

Inside the Monocle



The New World Garden on page 9.



Poolesville Pizza? See Focus on Business page 7.



Buckeystown Bosses? See page 12.



Photo by Tom Amiot

Of course we have Sports. Page 16.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

January 14, 2005

Volume 1, Number 18

Poolesville Town Manager Fights Neighbor's House Fire

A neighbor in need is a neighbor indeed. When Mrs. Valery Nelson went to her neighbor's house, she needed more than sugar. Her house was on fire, and fortunately for her, the neighbor, Poolesville's Town Manager, Wade Yost, had gained some firefighting experience and used that to help save the house and probably a couple of loved pets as well. While his efforts were (indeed) heroic, Mr. Wade emphasizes "not to try this at home." Our contributing reporter, Pam Green, reports the story as follows:

On Thursday December 16 at 6:15 p.m., Mrs. Nelson pulled into her driveway after work. Upon getting out of her car she heard a piercing loud noise coming from inside her home. Upon opening her front door, she realized it was the sound of their smoke alarm. She was greeted by huge gusts of thick, black smoke coming towards her and the sound of her dogs barking frantically in the background.

She quickly ran next door to tell Mr. Wade Yost that her house was on fire and that she needed to call 911 to report the fire. She also told him her two dogs and cat were trapped in the house. Mr. Yost handed Mrs. Nelson the telephone and ran over to her house and crawled on his hands and knees to the kitchen, the direction from

which the fire seemed to be coming. Both of Mr. Yost's knees were freshly bandaged from having fluid drained from his knees recently.

Opening the door, Mr. Yost was met by billowing, black smoke pouring from the house. He pulled his shirt over his mouth and crawled across the floor on his hands and knees and dragged himself below the thick black smoke line into the kitchen and proceeded to pull himself up to the kitchen sink. He found the faucet on the kitchen sink and started

pouring water on the fire near the stove area. According to Mr. Yost, "The flames were just starting to reach the kitchen ceiling," so he continued to pour water on the fire until he was able to smother it. During this time, the dogs, Cocoa and Daisy, found their way to the front door and escaped the flames and ran out of the house.

According to Mrs. Nelson, "If it were not for Mr. Yost, our house would have been a total loss...who knows, it might have even burned to the ground and we might have lost our family pets." Also, she said, "You just never know, the fire could have come in contact with the gas main and caused an explosion, and maybe even gotten into one of the neighbors homes. My family is still in total shock, but I feel so grateful to Mr. Yost. We don't know how we will ever be able to thank him enough for this heroic effort."

The Nelson family and pets are doing fine, and they have been staying at the Marriott in Rio since the fire. They are pleased to report that they found temporary housing in Boyds and hope to be back in their home in Poolesville within six months.



Good Neighbors Wade Yost and Valery Nelson.

Monocacy Residents Mobilize to Help Disaster Victims

Emerging from the stunning shock resulting from the earthquake and subsequent tsunami, area residents have mobilized individually and collectively to help those in need on the other side of the world.

Perhaps the first in the area to provide guidance were area churches with their suggestions to make donations to their respective international emergency service programs.

Many churches have service groups already on the ground in the areas hit hardest, and therefore, much of their help will reach victims quickly. Reverend Steve Hayward suggests that his parishioners consider making donations to the Episcopal Relief and Development (www.er-d.org). The United Methodist Church has their national program UMCORP that has been established as an emergency disaster relief group through the United Methodist Church. Catholic Charities has a large service organization long stationed throughout the impacted region.

Poolesville Presbyterian Church has decided to respond to a specific request from Church World Service to put together and distribute disaster Health Kits. Such kits include many items necessary for an individual's basic personal health. They are looking for donations and people to help package these kits. Those who want to join this particular effort can contact Catherine Believeau at 301-916-3028.

—Continued on Page 4.

Family Album

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Christmas Carols at Whalen Commons.



Kids and trains at the Upper MC Volunteer Fire Department breakfast.



The Poolsville High School Band at a holiday fundraiser.



The Shibelski family at the UMCVFD breakfast.



Coach Hurd is presented with a tribute from a local newspaper.



The Watkins Mill Quartet at the Monocacy Lions Holiday Party.



Jane Stearns and WUMCO volunteers distribute food at Christmas.

Day Tripper

Over the Hills and Not-So Far Away

By Dominique Agnew

Finally, winter has wended its way to us, and the specter of snow casts its gloomy shadow over us all. This tends to be true for those who don't like snow, but what if snow was necessary—necessary to ski. Skiing, for the Monocacy area, is just around the corner, a short day trip from the sprawling offices of *The Monocle*. Two local resorts, while just over the border into Pennsylvania, are only a little over an hour from the Monocacy area.

Both Ski White Tail, located in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, and Ski Liberty, in Fairfield, Pennsylvania, have a wide variety of programs and activities to cater to all ages and all skill levels, from tots to seniors, and from skiing to tubing. For example, while your younger child who's never skied before is taking a one and a half hour lesson with a trained instructor, you can be enjoying some of the

harder slopes until you're ready to ski together.

Our local anonymous ski expert had some advice for adventurers unfamiliar with either ski resort. For the true beginners, White Tail is your best bet. It has nicer terrain and gentler slopes. After mastering those slopes, or if you're already a bit experienced, visit Ski Liberty for the in-between level of skiing, but then go back to White Tail for your tougher slopes. This advice isn't set in stone, if you're in a group of mixed levels, either resort is great. They both offer something for everyone.

