

Potomac ALMANAC

Austin Kiplinger delivers the traditional blessing for hunters, horses, hounds and foxes at the Potomac Hunt's Thanksgiving Day Meet at Kiplinger's home, Montevideo.

Thanksgiving Day Hunt at Montevideo

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PHOTO BY RUSTY MORGAN

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ONLINE AT POTOMACALMANAC.COM

Leadership Montgomery Launches New Series

Cokie and Steve Roberts to start “Conversation on Leadership.”

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Leadership Montgomery was founded more than 20 years ago — and since that time, Potomac has provided many of the community leaders who have graduated from its Core, Senior, Executive and Youth programs. The one-year program affords a diverse group of leaders from around the county the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational experiences to better understand Montgomery County and its ever-changing environment.

On Monday, Dec. 10, Leadership Montgomery will launch its “Conversation on Leadership” Series with an event at Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center, 7995 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring, from 6-8:30 p.m. Debbi Jarvis, PEPCO’s vice president of corporate citizenship and social responsibility and former NBC4 news anchor will moderate the program. Jarvis is also a graduate of the Leadership Montgomery program. The program is sponsored by Montgomery College and the Sanford and Doris Slavin Foundation.

According to Ali Levingston, Leadership Montgomery’s director of member engagement, “This program is an excellent opportunity for insightful conversation and a question and answer dialogue with broadcast legends Cokie and Steve Roberts. The evening will begin with a networking reception from 6-7 p.m. and then the program will run from 7 – 8:30 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend this valuable program and to learn



Youth Leadership Montgomery Class of 2012: Front row, from left: Layla Anthony, Rockville High School; Reva Alpersen, Albert Einstein High School; Angelica Perez, Watkins Mill High School; Megan Barich, Richard Montgomery High School; Gaia Jinsi, Winston Churchill High School; Aileen Choi, Winston Churchill High School, and Gislene Tasayco, Gaithersburg High School. Back row: Chaitanya Singh, Winston Churchill High School; Ryan Ghosh, Thomas S. Wootton High School; Brendan Glynn, Gonzaga College High School; Carl Newman, Walter Johnson High School; Justin Chang, Thomas S. Wootton High School; Brian Whitt, Sherwood High School; Grant Hayes, Quince Orchard High School, and Manzi Gahima, Sherwood High School.

more about Leadership Montgomery.”

Cokie and Steve Roberts are journalists, TV commentators and best-selling authors. Cokie Roberts is a political commentator for ABC News and a senior news analyst for National Public Radio. Steve Roberts’ 25-year career with the New York Times included assignments as congressional and White House correspondent. He appears regularly on ABC as a political analyst and is a substitute host on

NPR’s Diane Rehm Show. He has taught for 20 years at George Washington University, and also lectures around the U.S. on American politics and the role of the news media. Both have been awarded a number of awards and honorary degrees.

The Roberts have been married for more than 40 years and have two children. In 2011, they co-authored “Our Haggadah, Uniting Traditions for Interfaith Families.” Previously, they wrote “From this

Day Forward,” a New York Times best-seller about their marriage and other marriages in American history. Cokie Roberts has had a number of bestsellers including “We Are Our Mothers’ Daughters,” “Founding Mothers” and “Ladies of Liberty” — histories of women and their roles throughout American history. Steve Roberts writes a bi-monthly column, “Hometown” for Bethesda Magazine, reviews sports books for the Washington Post, and has authored a childhood



Cokie Roberts



Steve Roberts

memoir called, “My Fathers’ Houses” and another book, “From Every End of This Earth.”

Tickets for this event are \$45 for the public and \$30 for Leadership Montgomery Members. The event is free for Leadership 100 and Premium members. For information and to purchase tickets, visit www.leadershipmontgomerymd.org.

Muslim Foundation Demonstrates ‘Faith in Action’

Helping the poor.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

More than 1,400 residents of Montgomery County received a gift of meat made possible through the efforts and donations of the Montgomery County Muslim Foundation. The group held its annual Zabiha-Qurbani meat donation on Nov. 4. This gift was part of the “Solemn Festival” of Eid-ul-Adha — a Muslim religious holiday in which the Prophet Ibrahim’s humility and obedience to the Almighty is remembered.

In fulfilling the religious obligation of Prophet Ibrahim, Muslims sacrifice an ani-



Volunteers participate in the Montgomery County Muslim Foundation’s 2012 meat distribution.

SEE MUSLIN FOUNDATION, PAGE 4

NEWS

Time To Wait?

New lawsuit, new proposals, new policies emerge from Brickyard controversy.

BY KEN MOORE
THE ALMANAC

After nearly two years of controversy concerning a 20-acre “future school” site on Brickyard Road, some new ideas emerged as Montgomery County Council held a town meeting on Nov. 7 at the Potomac Community Center.

“The way this matter has unfolded has been ugly and costly to everyone involved,” five councilmembers wrote in a letter to County Executive Isiah Leggett and Board of Education President Shirley Brandman. “We do not think this result is necessary or inevitable.”

George Leventhal (D-at large) wrote a letter of his own. “This turmoil has not only tainted our constituents’ opinion of representative government, but it has also completely shut down communication,” he said.

At the rare town hall meeting that featured eight of the nine members of County Council, councilmembers suggested that a current stay in one of the battles in Montgomery County Circuit Court offers a “time out” in order “to consider fresh approaches and a transparent process to meeting each of the legitimate needs of our community that has been raised by this divisive debate.”

“The court’s ‘stay’ very clearly indicates that none of the stakeholders are guaranteed a victory in this contest,” according to the letter from the councilmembers. “Bringing the best of Montgomery County to bear, we believe it may be possible to find common ground and put this matter behind us.”

DURING THE TWO weeks since the town meeting, West Montgomery County Citizens Association filed an additional law suit in Montgomery County Circuit Court, the school board has requested public

input on its “Disposition of Property” policy and a neighborhood homeowners association has pleaded that it be consulted before its neighborhood is considered for an alternative solution for soccer fields.

West Montgomery County Citizens Association and members of the Brickyard Coalition filed a 48-page, nine-count lawsuit against the county, County Executive Isiah Leggett, the Montgomery County Board of Education, and Montgomery Soccer Inc. on Nov. 13 in Montgomery County Circuit Court.

“It is outrageous when county citizens are forced to seek legal recourse for what they should have had by right in the first place,” said Ginny Barnes of the West Montgomery County Citizens Association. “We’ve worked for 18 long months to restart a process that took place in secret and without any public knowledge. ... They’ve left us no other recourse than to turn to the courts.”

The Brickyard Coalition filed its allegation that “the county executive unlawfully conspired with the Board of Education to deliver the Brickyard public school land to a private corporation, MSI, at little or no cost,” according to the law suit.

West Montgomery and the Coalition allege that the Board of Education breached its fiduciary duties as trustees of the Brickyard property, that the county violated Maryland law and County Code regarding mandatory referral, leasing of property and disposition of property, and that the Board of Education violated Maryland Open Meetings Act.

The civic organizations say that the public’s right to have access to information about the government’s affairs concerning the decision to convert the Brickyard Road farm site into soccer fields was violated from the beginning.

The county, Board of Education, MSI and County Executive Isiah Leggett will soon file legal opposi-

SEE NEW LAWSUIT, PAGE 12

Comment on Policy, “Disposition of Board of Education Property”

The Board of Education tentatively adopted Policy DNA, Disposition of Board of Education Property on Nov. 13.

The Board of Education requests community comment on revisions to the policy.

Respond in writing by Jan. 9, 2013 to the Office of

the Superintendent of Schools, 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 122, Rockville, Md. 20850 or by e-mail to the Board of Education at boe@mcpsmd.org.

Copies of the draft policy are available through the Public Information Office at 301-279-3391 or on the Board of Education website.

DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Maryland law governs the disposal of real property by local boards of education.

Subject to the approval of the state superintendent of schools, local boards of education shall transfer grounds, school sites, or buildings no longer needed for school purposes to the County Council.

The State Board of Public Works, by rule and regulation, can require that the proceeds from the sale, lease, or disposal of school buildings constructed primarily with state funds after Feb. 1, 1971, be utilized solely as a part of the state funding of future school buildings within the subdivision in which the disposal occurred.

Board of Education property will be disposed of as follows:

Real Property — Buildings and Grounds

Disposal

In the event that any Board real property is considered to have no further use for school system purposes, the superintendent of schools shall make a recommendation to the Board for disposition. The recommendation will include the rationale for the proposal, an estimate of the market value of the property, and the identification of the amount and year of state appropriations for construction and/or improvements buildings on the site.

Easements and Rights-of-Way

The granting of easements and rights-of-way requested by other public agencies and utility firms in the public interest shall be by Board action upon the recommendation of the superintendent of schools.

Other Than Real Property

❖ The superintendent of schools will effect the trade-in of other than real property and equipment at the time bids are invited for replacement. The superintendent of schools is authorized to effect the direct sale of items which have no trade-in value nor significant use to the instructional or support programs.

❖ Requested authorization for the disposition of obsolete school books by sale or transfer to such agencies as may have use for these books hereby approved, it being understood that any transfer to an agency would be at no cost to the Board.

Review and Reporting

The sale of any item exceeding \$25,000 in proceeds will be reported to the Board as an item of information.

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the Board of Education policy review process.



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE/THE ALMANAC

The new traffic light at MacArthur and Clara Barton Parkway.

Traffic Lights Evolve

New traffic light at MacArthur and Clara Barton Parkway equipped with small computer.

