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 - CUP OF SOUP
 - SMALL FRIES
- SMALL FOUNTAIN DRINK

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*For yeal parmigiana or tuna steak add one dollar.

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NEWS

$Lots\ of\ Danger\ {}^{\rm As\ shoppers\ flock,\ police\ urge\ caution\ walking,\ driving\ in\ parking\ lots.}$

By Ken Moore The Almanac

edestrian Shirley Stearman, 81 of Potomac, died June 2, 2013 after being hit by a 2009 Acura at approximately 1:50 in the afternoon in the Cabin John Shopping Center parking lot at 7919 Tuckerman Lane.

"At the end of the parking aisle near the store, the driver made a left turn and struck the pedestrian who had just parked her car and was walking toward the store," according to Montgomery County Police.

Montgomery County Fire Rescue personnel were in the shopping center on an unrelated call and immediately assisted Stearman, according to police reports. But she later died after being transported to Suburban Hospital.

"We always advise both pedestrians and drivers to always be vigilant and never expect anyone to stop. Err on the side of caution," said Angela Cruz, Montgomery County Police spokesperson at the time.

In Montgomery County, 423 pedestrians in 2012 were struck by vehicles with six fatalities according to county documents. Nearly one-third, 125 of these accidents, occurred in parking lots and garages.

"In 2012, 75 percent of parking lot collisions were deemed the fault of the driver. However, it should be noted that the driver is generally presumed to be at fault without clear evidence to the contrary," according to county documents.

NEARLY 20 PERCENT of the parking lot and garage collisions between vehicles and pedestrians in 2012 resulted in severe, de-



Detectives from the collision reconstruction unit worked last week on investigating the June 2 death at Cabin John Shopping Center.

bilitating injuries — the same percentage as road collisions, according to Montgomery County's study of all accidents.

"Pedestrian collisions in parking lots and garages are on the rise, so we are launching an education campaign this holiday season to raise awareness among drivers and pedestrians about actions they can take to avoid becoming a statistic," said County Executive Ike Leggett on Thursday, Nov. 21. "I am committed to making Montgomery County a model of a truly walkable community, and this commitment extends to every area in the county where pedestrians and vehicles may come into conflict - including parking lots and garages."

Leggett launched the education campaign at Dawson's Market in Rockville Town Center last Thursday.

Through Christmas, police and firefighters will visit some of the county's

busiest shopping areas to remind customers to practice safe driving and walking behaviors in parking lots.

The educational campaign's slogan, "Heads Up in Parking Lots," features the message: "Don't run over people. Don't get run over."

"DRIVERS AND PEDESTRIANS have equal responsibilities in reducing pedestrian-involved collisions," according to Leggett's original Pedestrian Safety Campaign.

"Although parking lot collisions represent a significant portion of pedestrian collisions in the county, the assumption had always been that vehicles involved in these collisions were traveling at low speeds and the resulting impacts caused little or no injury," according to county documents.

"However, in 2012, a more detailed ex-

Pedestrians Struck by Vehicles

| Ye | ar | Total | Collisions Fatalities |
|----|----|-------|-----------------------|
| 20 | 12 | 423 | 6 |
| 20 | 11 | 399 | 11 |
| 20 | 10 | 436 | 13 |
| 20 | 09 | 454 | 14 |
| 20 | 80 | 444 | 19 |
| | | | |

Source: Prioritizing Pedestrian Safety in Montgomery County, Maryland, June 5, 2013

Heads Up in Parking Lots

Montgomery County's Heads Up in Parking Lots campaign offers the following safety tips:

- Drivers: Don't Run Over People Don't drive distractedly it's illegal to hold a phone or text while driving.
 - Don't assume pedestrians see you.
 - ❖ Be especially cautious backing out of a space. Slow down! Parking lots are not speedways.
- Pedestrians: Don't Get Run Over
- Stop talking on the phone and texting while walking. Take out the ear buds.
- Don't assume drivers see you
- * Don't walk behind a vehicle that is backing
- * Be aware and constantly look out for moving vehicles.

amination of collision data revealed that 18 percent of parking lot collisions that occurred that year resulted in incapacitating injuries. And, overall, 54 percent of parking lot/garage collisions in 2012 resulted in some type of injury."

"Darkness does not seem to be a causal factor in parking lot collisions," according to the data.

Police are still investigating Stearman's fatality, police spokesperson Cruz said Monday, Nov. 25.

Warrior Canine Connection Celebrates First Graduation

Five assistance dogs complete their schooling.

By Susan Belford The Almanac

he graduation ceremony was like every other commencement. It in cluded a graduation speaker, honored guests, the National Anthem, an Invocation and a crowd of spectators cheering as the grads took their places on stage. They were proud to have just completed their schooling and ready to enter the next phase of their lives, meet more challenges and discover new horizons.

These honored graduates are five assistance dogs named Navi, Ron, Cadence, Birdie and Gabe. They are now trained and ready to accept the most important assignments of their young lives. After 2 and a half years, these service dogs have mastered the required skills and intuition to become

the best friend and partners of Wounded Warriors, whose lives will change dramatically with the support, companionship and devotion of these dogs. The canine graduates also represent the success of the Wounded Warrior teams who trained them for their fellow Wounded Warriors and the puppy parent volunteers who cared for them in their homes.

The Warrior Canine Connection (WCC) is part of the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to the diagnosis, clinical care and research of traumatic brain injury as well as to the psychological conditions that affect Service Members and their families. Therapists at NICoE have discovered that teaching service members and veterans with combat stress to train service dogs for their fellow Wounded Warriors has shown promise as being therapeutic for the Warrior-trainers.

At the graduation, Rick Yount reflected on how WCC began: "It started about 18 years ago, when two friends were concerned about another friend and decided

to give a very thoughtful, caring gift of a golden retriever puppy. I was the recipient of that puppy at the time." He was working with foster children and families and often took the puppy, Gabe, to work with him. Soon he realized that this "very special dog" was helping his clients deal with the trauma in their lives. He was struck with an "a ha" moment that would change his life and the lives of Wounded Warriors.

In 2008, he created a service dog-training program to address symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury in veterans and service members who are in treatment. WCC was established in 2011 for the purpose of expanding this concept to additional facilities caring for Wounded Warriors and "helping to bring the healing power of the best dogs to our heroes." Rick serves as the executive director of WCC, a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization.

The service dogs are bred by Molly Morelli, WCC's dog program director and wife of Rick Yount, at their WCC's Brookville



Capt. Robert Koffman, MC, USN

SEE WARRIOR, PAGE 12 and Ron.

PEOPLE

Saluting Potomac's Honorees



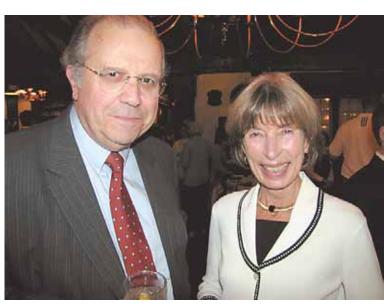
Youth of the Year Marissa Michaels, Holton-Arms, (in skirt) and Matthew Schick, Landon, (red hair) with a group of well-wishers. One hundred people attended the Potomac Chamber annual awards dinner.



Potomac Chamber President Adam Greenberg congratulates the Potomac Business Person of the Year Bob Sickels, owner of Carnival Day and founder of Kids After Hours



County Councilmember Phil Andrews (D) who is running for County Executive, with Potomac Chamber President Adam Greenberg.



Neil and Karen Currie of Potomac.