As a matter of fact, if you're not even ready to ski, both resorts offer tubing, billed as "fun for all ages—all the fun of sledding, but less work." After kicking back and enjoying your ride down perfectly carved tubing lanes, hook your tube up to the tow lift and ride back up the hill. The tubing tickets are sold all day long for one- or two-hour slots, and tubing is for ages five and up. Ski White Tail has Kiddie Tubing, a special tubing area just for two-to-four-year-olds (the Kiddie Tubing area at Ski Liberty isn't open as of this writing). Week-

days, tubing is open from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on weekends and peak days.

If you find you enjoy one of these daytrips and want to do more, the nice thing is that both Ski White Tail and Ski Liberty are sister resorts with each other and with Ski Roundtop, located close to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Any season passes or savings cards (the Advantage Card) are good at all three resorts.

To find out more information, visit their websites:

www.skiwhitetail.com (call 717-328-9400) and www.skiliberty.com (call 707-642-8282). The sister resorts, there's a fourth in New York, have links on each website.

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Disaster Help continued —

Area students wasted no time organizing. John Pool Middle School and Poolesville High School each have Leos Clubs, which are service organizations sponsored by the Monocacy Lions Club. They are going to collect donations to specifically answer the need of rebuilding Navalady, a Sri Lanka Orphanage (see *The Washington Post* – 12/20/04).

Monocacy Elementary School students are preparing to make their own, personal sacrifice during the month of January. A jar is in the lobby of the school, and students are filling it with loose change. "Kids like to be part of the solution," says Principal William Poole. At the end of the month the total will be tallied and sent to UNICEF.

The local Monocacy Lions Club and Carroll-Manor Lions Club report their international organization has already disbursed \$200,000 to the hardest hit area. There are over 73,000 Lions in Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Indonesia, and since these are members of organizations which have long been servicing their communities, the donations to them will find rapid and efficient use.

This is a small sample of the many local and national groups that will provide assistance to disaster victims from our donations of money, materials or assistance. Many of these are listed in other media outlets and will be soliciting your support.

Remembrances

John S. Waring

Life-long area resident John Stewart Waring lost his battle against lung and liver cancer and passed away on December 19 at his retirement residence at Pawley's Island, South Carolina. Mr. Waring was born in Washington, D.C. and had previously resided in Boyds. Mr. Waring is survived by his wife Jill, son John Jr. of Derwood, daughter Jennifer who now lives in San Diego, stepson, Mark A. Wolf, also of San Diego, and six beloved grandchildren.



John S. Waring

A business consultant in the printing industry, John was fondly remembered for his generous and caring spirit and his enjoyment in entertaining friends at his home in Boyds. A member of St. Peter's Parish in Poolesville, Mr. Waring had served on their vestry in past years. In lieu of flowers, area residents are encouraged to make memorials at St. Peter's Parish.

Constance Emory

Mrs. Connie Emory, a twenty-eight-year Poolesville resident, passed away on December 31, 2004 after fighting cancer for a long time. She was the loving wife of Fred Emory and is survived by three daughters: Jennifer Shovlin and her husband Jim of Urbana, and Heather and Meghan Emory, both living in Poolesville.

Mrs. Emory was a 1967 graduate of Bethesda Chevy Chase High School, and she attended Christian College in Columbia, Missouri. Clarksburg residents will recall Connie for her longtime service as cafeteria manager at Clarksburg Elementary School.

Many residents will remember Connie as the warm, friendly, and ever-helpful owner of a flower store in Poolesville called "Flower Magic," which she operated for over ten years. She is fondly remembered for her warm "Connie Hugs" that she often

gave out. The family suggests in lieu of flowers that a donation be sent to the Children's Inn at NIH, 7 West Drive, Bethesda, MD 20814 – Attention: Finance Office.



Connie Emory



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The holidays are over, but here is still ample opportunity to help with holiday fundraising programs. Memorial United Methodist Church in Poolesville still has some of their delightful cookbooks available. Entitled *Heavenly Delights*, this hard-back book features over 300 recipes. You will be given an inside look at some of the best family "secret" recipes around. A special bonus is that the book comes with an interest-

ing history of the Crafty Ladies & Gents, an organization now over 50 years old. Don't forget that the book can make a great gift throughout the year to friends and relatives. So think about "stocking up." They sell for \$12.00 and you can get them by calling Sharlene West at 301-349-5128.

St. Peter's Dots Elgin wants everyone to know the church still has some of those packages of the large pecans available and anyone who wants some can call her at 301-349-3372.

—Continued on Page 18

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P.O. Box 175
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John Clayton
President and Publisher
Managing Editor
(301) 349-0071
jclayton@monocacymonocle.com

Rande Davis
Vice President
Publisher and Editor
Advertising and Circulation
(301) 349-0070
rdavis@monocacymonocle.com

Dominique Agnew
Maureen O'Connell
Pam Green
Jack Toomey
Contributing Writers

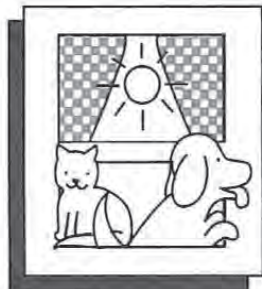
Other Departments
editor@monocacymonocle.com
advertising@monocacymonocle.com

