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AWARDS

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PART 8

# Potomac ALMANAC



KEN MOORE



MARY KIMM



ROBBIE HAMMER

**First Place for Continuing News Coverage**  
about the Brickyard Organic Farm controversy.



## 20 Acres on Brickyard for Soccer Complex

School board paves way for as many as four soccer fields and parking for 200 cars on Brickyard site, displacing organic farm as of Jan. 1, 2012.

BY MARY KIMM  
THE ALMANAC

**T**he Montgomery County Board of Education voted Tuesday, March 8 to turn over 20 acres on Brickyard Road to the county for as many as four soccer fields.

For 31 years Nick Maravell, a national expert on organic farming, has leased 20 acres along Brickyard Road, growing organic and genetically-modified-organism-free corn and soybeans on the property. The 20 acres belong to the Montgomery County Board of Education for a possible future middle school site.

But on Thursday, March 3, Maravell heard from the schools' facilities office his year-to-year lease would not be renewed with just three weeks' notice.

The Board of Education voted 5-2 Tuesday to turn the property over to the county for a public-private partnership with an "athletic organization" to develop the property with up to four soccer fields, parking and bathroom facilities.

Board members voting in favor said they were motivated by the shortage of playing fields downcounty.

Community members complained about



**Organic farmer Nick Maravell has grown organic corn and soybeans on this 20-acre site along Brickyard Road for 31 years. The property belongs to MCPS for a future middle school; MCPS has terminated Maravell's lease, saying they will turn the property over to the county with plans for a private organization to build and operate soccer fields.**

lack of transparency.

"There is something that just doesn't feel right about making a decision of this magnitude, giving the community just two days'

notice," said Philip Kauffman, at large member of the board when voting no.

Maravell was the first to hear about these controversial plans. The area's County

"We would expect to be informed about a project that will likely have a huge impact on the entire Potomac community."

— Ginny Barnes,  
president, West  
Montgomery County  
Citizens  
Association

PHOTO BY MARY KIMM/THE ALMANAC

Council member, Roger Berliner, heard of the plan from Maravell, as did West Montgomery County Citizens Association president Ginny Barnes.

The official responsible for all planning in Potomac, Callum Murray of Montgomery County Park and Planning, heard the news from a reporter.

Adjacent homeowners associations, parent activist groups and environmental

SEE OUTRAGE, PAGE 15

## Determined Coach Gives Back Each Day

Moving beyond traumatic brain injury 20 years ago.

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

**W**hen Doug Wilson's parents, Miriam and Bill Wilson, heard about U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords' traumatic brain injury from the Jan. 8 shooting in Arizona, they once again relived the horrific memories of their 22-year-old son's motorcycle accident, coma and traumatic brain injury. Even though Doug Wilson's accident was almost exactly 20 years ago, the memories of the day of the crash and its aftermath are very much alive. Doug Wilson was never supposed to talk or walk again — but he has recovered and is serving the Potomac community every day through his positive programs working with our youth.

SEE DETERMINED COACH, PAGE 4



**In the Wee Wanna Be class, children are learning basketball skills, especially the "Slam-Dunk." They also learn rules of basketball, ball handling and many life skills.**

PHOTO BY SUSAN BELFORD/THE ALMANAC

## Setting Up 'Mousetrap'

Preview show is this Thursday.

BY COLLEEN HEALY  
THE ALMANAC

**F**or their spring production, the Potomac Theatre Company will present Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap" — the longest-running play in history. Originally written for the late Queen Mary in celebration of her 80th birthday, "The Mousetrap" is in its 59th year in London's West End. It opened in 1952 and is still running after more than 23,000 performances. The play tells the story of a group of strangers trapped in a guest house during a snow storm and they must deal with the fact that there's a mur

SEE 'MOUSETRAP,' PAGE 13



# Outrage Grows over Field Decision

FROM PAGE 3

organizations got the news via email and word of mouth after that.

**“THIS IS NOT** Montgomery County at its best,” said Berliner. “We do pride ourselves on process and transparency,” and this process is falling short on both counts. Berliner sent a letter last week calling for the Board of Education to delay the scheduled vote, and added that he would have expected to be briefed on such a proposal as the councilmember for the area.

Environmentalists, organic food advocates, neighbors and others attended the meeting to push for a delay in the vote.

Montgomery Soccer Inc., one of the organizations likely to seek to be an operator of the site, sent an email on Monday encouraging its many members to contact officials to go ahead with the plan. “This is a rare opportunity to provide more and improved conditions for our children, and should not be missed,” wrote Doug Schuessler, executive director of MSI, in an email to MSI parents.

Because the property belongs to the schools, during the Potomac Master Plan process and other discussions about possible uses, local residents were assured that nothing would go forward unless the Board of Education declared that the property was surplus; that is, it would never be needed for a school. But with no public notice, the Board of Education is circumventing that process by leasing the property to the county with the understanding that it can get it back if it is needed for a school in the future.

“Tuesday will be the approval of a lease that no one has seen,” said Janis Sartucci, a Potomac resident and head of a schools watchdog group. “This deal is further down the road than the public knows.” Sartucci filed a complaint on Friday, March 4 with the state Open Meetings Compliance Board because there is no evidence that the Board of Education discussed this even though the current agenda item says it has been in the works since at least 2009.

Tuesday’s vote did make an allowance for Nick Maravell to continue farming the property through the current growing season.

**THE COUNTY HASN’T** publicized or sought input on the plan, which has been in the works for some time, because they won’t be in control of the property until after Tuesday’s vote, said Patrick Lacefield, director of the county Department of Public Information. Lacefield said that several organizations are interested in bidding on the opportunity to develop and maintain the fields.

The school system was not required to have public hearings because youth soccer is a similar use as a school, Lacefield said.

“The county executive has been looking for some time to expand the amount of soccer field time down county. Bethesda and Potomac have the highest percentage of soccer players,” Lacefield said, noting that the property has been proposed for a school



PHOTO BY MARY KIMM/THE ALMANAC

**Nick Maravell on his organic, genetically-modified-organism-free farm. He leases the land from Montgomery County Public Schools, which told him last week his lease will be terminated to turn the land over to the county to develop soccer fields.**

or affordable housing and that the Potomac Master Plan suggests it could be developed for other recreational uses including ballfields if it was not needed for a school.

But that language does not absolve the county of engaging residents, said Murray: “If say, housing, is recommended by a Master Plan, it does not remove the obligation for a developer to consult the public regarding a subdivision before it goes to the Planning Board.”

**THE COUNTY WILL** have meetings with the community, holding several meetings before issuing a request for proposal, said David Dise of county General Services at the board meeting. Dise said the property could hold four soccer fields, but that the final number would depend on the proposal from a contractor. He also said that the county would not seek synthetic turf, lighted fields or a sound system on the property.

It isn’t clear whether park and planning would have oversight of the project beyond a review and recommendation.

“It would need mandatory referral and come to park and planning for review, but the board’s recommendation is advisory,” said Murray.

“We’ll see what comes back to us” in the proposals for number of fields, amount of parking, etc., Lacefield said. “I expect that we’re going to have some robust discussion about this.” But apparently the county has already decided to pursue soccer fields above other uses without any public comment.

In a statement later, Lacefield said that the proposal would not seek to have synthetic turf or lighted fields.

“This will have a major impact on my operation,” said Maravell, who was recently

appointed by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to the National Organic Standards Board. “This is the only place I can raise corn and soybean seed free from genetic contamination.”

He has other farmland in Frederick County, but the proximity of commercial farms means that he cannot guarantee the corn and soybean seeds would be GMO pollen-free.

Maravell and Barnes of West Montgomery County Citizens Association also raised environmental concerns, including fears for effects on adjacent wells and streams, especially if there is a possibility of using synthetic turf fields. Currently there is a moratorium on new synthetic turf fields in the county while a committee considers some of the environmental concerns.

Berliner says Maravell has been treated shabbily.

There are plans for other new soccer fields in Potomac, one at Glen and Travilah roads and also at Potomac Community Center.

The field at the community center will be maintained as grass, not synthetic turf, said Gabriel Albornoz, director of the county’s recreation department.

The sports community has been articulating the need for more “rectangular multipurpose fields” downcounty some time, Albornoz said, leading to creative ideas on how to expand use of existing fields and develop new fields. One approach is “adopt-a-field” in which the County would retain ultimate authority, but an organization would maintain and water an existing field, like the one at Potomac Community Center, in exchange for preferred use.

But the plans for the Brickyard site are more extensive, and will depend on what is proposed by potential private partners said both Lacefield and Albornoz.

“Before any vote takes place before the School Board, we would expect to be informed about a project that will likely have a huge impact on the entire Potomac community,” said Barnes of West Montgomery. She has written to County Executive Ike Leggett and to members of the Board of Education asking that the vote on the lease be postponed. “At the very least, we deserve appropriate notice, complete information, adequate discussion and input from the affected neighborhoods and a public process that respects and prepares our community instead of sneaking up on it.”

## LETTER

### Early Dialogue Was Needed on Brickyard

To the Editor:

Last week, I was asked if I knew that the Board of Education was considering a lease with the County or if I was aware of today’s agenda item. I answered that I did not.

Another email reminded me that I did attend a meeting over a year ago (March 5, 2010) between the then Development Review Division Chief, Rose Krasnow and some County officials, at which the Brickyard site was discussed.

I recollect outlining the history of the site, stating that if the school was declared surplus, there would be local opposition to the use of the land for meeting recreation needs if it meant the removal of the certified organic producer. As we always do to with either the public or private sector, Planning staff emphasized that it was absolutely critical to have a dialogue with the Brickyard Road citizens group and the West Montgomery County Citizens Association before any decisions were formalized, and that public reaction to agenda items or notices that decisions had already been taken would be overwhelmingly negative.

The meeting was over a year ago, and as far as I am aware the site has not been declared surplus, and there has been no circulation to other Departments or agencies requesting expressions of interest, so this development comes as a surprise.

Also note that if say, housing, is recommended by a Master Plan, it does not remove the obligation for a developer to consult the public regarding a subdivision before it goes to the Planning Board.

Similarly, MCPS is very good at consulting the public on facility planning before it submits a mandatory referral for a Master Planned school. Citizens want and need a voice on the details and timing of change as well as the type of future land use in their local neighborhoods.

Apart from the public notice issue, we did raise several concerns.

Soccer games have 11 players per team, up to 7 substitutes per team, and 3 officials, for a total of 39 individuals. Assuming the same officials, the next game has potentially 36 individuals arriving while the first game is being played. The parking standard for Soccerplex in Germantown is therefore 70 parking places per field, to accommodate overlap.

Stormwater management is required, and a sewer category change for changing/rest rooms as the site is outside the approved sewer service envelope. (The site abuts the envelope, so approval would be pro forma). Public consultation, design, review and the approval process all take time, so it appears that Mr. Maravell’s lease could have been extended at least through the growing season.

The timing is especially unfortunate, as it coincides with Bruce Adam’s sustainable community food system initiative, the Commission’s agricultural incubator efforts, and current efforts to produce more local food in urban areas.

**Callum Murray**

Team Leader for Potomac  
Montgomery County Park and Planning





**The Brooklyn Deli serves up N.Y. Deli-style food.**



**Katrina Barnette and owner Lacy Jordan of Lacy's Couture.**

PHOTOS BY SUSAN BELFORD/THE ALMANAC

## Revitalized Potomac Woods Plaza

### Former "Mini-Mall" becomes one-stop shopping center.

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

Those of us who have lived in Potomac for the past 30 years nostalgically remember the Mini-Mall just off of Seven Locks Road. This was the place parents took their children for High's ice cream, for shoes at the Shoe Train and to the Seven Locks Barber to Bill for their son's first haircut — and all the haircuts after.

All of the original stores have closed or moved away, except for two — the Seven Locks Barber Shop and the office of Dr. Steven Janowitz, DDS. In the past 30 years, shops have come and gone — Cache Pot, Carolyn's, 7-Eleven, Sun Bank, Theo's, Grape Times, Giant Pea Pod — and now the plaza has become a "one-stop shopping" center. The neighborhood around the center has dramatically changed. Now the plaza is bordered by the Lifetime Fitness facility, Park Potomac luxury condominiums and brownstones, and the restaurants and retail shops of the Park Potomac Town Center. Harris Teeter is just around the corner. The mini-mall inside the mall is gone and the shopping center has been recreated and updated.

Bill Stayeas has been in the shopping center in his Seven Locks Barber Shop for 33 years. "We have more traffic now than we have ever had," he said. "Finmark Management, the new management company, remodeled this plaza in 2000 and the changes have been wonderful. We now have

great restaurants, services, and have become a real destination location. My barber shop has grown from just four barbers to nine. I now have generations of customers — parents bring their sons, then their sons bring their children for their first haircuts — I love seeing the families over and over."

Other tenants are BB&T Bank, Starbucks, Walgreens, My Little Gym and Dominoes. Surrounding these are specialty stores and several restaurants. Services include the Potomac Prompt Medical Care, an urgent care facility with doctors on duty 10 hours a day, a Pack and Ship, and Studio 10-83, a hair salon.

Three restaurants in the center are Amici Miei Ristorante, featuring authentic Italian cuisine in an elegant casual atmosphere, Grand Fusion Asian Restaurant, offering Chinese cuisine, sushi, and Asian fusion dishes and the Brooklyn Deli which serves New York deli food for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

SEE REVITALIZED, PAGE 10



**The Bottle Shop features a variety of wine, beer and kosher party foods.**

## Engaging the Public?

### Next step for Brickyard soccer fields: Resolving community concerns about hours, parking and other details.

BY MARY KIMM  
THE ALMANAC

The planned speakers at last week's West Montgomery County Citizens Association meeting were part of a cautionary tale. West Montgomery president Ginny Barnes emphasized the importance of having Montgomery County's 34,000 acres of parkland operated independently of the Department of Recreation.

Some discussion for consolidation and budget cuts have called for integrating the park police into the county police force.

But the meeting's unexpected guests included David Dise, director of the Department of General Services for Montgomery County, who came to talk about the county's acquisition of the 20-acre site on Brickyard Road for soccer fields. West Montgomery, the umbrella civic association for Potomac, had no notice of county plans to turn the site over to a public private partnership to develop four full-sized soccer fields plus parking.

"This community is not going to take this," said Diana Conway to Dise, summing up outrage about the lack of transparency.

Dise asserted that the language in the Potomac Master Plan allowed the county executive to go forward to lease the land from



PHOTO BY MARY KIMM/THE ALMANAC

**Montgomery Park Police Chief Darien Manley came to last week's West Montgomery meeting along with Park Director Mary Bradford.**

### Coffee and Conversation

Ken Hartman, director of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, will be available in Potomac on March 25 from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at the Avenel Community Association office located at 9501 Beman Woods Way, Potomac. Hartman and his office serve as ombudsman between residents, including Potomac residents, and the county executive branch.

county schools for private development of soccer fields without any more notice than a tiny No

SEE BRICKYARD, PAGE 7

## Hosting 'Worldly Images'

### Rockville Interiors marks 40 years with artist's special exhibition.

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

Rockville Interiors will celebrate its 40th anniversary with a two-day event March 19 and 20 by Rockville artist Arthur Goldberg. The show, "Worldly Images," will present over 100 of Goldberg's limited edition prints from his journeys to India, Israel, Sweden, Austria, Hungary, Australia, the Caribbean and other countries.

The watercolorist portrays scenes that he sketched and painted whenever he happened upon a provocative subject in his travels around the world. In 2008, Rockville Interiors presented a retrospective of Goldberg's art, going back to the 1970s.

The show on Saturday, March 19 will be from 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. and on Sunday from noon – 5 p.m. The last two hours of each show will

SEE ROCKVILLE, PAGE 15



# What's Next for Brickyard?

FROM PAGE 3

member legal ad in a small circulation newspaper. But Conway, Barnes and others who had been a part of drafting the Potomac Master Plan disagreed strongly.