Matthew Schick, Youth of the Year, from Landon.



Potomac Citizen of the Year Robert Hanson had everyone in attendance laughing with anecdotes about riding his horse up and down River Road and other elements of life in Potomac three quarters of a century ago. Ginny Barnes and Ted Duncan enjoy Hanson's stories.



Jean Roesser, longtime representative in the Maryland General Assembly and Potomac activist, was honored as Grand Marshal of the Potomac Day Parade with her daughter-in-law Lynn Roesser and George and Ginny Barnes at the Potomac Chamber annual awards dinner on Nov. 21 at Normandie Farm.



Marissa Michaels, Youth of the Year, from Holton-Arms School.



Jennifer Matheson, chamber director, who organized both Potomac Day and the awards dinner.

Bullis Makes Thanksgiving for County's Neediest Families

Annual event creates 90 baskets.

By Susan Belford The Almanac

ullis students spent the Saturday morning before Thanksgiving up to their elbows in apples, sugar and pie dough. Even though baking is a "yummy" task, these students were foregoing licking their fingers and taking the pies home for their own Thanksgiving dinners because they were creating home-baked pies to accompany baskets that will make Thanksgiving a special day for 90 needy Montgomery County families.

Supplies for the 160 student-baked pies included 20 boxes of brown sugar, 12 pounds of butter, and seven large baskets of locally grown Granny Smith apples. The students cut and cored the apples, immersed themselves in the apple/cinnamon/nutmeg/butter mixture, rolled out the pastry dough for the crust, created the lattice and carefully placed the pies in the ovens.



Allison Leasure shows off a finished pie.

Bullis student Lee Jarmon, who never before made an apple pie, said, "I feel really great about helping out people who have a need." His mom, Monique added, "This is a wonderful idea. It's an opportunity to help those who need help. This is our first year, and it's just one more thing that we like about Bullis."



Some of the 90 Thanksgiving baskets created by students and volunteers at Bullis School.

For 16 years, the Bullis School has provided baskets and partnered with the Interfaith Works and Montgomery Housing Opportunities Commission to provide holiday meals to hundreds of families throughout Montgomery County. Stephanie Semones, special events coordinator for the commission is thankful for the

Bullis School's continued contributions. "These baskets will be given to families of six or more who have the lowest income in the county on Tuesday, Nov. 26," she said. "They are so moved when they receive a fresh-baked pie and a gift card for a fresh turkey too. It makes Thanksgiving possible for many families who would not have

it if it weren't for the generous organization like the Bullis School. Some of the recipients cry when they receive these gorgeous baskets. HOC is giving 1,200 Thanksgiving baskets this year, and we'll be serving 11,000 people Thanksgiving dinner. Our numbers are up

SEE ANNUAL EVENT, PAGE 15



JT'Interiors invites you to join us for

Ladies Day

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OPINION

Holidays Are About Giving

So many needs, so many great organizations, give locally where your heart leads you.

The holidays are about giving. They are unmet needs, hungry children, homeless famiabout children. The holidays are about sharing, about joy, about alleviating suffering for others. The holidays are about being thankful and about faith and apprecia-

EDITORIAL

Most of us live in neighborhoods that are very homog-

enous. There are exceptions, but most people reading this live in affluent areas where the houses are mostly in the same price range, and while there might be some ethnic diversity, there is little in the way of economic diversity. It's easy to forget that there are massive lies most with at least one working parent, homeless individuals with jobs and without jobs, people who don't know for sure whether they will have enough to eat or be able to be warm enough, people who are choosing between medical care and car repair when forgoing the car repair could mean losing a job.

In Montgomery County Public Schools, 35 percent of the 151,000 students qualify for subsidized meals, a significant measure of poverty. That's more than 52,000 students. Many elementary schools staff are discovering that for some of these students, a majority of students in some schools, they only meals the can count on are breakfast and lunch on school

It's hard to imagine more than 50,000 students going hungry in Montgomery County. It's obvious that children who aren't sure they will be able to eat when they are hungry are not going to have joyous holidays filled with family meals, gifts and special activities.

Hundreds of homeless students attend the public schools, and their needs are greater.

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally this season. Here are a few ideas. We welcome suggestions for other groups.

— Mary Кімм,

mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Potomac: Give Locally

Manna Food Center, 9311 Gaither Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20877, 301-424-1130 www.mannafood.org — Manna Food Center, the main food bank in Montgomery County, strives to eliminate hunger through food distribution, education, and advocacy. Manna has distributed more than 43 million pounds of food to more than 2.7 million individuals. Manna provided food to 5 percent of Montgomery County residents this past

Mercy Health Clinic, www.mercyhealthclinic.org, 7 Metropolitan Court, Suite 1, Gaithersburg, MD 20878 — Mercy Health Clinic is a free, community based volunteer organization providing quality healthcare to uninsured, low-income residents of Montgomery County. The clinic, located in Gaithersburg, depends on the expertise of volunteers, healthcare professionals and support from community partners to provide quality care to those in need. The clinic is staffed with medical professionals including family practice physicians, cardiologists, endocrinologists, nurse practitioners, nurse assistants, translators and behavioral health

Interfaith Works, www.iworksmc.org, 114 West Montgomery Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, Interfaith Works provides shelter, food, and clothing to low

income and homeless neighbors.

Potomac Community Resources, http://pcrinc.org/ 9200 Kentsdale Drive, Potomac, MD 20854, Phone: 301-365-0561 Potomac Community Resources, Inc. (PCR) provides therapeutic, recreational, social, and respite care programs for teens and adults with developmental differences, as well as information about community resources for

Montgomery County Coalition for the

Homeless, www.mcch.net, 600-B East Gude Drive, Rockville, MD 20850 301-217-0314 — Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (MCCH), a community-based nonprofit organization, is a leading provider of permanent housing, intermediate housing, emergency shelter, and supportive services for people experiencing homelessness. MCCH programs serve 1,600 men, women and children each year.

Shepherd's Table, www.shepherdstable.org, 8210 Dixon Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910, 301-585-6463
— Shepherd's Table is a nonprofit organization in downtown Silver Spring, supported by volunteers, religious organizations, government, businesses, foundations, and individual donors. Shepherd's Table provides help to people who are homeless or in need by providing basic services, including meals, social services, medical support, clothing, and other assistance

Fisher House, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, www.fisherhouse.org, 111 Rockville Pike, Suite 420, Rockville, Maryland 20850, 888-294-8560 — The Fisher House program supports members of the military and their families when they travel great distances for specialized medical care. Fisher House Foundation donates "comfort homes," built on the grounds of major military and Veterans medical centers, including Walter Reed in Bethesda. These homes enable family members to be close to a loved one at the most stressful times.

Friends in Action, www.iworksmc.org/friends-inaction, 114 West Montgomery Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, 301-762-8682 — Founded by Interfaith Works (formerly Community Ministry of Montgomery County) in 1986, Friends In Action recruits and trains a network of people from all faiths and ethnic backgrounds. Volunteer mentoring teams are linked for one year in a supportive relationship to a needy family in their community. The goal of the program is to help the family identify their strengths and develop attainable and manageable goals that guide them toward financial independence and personal well being.

COMMENTARY

A Thanksgiving Memory

By Carole Funger

t Thanksgiving, the holiday table as sumes a primary role and our family's timeworn example is no exception, although not for the reasons you might expect. Hidden under the starched white cloth and lavish Thanksgiving feast is a birthmark of sorts, a small groove extending down deep into the wood. Measuring a little over a quarter shape in size, the jagged indent occupies a space a little left to center of the table. Though concealed, it is never far from sight, as each year it makes its presence known, causing our candles to wobble and occasionally a glass to spill.