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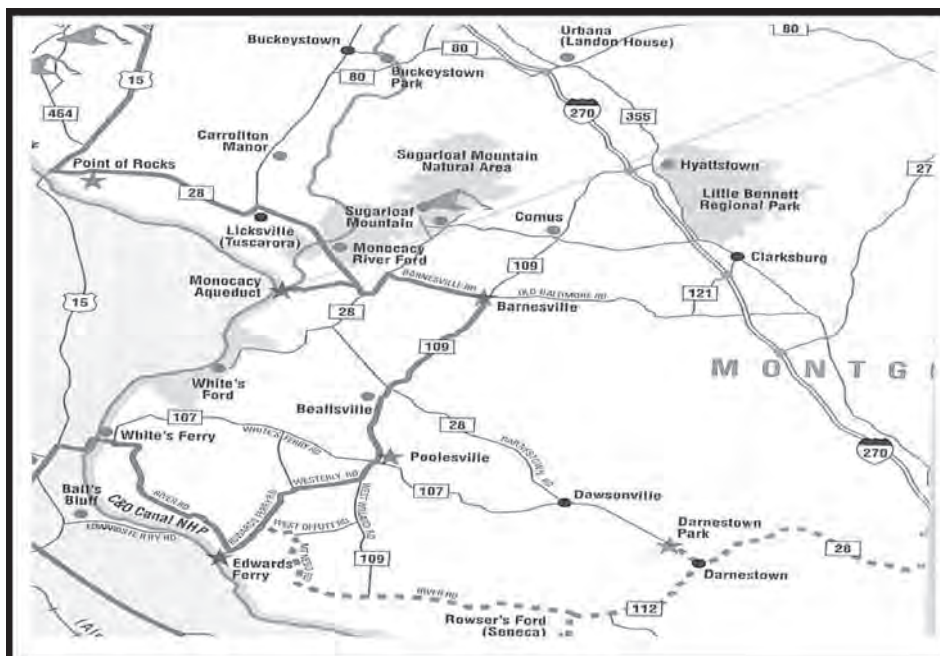
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Focus on Business

At Cugini's You're Part of the Family

By Rande Davis

Lynne and Dennis Stillson, owners of Cugini's restaurant in Poolesville, have a secret to share about how a family with a non-Italian surname opens a restaurant specializing in pizza, ziti, calzones, and stromboli. Now the secret can be revealed. Dennis's grandfather came to America through Ellis Island in 1910. If you haven't guessed already, the mystery is cleared up when finding out his name wasn't Stillson—it was Stillizano. This man of Italian heritage would have been proud to learn that his great-grandson, Christopher, with full family support, recently reclaimed the family name for himself by changing it from Stillson to Stillizano.

Like many entrepreneurs, the Stillsons didn't start out dreaming of opening a restaurant. Actually, after meeting each other at Penn State and

ultimately getting married in 1974, they loaded everything they had into their Ford Grand Torino and headed west to seek their fortune in California. Dennis wanted to pursue his interest in film (he majored in theater arts, specializing in film/TV), and Lynne was ready to challenge the world with her BA in psychology. After giving the west coast about a year of their life, they found they missed that which was most important to them in life—their family. So, back they came, first to Pennsylvania, and they eventually found their way to our metropolitan area.

Dennis shifted direction to become a software program engineer. He worked with Suburban Bank as they went through a number of mergers and eventually joined TRW, which today is part of Northrup Grumman. Lynne is very well known in our area for having run Poolesville Day Care for many years (it was at the location now operated by Minds in Motion, just behind Healthworks in Poolesville.)

Through the years, Dennis and Lynne centered their priorities on

raising their three children. Their firstborn, Lyanne, resides in Tampa and is planning her upcoming wedding. Christopher, a graduate of Poolesville High School's Class of 2000, is completing his study at Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania. He plans to join the family business soon. Their youngest, Lorryn, a 2003 PHS graduate, is attending the University of North Carolina at High Point.

When Dennis first approached Lynne in 2001 with the suggestion that they buy Cugini's, the timing must have been perfect because she jumped on the idea immediately. After making some personal recipe changes to the pizza sauce, other culinary changes, and adding gyros, fries, and wings, they are now getting ready for the next big change in the business. Soon they will be moving over to Poolesville Plaza (near Selby's Market). This new location will have room to seat fifty people, and it will also have a separate room for birthday parties and other group celebrations. Lynne has a great Pizza-Lady costume to bring smiles to the faces of

the young revelers. They also hope to expand their sandwich selection and to offer a breakfast menu.

While their location and some menu items may change, they still plan to continue to maintain the family atmosphere for their customers and employees. As a place for families, the name Cugini's is important since, in Italian, it means cousin. They have also added to the ambience of the place with a theme that is typical in New York Italian restaurants. Up north, the walls of those restaurants are loaded with pictures of the celebrities that patronize the establishment. In Cugini's, the walls have over fifty pictures and a corkboard full of pictures of all the celebrities that they deal with day in and day out. You will recognize many of them, but not because you saw them on TV or in film, though, for you see, their "Celebrity Wall" is filled with pictures of the many area friends and customers who stop by to pickup, eat in, or order for delivery. With the expanded wall space in the new place, there just may be enough room for all of us!

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School News

Poolesville High School Seeks to Honor All Fallen Heroes

PHS teachers Jan Shultz and George Pappas have responded to students who want to establish a special memorial to Poolesville High School graduates who paid the ultimate price for serving in military duty. PHS was established early in the nineteenth century, so they are looking for candidates that served in wars from World War I to the present. The individuals need not have served in a war if their death was during and a result of their military service. Area residents who have knowledge of persons who qualify for this special honor may contact Mrs. Schultz, Mr. Pappas or *The Monocle*. The installation ceremony will be held around Memorial Day.

