

Do you drive by this every day?

see Mystery History page 6



Holiday Piggies

see Profiles page 4



County threatening to take the air out of Seniors' good times?

see Owen's Park article page 11



Nancy Reagan's favorite restaurant?

see Day Tripper page 6

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

April 16, 2004 through April 30, 2004

Volume 1, Number 3

Master Plan Debate and Decision on Deck

The high-spirited debate on future plans for the town of Poolesville will take center stage in the coming weeks as the commissioners hold hearings and work sessions on the so-called Master Plan.

The leaders and citizens of Poolesville will make the final decision, but the potential impact on the entire region will be significant. While many of the plans will only affect Poolesville, decisions on population targets, allowable new home development and cooperative involvement with the Montgomery County Heritage Area program will have important ramifications throughout the region.

The most controversial topics under review will concern water and sewer, and levels of population growth. The prior Master Plan set the eventual population cap for Poolesville

at 7,500. The current proposal on the table has reduced that cap recommendation not to exceed 6,500. When and if the additional water capacity becomes available, this recent proposal would allow an additional 422 homes.

Other more local topics with less impact on the surrounding area include the preservation of historic structures, the improvement and expansion of recreational facilities, use impact fees to ensure that any new developer does not impose costs on existing residents, and use and zoning actions, forest conservation, and road and sidewalk issues.

The 77 page Master Plan document is available at town hall for review and will soon be on the town's website at www.ci.poolesville.md.us.

The public debate is sure to get passionate. *The Monocle* will chronicle the discussion throughout the debate, offering some opinions on our editorial page, and welcoming public response. Decisions to be made will have real impacts for a long time to come. We hope everyone gets involved. For more on this issue please see "Rande(m) Thoughts" on page 4.



Poolesville's beautiful downtown district.

Is This the First Ford Explorer?

You've heard this car salesman's line before, "This is a real beauty, driven only on Sundays, back and forth to Church."

You might be skeptical, but if you find yourself buying a used car from Bill Lermond, you better believe it. There's a good chance you have spotted Bill and his wife Ruth on any given Sunday afternoon out and about on the country roads enjoying our scenic area. If you are up on Sunday morning around 8:00 a.m. and travel on the road between West Hunter Road and downtown Poolesville, you most certainly will spot him on his way to church.

Bill and his black beauty, a 1931 Model A Ford, will catch your attention every time and force you to nod your head in admiration. The old car has been good for Bill, but he would be the first to admit that he has not always been good for the old car.

In 1958, while on leave from the military, he purchased the five-window coupe fresh off a used car lot for \$95. It's a tough old car—even this former Army Ordnance Officer could not blow

up this engine. Then again, when he first drove it around he could always trace his way back home just by following the oil tracks. It seems the previous owner was either very frugal or an ardent environmentalist since he had "put screws in the bell housing and attached a tin can to catch the oil so that it could be recycled through the engine and used over again." (No, that's not why the old cars were called tin lizzies.)

We can't be sure if it really is a "first Ford Explorer" but in the old days this "high rider" was "perfect for cow paths, rocky roads, and picnics to the beach."

For most of the time between 1958 and 1992, Bill left the car in a family garage, making only intermittent short runs while making his plan to restore it. His first go at it was in 1978, even dipping it to get rid of the rust. Loose parts and the engine ended up in a box to await a better day in 1992.

Bill's brother, Harry Blunt, wanted him to move another one

of his old cars, a 1930 Model A Cabriolet, and Bill decided it was time to take action. He struck a deal with Don Jenkins of Frederick, a friend and owner of an automotive upholstery business. Bill agreed to give Don the Cabriolet if Don would help him with his restoration project.

This action took five years, but 1998 was a special year for Bill. After 40 years he was finally able to put a check mark beside his things to-do list—"finish restoring Model A." Thanks, Bill, we needed that. The guilt trip over our own to-do list just subsided.



Bill Lermond and his 1931 Model A Ford.

Family Album



Councilmembers Michael L. Subin and Nancy Floreen at a recent Barnesville reception hosted by Lib Tolbert.



Pat Ahearn, Alan Ahearn and author John Dunning take a break during a book signing for his mystery *The Bookman's Promise* hosted by the *Quill and Brush*.



John Belferman guides a tour on "The Trail of Jeb Stuart" at a recent Historic Medley event.



A ride in the park just before dark by riders from Nothing Fancy Farm.

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The Pulse

Knights of Columbus Announces Winners of 2004 Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest.

The local council of the Knights of Columbus announced the winners of this year's Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest. In this contest, youths are encouraged to develop an original poster and slogan idea designed to discourage their peers from experimenting with drugs and alcohol. It is an annual competition with winning entries progressing to local, district, state and international levels of competition. Winning Posters serve as the basis for a series of anti-substance abuse posters, with creative credit going to their artists, to be distributed throughout the countries in which the Knights of Columbus is present.