The story goes that many years ago, when the table was still young, the chandelier broke away from the ceiling and came crashing down onto the broad wood top, leaving its glossy surface permanently damaged. The table being too large to pass around with ease, our ancestors had for decades elected to dust the heavy 18-arm gold

> pendant from one side only. Wound tight as a corkscrew and unable to withstand one more holiday spin, the venerable fixture had finally given way, leaving the indelible

> > This tiny piece of family history never fails to entertain as we imagine the calamitous event. At Thanksgiving, the story takes on added meaning as we remember with gratitude the transcendent ties that bind us all.

BUSINESS NOTES

Email announcements to almanac@connectionnews papers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos and artwork encouraged.

"Reinventing Michael Banks" is available online. An online video-based simulation aims to bridge the gap between veterans and employers. Veterans, their families, and potential employers are able to play through this live-action video-based simulation and make decisions on behalf of four characters: one job-seeking veteran (Michael Banks) and three corporate hiring professionals. The storyline features real-world situations faced by veterans and hiring managers based on interviews conducted with veterans, HR professionals and managers. Available for free at www.reinventingmichaelbanks.com.

Michael P. Rose is celebrating 20 years at Rory S. Coakley Realty, Inc. and as a real estate professional. Rose started his real estate career 20 years ago working with his fellow Georgetown alumnus, Rory S. Coakley. Starting as Rory's assistant and office manager, Rose quickly became the firm's top agent and producer and now runs a team within the office. He received bachelors of arts degree from Georgetown in economics and a masters of business administration from American University in real estate and urban development. He is ranked in the top 1% of all realtors nationwide. Rose does philanthropic work with Stepping Stones Shelter and St. Raphael Catholic Church

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In October 2013, 45 Potomac homes sold between \$2,800,000-\$479,000.

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| 10111 LIMESTONE CT | |
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| 11036 POWDER HORN DR | |
| 7901 TURNCREST DR | |
| 9833 WILDEN LN | |
| 8708 SLEEPY HOLLOW LN | |
| 11208 SPUR WHEELLN | |
| 10108 GRAYHORSE CT | |
| 10213 GARDEN WAY | |
| 8806 TUCKERMAN LN | TELD |
| 11104 OLD COACH RD | IILLS |
| 9440 LOST TRAIL WAY | HIRE |
| 11904 FALKIRK DR | ONE |
| 9105 WILLOW POND LN | IONS |
| 10408 FLOWERFIELD WAY | AGE |
| 11818 PRESTWICK RD | ONE |
| 8306 TUCKERMAN LN | |
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| 8604 TUCKERMAN LN 4 3 1 POTOMAC \$649,000 Detached 0.24 20854 WILLOWBRO | |
| 12013 DEVILWOOD DR 4 2 1 POTOMAC \$636,000 Detached 0.36 20854 REGENT PA | |
| 12004 GATEWATER DR 3 3 1 POTOMAC \$599,000 Townhouse 0.05 20854 FALISBER | |
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DAWN OF A MUSICAL SEASON

Maryland Classic Youth Orchestras at Strathmore

Sunday, December 8, 4 pm

Featuring MCYO's top-level orchestras— Philharmonic, Chamber Ensemble and Symphony Music by Bernstein, Beethoven, Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky, Mendelssohn

Contemporary works by Finzi, Warlock, and Hisaishi Tickets from \$15 at Strathmore Ticket Office: 301-581-5100

Tickets from \$15 at Strathmore Ticket Office: 301-581-5100 Seniors and group discounts offered www.strathmore.org

For more information, visit www.mcyo.org
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Fall and Holiday Showing Custom Wreaths of Potomac

Open <u>Every Sunday</u> in November, 10am to 5pm

10600 Tulip Lane Potomac



Featuring: seasonal wreaths, garlands, swags, centerpieces and much more!

Our shop was highlighted in the 2011 Potomac Country House Tour and the Washington Post Magazine of September 30, 2012.

301-424-7940

Entertainment

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

ONGOING

Art Exhibition. Classes are taught year-round for beginner, intermediate and advanced students. Fridays 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sundays noon-4 p.m. At Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Call 301-634-2273 or visit www.artglasscenterat glenecho.org.

Photoworks. A resource for both student and professional photographers to develop their talents through classes, workshops, and exhibitions. Open Saturdays 1-4 p.m., Sundays 1-8 p.m., and during all scheduled classes and workshops. At Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Call 301-634-2274 or visit www.glenechophotoworks.org.

Art Exhibit. See "Flowers, Food and Fun Paintings" at the Bethesda Library, 7400 Arlington Road. See works that are available for purchase. Runs through Nov. 29. Visit http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/branches/bethesda.html.

Christmas Tree Sale, Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department, Station 10, 8001 River Road. Call 301-365-2255 or visit www.cjpvfd.org.

Santa on Fire Engines toy
collection, run by the Cabin John
Park Volunteer Fire Department. A
procession of fire engines carry Santa
on a tour of Potomac neighborhoods
over the course of several evenings in
December, collecting unwrapped new
toys for needy children. Call 301365-2255 or visit www.cjpvfd.org.

Art Exhibit. See paintings depicting the C&O Canal and other Maryland scenes by Nancy Heindl at 8512 Victory Lane. Runs from Dec. 8-22. Free. Visit www.nancyheindl.com or 301-299-6176 for an appointment.

Friends of the Yellow Barn, 18th annual members show. Dec. 1 through Dec. 23. Visit www.glenechopark.org or www.yellowbarnstudio.com. Call 301-634-2222.

Theater Performance. See "The Nutcracker" in the Puppet Co. Playhouse at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Performances are Thursdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.; Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Runs Nov. 29 through Dec. 29. \$10. There will be special ticket pricing on Dec. 7, 8. For those two nights, tickets will be \$3. Visit www.thepuppetco.org or 301-634-5380.

Theater Performance. See "The Twelve Days of Christmas" at Adventure Theatre at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Christmas celebrations are just around the corner and Shirley the Partridge has got some problems to solve. The French Hens are arguing, the six geese have flown to Florida for the winter and worst of all, someone has stolen the five golden rings. The performance runs Nov. 15-Dec. 30. Tickets can be purchased at www.adventuretheatr-mtc.og or 301-634-2270

18th Annual Winter Lights
Festival, a 3.5-mile drive through a holiday light show at Seneca Creek Park with more than 360 illuminated displays. Runs nightly Nov. 29 through Dec. 31 with additional events including walks and runs under the lights. Proceeds benefit local charities. Call 301-258-6350 or visit www.gaithersburgmd.gov.

Holiday Art Show and Sale. The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture is hosting exhibitors that will sell glass, ceramics, photography, crafts and more. The sale runs Nov. 29-Jan. 5. Hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. through Dec. 20. Located in the Popcorn Gallery at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Visit www.glenechopark.org or 301-634-2222.

Theater Performance. See

"Aquarium" at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Runs Dec. 17-Jan. 26. Performances are Tuesdays-Fridays at 10:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m., and Saturdays-Sundays at 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Children can watch the story of Jack and Calypso unfold through puppets, music and props. Appropriate for children ages 1-5. Tickets are \$10-12 with a \$5 lap seat for children under 12 months. Tickets can be purchased at www.imaginationstage.org, at the box offce or 301-280-1660.