PES Students Launch New Publication

Poolesville Elementary School students have started a highly successful school newspaper club and have produced their first edition of

Tiger Tales. The students' enthusiasm for the project is apparent in the fact that sixty-two children have joined the club, which is an after-school activity.

Mrs. Black and Mrs. Jankowski are the adult leaders of *Tiger Tales*. Their meetings are held at the PES library on Thursday from 3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. We at *The Monocle* are duly impressed by the diversity and depth demonstrated within this wonderful publication and are thrilled that so many area children have shown an interest in journalism.

PHS Violinist Gains National Recognition

Poolesville High School's Sandra Wolf-Meei Cameron was selected as a national finalist in violin from the National Foundation for Advancement of the Arts. This 2005 Arts Recognition and Talent Search (ARTS) competition is directly connected to the Presidential Scholars Program. She is among 100 national finalists who have been judged as exceptionally talented in the areas of performing, literary and visual arts.

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In the Garden

The American Garden

By Maureen O'Connell

Plants have a long human past behind them. They are the immortals, the living things that tie together our forefathers' yesterdays and our todays, as they link our own time with endless tomorrows.
(Maurice Maeterlinck (1862-1949))

Recently while cataloging some photos of European gardens collected over the years, a thought crossed my mind. What is the evolutionary history of the American Garden? In the 17th and 18th centuries the most popular European garden designs were the formal French, Italian, and Dutch formal gardens. They exhibited bilateral symmetry and a rigid style. The part of the garden closest to the palace or house was viewed architecturally as another room of the house proper. The garden was made up of perfectly regular series of geometrical compartments formed by clipped shrubs and trees, straight gravel walks and terraces. Boxwood often bordered lawn expanses. Flowers were rare until the 19th century. There was extensive use of canals, avenues of trees, fountains, statues and mazes; they were all arranged symmetrically with reference to one central axis extending from the exact center of the house. The overriding feeling of such a garden is of man's tyranny over nature – perfectly suitable for Louis XIV and other European monarchs.

No one surpassed Andre LeNotre (1613-1700) in the realization of this rigid garden style. This French landscape designer created most of the famous gardens of his day. These included Kensington Gardens and St. James Park in London, Versailles, Saint-Cloud, Fontainebleau, Vaux, and Chantilly in France, Quirinal and Vatican Gardens in Rome. He also laid out the garden for William III in front of Christopher Wren's new east front of Hampton Court Palace. Although Versailles became the model for princely gardens throughout Europe, Le Notre considered the Chantilly garden his finest work.

In England in the mid 18th century Lancelot "Capability" Brown became the rising star of the new English style of landscape gardening. He soon acquired the peculiar nickname "Capability" from his habit of telling clients that their gardens had "great capabilities." He would then prove to

them that in his talented hands, the garden certainly did. The English landscape under Brown was a vista of wide green lawns with bands and groupings of trees. The intent was to give the impression of a romantic natural scene. The grounds were punctuated with classical temples, bridges or monuments. Everything was created to give a sense of informality and natural beauty. Of course nothing in the garden was natural at all. Some of his gardens still viewable today are Winston Churchill's childhood home Blenheim Palace, Burghley House, Longleat and Hampton Court Palace.

Let us now look to the New World. America is a nation of immigrants. Many left Europe to escape religious and political restraints and persecution and to seek their fortunes in the new wilderness. Their culture and way of life became dramatically different from the one they left behind. Their new outlook affected all aspects of their new lives, including their notion of gardening and landscape design. The first settlers, the Native American Indians, viewed nature more pragmatically. They were farmers by necessity. They grew tobacco, corn, squash and other vegetables that could be used for food, medicine, clothing and household objects. The Indians made spoons and trowels from the wood of the root of Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia* L.), which is soft and easily worked when newly dug and becomes hard and smooth when dry.

It was the founding of Jamestown and Plymouth that opened up doorways to vast unexplored wilderness and eagerly sought floral wealth. Despite the profusion of newly found flora, the early settlers' garden ideas were still rooted in the Old World. Broadly speaking, most of the fruit trees, vegetables and herbs belong to the Old World, as did most of the flowering bulbs. North America's great contributions are its trees and flowering shrubs and vines; many of its wild flowers have long since become standby perennials of the English flower garden.

In 1798 a Polish tourist visited Mount Vernon, home of then-aged George Washington. He was deeply impressed with the beauty of the gardens. He said "the General has never left America...but it seems as if he had copied the best samples of the grand homesteads of England." The Polish visitor might have been perplexed, but there is no doubt that

Washington, like every other mon-eyed planter in Virginia (and elsewhere in the newly formed States) had picked up much of what he knew about gardening and designs from books—most likely French and English books.

In the middle to late 18th century, the "American Garden" was the in-vogue idea for the aristocratic Europeans. There began a great traffic in plant exchange. The stars of the "American Garden" in England were the American Rhododendron, mountain laurel, azaleas, and low ground cover like wintergreen, bog rosemary, and blueberries.