The winners are: *Drug Abuse Awareness, 8-11 Year Old*: First Place: Tommy Lenz, Runners Up: Michelle Murgia and Donte Hamilton; *Drug Abuse Awareness, 12-14 Year Old*: First Place: Elizabeth Hayden, Runners Up: Shelly Robinson and Scott Mauer; *Alcohol Abuse Awareness, 8-11 Year Old*:

First Place: James Birdsall, Runners Up: Crystal Clauser and Melanie Murphey.

First place winners received a special certificate of recognition and a \$50 Savings Bond. Their posters were entered into the State competition. Runners-up received a \$10 McDonald's Gift Certificate. All contestants received a certificate of recognition for their participation.

Judging was provided by Terrie Daniels, owner of Healthworks Fitness Center, Christine Stefanelli, Art Teacher at Mary of Nazareth Catholic School, Nick Tucci, Montgomery County Police, and Terry Sullivan, Grand Knight. Entries were received from students in Poolesville Elementary School, Monocacy Elementary School, John Poole Middle School and Kingsview Middle School.

The Knights of Columbus is an international, Catholic, family, fraternal service organization with more than 1.6 million members in nearly 12,000 local councils. The local Knights of Columbus council sponsoring the contest is Our Lady of Fatima Council No. 6901 representing St. Mary's Catholic Shrine in Barnesville, Maryland and Our Lady of the Presentation Catholic Church in Poolesville, MD.

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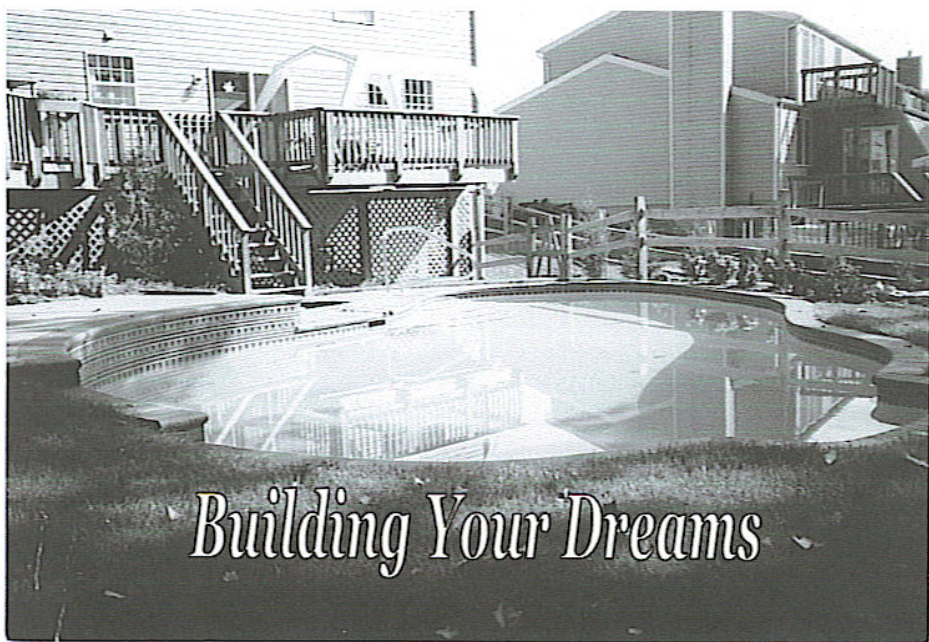
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Rande(m) Thoughts

Opening Thoughts on the Master Plan Discussion: The Basics

By Rande Davis

If you thought governmental budget debates were fun, then your excitement over master plan proposals will probably be hard to contain. This debate will be no "walk in the park," pun intended.

Even with some headlines and news stories to the contrary, the master plan has not been settled or approved and the work sessions are just about to begin this May. To everyone's amusement there has been plenty of hysteria, panic, spin, and hyperbole on this topic. Now, as they say, is the time to get serious.

Hopefully, the debate will be robust on priorities and mute on personalities. The fact is, each of us formulates our opinion on what should be done regarding public policies based on three primary things: our personal preferences, financial interests, and a heartfelt concern for the

good of the community. If someone seems to indicate that only they are the ones thinking of *good of the community*, take the clue and beware.

As the process begins, two things about our community remain overwhelming; we want Poolesville to remain Poolesville and we want water. Veer too sharply away from this and any Master Plan proposal is DOA.

There are lots of opinions. I don't know about you but often I wonder, "Where are they coming from?" I hear what they are against but what are they for? What are their preferences, interests, and concerns? They label the other guy but where is their list of ingredients?

So, let me lay my cards on the table. We won't agree on everything but at least you will know where I am coming from. And, besides, if you have a problem with me, maybe my co-publisher's opinion will be more to your liking.

To start with: I am not against change and I do not oppose growth.

In 1976, my family and I were the newcomers. To some people we are still considered "newbies." I wear that title as a badge of honor and don't mind if it offers some additional respect for those who really have

"invested" their entire life to this town. Yes, we are equals among equals. But giving a bit more consideration to those who will truly be here for decades to come seems to me to be only appropriate.

As far as change is concerned the only real change in this town within the last 28 years that I find disturbing has been its tenor. Maybe its just *national politics coming to town* or maybe I just wasn't paying attention that much before. Regardless, Poolesville will remain Poolesville only by cultivating a spiritual sense of the town and not by "barricading the entrance."