Theater Performance. Watch "The Nutcracker" at Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts CEnter, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville. The Maryland Youth Ballet will perform on Dec. 21, 22, 26, 28 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.; and Dec. 23, 27 at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$28/adult in advance; \$23/child, student or senior in advance; \$33/door, \$28/door. Visit www.montgomerycollege.edu/PAC or 240-567-5301 for tickets.

Volunteer. Gallery monitors are needed Wednesday through Sunday at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Interact with visitors and share information about the gallery. Earn credit towards classes at VisArts or earn a free dinner and a movie by volunteering. Fill out an application at www.visartscenter.org/volunteers.

Art Exhibit. See a solo exhibit by Grace

Taylor titled "Retrospective" from Nov. 29-Jan. 6 at Photoworks Gallery at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. The solo exhibition is a comprehensive look at more than 30 years of Taylor's photography. Hours are Saturdays from 1-4 p.m., Sundays from 1-8 p.m. or by appointment or during class time. Free. Visit www.glenechopark.org.

Art Exhibit. Exhibit9 presents
"Painting-Calligraphy," a collection of
modern and traditional Persian
calligraphy by Sina Goudarzi,
Nematolah Nouri, Hossein Norouzi,
Nahid Navab and Soraya
Vahabzadeh. Runs Nov. 23 through
Jan. 25. Located at 10116 Lloyd
Road. Visit exhibit9gallery.com.

Bethesda's Winter Wonderland takes place in December at multiple locations, including concerts at Imagination Stage and in Bethesda's Woodmont Triangle. The event features caroling, ice sculpting, storytelling, holiday performances and hands-on craft activities for children. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org.

Drop in Art Activities. Every
Saturday from 9:30 a.m.-noon in the
Candy Corner Studio at Glen Echo
Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., parents
and children can explore a new art
form or theme. \$10/child, parent
combo. Drop-in only. Visit
www.pgip.org for more.

CLASSES

Sculpture. Work with a live model and create a study each class at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Classes run Nov. 30-Dec. 21. Visit www.visartscenter.org or 301-315-8200 to register.

8200 to register.

Winter Classes. Children in grades 1-6 can take a class from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Classes are Dec. 23, 27, 30, 31. Visit www.visartscenter.org or 301-315-8200 to register for a class.

NOV. 20-JAN. 10

Theater Performance. See "Lyle the Crocodile" at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda.

Showtimes Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. and are appropriate for children age 4-12. ASL interpreted performance on Dec. 8 at 4 p.m., and a sensory-friendly performance on Dec. 15 at 11 a.m. Tickets start at \$12. Visit www.imaginationstage.org or 301-280-1660 for tickets.

THURSDAY/NOV. 28

Turkey Chase. 8:30 a.m. start for the 10K, 8:50 a.m. for the 2-mile run/walk and 9:35 a.m. start for the tot trot. Begins at 9401 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Proceeds benefit the YMCA Youth and Family Services. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/31st-annual-turkey-chase-registration-5378356810 to register or www.turkeychase.com/ for information.

FRIDAY/NOV. 29

Contra Dance. 7:30 p.m. lessons start; 8:30 -11:30 p.m. dancing at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Elixir provides music. \$10/adult; \$5/17 and under. Visit

www.fridaynightdance.org for more. **Contra Techno Dance.** 11:35 p.m.-1:30 a.m. in the Back Room Annex at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. The Friday Night Dancers and FSGW will sponsor a "techno" dance with DJ Improper. \$7/door; \$5/member. Visit www.fridaynightdance.org for more.

Art Exhibit. Ken Conley presents "Drawings and Paintings" in the Yellow Barn Gallery at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. The exhibit, which showcases still-life, landscapes, portrait and the figure, will be open from noon-5 p.m. Free. Visit www.glenechopark.org or 301-371-5593.

SATURDAY/NOV. 30

Swing Dance. 8 p.m.-midnight at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Pricing TBD. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

www.glenechopark.org for more. **Art Exhibit.** Ken Conley presents "Drawings and Paintings" in the Yellow Barn Gallery at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. The exhibit, which showcases still-life, landscapes, portrait and the figure, will be open from noon- p.m. with a reception from 4-6 p.m. Free. Visit www.glenechopark.org or 301-371-5593.

SUNDAY/DEC. 1

Art Exhibit. Ken Conley presents "Drawings and Paintings" in the Yellow Barn Gallery at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. The exhibit, which showcases still-life, landscapes, portrait and the figure, will be open from noon-5 p.m. Free. Visit www.glenechopark.org or 301-371-5593.

Waltz Dance. 2:45-6 p.m. in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Dance to live music by Elixir. \$10. Visit www.waltztimedances.org for more.

www.waitzimedances.org for more. **Argentine Tango.** 6:30-11 p.m. at
Ballroom Annex, 7300 MacArthur
Blvd. DJ Rene Davila will mix the
music. \$15/person; \$10/dance only.
Visit www.glenechopark.org for

Contra Dance. 7 p.m. lessons start; 7:30 -10:30 p.m. dancing in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Elixir provides music. \$13/nonmember; \$10/member; \$5/age 17 and under. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

THURSDAY/DEC. 5

Preschool Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Drive. For children 3-5 years. Free. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/libraries or 240-777-0690.

Lecture. 7:30-9 p.m. at Photoworks Gallery at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. John Borstel and Will Knipscher will discuss "Master of Fine Arts: Two Ways" Visit http://glenechophotoworks.org/ for tickets.

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

FRIDAY/DEC. 6

Bethesda's Winter Wonderland. 8 p.m. with a concert at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave. Features music by four professional choral groups. \$10/adult; \$5/child. Buy tickets at www.bethesda.org.

Annual Show & Sale. 2-9 p.m. at Garrett Park Town Hall, 10814 Kenilworth Ave., Garrett Park. Montgomery Potters will host the 44th annual show featuring over 40 functional and decorative ceramic artists. Free. Visit www.montgomerypotters.org for more.

Cool Cow Comedy. 8 p.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Jared Logan will perform. \$20/door. Visit http://www.visartsatrockville.org/for tickets.

Contra Dance. 7:30 p.m. lessons start; 8:15 - 11:30 p.m. dancing in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Crowfoot provides music. \$10/adult; \$5/age 17 and under. Visit www.glenechopark.org for

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Annual Show & Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Garrett Park Town Hall, 10814 Kenilworth Ave., Garrett Park. Montgomery Potters will host the 44th annual show featuring over 40 functional and decorative ceramic artists. Free. Visit www.montgomerypotters.org for more.

Mini Performance. 11 a.m., 1 p.m. or 3 p.m. at Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center, 7995 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. Watch "The Mini-Nut" presented by the Maryland Youth Ballet. It is a shortened version of "The Nutcracker." Suitable for all ages. \$18/adult, student, senior; \$15/child. Visit www.marylandyouthballet.org.

Clara Barton Holiday Craft Show. 1-5 p.m. at Clara Barton Community Recreation Center, 7425 MacArthur Blvd., Cabin John. Meet 50 local artists, crafters and authors and browse items for sale, from jewelry and hand knit sweaters local honey and jam. Free. Visit www.friendsofclarabartoncommunitycenter.org or 301-365-1311.

Bethesda's Winter Wonderland. 1-4 p.m. at Veterans Park, corner of Woodmont and Norfolk Avenues. Blocks of ice will be transformed into wintery works of art during the live ice sculpting presentation, followed by choral performances from local school groups. Additionally, Santa Claus will make a visit to the park that afternoon, and holiday treats will be provided to children. Free. Visit www.bethesda.org or 301-215-6660 for more.

215-6660 for more.