The master plan states that if any school sites are "declared as surplus," they "could be developed as local parks with ballfields or other recreational uses."

MCPS did not go through the process of "surplussing" the property, that is to say deciding that it would not be needed for a school. Instead the schools have leased the property to the county.

"This is not surplussed, not local and not a park," said Ginny Barnes, after reading the relevant passages of the Potomac Master Plan aloud.

When asked why the community is being informed after the fact about the decision to build soccer fields on the property, Dise said repeatedly, "The county executive has decided to move forward with soccer fields." On why there was no notice, Dise said that the county wasn't responsible for engaging the public on a piece of property it didn't yet control. The Board of Education voted last Tuesday, March 8 to lease the property to the county, again without public notice.

Now members of the county executive branch are meeting internally to determine how to engage the public before issuing a request for proposal, said Ken Hartman, director of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, which also encompasses Potomac.

The community and neighbors will get a chance to give opinions on hours of operation, number of soccer fields, parking, traffic, portajohns and other aspects of public use, Hartman said. Whether the site

## Potomac Master Plan

What the Potomac Master Plan actually says about Brickyard Road Junior High School site (Page 135):

"Surplus and future school sites offer potential for fulfilling some of the recreation needs of the Potomac Subregion. All school sites not otherwise recommended in the plan for environmental conservation should be considered for other public uses, including park use, if they are declared as surplus.

"The Brickyard Junior High School, Kendall Elementary School and Churchill Elementary School could be developed as local parks with ballfields or other recreational uses. (Recreational uses should be evaluated along with other public uses identified elsewhere in this plan to determine the priority use for each available site.) Any site acquired for parkland should be evaluated to determine whether it is appropriate for recreational opportunities (e.g. trails, ballfields, etc.)."



PHOTO BY MARY KIMM/THE ALMANAC

**Dolores Milmo and Diana Conway sharply questioned county officials about lack of notification and transparency as the county executive moves forward with plans to turn 20 acres on Brickyard Road over to a private entity to operate an anticipated four soccer fields.**

might include a tot lot or other community-friendly amenities and under what circumstances the fields might be available for local use are still up for discussion.

Hartman said there will be no structures, no lights, no artificial turf and no loudspeaker system.

"We don't know about hours of operation. People don't want to have soccer games going on until 9 o'clock at night," he said.

Unscheduled use of county soccer fields has been a concern, with some fields being overused, and many cars suddenly converging on a site, Hartman said.

Also neighbors of the Buck Branch Park in Potomac, where a soccer field was installed, say the unscheduled users can be rowdy and untidy.

Meanwhile, Nick Maravell, the farmer who for the last 31 years has carefully tended the 20 acres, growing organic, heirloom corn and soybean seed that is free from genetically modified organisms, will be able to farm the land for one more season, although he is still reeling from the notice less than two weeks ago that he might be forced off the land by the end of March.

Hartman said that the county is committed to working with Maravell to find a replacement property somewhere in the county.

"The county is committed to keeping the farmer on premises for the next growing season and to work with him to find another location within the county for next year and moving forward," Hartman said.

## The 'Bubs'

**The Tufts University Beelzebubs, a collegiate a capella group, performed at a private party March 12 at the Siegel home in Potomac. The group, or the "Bubs," are known for providing the featured arrangements and background vocals for FOX TV Glee's newest group, the Dalton Academy Warblers. At the event are, back row from left, Chase Siegel, Ryan Siegel, Dayna Siegel, Kent McCann, Jack Thomas, Evan Powell, Michael Grant, Eric Morrissey, Eric Siegel and Sue-Ann Siegel; in next row are Penn Rosen, Cailin Mackenzie, Eli Seidman, Sam Cantor and John Kwon; at bottom is Conor Flynn.**



PHOTO BY DEBORAH POST STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

# OPEN HOUSES

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### Potomac (20854)

11409 Falls	\$1,838,000	Sun 1-4	Norman Domingo, XRealtyNET	888-838-9044
10 Travilah Ter	\$1,149,000	Sun 1-4	Wendy Banner, Long & Foster	301-365-8989
9701 Sotweed Dr	\$1,249,900	Sun 1-4	Wendy Banner, Long & Foster	301-365-8989
8210 Tuckerman Ln	\$699,000	Sun 1-3	Jackie Lawrence, C 21	301-977-4663
8124 Paisley Place	\$769,000	Sun 1-4	Meg Percesepe, Wash. Fine Props	240-441-8434
14 Arlive Ct	\$759,900	Sun 1-4	Irene Wertheimer, Weichert	301-455-6095
11805 Greenleaf Ave	\$975,000	Sun 2-4	Diann Gottron, Long & Foster	301-340-2347
10304 Snowpine Way		Sun 1-4	Yasmin Abadian, Long and Foster	301-983-1212
11404 Falls Rd	\$1,399,900	Sun 1-4	Leslie Friedson, Long & Foster	301-455-4506

### Bethesda (20817)

9019 Burdette Rd	\$1,695,000	Sun 1:30-4	S Ruffin Maddox, Wash. Fine Props	301-983-6400
6509 Bradley Blvd	\$1,095,000	Sun 2-4	Anne Baker, Wash. Fine Props	301-983-6400
9019 Burdette Rd	\$1,695,000	Sun 1:30-4	Eduardo Manus, Wash. Fine Props	703-851-9697
7604 Arnet	\$1,995,000	Sun 1-4	Pam Powers, Long and Foster	202-253-0754

### North Potomac (20878)

112 Canfield Hill Dr	\$739,900	Sun 1-4	Jerry Rotter, Coldwell Banker	301-921-1040
15804 White Rock Rd	\$675,000	Sun 1-4	Delia McCormick, Evers & Co.	202-364-1700
12601 Split Creek Ct	\$1,495,000	Sun 1-4	Michael Rose, R S Coakley Realty	301-340-8700
3 Forest Ridge Ct	\$749,000	Sun 1-4	Margie Halem, Long and Foster	301-775-4196

### Rockville (20850, 20852)

11800 Old Georgetown Rd #1428	\$459,920	Sat/Sun 11-6	Bob Lucido, Toll MD	410-979-6024
11800 Old Georgetown Rd #1227	\$439,780	Sat/Sun 11-6	Bob Lucido, Toll MD	410-979-6024
11800 Old Georgetown Rd #1310	\$419,885	Sat/Sun 11-6	Bob Lucido, Toll MD	410-979-6024
11750 Old Georgetown Rd #2316	\$393,395	Sat/Sun 11-6	Bob Lucido, Toll MD	410-979-6024
11750 Old Georgetown Rd #2208	\$338,720	Sat/Sun 11-6	Bob Lucido, Toll MD	410-979-6024
11750 Old Georgetown Rd #2424	\$395,890	Sat/Sun 11-6	Bob Lucido, Toll MD	410-979-6024
11750 Old Georgetown Rd #2515	\$519,790	Sat/Sun 11-6	Bob Lucido, Toll MD	410-979-6024
4 Monterra Ct	\$1,199,000	Sun 1-4	Leslie Friedson, Long & Foster	301-455-4506
502 King Farm Blvd #205	\$359,000	Sun 1-4	Leslie Friedson, Long & Foster	301-455-4506

**For an Open House Listing Form, call Deb Funk at 703-778-9444 or e-mail [debfunc@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunc@connectionnewspapers.com)**

**All listings due by Monday at 3 P.M.**



## Are Soccer Fields on Brickyard a Done Deal?

Decision appears already made as first opportunity for neighbor input is set for April 4.

BY MARY KIMM  
THE ALMANAC

**K**im and Paul London, who currently live in River Falls, came to the Avenel Homeowners Association building last Friday for “coffee and conversation” with Ken Hartman, director of Bethesda-Chevy Chase regional services. Renters, they had home-buying on their minds. Also soccer.

“We want to buy a house, we were ready,” said Kim London. “But I’m not buying in River Falls if they’re doing this on Brickyard. There are already traffic problems at the intersection of Brickyard.”

“This” refers to a surprise county decision to build multiple soccer fields on a 20-acre site along Brickyard Road. The site, which belongs to Montgomery County Public Schools for a future junior high school, has been leased to Nick Maravell, a nationally recognized organic farmer, for the last 31 years.

Maravell heard from the schools in early March that his lease would cease at the end of March because the county would take over the land for a public-private partnership for soccer fields. Maravell alerted people in the community about the plans just a few days before the Board of Education voted to lease the property to the county.



**Nick Maravell, organic farmer, has farmed the 20-acre Brickyard site for 31 years. The county Department of General Services told him that they will extend his lease through January 2012, and try to help him find a new site.**

The Londons, along with several other people who turned out for Hartman’s event, were hoping to hear that the county is still considering whether or not to build four soccer fields on 20-acres along Brickyard Road that is currently home to the organic farm. But it is clear, both from the meeting on Friday, March 25 and from the announcement of the first official public meeting on the topic that the decision has been made.

The county Department of General Ser-



**This map showing the Brickyard site for soccer fields was distributed on a flyer announcing the upcoming meeting Monday, April 4. The headline reads “Brickyard Road Soccer Field Public Meeting.”**

### Get Involved

The Montgomery County Department of General Services will hold a public meeting about what they call the “Brickyard Road soccer field project.” County officials will present the scope of the project and seek community input about the specifics of a Request for Proposal (RFP) that will be prepared to solicit private non-profit developers to build soccer fields. Call Kassa Seyoum, Capital Projects Manager, at 240-777-6114.

vices posted a web site on Monday, March 28 about the development of soccer fields on Brickyard, including a flyer announcing the first public meeting on April 4 (there are no public hearings scheduled before the

Public comment can also be sent via mail to Seyoum at Division of Building Design & Construction, DGS, MC, 101 Monroe Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, Rockville, MD 20850 The general services department posted a new website on Monday, March 28 about the soccer development process: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/content/DGS/DBDC/soccer.asp>

planning board or county council) as “Brickyard Road Soccer Field Public Meeting.”

“We are absolutely appalled by the Board of Education, horrified about the way that things are being done,” said Kim London at

## McPaw Targets \$2 Million-plus Fundraising Goal

County Executive unveils model of new Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center.

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

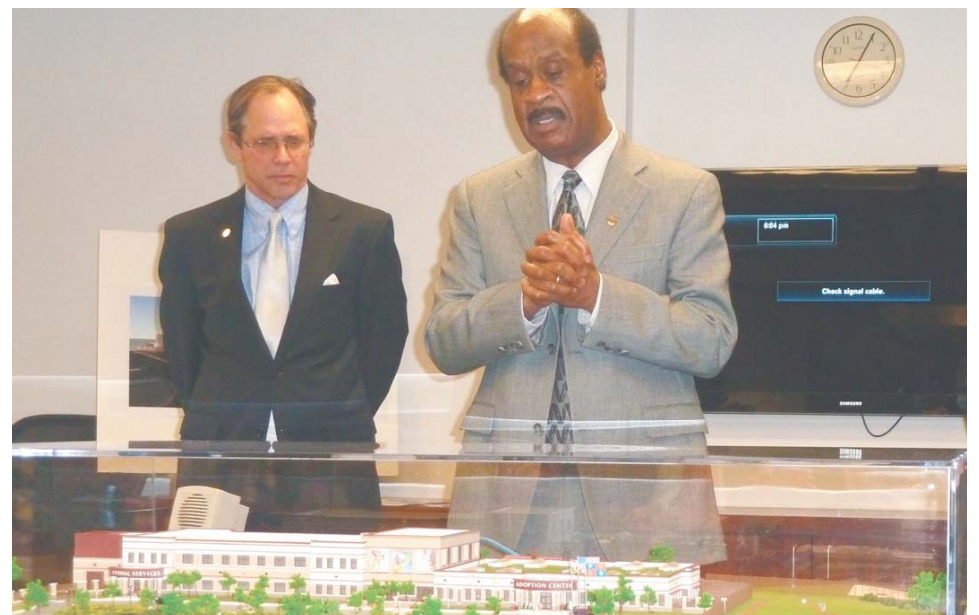
**T**he room was silent and attendees waited in anticipation as County Executive Ike Leggett, County Council Members Phil Andrews and Roger Berliner and Director of General Services David Dise unveiled the model of the new Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center. The audience viewed the model as Leggett thanked everyone for helping to bring the plan to fruition.

“Our current shelter is not a good reflection on Montgomery County and on our community. We need to protect the animals

and keep them in a safe environment. Even though Montgomery County’s budget problems are enormous, we need to make this Animal Services and Adoption Center a priority. We cannot build and maintain it without the help of McPaw,” Leggett said.

McPaw (Montgomery County Partners for Animal Well-Being) is a recently founded 501(c)(3) non-profit. Its mission is to raise funds to build and support the Animal Services and Adoption Center. At its first meeting on Tuesday, March 22, the model was unveiled and animal lovers were encouraged to join one of three committees — fundraising, media and public relations and

SEE MCPAW, PAGE 11



**Roger Berliner and Ike Leggett unveil the model of the new Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center.**



## New Office of Community Engagement?

One proposal to save \$2.8 million in the new budget is a proposal to create a new Department of Community Engagement, which would consolidate the five regional services centers, including the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center that covers Potomac and is headed by Ken Hartman, along with the Office of Community Partnerships, the Commission for Women and the Human Rights Commission.

The wide ranging group of organizations that currently seek to serve every part of the county and reach out to underserved residents would save money by having a single web site, one newsletter that could be localized, and would consolidate “back office” staff, for example would need only one finance person.

The five regional service center directors would no longer work exclusively for the area they are assigned to. For example, one area of Hartman’s expertise is aging in place, and he could advise other areas on that topic, while the Silver Spring director has particular expertise in working with non-profits. The goal is to be more efficient with staff and talent, Hartman said.

## Other Issues in Brief

Other issues addressed when Ken Hartman, director of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, held his first community coffee in Potomac on Friday, March 25.

❖ Hartman discussed a March 16 meeting involving State Highway officials, the Potomac Chamber of Commerce and the garden club. It looks like the State is willing to collaborate with the community to get the beautification project for Potomac Village medians done.

❖ Marilyn Block, a Literacy Council volunteer, asked about the status of the Literacy Council funding in the recommended FY2012 budget. Hartman followed up and confirmed that there are no changes to the County’s contribution to the Literacy Council in the County Executive’s Budget

❖ Two residents of Pleasant Gate in Avenel voiced concerns about the maintenance and oversight of the 18 rental units that the Housing Opportunities Commission owns in Avenel. A follow-up meeting is planned.