The new traffic light installed at MacArthur Blvd. and Clara Barton Parkway earlier this month is a smart light. Traffic signals have evolved with new technology, according to Bruce Magnum, of the Transportation Systems Engineering Montgomery County Department of Transportation. While earlier traffic lights were controlled mechanically, a small computer controls newer traffic lights, he said.

The light at MacArthur Boulevard and the Clara Barton Parkway will be fully actuated with vehicle sensors on all three sides. Because this light won’t be interacting with other lights on arterial roads, it won’t have to be coordinated and can be controlled by whether there are vehicles at the intersection, said Magnum.

THE SIGNAL is ready to go but is now waiting for power, and that’s up to Pepco, said Mag-

num. No matter how far in advance the county notifies Pepco that it is installing a light, it is always somewhat unpredictable and always takes some time to get power installed.

After the light is operational, a county traffic engineer will observe how it functions in the first peak periods, morning and night, and make adjustments as needed, according to Magnum. “A traffic signal is not a panacea,” said Magnum.

Data collection and analysis was conducted by the Montgomery County Department of Transportation.

New traffic signals are installed at intersections that qualify based on number of vehicles, the number of accidents and the amount of delay; those are called warrants.

The engineering department designs and installs the light once a light is determined to be needed.

— KEN MOORE

PEOPLE

Chrissellene Petropoulos Trains Future Singing Talents

Potomac resident shares system for vocal mastery.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

“My voice took me to Europe, where I sang opera, operetta and musical theater and was contracted with the Vienna State Opera and the Kassel State Opera in Germany. Soon I was singing everywhere from Greece, France and Italy to The Kennedy Center and Lincoln Center.

Ultimately, my voice began to fail me,” said Chrissellene Petropoulos.

Petropoulos is a vocal teacher whose many students come to her for performance training — but they also come for the other lessons she imparts. Her father, George P. Petropoulos was an otolaryngologist — an ear, nose and throat surgeon — but he did not know how to help her when she lost her voice. She tried the standard remedies of the era — hot tea and honey, keeping quiet all day to rest her voice, speaking only in a whisper — but nothing helped her regain the strength and quality that she previously had. She left the stage and came home to begin researching how a vocalist can maintain their voice for life.

Petropoulos and her husband Demitrios Mantzouranis reside in the home she grew up in on Harrington Drive in Potomac. After returning to Potomac, they purchased it from her parents — and then built an addition called “The Parthenon” to honor her parents and their Greek heritage. This addition provides a teaching and performing area.

After 12 years of research, she has developed an analytical scientific system for maintaining the ability to use the voice. Her program is called the “10 Technical Commands to Vocal Mastery.” She said, “This system provides fundamental changes in the way one builds, strengthens and repairs the breathing and vocal apparatus for the singing, acting and speaking voice. Vocal Mastery directly addresses and diagnoses the



Chrissellene Petropoulos stresses “Inhale or Else” with 16-year-old Sammie Hakim.

breathing and vocal mechanisms into discrete physical parts. The system demonstrates and creates an acute awareness of the value of knowing how and why your body functions, while strengthening your individual breathing singing and speaking mechanisms.”

Petropoulos teaches students from ages 9 to 75 with many different performing styles and goals. She tailors her instruction to the individual requirements of the student, actor or singer. “I build into the performer the ability to take criticism — both positive and negative — and also instruct them in how to build self-worth and self-confidence,” she said. “Criticism is not about who you are — it’s about what you are presenting. I tell the vocalist to never personalize. We are not here to fight or to be right — but to entertain. Only the performer has control over how they react.”

Many of her students have become professional performers. Noah Robbins has performed on Broadway in “Brighton Beach Memoirs” and “Arcadia.” Sammie Hakim is an up-and-coming 16-year-old singer/songwriter who recently released her song, “Mark Me.” Alan Paul is associate director

of the Shakespeare Theatre Company.

Petropoulos skypes with current and former students from all over the country on a daily basis. “I love teaching people who are serious about what they do,” said Petropoulos. “My strongest passion is building voices for performances.”

Robbins describes how Petropoulos helped him: “I started taking lessons with Chrissellene when I was 17. I had just been cast as Pseudolus in ‘A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum’ and I concluded that being the lead in a musical was a pretty good reason to learn how to use my voice. At that time, I believe the medical term for the way my voice sounded was ‘dying cat.’ I was perpetually hoarse and if I spoke on stage for longer than 10 minutes, my voice would disappear. After a couple of months with Chrissellene, I was able not only to survive the shows vocally, but to keep my voice strong through the whole show. At one time, I was able to get through two shows in one day, with no vocal repercussions. I would not have been able to play Max Bialystock in ‘The Producers’ the following year — a much more vocally demanding role. And lastly, I wouldn’t



Chrissellene Petropoulos

have been able to project on a Broadway stage if it weren’t for the Commands.”

Petropoulos also works with students who are not performers, but who need support and advice in managing their lives.

Barbara Hill calls Petropoulos weekly from Kansas for life-coaching. Hill met Petropoulos through her daughter and husband who were studying voice with her. “I am not a singer,” she said. “My goal is to be able to accept situations in my life — to accept common criticism and learn that I cannot control what is said, but I can control how I will react. She has also helped me to build my self-confidence and self-worth.”

Petropoulos is the voice of Potomac Days each year as she opens the ceremonies by singing the National Anthem. Because she has learned the secrets of the “10 Technical Commands to Vocal Mastery” her voice is stronger than it was 20 years ago. She said, “I have rebuilt my own voice based on the anatomic and physiologic principles I learned through work with doctors. My personal struggle and quest to find answers has made it possible for me to build a bridge between singers and science.”

Muslim Foundation Demonstrates ‘Faith in Action’

FROM PAGE 2

mal and share portions of the meat with the less fortunate. This year, members’ donations totaled \$7,680, which allowed them to purchase seven cows to feed their neighbors in Montgomery County.

Impact Silver Spring partnered with the Montgomery County Muslim Foundation to help distribute the meat to a long line of people. A group of volunteers, wearing “Faith In Action” t-shirts, came from Montgomery County Muslim Foundation, Global Communities, El Rosal Sewing Circle, Daniel Leadership

Institute (from the Jesus House Congregation) and the Long Branch Athletic Association.

“This was a most humbling and satisfying experience for us to be able to donate more than 3,000 lbs of meat to deserving families,” said Tufail Ahmad, founder of the Montgomery County Muslim Foundation. “We were delighted to see the great turnout — seeing such a long line of people was a sight to see. We look forward to doing the same next year and hope to do even better.”

The delivery was a part of the on-going

mission of the Montgomery County Muslim Foundation. Throughout the year, the group works with community partners to address hunger, provide senior assistance and help with community development projects in education, legal assistance and health care. At Thanksgiving, holiday dinners, toys and clothing are delivered to more than 200 needy Montgomery County families. This past year, the Montgomery County Muslim Foundation 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.

Guled Kasim, president of Montgomery County Muslim Foundation, said, “At MCMF we have many programs designed to provide those in need. We do a food drive for local food banks, feed the homeless and provide Thanksgiving and Christmas Meals. I must say this was one of the most overwhelming experiences I’ve had. We provided meat to 310 families with a total of 1,428 family members. We are thrilled at the opportunity assist our neighbors in need.”



Steve Butler, store manager, stands in front of the ice scrappers inside Strosnidars Hardware store.

PHOTO BY
TAZEEN AHMAD
THE ALMANAC

Ready for Winter?

More snow than last year expected.

BY TAZEEN AHMAD
THE ALMANAC

Winter weather has arrived. How cold will it get? How much snow will fall? Is everyone prepared? These are some of the questions area residents and merchants are asking.

"We are anticipating a wet winter. We have some extra heavier merchandise than what we would usually stock," Strosnidars hardware store manager Steve Butler said.

Strosnidars has snow shovels, ice scrappers, ice melt, and snow blowers prominently displayed and Bulter says the items are selling though not at a high clip.

"Some people are playing it safe instead of coming in when the rush is on and they need one right away. They are being proactive and getting things earlier," Butler said.

Meteorologist Bob Ryan from ABC7/WJLA-TV says there are early indications of lower temperatures and more precipitation this winter compared to the milder winter we had last year.

"The patterns and the hints that we have seen in late October and November indicate that we are going to be seeing at least an average cold winter and more snow than last winter," Ryan said. Ryan also anticipates at least a couple of chances of some big storms coming up along the coast.

Anthony Loconte, a program manager at the Montgomery County's Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, says the county is ready for more snow this winter and any chance storms that may come this way. Loconte encourages residents to be prepared.

"Remain alert to the weather forecast. If you start to hear that a weather event might be coming you should sign up for the county alert system for updates. Remain vigilant because things do change," Loconte said.

The county alert system sends

out public warnings and alerts during a major crisis, emergency or severe weather events. Residents can go to the county website at <http://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov>

to register to receive updates on county closures, road closures and other important information before and after an emergency.

"Prepare a 3-4 day supply of food and water, make sure you have enough quantity of your medication for the same time period. Have your important papers in a Ziploc bag so you can grab them and run out of the house and leave if you need to," Loconte said. "Evacuations are never a planned thing. There is usually never a heads up."

"We see extreme weather events from one season to another that a lot of areas don't see," Loconte said. "Our planning is all hazards. We don't pick a specific hazard to concentrate on at any given point. We plan for all of them together."

While the county is preparing for what the winter might bring, Michael Lavin, manager and designer of the landscape division of Good Earth Garden Center on Falls Road, offers some advice on what residents can do to protect plants and trees in their yards during the cold weather.

