.

Call for Photos for Pet Almanac

The Pet Almanac, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish at the end of February, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Feb. 21.

Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

Please identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo and of your pet, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just

your town name).

We also welcome short stories about how you got your pet, a noteworthy talent or anecdote about your pet, and drawings, paintings or other artwork of your pet by children or adults.

Email submissions to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com.

To see our last pet edition, visit connectionarchives.com/PDF/2012/072512/Potomac.pdf

Take ‘Virtual Tour’ of County

It may be cold and blustery outside — so fire up those computers and enjoy a little trip around the county at www.HeritageMontgomery.org.

Short “travelogues,” video clips running from 2 to 6 minutes long, were originally part of the Paths to the Present series, which ran on County Cable Montgomery. The first four additions to the Heritage Montgomery website feature:

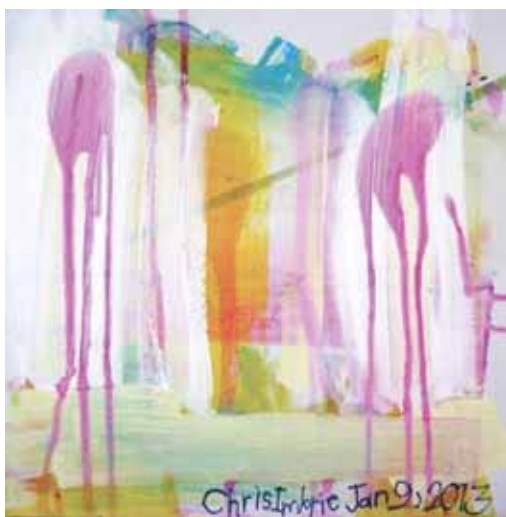
* The C&O Canal and Monocacy Aqueduct in Dickerson – taking viewers

along the canal and telling the story of the construction of the aqueduct completed in 1833.

* White’s Ferry in Poolesville – a cable ferry that has transported vehicles and walk-on passengers across the Potomac River since 1828.

* Madison House in Brookeville – built in 1790, the now restored home provided refuge for President James Madison when he fled the British attack on the White House during the War of 1812.

ENTERTAINMENT



Flamingos by Christopher Imbrie

Email community entertainment events to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos and artwork encouraged.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 13

Music Performance. Artist in Residence Wytold will perform on the electric cello at 7:30 p.m. at Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. \$15/person. Visit www.strathmore.org for more.

THURSDAY/FEB. 14

Performance. 8 p.m. at Strathmore. See "La Pasion Flamenca." There will be a pre-concert dinner from 6-7:15 p.m. for \$69. Reservations required. For tickets to the performance visit www.strathmore.org or 301-51-5100.

Blues Dance. 8:15-11:30 p.m. at Ballroom Annex at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Capital Blues presents a beginner workshop at 8:15 p.m. with dancing starting at 9 p.m. to blues music from every corner of the genre. \$8. E-mail info@capitalblues.org for more.

FRIDAY/FEB. 15

Contra Dance. Lessons start at 7:30 p.m. with dancing from 8:30-11:30 p.m. in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Music provided by Live Culture. Beginners welcome. \$10/adults. E-mail info@fridaynightdance.org for more.

Balboa Dance. Lesson at 8:30 p.m. with dancing from 9-11:30 p.m. in the Ballroom Annex at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. \$10. E-mail debra@gottaswing.com.

Music. Doors open at 8 p.m. at Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Hear Ra Ra Rasputin with Miyazaki. Standing room only. \$10/online or \$12/dor. Visit www.strathmore.org.

FRIDAY-MONDAY/FEB. 15-18

Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival. Discover The Jazz in You at a full weekend of jazz events for the whole family. Concerts, high school band competitions, a "petting zoo" of instruments for children, and art and craft vendors highlight this annual festival at Hilton Rockville, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville. Visit www.midatlanticjazzfestival.org for a complete lineup of events and ticket information or call 1-888-909-6330.