For me, I had two reasons to join John Clayton in starting this newspaper. The first is that I was concerned that the spirit of the community was getting lost in the news of the day. And, secondly, if we do this right, I believe we can make some money!

Change doesn't scare me. I am not against change and my hope is that The Monocle will become a great manifestation of the benefits of change.

A certain level of growth will have definite benefits to most of us.

I find that the new neighbors from Seneca Chase, Meadowlark Estates, Tama, Elizabeth's Delight, Tom Fox, and Tama II have added to the community and have not detracted from it. Against growth? Who among them would you ask to leave? Although I must admit that I am sometimes amused that some of our newest neighbors are the most ardent gatekeepers in the community.

I have enjoyed welcoming these new friends and neighbors coming to town since 1976. Have they changed Poolesville? Yes. But on balance they changed us for the better.

They are here and education for our youth is broader and much better. They are here and our churches are more vibrant and expanding. They are here and we have more services...a real pharmacy when there wasn't one, a grocery store that really is super, a library that is used by all ages, and an expanding business community that not only brings more services but gets involved in the community and makes contributions to our lives not only through individual contributions by the owners but, collectively, through a vibrant Chamber.

Do I have personal preferences? You bet. And, now you know where I stand.

So, for me, no-growth is a non-starter. But, the real question is how much growth is too much. There is no

significant public support for growth rates like Germantown and even the local business community would not be for so much growth as to invite in a Wal-Mart.

At this time I am leaning toward a reported growth expectation of 40 to 50 homes per year. Yes on growth but slow, limited and controlled. But, any growth is dependent on how we prioritize the water issues. I have heard it said that those who oppose exploration and expansion of the water supply and sewer systems are just really trying to stop all growth. I have no idea if that is really true or not.

What I do believe is that the first priority of our local government should be to ensure that our water and sewer systems are safe, secure and more than adequate. And, by adequate I envision a supply that allows a vibrant community to properly absorb some growth.

So, I hope as we formulate a master plan, we accept the need for and the benefits of some growth. There is much more to the Master Plan but these two issues come first.

These are my thoughts for now. I hope all this has stimulated you into responding. We welcome your opinions and would love to hear from you.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

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Profiles



Joyce Price among her welcoming committee.

People traveling along Route 28 just south of the Dickerson Market may notice Joyce Price's Easter Pigs on her front porch. Joyce playfully dresses her contingent in full regalia for Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter and St. Patrick's Day.

Do you have a great picture of a pet or other loved one? Or maybe just a shot of something you have seen in the area? Email your photos and descriptions to editor@monocacymonocle.com. We're always looking for great animal or pet pictures to profile.



The Arena

Poolesville Town Commissioners voted 4 to 0 to reduce the property tax rate from \$0.24 per \$100.00 to \$0.23. While the previous week's discussion seemed to indicate more interest in maintaining the previous tax rate, in the final analysis the commissioners chose the reduction route.

Commissioner Roy Johnson was overseas and unable to have his vote recorded. He provide correspondence stating his preference to continue the current rate, allowing for increased revenue from rising home values and assessments, provided that the increase is earmarked for capital improvement projects. He also stated that due to other potential reductions in the town's other sources of income, unfunded mandated projects, and some inflationary potential, the current tax rate would be a better fit for the needs of the town for now.

Commissioner Tom Dillingham voted for the decrease as it was presented. He stated that he might not have voted for the decrease if the additional revenue from the existing

rate would have been secured for infrastructure projects.

The motion to reduce the rate was presented by Commissioner Andy Johnson who noted that this lower rate would still produce a 5% increase in town revenue for FY2005. Additionally, he felt that the town's unrestricted cash reserves fund at \$864,786 could readily absorb any drop in the total town revenue by going from 24 cents to 23 cents.

Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski seconded the motion allowing for a reduction in total town revenue to come from the previously scheduled unrestricted cash reserves fund but he indicated he thinks that a potential savings from trash collection fees might have been a better source for budget adjustment. Mr. Klobukowski has been concerned with the rate for trash collection and a seemingly lack of accurate audit trail to confirm our costs and he continues his investigation into this matter.

Acting President, Commissioner Ed Kuhlman, expressed his opinion that all the commissioners made good points on the various options available

Tax Rate Reduction Approved

and that he would support the tax rate reduction. He voiced the concern that a decision to reduce the revenue stream by lowering the tax rate might prove premature since the results from the Wesmond Rehabilitation Project are not complete and it cannot be certain whether or not the higher revenue would be useful. However, he recognized that the \$40,000 in revenue reduction from lowering the tax rate is relatively small in relation to the overall cost of the project.

Tax revenue increases of 7% or more allow for a referendum of approval on the tax rate. Since the reduction in the rate anticipates a 5% increase in revenue the budget is approved without the potential of a referendum.

Much of the overall discussion on the tax rate centered on the role of unrestricted cash reserves. There is a consensus among the commissioners that the town should maintain enough cash to handle four months of operating expenses.