"We used to cut back roses, chrysanthemums, and green perennials but now what we have found out is that the green stems of all of these plants continue to photosynthesize through the wintertime, so we recommend that you don't cut back anything that has green on it until the springtime," Lavin said.

Lavin also warns against heavy pruning of evergreen shrubs in the fall, and piling up of mulch against tree trunks or any plant that has a bark on it because he says it will rot the bark over the wintertime.

"It is also a good idea when shoveling snow to not pile it on top of plants, and as far as snow fall on plants you can very gently knock snow off with a broom but never try to dig plants out," Lavin said.

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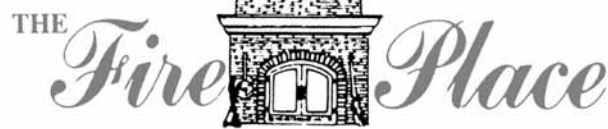
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OPINION

Thanksgiving Day Hunt at Montevideo

By Cissy Finley Grant
The Almanac

You can't keep a good huntsman down, but you sure can keep him off his horse. Larry Pitts, Potomac Hunt huntsman for over 30 years, was grounded on the Hunt's annual Thanksgiving Day gathering at Austin Kiplinger's historic Montevideo home. For the first time since 1980 Pitts followed hounds via automobile, a.k.a. hill topping.

This was not by choice, but by accident. Two weeks earlier, during a hunt meet at the home of jtMFH Beverley Bosselmann, Pitts' horse slipped on a newly finished driveway. "When I felt him slipping I was going to roll off of his back, but he rolled first. He fell to the right like a ton of bricks and landed on my right leg," he said, adding, "It hurt all over."

It wasn't until post surgery several days later, while still in Suburban Hospital, it was discovered his foot also had a broken bone.

"We were deliberately late for the Thanksgiving Day Meet. I didn't want to interfere," he reflected. He was concerned if he showed up at the Meet hounds would leave the pack to come visit. "If they had seen me they would have come right to me," he explained.

Veteran huntsman of 35 years, and a good friend of Pitts, Allen Forney, pitched right in to help. "Allen is really good at it. He is very conservative," Pitts remarked. It was to Forney he said, while still lying on the ground and waiting



Acting Huntsman Allen Forney (front) and jtMFHs Vicki Crawford and Skip Crawford (right) pause for the traditional Thanksgiving Day blessing.

PHOTOS BY RUSTY MORGAN

for the ambulance on the day of his accident, "Take good care of my hounds."

"There he was on the ground, trying to sit up and couldn't. I had his head in my lap and tears in my eyes when he said that," jtMFH Vicki Crawford recalled. It was obvious his concern was more for the wellbeing of his pack than for himself.

Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 22, was a beautiful day for horses, hounds, riders and foxes. "We cast hounds behind Montevideo, drawing

through the woods, running parallel to Partnership Road. Potomac Hunt's hounds ran for a half hour non stop, eventually crossing Seneca Creek. We had foxes going everywhere," Forney exclaimed, adding, "The hounds spoke to me pretty good and hunted very well."

The customary Thanksgiving Day Meet at Kiplinger's is always a festive occasion with the Blessing of the Hounds and prayers for all. Austin Kiplinger was pressed into service to administer the blessing this year when the appointed minister was delayed. Referring to the unseasonably warm, late fall weather, he added, "The Lord made his face shine on us."

More than 60 hunters astride left Montevideo when the huntsman blew "Gone Away" and many were still in the saddle four hours later. "Other than a few checks, hounds hunted all the time we were out. It was just one of those days when everything fell into place," the huntsman concluded.

There was another agenda on the program at Montevideo: Thanksgiving dinner. "We invited 25 guests," Knight

Kiplinger said. His wife, Ann, did most of the cooking, but everyone brought something, too. Austin's grandson, and Knight's son, Brigham, and his wife Eliza, were among those there. "They were married Sept. 29 in the back field in front of the family school house. It was perfect. They are both school teachers," Knight said.

He also very happily advised that his and Ann's daughter, Daphne, is recently engaged to Dave Steadman, member of the development staff at St. Albans School. "They met while singing in the Washington Chorus where Ann and I met in 1979. History is repeating itself," Knight concluded.

There was a great deal of history repeating itself on this day. While hunters rode off for a day in the fields and woods, many hill toppers headed toward home or wherever there may be a Thanksgiving celebration.

This included the Kiplinger's new neighbors, Mary and Ted Kingsley, who recently purchased the Partnership Road historic home where the Joseph Lorenz lived for many years.

Allen Forney, the substitute huntsman of the day, and his wife, Jeanne, were a tad late getting to their home after getting horses and hounds fed and settled. "It was late, but she fixed me a great big juicy steak for dinner." So much for tradition. He didn't mention pumpkin pie.



Sighting a friend at the Thanksgiving Day Potomac Hunt Meet, Vicki Crawford jtMFH waves a hello while astride her horse.

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PUBLISHER

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

EDITORIAL

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

EDITOR

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

SPORTS EDITOR

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

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

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

Contributing Photographers

Harvey Levine, Deborah Stevens

Art/Design:

Laurence Foong, John Heinly
Production Manager
Jean Card
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher

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

ADVERTISING

For advertising information
e-mail:
sales@connectionnewspapers.com

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

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

Andrea Smith 703-778-9411

Classified Advertising
asmith@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk

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

Jerry Vernon

Executive Vice President
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

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Old Angler's Inn 'Scores' with Fundraiser

Supports Safe Concussion Outcome Recovery and Education Program.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Despite chilly temperatures, warm hearts gathered at Old Angler's Inn on Monday, Nov. 5 to raise awareness and support for SCORE (Safe Concussion Outcome Recovery and Education Program) located at Children's National Medical Center.

"Celebrity Bartender and Waiter Night" featured NFL football players, Steve Largent, Shawn Springs, John "Boomer" Stufflebeem, Jeris White and Ricky Ray, the Red Rockers from the Washington Capitals Dr. Gerry Gioia, chief of the SCORE Concussion Program and Dr. Roger Packer, chief of Neuroscience and Behavioral Medicine. More than 130 people attended the standing-room only event.

"Help Knock-Out Concussions for Kids" is one of the goals of the SCORE program. According www.childrensnational.org/score/, "the SCORE multidisciplinary team is staffed by neuropsychologists, neurologists, neurosurgeons, behavioral medicine specialists, sleep medicine specialists, neuro-ophthalmologists, physical therapists and athletic trainers who specialize in the precise identification, monitoring and management of children, adolescents and college student-athletes, ages 4-22, who have sustained a concussion. This program is one of the only programs in the Baltimore/Washington region that specializes in the evaluation and management of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and sports concussions in children and teenagers."

Gioia discussed the importance of the SCORE program: "We offer education to parents, coaches, trainers, schools and other medical care providers on the best prevention techniques as well as the proper care and response when a concussion occurs. This year, we are also providing skill training for coaches and officials using the Concussion Recognition and Response Smartphone app. Our mission is to do the best we can to prevent concussions and to make the community understand brain injuries and treat them early."

According to the Center for Disease Control, nearly 1.5 million head injuries occur in the U.S. each year and more than 62,000 concussions take place each year in high-school contact sports. The signs and symptoms of a concus-



Celebrity bartenders at the SCORE event.

PHOTOS BY CARLY GLAZIER



Former Redskin Shawn Springs serves as a celebrity bartender.



Dr. Roger Packer addresses the crowd.

sion are often varied and may show up right after an injury or may not appear until hours or days after the injury. Appearing dazed or stunned, unable to recall events, headaches or pressure in the head, nausea, balance problems or dizziness, blurry or double vision, dif-

SEE SUPPORTING, PAGE 13

LET'S TALK Real Estate



by Michael Matese

Reach For The Sky(light)

A properly designed skylight in either a commercial or a residential construction can add aesthetic value to living space and contribute significantly to energy savings. The United States Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program has estimated that incorporation of day lighting options (skylights, tubular day lighting devices, hybrid solar lighting, etc.)—especially in commercial or industrial construction—can reduce lighting energy usage by as much as 80%; in terms of cost, by optimal utilization of day lighting, total energy costs can be reduced by up to one-third over time. There are three main design types to consider when installing a skylight: the traditional skylight, the roof lantern, and the oculus. The traditional skylight is a conventional horizontal window, which may be either fixed or operable, that is tilted and placed on the angle of a roof or directly into the roof so that the window allows light to pass straight down into the living area. Fixed skylights do not open, while operable ones, which can be powered either by use of electricity, solar power or manual power, offer the additional attraction of energy efficiency through seasonally appropriate home ventilation and cooling. The roof lantern is much like a cupola; it is multi-paned glass (or other opaque material) structure that sits on top of a typically flat roof, providing natural day lighting to the room beneath. This architectural style may also be referred to as an orangery; in effect, a roof lantern is a type of skylight, though it bears structural similarity to both greenhouses and conservatories. The oculus is a circular or oval window that can be installed above, as a skylight, or on a building's facade to express the presence of a mezzanine. Light tubes, tubular skylights and tubular day lighting devices (TDDs) are also day lighting options available when choosing to install a skylight into a structure. Light tubes, or solar tubes, are placed into the roof of a structure and focus the admission of light to the interior area, often resembling recessed ceiling light fixtures. As light tubes have less surface area than traditional skylights, they do not allow as much heat transfer. Tubular skylights work on the same premise as a light tube, allowing natural sunlight to be directed from the rooftop by means of a tube, but in this case, the tube itself is made of a highly reflective material, diffusing the light at ceiling level. The main attraction of tubular skylights versus a light tube is that tubular skylights capture both direct and ambient light, meaning that even during low-light situations such as overcast days or times at which the sun is low in the sky they provide maximum illumination. Tubular day lighting devices (TDDs) incorporate modern technology into their design, transmitting visible light through opaque walls and roofs of the construction. In a tubular day lighting device, the tube is made up of either a simple reflective interior coating or a light conducting fiber optic bundle, frequently capped with a transparent, roof-mounted dome "light collector". A diffuser assembly at the end of the tube then distributes daylight evenly and efficiently to interior spaces. When you've decided to add a skylight into your home, consider these options and designs, engage the services of a licensed contractor to help choose the most optimal style for your home's purposes, and reach for the sky(light)!