Horticulture owes a lot to the Quakers. Perhaps it was something in their peaceful faith that drew them to science and the natural world. Without the devotion and enthusiasm of two Quakers in particular—John Bartram (1699-1777) in Philadelphia and Peter Collinson (1694-1768) in London—the great 18th century movement of American plants into the gardens of Europe could hardly have happened. Bartram was born near Philadelphia in 1699 and is considered the first great botanist, naturalist and plant explorer. He traveled north to Lake Ontario, south to Florida and west to the Ohio River

in search of plants and natural history specimens. He and his son William are credited with identifying and introducing into cultivation more than 200 of our native plants. Word of his skills as a plant collector spread to London and Peter Collinson, an English Quaker and London woolen merchant. In about 1733 Bartram and he began corresponding and exchanging seeds. Bartram's plant seeds went not only to English gardens, but to the reforestation of estates in England, Scotland, Ireland, Holland, France and Germany. It has been said that what Bartram, Collinson and other American gardeners did for both English and America gardens has no parallel elsewhere at any other time in garden history. You have such names as William Byrd, John Clayton, John Custis, John Fothergill, Carolus Linnaeus, Phillip Miller, Thomas Nuttall, Joseph Prentis, John Randolph, James Tradescant, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and George Washington. These men, and many others, had the vision, devotion, and scientific knowledge to bring together the best of the Old World and the New World to create the outstanding gardens we know and can still visit today. In 1783, John

See The Garden on page13.



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Center Stage

Goodbye Hollywood, Hello Buckeystown!

by Dominique Agnew

Who knew? You don't have to go to Hollywood to see movies being filmed, it's happening right in our backyards, on the extended banks of the marvelous Monocacy, no less (right in blissful, bucolic Buckeystown, baby!). The movie, "The Falsetoes aka the Falsettoes," was mostly shot in Buckeystown. Written and directed by actor John Calvin Doyle, it is a comedic spoof of "The Sopranos." In keeping with "The Sopranos," the story is still about a mob family, the Falsettoes. This time, the family is run by the women, and, unlike other mob stories, "the women are wearing the pants, but not giving up the curves."

So, do we have any big-name actors in this flick? Perhaps, but how tawdry it would be to drop names as if that's all that mattered.

All right, tawdry it is. The film stars Johnny Alonso (of "The

O.C." and "Dawson's Creek" fame, to name a few), Mickey Cucchiella and Jamie Cucchiella (of 98 Rock), and local actors, Maria Angelucci, Steven Michael Kovalic, Sandra Lynn O'Brien, Coy Lasone, Heidi Emmer, Michael Doyle, and John Calvin Doyle.

Our feature today, however, centers around young Michael Doyle of Adamstown, nephew of John Calvin Doyle. In the "Falsettoes" movie, although his character isn't one of the main ones, it is an important one, as it would be in real life—



Actor Michael Doyle—Paper Boy
with an Attitude

the newspaper boy, the tough, psychopathic newspaper boy (every good comedy has to have one of those). He's a paper boy with an attitude—and wheels. While he delivers the paper (which never ends up where it should), he rides a specially-made chopper, the sound of which can be heard whenever anything significant happens in the movie.

While this is Michael's first completed movie (no definite word yet on how it will be distributed for the public's viewing), he is involved in another movie written and directed by his uncle, and he hopes to start working on "The Sobbing Stone," directed by Robert G. Christie, starring Johnny Alonso and John Calvin Doyle.

Only eleven years old, Michael began showing his creativity at an early age. "He was always a very dramatic child...and he's always been a very animated child," says his mother, Dona Doyle. When his uncle mentioned that there was an opening for Michael in one of his movies, Michael jumped at the

chance. Michael also expresses his creativity and intelligence in other ways, as well. He enjoys creating his own card games with cards he designs himself—games that he then shares with his friends at school, last year at Carroll Manor Elementary and this year at Ballenger Creek Middle School. He has even taken the initiative in contacting Warner Brothers Studios and Disney Studios to begin talks about the marketing of his games.

As a younger child, Michael had health issues that affected his schooling. He has been able to overcome these in order to focus on the creative. "We're very proud of him and want to help in any way we can to achieve his goals," adds Mrs. Doyle.

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In the Garden

The Garden continued —

Bartram, Jr. issued the first plant catalogue in America. When you get swamped next month with garden catalogues, blame John.

The leading American pioneer gardener of the late 18th century and early 19th century was Philadelphia nurseryman Bernard McMahon (1775-1816). A transplanted Irishman, McMahon came to Philadelphia in 1796 and in only twenty years expanded the knowledge of gardening, horticulture and landscape design in the new United States. He is often described as Thomas Jefferson's gardening mentor. His classical work *The American Gardener's Calendar* (1806) became Jefferson's horticultural "Bible." McMahon sent Jefferson the newest varieties of vegetables and flowers. He served as the curator for the plants collected by the Lewis and Clark expedition, which opened up an enormous wealth of new plant specimens. McMahon made a unique and much needed contribution to American gardening. As I mentioned previously, most of the early garden-

ing guidelines and plant selections came from England and France. But many gardeners, especially George Washington at Mount Vernon, soon realized that the climate and growing conditions of the newly formed states differed from those of England and France. The summers were hot and humid; the soil was more acidic. McMahon addressed the unique problems of American gardening and made a concerted effort to break away from English traditions. He celebrated the use of native American ornamentals and its wonderful trees: the American Beech, Black Gum, Black Cherry, Eastern Cottonwood, the Dogwood, American Elm, the Magnolias, the Maples and of course the stately American Oaks. The list goes on. McMahon also admitted the harsh realities of the eastern North American continental climate. It was in the *Calendar* that American gardeners were encouraged to comb the local woodlands and fields for the various beautiful ornaments with which nature has so profusely decorated them. I think "the humble gardener" suggested that to you last month. (Cover drawing of John Bartram by 19th and 20th Century artist Howard Pyle.)