❖ Melanie Williams, an Avenel resident who is active with Potomac Theatre Company, was looking for more community participation and urged Hartman to help publicize PTC productions. Wilson said that PTC is looking for a possible smaller venue for children’s plays. “Music Man” is up next, she said. The company just finished production of “Mouse Trap.” See [www.potomactheatreco.org](http://www.potomactheatreco.org)

## Library Changes Ahead

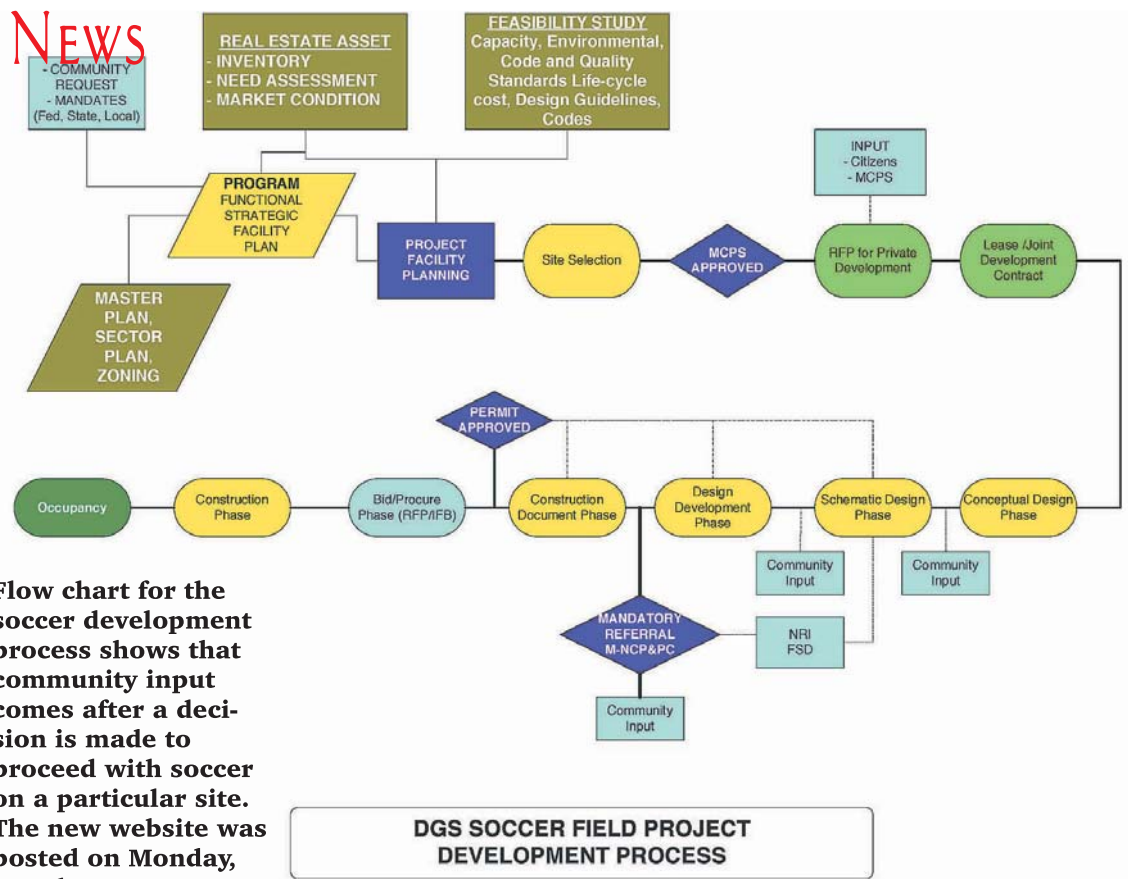
The Potomac Library, along with other county libraries, will face a number of changes as the proposed budget progresses. Consolidation will lead to a single manager for a cluster of libraries, and reduction in resource librarians on the weekends, when those librarians would only be available at regional libraries like Davis or Bethesda.

The budget for collections will be reduced, and community libraries will be dependent on more donations and more help from Friends of the Library groups.

## Public Hearing on New Budget

How will the County’s new FY 2012 Operating Budget affect residents? County officials will address that topic and answer questions at the next monthly meeting of the Montgomery County Civic Federation, 7:45-10 p.m., Monday, April 11 at the County Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville. Free parking is available in the adjacent County garage.

The one-hour program will be followed by discussion of other key local issues. All County residents and representatives of civic organizations are welcome. No admission charge. For more information, visit [www.montgomerycivic.org](http://www.montgomerycivic.org).



**Flow chart for the soccer development process shows that community input comes after a decision is made to proceed with soccer on a particular site. The new website was posted on Monday, March 28.**

# Soccer Fields: A Done Deal?

FROM PAGE 3

the Hartman’s coffee. “If they want to make a school, God bless them it would build up a sense of community, and that’s lacking.”

Montgomery Soccer Inc., one of the organizations likely to seek to be an operator of the site, sent an email encouraging its many members to support the plan. “This is a rare opportunity to provide more and improved conditions for our children, and should not be missed,” wrote Doug Schuessler, executive director of MSI, in the email.

At least one person came to Hartman’s Avenel coffee to express support for soccer fields, and several residents have posted positive comments about soccer on neighborhood email exchanges, but did not want to be quoted.

In an interview, Ginny Barnes, president of the West Montgomery County Citizens Association, Potomac’s umbrella citizens group, also expressed dismay that there has been no community input.

“It’s beyond the pale. There’s no process here except the one that the county executive is making up. It’s one of the most outrageous things I’ve ever seen in Montgomery County. It’s a complete betrayal.” Barnes contrasted this with the development of Greenbriar Local Park on Glen Road during which citizens had input on almost every detail throughout the process.

**MARAVELL, WHO** produces organic corn and soybean seeds, was recently appointed by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to the National Organic Standards Board. “This is the only place I can raise corn and soybean seed free from genetic contamination,” he said. Maravell has other farmland in Frederick County, but the proximity of commercial farms means that he cannot guarantee the corn and soybean seeds would be GMO pollen-free.

“County farmers, wherever they are growing, deserve support and, in this case, certainly better than a few weeks’ notice,” said Caroline Taylor, of the Montgomery Countryside Alliance. “Those of us who eat, expect a modicum of vision from our local government and that they not pave, turf, and build our working farms into oblivion.”

Because the property belongs to the schools, during the Potomac Master Plan process and other discussions about possible uses, local residents were assured that nothing would go forward unless the Board of Education declared that the property was surplus; that is, it would never be needed for a school. But with no public notice, the Board of Education is circumventing that process by leasing the property to the county with the understanding that it can get it back if it is needed for a school in the future.

The upcoming meeting will be “the first of two meetings to receive community input on parameters on the use of this property for soccer fields,” Hartman said in an interview. “We want to hear from the community about hours, what other recreational features they might want.” Hartman acknowledged that the first meeting is likely to address residents’ concerns about process, but he hopes the second meeting will allow for agreement with neighbors on details. “Never pass up an opportunity to talk to your government,” he said. “It’s an opportunity for people to be heard.”

The Department of General Services which will issue the request for proposal refused the Almanac’s request to see a copy of the lease agreement or a sample or similar lease, and also did not produce details of the Board of Education resolution which it said would guide the writing of the lease.

“The upcoming ‘public meetings’ regarding the Brickyard property are simply a charade,” said Dolores Milmo of the Audubon Naturalist Society, who nevertheless urges residents to attend. “The decisions on how the land is to be used and who would lease the property have already been made behind closed doors. It’s a disgrace — land use by fiat.”

“I am troubled by the fact that the School Board clearly did not seek community input about changing the land use of their property on Brickyard, that they are planning soccer fields but we don’t know what kind of soccer fields — who will be running them, how much access our kids will have,” said Elisabeth Waugaman, a River Falls resident, in an email. “One wonders why all of this seems to have been done in such an opaque manner.”

Peggy Dennis summed up a lot of local concerns: “No one has asked the question, ‘what is the best use of this 20 acres?’”



# Frustration

More than 200 people turn out for meeting on Brickyard proposal.

BY MARY KIMM  
THE ALMANAC

For the passionate advocates of local, sustainable, organic agriculture, the 20-acre organic farm tended by Nick Maravell for the past 31 years is an irreplaceable gem, protected for more than a generation from chemical fertilizers and pesticides. And rarer than hen's teeth, the farm is insulated miles away from any commercial farming, allowing for cultivation of heirloom seeds free from contamination by any genetically modified organisms.

Fifteen organizations including the Chesapeake Bay Foundation have proposed the creation of the Montgomery County Food and Agricultural Policy Council, with Nick's

Organic Farm as an anchor for agricultural education.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

For the passionate supporters of competitive soccer, possible access to four more soccer fields is an opportunity not to be missed. Montgomery Soccer Inc., with 14,000 members, says the shortage of fields, especially quality fields, is overwhelming. Will four more fields solve the problem? "It won't even make a significant dent," said Gabriel Albonoz, director of Recreation for Montgomery County.

"The reality is that there are far too few fields ... and we overuse the ones we have to death," said Doug Schuessler, president of Montgomery Soccer Inc., one of just two soccer advocates to speak.

For the passionate stewards of the Potomac Master Plan, the way county employees from Ike Leggett's office twisted and



PHOTO BY MARY KIMM/THE ALMANAC

**A meeting at Potomac Elementary on Monday, April 4 focused on a county proposal to create a public private partnership to build four soccer fields and parking on a Brickyard Road school site. The proposal would displace an organic farm that has operated there for 31 years.**

spun the language around the Brickyard site from the 2002 plan to justify the action amounted to heresy and worse. "If this goes forward, we will see this happen over and over again," said Ginny Barnes, president of West Montgomery County Citizens Association. "Everybody loses if this goes forward."

**BUT MOST** of the nearly 250 people who turned out at Potomac Elementary on Monday, April 4, for the first county meeting on the "Brickyard Soccer Project" were simply astonished to discover that the county fully

intends to go forward with a plan for a public-private partnership for what could be four soccer fields and hundreds of parking places without paying any attention to reaction or feedback from neighbors and residents.

"There is no process here," said Elie Pisarra Cain, who along with Barnes and Diana Conway, were three people in attendance who served for more than two years on the Potomac Master Plan advisory committee. "I'm losing faith in our elected officials. All of the sudden we find the process

## More

❖ The county posted a new website on Monday, March 28 about the soccer development process. Public comment can be sent to Kassa Seyoum, Capital Projects Manager, at 240-777-6114, Division of Building Design & Construction, DGS, MC, 101 Monroe Street, 11th Floor, Rockville, MD 20850. See <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgmpl.asp?url=/content/DGS/DBDC/soccer.asp>

❖ Nick's Organic Farm, [www.nicksorganicfarm.com](http://www.nicksorganicfarm.com)

❖ Montgomery Countryside Alliance, [www.mcoalliance.org](http://www.mcoalliance.org)

❖ Montgomery Soccer Inc., [www.msissoccer.org](http://www.msissoccer.org)

has been ignored."

One of many signs in the packed room read: "No Chemicals = Good; No Transparency = Bad."

Three county employees endured the heat and anger while continuing to assert that their actions were justified and that the project would move forward. David Dise, director of General Services, pointed to a slide that showed the process beginning on March 8 with the school board voting to lease the property to the county for soccer fields.

"We regret that of course the school board announced this in a sudden manner," Dise said, placing blame on the Board of Education for not engaging the public. The Board of Education is leasing the land to the county for an initial 10-year term for "interim" use as soccer fields. The county plans to turn the land over to a private soccer organization to develop four soccer fields and parking.

The purpose of Monday night's meeting

SEE DIVIDED, PAGE 11

# Leadership Montgomery Recruiting for 2012 Class

Search is on for people who want to make a difference in county.

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

In 2007, when I retired from Montgomery County Public Schools after a 30-year career, I found myself looking for a meaningful way to spend my time besides tennis, golf, traveling, reading and working out. Seems as if that should be enough, but I wanted to learn more about the community I live in, to try some new activities, to grow as a person and to expand my friendships. I found Leadership Montgomery — and they found me.

I attended an information session in which I met Esther Newman, the dynamo who founded Leadership Montgomery in 1989. I was also introduced to graduates of Leadership Montgomery and other prospective members. Esther's mission was to start

a program which would "educate, connect and inspire leaders to improve our community." Her vision has exploded into three separate yet intertwined groups — Core, Youth and Senior. All groups attend monthly classes focused on various aspects of Montgomery County — safety and security, the arts, transportation, parks and planning, housing and much more.

I was accepted into the Senior Leadership Class of 2008. During the course of nine months, I found myself with many exceptional opportunities to learn more about our county than I ever imagined. I soared in a traffic plane over the 5 p.m. gridlock, sped to a home fire in a fire truck, and held on ever-so-tightly as we dodged traffic hurrying to an emergency scene in an ambulance.

One morning, I was required to walk to a bus stop from my home (two miles) to catch the bus for a meeting at the Rockville Council building. To get to a 9:30 meeting, I had to leave before 8 a.m. on a 20 degree day. Through this activity, I learned the pluses and minuses of public transportation and what I would face each day if it were my only mode of transportation. Another exciting and interesting activity was visiting the Fire Training Academy. On this day, I



Esther Newman

saw a building catch on fire, watched a taser demonstration, met a police dog detail and learned to shoot a pistol — deciding on the spot if I must shoot to kill. Our group also toured behind the scenes at Strathmore and Glen Echo and met with the Montgomery County Council. Everyone in my class was impressed with the planning, the organization and how encompassing Leadership Montgomery turned out to be.

Besides the understanding I gained through the experiences, I met long-lasting friends and networked with many leaders in the community. I was invited to join other organizations, attend breakfasts and luncheons with community leaders and became

## Get Involved

**CORE Program: Deadline: May 6**

**WHO:** Senior management, business owners, emerging leaders who live or work in Montgomery County. Explore social and economic issues and community resources while building trust, rapport and valuable networks.

**SENIOR Program: Deadline: April 22**

**WHO:** People who are 55 and older who are retired, semi-retired or about to retire, ready to share their wisdom and talent with like-minded individuals who want to get involved, learn about resources, feel useful and give back to the community

**YOUTH Program: Deadline: April 15**

**WHO:** A program for students in grades 9 – 12 to give them the skills for success in life. Youth Leadership Montgomery partners with Maryland Leadership Workshops (MLW) to develop leadership skills and community awareness.

aware of the many opportunities that await each of us in Montgomery County.

I would encourage you to consider Leadership Montgomery. Information, fees and applications are available at [www.leadershipmontgomerymd.org](http://www.leadershipmontgomerymd.org). A schedule of the dates of the informational meetings is also available on-line. As Rick Wiczorek, Jr. Class of 2010 and President and CEO of the Mid-Atlantic Federal Credit

SEE LEADERSHIP, PAGE 11

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



# Divided over Best Use of Land

FROM PAGE 4

was to gather information from the community before issuing a request for proposal for soccer fields, said Dise, Ken Hartman of the Bethesda Chevy Chase regional services, and Diane Schwartz Jones, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer who previously worked for the Montgomery County Attorney handling major public/private initiatives, real estate transactions and real estate litigation.

"The County Executive [Ike Leggett] believes this is an appropriate use of this site," said Dice.

While the county employees emphasized participation in the details about soccer fields, whether there could be a tot lot or other things for community use, most citizen speakers asked to start over with a different process.

"We don't want the RFP," said Diana Conway, president of the Montgomery Countryside Alliance and board member of West Montgomery. "We want to reopen the question of what will we do with this land." Conway identified secret collaboration dating to 2009 between Montgomery Soccer, the county executive's office and the Board of Education laying the ground work for the soccer field proposal. The community "was not part of those discussions," Conway said, adding that officials had a responsibility to inform and consult residents.

Leggett, the county's top elected official, did not attend the meeting. But on Sunday, April 3, he did pay a visit to Nick Maravell and walked around the farm with him.



**Diana Conway, of West Montgomery and Montgomery Countryside Alliance, said residents want to begin with discussing what the correct use of the property is, not details of a request for proposal.**



**Doug Schuessler, president of Montgomery Soccer Inc., said that more playing fields are badly needed and that MSI continues to "ping" the county for possible sites for more fields.**

"He asked a lot of insightful questions about aspects that make this site unique," Maravell said. "He expressed a sincere interest in my plight as a farmer."

Marvell said that Leggett expressed hope that some part of the site could be preserved for organic farming alongside the soccer fields.

Councilmembers Roger Berliner (D-1) and George Leventhal (D-at large) wrote to Leggett also suggesting that "both uses could be incorporated into the 20-acre site."

Many speakers raised concerns about traffic and safety, with thousands of new vehicle trips expected on Brickyard Road every week. Neighbors of a soccer field at Buck Branch Park in Potomac complained about the impacts of traffic, overuse and unruly behavior in the park.

Gordon Clark of Montgomery Victory Gardens, emphasized the importance of the organic farm.