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

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ONGOING

- Mommy & Me (& Daddy, Too).**
Third Tuesday each month. 10 a.m. at Rockville Town Square. Meet for a morning out with active learning and creative play with lunch specials, story time, arts and crafts, sing-alongs, prizes and more. <http://rockvilletownsquare.com/events/mommy-and-me>. Dec. 18 in The Library, First Floor.
- Holiday Art Show and Sale.**
Saturdays and Sundays through Jan. 6, 2013, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Browse and buy fine artworks at Glen Echo Park's annual Holiday Art Show and Sale, presented by the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture. The exhibition will feature works by resident artists, instructors and invited artists and will include glass, ceramics, jewelry, photography, painting, crafts and more. In Glen Echo's Popcorn Gallery at 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Call 301-634-2222 or visit glenechopark.org.
- The Puppet Co.** at Glen Echo Park has announced its 2012-2013 season. There are favorite fairytale princesses, an annual holiday tradition, and a special guest artist with a bilingual twist. 301-634-5380 or www.thepuppetco.org.
- The Nutcracker**, through Dec. 30, Thursdays and Fridays at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.; **Toyland**, Jan. 18-Feb. 10, 2013, Fridays at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 30

Julia Nixon: Songs of Burt Bacharach. 7:30 p.m. Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Tickets \$30. Hayes Award winner Julia Nixon performs the music of the American composer. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 1

- Bethesda's Winter Wonderland.** 8 p.m. The winter concert features four professional choral groups at Imagination Stage in downtown Bethesda. Tickets can be purchased at www.bethesda.org. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.
- Mrs. Claus Tea.** 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Parents can celebrate the holidays with their little ones at Strathmore's children's tea with special guest Mrs. Claus, as they enjoy holiday music, a kid-friendly menu of delicious treats and holiday story time. An early appearance from Santa is in store too. For children ages 4 and up. At Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Call 301-581-5108 for tea reservations or visit www.strathmore.org. \$28 per person (Stars Price \$25.20).
- Swing Dance.** 8 p.m.—midnight. Swing dance with Blue Moon Big Band, featuring classic big band swing tunes from the incomparable Big Band Era —1935-1945. Dance to the swing tunes by Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Glenn Miller and more. Drop-in beginner swing lesson with Tom and Debra, 8-9 p.m., dance from 9 p.m.—midnight. At Spanish Ballroom, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Admission is \$18. Email debra@gottaswing.com.
- Holiday Concert.** 5 p.m. The Landon School Messiah Holiday Concert will feature Handel's masterpiece, The Messiah, performed by the Washington Civic Opera Chorus. Other holiday selections include

Churchill High School Performing Arts Presents
BLAST 24

AMERICAN BANDSTAND

Friday, Dec. 7th - 7:30pm
Saturday, Dec. 8th - 7:30pm
Sunday, Dec. 9th - 2:30pm

Friday, Dec. 14th - 7:30pm
Saturday, Dec. 15th - 7:30pm
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Suite of Carols, Twas the Night Before Christmas and White Christmas. Free admission for students (under 16 must be accompanied by a paying adult), \$15 for seniors, \$18 for adults. At Mondzac Performing Arts Center at Landon School, 6101 Wilson Lane. Call 301-320-1090 or visit www.landon.net/symphonette.

DEC. 1, 2, & 27

Free Victorian Holiday Greeting Card Workshops. 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. The public is invited to sign up for free workshops on making Victorian-era holiday greeting cards. Participants will dress in period clothing and be photographed. Photos will be used to make holiday cards. The workshops are open to all ages. The house will be open with free guided tours between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. At Clara Barton National Historic Site, 5801 Oxford Road, Glen Echo. Call 301-320-1410 to reserve seats. Visit www.nps.gov/clba.

DEC. 1-23

Annual Yellow Barn Members Show. The Yellow Barn Studio, Glen Echo Park's resident painting and drawing studio, presents its 18th Annual Members Show in the Yellow Barn Gallery at 7300 MacArthur Blvd. The gallery opens on Saturdays and Sundays, from 12-5 p.m. Call 301-371-5593 or visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 2

Bethesda's Winter Wonderland. 1-4 p.m. The celebrations continue in Veterans Park, located at the corner

of Woodmont and Norfolk Avenues. A live ice sculpting presentation will transform blocks of ice into wintry works of art followed by choral performances from local school groups. Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, Garrett Park Elementary School, Norwood School, Our Lady of Lourdes, Seneca Valley High School and Westbrook Elementary School will delight the crowd with holiday music. Additionally, Santa Claus will make a visit to the park that afternoon, and holiday treats will be provided to children. All of Sunday's events are free, and WASH-FM is serving as the exclusive radio sponsor.

Free Holiday Craft Show. 1-5 p.m. The Friends of the Clara Barton Community Center is sponsoring the fifth annual Holiday Craft Show at the Center, 7425 MacArthur Blvd., Cabin John. There will be all kinds of crafts for sale — jewelry, beads, fiber arts, soaps, Christmas items, wood crafts, prints, metalwork, ceramics, glass, oils, watercolors, photography, books and more. Call Leslie Barden at 301-365-1311 or email leslie.barden@comcast.net. Visit www.friendsofclarabartoncommunitycenter.org.

Free Concert. 4:30 p.m. Pianist Matthew Griswold, a recent Oberlin Conservatory graduate and an alumnus of Washington Conservatory of Music, will be presented at the Washington Conservatory at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Call 301-320-2770 or visit www.washingtonconservatory.org.

Waltz Dance. 2:45-6 p.m. Waltz Time presents a beginning waltz lesson from 2:45 to 3:30 p.m., followed by an afternoon of waltzes and other couples dances to live music by Some Assembly with Donna Boylan

(piano), Mary Flora (flute, saxophone, whistles), Joe Klausner (violin, mandolin), Paul Miller (guitar). Dancing 3:30-6 p.m. No partner is required. At Spanish Ballroom at 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Admission is \$10. Email info@waltztimedances.org.

Argentine Tango. 6:30-11:15 p.m. Tango Brillante DC is happy to offer Argentine Tango lessons followed by a Milonga most Sunday evenings. Dancers can choose either the beginner lesson from 6:30-7:15 p.m. or the intermediate lesson from 7:15-8:15 p.m., or both. Cost is \$15 for lesson and includes the Milonga that follows. For dancers who wish to attend just the Milonga, cost is \$10 and the open dance runs from 8:15-11:15 p.m. Rene will DJ with a mix of traditional and muevo tango with a little alternative added. No partner required. At Ballroom Annex at 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Email Giardo8130@yahoo.com.

Contra and Square Dance. 7-10:30 p.m. The Folklore Society of Greater Washington presents traditional American contra dancing. The evening can include square dances, mixers, waltzes and other couple dances. All Contras and Square dances are taught, no partner is necessary. There is a lesson at 7 p.m., followed by dances with live music 7:30-10:30 p.m. At Spanish Ballroom at 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Admission is \$12 for non-members, \$9 for FSGW members. Visit fsgw.org.

Adoption Event and Raffle. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. PetConnect Rescue Adoption Event and Raffle will take place at Unleashed by Petco, at 3134 Olney Springs Rd. Olney. Raffle prizes are a nuvi GPS and a \$50 Container Store Gift Card. Tickets are 3 for \$10. Visit

Messiah Holiday Concert

The Symphonette at Landon School presents the 20th annual performance of Handel's masterpiece, The Messiah, featuring the Washington Civic Opera Chorus will take place Saturday, Dec. 1 at 5 p.m. Other holiday selections include "Suite of Carols," "Twas the Night Before Christmas," and "White Christmas." Free admission for students (under 16 must be accompanied by a paying adult); \$15 for seniors. and \$18 for adults. At Mondzac Performing Arts Center at Landon School, 6101 Wilson Lane. Call 301-320-1090 or visit www.landon.net/symphonette.

www.petconnectrescue.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 3

Dave Koz & Friends Christmas Tour 2012. 8 p.m. Get into the holiday spirit as some of music's big names jam on fresh, lively arrangements of seasonal favorites, led by multi-Grammy nominee and saxophonist extraordinaire Dave Koz. Tickets are \$35-\$65. The Music Center at Strathmore 5301 Tuckerman Lane. Visit www.strathmore.org.

Concert. 7:30 p.m. Three string players will perform at this concert. They are Robin Bullock, a prolific composer and multi-instrumentalist whose virtuosity on guitar, cittern and mandolin are recognized around the world; Ken Kolodner, viewed by many as one of the most influential hammered dulcimer players in the United States and a fine old-time fiddler; and US National Scottish Fiddle champion Elke Baker, a faculty member at the Washington Conservatory of Music where she teaches history and performance of Celtic music. At IMT Rockville: Saint Mark Presbyterian Church located at

10701 Old Georgetown Road. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door; \$15 for students with an ID in advance, \$20 at the door. Call 301-960-3655 or visit www.imtfolk.org.