Special Evening. 3-8 p.m. at Exhibit9, 10116
Lloyd Road. There will be holiday shopping specials of items from "Painting-Calligraphy," a collection of modern and traditional Persian calligraphy by Sina Goudarzi, Nematolah Nouri, Hossein Norouzi, Nahid Navab and Soraya Vahabzadeh. Visit exhibit9gallery.com for more.

Music Performance. 7 p.m. at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, 6601 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda. The Raleigh Ringers will perform. \$25 and must be purchased in advance at seatyourself.biz/bradleyhillschurch. 301-365-2850.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, 107 S. Washington St., Rockville. The National Philharmonic Singers will perform a free holiday concert. Donations accepted. Visit christchurchrockville.org or 301-762-2191.

Gallery Talk. 5-7 p.m. Grace Taylor will discuss her exhibit "Retrospective" at Photoworks Gallery at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. The solo exhibition is a comprehensive look at over 30 years of Taylor's photography. Free. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

Swing Dance. 8 p.m.-midnight at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Features music by Girls From Mars. \$18. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

SUNDAY/DEC. 8

Mini Performance. 11 a.m., 1 p.m. or 3 p.m. at

Holiday Needs

Now through the end of the year, The Jewish Social Service Agency and community partners are collecting monetary donations and gift cards for its nonsectarian "Give-a-Gift" program. This program enables recipients in need to select unique gifts for loved ones, holiday foods, warm winter clothing, prescriptions, toys for the children, or special items that will make their holiday brighter and lives more comfortable throughout the year. The program supports newborns to 103-year-old adults including frail Holocaust survivors. Call 301-610-8342 or visit www.jssa.org for more.

Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center, 7995 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. Watch "The Mini-Nut" presented by the Maryland Youth Ballet. It is a shortened version of "The Nutcracker." Suitable for all ages. \$18/adult, student, senior; \$15/child. Visit www.marylandyouthballet.org for tickets.

Annual Show & Sale. Noon-4 p.m. at Garrett Park Town Hall, 10814 Kenilworth Ave., Garrett Park. Montgomery Potters will host the 44th annual show featuring over 40 functional and decorative ceramic artists. Free. Visit www.montgomerypotters.org for more.

www.montgomerypotters.org for more. **Music Performance.** 5 p.m. at The Episcopal
Church of the Redeemer, 6201 Dunrobbin Drive,
Bethesda. Enjoy carols and more. Free. Visit
www.redeemerbethesda.org or 301-229-3770.

Ballroom Dance. 3-6 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Dance to live music by Hot Society Orchestra of Washington. All ages. \$14. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more

Argentine Tango. 6:30-11 p.m. at Ballroom Annex, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. DJ Rene Davila will mix the music. \$15/person; \$10/dance only. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more. Contra Dance. 7-10:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom,

Contra Dance. 7-10:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$13/nonmember; \$10/ member; \$5/17 and under. Visit www.fsgw.org for more

Opening Reception. Noon-4 p.m. at 8512 Victory Lane. See paintings depicting the C&O Canal and other Maryland scenes by Nancy Heindl. Free. Visit www.nancyheindl.com or 301-299-6176.

THURSDAY/DEC. 12

Potomac Cuddleups. 10:30 a.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. For children up to 11 months with caregiver. Free. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/libraries or 240-777-0690.

Lecture. 7:30-9 p.m. at Photoworks Gallery at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Tim Hyde will discuss "The Art and Craft of Collecting Photography." Visit http://glenechophotoworks.org/ for tickets.

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

SATURDAY/DEC. 14

Potomac Library Book Sale. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at 10101 Glenolden Drive. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Potomac Chapter. 240-777-0690.

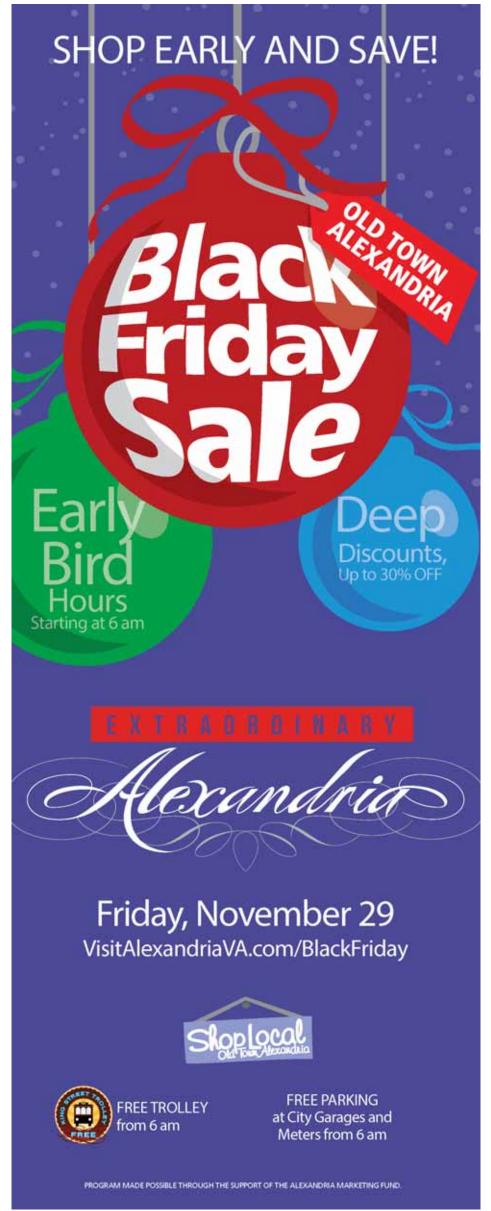
SUNDAY/DEC. 15

Jingle Bell Jog 8K, 9 a.m. at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive. See www.mcrrc.org.

Holiday Concert. 3 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, 8011 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. The Georgetown Chorale will perform. \$20/ advance; \$25/door. Visit www.georgetownchorale.org for more.

TUESDAY/DEC. 24

Festal Eucharist of the Nativity. 10 p.m. at The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 6201 Dunrobbin Drive, Bethesda. An extended, candle-lit prelude of organ voluntaries, choral anthems and carols. Free. Visit www.redeemerbethesda.org or 301-229-3770.



Potomac REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY DEB STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

IN SEPTEMBER 2013, 35 POTOMAC HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$3,100,000-\$610,000.

Sold in September, 2013, \$800s~\$900s



2 11217 Potomac Crest Drive — \$985,000



12609 Stable House Court — \$902,500

12609

Exchange

\$850,000

Court North



Reach Road — \$891,000

9656

10 9101 Cherbourg Drive — \$800,000

$He\ Is\ the\ Egg\ Man\ {\rm From\ Rent\ A\ Coop\ to\ a} \ {\rm Chicken\ Hatching\ Program}.$

By Carole Funger The Almanac

hich came first, the chicken or the egg? Potomac residents now have a choice, thanks to Rent A Coop, Potomac's first chicken rental business. Located off of Brickyard Road, owners Tyler Phillips and Diana Samata formed the business a year and a half ago to give area residents the opportunity to engage with na-

ON THE JOB

ture and experience the world of hen-laying chickens, all without the risky financial investment.

"Most people didn't know you could rent chickens," said Phillips. "We got a positive response right from the start."

Phillips hatched the idea while building chicken coops for his parents, who own a petting zoo. His parents had been having problems with raccoons raiding the coops and were searching for a way to make the cages predator-proof. While working up a solution, Phillips decided to design a coop that would be as good for the hens as it

An Egg Primer

For those of us who wonder where an egg comes from:

An egg-laying hen lays one egg a day. It takes 25 days for the egg to form once the yolk leaves the ovary. At different times, hens can be carrying up to three eggs, all in different stages of development.