Sophia Maravell, 23 and daughter of Nick Maravell, came into town for the meeting from The Farm School in western Massachusetts where she studies new techniques for small-scale sustainable farming. She spoke about the importance of small, organic farms in education and fighting childhood obesity.

"I think it would be great to have soccer fields there," said Tom Keane, a River Falls resident, who brought his 13-year-old son to the meeting "to see democracy working." Keane asked when residents would have a chance to comment on the details of the request for proposal, and Dise answered that would come at the next, as yet unscheduled, meeting.

# Leadership Montgomery Recruiting

FROM PAGE 4

Union said, "Leadership Montgomery helped me better understand my community and the people who live and work here in Montgomery County and who make a positive difference every day. It provided me a superb network of contacts and an appreciation of the many opportunities our area has to offer. As a result, it has allowed me to focus our credit union's

efforts in helping make Montgomery County an even better community, any way we can, and I believe it is imperative that we remain involved in this highly rewarding program." Leadership Montgomery applications are now available for each of these outstanding programs. For more information, call 301-881-3333 or contact Esther Newman by e-mail at [esther.newman@leadermont.org](mailto:esther.newman@leadermont.org).

# St James' Rummage Sale This Weekend

Those living in the Potomac Woods neighborhood have probably seen a blue van with a rainbow painted on the side cruising around. That "Rainbow Van" belongs to Don Schuessler and his wife Isabelle, residents of Potomac Woods for 45-plus years. The Schuesslers are active members of St James' Episcopal Church, and for the past 20-something years, they've orchestrated the church's rummage sales.

For Don Schuessler, the treasure-troving is a year-long endeavor. That's because he's been able to par-

lay his "eye" into a major fundraising program for St. James' and its missions — through sales of antiques, collectibles, furniture and "stuff" on Craigslist and eBay.

Days and times for this weekend's rummage sale, which includes jewelry, furniture, collectibles, books, kitchenware, household items, toys, tools, baby gear, art, sports equipment are Friday, April 8, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. and Saturday, April 9, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

St. James' is at 11815 Seven Locks Road. The phone number is 301-762-8040.

# OPEN HOUSES IN POTOMAC SAT./SUN. APRIL 9 & 10



**13212 Lantern Hollow Drive, North Potomac (20878)  
\$1,149,000 • Open Sunday 1-4 P.M. • Andy Alderdice  
WC & AN Miller, 301-466-5898**

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](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com) & click the Real Estate links on the right side.

**Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.**

## Potomac (20854)

7317 Masters Dr.....	\$1,498,000.....	Sun 1:30-4:30.....	Anne Killeen.....	Washington Fine Prop.....	301-706-0067
10304 Snowpine Way.....	\$1,049,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Yasmin Abadian.....	Long & Foster.....	301-983-1212
10633 Willowbrook Dr.....	\$1,699,900.....	Sat/Sun 1-4.....	Autumn Ambrose.....	Potomac Heritage.....	240-453-9444
10828 Admirals Way.....	\$1,200,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Yasmin Abadian.....	Long & Foster.....	301-983-1212
11005 Homeplace Lane.....	\$1,199,000.....	Sun 2-4.....	Meg Percesepe.....	Washington Fine Prop.....	240-441-8434
11409 Falls.....	\$1,838,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Norman Domingo.....	XRealtyNET.....	888-838-9044
11805 Greenleaf Ave.....	\$975,000.....	Sun 2-5.....	Diann Gottron.....	Long & Foster.....	301-340-2347
12121 Bentrige Pl.....	\$505,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Eric Dong.....	Fairfax Realty.....	703-766-4343
14025 Gorky Dr.....	\$1,289,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Alexa Kempel.....	Washington Fine Prop.....	301-983-6400

## Bethesda (20817)

5815 Johnson Ave.....	\$1,196,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Margie Halem.....	Long & Foster.....	301-775-4196
9601 Weathered Oak Ct.....	\$1,890,000.....	Sun 12-3.....	Linda Baumler.....	Metro-Wide.....	301-874-1922

## North Potomac (20878)

13212 Lantern Hollow Dr.....	\$1,149,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Andy Alderdice.....	WC&AN Miller.....	301-466-5898
13324 Darenstown Rd.....	\$699,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	Jamie Coley.....	Long & Foster.....	301-907-6643
14329 Platinum Dr.....	Upper 700s.....	Sun 1-4.....	Dale Gold.....	Weichert.....	301-437-3253
216 Midsummer Cir.....	\$725,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Andrew Goodman.....	Gallagher & Co.....	301-986-0077
4 Watch Hill Ct.....	\$477,500.....	Sun 2-4.....	Diann Gottron.....	Long & Foster.....	301-340-2347

## Rockville (20850, 20852)

502 King Farm Blvd, #205.....	\$359,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Leslie Friedson.....	Long & Foster.....	301-455-4506
528 Azalea Dr #42.....	\$299,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	Stephember Lundeen.....	Redfin.....	877-973-3346
10101 Grosvenor Pl #2004.....	\$304,500.....	Sat 11-3.....	Nathalie Mullinix.....	Mullinix Realty.....	410-526-4466
11750 Old Georgetown Rd #2208.....	\$338,720.....	Sat/Sun 11-6.....	Bob Lucido.....	Toll MD.....	410-979-6024
11750 Old Georgetown Rd #2316.....	\$393,395.....	Sat/Sun 11-6.....	Bob Lucido.....	Toll MD.....	410-979-6024
11750 Old Georgetown Rd #2424.....	\$395,890.....	Sat/Sun 11-6.....	Bob Lucido.....	Toll MD.....	410-979-6024
11750 Old Georgetown Rd #2515.....	\$519,790.....	Sat/Sun 11-6.....	Bob Lucido.....	Toll MD.....	410-979-6024
11800 Old Georgetown Rd #1227.....	\$439,780.....	Sat/Sun 11-6.....	Bob Lucido.....	Toll MD.....	410-979-6024
11800 Old Georgetown Rd #1310.....	\$419,885.....	Sat/Sun 11-6.....	Bob Lucido.....	Toll MD.....	410-979-6024
11800 Old Georgetown Rd #1428.....	\$459,920.....	Sat/Sun 11-6.....	Bob Lucido.....	Toll MD.....	410-979-6024

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



# One Project Moves Forward, Other in Limbo

## Potomac Community Center proposal in selection committee; Brickyard lease still pending.

While county officials won't even say how many responses came in after a request for proposal was issued for a public-private partnership for the soccer field at the Potomac Community Center, a selection committee of county employees is currently evaluating one or more proposals that were submitted in February, said Kassa Seyoum, project manager for public-private partnerships for soccer fields.

"This will be very transparent once that evaluation is processed, that should be coming very soon," said Seyoum, who would not say how many proposals were filed. "Any time we have a selection process, we don't talk about that until the review is complete. But everything will be on the table shortly."

In addition to the proposal for a

public-private partnership at the community center, the county is in the midst of a controversial process of seeking a contractor to build and operate four soccer fields on Brickyard Road. The property, an organic farm for the past 31 years operated by Nick Maravell, belongs to the school system.

The Board of Education voted March 8 to lease the property to the county for private development as soccer fields. Neither the schools system nor the county engaged neighbors or community organizations in the decision before hand, resulting in a boisterous meeting April 4 at Potomac Elementary with more than 200 attendees.

At the April 4 meeting, county official said the lease between the schools and the county would be complete within days, and that a

### More

❖ Montgomery County has a website about the soccer development process. Public comment can be sent to Kassa Seyoum, Capital Projects Manager, at 240-777-6114, Division of Building Design & Construction, DGS, MC, 101 Monroe Street, 11th Floor, Rockville, MD 20850. See <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/content/DGS/DBDC/soccer.asp>

❖ Nick's Organic Farm, [www.nicksorganicfarm.com](http://www.nicksorganicfarm.com)

❖ Montgomery Countryside Alliance, [www.mcoalliance.org](http://www.mcoalliance.org)

❖ Montgomery Soccer Inc., [www.msi-soccer.org](http://www.msi-soccer.org)

second community meeting would be scheduled, but at presstime, the lease was still not complete and the meeting was still in the works.

Seyoum said he was working on the meeting time and place, and anticipated knowing more by the end of the week. He said community members would have ample time before the next meeting.

"We're going to go back out to the community to have open discussion," he said.

He said the lease from the school system was a "routine process."

For more information, contact

**Kassa Seyoum, at left, runs the presentation about the proposal for soccer fields on Brickyard Road at an April 4 meeting at Potomac Elementary.**



PHOTO BY MARY KIMM THE ALMANAC

project manager Kassa Seyoum, 240-777-6114, [kassa.seyoum@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:kassa.seyoum@montgomerycountymd.gov)

Or see [http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/content/DGS/DBDC/soccer.asp#Potomac\\_Community\\_Recreation\\_Center](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/content/DGS/DBDC/soccer.asp#Potomac_Community_Recreation_Center)

## Flowers at Poole's

FROM PAGE 2

eries and the Days can handle the larger items such as gates and feed troughs from their Germantown store.

Janis Glenn, a neighbor who lives nearby at Rocklands Farm, arrived with Megan Johnson, a summer intern from Minneapolis, Minn.

Glenn saw the colorful plants beckoning and stopped by for her yearly armload of flowers. "We have been coming here for years," she said.

They are developing an organic side to their farm with vegetables, chickens, eggs and cattle.

Glenn said that a sense of community ended with the departure of the Pooles. "It breaks my heart. It was like the Cheers Bar, like a local pub, but a place where you bought your cat food," she said.

The store may be empty, the house looks forlorn without Billy Poole on the porch, but the big shed in the front is laden with the same bounty. "Customers are just finding out that we are still in business," said JoAnn Poole. And business is picking up as the same people return. "They realize how bad it was losing Mom and Dad and still want to support a farm store in the area," she said.

### CRIME REPORT

❖ There were two thefts from vehicles in the same area. Both occurred overnight between Sunday, March 20 and Monday, March 21. Between 9 p.m. and 8:54 a.m. in the 8400 block of Tuckerman Lane, Potomac. Unknown means of entry; property and cash were taken.

❖ Between 10:30 p.m. and 4:30 a.m. in the 11100 block of Powder Horn Drive, Potomac. Unforced entry; property was taken.

❖ A residential burglary occurred in the 11200 block of Quelway Road, North Potomac on Tuesday, March 15 between 9 a.m. and 5:56 p.m. Forced entry; property was taken.

❖ Three residential burglaries occurred on Wednesday, March 30 in the 600 block of Watts Branch Parkway, Potomac, in the early evening hours. In one incident, entry was forced and property and cash were taken. In a second incident, a forced entry was attempted, unsuccessfully. And in the third incident, there was an unknown means of entry; unknown whether anything was taken.

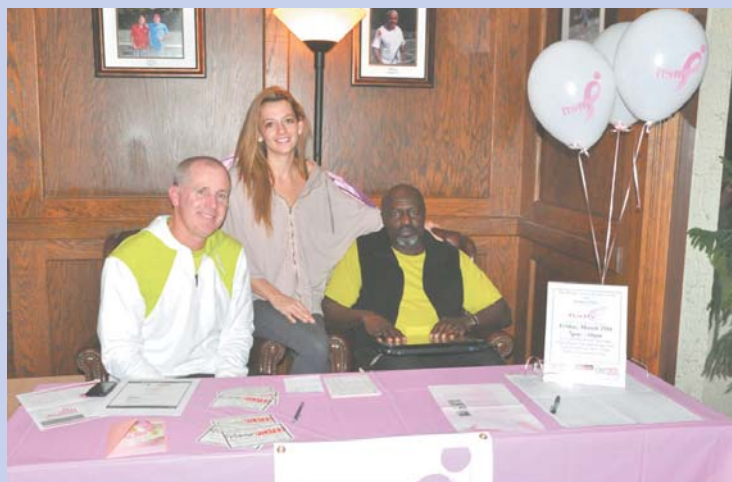
❖ On Wednesday, March 30 at 12:43 p.m. in the unit block of Settlers Landing Court, North Potomac. Officers responded for an alarm call and found the front door kicked open but no entry was made.



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH POST STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

### For Good Cause

Attending the Rally for the Cure event — raising money for breast cancer research — on Friday, March 25 at Potomac Tennis and Fitness Club are, from left, back to front, Jay Colla, Doug Jasinski, Prasad Nataraj, Wayne Shore, Kobina Ansah, John McDaniel, Reina Offutt Pratt. Front row: Jody Jasinski, Karen Beling, Cuong Vu, Liz Shore — 6-year cancer free, Orbelina Denitez — in cancer treatment now, and Noriko Nishitani.



From left: John McDaniel, tennis director of Potomac Tennis and Fitness Club; Reina Offutt Pratt, owner of Potomac Pilates, and Kobina Ansah, evening manager of Potomac Tennis and Fitness Club.



## Get Ready For 'Bullis Gives Back'

Family 5K Run/2.5K Walk to benefit Rockville's Stepping Stones Shelter.

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

**'B**ullis Gives Back" was the brain storm of the Bullis Parent Association Community Service Committee three years ago. Its members decided that a school-wide community service project would be a great idea. Thus, the 5K "Bullis Gives Back" 5K race was begun.



Their mission was to hold a race in which students, families and staff could participate to raise funds for a charity in the local community. They chose to benefit the Stepping Stones Shelter, located in Rockville only 4 miles from Bullis. The race has been successful — the first year, they raised over \$4,500, the second year, \$12,200, when they hosted more than 230 racers.

SEE GET READY, PAGE 11



**A 74-year-old Potomac man died from his injuries from a fire at his home at 8509 Scarboro Court in Potomac. It took 65 firefighters more than 20 minutes to bring the fire under control.**

## Fire Claims Homeowner's Life

**A** neighbor saw smoke and called 911 at 4:40 a.m. on Sunday, April 24 bringing firefighters to 8509 Scarboro Court in Potomac. When they arrived, the house was "heavily involved in fire," said Assistant Chief Scott Graham, and found two victims, both males in their 70s.

The homeowner, identified as Sung Y. Kwack, 74, was unconscious when firefighters found him, and he later died of his injuries. The second victim was hospitalized with minor smoke inhalation.

According to Montgomery County Fire and Rescue: Fire Units arrived on scene and found a fire that started in kitchen

area on the first floor. An unconscious, elderly male was located in a second floor bedroom and removed from the structure. Advanced life support treatment was initiated immediately and he was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead a short time later. A second elderly male was located outside the house and he also was treated and transported to a local Hospital for evaluation of smoke inhalation.

Kwack was a retired professor of economics with Howard University.

Graham said the estimate of damage was \$300,000 to structure and \$100,000 in contents of the house.

## Brickyard Leased Signed

Next meeting with residents yet to be scheduled.

**M**ontgomery County Public Schools and Montgomery County Government last week signed a lease for 20-acres owned by the schools on Brickyard Road.

The county is in the midst of a controversial process of seeking a contractor to build and operate four soccer fields on Brickyard Road. The property, an organic farm for the past 31 years operated by Nick Maravell, belongs to the school system. The Board of Education voted March 8 to lease the property to the county for private development as soccer fields. Neither the schools system nor the county engaged neighbors or community organizations in the decision beforehand, resulting in a boisterous meeting April 4 at Potomac Elementary with more than 200 attendees.

At the meeting, county officials said possibly the organic farm could continue to operate on the property along with soccer fields, and also suggested that the property could include playground equipment and community gardens. But the lease between the county and schools designates the property for "ballfields." Item 4, Use, states: "County or its agents shall use the leased premises solely for ballfields and improvements associated with that use such as a parking lot and amenity facility." The lease also makes no mention of promised restrictions, such as prohibiting lights, sound system or artificial turf.

Kassa Seyoum, project manager for public-private partnerships for soccer fields, said he was working on a meeting time and place for a second meeting with residents, and anticipated the next meeting would be in late May or early June.

Seyoum said the question of what other activities the lease might or might not allow on the property was still up for review.