MONDAYS/DEC. 3, 10 & 17

Movement Improvisation. 6:30-8 p.m. This class combines techniques from contemporary dance, theater, contact improvisation and parlor games. Explore a variety of exercises that develop physical and spatial awareness and expand existing movement vocabularies. All ages and backgrounds welcome. Tuition is \$12. Registrations are required. VisArts is located at 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Visit www.visartscenter.org or call 301-315-8200.

TUESDAY/DEC. 4

Chinese Language Book Club. 6-8 p.m. Potomac Library. 10101 Glenolden Dr. Chinese book discussion in Chinese language. "Return Home" by Yu Lihua. Ask for

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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Be a Part of CHILDREN'S (& TEENS') ALMANAC

Every year between Christmas and New Year's, The Potomac Almanac turns its pages over to the contributions of local students. We are seeking artwork, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories and reflections. We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled.

E-mail to: almanac@connectionnews.com, or mail (.jpg and text files on disc only) by Dec. 5, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.

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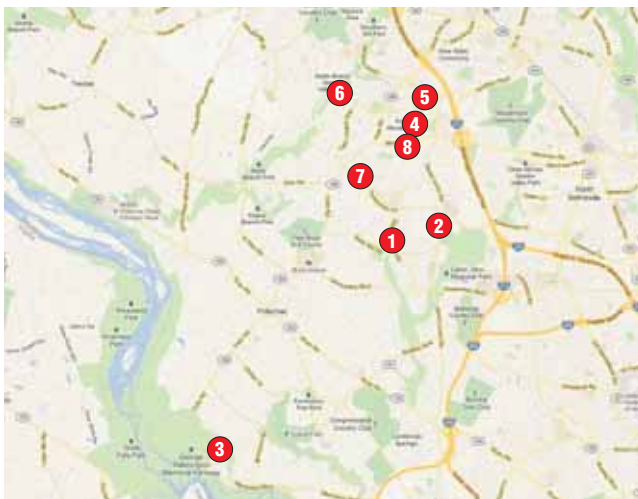
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6 9116 Wandering Trail Drive, Potomac — \$687,000



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3 10814 WHITERIM DR	3	3	1	POTOMAC	\$715,000	Townhouse	0.10	20854	FAWSETT FARMS MANOR	09/20/12
4 2294 DUNSTER LN	4	2	1	POTOMAC	\$700,000	Detached	0.24	20854	POTOMAC WOODS	09/14/12
5 1135 HALESWORTH DR	4	3	1	POTOMAC	\$690,000	Detached	0.21	20854	ORCHARD RIDGE	09/28/12
6 9116 WANDERING TRAIL DR	4	2	1	POTOMAC	\$687,000	Detached	0.24	20854	POTOMAC COMMONS	09/17/12
7 11808 COLDSTREAM DR	4	2	1	POTOMAC	\$682,500	Detached	0.21	20854	HIGHLAND STONE	09/28/12
8 12034 DEVILWOOD DR	4	3	0	ROCKVILLE	\$625,000	Detached	0.21	20854	REGENT PARK	09/07/12

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

the books at the Circulation Desk. No registration required.

The Brian Setzer Orchestra. 8 p.m. Extravaganza 2012 US Tour. Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane. Tickets on sale through www.Strathmore.org or call 301-581-5100.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 5

George Winston. 8 p.m. Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane. Tickets \$28-\$55. Winston will perform selections from his piano recordings, R&B piano, stride piano and more. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

WEDNESDAYS/DEC. 5 & 12

Dichroic Glass Jewelry Workshop. 6:30-9:30 p.m. The intrinsic beauty of dichroic glass means that with little or no experience students can design beautiful pendants and earrings. In three hours participants will design, create and wait for their creations to cool and then put findings on them. Create a pendant and a set of earrings. Tuition is \$50. Require is required. VisArts is located at 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Visit www.visartscenter.org or call 301-315-8200.

THURSDAY/DEC. 6

Natalie Macmaster: Christmas in Cape Breton. 8 p.m. Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane. Tickets \$28-\$58. Canadian fiddler MacMaster performs traditional Scottish and Irish holiday tunes. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

Blues Dance. 8:15-11:30 p.m. Capital Blues proudly presents weekly Thursday night blues dances. A beginner workshop from 8:15-9 p.m. offers partnering basics for new dancers. The class is included with admission; no partner necessary. Dancing runs 9-11:30 p.m. to blues music from every corner of the genre. At Ballroom Annex at 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Admission is \$8. Email info@capitalblues.org.

THURSDAY-FRIDAY/DEC. 6-7

Annual Landon Greens Sale and Holiday Boutique. 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. Come celebrate the holiday season at Landon School located at 6101 Wilson Lane, Bethesda. This community event features specialty wreaths and artful greens arrangements, boxwood, and wonderful holiday shopping for the whole family. This year's Holiday Boutique will feature more than 40 vendors. Guests can also relax with a treat from the Bake Sale and Café and visit and shop at the Landon Farmhouse, listed on Montgomery County's Historic Registry, bedecked in its holiday finery. General admission and parking are free.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 6-9

Tree Sales. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Find the perfect Christmas tree at the Landon Bear Tree Lot located near the football stadium (6101 Wilson Lane, Bethesda). On Thursday and Friday, tree sales begin at noon and go until 8 p.m. General admission and parking are free.

DEC. 7, 8, 9, 14 AND 15

Annual Production of Blast. Blast 24: American Bandstand will be performed at Winston Churchill High School Friday and Saturday, Dec. 7, 8, 14 and 15 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 9 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at www.wchsarts.com or in the box

Washington Conservatory

A free concert by pianist Matthew Griswold, an Oberlin Conservatory graduate and alumnus of Washington Conservatory of Music, will be presented at the Washington Conservatory at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Griswold will perform Mozart's Sonata no. 10 in C Major K 330, Schumann's Fantasiestucke op. 12, and Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, as well as selections from his composition, Fantasy Pieces. Free, donations welcome. Visit www.washingtonconservatory.org or call 301-320-2770.



office outside the Bish Auditorium, 11300 Gainsborough Road, Potomac.

FRIDAY/DEC. 7

Contra Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. The Friday Night Dancers present Contra dancing as well as some square dances and waltzes. Contra dance lesson 7:30-8:15 p.m., followed by the called dance to live music 8:30-11:30 pm. Beginners are welcome. At Spanish Ballroom at 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Admission is \$9. Email info@fridaynightdance.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 8

Concert. In celebration of the holidays, National Philharmonic Chorale artistic director Stan Engbreton will conduct the National Philharmonic in Handel's Messiah on Dec. 8 at 8 p.m., Dec. 22 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 23 at 3 p.m. at the Music Center at Strathmore (5301 Tuckerman Lane). A free pre-concert lecture will be offered at 6:45 p.m. on Dec. 8 and 22; at 1:45 p.m. on Dec. 23 in the concert hall at the Music Center. To purchase tickets to National Philharmonic's concerts, visit www.nationalphilharmonic.org or call 301-581-5100. Tickets are \$28-\$81.

Swing Dance. 8 p.m.-midnight. Flying Feet Enterprises presents a night of swing dancing. Beginning with a Swing lesson from 8 to 9 p.m. with Marc Shepanek and Ellen Engle, followed by dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. At Spanish Ballroom at 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Admission is \$15. Email dance@flyingfeet.com.

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Most hardback and large paperback books are \$1, and regular paperbacks are \$.50. At the Potomac Library located at 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 8-9

The Mini-Nut. 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. An abbreviated version of The Nutcracker, designed to introduce children to the magic of this family favorite. At Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus, 7995 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. Tickets are \$18 for adults, students and seniors; \$12 for children 12 and under. Available in advance at MYB studios or by mail: 926 Ellsworth Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (cash or check).

SUNDAY/DEC. 9

Kids Sunday Workshop. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Ages 7-11. The Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Call 301-581-5200 or visit www.strathmore.org.

- ❖ Go Crazy with Henna.
 - ❖ Artist Trading Cards: Mini Masterpiece.
 - ❖ Black & White Printmaking.
- Holiday Glass Plate Workshops.** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. In this two-hour session participants will design and create a curved 5-inch square plate that is functional and decorative. Choose from extensive selection of glass, stringers, frits and powders to make green trees, blue stars, snowmen faces and more. Examples will be available for inspiration or come with participants' own idea. They may pick up projects one week after class date. Tuition is \$40. Registration is required. VisArts is located at 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Visit www.visartscenter.org or call 301-315-8200.

English Country Dance. 2:30-5:30 p.m. Michael Barraclough presents an English Country dance featuring instruction and dancing to recorded music. Dancing runs 2:30-5:30 p.m. No partner required; newcomers are encouraged to be present at 2:30 p.m. At Ballroom Annex at 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Admission is \$10. Email michael@michaelbarraclough.com.

Argentine Tango. 6:30-11:15 p.m. Tango Brillante DC is happy to offer Argentine Tango lessons followed by a Milonga most Sunday evenings. Dancers can choose either the beginner lesson from 6:30-7:15 p.m. or the intermediate lesson 7:15-8:15 p.m., or both. Cost is \$15 for lesson and includes the Milonga that follows. For dancers who wish to attend just the Milonga, cost is \$10 and the open dance runs 8:15-11:15 p.m. Rene will DJ with a mix of traditional and muevo tango with a little alternative added. No partner required. At Ballroom Annex at 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Email Ciardo8130@yahoo.com.