FEB. 16 THROUGH SATURDAY/APRIL 13

Art Exhibit. See "Pulse: Art and Medicine" at Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Multimedia exhibit investigates medicine as an inspiration for art. Visit www.strathmore.org or 301-581-

'Finding My Voice'

Christopher Imbrie, a 27-year-old with autism, has found his voice through colorful abstract art. Imbrie will exhibit his work at Glen Echo Park's Yellow Barn Gallery on Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 23-24, 2013, noon-5 p.m., with a reception on Saturday, Feb. 23 from 5-7 p.m. Imbrie took up painting in 2011 and currently studies with Washington area artist and arts educator, Lauren Rader. The show will include more than 30 recent works. Visit www.christopherimbrie.com.

5100.

SATURDAY/FEB. 16

Tiny Tots. 10 a.m. at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Children up to age 4 can enjoy a short 30-min show. Lights stay on, doors open and everyone has a good time. \$5/person including babies-in-arms. Pre-purchase or no-obligation reservations recommended. Visit www.thepuppetco.org or 301-634-5380.

Swing Dance. Beginner lesson at 8 p.m. with dancing from 9 p.m.-midnight in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Hear music from Craig Gildner's Big Band. \$16. E-mail info@dclx.com for more.

THROUGH FEB. 16

Art Exhibit. See the works of Kenneth Martin at the Kaplan Gallery at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Free. Visit www.visartscenter.org or call 301-315-8200.

SUNDAY/FEB. 17

Tiny Tots. 10 a.m. at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Children up to age 4 can enjoy a short 30-min show. Lights stay on, doors open and everyone has a good time. \$5/person including babies-in-arms. Pre-purchase or no-obligation reservations recommended. Visit thepuppetco.org or 301-634-5380.

English Country Dance. 2:30-5:30 p.m. at Ballroom Annex at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Enjoy instruction and dancing to recorded music. \$10. E-mail Michael@michaelbarraclough.com.

Waltz Dance. 2:45-6 p.m. at the Spanish Ballroom, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Enjoy dancing to music by Devine Comedy. \$10. E-mail info@waltztimedances.org.

Argentine Tango. 6:30-11 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Dancers can enjoy hour-long beginner lessons at 6:30 p.m. or intermediate lessons at 7:30 p.m. DJ Rene Davila will provide a mix of traditional and muevo tango music. \$15 includes the lesson; \$10 dance only. E-mail ciardo8130@yahoo.com for more.

Contra and Square Dance. Lessons at 7 p.m. with dancing at 7:30 p.m. to the music of Taylor Among the Devils at Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. \$12/nonmember; \$9/FSGW member. Visit www.fsgw.org for more.

MONDAY/FEB. 18

Discover Strathmore. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Music Center and Mansion at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane.

Free. Visit www.strathmore.org or 301-581-5100.

TUESDAY/FEB. 19

Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. see "Pulse: Art and Medicine" at Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Multimedia exhibit investigates medicine as an inspiration for art. Visit www.strathmore.org or 301-581-5100.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 20

Apps, Apps and More Apps. Join Joan Green, the founder of Innovative Speech and author of "The Ultimate Guide to Assistive Technology in Special Education," as she explores the world of apps. Call 301-468-9343.

Tiny Tots. 10 a.m. at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Children up to age 4 can enjoy a short 30-min show. Lights stay on, doors open and everyone has a good time. \$5/person including babies-in-arms. Pre-purchase or no-obligation reservations recommended. Visit www.thepuppetco.org or 301-634-5380.

THURSDAY/FEB. 21

Blues Dance. 8:15-11:30 p.m. at Ballroom Annex at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Capital Blues presents a beginner workshop at 8:15 p.m. with dancing starting at 9 p.m. to blues music from every corner of the genre. \$8. E-mail info@capitalblues.org for more.

FRIDAY/FEB. 22

Bingo Night. 7-9 p.m. at Clara Barton Community Center, 7425 MacArthur Blvd., Cabin John. \$5/bingo card. Prizes can be chosen from an adult or children's table, with all children receiving a prize at the end of the night. Refreshments will be available for purchase with proceeds benefitting the center. Visit www.friendsofclarabartoncommunitycenter.org or 240-777-4910.