In addition, a selection committee is still reviewing one or more proposals for a public-private partnership for the soccer field at the Potomac Community Center, said Seyoum.

A copy of the lease is available at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/DGS/DBDC/Resources/soccer-brickyard-lease.pdf>.

For more information, contact project manager Kassa Seyoum, 240-777-6114, [kassa.seyoum@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:kassa.seyoum@montgomerycountymd.gov)

Or see <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/content/DGS/DBDC/soccer.asp>



## Full of Beans, Full of Lexus

**F**ortunately, Friday, April 22 was rainy; otherwise people would have been sitting outside eating lunch at Vie de France and strolling along the sidewalk in front of Full of Beans children's store and the Rite Aid in Potomac Village.

Around 12:15 p.m., Bob Kanchuger was sitting in his car in front of Vie de France waiting for the light to allow him to turn onto Falls Road when he felt a jolt, then heard a big crash. He looked up to see a Lexus part way through the wall into the Full of Beans store.

The Lexus, driven by Mohammad Michael Farhandi of Potomac, had first hit the rear of Kanchuger's car, before crashing into the front of the store. Farhandi was transported to the hospital for minor injuries, and the Lexus was towed. Police officers who responded to the scene called the county

SEE CAR ACCIDENT, PAGE 11



## From Too High to Just Right

Neighborhood complaints yield county repair on speed humps.

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

Residents of Potomac's Eldwick community are finally happier with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation. As reported in the Almanac in March, the residents and community association were disturbed by the design of the speed humps built on Eldwick Way.

They complained to Art Holmes, director of the Montgomery County Department of Transportation.

At the time, Holmes said he would make certain that the humps were rebuilt to the satisfaction of the community — and he kept his promise.

The county originally agreed to build speed humps of the “flat top” design on Eldwick Way. They were to be only three



The county had the new speed humps in the Eldwick community repaired after finding they did not match design specifications.

inches high and ramped.

However, when Allan Cohen and Frank Augustino, members of the Eldwick Homes Association, measured the speed humps, they were higher and more radical in their design, causing discomfort to passengers as their cars traveled over the hump. Augustino received at least 30 phone calls from neighbors protesting that the entrance and exit to the each of the three humps was not a smooth transition and even at low

speeds, they felt the impact.

“Having to rebuild the humps was an unfortunate waste of county time and resources, but our residents are happier with the changes,” said Cohen, president of the Eldwick Homes Association. “The humps are more gradual and cause less jarring. We are satisfied with the response of Montgomery County, Art Holmes and the Department of Transportation.”

## Brickyard Meeting Set: June 9

Questions remain on whether lease will allow anything but ballfields.

BY MARY KIMM  
THE ALMANAC

Now that Montgomery County Public Schools has agreed to lease 20 acres on Brickyard Road to Montgomery County, the county has scheduled a second community meeting.

This time, the meeting is supposed to “focus on the RFP [request for proposal],” said Kassa Seyoum, project manager for public-private partnerships for soccer fields.

While county officials have said that there is a possibility of the organic farmer retaining use of the property, as well as other public amenities, the lease says that the property can only be used for ballfields. This was not the intention of County Executive Ike Leggett, said Ken Hartman, director of Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services.

“The county executive fully intends to have a dialog with the community and see if there are other uses including farming that can go on the property” in addition to soccer fields, Hartman said.

It is a priority of the county executive to do more as a county for organic farming, Hartman said.

One consideration is to work with Nick Maravell, who has farmed the 20-acres on Brickyard for more than 30 years, to develop a “county organic incubator,” looking for site large enough for organic seed farming.

“We want to do more as a county ... to help the industry of organic farming and organic seed farming,” Hartman said.

The county is in the midst of a controversial process of seeking a contractor to build and operate four soccer fields on Brickyard Road. The property, an organic farm for the past 31 years operated by Maravell, belongs to the school system. The Board of Education voted March 8 to lease the property to the county for private development as soccer fields. Neither the schools system nor the county engaged neighbors or community organizations in the decision beforehand, resulting in a boisterous meeting April

SEE BRICKYARD, PAGE 13

### Get Involved

**Public Meeting**  
Brickyard Road Soccer Fields RFP  
June 9, 7:30 - 9 p.m.  
Potomac Community Center Social Hall  
11315 Falls Road, Potomac

POTOMAC ALMANAC ♦ MAY 4-10, 2011 ♦ 3



A Trunnell Electric truck then ...



... and now.

## Family Business Celebrates 75 Years

Family leads Trunnell Electric into its future.

BY COLLEEN HEALY  
THE ALMANAC

For 75 years, Trunnell Electric has been operating as a successful family-owned business in the D.C. Metro area. Founded in 1936 by W.K. Trunnell, Sr. and then joined by brother L.B. “Dutch”

Trunnell two years later, a tradition of electrical excellence has propelled the company ever since. Today, Dutch’s three sons — Lee, Rick, and Jack, along with grandson Brad — lead the firm.

Jack Trunnell’s parents moved to Potomac in the mid-1950’s across from a large cattle farm where they raised five sons, three of

whom still work in the family electrical business.

“It was not the tony Potomac you see today,” said Jack Trunnell. “It was all rural farmland. The development of the town has been incredible over the past 40 years. Across from the house I grew up in was a

SEE TRUNNELL, PAGE 13





## \$1,000 to Children's Chorus

**Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Cares recently donated \$1,000 to the Children's Chorus of Washington. The chorus and Joan Gregoryk, its artistic director and founder, received the check from Marc Infeld, sales associate with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Potomac and member of the CBRB Cares Advisory Committee.**

## Meeting on Brickyard Soccer Set

FROM PAGE 3

4 at Potomac Elementary with more than 200 attendees.

At the meeting, county officials said the organic farm could possibly continue to operate on the property along with soccer fields, and also suggested that the property could include playground equipment and community gardens. But the lease between the county and schools designates the property for "ballfields." Item 4, Use, states: "County or its agents shall use the leased premises solely for ballfields and improvements associated with that use such as a parking lot and amenity facility."

The lease also makes no mention of promised restrictions, such as prohibiting lights, sound system

or artificial turf.

"Once we get the input, the community wants whatever it wants, then we'll check that it complies with the lease," said Seyoum.

In addition, a selection committee is still reviewing one or more proposals for a public-private partnership for one soccer field at the Potomac Community Center, replacing the roller hockey rink.

A copy of the lease is available at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/DGS/DBDC/Resources/soccer-brickyard-lease.pdf>.

For more information, contact project manager Kassa Seyoum, 240-777-6114, [kassa.seyoum@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:kassa.seyoum@montgomerycountymd.gov)

Or see <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/content/DGS/DBDC/soccer.asp>

## Trunnell Electric Celebrates 75 Years

FROM PAGE 3

pasture of Black Angus cattle. Now it is large houses set on 2-acre lots.

"The Village had remnants of its former character. As a child, the kids played baseball on the field that is now the BP gas station and rode their bikes to Great Falls. We would be gone all day long in the woods and our mother would ring a school bell for dinnertime and we knew it was time to come home."

There have been changes in customers' electric needs for their homes too. Now there are larger houses being built or remodeled for computers, cable and fiber optics. Trunnell Electric is upgrading services all the time.

"The houses built in the '40s, '50s and '60s were not intended to handle the needs of today's customers. In some houses we have updated the electric boxes two times," Jack Trunnell said.

As Trunnell Electric celebrates its 75th Anniversary in 2011, the company continues its emphasis on reliable service along with a renewed community commitment to ensure their success for another 75 years.

Serving D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, Angie's List recognized Trunnell Electric with a Super Service Award in 2010, and the Better Business Bureau gives them an A+ rating. Visit [TrunnellElectric.com](http://TrunnellElectric.com) for more details or call 301-258-8300 301-258-8300.

# OPEN HOUSES IN POTOMAC SAT./SUN. MAY 7 & 8



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\$1,300,000 • Open Sunday 2-4 P.M. • Ken Bennett,  
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11409 Falls.....	\$1,795,000.....	Sun 1-4..Norman Domingo.....	XRealtyNET..	888-838-9044
12252 Greenleaf Ave.....	\$499,000.....	Sun 1-4..Irene Wertheimer.....	Weichert Realtors..	301-455-6095
13522 Broadfield Dr.....	\$1,069,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Leslie Friedson.....	Long & Foster..301-455-4506
14 Arlive Ct.....	\$759,900.....	Sun 1-4..Irene Wertheimer.....	Weichert Realtors..	301-455-6095
7809 Laurel Leaf Drive.....	\$1,195,000.....	Sat 2-4..Marsha Schuman..	Washington Fine Prop..	301-943-9731
9410 Lost Trail Way.....	\$439,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Leslie Friedson.....	Long & Foster..301-455-4506
9820 Carmelita Drive.....	\$2,875,000.....	Sun 2-4.....	Anne Killeen..	Washington Fine Prop..301-706-0067

### Bethesda (20817)

7400 Lakeview Dr #N203.....	\$189,000.....	Sun 2-5.....	Jim Thomas.....	Re/Max 2000..301-881-1700
7400 Lakeview Dr #N404.....	\$169,900.....	Sun 2:30-4:30.....	Jim Thomas.....	ReMax 2000..301-881-1700
7420 Westlake Dr.....	\$370,000.....	Sat 2-4.....	Marty Resnick.....	ReMax 2000..301-442-6991
9007 Burdette Road.....	\$3,650,000.....	Sun 2-4..Marsha Schuman..	Washington Fine Prop..	301-943-9731

### North Potomac (20878)

13116 Chestnut Oak Dr.....	\$749,500.....	Sat/Sun 1-4.....	Andrew Turczyn.....	Slate Prop..202-559-9357
13201 Squires Ct.....	\$1,300,000.....	Sun 2-4.....	Ken Bennett.....	WC & AN Miller..240-899-0356
913 Hillside Lake Ter #410.....	\$225,900.....	Sat 11-3.....	A Powell-Santos.....	Exit Landmark..301-934-2022

### Rockville (20850, 20852)

502 King Farm Blvd, #205.....	\$349,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Leslie Friedson.....	Long & Foster..301-455-4506
1011 Grand Oak Way.....	\$729,500.....	Sun 1-4.....	Alan Sherman.....	Long & Foster..301-469-4700
11750 Old Georgetown Rd #2202..	\$534,790...Sat/Sun 11-6.....	Bob Lucido.....	Toll MD..	410-979-6024
11750 Old Georgetown Rd #2236..	\$464,495...Sat/Sun 11-6.....	Bob Lucido.....	Toll MD..	410-979-6024
11750 Old Georgetown Rd #2412..	\$394,395...Sat/Sun 11-6.....	Bob Lucido.....	Toll MD..	410-979-6024
11800 Old Georgetown Rd #1325..	\$423,995...Sat/Sun 11-6.....	Bob Lucido.....	Toll MD..	410-979-6024
11800 Old Georgetown Rd #1114..	\$449,690...Sat/Sun 11-6.....	Bob Lucido.....	Toll MD..	410-979-6024
6624 Sulky Lane.....	\$675,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Anna Masicca.....	Long & Foster..240-423-7000

**For an Open House Listing Form,  
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**All listings due by Monday at 3 P.M.**



## Brickyard Soccer Meeting June 9

Meeting designed to address details of soccer proposal, but citizens groups still angry about process.

BY MARY KIMM  
THE ALMANAC

Montgomery County Public Schools has leased 20 acres on Brickyard Road to Montgomery County for private soccer fields, and the county has scheduled a second community meeting for June 9.

This time, the meeting is supposed to “focus on the RFP” said Kassa Seyoum, project manager for public-private partnerships for soccer fields.

The county plans to release a “request for proposal,” for a private soccer organization to build and operate soccer fields on the future middle schools site, occupied for the last 30 years by an organic farmer.

Most people expect Montgomery Soccer Inc. to be the developer of the site, but that is still up in the air according to the organization’s president.

Doug Schuessler, president of Montgomery Soccer Inc., said his organization has been open about its desire to develop more soccer fields in the county, including posting all of its meeting minutes online for everyone to see.

“I can’t imagine anything we could have

### Get Involved

#### PUBLIC MEETING

Brickyard Road Soccer Fields RFP  
June 9, 7:30 - 9 p.m.  
Potomac Community Center Social Hall  
11315 Falls Road, Potomac

done to be more transparent,” Schuessler said. “I think we’re doing exactly what we’re supposed to be doing” as an organization whose mission is to advocate for soccer.

While county officials have said that there is a possibility of the organic farmer continuing to farm part of the property alongside soccer fields, as well as other public amenities, the signed lease says that the property can only be used for ballfields.

This was not the intention of County Executive Ike Leggett, said Ken Hartman, director of Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services.

“The county executive fully intends to have a dialogue with the community and see if there are other uses including farming that can go on the property” in addition to soccer fields, Hartman said.

One consideration is to work with Nick Maravell, who has farmed the 20-acres on Brickyard for more than 30 years, to develop a “county organic incubator,” looking for another site in the county large enough for organic seed farming, Hartman said earlier in May.

The county is in the midst of a controversial process of seeking a contractor to build and operate four soccer fields on Brickyard Road.

The property belongs to the school system. The Board of Education voted March

8 to lease the property to the county for private development as soccer fields, with only a few days notice to the farmer, citizen associations or neighbors of the property. Neither the school system nor the county engaged neighbors or community organizations in the decision beforehand, despite advancing the proposal for Brickyard soccer fields since at least 2009. More than 200 people turned out for a boisterous meeting April 4 at Potomac Elementary, objecting to lack of community involvement in the decision.

At the meeting, county officials said the lease between the county and schools designates the property for “ballfields.” Item 4, Use, states: “County or its agents shall use the leased premises solely for ballfields and improvements associated with that use such as a parking lot and amenity facility.”

The lease also makes no mention of promised restrictions, such as prohibiting lights, sound system or artificial turf.

“Once we get the input, the community wants whatever it wants, then we’ll check that it complies with the lease,” said Seyoum.

In addition, a selection committee is still reviewing one or more proposals for a public-private partnership for one soccer field at the Potomac Community Center, replacing the roller hockey rink.

A copy of the lease is available at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/DGS/DBDC/Resources/soccer-brickyard-lease.pdf>.

For more, see <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/content/DGS/DBDC/soccer.asp>



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

### High Water Closures

Areas of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park have been closed due to high water. Billy Goat Trail Section A and the Olmsted Island bridges in the Great Falls area of the park are closed. The high water has covered the towpath areas near Whites Ferry and Edwards Ferry in Montgomery County, Harpers Ferry in Frederick and Washington Counties, and in the Dam 4 area in Washington County. Several park roads are covered with water and are closed. Spring Gap and Paw Paw campgrounds are closed. For information on river conditions visit the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration site at <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=lxw> For information on the effect of water levels on boat ramps visit <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/boating/pdfs/upperpotomac.pdf>



### BRICKYARD ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL SITE TIMELINE

**June 9, 2011:** 7:30 - 9 p.m. Meeting on Brickyard Road Soccer Fields RFP, Potomac Community Center Social Hall, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac.

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

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

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

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

**March 3, 2011:** First public announcement of proposal for soccer fields on future Brickyard Road Middle School site. Mont-

gomery County Board of Education released documents showing it would vote to lease the Brickyard Road Middle School site to the county to contract with a private athletic organization to construct and operate private soccer fields.

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

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

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

tion, we are looking at field development opportunities at Cabin John and Wheaton Regional Park.

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

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

**Dec. 23, 2009:** Letter to Leggett from Patricia B. O’Neill, president of the Board of Education - “This is in response to your letter [below] regarding a proposal for the

SEE TIMELINE, PAGE 4



# Mike Zarchin: From Principal to Consulting Principal

FROM PAGE 2

and students.