Female chicks are born with all the ova they'll ever need. At maturity, usually around 20 weeks, the ova turn into yolks and the hens begin laying eggs. Hens need light to process the eggs. A gland in the hens' eyes reacts to sunlight and stimulates egg laying. This is why in wintertime, 95 percent of hens will stop laying eggs and begin molting. Rent A Coop's hens are different in that their particular breed, Golden Comet, lays eggs all winter. Most breeds lay up to 250-260 eggs per hen per year. The Golden Comets lay over 300.

Once the yolks are released from the ovary into the oviduct, they acquire their whites (albumen), shell membranes, color and shell. Shells form from the membrane that includes evenly spaced points where columns of calcite form. The columns stack together side-by-side to form the shell. All eggs start out as white eggs. Brown eggs' pigment is added to the shell at the end of the shell formation process.

Egg size is dependent on the age of the hen. Older hens tend to lay larger eggs, although older birds are more likely to take a few months off in winter. There is no difference between a brown and white egg, although egg quality can be affected by amount of daylight, water, nutrients and stress. Egg-laying hens, which do not need a rooster to lay eggs, produce infertile eggs that do not contain the rooster's genetic materials. This means that a chick can never hatch from that egg.

was for the hen's owners.

After completing the preliminary coop, Phillips began experimenting with other more efficient designs. Eight prototypes later, he came up with the hybrid he has now, a large, twolevel structure that rolls around on its own pair of wheels. Phillips sold the earlier coops on Craig's List, where he discovered an enthusiastic market for all things chicken.

It was while selling the coops that Phillips noted that, despite the sizeable demand, there seemed to be no one company offering the would-be chicken owner everything they needed for egg-laying hens in just one package. At \$1,000, a standard coop seemed out of the question for most, not to mention the additional expense of hens and feed. Phillips also noticed a lack of clear and easy-to-follow information on how to manage the whole process. He and Samata quickly saw the opportunity to provide people the experience of hen-laying

chickens by eliminating the risky financial outlay. "I always wanted to start a business that helps people with something," said

Both he and Samata had enriching farm experiences growing up. Phillips remembers collecting eggs from the hens when he was young and being fascinated by the whole process of how they produced them.

"The coolest thing is when the eggs hatch," he said.

Samata grew up in the Romanian countryside and is accustomed to being surrounded by animals. "I think it's hard for a child nowadays to have these kinds of experiences," she noted. "We'd like to make them available even to city kids."

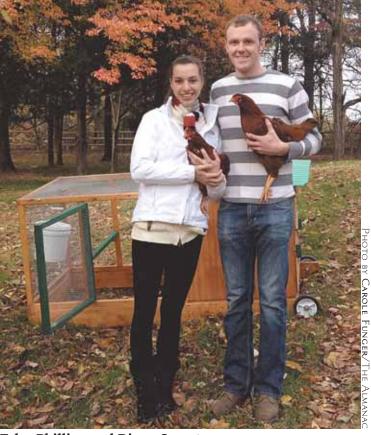
Phillips and Samata see the market for chicken rentals as consisting of three types of people:

* Those who are intrigued by the idea of having chickens, but because of time constraints, can't commit to the full-time care.

Parents of young children who want to give their kids the experience of egg-laying hens, but are reluctant to make a big financial investment, especially if their children grow tired of the whole project.

People who just want to have a fourweek experience that would enrich their perspective on life with the byproduct of educating their family on how to be selfsustainable.

In March 2012, Phillips and Samata opened Rent A Coop, with the mission to



Tyler Phillips and Diana Samata

provide their customers with all the materials necessary to partake in the egg-laying experience. For a two-month rental, the business provides a coop (which is the mobile coop on wheels), two egg-laying chickens, water and feed bowls, 100 per cent organic feed and pine shavings for the nest. There is also an instructional pamphlet on how the whole process works as well as a

24-hour Chicken Hot Line. (Phillips' cell phone),

which offers

the-clock assistance to skittish

chicken renters. "You get every-

thing you need in a single package. There is no need to go out and buy anything additional," said Phillips.

At the end of the rental period, Rent A Coop arrives to pick up the coop and hens, at which time there is the option to continue the rental, or to purchase the coop and hens if desired, with one half of the rental fee going towards the purchase price.

In its first year of operation, Rent A Coop leased a total of 68 coops, each with its own pair of egg-laying hens. This year, they have already exceeded 100 rentals. Phillips and Samata are now averaging around 10 rentals a month over the Maryland, Virginia and D.C. areas. And the business is growing. This past summer, the pair provided chickens to a camp in Pennsylvania.

"People say our chickens are very good natured," said Samata. "That's partly due to the nature of the breed, the Golden Comet, but also to the fact that we coddle and play with them. They'll run after breadcrumbs and even come when called. They'll also let you hold them."

In March of 2013, Rent A Coop added the Chicken Hatching Program, which has caused a sensation in area schools and daycare centers.

"Some of the teachers say it's just as exciting for them to watch the eggs hatch as it is for the kids," said Samata, adding, "All in all, they give it high marks for its interactive educational value. It is a powerful experience for the students."

The Chicken Hatching Program comes with a coop, an incubator and heat lamp, a pair of one-week old chicks (for something to do while the eggs are in the incubator) food, water bowls and pine shavings. There is also an egg candling light that enables students to watch the chick developing in

the shell throughout its different developmental stages. The eggs take about 21 days to hatch. Meanwhile, students can watch the chicks grow feathers and lose their egg teeth. They can play with them too. At the end of four weeks, Rent A Coop takes everything back, including the chicks, eliminating the need for the school to worry about what to do with them.

Meanwhile the duo continues to build coops, refining the design, finetuning the water system, and caring for their hens. "In the early 1900s, most people were familiar enough with nature that they understood that hens can lay eggs without a rooster. These days, it's more the opposite," observed Phillips. He and Samata have committed themselves to educating people about food production. "We want to provide an interactive experience that enriches children's lives, regardless of where they live," add Samata.

For more information on Rent A Coop and its egg-laying hen rentals and Chicken Hatching Program, www.rentacoop.com.

Warrior Canine Connection Celebrates First Graduation

From Page 3

Training facility.

The puppies are taught to open doors, fetch needed items, even to help the wounded vet take off socks and shoes. They turn lights on and off, open the refrigerator and accompany them everywhere, providing a sense of safety and security.

Because of their unconditional love and dedication, they offer the Wounded Warrior a calm presence which helps them when they feel troubled or can't sleep. They also aid them in becoming more social — the dog serves as a social lubricant and helps the Wounded Warrior feel more comfortable in public places. In return, the Wounded Warrior must accept the duties of taking care of their dog and understand that patience, love and caring go along with owning an animal.

Vice Admiral Matthew L. Nathan, Surgeon General of the Navy and Chief of the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, was the keynote speaker at the graduation.

He said he is "humbled by the people who serve and step forward wherever they are needed." In describing the Wounded Warriors, he said, "But then, all of a sudden, this heroic person is not the same — they are an amputee, has brain trauma, gunshot wounds or is suffering from the invisible wounds of the war. I've watched them fight their way back. These servicemen and women just want their lives returned — and a dog who loves so unconditionally can help them get it back. I am honored to be a part of this ceremony. It shows what can happen when you light one candle and pass it on to light the entire room. Thank you to the teams who have trained these dogs — and for the lives you will change."

The dogs were awarded to the servicemen and women and their families while the crowd watched.