The commission then turned their attention to approving the FY05 budget based on the new tax rate. The only

motion for change came from Mr. Kuhlman requesting that funds earmarked for FY07 for the addition of street lights for sections of Tom Fox Road be reduced by \$3,000 and moved to FY05, allowing for implementation this coming year.

Commissioner Dillingham requested that selling off excess parcels of town owned land (about 55 lots of various sizes) be considered as a way to offset other budgetary costs, but held that the decision to do so would not be dependent on his vote at this time. The commissioners also voted 4 to 0 to approve the FY05 budget. Additionally, the commissioners approved \$600 for the Post Prom Night program, and awarded a contract for the rehabilitation of Chiswell Road, Whites Road, Bodmer Road and Mosby Road to F.O. Day construction.

The commissions put off scheduling the process for adopting a town Master Plan until at least the first meeting in May to make sure that all commissioners would be in attendance.

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Day Tripper

This issue Day Tripper headed to Shepherdstown, West Virginia, a quaint and bucolic college town, approximately 40 miles away (under one hour) and just nine miles from Harper's Ferry. When first turning onto German Street, Shepherdstown's main street, a sense of going back in time begins to take hold. Your first thought is that this is probably the way it looked during the Civil War and to be sure, many of the buildings go back to that era.

Had you come to this town around the time of the battle at Antietam, you would have been torn by the tragic sight of 8,000 to 10,000 wounded and dying soldiers cared for everywhere throughout the town. Shepherdstown (originally Mecklenburg) had been set up as a medical evacuation area.

Today, despite its history, the town's strong suit is its tranquil appeal. The nucleus of the town is Shepherd College, a onetime teachers' college that offers a full program of undergraduate and postgraduate studies. The town will surprise you with its theatrical art, folk art, music, and other cultural offerings.

To get the most out of this trip we recommend that you skip our usual spontaneity and plan your trip to Shepherdstown. Key Internet sites are shepherdstownvisitorscenter.com and shepherdcollege.edu.

Shepherd College's Frank Center for the Arts presents a wide range of concerts on a regular basis. Check their website first and you will come across some special surprises. For example, should you visit on April 17 you will have a rare opportunity to catch a most impressive musical composer in concert. How impressive? Try this for a resume: three time Oscar winner, four time Grammy winner, two time Emmy winner, three Golden Globes and, oh



The rolling hills of Shepherd College campus.

Spare the Spontaneity — Make this One a Planned Trip

yeah, one Pulitzer Prize. Who is this special person? It's none other than Marvin Hamlisch!

His 3:00 P.M. concert at the Frank Center would be a great way to finish off a brief boutique shopping day and a great performance just prior to going to dinner. They are expecting a sellout but by checking the website or making a call you may find it is not too late.

Even without the collegiate cultural appeal, the town is replete with over 40 specialty shops and boutiques, fifteen restaurants, half a dozen historic sites of interest, and many special events and festivals occurring throughout the year.

Visit the Historic Shepherdstown Museum (housed in the old Entler Hotel, circa 1786) and Marty Bowen or Erden Ergin might be willing to share the legend of Patton Smith and the duel with his best friend that made poor Patton a ghost living on the third floor of the museum. Other museums include the Rumsey Steamboat Museum for the inventor of the steamboat, the Little House, which was an experimental "laboratory setting" completed near the end of the 1920's for prospective teachers to observe the habits of children at play, and the James Rumsey Monument which offers a panoramic view of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Potomac River, and the C&O Canal from its base.

Almost all the shops are on the main street so traversing the shopping area is quite simple. There are over 40 boutique-like retailers that include an independent bookstore, jewelry, specialty bakery, herbs store, antiques, and even a coffee/candlery (wild mix of aromas in this shop). Plan to spend the first couple of hours going from specialty shop to specialty shop.

One of the "must-see" visits is O'Hurley's General Store, located as you come into town just before the railroad tracks. This "olde" time

general store is filled with living history replicas, clothing, tools, headwear, hardware, old-fashioned toys, and preserves. Get there on a cold day and the place is heated by a big old potbelly stove sitting right in the middle of the store. Plan your trip for a Thursday evening and you may take part in O'Hurley's fifteen-year Irish tradition of sharing Celtic song and lyric in their "big room." The town presents Celtic concerts and dance festivals at various times of the year.