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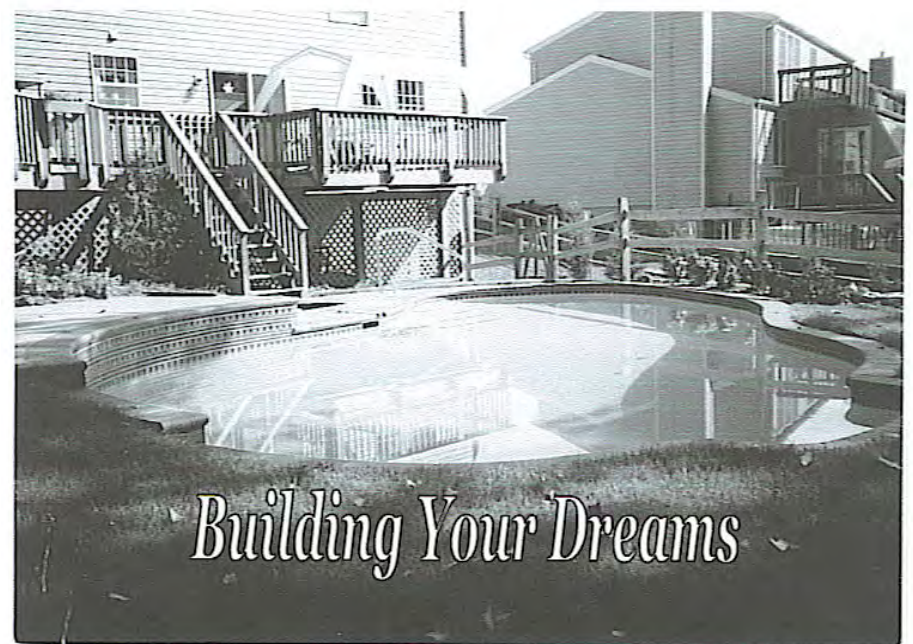


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Mystery History

Virginia Hersperger was well known throughout our region for the better part of the last century. This grand lady was a beloved teacher for many decades and was the first female principal in Montgomery County. She played an important role in the education of hundreds of persons from Poolesville and the surrounding area. Virginia was renowned for her zest for life, positive attitude, and even in her late nineties, as a loyal and dedicated Redskins fan.

She was also a devoted mother who became a widow from a tragic incident early in her marriage. While most who knew her were well aware of the tragedy, few ever learned much about her husband or the way he died. We clarify that mystery in this issue with a brief story about the man and the accident that took his life.

The Life and Death of a Young Police Officer

By Jack Toomey

Montgomery County Police Officer Webb Hersperger left his home on the Dr. Elijah White farm at about 7a.m. on the morning of June 18, 1933. As he drove his police motorcycle down the Rockville – Darnestown Road he looked forward to a day of policing the still rural area from Bethesda to Rockville. He might investigate a chicken theft or two or keep a lookout for drivers from Washington exceeding the speed limit, but the day promised to be a slow one since it was Sunday. As was his habit, he planned to stop at the courthouse at Rockville and see the magistrate to pick up any subpoenas or warrants that might have been issued overnight before heading down the Rockville Pike to the Bethesda station. His only means of communication with headquarters was a system of blue lights mounted on telephone poles placed around the county. Whenever an officer was needed a blue light was lit on one of the poles and the officer would then find a

telephone and call headquarters to see where he was needed.

Hersperger had been born in 1902 on the family farm on River Road. He was the son of Elmer and Anna Poole Sellman Hersperger. He



Officer Webb Hersperger

attended the Poolesville schools and graduated from Poolesville High School about 1920. He was an accomplished baseball player and may have played for the Poolesville town team. After high school he worked at a variety of jobs before taking a job with the Peoples Life Insurance Company. Webb developed a knack for talking to people and putting them at ease. His travels around the county put him in touch with his clients and someone suggested that his easygoing demeanor and intelligence might make him a good candidate for the new Montgomery County Police Department, which had been formed in 1922. He also had designs on politics and thought that by becoming a police officer that he would meet many people who would later support his candidacy for county commissioner. Webb married Virginia Gartrell in 1925 and they moved into a house on the Dr. White property.

Webb joined the police department about 1930. He immediately became a respected and aggressive police officer. Some of his exploits included investigating a large illegal liquor still in a wooded area near

Rockville in 1932 and arresting five people. In January of 1933 Webb was on patrol when he noticed a forest fire burning on Grosvenor Lane. He called the fire department from a neighbor's phone, alerted the occupants of three rural homes, and then assisted the fire department in putting out the fire. In April 1933 he spotted a car in Bethesda that had been used by robbers from Washington, DC. He gave chase and the car sped towards the District. After a spectacular chase and crash he captured the robbers and they were later convicted of several robberies both in Montgomery County and Washington. Perhaps his most memorable case involved the capture of bandits who had been preying on motorists in Rock Creek Park. On July 23, 1932 Webb and his partner had been patrolling on Beach Drive when they came upon the suspects who were in the act of robbing a couple. While his partner drove at high speed in pursuit of the suspect's auto, Webb leaped from the police car onto the running board of the "bandit machine" and forced them to stop at gunpoint. He received a commendation from the county commissioners

and police chief for his actions in this case.