"I miss the relationships with the kids the most now," Zarchin said. "That was the hardest part of becoming a principal and then moving on to become consulting principal. I loved the day-to-day conversations with students and staff and seeing the kids develop, change and grow."

While at Pyle, Zarchin was honored by MCPS with the Mark Mann Excellence and Harmony Award. MCPS gives this award annually to an administrator who shows an exceptional ability to encourage academic excellence, positive human relations and strong community outreach. He was chosen for his school's focus on core values, the way in which the community, staff and students worked together to develop a shared sense of purpose and commitment, and his dedication to each individual student. He also placed a strong emphasis on understanding and celebrating the cultural diversity at Pyle.

What does he see as the toughest issue kid's face? "The pressure on kids to earn good grades and to be outstanding in every area creates all kinds of problems. The demands come from peers, parents and from the students themselves. Students have to be great in music, art, sports, gymnastics — everything and anything. They have to take more AP classes than the next kid — and score well on their AP exams. It's not like it was when I was growing up. We wanted to be good — but we did not have the pressures kids put on themselves today."

After graduating from Churchill, Zarchin attended the University of Dayton and graduated in elementary education. Next, he pursued a master's degree in counseling



**The Zarchin family: From left are brothers Kevin (WCHS '90), Brian (WCHS '88), sister Debbie, dad Mike, mom Sue, Karen, Danny and Mike (WCHS '87).**

from Johns Hopkins and is currently finishing his Ph.D. from Walden University. Zarchin is married with children ages 7 and 8. His wife is a first grade teacher.

Zarchin enjoys his new position, but particularly misses coaching. "I enjoy helping principals set their visions, develop their

leadership practices and close the achievement gap. However, I do miss coaching and this year, found a way to do both. Now I am happy because I coach my own son's basketball team with my brother, whose son is also on the team. We don't win them all, but we sure have fun with our sons."

## BRICKYARD ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL SITE TIMELINE

FROM PAGE 3

County to lease the future Brickyard Road Middle School site in Potomac from the Board of Education for Recreational purposes." Letter states that a meeting is scheduled between County Executive's staff and MCPS staff.

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

"The demand for playing time on ball fields is significantly greater than the available supply.

"I believe one of our vacant school sites provides a unique opportunity for us to provide additional recreational opportunities for many of our youth without sacrificing the intent of preserving future school sites ... I understand that the 20-acre Brickyard Road site is largely vacant and underutilized.

"I would ask that MCPS lease this property to the County so we may provide additional ball fields to the County's youth teams."

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

**May 19, 2009:** MSI Executive Committee Minutes - Field Development. A report on the Task Forces efforts to develop soccer fields. The following sites are being investigated: Sligo Creek Golf Course, Brickyard

Road, Julius West, John Hopkins, and White Flint Mall.

**March 23, 2009:** MSI Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes - The Task Force members have met with and hired TDL consultants and have identified three priority properties to focus on for future soccer fields. The priority areas to focus on are Laytonia, Sligo Creek and Brickyard. The task force is scheduling meetings with county council members, planning board members and other key officials in the county to develop a soccer field development partnership.

**Feb. 23, 2009:** Lobbyist and consultant Jerry Pasternak registers with Montgomery County Ethics Commission to lobby on behalf of Montgomery Soccer Inc. for youth recreation and ball fields with compensation of \$30,000.

**Feb. 17, 2009:** MSI Executive Committee Minutes - The Field Development and Legislative Task Force proposes allocating from our designated funds for field development, the initial sum of \$350,000 towards MSI's field development goals. This sum of money will have restricted use as outlined below. We feel it is imperative to embark on a significant campaign utilizing lobbyists, land use attorneys, designers, and other professional consultants as may be required to facilitate the securing of land to be used for premium quality fields in a private public partnership with the local governments. It should be viewed that this significant expenditure is in place of land acquisition costs, but at a fraction of the cost of what we would otherwise have to spend to secure land. We, in essence, are trying to develop fields, which is not without significant risk. Although we cannot guarantee what the funds will secure, we are confident that these such funds will give us the best opportunity to navigate the political environments necessary to achieve

our goals.

1) An accounting of funds dispersed will be provided at each Executive Committee and Board of Directors meeting as part of the Treasurer's Report.

2) The Field Development and Legislative Task Force will have the authority to spend up to \$20,000 annually to any individual consultant as required. The sum of expenditures by the Task Force for all expenditures will not exceed \$50,000 annually without Executive Committee approval.

3) Should funds in excess of \$20,000 be required to be disbursed to any single vendor/payee in a single year, prior Executive Committee approval will be required.

4) Any required funds in excess of the \$350,000 limit will require approval of the Board of Directors.

Discussion: The board members agreed that we need consultative assistance to help MSI move the field development initiative forward. The MSI board members and staff have done a commendable job over the past five years working with the county government to create potential field development opportunities. However, dedicated professional support is needed to help us finalize a field development plan, negotiate with the appropriate governmental agencies and successfully help MSI develop quality soccer fields for our 15,000-plus players. After careful deliberations, the proposal was put forth for a vote and unanimously approved by the board of directors present. [According to 2009 Tax Returns, MSI had just under \$3 million in income, with assets of just less than \$6 million.]

**Spring, 2004:** Board of Education declines to surplus Brickyard or other school sites. Board member Pat O'Neill said she doubted the likelihood of the board being able to leverage any value from the Brickyard property. "I also happen to think that the people in Potomac will fight this tooth

and nail, and we will not see any money for years," she said, predicting a protracted court battle. "I'm not convinced that saying good-bye Brickyard is going to get us the money right now."

**February, 2004:** County Council identified undeveloped school sites, including parcels on Brickyard Road and Kendale Road in Potomac and one on Edson Lane in Rockville, as possible sites for affordable housing.

**October, 2003:** County Executive Doug Duncan sends a letter to MCPS Superintendent Jerry Weast asking that the board declare three parcels of land, originally planned for schools, as surplus. Two of these parcels — 20 acres on Brickyard Road and 10 acres on Kendale Road — are in Potomac.

**2002:** Potomac Master Plan Approved - Page 135 - "Surplus and future school sites offer potential for fulfilling some of the recreation needs of the Potomac Subregion. All schoolsites not otherwise recommended in the plan for environmental conservation should be considered for other public uses, including park use, if they are declared as surplus.

"The Brickyard Junior High School, Kendall Elementary School and Churchill Elementary School could be developed as local parks with ballfields or other recreational uses. (Recreational uses should be evaluated along with other public uses identified elsewhere in this plan to determine the priority use for each available site.) Any site acquired for parkland should be evaluated to determine whether it is appropriate for recreational opportunities (e.g. trails, ballfields, etc.).

**March 23, 1980:** Nick Maravell first leases land on Brickyard Road from the Montgomery County Board of Education, and begins to farm it organically. He has farmed the site continuously since then.



## Hundreds Turn Out for Farm-or-Soccer Meeting

Most speakers support farm, oppose private soccer fields, condemn lack of community involvement.

BY MARY KIMM  
THE ALMANAC

**M**ore than 300 people turned out at the Potomac Community Center on Thursday, June 9 for the county's second public meeting on a plan to build private soccer fields on 20-acres of land on Brickyard Road that has been farmed by organic farmer Nick Maravell for more than 30 years.

County employees, including David Dice, director of General Services; Gabriel Albornoz, head of the county recreation department, and Diane Schwartz Jones and Ken Hartman, both part of County Executive Ike Leggett's office, said that Leggett had decided to use a public private partnership to develop soccer fields on the site. At the end of the meeting, they continued to affirm that they would move forward as planned. The next step on the county side would be to issue a "request for proposal," allowing contractors to bid on the project to develop and operate likely four soccer fields with parking and possibly other amenities on the site. Montgomery Soccer Inc. is the most likely organization to run such a project.

For more than an hour and a half, anyone who wanted to speak was allowed three minutes to do so in the gymnasium. All but one speaker favored keeping the farm op-



Byron Bloch of Potomac called for a "win-win solution, ... Nick's farm is not destroyed but is enhanced" and additional soccer fields are developed at Cabin John or Wheaton regional parks.

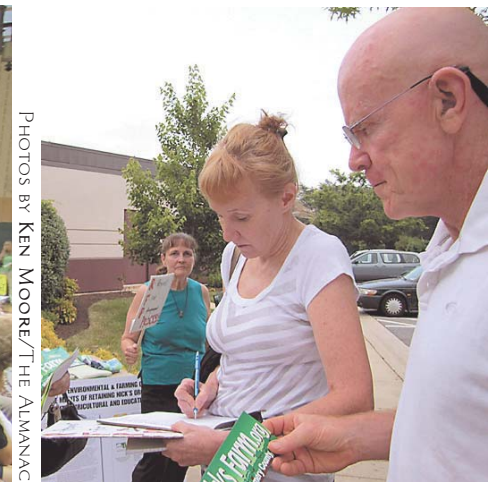
erating and opposed to the decision on what to develop on the property without a public process. Meanwhile, in other parts of the community center, county workers conducted small worksessions on specific aspects of the proposal, including transportation, design and other elements.

**SOME IN THE AUDIENCE** began by shouting at county employees before settling down.

"We need community input, not corporate input," said Dennis Kelleher, a Brickyard Road resident. "This anger is a predictable result of a process that shut out the

community."

Local homeowners associations, civic associations and residents first heard about the proposal in early March, 2011, when the Montgomery County Public Schools notified Nick Maravell, the organic farmer, that his lease of the future middle school would not be renewed because the schools planned to lease the land to the county for a public-private partnership for soccer fields. This kicked off protests and residents pleaded with the Board of Education to delay action, but the board voted a few days later to lease the land to



John and Jill Phillips, owners of Squeals on Wheels petting zoo, sign a petition in support of the farm.



Ken Hartman explained that the county executive has decided to go forward with the proposal for soccer fields on this site because 30,000 people in the county play soccer and there is a shortage of fields county-wide.

the county specifically for the purpose of developing soccer fields.

Later, residents discovered that the county executive's office had communicated with the school board and met with officials of Montgomery Soccer, Inc. in 2009 to discuss

SEE HUNDREDS, PAGE 15

## Potomac Plastic Surgeon Works with Operation Iraq Star

Organization and volunteer doctors aid injured military personnel.

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

**D**r. Navin Singh, a local plastic surgeon, donates his time and surgical talents to servicemen and women through Operation Iraq Star, Inc, a nonprofit foundation. This organization provides reconstructive plastic surgery for the injured who are returning from the war zone.

Founded in 2007 by a California nurse, Maggie Lockridge, the nonprofit foundation covers the soldier's transportation and hotel costs as well as the anesthesia, hospital operating room and medical supplies — and sends a loved one to stay with them during and after the surgery. The organization pro-

vides Board Certified plastic and reconstruction surgeons who donate their skills.

"Over 40,000 U.S. troops have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan with serious injuries," according to the Iraq Star, Inc. website. The military helps them regain their lives by replacing missing arms and legs with prosthetics, performing skin grafts on burns and treating traumatic brain injuries and other psychological problems. Yet, because of the sheer num-



Dr. Navin Singh

bers the military must treat, they are not able to offer every wounded warrior reconstructive plastic surgery to repair scars caused by shrapnel, burns and wound trauma.

"The military does a very good job, but often, more surgery is required to repair the scarring from the shrapnel and burns and to remove little rocks and debris," said Singh. "The surgery helps the servicemen and women feel better about themselves. Many are understandably very self-conscious about their scars. My hope is to improve their outlook and self-esteem."

The surgeon must understand the nature

of the injury. "One thing that I have learned from performing this kind of surgery is that I have to be extremely careful with the laser," said Singh. "If gunpowder residue is in the area of the scarring, then the laser could actually cause the gunpowder to explode."

Singh has performed hair grafts and scar revisions for soldiers with severe scars on their faces, arms, legs and stomachs. "They are delighted with the results — as are their wives and children. It helps them feel more attractive and comforts the soul and the psyche. The goal is to assist them in returning to their pre-war lives," he said.

Singh is a graduate of Brown University, The Harvard School of Public Health and Johns Hopkins Medical School. He is a leading plastic surgeon with the Ivy Plastic Surgery Associates with offices in Chevy Chase and McLean. In the past, he has volunteered with Operation Smile performing cleft palate surgery in Ecuador, India and China.



# Hundreds Turn Out over Brickyard Site

FROM PAGE 2

the proposal. But nearby residents and the farmer were kept in the dark for nearly two years.

"The reality is that there are far too few fields ... and we overuse the ones we have to death," said Doug Schuessler, president of Montgomery Soccer Inc., at a public meeting in April. Schuessler took exception to some opponents of the soccer proposal blaming MSI.

Jakir Manela, who was captain of Winston Churchill's 1999 state champion soccer team, began as many did, saying he played MSI soccer since he was 5 years old. But he said he left Potomac to go to college looking for more than suburbia and soccer.

"We need to plug back into basic elements of life, sun, soil, water, air, plants, food, interaction with life. Everybody wants this, everybody needs this. When Nick talks about forming an agricultural center here, it will succeed, it will transform the county. There are not things like this in ... the entire country where you have an organic farm that is growing organic seed. ... It's inconceivable to me that this decision could be made."

It takes many years to establish an organic farm, both because of certification requirements and because of the time it takes to develop the biological systems. Maravell produces organic corn and soy seed, something very few farmers do, because production must take place isolated from commercial farms to avoid contamination with pollen from genetically modified crops. So the 20-acres on Brickyard Road, surrounded by housing, is ideal.



**Elie Pisarra Cain, who chaired the Potomac Master Plan Study Group for its two years of meetings, said the approved language in the master plan was to allow a local park only if the property were declared surplus.**



**Sophia Maravell, 23 and daughter of Brickyard Road farmer Nick Maravell, currently attends The Farm School in western Massachusetts. "I don't think you understand," she said to county officials.**



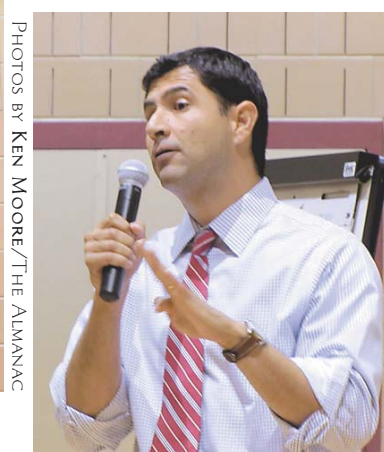
**Diane Schwartz Jones, Assistant County Administrative Officer, justified the proposal because the master plan says the site, if surplus, could be used for a local park with ballfields.**



**Byron Bloch of Potomac called for a "win-win solution ... Nick's farm is not destroyed but is enhanced" and additional soccer fields are developed at Cabin John or Wheaton regional parks.**

**THE AUDUBON** Naturalist Society, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Sierra Club are among 17 organizations that have called upon Leggett to create an education center for organic agriculture on Brickyard Road.

"I'm not going to apologize for doing what the taxpayer is supposed to do," said Doug Schuessler, president of Montgomery Soccer, Inc., of the organization's hope to build the soccer fields. "We're here to be open and honest."



**Gabriel Albornoz, head of the Montgomery County Department of Recreation, explains that the county does in fact need more soccer fields, including in Potomac.**



**Peggy Dennis of the Montgomery County Federation: "This is not the way Montgomery County is supposed to be run."**

Hartman said that the decision to turn the property over to soccer fields was based on a shortage of fields, the fact that 30,000 people in the county play soccer, and that the master plan says the site could be used for ballfields.

As envisioned, the four soccer fields and as many as 200 parking spaces would be built and maintained by a nonprofit soccer organization, almost certainly MSI. The fields would be for MSI member use, and not for public use. While Hartman and Dice earlier said that there was some possibility that a smaller farm could also be accommodated on the site, and that there was a possibility of other community amenities like playgrounds, the lease from the school system to the county allows only for the development of soccer fields.