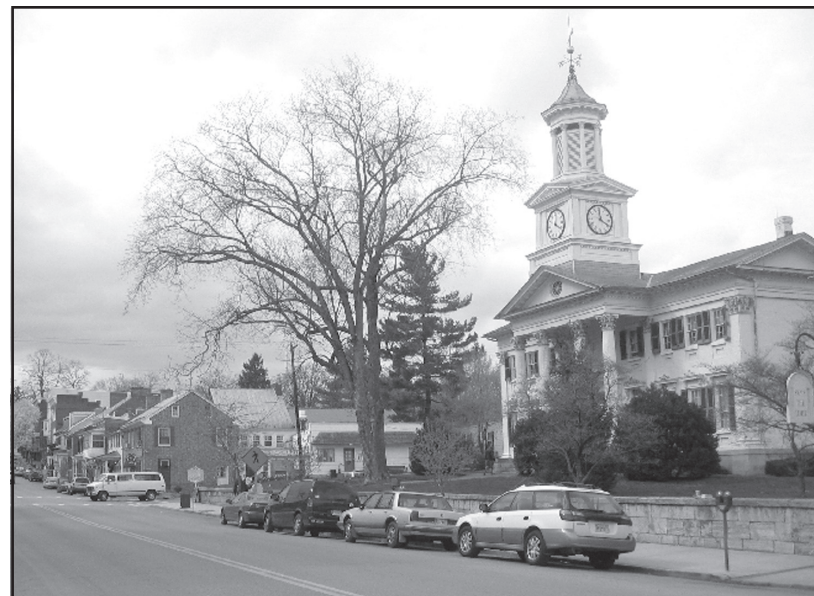
There are many fine restaurants in the town. Just beyond the main street is the famous Bavarian Inn, a great place to visit and reason enough to plan an overnight stay.

The Yellow Brick Bank Restaurant is not only first rate for its unique menu, service, and atmosphere, but was acknowledged to be Nancy Reagan's favorite restaurant while staying at Camp David. Call in advance and you might get to reserve her table.

The town has a complete walking tour that takes about an hour. It has a popular Back Alley Flower Show of local gardens, and please take special note that from July 9 to August 1 Shepherdstown is famous for its Contemporary American Theater Festival at the college that presents up to four original plays. For more information call the visitor center at 304-876-2786, and tell them *The Monocle* told you to call.



Dameon Bean and Chris Genovese guard the wine vault at the Yellow Bank Restaurant.



Picturesque Shepherdstown features the original Shepherd College.

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Tributes

Congratulations to Jeff and Pat Griffiths (Kohlhoss Road, Poolesville) on becoming brand new grandparents! Their daughter, Sarah Nichols and her proud husband, Jason, announce the birth of Meara Grace on March 23.

Applause, please, for Ashley Conway, who recently graduated early from Elon College majoring in Corporate Communications. Ashley is the daughter of Sharon and Bill Conway (McKernon Way, Poolesville). While we are focused on the Conway family, special congratulations go out to their son, Rocky, on his recent marriage to the former Maria Anastasia Haralambis of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, where they were married.

The proud co-editor of the Monocle, Rande Davis and wife, Laura, are pleased to announce that their daughter Julie has been acknowledged for academic achievement by making the Dean's List at Towson University. Julie is majoring in British Literature.

We missed it by just a bit, but we want to make sure to shout out a huge Happy Birthday to Helen Pumphrey, one of Poolesville's great ladies. Helen is 96 years young, and has contributed to our town with decades of teaching in the area. She is active at St. Peter's Church and still plays one mean hand of bridge.

Poolesville's Bob Ouellette, current commander of the Montgomery County American Legion was recently selected and honored as the MCAL's Legionnaire of the Year.

Barnesville welcomes one of our beloved heroes, Josh Brown, back from Iraq. His parents Jim and Tina are very grateful to have him home.



IOOF Grand Dragon Henry Nessel presents award to Douglas Clarke.

The International Order of Odd Fellows Lodge 97 held a dinner tribute for Douglas E. Clarke in recognition of his service to the organization, and especially for his service as Noble Grand (presiding officer). Douglas was born in Poolesville in 1936. He attended Lincoln High School in Rockville and Morgan State College. He met his wife, Joan, in England during his twelve years of service in the Air Force. After his military service,

he entered the air conditioning business, and is now retired and living on Jonesville Terrace in Poolesville. Douglas joined Odd Fellows in 1997 and is lauded by his brothers for his quiet dedication and effectiveness. Henry Nessel, Grand Master of

Maryland Odd Fellows, presented Douglas with symbols of his status as Past Noble Grand—a collar and a pin. The Crafty Ladies at Poolesville's United Methodist Church handled the dinner superbly.



IOOF Awards Dinner at the United Methodist Church.



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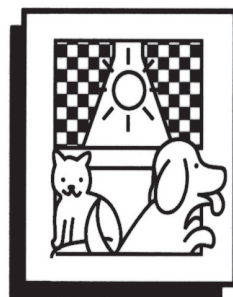
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Equestrian News

The Potomac Hunt Races— Mark Your May Calendar

By Debby Lynn

Special to the Monocacy Monocle

If you're looking for something to do on a fine spring Sunday, the hunt races can't be beat. First, there is the thrill of standing railside as race horses go hurtling by, battling for the win. Then, there are the fabulous tailgate picnics, which you can bring yourself, or purchase from the various, sumptuous food vendors such as Helga's Caterers.

If you like, you can take your picnic to the infield, spread out comfortably, and enjoy an afternoon of point to point racing.

So, what is a point to point? A little over half a century ago, this area provided a bucolic country retreat for fashionable Washingtonians. Foxhunting was a favorite pastime. Hunt races were just that, a friendly gathering of members of various hunts, to engage in a bit of sport. The idea was to race from point A to point B,

negotiating natural obstacles en route, much as if you were out hunting.