On that fateful morning in June, as he passed Quince Orchard Officer Hersperger came upon a small hill. At the same time a motorist, going in the opposite direction, passed another slow moving motorcycle. Officer Hersperger, unaware that the car was in the wrong lane, collided with the automobile at the crest of the hill and died instantly. Ironically the operator of the car that killed him was a life long friend who was traveling the same road. Dr. White was informed of the tragic accident from an unidentified caller. It was Dr. White who had to go to Webb's house and inform his wife Virginia of the event. In addition to his wife Virginia he was survived by his two-year-old son Webb Hersperger Jr. now a physician practicing in Pennsylvania.

Officer Hersperger was buried at Monocacy Cemetery and his impressive funeral was attended by dignitaries including the Judges of the Circuit Court, the County Commissioners, and the entire Montgomery County police force. He was the second Montgomery County Police officer to die in the line of duty.



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Arena

We will periodically present statements from local public officials. In this issue, we present the condensed statements of Commissioner Link Hoewing upon his installation as a new member of the Poolesville Town Commission. Those wishing to respond are encouraged to contact us.

My Thoughts on the Role of Commissioners, Meeting Procedures and Agendas

By Link Hoewing

Overview

Poolesville's Town Commission is not the typical form of split government with a legislative and executive branch which acts as a "check and balance" on each other. In effect, we combine several roles as a board of directors, as legislators, and as high-level administrators. Because of the lack of a "check and balance" system, the roles of other town bodies – particularly the Planning Commission – are very important. These bodies and citizen committees created by the Town commissioners act as "independent voices" and in effect check on the actions of the commissioners.

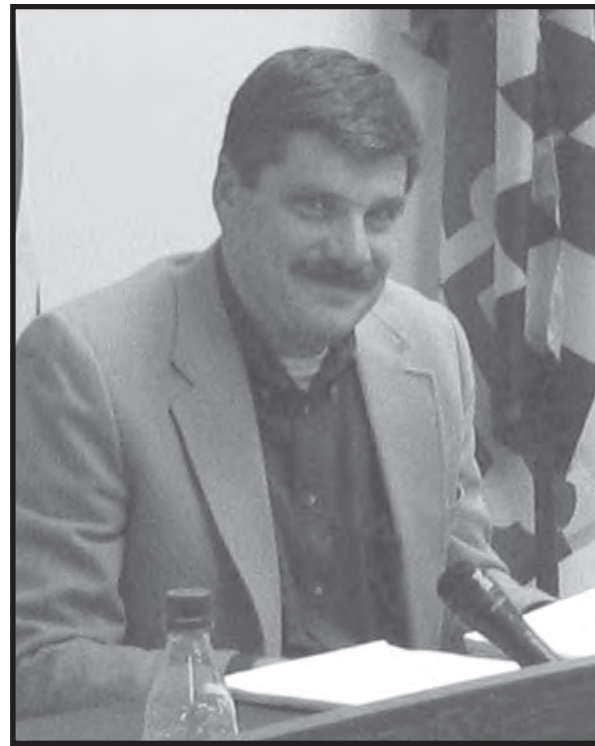
Role of Commissioners

In our legislative role, we represent the people of Poolesville. Each commissioner is free to speak his mind and tell others, including citizens, what he or she thinks. This means a policy letter – where a commissioner is telling a citizen, reporter or other government official his/her opinion on a given issue – does not require sign off from anyone else.

We have a Town Commissioner/Town Manager form of government. The purpose of the Town Manager is to run the day-to-day operations of the town, assist commissioners in getting information they need to set policy, and manage the fiscal and operational aspects of the Town. I believe the commissioners proper role is in delegation with oversight. This means we should refrain as far as possible in intervening in the minutiae of day-to-day town operations but we should be kept fully informed of major developments, fiscally as well as operationally. I have three requests of the Town Manager and the Town staff. First, no surprises. Second, be honest and up front. Third, always give us your best

effort and your best ideas. If the staff meets these requirements we will find things will run, generally, very smoothly.

The commissioners' role is primarily one of oversight and policy setting. We should operate like a board of directors, establishing budgets, setting parameters, goals and objectives, and directing staff to carry out specific policies. If one commissioner tells staff to do one thing and another says to do something else, whose "order" should staff follow?



Town Commissioner Link Hoewing

None of this means that commissioners can't and shouldn't have opinions about the way the Town is being run. However, in general, if we want staff to undertake specific tasks, we, as a group, should strive to reach agreement or consensus in telling staff what to do. We should, as individual commissioners, refrain from trying to "order" staff to do something, especially if there clearly is no consensus. This also does not mean we shouldn't be able to ask staff for information, request that they get back to us with the status of some project, inquire as to how a project is working and so on. Those are all legitimate functions of commissioners and staff must be responsive in such situations. If we are acting pursuant to a citizen inquiry, this too should be a legitimate function. If a citizen comes to us with a specific real time problem the Town should fix – such as a backed up sewer

– that is the type of situation where a commissioner is likely to be much more involved, understandably so.

Finally, we can and should let staff know if we see something that is not up to snuff and suggest to them that they should see about fixing it. In such situations, it would make sense to consult with other commissioners and the President to get their views on the situation. It may lead to a resolution. And if there are emergency situations, clearly commissioners are much more likely, for legitimate reasons, to want to be more deeply

involved in such situations. Primarily, we should not micromanage but in such cases, staff should work closely with commissioners and keep them informed.

Meeting Agendas and Procedures

We should avoid "springing" new agenda items with out advanced announcement to the other commissioners. This is not only a courtesy to other commissioners but to the public as well. After all, imagine that a citizen has an interest in an issue and is following the commissioners' meetings by watching upcoming agendas. Public request for agenda items should be presented no

later than the Friday before the Monday meeting.

