

A symbol of hope



GAIL CHEROCHAK

Maggie Root of Silver Spring admires a monarch butterfly at Hospice Caring's third Wings of Caring memorial butterfly release, held Sept. 10 at the Hospice Caring Cottage in Gaithersburg. The event included a remembrance of victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, a dedication of memorial tribute bricks in the cottage garden, a reading of the names of those being remembered and honored and the release of live monarch butterflies as a symbol of love, hope and remembrance.

Animal shelter replacement delayed

■ County to negotiate lower price

BY MARGIE HYSLOP
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Construction of a long-awaited, upgraded county animal shelter is being delayed after the lowest bid came in \$2 million higher than officials estimated.

The county first will try to work with the low bidder, Coakley & Williams Construction of Gaithersburg, to get the price tag back within budget, said David Dise, director of general services.

Together, they will look at assumptions the firm made that might have been inaccurate, particularly regarding the cost of some new technology included in the project, such as energy-efficient magnetic bearing chillers designed to reduce friction, Dise said. Coakley & Williams' base bid was \$20.645 million.

Key features that aren't in the current shelter but are planned for the new facility, such as an operational veterinary clinic, are not on the chopping block, Dise said.

"We are still committed to providing a higher level of service than we do now," he said.

"We are confident, having dealt with Coakley-Williams, that we'll

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David Dise,
director of general services

reduce exposure to pathogens.

Dise said he expects the negotiations needed to get a signed contract will delay the project about 30 days. That would reset groundbreaking to late October or early November, with an opening slated for 2013.

Meanwhile, Montgomery County Partners for Animal Wellbeing, a not-for-profit organization formed to support the shelter and to improve life for animals taken there, is stepping up its fundraising efforts now instead of waiting for the groundbreaking.

"This reinforces the need for a partnership between the county and the community," said Allan S. Cohen, chairman of the group, known as McPaw.

If county officials and Coakley & Williams do not reach an agreement, county procurement law allows officials to try to negotiate an accept-