In its current evolution, point to point racing has retained its firm ties to the hunt club, but jockeys are not always just hunt members anymore. Some of my favorite jockeys are to be found in the first race of the day, the small pony races. Ridden furiously by determined 10 to 15 year olds, the action down to the wire is every bit as lively as the standard horse races.

The next race, the Governor's Cup Hunt Club Challenge Relay Race, harkens back to the early days of hunt racing. This race features teams of three riders, representing their hunt club, who race three laps around the one mile race course, each member racing one lap, and handing a baton off to the next team member at speed.

Next, you will begin to see some action over fences, both hurdle and timber. These races are not for the faint of heart rider. In addition to riding at speed, they are negotiating formidable obstacles of solid timber or steeplechase style brush fences. These races come with worthy purses, and draw some of the area's best jump jocks.

The hunt races are sure to provide plenty of entertainment for all comers.

In addition to the races, you will find an engaging exhibit of antique Packard cars, and a demonstration of training methods used by Mounted Park Police. The Park Police will also present colors before the races get underway.

At only \$20.00 per car (limit 4 per car) the races are a terrific entertainment value. So, gather a few friends, pack your picnic basket, and prepare yourselves to thoroughly enjoy your day in the country. Race day is May 16, 2004. The racecourse is on Partnership Road at the Kiplinger Estate. Gates will

open at 11:30 a.m. For more information go to www.potomachuntraces.com or call (301) 896-3971.



Photo by Sarah Libbey Greenhalgh



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Mystery History

Slightly visible from Route 107, a historic cluster of Seneca sandstone buildings lies behind a group of trees on land that was originally patented (titled) as the "None Eaton" farm by Daniel Viers in 1755. Now known as the Darnell Farm, named after Thomas Darnell, its early nineteenth century owner, the cluster of four outbuildings was most likely built by Mr. Darnell in the early 1800's.

At one time, up to fifteen slaves resided on this property just north of Dawsonville and about three miles south of Poolesville. The two story stone servant quarters, (pictured on the front page) is positioned a few yards from another detached building which served as the kitchen for the family's log dwelling.

This original layout, which purposely separated the kitchen from the main house, was common for settlers coming from the tidewater region. The purpose of the detached kitchen was to "remove heat of cooking fires during summer months and also, to minimize the threat of an accidental fire consum-

ing the entire home." This early American fire prevention system proved its worth in 1952 when a fire consumed the original log dwelling while leaving the kitchen intact.



The upper bedding area was accessible only through an outside ladder in these quarters.

Today, the early nineteenth century buildings have been beautifully restored and maintained by property owners Tony and Katrina Kerns. Both Kerns are native Marylanders who appreciate that their farm's historic buildings provide a realistic example of the lifestyle of the rural Montgomery County families who settled the region.

Darnell Farm Reflects Early American Life in the Region

The property exudes a pastoral tranquility that belies the harsh reality that this farm was at one time worked by slave labor. When Mr. Thomas Darnell passed away in 1830 his will required that two male slaves and one female slave remain on the farm to work the land and take care of Henrietta, his widow. It is said that the other twelve slaves were freed upon his death.

About 150 yards east of the main house, at the apex of the knoll that slowly rises above the farm is the family cemetery. It is here that you swiftly slide from a serene sense of the historic to a haunting sense of personal loss and tragedy.

This farming family of slave-owners, who appeared to have much of the better life of the early nineteenth century, nevertheless experienced their own tribulations. Their personal pain is

etched into the sandstone grave markers. Enclosed within a two-foot high stonewall and buried near his grandparents, Thomas and Henrietta Darnell, lies baby Charles Darnel, only four months and 14 days old. Lying next to baby Charles is brother Amos, who died within one year of the infant's death.

Despite Henrietta Darnell's material achievements in her 82 years, she endured the death of two grandchildren and 18 years of widowhood.



A detached kitchen (right) was an early fire protection idea.

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Calendar

April 16

JV Baseball

Rockville @ Poolesville HS—3:30pm

Boys Volleyball

Wooton @ PHS—6:00pm

Coed Volleyball

Wooton @ PHS—7:00pm

School Dance

John Poole MS—7:30pm

April 17

JV Girls Softball

Rockville @ PHS—1:30pm

April 20

Track & Field

Magruder @ PHS—3:30pm

April 21

Girls Varsity Softball

Kennedy @ PHS—3:30pm

April 22

JV Baseball

B-CC @ PHS—3:30pm

Varsity Baseball

Kennedy @ PHS—3:30pm

JV Softball

B-CC @ PHS—3:30pm

April 23

Lacrosse

Northwest @ PHS

Girls—5:15pm • Boys—7pm

Tennis

Rockville @ PHS—3:30pm

Volleyball

Quince Orchard @ PHS

Coed—6pm • Boys—7pm

April 24

Varsity Baseball

Einstein @ PHS—1:30pm

Varsity Softball

Einstein @ PHS—1:30pm

April 27

Lacrosse

Paint Branch @ PHS

Girls—5:00pm • Boys—7:00pm

April 28

JV Softball

Northwest @ PHS—3:30pm

Tennis

Kennedy @ PHS—3:30pm

Volleyball

Sherwood @ PHS

Coed—6pm • Boys—7pm

April 29

JV Baseball

Northwest @ PHS—3:30pm

Focus On Business

A Bronx cheer for Al Rosenzweig

You can take the man out of the subway but can you take the subway out of the man? In the case of Al Rosenzweig, apparently not.