WCC's program now includes 40 dogs — and some will be ready to graduate in the Class of 2014. The need is overwhelming with the number of Wounded Warriors who deserve the best possible service dog.

To become involved in Warrior Canine Connection or to donate to this valuable cause, view its website at www.warriorcanine connection.org. For corporate donations or to discuss a major gift, call 301-260-1111.



Graduates, their trainers and new owners gather during the ceremony.



Rick Yount awards Patty Kennedy who accepts flowers for all she has done to support Warrior Canine Connection.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

MONDAY/DEC. 2

Task Force Meeting. 7:45-10 p.m. at the County Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville. Recommendations from the Montgomery County Night Time Economy Task Force will be the subject of the next monthly meeting of the Civic Federation. Heather Dlhopolsky, Task Force chair, will make the presentation. After the presentation, there will be a question-answer period and updates on other key local issues. Free. Visit www.montgomerycivic.org.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 4

Drop-In Discussion about Grief and Healing. 6:30-8 p.m. at Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard Drive, Rockville. Anyone who is mourning the death of a loved one. Free. Registration required, 301-921-4400.

Application Deadline. Montgomery
County has kicked off its FY 2014
food recovery grant program to
develop a sustainable distribution
network of entities with excess food
(e.g. restaurants, caterers) and
connect them with qualified
organizations currently engaged in
food recovery activities that provide
food to those in need. Any
organization, institution or

association that provides food recovery services or activities within the county is eligible to apply. To request an application or submit it, email food.recovery@montgomery countymd.gov.

THURSDAY/DEC. 5

Gala. 6:30 p.m. at Bolger Center, 9600 Newbridge Drive. BBYO Northern Region East's D.C. and Northern Virginia councils will honor Rachel S. Kronowitz, Mark Plotkin and Nelson Migdal. To register visit bbyo.org/ dcgala or 301-348-3784.

FRIDAY/DEC. 6

Deadline. The county's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. commemorative committee is seeking entries for its literary arts contest and visual arts show, in observance of the life of Dr. King. The contest is open to all elementary, middle and high school students in Montgomery County. Written entries must be 150 words or fewer and in poetry or essay format. Entries for the visual arts show may include prints, posters, collages, murals, photographs or any other wo-dimensional visual art form. entries should portray the 2014 theme, "Honoring the legacy: celebrate, serve, remember.' Participating schools should submit a maximum of three entries per school to the MLK Essay Contest, c/o Montgomery County Office of Human Rights, 21 Maryland Avenue,

Rockville, MD 20850. Call James Stowe, director of the Office of Human Rights, at 240-777-8491.

MONDAY/DEC. 9

$\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Chronic Pain Support Group.} & 1 \end{tabular}$

2:30 p.m. at 12320 Parklawn Drive, Rockville. For anyone with chronic pain, family and friends. Participants can bring pillows, mats, ice or hot packs to be comfortable. Visit www.painconnection.org or 301-309-2444.

TUESDAY/DEC. 10

Get a Handle on Grief. Males can get help grieving in a session led by male facilitators. Free. 6:30-8 p.m. at Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard Drive, Rockville. Second session on Dec. 17. Registration required, 301-921-4400.

THURSDAY/DEC. 12

Bereavement Workshop. 6:30-8 p.m. at Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard St. Learn how to balance sorrow and celebration while grieving. Free. Registration required, 301-921-4400

FRIDAY/DEC. 13

Registration Deadline. All

Montgomery County public, private and homeschool students can register for the Montgomery County Scripps Regional Spelling Bee. Visit www.spellingbee.com for details about the regstration process.

MONDAY/DEC. 16

Bereavement Workshop. 1-2:30 p.m. at Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard St. Learn how to balance sorrow and celebration while grieving. Free. Registration required, 301-921-4400.

FRIDAY/JAN. 3

Application Deadline. Budding filmmakers can send in their film for consideration to be included in the Bethesda Film Fest. Visit www.bethesda.org or 301-215-6660 for an application or information.

SUNDAY-TUESDAY/JAN. 12-14

Volunteer Training Program. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at JSSA, 6123 Montrose Road. Learn how to become a volunteer for the Hospice and Transition programs. Volunteers must be over the age of 18. For more

information on training, to register and start the interview process, contact Amy Kaufman Goott, Manager of Volunteer Services, at 301-816-2650, agoott@jssa.org, no later than 5 days prior to the start of the course.

HOLIDAY NEEDS

Now through the end of the year,The Jewish Social Service Agency and community partners are collecting monetary donations and gift cards for its nonsectarian "Give-a-Gift" program. This program enables recipients in need to select unique gifts for loved ones, holiday foods, warm winter clothing, prescriptions, toys for the children, or special items that will make their holiday brighter and lives more comfortable throughout the year. The program supports newborns to 103-year-old adults including frail Holocaust survivors. Call 301-610-8342 or visit www.jssa.org for more.

ONGOING

English Literacy for Adults. The Literacy Council of Montgomery County offers free literacy classes in reading, writing, listening, speaking, from beginning to advanced levels, including classes that focus on employment skills. The council also offers one-on-one tutoring. Volunteers lead the classes, tutor and act as mentors. The fall class schedule and registration dates are available online. Anvone interested in signing up for a class or volunteering should contact the Literacy Council. Email info@literacycouncilmcmd.org or 301-610-0030

Montgomery County Master

Gardeners are seeking applicants for their upcoming training class. Class size is limited and filled on a first-come, first-served basis. To be placed on the application list, or for more information, call 301-590-2836.

SPORTS



At RFL Championship Games

The Rockville Football League (www.rfl.cc) concluded its 50th season of play with its annual series of championship games played at The Bullis School in Potomac on Nov. 16. In the days final match up, the Intermediate Navy Division (150 lb maximum) Steelers defeated the Dawgs by a score of 13-6. The teams split their regular season games. Potomac residents and teammates for the past seven seasons Ryan Leonard (#12) and Matthew Kane (#2) made significant contributions to the team all season. RFL teams are comprised of boys age 6 to 13 based on MCPS geographic school districts. The Steelers are based in Potomac. The Dawgs are based in Kensington. Several hundred fans watched the game including coaching staffs of many of the areas public and private high schools. Kane posted 176 yards on 12 carries including two touchdowns (48 yards and 65 yards). Leonard completed 2 of 4 passes and picked up a key first down on a 20-yard scramble.

SPORTS BRIEF

Winter Sports Season Openers

Winter sports have arrived in Montgomery County and season openers are approaching.

In basketball, the Churchill boys' team will travel to Paint Branch on Dec. 6 to face the Panthers. After a road game against Bullis on Dec. 10, the Bulldogs will play in their first home game on Dec. 13 against rival Wootton.

The Churchill girls' basketball team will host Paint Branch on Dec. 6 and St. Andrew's Episcopal School on Dec. 10.

The Whitman girls' team, which reached the state tournament last season, will host Good Counsel on Dec. 6. The Whitman boys' team will travel to face Georgetown Prep on Dec. 6 and Rockville on Dec. 10. The Vikings' first home game is Dec. 13 against Landon.

The Wootton girls' team will host Walter Johnson on Dec. 10. The Wootton boys' team will travel to face Walter Johnson on Dec. 10 and Churchill on Dec. 13 before hosting Whitman on Dec. 16.

The Bullis boys' team will compete in the St. Maria Goretti Tipoff on Nov. 29 and 30 before hosting St. John's Catholic Prep on Dec. 4. The Bullis girls' team will open the season with five consecutive road games, starting with River Hill at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 30. Bullis' first home game is Dec. 11 against Stone Ridge.