# Thompson Named Best Local TV Reporter

FROM PAGE 5

including MTV News, before coming to Channel 5.

"I am so excited to be at Channel 5 ... It has magical qualities. It's coming home.

"I think our television station does really well. We have really talented reporters who have been around the block but we are given the opportunity to get the story that no one else has."

Thompson describes herself as "the only full time investigative reporter left in Washington, D.C.

"For me it's like a scavenger hunt. I enjoy piecing together the tiny details that make the big picture."

She cares about making a difference through her work. "I enjoy any story that helps people. When I can look someone in the eye and say 'I fixed it for you' ... I'm doing it on behalf of the people who don't

have the time or the money."

Thompson is bashful about her latest award.

"I'm turning red. I almost get uncomfortable about it. I am incredibly grateful about it. I find it such a great honor. I was absolutely stunned when I got the phone call because D.C. is full of phenomenal reporters. But I do think we have been given the opportunity to do some really good reporting."

# 18,000 Pounds Of Food

FROM PAGE 7

and we are so appreciative for all they do."

Manna has three different food programs. Food for Families provides 70 pounds of food per household every 30 days. Families pick up the food at 15 locations in the county. They receive a box of non-perishables which includes canned goods, cereal and pasta, and a box of produce, cheeses, meats and fresh items that Manna rescues from the grocery stores.

Another distribution program is "Smart Sacks Backpacks." Every Friday, Manna distributes backpacks to children on free and reduced lunch at 46 elementary schools. These backpacks contain child-friendly, easy-to-prepare food, such as peanut butter, granola bars, fruit cups, soups and pasta.

Manna also partners with 50 Montgomery County agencies to distribute food to shelters, soup kitchens, emergency shelters and smaller food pantries.

The day after their final food drive, the MCMF held a picnic at Black Hills Regional Park to bring together the volunteers and to assemble the collected food. They also collected cash donations and bought more food — so much that it would not fit into their truck and they had to call in the Manna truck fleet for assistance. The number of volunteer hours donated to this project by the MCMF totaled 608 hours.

In the spirit of Islam, this organization believes in giving back in every way they can — and they involve the entire MCMF. At Thanksgiving, holiday dinners, toys and clothing were delivered to more than 200 needy Montgomery County families. This past year, they fed almost 1,000 people at the Community for Creative Non-Violence in Washington D.C. during Ramadan. They also prepared three meals a day and collected clothing for Sophia House in Rockville. Throughout the year, the group works with community partners to eliminate hunger, provide senior assistance and help with community development projects in education, legal assistance and health care.

Tufail Ahmad has been leading charitable projects for the Montgomery County Muslim Foundation since 2002. "We have found that our projects are easier because we all pitch in," he said. "We involve the entire family. Our children are very proud of being able to help the community they live in through their faith. They are proud to be Americans and feel very satisfied helping others."

The MCMF plans to continue its food drives, clothing collections and other charitable projects for the needy of Montgomery County. As Ahmad said, "The Montgomery County Muslim Foundation wants to be involved in our community to make it a better place to live."



## Angler's Breach

125-foot gap in towpath near Old Angler's Inn to be repaired by end of next year.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE ALMANAC

**A**ngler's Breach is a 125-foot gap in the C&O Canal towpath created when torrential rains from 2008 Tropical Storm Hannah ripped through the historic towpath.

Last week, the National Park Service awarded a \$3.36 million contract to a Massachusetts company to repair the breach near Old Angler's Inn.

The project will restore the towpath and improve safety to visitors and minimize the potential for additional breaches to occur, according to National Park Service Superintendent Kevin Brandt.

The park service's non-profit partner, The C&O Canal Trust, donated \$100,000 to the project.

"If it hadn't been for our donors rallying their support immediately after the breach, this project would not have been competitive and eligible for public funding," said Matthew Logan, president of the C&O Canal Trust.

The non-profit was founded in 2007 to partner with the park service to "protect, restore and promote the C&O Canal." (See [www.canaltrust.org](http://www.canaltrust.org))

Repairs are scheduled to begin in late fall and be completed in the late fall of 2012.

**SHORTLY AFTER HANNAH** in 2008 a

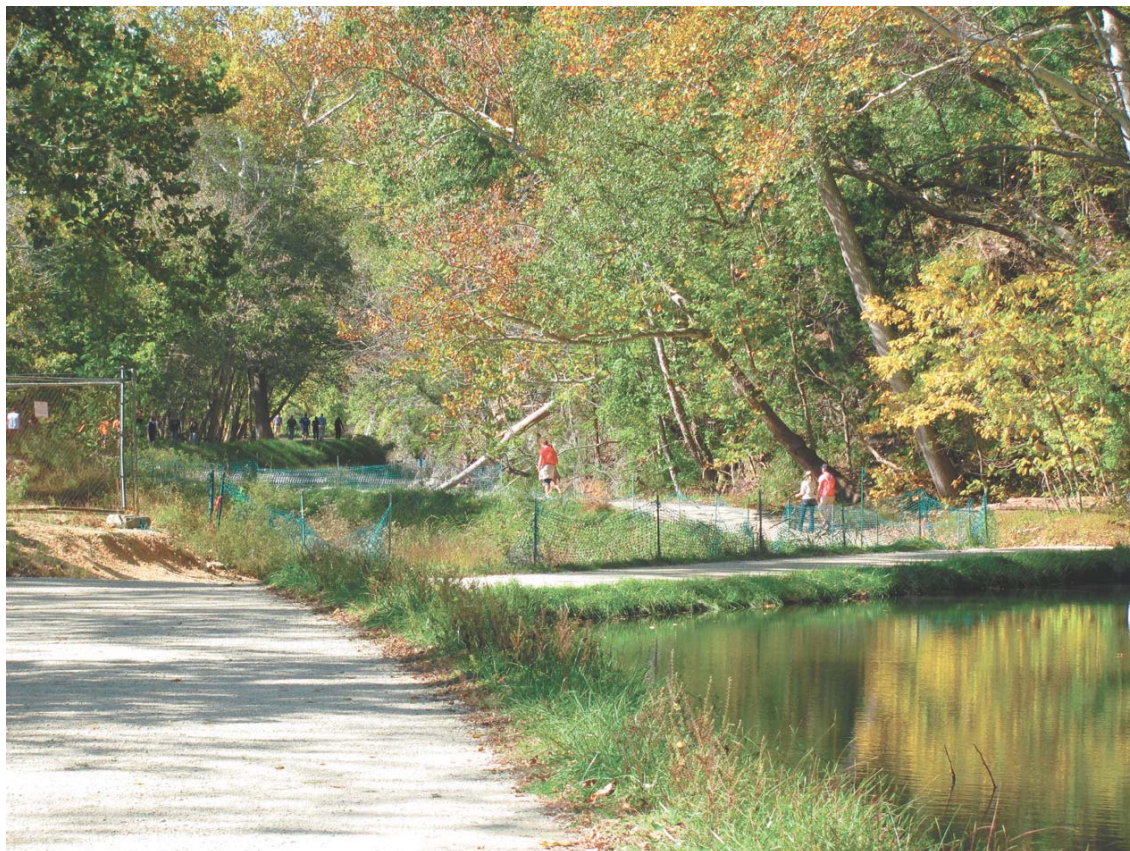
temporary bypass was installed to allow visitors to detour around the damaged path. But the bypass blocks the flow of water for seven and one-half miles downstream and has been susceptible to high water levels and floods. The planned repair will be designed to resist the pressures and erosion of future storms and floods, according to the park service.

Upon completion the canal will hold water once again. "This area is a gateway to the popular Widewater area of the canal as well as a necessary link to return water to the seven mile stretch of the canal downstream," said Brandt.

The Maryland Highway Transportation Enhancement Program supplied \$1.1 million.

The National Park Service will supply construction funding.

Logan credited U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin (D), U.S. Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D), and Montgomery County Councilmember Roger Berliner (D-1). "Each of these officials care for the park and worked hard to see that the repairs were funded," he said.



**A 2008 tropical storm ripped a 125-foot gap in the C&O Canal towpath. The towpath had to be rerouted, and miles of the canal has been without water since. A new project will repair the breach.**

PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE/THE ALMANAC

**A \$3.6 million project will restore the towpath and protect against future floods.**



## Coalition Works on Strategies To Block Brickyard Soccer

County reviewing comments, likely to release request for proposal for soccer fields in 4-to-6 weeks.

**A**t the West Montgomery County Citizens Association meeting on Oct. 12, members of the Brickyard Road Coalition outlined their strategy to stop a county plan for a private company to build and operate soccer fields on 20 acres on Brickyard Road.

Dennis Kelleher called the plan a "scheme to give public land to a private corporation."

"There is only one purpose for the secrecy — to be sure the community had no knowledge or input into the decision," Kelleher said.

The 20-acre site, technically a future school site, has been leased to an organic farmer, Nick Maravell, for more than 30

years. Neighbors, homeowners associations and Maravell all first learned of the plans to develop private soccer fields on the site in March, 2011 when Montgomery County Public Schools notified the farmer that his lease would not be renewed. At that time, County Executive Ike Leggett's staff said that the decision was already made to develop soccer fields on the site.

Records show that Leggett met with representatives of Montgomery Soccer Inc. and that Leggett's staff met with the Board of Education about the site beginning in 2008.

Representatives from the County Executive's staff said that no additional public input was required because the

Potomac Master Plan states that if this site is not needed for schools, it could be used for a local park, including ballfields.

Several members of West Montgomery County Citizens Association who served on the committee that drafted the Potomac Master Plan vigorously disputed that interpretation at its meeting last week.

"We never envisioned that this site would be used for anything but a school without being surplus," said Ginny Barnes of WMCCA. The process of "surplussing" a future school site would require public notice and extensive public comment to identify the best use for the property, Barnes said. "West Montgomery is involved in this because we feel that the Master Plan is being severely violated, and this would be a precedent."

The Brickyard Coalition, which includes support from the Civic Association of River Falls, the Brickyard Road Citizens Association and West Montgomery, has retained

### More

Montgomery County: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/content/DGS/DBDC/soccer.asp>  
Brickyard Road Coalition: [Brickyardcoalition.org](http://Brickyardcoalition.org)  
Nick's Organic Farm: [www.savenicksorganicfarm.org](http://www.savenicksorganicfarm.org)

attorneys, said Curt Uhre, and more than 400 people filed notice with the county of their plan to sue to stop the project within the 180-day window required.

Meanwhile, Montgomery County is likely to issue a "request for proposal" in four-to-six weeks, said Jim Stiles, assistant director of the Division of Building Design and Construction for the county. Right now county officials are reviewing public comments as they develop the request for proposal.

— MARY KIMM



## Farm Supporters Deliver Petitions to Leggett

**But county will go ahead with next steps to convert farm to private soccer fields.**

BY ROBBIE HAMMER  
THE ALMANAC

About two-dozen people accompanied Potomac organic farmer Nick Maravell last Wednesday, Nov. 16 to deliver petitions signed by more than 48,000 people to County Executive Ike Leggett (D).

The petitions ask Leggett to save the farm. Maravell has farmed 20 acres on Brickyard Road in Potomac for more than 30 years as an organic seed farm. The property, designated as a future school site, is owned by the Board of Education and had been leased to Maravell. The county is now leasing the property from the school board, and is seeking a contractor to build and operate four soccer fields on Brickyard Road site.

Maravell's license from the county to use the property will expire Dec. 31, 2011. Maravell is a national expert on organic farming, who was appointed by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to the National Organic Standards Board.

The county asserts that there is a shortage of soccer fields in Montgomery County, and this action is needed to address that issue.

In addition to supporters of local food and organic farms, neighbors and umbrella citizens groups have cried foul over the proposal.

"People have been outraged that there was no public discussion," said Naomi Bloch, a Potomac resident who helped deliver the petitions. Bloch and other supporters of the farm have asked the county to create an education center with the existing farm. "With support of Leave No Child Inside by Montgomery County schools, this is the perfect opportunity for them to open



Sylvia Diss of Potomac shows her support for Nick's Organic Farm while attending a protest on Tuesday morning, Nov. 15, in Rockville.

an education center."

Maravell said he and others had a "short and civil" meeting with the county executive on Wednesday that gave them hope for compromise.

But Patrick Lacefield, county spokesperson, said nothing has changed.

"The county is moving ahead as planned," Lacefield said. "The farmer ... has a license agreement that expires Dec. 31. Since he is suing the county there is no possibility of extension."

Lacefield added that the request for proposal (RFP) to develop the site would likely be released next week. Montgomery Soccer Inc. along with several soccer clubs are likely bidders.

Local homeowners associations, civic associations and residents first heard about the proposal in early March, 2011, when the Montgomery County Public Schools notified Maravell that his lease of the future middle school site, would not be renewed because the schools planned to lease the land to the county for a public-private partnership for soccer fields.



Nick Maravell of Nick's Organic Farm, on the right, and Sara Shor, campaign organizer for Nick's Organic Farm, deliver 50,000 signatures to Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett. "We have had overwhelming public support and there continues to be support from the public everyday."

Later, residents discovered that the county executive's office began communicating with the school board and meeting with officials of MSI in 2009 to discuss the proposal. But nearby residents and the farmer were kept in the dark for nearly more two years.

The Brickyard Coalition, an umbrella organization of civic groups and private citi-

zens opposing the soccer complex, includes West Montgomery County Citizens Association, the Civic Association of River Falls and the Brickyard Road Citizens' Association.

Lacefield, the county spokesman, was also unimpressed by the petitions. "A quick look showed that only about 2,500 of the 49,000 names were from Montgomery County," he said.

**Beverly Champeau and Tricia Tice, both of Potomac, protest outside of the Montgomery County Executives office on Wednesday morning, Nov. 16, to voice their support for Nick's Organic Farm. Nick Maravell has farmed 20 acres on Brickyard Road as an organic farm for 31 years, but now the county has been silent on renewing his lease. An avid supporter of the farm, Naomi Bloch, said "people have been outraged that there was no public discussion when it came for the county executive office to decide not to renew his lease. With support of the Leave No Child Inside by Montgomery County schools, this is the perfect opportunity for them to open an education center on this site, but this conversation was never allowed to take place, that is all we are asking for."**



To protest the possible closure of Nick's Organic Farm in Potomac, more than 20 area residents attended a protest outside of the Montgomery County Executives office on Nov. 15.





PHOTO BY SUSAN BELFORD/THE ALMANAC

From left: Annette Poston, Linda Fackler (wife of the Lutheran Council President) with the co-ordinator of the luncheon, Kit Moss. Standing is Jan Phillips. All are active members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

## Church Celebrates 50th Year Year-long commemoration observes “Great Tradition, Great Faith, Great Future.”

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

In 1961, when Emmanuel Lutheran Church bought three acres at the corner of Seven Locks Road and Bradley Boulevard, the area was known locally as the “grubby thicket.” It was overgrown with weeds and used as a dumping ground. Every Saturday, the men and women of the newly-founded church met to clear debris with rakes and shovels from the plot where their chapel would be built.

The church had 49 charter members — many gathered through Pastor Frederick E.

Reissig’s determination. He made door-to-door house calls in his new church area. However, the early records of the church note that it took 50 calls to get one household to “sign up.”

The little-known facts about the church were unearthed by Emmanuel member Jane Rosenquist who undertook an exploration of a large purple plastic tub which held the achieved records. The tub was housed in the church in “Mary’s Closet” — and most likely had not been delved into for years. In doing so, Rosenquist unearthed the history — but also many warm memories and

SEE ANNIVERSARY, PAGE 7

## Potomac Interfaith Group Adventures to Israel

### Sharing Christian and Jewish perspectives.

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

For 13 years, members of two Potomac houses of worship — Har Shalom Congregation and the Emmanuel Lutheran Church — have studied and gathered insight into the similarities and differences between their two faiths. The discussion is lively, filled with theological questions, sometime differences of opinion — and meaningful dialogue.