An Upstate New Yorker by birth, he also attended DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx. Of course, when he left his beloved Yankees nearly ten years ago, he didn't dream he would go from the IRT Subway to owning a subway shop in Maryland.

What he dreamed of was the opportunity to move closer to his grandchildren, Ian and Cameron, the children of his son Bret and daughter-in-law, Kathy. With his daughter Jaime living in Frederick, he knew that Maryland was the place to be.

After serving in the Navy, Al decided to return home to follow his father and grandfather as a third-generation "circulation-man" for the Daily News. Moving on from the "The News," Al ventured into a variety of businesses that included retail and restaurants.

In Maryland, he considered a number of options including opening a gas service/convenience store or opening "Al's Deli." He looked at a number of different submarine sandwich organizations and settled on the "fresh bread" offerings of Subway.



Chris Hendrix, Al Rosenzweig and Alycin Carroll stand ready.

Al loves being in Poolesville but he has one particular concern—he would like to see the town do more to support activities for our teens. If you talk to him for even a few minutes you will discover he is a one-man advocacy group for a teen center and program for the town. Al is in a position to know something about our teens—he has trained and employed more than 120 people in the last five years, 95% of them college or high school age. In any given week he has about 14 employees.

He understands that employment for teens is not only an educational and training opportunity for them, but can

help to establish a sound work ethic for the future. And, he points out that being a Poolesville business, means our teens don't have to drive or be driven down county to get that experience.

We were a bit disappointed that we didn't get a "Bronx cheer" out of Al during the interview and know that the local Oriole fans won't be too happy about his staying a Yankee fan. On the other hand, being a "sandwich man" he knows which side of the bread to butter. As he reflects on his joy of those wild Sunday afternoon football parties (with subs and all), he proudly points out that he is a real, die-hard Redskin fan now!

Eye on an Entrepreneur

The Monocle starts this new feature, *Eye on an Entrepreneur*, by focusing on Paul Shibelski of Poolesville, who decided to leave a traditional and secure position to take a chance on himself.

Mr. Shibelski, who holds an MBA in Human Resource Management, implemented the graduate program in Strategic Human Resource Management at American University. Nevertheless, he continued to wrestle with the notion of pursuing his own dream. Finally in 1999, after an intense soul-searching weekend of introspection at the Holy Cross Abbey in Berryville, Virginia, Paul made his move.

Setting up his own consulting company, Beall Street Management, he established a consulting business in his areas of expertise—Strategic Human Resources Management and Organizational and Human Resource planning. This consulting company grew to where he was also able to continue to teach at George Mason, George Washington and John Hopkins on HR issues. This eventually led him to join up with two partners to establish a new endeavor called "Transition Fitness." This company helps people and organizations meet the challenges inherent in undergoing significant and at times radical change.

Paul and his wife, Claudia, live on Beall Street. The Shibelski children are Katherine, Seth, and Claire.

The Monocle welcomes...

Carl Hobbs to our Poolesville business community. Carl specializes in repairs to lawn mowers, small engines, and trailers. He is set up in the garage next to the Chevron station, which will be convenient to our large equestrian market with his knowledge and experience in horse trailer repair.

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News Updates

Road Safety and Teen Drivers

Jay Schwartzman is the most recent up county parent to experience the terror of having the police call to report that his child has been in a car accident. While Mr. Schwartzman has reported that his son is expected to recover fully, he has taken a leadership role among concerned citizens to seek ways to improve the hazardous road conditions that we face on a daily basis. He is spearheading a group to discuss actions that could be taken to ameliorate the situation. Over the years the county and state have improved the roads to and from the area. The Charles Elgin Bridge radically reduced the sharp curve that existed there prior to its construction, but the current road way remains hazardous. The new group will seek to find feasible ideas to mitigate roadside hazards or improve signage to bring more attention to the dangers.

If you share Mr. Schwartzman's concern and have ideas that may be helpful or if you are aware of how

other communities with similar road conditions may have solved their problem, he would welcome your participation and help. So far he reports that a good number of citizens have stepped forward. If you would like to help out you can call Mr. Jay Schwartzman at (301) 972-8300.

Closing of Mouth of Monocacy Road

Since our first report on the possible closing of Mouth of Monocacy Road CSX has reportedly agreed to provide \$170,000 toward the project, which is currently estimated to be \$1,790,000. While the county is looking at additional cost savings, the huge gap between the two parties could result in the closing the bridge to vehicular traffic.