Contra and Square Dance. Lessons at 7:30 p.m. with dancing at 8:30 p.m. to the music of Nor'easter at Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. \$12/nonmember; \$9/FSGW member. Visit www.fsgw.org for more.

Donate Used Books. Drop off books at Congregation Beth Shalom, 11825 Seven Locks Road, to benefit the new library. 301-279-7010.

SATURDAY/FEB. 23

Children's Talk and Tour. 10:15 at Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Children ages 5 and up with adult can take part in this free event. Tickets required. Visit www.strathmore.org or 301-581-5100.

Art Talk for Adults. 1 p.m. at Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Free. Visit www.strathmore.org or 301-581-5100.

Tiny Tots. 10 a.m. at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Children up to age 4 can enjoy a short 30-min show. Lights stay on, doors open and everyone has a good time. \$5/person including babies-in-arms. Pre-purchase or no-obligation reservations recommended. Visit www.thepuppetco.org or 301-634-5380.

Swing Dance. Beginner lesson at 8 p.m. with dancing from 9 p.m.-midnight in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Hear music from Tom Cunningham Orchestra. \$15. E-mail info@dclx.com for more.

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Potomac REAL ESTATE

December 2012 Top Sales

PHOTOS BY DEB STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

IN DECEMBER 2012, 33 POTOMAC HOMES
SOLD BETWEEN \$2,675,000-\$258,000.

1 9030 Congressional
Parkway — \$2,675,000



3 10000
Bentcross Drive
— \$2,150,000



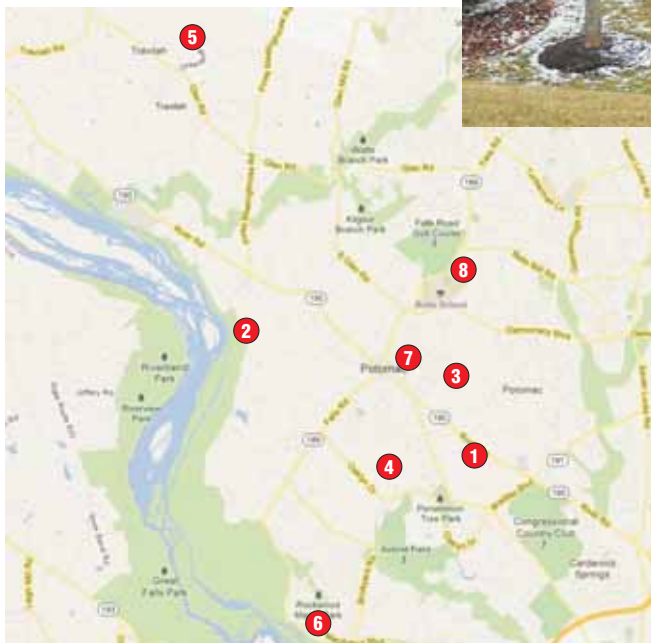
2 9904 River View Court — \$2,175,000



7 9904 Glenolden Drive —
\$1,210,000



4 9851 Avenel Farm Drive — \$2,150,000



5 12708 Greenbriar Road —
\$1,550,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	..	Postal	City ..	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	..	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 9030 CONGRESSIONAL PKWY	5	...	5	...	4	POTOMAC	\$2,675,000	Detached	3.11	.....	20854	BRADLEY FARMS	12/12/12
2 9904 RIVER VIEW CT	6	...	6	...	2	POTOMAC	\$2,175,000	Detached	1.33	.....	20854	MARWOOD	12/10/12
3 10000 BENTCROSS DR	5	...	5	...	2	POTOMAC	\$2,150,000	Detached	2.15	.....	20854	FALCONHURST	12/28/12
4 9851 AVENEL FARM DR	6	...	5	...	2	POTOMAC	\$2,150,000	Detached	2.01	.....	20854	AVENEL	12/20/12
5 12708 GREENBRIAR RD	5	...	6	...	2	POTOMAC	\$1,550,000	Detached	2.00	.....	20854	PALATINE	12/24/12
6 10560 MACARTHUR BLVD	6	...	6	...	3	POTOMAC	\$1,465,000	Detached	0.50	.....	20854	POTOMAC OUTSIDE	12/14/12
7 9904 GLENOLDEN DR	5	...	4	...	1	POTOMAC	\$1,210,000	Detached	0.40	.....	20854	POTOMAC VILLAGE	12/05/12
8 10809 NANTUCKET TER	5	...	4	...	2	POTOMAC	\$1,200,000	Detached	0.94	20854	KENTSDALE ESTATES	12/06/12