Contra and Square Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. The Folklore Society of Greater Washington presents traditional American contra dancing. The evening can include square dances, mixers, waltzes and other couple dances. All Contras and Square dances are taught, no partner is necessary. There is a lesson at 7 p.m., followed by dances with live music by Crowfoot, with caller Mary Wesley, 7:30-10:30 p.m. At Spanish Ballroom at 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Admission is \$12 non-members, \$9 FSGW member. Visit www.fsgw.org.

Christmas Concert. 5:30 p.m. The Many Moods of Christmas concert at Saints Peter and Paul Church, 10620 River Road. Featuring 75 singers and a 48-piece orchestra performing traditional Christmas songs. Donation \$25. Call 301-765-3400 ext. 0 or e-mail secretary@peterpaul.net.

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- 11421 Twining Ln.....\$1,299,000.....Sun 1-4.....Leslie Friedman.....Long & Foster..301-455-4506
- 10813 Tara Rd.....\$1,295,000.....Sun 2-4.....Meg Percesepe..Wash Fine Prop..240-441-8434
- 10000 Betteker Ln.....\$1,099,000.....Sun 2-4.....Alison Shutt..Wash Fine Prop..301-219-7671
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New Lawsuit, Proposals, Policies Emerge

FROM PAGE 3

tion in response to the lawsuit in Circuit Court, and Leggett's spokesperson replied promptly to the accusations.

"There is no change in the county's position that public land should be used for public purposes, as called for in the Potomac Master Plan unanimously approved by the County Council. This lawsuit is mainly just a rehash of previous suits and contains assertions not supported by fact," said Patrick Lacefield, spokesman for the county. "Especially ironic is the complaint that the county is spending public resources defending the public interest against lawsuits by — you guessed it — the coalition.

"Also ironic is that the coalition is arguing that ballfields and physical education for kids is not in keeping with an educational use of the property while they had no objection to the same land being used for 30 years by a private commercial farmer — and that lack of objection remains to the present day," Lacefield said.

Leggett says that there is a critical need for additional soccer fields in the down county area.

THE SAME DAY the legal complaint was filed in Circuit Court, the Board of Education tentatively adopted Policy DNA, Disposition of Board of Education Property on Nov. 13.

The Board of Education requests community comment on revisions to the policy.

"Maryland law governs the disposal of real property by local boards of education. Subject to the approval of the state superintendent of schools, local boards of education shall transfer grounds, school sites, or buildings no longer needed for school purposes to the County Council," according to the policy draft, available on the Board of Education website.

"In the event that any Board real property is considered to have no further use for school system purposes, the superintendent of schools shall make a recommendation to the Board for disposition. The recommendation will include the rationale for the proposal, an estimate of the market value of the property, and the identification of the amount and year of state appropriations for construction and/or improvements buildings on the site."

The Board requests public input by Jan. 9.

THE AVENEL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION became involved after councilmembers suggested Avenel be considered as one possible alternative for placement of soccer fields.

"While we understand the desire of the county to identify areas suitable for soccer fields down county, I believe we conveyed the seriousness in which we view the prospect of adding soccer/recreational fields to the equestrian center, an amenity and centerpiece of our community," wrote Lucy P. Wilson, general manager of the community association.

"We appreciate and rely on your commit-

ment to keep us informed and directly involved should any such site ever be identified or up for discussion or consideration."

NICK MARAVELL has leased the 20-acre site from the Montgomery County School Board for more than 30 years, running an organic farm, which produces heirloom GMO-free corn, and soybean seed. More recently, his daughter, Sophia Maravell has run the Brickyard Educational Farm on the site as well, bringing in local school children to learn about farming.

Nearly two years ago in March 2011, Nick Maravell, neighbors and civic organizations in Potomac learned that Leggett had already decided to take control of the 20-acre school property on Brickyard Road to turn it over to a private organization for development into soccer fields.

The Board of Education voted with only a few days notice to lease the property to the county for that purpose.

Local food advocates, neighbors and civic associations have expressed outrage that there was no public process for the decision, including filing several lawsuits. They have asked to turn back the decision and begin a transparent process with public input and discussion.

9 Reasons

The Brickyard Road Coalition and its member groups filed a lawsuit, claiming the following violations:

COUNT 1 Breach of Fiduciary Duty

The Board of Education holds the Brickyard Road School Site in trust for the benefit of the school system. ...

As trustee of the Brickyard Road School Site, the BOE is charged with fiduciary duties that include 1) a duty of prudence that requires the Board to administer the site as a prudent person would and to exercise reasonable care, skill and caution; 2) a duty of loyalty that requires the Board to administer the site solely in furtherance of the charitable purpose of the trust and 3) a duty to furnish information to beneficiaries that requires the Board of Education to keep fairly representative beneficiaries reasonably informed of changes involving the trusteeship and about other significant developments concerning the trust and its administration.

COUNT II Civil Conspiracy

Defendants knowingly and purposefully agreed to cause the Board of Education to breach its fiduciary duties, and thereby to violate Maryland Code Education Article, Section 4-114, by approving a lease of the Brickyard Road School Site to Montgomery County for use as soccer fields without independent inquiry of its own, without considering how best the property could be used to serve the educational needs of Montgomery County residents, and following a secret decision-making process.

Defendants committed numerous overt acts in

furtherance of that agreement, including communicating with each other over the content of the lease and withholding information about those communications from Montgomery County taxpayers and parents of school-age children.

COUNT III Violation of Express Powers Act

The Express Powers Act authorizes Montgomery County to acquire property by lease only when such property is required for public purposes. The Express Powers Act authorizes Montgomery County to lease property belonging to the County to other persons only when such lease is in furtherance of the public purposes of the County.

The County Defendants entered into the lease of April 19, 2011 with the Board of Education for the Brickyard Road School Site intending subsequently to transfer control of the site to a private organization, for the purpose of constructing and operating ballfields reserved for the exclusive use of the organization.

COUNT IV

Section 11B-46 requires the County to publicize its intention to lease property so as to permit public comment. ... At no time prior to entering into lease of the Brickyard Road School Site did the County comply with its obligation under Section 11B-46 to post the property.

COUNT V

Violation of Montgomery County Code 11B-45

The County Defendants did not consult with the County Council on its plan to sublease the Brickyard Road School Site to MSI, as required by regulations issued pursuant to Section 11B-45.

COUNT VI

Violation of Montgomery County Procurement Code

The County Defendants expressly chose not to apply the Procurement Regulations to the solicitation for construction services at the Brickyard Road School Site. As a result, the solicitation was not conducted under one of the formats authorized by the Procurement Regulations to ensure a competitive bidding process.

COUNT VII

Violation of Maryland Code, Land Use Article 20-301

The Board of Education and the County have authorized a change in use of the Brickyard property without complying with the mandatory referral statute. Under that process, both the Board of Education and the County are under a legal obligation to seek approval of the Montgomery County Planning Board before they authorize a change of use of any park, or other public way or ground or the acquisition or sale of any land by any public board, body of official.

COUNT VIII

Violation of Maryland Open Meetings Act

"On June 8, 2010 the Board of Education met in public session and adopted a written closing resolution. ... The minutes of the June 8, 2010 meeting demonstrate that the Board of Education discussed the Brickyard Road School Site during its closed session. Both Open Meeting Act Sec. 10-508 (a)(3) and Sec. 4-107 (d) of the Education Article apply only to acquisition of real property, rather than divestment of real property, which was the subject of the closed session."

COUNT IX

Permanent Injunctive Relief (Against all Defendants)

This is an action for permanent injunctive relief pursuant to Maryland Rules 15-501 through 15-505, seeking to enjoin Defendants from engaging in any action at the Brickyard Road School site predicated on either the lease between the Board of Education and County or the Sublease and Development Agreement between the County and MSI, including:

- 1) Permitting MSI to occupy or operate the site
- 2) Any construction or other alteration to the site related to the development of soccer or other ballfields.

Defendants have been on notice that the lease is unlawful since April 4, 2011, the date on which appeals were filed against the lease decision with the State Board of Education.

Letter from Avenel

This letter from Avenel Community Association's General Manager Lucy P. Wilson — addressed to Roger Berliner and copied to County Executive Isiah Leggett, the Avenel Board of Directors and Michael Sullivan, general manager of TPC Potomac at Avenel — is shared with The Almanac:

Mr. Urban and I would like to thank you for agreeing to meet with us last week to bring us up to date on discussions previously held regarding the potential for adding soccer fields on the WSSC property/equestrian center in Avenel. This letter serves to reiterate the concerns expressed during our meeting, as well as to address and acknowledge your letter dated Nov. 7, 2012 addressed to the County Executive and President of the Board of Education.

While we understand the desire of the county to identify areas suitable for soccer fields down county, I believe we conveyed the seriousness in which we view the prospect of adding soccer/recreational fields to the equestrian center, an amenity and centerpiece of our community. The equestrian use and trail system, a recorded covenant, was relied on by the Avenel residents when they purchased their properties and as such, a change or modification in the use could be viewed as detrimental to the community.

Additionally, the TPC has certain rights to portions of this property for parking, driving ranges and other needs. Any elimination or reduction of this use would not only impact the TPC and the agreements currently in place, but would also impact the community significantly during golf tournaments and events.