Led by Rabbi Emeritus Leonard Cahan from Har Shalom and Pastor Jan P. Lookingbill from Emanuel Lutheran Church, 25 members of the study group recently

returned from a 16-day journey to Israel. They spent the first week in Jerusalem and the second week touring the countryside and the many historical and religious sights of Israel, ending in the city of Tel Aviv. Their tour guide told them she had never before been hired to guide an interfaith group led by a rabbi and a pastor. Previously she had led groups consisting of only Christians or Jews — but never a mixed group.

What did they find fascinating about the trip?

Lookingbill said, “The archeology that continues to unveil the history of Israel is full of surprises, like the Roman Theatre and harbor at Caesarea Martina. The Dead Sea Scrolls found in caves in Qumran and viewed today at the Israel Museum reveal new insight into religious practices and con

SEE TO ISRAEL, PAGE 10

## Busy 11<sup>th</sup> Hour?

### Lawsuit scheduled this week while advocacy continues.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE ALMANAC

Nick Maravell’s lease to operate an organic farm on Brickyard Road is scheduled to expire New Year’s Day.

Maravell’s lawsuit against the local Board of Education is scheduled to begin this Thursday morning, Dec. 15 in Montgomery County Circuit Court.

Meanwhile, approximately a dozen people testified at last week’s school board work session in Rockville on Dec. 6.

Advocates urged board members to create an agricultural education center and a place for hands-on-learning about food and agriculture that can benefit the entire area.

The board should ask for the land back, said Peggy Dennis, president of the Montgomery County Civic Federation.

“[We have] been getting kids and adults out onto the field and into the dirt, planting seeds and vegetables, and opening their eyes,” said Ilene Freedman, an environmental educator and farmer from Adamstown, who has worked with Poolesville High School’s Global Ecology Program. “Save the farm and watch it become a hub for inclusive health-eating environmental education for all your students — they will connect to their food sources, community and the land.”

“This farm is a gem that has been under-



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE ALMANAC

Sylvia Diss of Potomac shows her support for Nick’s Organic Farm while attending a protest on Nov. 15 in Rockville.

estimated,” said Rebeca Rodriguez, student at Montgomery College and president of the college’s Green Club.

“You have the power to keep this resource alive. Please use it thoughtfully,” said Sara Shor, campaign organizer for Save Nick’s Organic Farm.

**MARA VELL LEASED** the 20-acre property from the School Board for

the last 31 years, growing organic, heirloom corn and soybean seed that is free from genetically modified organisms and chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack appointed Maravell to a five-year term as one of four farmers on the 15-member National Organic Standard Board, which rec

SEE LAWSUIT, PAGE 7

### To Get Involved

- ❖ Nick’s Organic Farm, [www.nicksorganicfarm.com](http://www.nicksorganicfarm.com)
- ❖ Montgomery Countryside Alliance, [www.mcoalliance.org](http://www.mcoalliance.org)
- ❖ Montgomery Soccer Inc., [www.msissoccer.org](http://www.msissoccer.org)



PHOTO BY SUSAN BELFORD/THE ALMANAC

From left: Elaine Jones, Bob Jones, Rabbi Cahan, Pastor Jan Lookingbill, Larry Ries, Lynn Ries, Lois Jones and Douglas Hackett.



## Bubble Won't Be Deflated

Neighbors have 30 days to appeal Oaklyn tennis bubble to next court.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE ALMANAC

**N**o long legal rally will be held on the courts of Montgomery County. Last week, Circuit Court Judge Michael J. Algeo denied a motion by neighbors challenging the special exception that permits a tennis bubble on Oaklyn Drive.

Potomac Swim and Recreation Association has spent \$700,000 to construct its new tennis bubble that was installed last month. The bubble will be taken down each spring by mid April.

"We feel vindicated," said Michele Rosenfeld, attorney for the Potomac Swim and Recreation Club. "The evidence was such that the judge didn't even hold a hearing."

West Montgomery County Citizens Association and neighbors opposing the bubble have 30 days to file an appeal to the Court of Special Appeals.

"My clients are disappointed. We would not have tried the case if we didn't think it was winnable," said attorney David W. Brown.

"I don't think this judge would have ruled the way he did if he had seen photos," he said.

In early 2009 the swim club's attorney Rosenfeld sought permission to add an ad

SEE COURT, PAGE 5



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE ALMANAC

### Through the Neighborhoods

**Santa visits residents of the Avenel area on Sunday night, Dec. 18, while riding with the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department. Many residents came out to donate toys for the fire departments toy drive for the Toys for Tots program.**

## Muslim Foundation Aids Needy

### Food, clothes and toys given to families.

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

**T**wo hundred needy families in Montgomery County will be enjoying the holidays this year because of the generosity of the Montgomery County Muslim Foundation.

The families arrived at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center on Saturday, Dec. 17 to find bags overflowing with fresh vegetables, chicken, stuffing and all the trimmings for a bountiful holiday

dinner. Then the recipients chose bicycles, toys, dolls and games for their children. They each received a new, warm blanket distributed in a cheerful holiday bag — and could also select a winter coat or jacket. All the families left with words of gratitude for making the holidays happen for their families.

One man said, "I worked for the Army for several years — and almost two years ago, I was laid off. I haven't been able to find work — and I have children to feed and clothe. It's so hard. I want to work — and cannot find a job. Without organizations like this, there would be no Christmas for my children. We are so grateful."

Guled Kassim, president of MCMF, said, "Our organization is pleased to provide food for families, toys for the children, warm blankets and coats — but the real value of our service is the 'intangible' message that they are important to us. We want the families to know that they matter — that we truly care about them and their welfare."

Irma Hafeez is the lead coordinator for MCMF Thanksgiving and Holiday Gift Projects. She purchased the food, organized the contents of the bag for each family and the distribution process. "The last few days, we were really busy unloading the deliveries, organizing and packing the gift bags for distribution," she said. "I could not have done it without the MCMF Board Members who worked tirelessly. Most of the Board Members brought their children with them today. They love coming to help — and they are learning the valuable benefits of how good it feels to give back. We have already delivered 30 or more gift baskets to people

SEE HOLIDAY, PAGE 9

## 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Extension

County still plans to proceed with ballfields on Brickyard Road farm.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE ALMANAC

One in an ongoing series of articles.

**N**ick Maravell's lease to operate an organic farm on Brickyard Road has been extended to Aug. 15, 2012. But "the County's intent remains the same," said Patrick Lacefield, director of Montgomery County Office of Public Information.

The county still plans to build soccer fields on the 20-acre Brickyard Road site.

"Since our current plans do not envision construction starting before Aug. 15 anyway, we were fine to extend, but, obviously, couldn't do that while we were being sued," said Lacefield.

Maravell dropped his lawsuit against the Board of Education, which was scheduled for trial in Montgomery County Circuit Court last Thursday, Dec. 15.

Montgomery County and Maravell reached the settlement Wednesday afternoon before the Circuit Court hearing.

Meanwhile, the Brickyard Coalition and others appealed the decision by the Board of Education to lease the property to the county for soccer fields to the State Board of Education. That appeal, based on violations of open meeting laws, is scheduled to be considered at the next State Board of Education meeting on Jan. 24-25.

**THE COUNTY PLANS** to issue its Request for Proposals this spring, although Lacefield said that request could go out this week.

The request for proposal will call for a private soccer organization to build soccer fields, parking and related amenities on the 20-acre farm. In return, the soccer organization would have use of the fields for its members.

There is a shortage of soccer fields to the 25,000 youth and 10,000 adults playing soccer, said Lacefield, and the county points to the Potomac Master Plan as a recommendation for ball fields to be an appropriate use of the property if it is not used as a school.

Potomac residents who participated in writing the 2002 Master Plan say the county is twisting the plan's language, which says that if the site were declared surplus, unneeded, by the schools, then it could be considered for a local park which could include ballfields (see Timeline).

SEE COUNTY, PAGE 5



**Angelic Voices** Washington Episcopal School students sing "Angels We Have Heard on High" during the Christmas program last week.



# Court Won't Deflate Bubble

FROM PAGE 3

ditional tennis court, club hours and the tennis bubble, among other things.

That same year, Montgomery County hearing examiner wrote an 87-page review denying the tennis bubble but granting other parts of the club's request.

In July 2009 the Board of Appeals denied permission to add the bubble.

Rosenfeld appealed this decision for the swim club in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County in July 2010, and the court ruled that the club must be allowed to install the bubble.

"The record contains NO evidence to support a finding of harm or disturbance created by the proposed special exception modification. In the absence of such evidence [the bubble] must be approved," the judge wrote.

No one appeared at the court hearing in opposition. Opponents of the bubble say they were not notified about the appeal and didn't have the opportunity to have their say in court.

Neighbors and West Montgomery officials say they thought the matter was settled when the bubble was denied in 2009. Then neighbors started to see signs of construction this summer.

Court documents detail that Rosenfeld and



FILE PHOTO

**This bubble rose over tennis courts at Potomac Swim club on Oaklyn Drive last month. A court ruling last week will allow the bubble to remain in place despite an appeal by neighbors.**

pool members believe the Board of Appeals followed its regular practice of contacting opponents to let them know about the Circuit Court retrial. Rosenfeld also says in court documents that she sent certified letters to neighbors.

Opponents say they received no such notice. "They said they did, but nobody got it," said George Barnes, of West Montgomery County Citizens Association, of the notification. "We're facing an uphill battle, the bubble is up."

**NEIGHBORS REGISTERED** an official complaint against the swim club claiming the pool and recreation club has already violated conditions of its new special exception. The Department of Permitting Services investigated the complaint, and the Board of Appeals is currently scheduled to discuss the report at a worksession in January.

# County Focused on Ballfields

FROM PAGE 3

Maravell and advocates supporting the use of the site as an organic farm hope the extra months of his lease will help them convince the county to use the site as an educational hub for the entire county and region.

"The next eight months will give us additional opportunities to show off how well this plot of land could offer agricultural education for Montgomery County kids," said Maravell. "We still hope to turn this into a place where children can learn about local food, farming and the environment through hands-on experiences."

Some have asked and advocated if both the farm and soccer fields can be maintained on the site.

"Dual use could include organic farming with soccer fields, which we will certainly consider," said Leggett. "With programs being cut for youth and others, I strongly believe that we must step forward in creative ways to advance positive youth development through the provision of sports opportunities."

**MARAVELL HAS LEASED** the 20-acre property from the School Board for the last 31 years, growing organic, heirloom corn and soybean seed that is free from

genetically modified organisms and chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack appointed Maravell to the 15-member National Organic Standard Board, which recommends standards for the definition of "certified organic."

The Montgomery County Board of Education voted 5-2 on March 8, 2011 to turn the Brickyard Road site over to the county for soccer fields. The 20 acres belonged to the Montgomery County Board of Education for a possible future middle school site.

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

The trial scheduled for last week would have determined if the School Board violated the Open Meetings Act and violated state law.

Circuit Court Judge Richard E. Jordan rejected the School Board's motion to have the case dismissed.

Before the settlement, the court also denied the School Board's motion to quash subpoenas for seven school board members to be witnesses at the trial.

For three decades, Maravell won the lease every three to five years during the competitive bidding process, Maravell said.

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# Church Celebrates 50th Anniversary

FROM PAGE 3

favorite stories from the past 50 years.

Emmanuel Lutheran was founded because the Augustana Lutheran Church of D.C. wanted to expand beyond the newly constructed Washington Beltway. Other churches, synagogues and private schools were also being established in and around Potomac during these years. St. Francis Episcopal Church, Connelly School of the Holy Child, and Har Shalom are just a few that were built in the burgeoning communities of Potomac and Bethesda from 1961-1965.

There have only been three pastors in the history of the church.

Reissing was the first pastor and remained until 1965. "The first year would be remembered for both its frustrations and its joys ... we are now convinced that our name 'Emmanuel' is proving to be true in our church life — 'God with us,'" Reissing said.

Pastor William Schaeffer was the second, and the current pastor, Jan Lookingbill, has served since 1979.

Chairman of the 50th Celebration is long-standing member, Douglas Murtland. "For our year-long celebration, we decided on goals for the year: Celebrate Through Worship, Celebrate Through Service, Celebrate Through Art and Music and Celebrate by being Generous People. The anniversary theme,

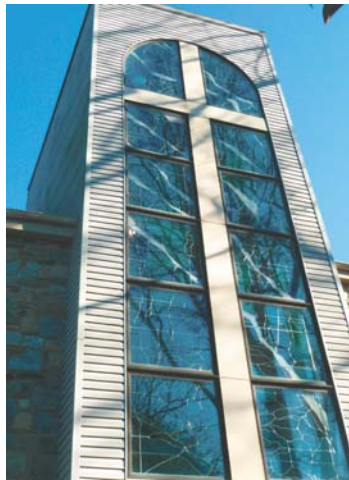


PHOTO BY SUSAN BELFORD/THE ALMANAC

**The cross tower at Emmanuel Lutheran Church.**

'Great Tradition, Great Faith, Great Future' reflects our plans to recognize past achievement and provide opportunities for the future. We hope that in another 50 years, members will look back and say 'Look at what had been done for us,'" he said.

The celebratory service on Dec. 11 included special music commissioned by Music Director Dingwall Fleary — "What Gifts I Bring" written by David Tiller. The hymn was presented with the voices of the adult and youth choirs, accompanied by hand bells, chimes, organ and trumpets. The service was followed by a celebration luncheon at Bethesda Country Club.

Lookingbill concluded, "In the

Hebrew language, there is no word for 'history.' The word that is used in place of the concept of 'history' is 'memory.' It isn't that the Jews don't have an ancient story to share, it's that they have memories to call to mind of who they are and where they have come from.

"In the same way, Emmanuel is celebrating its 50th anniversary with memories to share. Together we have learned, worked, sung, cared, sometimes cried, worshipped and celebrated the gifts that God has given us. May our lord continue to fill our lives at Emmanuel with the memories that remind us of who we are and from where we have come."



**Stefani Ann Benson and Andrew David Briker**

## Benson, Briker Engaged

Diane and Howard Benson of Potomac are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Stefani Ann Benson, to Andrew David Briker, son of Nancy and Alan Briker of Harrington Park, N.J. The couple became engaged on Nov. 11, 2011 in New Orleans.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Winston Churchill High School and the University of Michigan, where she earned a bachelor of arts degree in communications. She is currently employed at re:fuel, formerly a division of Alloy Media + Marketing.

The groom-to-be graduated from Syracuse University with a bachelor of arts degree in political science and public policy, and received a juris doctor degree from New York Law School. He is currently an attorney with the firm of Rosenblum & Bianco, LLP. A spring 2013 wedding is planned.

## Lawsuit

FROM PAGE 3

ommends standards for the definition of "certified organic."

The Montgomery County Board of Education voted 5-2 on March 8, 2011 to turn the Brickyard Road farm to the county for soccer fields. The 20 acres belonged to the Montgomery County Board of Education for a possible future middle school site.

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

There is a shortage of soccer fields to the 25,000 youth and 10,000 adults playing soccer, according to Patrick Lacefield, director of the office of public information for the county.

The county points to the Potomac Master Plan as a recommendation for ball fields to be an appropriate use of the property if it is not used as a school. Potomac activists and members of West Montgomery who helped draft the Potomac Master Plan say that this is a misrepresentation.

**THIS WEEK'S TRIAL** will determine if the School Board violated the Open Meetings Act and violated state law.

The Circuit Court rejected the School Board's motion to have the case dismissed.

Last week, the court denied the School Board's motion to quash subpoenas for seven school board members to be witnesses at the trial. The county plans to solicit "request for proposals" for operating the land in the spring, according to its website.

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