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© Google Map data

Last Minute Valentine's Day Ideas

Subtle accents for the most romantic holiday of the year.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE ALMANAC

Still looking for Valentine's Day home accents? Local design experts say it is not too late to add touches of romance in time for Cupid's big day.

Laura Smith of the Dandelion Patch in Vienna and Reston, suggests chocolate-scented candles, soaps and shea butter. "They are very pretty and you could put them in a guest bathroom and the candles in the living room," she said. "They smell delicious — almost edible."

Next on her list is a napkin box with cupcake napkins and paperweights. "They are perfect for entertaining, but also beautiful enough to leave out all year round," said Smith. "Napkins and weights can be changed out to make this perfect for any event or time of year."

Judy Philactos of Periwinkle Gifts recommends miniature glass hearts displayed on a tiny serving tray. "Feather heart wreaths also make nice displays," she said.

When it comes to Valentine's Day bouquets and centerpieces, floral designer Evelyn Kinville of Behnkes Florist in Potomac, Md., says there are plenty



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

Heart wreaths are a simple and stylish way to make one's home reflect the most romantic day of the year.

of options. "While Valentine's Day is almost exclusively rose-based, it doesn't have to be," she said. "There are French tulips, which are larger and longer-stemmed than traditional tulips. You can use hyacinths, fragrant hybrid lilies and freesia."

OPEN HOUSES IN POTOMAC FEBRUARY 16 & 17

When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. **Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times**

Potomac (20854)

11225 River View Dr.....	\$2,395,000...	Sun 1-4.....	Leslie Friedson.....	Long & Foster..	301-455-4506
9804 Avenel Farm Dr.....	\$1,449,000...	Sun 1-4.....	John Adler..	Wash Fine Prop..	202-274-4665
12400 Beall Mountain Ln.....	\$1,375,000...	Sun 1-4.....	Jackie Tillson.....	Long & Foster..	301-807-6690
11421 Twining Ln.....	\$1,299,000...	Sun 1-4.....	Leslie Friedson.....	Long & Foster..	301-455-4506
11408 Falls Rd.....	\$1,199,000...	Sun 1-4.....	Leslie Friedson.....	Long & Foster..	301-455-4506

Rockville (20850, 20852)

11543 Cushman Rd.....	\$1,899,000...	Sun 1-4.....	Cheryl Leahy.....	Long & Foster..	301-370-2484
104 Wickwood Dr.....	\$824,995...	Sun 1-4.....	Christine Koch.....	RE/MAX..	301-637-9762
11800 Old Georgetown Rd #1405...	\$548,335...	Sat 11-6.....	Bob Lucido.....	Toll..	410-979-6024
11800 Old Georgetown Rd #1212...	\$456,335...	Sat 11-6.....	Bob Lucido.....	Toll..	410-979-6024
11750 Old Georgetown Rd #2312...	\$396,335...	Sat 11-6.....	Bob Lucido.....	Toll..	410-979-6024
1002 Elmcraft Blvd #X-305-R.....	\$355,000...	Sun 1-4.....	Mahin Ghadri.....	Weichert..	301-656-2500

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.