In wrestling, Churchill will travel to face Bethesda-Chevy Chase on Dec. 7. Whitman will host Wootton on Dec. 7. Bullis will host Jewish Day School on Dec. 4

In swimming action, Wootton will take on Gaithersburg on Dec. 7 at Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, Whitman will face Clarksburg on Dec. 7 at Olney Swim Center and Churchill will compete at Germantown Indoor Swim Center on Dec. 7.

News Brief

Help Support Typhoon Disaster Relief

Geneva Day School in Potomac is asking for the public's help in supporting relief efforts for the victims of the Super Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda in the Philippines. The school is asking for financial donations that will be sent to the U.S.-Philippines Society where they have relief operations in the central Philippines hardest hit by the typhoon.

The school will encourage its students to collect pennies for the Philippines (nickels, dimes, quarters and bills are welcome too) and hopes the public will be even more supportive. The U.S.-Philippines Society is working with Philippine partners on the ground to deliver disaster relief kits to the most vulnerable households in the affected areas. Each \$40 relief kit provides five days worth of supplies for a family of five based on Sphere Minimum Standards for Humanitarian Assistance.

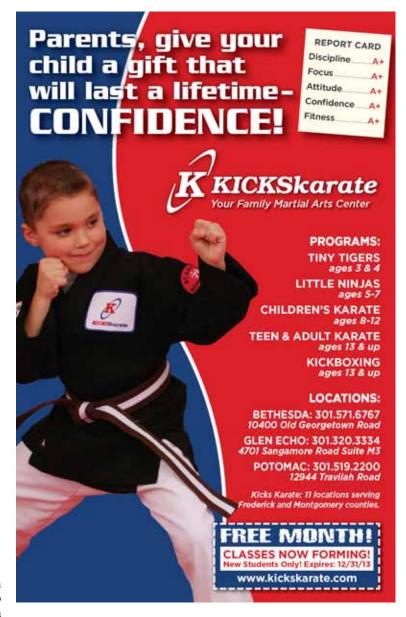
To join with Geneva Day School's efforts to support the victims of Typhoon Yolanda:

* Drop off monetary donations in any amount to Geneva Day School at 11931 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, MD 20854. (Mark any envelopes Philippine Typhoon Relief.)

* To make a secure donation via credit card, visit geneva.maestroweb.com through Dec. 6.

* Donate directly to the U.S.-Philippines Society by check at 1712 N Street NW, Suite 301, Washington, DC 20036 or by credit card at http:// www.usphilippinessociety.org/2013/11/13/reliefupdate-ways-to-help/

The U.S.-Philippines Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit. Your contributions are tax deductible to the full extent permitted by law. EIN 45-493508. Contact them directly at 202-525 3982 or info@usphilsociety.org.



Be a Part of CHILDREN'S ALMANAC

During the last week of each year, the Potomac Almanac devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students. The results are always remarkable, and the editions have won many awards. It is a keepsake edition for many families.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.



We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through e-mail or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be provided in .jpg format. Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Please provide the submissions by Friday, Dec. 6 for publication the week of Dec. 26.

E-mail submissions to:

smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD to Children's Almanac, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.



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"Scanticipation"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

When I get CT-Scanned on Wednesday, November 27th, it will be nearly four months since my last diagnostic scan. That occurred during my hospital "staycation" during the first week of August, when I was admitted due to the extremely abnormal fluid buildup in my left lung. The surgery to drain the fluid went well, as you regular readers know, but as a consequence of this procedure/hospital stay - and its recovery, my subsequent chemotherapy infusions were delayed for about a month and naturally the follow-up scans were as well. This meant/now means that my everythree-month scan has become at least for this particular set of time circumstances, a fourmonth interval, the longest such interval in my full-time cancer career since I was first diagnosed with stage IV, non-small-cell lung cancer back in February, 2009.

I'm not nervous about the outcome this time, however, as I have written about in previous columns: "Scanxiety," "Scanning the Horizon" and "Scantastic." These are all examples of the emotional roller coaster a cancer patient rides when scans are in the offing. Regarding (you'll note I didn't use "concerning,") this upcoming scan, I feel more curious and calm than I have felt before. Aside from being more experienced with this process/cycle, and continuing as well to be relatively asymptomatic, my most recent lab work has been encouraging or at least not discouraging in that certain results/levels are improving. Now I don't know if these improved results (specifically my creatinine and bilirubin levels as well as my GFR/glomular filtration rate) have any effect on the metastatic tumors in my left lung, but the improving levels do mean that my body is tolerating the every-three-week chemotherapy infusions that I've been receiving since September 20th. And "tolerating" is about as good as it gets, considering there are few drugs still available that my oncologist would feel are suitable for my condition. More to the point, when I asked my oncologist how do I really know (other than the lab results) that I'm tolerating the drug, he said, "You wouldn't be a very happy camper if you weren't." To which I replied, happily: "Well, I'm a long way from that." And not that the camping reference was lost on me, but I've been camping very few times in my life, and on those few occasions, I was happiest when I was leaving the campsite heading home.

Camping experiences aside – and not misunderstood, I am looking forward to the results of this next scan and really not stressing about it, either. Nor am I anxious. If anything, I'll admit to being naive. Moreover, I won't admit to being positive, since there's so much about the human body that I don't understand and after five years of having cancer-type symptoms and/or feelings, or not having cancer-type symptoms and/or feelings, with varying outcomes, I never know what to make of any of it. What I am positive about is how mysterious it all is and how few guarantees there are in any of it. Nevertheless, I'm grateful for a definite maybe; I can live with that, as I have been.

Time will tell, soon enough. Although, a long Thanksgiving weekend might slow down the e-mail which my oncologist will send with the results. But I can't worry about that either. I feel good. My labs were good. My reaction to yesterday's chemotherapy was good. The Red Sox just won the World Series for the third time in 10 years; that's all good, great in fact. For a terminal cancer patient from Boston five years post-diagnosis who wants to live and loves his hometown team, it doesn't get much better, realistically speaking.

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

Annual Event Creates 90 baskets

From Page 5

this year, but we are covering 100 per cent of the requests."

The Bullis baskets, wrapped in cellophane and tied with a bright orange bow, are brimming with everything needed to prepare a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, including stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, marshmallows, a turkey pan, cream of mushroom soup, applesauce, corn, green beans, fruit, sweet potatoes, turkey gravy — even holiday candles, table decorations and holiday napkins. The lower-school students made holiday crafts and cards.

Co-chairs Sue Deleonibus, Connie Caulfield and Laura Heymann are amazed by the outpouring of volunteers from both the student body and the parent community. "Middle school student Jason Kezmarsky organized the Junior National Honor Society to sort and pack the baskets," said Caulfield.

"And staff member Sara Romeyn brought in her Upper School Winter Community Service Group to help, so we were finished in no time at all." Deleonibus said, "I love this event. It's wonderful the way when everyone works together; it creates a wonderful Thanksgiving for 90 families in our county."



Sue Deleonibus, Connie Caulfield and Laura Heymann, the three cochairs, with Bullis Community Service Coordinator Sara Romeyn



Brian Selden, Stephanie Semones and Jonathan Cartagena from the Montgomery Housing Opportunities Commission receive 90 baskets for the needy.



Tenth grade Sami Zimmerman, 4th grade Juria Evans and 9th grade Katura Britt love making the pies.



Bullis student Lee Jarmon and his mom Monique peel and core the apples for the pies



Bullis students are up to their elbows in apples, sugar and cinnamon.