The Monocle has heard from many citizens objecting to the closing. There has been no public statement on the issue by National Park Service but we expect that at some point they will get involved since their multi-million dollar renovation project for the Monocacy Aqueduct is greatly impacted by the county's decision.


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What's Next?

The proposed Montgomery County Health budget for Fiscal Year 2005 will threaten transportation for seniors to programs in Owens Park in Beallsville. The cuts would terminate support for the buses that carry many of the participating seniors to Park activities, which could adversely impact the continuation of those programs. Funding for these senior programs is carried under the County Recreation Department, but funding for transportation for many senior programs is under Health and Human Services.

Currently Owens Park has programs for seniors on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Senior Programs have been held there for over twenty-six years. These programs, as listed on the County Recreation Department's website, include entertainment, health screening and education, exercise and

fitness, occasional crafts, informational speakers, counseling on issues of interest, and nutrition programs. The seniors are also dependent on buses for "mini-trips" from Owens Park, with recent examples a trip to Washington DC to see the Cherry Blossoms, Thurmont for lunch, and Frederick for historical tours or shopping.

Dianne Smith, who oversees neighborhood programs for the County Recreation Department, said that the Owens Park programs have seven to twelve participants each day, drawing from a regular population of 15 to 20 senior citizens from the up county region. Ms. Smith told *The Monocle* that of those seniors attending Owens Park programs, most are dependent on HHS-funded bus transportation. Many of these seniors don't drive, don't own a car, or are handicapped in some way and unable

to drive. In addition to bus service to the park, the availability of bus transportation for shopping and doctors' appointments under the Paratransit program, will be reduced by one day as a result of HHS budget cuts.

Ms. Smith also expressed concern that the low numbers of seniors at Owens Park may also be affect the county's willingness to continue to fund transportation or other programs. Ms. Smith explained that rural people tend to stay busy at home, and may be less likely to attend senior programs. As a result, the Owens Park programs are not drawing many new people.

On March 31 the County Commission on Aging held a "Senior Stakeholders' Summit" with seniors groups from around the county to discuss budget issues that affect these services. According to Meg Kotler, Executive Director of the Commission on Aging,

the transportation cuts total \$218,000, and would reduce or eliminate transportation for a number of park programs. The Commission on Aging is an advocate for senior programs, and makes recommendations to HHS regarding senior programs, transportation, and nutrition programs.

Alidz Khachaturian, Chair of the Commission on Aging, said that there is a hearing before the Montgomery County Council on April 26 to discuss funding for senior services in the county. The Commission is facing \$1.4 million in cuts for seniors, and hopes to restore that amount and add another \$1 million to expand programs. Ms. Khachaturian said that Montgomery County "needs a long-range comprehensive plan for aging." She added, "These issues aren't going to go away. The number of seniors is growing."

County Budget Cuts Threaten Owens Park Senior Programs



Youth Sports

The Life of Riley

The sports program at Poolesville High School is bursting with exciting stories at every level. From individual athletes to team results, coaching dedication to parental support. *The Monocle* looks forward to covering many of these stories and to that end we met with PHS's athletic director, Mr. Mike Riley, to discuss the school's heralded sports program.

A ten year veteran at PHS, Mr. Riley came here from Richard Montgomery HS where he coached football. He emphasizes, "Poolesville is a really special town that takes sports seriously, where the kids work very hard at their sport. We offer everything the other schools in the county have except gymnastics and we are proud that we can get almost 50% of the student body involved in sports."

His pride in the athletes' talents, praise for their dedication, and confidence in their work ethic is contagious. He is not only quick to point out their athletic success, he also boasts of their achievement in the classroom. When considering his past experience as a wide receiver for the Citadel, it is not surprising that Mr. Riley ranks the

importance of athletic development right alongside character development. He emphasizes the importance of proper discipline as key to success in achieving one's goals.



PHS Athletic Director Mike Riley.

He credits the ability of his coaches for being able to bring out the best from each of the students as another key to success over the years. He readily mentions Fred Swick, Scott Mathias and Fran Duvall to bolster his contention of the first rate level of coaches the school offers.

Through it all, Mr. Riley sees the positive involvement of the parents as the greatest reason for the school's sports success. Its obvious that he understands the importance of how team effort is required from all aspects of a student's life in order to reach athletic goals.

This Is Not Your Father's Go-Kart

Do you remember the oil-leaking lawn mower engine that hardly ever started, the discarded bicycle tires that wouldn't hold air, and the thrown-together soapbox style go-kart?

The "Little League" of NASCAR has taken over and the world of karting has now evolved for children of all ages. Rob Wells of Absolute Auto in Dickerson joins his sons and one of their friends almost every weekend for some serious go-kart racing at the Monrovia Raceway.



Tony Wells, 12 year old go-kart competitor.

How serious? Try about \$3,500 per go-kart serious. Each kid races within his or her age group. His sons Tony (10-12 age group) and Chris (8-10 age group) and friend Travis Tramboli

the 10-12 year old range speeds can reach 55 mph. For safety, they wear protection helmets, thick fire-protective suits and have horse collar "seat belts" holding them secure.



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