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DIRECTIONS

Our offices are in the Potomac Oak Shopping Center. Take the left entrance to 2nd floor. From Capital Beltway (495): Take River Road Exit 39 (Rte 190) toward Potomac (7.2 miles)—Turn RIGHT on Stoney Creek Rd. (1.4 miles)—Turn RIGHT on Travilah Rd. The Shopping Center is on the LEFT From 270: Take I-370 W (Sam Eig Hwy)—Turn LEFT onto Great Seneca Hwy. (MD-119 E.)—Turn RIGHT onto Darnestown Rd.—Turn LEFT onto Travilah Rd. (4.0 miles) to Glen Rd. intersection; the Shopping Center is on the RIGHT.

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Arrests in North Potomac Burglaries

Detectives from the 1st District Investigative Section have been investigating a series of residential burglaries that have occurred since May of 2012, with most of the incidents occurring since August of 2012. Residents in neighborhoods on either side of Travilah Road, south of Darnestown Road in North Potomac, reported daytime and evening burglaries. Entry was often gained by forcing windows and doors. In some cases, suspects would knock on the front door of a target house to see if anyone was home before breaking in.

Investigators believe that more than 30 homes were burglarized during that time period, and typically jewelry, cash and small electronic items such as computers and cell phones were stolen. An estimated \$100,000.00 worth of property was stolen in these cases.

On Jan. 8, officers from the 1st District responded to the area of Duffie Mill Road and Lake Winds Way for a suspicious person knocking on doors in the neighborhood. A short time later, officers located a vehicle in the same area with the described suspect as well as three other males. Further investigation revealed that all the individuals in the vehicle were in fact responsible for, or knew about many of the burglaries.

With the assistance of 1st District officers, detectives and the MCP SWAT team, additional suspects were arrested and approximately \$45,000 worth of property has since been recovered. The investigation is continuing.

So far, six suspects, three adults and three juveniles, have been arrested and charged in these cases with numerous counts of first-degree burglary, fourth-degree burglary, conspiracy, malicious destruction of property and the associated theft charges.

Smoking Ban on County Property

The County Council on Tuesday, Feb. 12 unanimously approved Bill 33-12 that will establish a ban on smoking on most county owned or leased property.

Bill 33-12, whose chief sponsor was Councilmember Nancy Floreen and which was co-sponsored by Councilmembers Phil Andrews, Marc Elrich, George Leventhal, Navarro, Craig Rice and Hans Riemer, will prohibit smoking on property owned or leased by the county.

The approved bill included recommended amendments from its original form suggested by the council's Health and Human Services Committee. The committee recommended that the bill expand the ban to bus stops and bus shelters.

Another recommendation will allow the county's director of Health and Human Services to designate outdoor smoking areas on certain county properties. This change was made with concerns on the impact Bill 33-12 could have on county-owned and -leased facilities that house programs used to treat people with addictions. Prohibiting smoking in these types of facilities could negatively impact the treatment of people who are stepping down from hard drugs.

The committee also recommended that the ban should not prohibit smoking on county-owned golf courses. The only public course this currently impacts is the Falls Road course in Potomac.

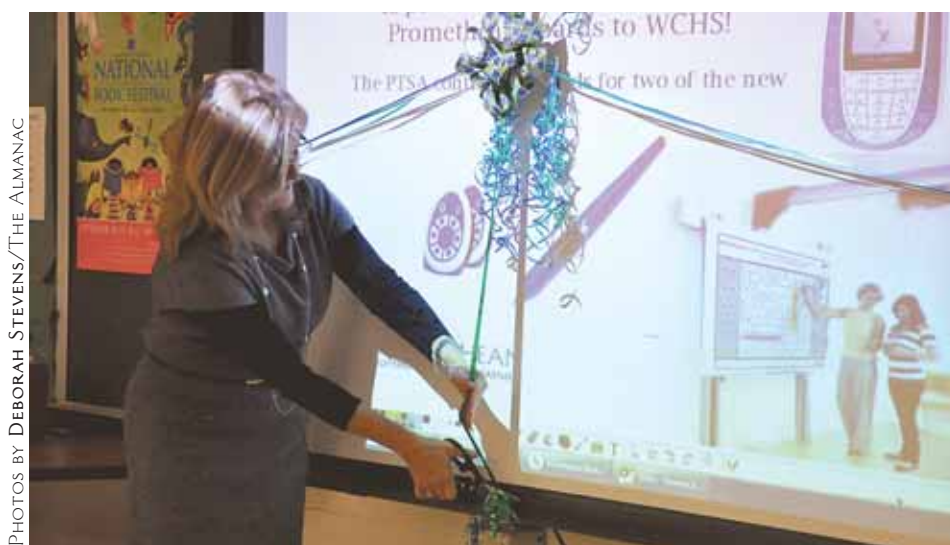
Any violation of the law is a class C civil violation. Each day a violation exists is a separate offense.

