

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

## **Neighborhood celebrities hoop it up at celebration**

People and Places | Jason Tomassini and Jeremy Arias

The Long Branch Athletic Association, in partnership with the Montgomery County Recreation Department, will host its sixth annual Celebrity Basketball Game at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Long Branch Community Center, 8700 Piney Branch Road in Silver Spring. The game is part of the annual Long Branch Unity Festival and features the young student athletes of LBAA playing basketball against their coaches and a host of celebrities from around the region.

Local celebrities on hand to display their basketball skills include Montgomery County council members Marc Elrich and George Leventhal (D-At large) of Takoma Park and Valerie Ervin (D-Dist. 5) of Silver Spring; Montgomery County State's Attorney John McCarthy; Recreation Department Director Gabe Albornoz; and Montgomery County Police Chief J. Thomas Manger. Austin Freeman from the Georgetown University men's basketball team will sign autographs and speak to the youth.

The annual event raises money to support LBAA's out-of-school programs for low-income and immigrant youth in the Long Branch community of eastern Silver Spring. The Unity Day festivities start at 11 a.m. and will feature food, beverages and live entertainment.