The developer of Avenel went to great lengths during the planning process of Avenel, as evidenced by the Master Agreement, to ensure the community would not be adversely impacted with traffic-clogged streets. Any changes or modifications to the current use of land that could negatively impact the community would be viewed unfavorably by the Association.

To that end, while you have conveyed that at this time there has not been any particular land identified within the WSSC property that may be considered as a "potential" option, we appreciate and rely on your commitment to keep us informed and directly involved should any such site ever be identified or up for discussion or consideration.

ciate and rely on your commitment to keep us informed and directly involved should any such site ever be identified or up for discussion or consideration.

Avenel Park, an existing county park, is the area originally contemplated as recreational space during the development planning period and was conveyed to the county by the developer for such use. The park, situated centrally in the community, currently includes several fields, a tot-lot, tennis courts, basketball courts and open space. Easements also exist for parking during golf events. While there may be an opportunity to re-configure space within the county park to add one or two additional fields, should county planning staff determine that a reconfiguration of the existing park may successfully yield an additional field, Avenel would of course anticipate being actively engaged in such discussion early on in order to evaluate the impact to the community.

Retaining the vision of the developer and unique characteristics of Avenel, including the pastoral tranquil setting, is of utmost importance to the Board of Directors as it seeks to protect the interests of the residents of Avenel. From the developer's date of acquisition of Avenel Farm, to working through the Master Agreement, the design and development of Avenel took over eight years.

The final product, which includes the homes, common areas, TPC Potomac at Avenel Farm, WSSC parcel, equestrian center and Avenel Park, clearly evidences that it was well worth the wait and was a winning proposition for all involved. Any deviations from the current use will certainly be a matter of the upmost importance to the Association.

The Association appreciates being kept abreast of any developments as they evolve in order that we many keep our residents informed, disseminate accurate and timely information, and provide assurance to the community that the Association is actively involved in working towards their benefit.

Lucy P. Wilson, General Manager
Avenel Community Association, Inc.

Doggie Styles Opens in Potomac Village

From grooming to a slumber party.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

The newest business on the Potomac scene is devoted to pets. Doggie Styles, owned by local residents Sam and Eddie Khalaf, offers grooming, day care, training and sleep-overs for a favorite feline or precious pooch.



Sam Khalaf

The brothers opened their “Grooming and More” business several months ago in the house with the red porch and white picket fence at 10100 Falls Road, just minutes from Potomac Village. They spent eight months painting and remodeling to accommodate their needs, and now they have an area for bathing and another for grooming, a fenced-in “dog park” where dogs can roam freely, a training facility and an upstairs with bedrooms where pets can stay-over for the night or weekend. The sleep-over (or slumber party, as they refer to it on their website) is an original concept: Guest dogs can choose their own room and have full run of the house while they are cared for by the dog-loving duo.

“We have had a tremendous response to Doggie Styles,” said Sam Khalaf. “We knew we wanted to open a business in Potomac Vil-



Peter Drake (groomer) and Eddie Khalaf at Potomac Days with two of their best friends.



Doggie Styles

lage, so we studied what was already here and what was needed. We are thrilled with the response we have received and plan to continue to grow and change to meet the needs of our clients.”

The Khalafs grew up in Cabin John and graduated from Walt Whitman High School. Sam Khalaf went on to the University of Maryland, and Eddie Khalaf to Johnson and Wales College. They are both entrepreneurs. Sam Khalaf owned and operated a deli and Eddie Khalaf was in the import/export

business.

“We have a vision,” Eddie Khalaf said. “We want to provide a premier service for our clients and their pets. We are looking forward to forming trusting relationships with Potomac residents, and particularly with their pets so they will both want to return again and again. We want to treat each client not as a guest, but as family.”

Doggie Styles offers the normal “Bath and Brush,” “Bath, Brush and Groom,” and “Nail Clipping/Sanitary Shave,” they offer a Blueberry Facial, Oatmeal Bath, “pawdicures” and “Huggable” scented shampoos and conditioners. They are planning to feature pet acupuncture, pet photography and even weddings if for those pet brides or grooms. Other services included dog walking, doggie day care, and doggie training.

They had to make more than 200 phone calls to find the right groomer and trainer. “Good groomers and trainers are in high demand,” said Sam Khalaf. “We were fortunate to find Peter and Alex who have extensive experience.”

Groomer Peter Drake explains how he became interested in a career as a groomer: “I have over 30 years of animal care training and grooming experience. Both of my parents are dog and horse trainers, breeders, professional show handlers, and my mother was a master groomer. I grew up training dogs and horses, and helping my mom in the groomer shop, I’ve worked for veterinarians, animal shelters, as a professional horse trainer and have been training and grooming dogs for as

long as I remember. I have found a new home with Doggie Styles here in Potomac, and surprisingly a new extended family with my co-workers and my clients here in Potomac.” Dog training classes and private lessons are available for puppy, basic, intermediate and advanced training. A dog tricks class will also be featured and the

owners have plans to build an agility course in the fenced in play park. Obedience Works Owner and trainer Al Marx has trained over 6,000 dogs. He will be the dog trainer at Doggie Styles.

Visit www.doggiestylesinc.com. Appointments can be made by calling 3301-299-2686 or on its website.

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All Open Houses are 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., with tours at 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. and information sessions at 10 a.m. No reservations required.

Supporting Concussion Program

FROM PAGE 7

ficulty concentrating, sleeping more or less than usual, sadness, depression, numbness or tingling — or just not feeling “right” are all signs that should be checked out immediately. Suffering a second concussion while still having symptoms from a previous concussion can be lethal.

Hall of Fame Wide Receiver and Seattle Seahawk Steve Largent is a strong supporter of SCORE: “I have had many concussions and I am still in a study of players with concussions. I also work with the Wounded Warrior population. Many former NFL players sustain mental illness, ALS, chronic neuropathy dementia and depression from their football concussions. Every athlete needs to be made more aware of the long-term effects of concussions — particularly multiple ones.”

Jeris White and Ricky Ray echoed his comments. “We all need the right answers,” said White.

High school student Michael Cerner was injured in a snowboarding accident. He explained how his injury affected him: “I had no memory of what hap-

pened. I woke up in a hospital in Park City and they told me to go back to our hotel, sit in a dark room, don’t sleep, don’t think and wake up every three hours. When I returned home, I still could not remember anything from before the accident, which made it difficult to attend school. Dr. Gioia talked to my school and helped work things out. I have gradually gotten better, although it’s difficult to know what I can and cannot do. Some days I feel good, and others I don’t. It’s like an invisible injury, because your teachers and friends don’t necessarily believe that you really have something wrong with you. I do plan to return to snowboarding.”

The SCORE program provides pre-injury baseline cognitive testing, immediate examinations, assessments, treatments and follow-up care. Children’s National Medical Center is located at 111 Michigan Avenue NW in Washington, D.C. The Neuropsychology Regional Outpatient Center is located at 15245 Shady Grove Road, Suite 350 in Rockville. For appointments, call 202-476-2420. For more information, call 301-765-5458.

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Pay Now, Bye Later



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Contrary to last week's column, if I do pay for it now (things I can't afford), then I'll be so in debt later that I may end up saying "bye" anyway – from the stress of it. And if that were to happen; dying with a smile on my face, so to speak, would I be truly better off now anticipating that later was not going to be my problem? Do I want to be a modern day version of George Raft, the American actor from the 1930s and 40s best known for his portrayals of mobsters, who said about his Hollywood money: "I must have gone through \$10 million during my career. Part of the loot went for gambling, part for horses and part for women. The rest I spent foolishly."

My problem is that I don't want to spend my money foolishly, just in case I continue to outlive my original prognosis. There's plenty of things I can afford to do without, but money unfortunately is not one of them. The real question, to me, is: do I want to take responsibility for my own actions (lifestyle choices, purchases, miscellaneous financial commitments) and live within my means, or do I want to spend selfishly, live my life and let the chips – or rather bills, fall where they may? After all, eventually (if you know what I mean?), payment may be difficult to collect. And given the fact that as a stage IV lung cancer patient, I am considered "terminal," which means my best years may be behind me, don't I have enough problems at present whereby I shouldn't worry too much about what happens later (somebody else's problem by then)? Then again, if I do pay now, surely there would be a sense of satisfaction/sense of accomplishment, but would paying for any of it (or all of it) now compromise my future? Need I be overly concerned about later when the ship I'm presently steering is listing and taking on water?

Stress hardly provides aid and comfort when imposed on a cancer patient and more so than on an able-bodied, non-terminal man or woman. Finding that balance between what I need today to get me to tomorrow, versus what I need tomorrow to get me through today, is the axis on which that bane of my existence turns. Do I indulge myself? Do I deprive myself? Do I live like there are plenty of tomorrows? Or do I live like tomorrows are in short supply? Do I reach for the brass ring (on the Merry-go-round of life, metaphorically speaking) or do I saddle a real horse and ride off into the sunset? Is time on my side or is it running down my leg?

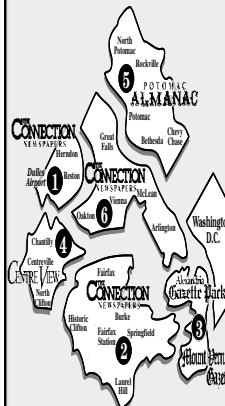
Unfortunately, there's nothing that I can do today to guarantee me a tomorrow. I have cancer. However, living recklessly, irresponsibly, selfishly may in an awkward way get me through today easier than if I towed the typical Kenny-type line (I'm funny, but I'm not fun). Nevertheless, I keep coming back to an emotional instinct I have: I don't want to give up on myself or my future and paying now assures that I won't. I do plenty of pre-tending but I'm not going to pretend that I'm the reincarnation of George Raft (besides, he was also an excellent dancer, which I'm not). He may have known what he was doing; I'm not really sure I do.