Another change recommended by the Health and Human Services Committee and included in the approved bill regards several county owned or leased buildings that include private residences. It was decided to "grandfather" existing tenants, but prohibit smoking in those residences that become vacant after the effective date of the bill.

Detectives are asking anyone with information about these crimes to contact the Rockville Investigative Section at 240-773-6084.

Police ask that residents report any suspicious activity, persons or vehicles to police by calling 9-1-1 or the non-emergency line, 301-279-8000.

SCHOOLS



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

Laura Segal cuts the ribbon for the new Promethean board.

Foundation Funds Promethean Boards

Added interactive technology benefits Churchill High School.

The Winston Churchill High School Educational Foundation presented seven new Promethean boards to the school on Jan. 28.

The foundation raised funds and arranged the purchase of Promethean boards for Winston Churchill High School. The Winston Churchill High School Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) contributed funds for two of the boards.

Staff development teacher Deanna Svreck demonstrated how the boards are utilized for instruction.

The extra boards will provide academic equity for students with courses in these classrooms by allowing teachers to use the same updated teaching techniques and technology as their colleagues.

The Promethean boards were delivered in December 2012, shortly before winter break. The boards were installed in early January and in use on the first day of the second semester. Ten classrooms did



One of the Promethean boards provided by the Churchill Education Foundation.

not have Promethean Boards before this gift. Parents from the Churchill community donated the majority of funding for this project. As the Educational Foundation raises more revenue they plan to purchase boards for the three remaining classrooms. The boards cost approximately \$3500 each.

For more information about Promethean boards visit <http://www.prometheanworld.com/en-us/education/>. The Winston Churchill Educational Foundation, Inc. is an all-volunteer community-based organization created in 2002 to address the needs for teachers and students that are not funded by Montgomery County Public Schools. For more information visit www.WCHSFoundation.org/.

Pets for Adoption

To learn more about Partnership for Animal Welfare, the pets shown, volunteer, or make a tax-deductible donation, contact PAW at www.paw-rescue.org, call 301-572-4729, or write P.A.W., P.O. Box 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768.



HAPPY (dog)-M, 7 yrs, 33 lbs, neutered, Cavalier Spaniel mix- One look at Happy's sweet, smiling face lets you know this boy

wants to please people. He has a wonderful temperament, is playful, and gets along well with other dogs. Happy is being given supplements to prevent arthritis but is an active, joyful dog eager to please a new family.



HOMER (dog)-M, 3 yrs., 58 lbs., neutered, Boxer mix- Wonderful boy. Homer was rescued from a life of neglect and brought back to health by PAW's care.

He's sweet, gentle, loves people and other dogs. Homer has great leash and house manners and is looking for a home where he can ride along and go on your travels and adventures.



PHOTO BY RON BLUNT

Brent Wentworth and his team added white-painted cabinetry, glass cabinet doors, dark gray granite countertops, oak floors and pendant light fixtures that he says “will remain functional and stylish for years to come.”

Design Solution for Busy Family

A small kitchen is transformed into a spacious, light-filled room.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE ALMANAC

When a busy Potomac family decided that it was time to turn their tiny, dark kitchen into free-flowing, light-filled gathering space, they decided to expand their home. Their decision is part of national trend.

“There are definitely a lot of people who are creating good traffic flow in the kitchen and on the first floor for entertaining purposes,” said Morgan Zenner, spokeswoman for the National Association for the Remodeling Industry. “More people are knocking down walls and combining living and kitchen spaces. There is a lot of congregating near the food, so bumping out a breakfast nook or eating area would be the most common type of kitchen addition.”