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

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Williams Leads Young Churchill Boys' Basketball Team

Bulldogs reached first region final in 33 years last season.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE ALMANAC

The Churchill boys' basketball program in recent seasons developed into one of the best in Montgomery County. Led by head coach Matt Miller, the Bulldogs have won back-to-back division titles and last season reached an MPSSAA region final for the first time in 33 years.

The class of 2012 played a major role in Churchill's growth, including standout scorer Sam Edens and rebounder Thomas Geenen. If this year's team is going to continue the recent run of success, the Bulldogs will have to do so with just two seniors on the roster.

"We had a nice little group of seniors that accomplished a lot in a few years," Miller said. "With a young group [this season], we have to realize that every night may be different. We might have some tough early games, we might have some sophomore and junior moments that we wouldn't have had last year. However, I think we have some decent talent and some decent athleticism. I think we're just going to be different."

One difference is while Churchill has some size, the Bulldogs likely won't be the same rebounding force they were last year with Geenen in the paint. Junior center A.J. Coleman is listed at 6 feet 8, sophomore center Bobby Arthur-Williams is 6 feet 6 and senior forward Bryant Wheatley stands 6 feet 4.



Senior guard Dominique Williams is the Churchill boys' basketball team's most experienced athlete.

"We're young, so we can push [the tempo]," junior guard Allen Njumbe (6-1) said. "We have a lot of energy. We may lack on the boards, but we make up for it with athleticism."

Senior guard Dominique Williams (6-1) said he maintains expectations similar to last season.

"These guys have watched us play every week and they've learned from us," he said, "so I think they're ready for it."

Williams, who was second on last year's team in scoring at 8.8 points per contest, is Churchill's top returning athlete. Miller expects the senior to play a key leadership role.

PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC



Senior forward Bryant Wheatley is one of five Bulldogs who was on last year's roster.

"I think he's got to be a leader, he's got to be a teacher for these younger guys," Miller said. "I think he's got to be a guy that holds people accountable. But more so, I think he's got to teach these guys how hard we play through example. He's always brought the most energy on the floor and I think having him out there teaches all these young guys what intensity we play with at Churchill."

Williams is the Bulldogs' most experienced player. Njumbe, Wheatley, junior guard Malik Harris (5-11) and junior guard Matt Moshyedi (5-10) were also on the varsity roster last season.



Junior guard Matt Moshyedi was on last year's Churchill team that reached a region final for the first time in 33 years.

Juniors Charles Halverson (6-1 forward) and Dylan Mervis (6-0 guard), and sophomores Calvin Kamara (5-8 guard), Evan Rosenstock (6-3 forward) and Jesse Locke (6-3 forward) are also on the team.

Churchill opens its season at home against Damascus at 7 p.m. on Dec. 5. While the Bulldogs have a lot of new faces, they expect to have a target on their backs due to success from previous years — a pressure situation a couple players said they enjoy.

"It gives us more energy," Williams said, "and it gives us more fire to play harder."

"We do well under pressure," Wheatley said.

Santa To Make Neighborhood Rounds Early

Get ready to meet Santa at the end of the driveway.

The Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department will conduct its annual holiday toy collection Dec. 8-21 in Potomac, Cabin John and West Bethesda neighborhoods.

Santa, atop the fire department's fire engine, will be joined by "his merry bunch of firefighter elves each night" from 6-9 p.m., said Chief James P. Seavey Sr.

The volunteer fire department's 32-year tradition helps collect toys for the National Center for Children and Families in Bethesda and the USMC Toys for Tots Program.

Santa will give children who donate items a candy cane for their donation. He will deliver the gifts on Christmas Eve to some local children who otherwise might not receive gifts.

Presents can be brought to Santa as he makes his rounds

through Potomac neighborhoods or may be brought directly to the Cabin John Volunteer Fire Department on River Road.

Donated toys should be unwrapped and appropriate for youth three to 16 years old.

The schedule may be changed due to emergency weather or emergency responses. See www.cjpvfd.org.

Schedule by Neighborhood

SATURDAY, DEC. 8

Fox Meadow
River Oaks Farm
Potomac Farm Estates
Potomac Hills
Potomac Manors
Great Falls Estates
Potomac Falls Estates

SUNDAY, DEC. 9

Mountain Gate
Eagle Rock
Natelli Woods
Potomac Ranch
River Falls
Fawsett Farms

TUESDAY, DEC. 11

West Bethesda Park
Oakwood Knolls
Locust Ridge
Cohasset
Bradley Park
Burning Tree Valley
Frenchman's Creek

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 12

Arrowood
Bradley Hills Grove
* Make Up Night

THURSDAY, DEC. 13

Seven Locks Hills
Burning Tree Estates
Rose Hill Estates
Stonehurst Center
Smithfield

FRIDAY, DEC. 14

Congressional Manor
Carderock Springs
Clewerwall (the neighborhood)
Glengarry
Carderock
The Palisades

SATURDAY, DEC. 15

Avenel
River Road Estates
Williamsburg Estates
Concord
The Village (the neighborhood)
Williamsburg Gardens

SUNDAY, DEC. 16

Cabin John/Cabin John Park
Evergreen
Congressional Country Club
Estates

MONDAY, DEC. 17

Alvermar Woods
Potomac Hunt Acres
Tara
Potomac View Estates
* Make Up Night

TUESDAY, DEC. 18

Merry Go Round Farm
Beallmount
Lake Potomac
Stoney Creek Farm
Saddle Ridge

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 19

Potomac Village
Camotop
Falconhurst
Bradley Farms
McAuley Park
Kendale Estates
Bradley Blvd. Estates
Congressional Forest Estates

THURSDAY, DEC. 20

Bannockburn
Bannockburn Estates
Al Marah
Wilson Knolls (1st due only)

DEC. 21, 22, 23

These will be additional make up days for any inclement weather or missed area that still remains on the schedule.

FRIDAY, DEC. 24 AT NOON

Santa Delivers Toys to the Children

BULLETIN BOARD

FRIDAY/NOV. 30

Admission Open House. 10 a.m. Christ Episcopal School in Rockville will host an Admission Open House for families interested in a family-centered school for children ages 2 through 8th grade. The open house will begin with an overview of the program, including the new LIFT: Learning Integration For Tomorrow curriculum delivery model. LIFT was developed in conjunction with The Johns Hopkins University's Center for Technology in Education and provides students with the skills necessary to thrive today and in the future. Following the presentation, guests will tour the campus and have the opportunity to see the school in action. Visit www.CESrockville.org or call 301-424-6550.

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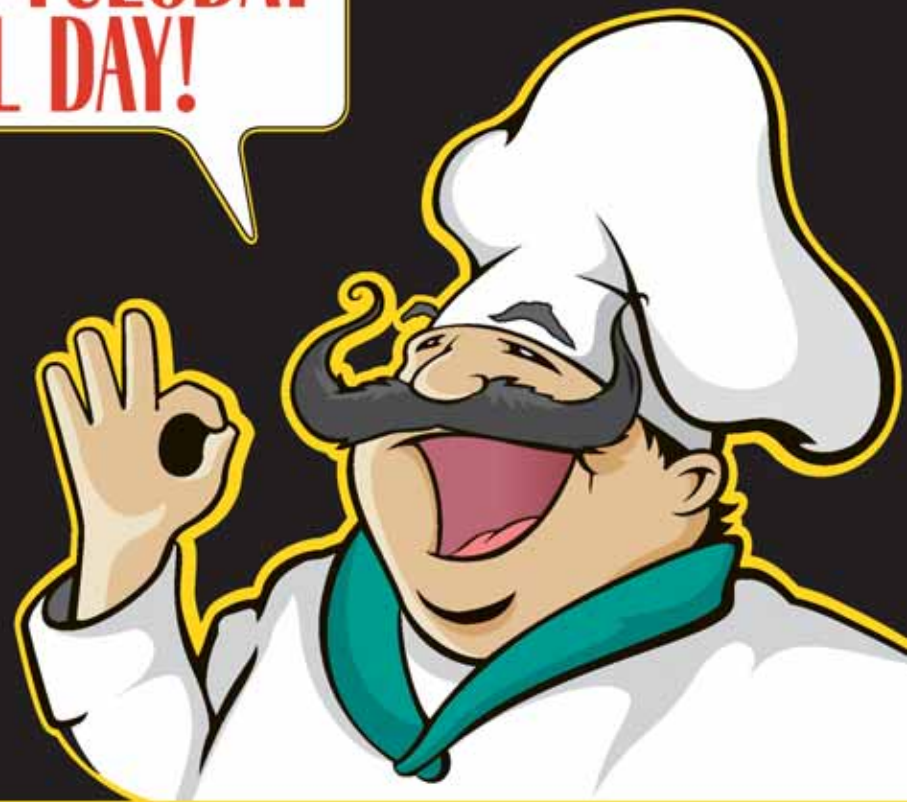
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301 299 7700
9812 Falls Road
Potomac, MD 20854

TRAVILLE VILLAGE CENTER
301 279 2234
9709 Traville Gateway Drive
Rockville, MD 20850

KENTLANDS MARKET SQUARE
301 977 9777
625 Center Point Way
Gaithersburg, MD 20878