The family enlisted the help of Bruce Wentworth, president of Wentworth, Inc., who said the ‘70s-era, two-story, suburban home had a narrow kitchen, a small breakfast area and a screened-in porch that no

longer served the needs of an active young family. “The homeowner requested a new kitchen with an island and a breakfast space with banquette seating for six,” Wentworth said the new addition added an extra 120 sq. ft. to the home. That greatly improved the functionality of the kitchen and breakfast areas. The additional space accommodates the kitchen’s new island and a breakfast banquette. A projecting bay window at the kitchen sink expands the depth of the counter top and enhances the garden views.

“Floor to ceiling windows flood the room with natural light and are integrated with the custom banquette. Exterior stucco-like cladding gives the addition the appearance of a bay and harmonizes the house,” he added. “And the bonus space was converting the unused screen porch into a mud room with cubbies, a sink and storage.”

Wentworth production manager Steven Barnard said this is a case where a small addition made a significant difference. “This is one of those things where the sum of all the parts is greater than the whole. It was such a complete change that it is not even the same space any more.”

The new kitchen space has a sense of timelessness as well. “White painted cabinetry, glass cabinet doors, dark gray granite countertops, oak floors and hip pendant light fixtures will remain functional and stylish for years to come,” said Wentworth.

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By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For life, absolutely! As to what happens to my mattress in 10 years or my television in five years – as but a few examples, pales in comparison to what I worry (you'll note I didn't say anticipate) will have happened to me in five or 10 years. Nevertheless, I'd definitely pay extra for that warranty. However, there are no warranties for life, extended or otherwise – and no guarantees either, as I discovered in late February, 2009, when I was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer (or as those of us in the know "acronym it": NSCLC). "Death and taxes," as the old joke says, are the only guarantees. The rest are "hope-to-bees" and "wanna-bees."

A cancer diagnosis (and terminal prognosis – for yours truly, anyway) has a way of sharpening your focus and narrowing your perspective. Initially, after meeting with my oncologist, and for a while thereafter, quite frankly, the three most important people in my life were me, myself and I. For many months post-diagnosis, the three of us didn't care or consider – too much, about what might happen down the road, a road never before traveled. Life's discussions – and decisions – were all about the here and now, not the there and later. What might have been was replaced with what it is and what are you going to do about it.

However, as life – and I, have continued, so too has my understanding and appreciation of my amazing good fortune. To have survived for as long as I have is a blessing and somewhat perplexing to my oncologist. And in that continuing survival and evolution, opportunities have regularly presented themselves that have forced me to consider my past, present and future ("what there is of it"). As much as I don't want to – and quite frankly, prefer not to, have every day-type decisions impacted by my cancer diagnosis, they are. If I didn't/don't consider the context of every decision I make, I would be short-changing myself and forfeiting the future for the present. And even though I had my guarantee pulled in 2009, I'm still trying to live as if any thing's possible.

Certainly there are exceptions to every rule, statistical anomalies in every manner of study and research. Life is not a straight line. Sure death is inevitable, but there shouldn't be any hurry to get there. It will happen soon enough (too soon for some), whether you like it or not. Now whether I outlive my mattress or my television or my car is unknown, but as a cancer patient, I sort of think about whether I will or not. This thought process is a problem – for me. It may be a problem of my own making but as far as problems go, it's a Hall-of-Famer. And by that I mean, it dominates.

Garden variety-type decisions become landscape design-type problems. Previously inconsequential, mundane-type presumptive choices become minefields of negative possibilities/regrets. The short version being: do I really need to do that/buy that/warranty that, if I'm not going to be the true beneficiary – meaning/accepting that some of these rather ordinary decisions might not be about me. And for a terminal cancer patient who has often heard "It's all about you, Kenny," on more than one occasion – from more than one person, assimilating an unanticipated future into an apparently productive present where others matter as much if not more than you do, is almost counter-intuitive. Nevertheless, life certainly appears to be worth living; I'm just not sure how much of it I should pay for in advance.

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

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Churchill Boys' Basketball Beats Wootton

Despite clinching the Montgomery County 4A South division title for the third consecutive year last week, Churchill still had a re-scheduled division game to play with rival Wootton at the Patriots' home floor on Feb. 6.

The game became more critical for the Bulldogs following a 64-46 loss to Quince Orchard the night before that snapped Churchill's eight-game winning streak and tightened the race for high seeds in the upcoming MPSSAA 4A West Region State Playoffs.

The Bulldogs, showing little after-effects from the Quince Orchard loss, responded with a 61-42 win over the Patriots to run their record to 15-4 on the year and close out Montgomery County 4A South Division play with a 9-1 record. The victory

marked Churchill's 28th division win in the last three years against only four losses.

"We've been fortunate to have had some pretty good success in our division lately," Churchill head coach Matt Miller said after game. "Most of the schools in our division view us as a rival and we've been getting their best shot most nights. So I'm proud of this team and the ones that came before it for answering the bell pretty consistently each night in division games. Winning the division is always one of our first goals each season but we still have more we want to try to accomplish this year."

Wootton opened the game with a strong first quarter and led 13-11 after one. But Churchill, behind tougher defense that forced several Patriot turnovers, stormed back in the second quarter, taking a

28-20 lead into the locker room.

From there, the Bulldogs never looked back and extended the lead throughout the remainder of the game, leading by more than 20 on several occasions, before settling for a 19-point victory.

For the game, the Bulldogs defense forced 17 Wootton turnovers and held the Patriots to 24-percent shooting for the contest. Churchill also held a strong advantage on the glass out-rebounding Wootton, 37-22.

The Bulldogs were led by junior guard Allen Njumbe with 18 points and four steals, while sophomore forward Bobby Arthur-Williams added 13 points and 12 rebounds.

Miller was pleased with the effort from both players: "I was happy to see both Allen and Bobby contribute more than they had in recent games. They are important players for us and we know they can make an impact on the game. We can't just rely on Dom (Williams), Malik (Harris) or Bryant (Wheatley) every night. Allen, Bobby, Jesse (Locke), Dylan (Mervis) and Calvin (Kamara) need to be solid for us so that we have the depth we need to be successful."

Whitman Girls' Basketball Edged by Gaithersburg

The Gaithersburg girls' basketball team snapped Whitman's six-game win streak with a 49-47 victory on Feb. 8 at Whitman High School.

According to a box score from the Washington Post's website, Gaithersburg, the two-time defending state champion, trailed by 12 points entering the fourth quarter but outscored the Vikings 19-5 in the final period to pull out the victory.

Kim Durante led Whitman with 14 points, including four 3-pointers, according to the Washington Post. Brittany Fleck had 10 points and Marissa Cannon and Rebecca Ford each had six.

Whitman traveled to face Blair on Tuesday, after The Almanac's deadline. The Vikings will close the regular season with home games against Blake on Friday, Feb. 15 and Clarksburg on Tuesday, Feb. 19.



Churchill's Allen Njumbe, seen earlier this season, scored 18 points against Wootton on Feb. 6.

PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC



Maddie Cannon, seen earlier this season, and the Whitman girls' basketball team lost to Gaithersburg on Feb. 8.

CAMPS & SCHOOLS

Time To Register for Summer Camps

The county's new 2013 Summer Camp Guide is available online at www.MontgomeryParks.org/guide, and www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec. Print copies may be found at select Montgomery Parks' facilities, Montgomery County Recreation centers, government buildings and libraries while supplies last.

More information on Montgomery Parks' summer camps is available at www.MontgomeryParks.org/camps.

Online registration for summer programs and camps for Montgomery Parks is available at www.ParkPASS.org; Online registration for the Department of Recreation is available at <https://recweb.montgomerycountymd.gov/>.

For those who register before March 1, Montgomery Parks is offering a \$25 discount on 15 different 2013 Summer and Spring Break Camps. More details are available at www.MontgomeryParks.org/camps.



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