Generally, we should follow Robert's Rules of Order. It is the "gold standard" as to how democratic and parliamentary meetings are supposed to operate. Further, it was designed originally to ensure that the rights of the majority, of the minority (especially a large minority greater than one-third), of individual members, of absentee members, and of all of these groups taken together are protected as far as possible. It helps prevent delays and unproductive meetings and it ensures that decision making is fair, reasoned and fully takes into account as far as possible the rights of all parties.

Keeping other Commissioners Informed

It is not necessary, in my view for commissioners to have to tell all of the members about every meeting or contact they have. However, it would be helpful and a courtesy to inform other commissioners about the substance of major contacts made with other government officials.

Generally, letters expressing Town positions on legal or policy matters – explaining where we stand as a Commission, answering official inquiries, outlining why we will or will not take certain actions requested by another governmental body, responding to legal matters – should not be sent out by individual commissioners. Generally, such letters should be sent by the President of the Commission. If any commissioner wishes to send letters that have any of these purposes, they should be vetted and approved by the Commission as a body.

While commissioners are always free to make comments about policy matters and express their views to others in speeches, letters and submissions, they must make it clear they are speaking for themselves and not for the rest of the Commission in doing so. This is a normal function of a legislator and is the responsibility and right of every commissioner.

Commissioners are also always free to explain Commission policy decisions but in so doing, they should ensure that they are as accurate as possible.

Dealings with Other Commissioners

We should be fair, honest and respectful in dealing with other commissioners. This does not mean we can't hold firm views and express strong opinions. That is a normal part of the process of democratic decision-making. But all views should be expressed respectfully even if they are also expressed forcefully.

Listening to what others are saying is key. No one is forced to agree with another commissioner's views but those views should get a fair hearing.

Respect also means staying with the agenda, and trying to avoid extended debates that are clearly not productive in moving the ball forward. If we seem to be moving off course or spending too much time on tangential points, members should not be reluctant in trying to get everyone back on the proper track.

Youth Sports

Girls' Basketball

By Rande Davis

How any basketball coach can last beyond a few seasons is beyond me. The pressure is probably more intense in this sport than almost any other. Just imagine last year's heart-breaker for the Lady Falcons in the regional finals. The girls are up by one with five seconds to go. Their defensive strategy works and the practiced discipline succeeds and they keep their opponent from crossing half court. Then out of nowhere the opponents launch a miracle shot and the three-pointer goes in, robbing the valiant Falcons of their regional championship! You thought being a high school coach was just fun and games?

After coaching for thirty-one years it is nearly impossible to figure out just how many student-athletes

more than strong skills to the game. She helps energize and lead the team through her determined and consistent attitude and play. "Jamie is one of those players who is always ready to play," says Coach Swick in emphasizing her important role as a player who leads by example. Morningstar, now in her fourth year of varsity play, has played every position on the team at one time or another.

The Falcon ladies are off to a strong start even though they were a bit set back by three key injuries going into this year's First Annual Charles Jamison tournament. Finishing that competitive tournament with a 4-3 record, the Falcons now begin the heavy part of their regular league schedule with a very impressive 4-1 record in league play.

in college, but this Rockville native gets a special kick out of reaching his second generation of players. "Current varsity player, junior Kristin Fink's dad played junior varsity basketball for me so having his daughter on the team is very special," says Coach Swick. "There is nothing like watching these young people move on to adulthood. It's very gratifying to watch them become adults and to see the kind of adults they become," says Swick.

Mr. Swick states that the team success comes from the effort given by the girls, and it includes support from people like Jake Perkins, who plays an important behind-the-scenes role as a director of the basketball team.

Success starts early for our girls in the area. The fourth grade Mini-

Falcon team just completed two holiday tournaments capping their season by winning the Holiday tournament in Silver Spring. As these young girls advance through the years, Coach Swick looks forward to guiding them to their ultimate goals with the varsity team of the future. Since the season is still so young, *Monocle* readers should plan to attend a game at the high school and experience the excitement for themselves.

Girls' Soccer Champs

The E-Lemon-Ators, a U16 girls Classic MSI soccer team, took first place in Division I and ended their season with a 8-0-1 record. The team has a most unusual coaching staff—it is player-coached and led by captains Sarah Bell and Natalie Miller. "A player-coached team is something the girls have wanted to try," says Kathy Bell, the team's manager. "Most of the girls have played the sport for about twenty seasons now, they know the game, they know each others' strengths, and they know what it takes to win—but more importantly, the team had fun!"

Jerry Miller, who has coached girls' soccer at John Poole Middle School and is the former coach of the Poolesville High School JV boys' soccer team, served as the team's professional point of contact. Miller was always seen on the bench during games to offer the team advice and suggestions if, and only if, they wanted it. "The girls really impressed me," says Miller, "the choices they made, the strategies and decisions they chose were all, for the most part, what I would have suggested to them as a team."



The Poolesville (Mini-) Falcons. Left to right: Allie Green, Julie Boyland, Kelly Hughes, Jaime Baker, Jocelyn Bodmer, Shannon Hemp, Haley Davison, Reagan Holston, Kelsey Carnahan, Shannon Green, Kassidy Florczyk. Center: Coach Cathy Carnahan.

fondly know Fred Swick as "Coach." His dedication is as deep as it is long. His passion for coaching has not diminished and especially not for basketball, it continues to grow. In our discussion, he emphasizes that there is simply nothing like helping young people hone their skills and develop their talents. He thinks success comes from developing consistency in play and maximizing effort. Coming off that very successful year (they ended up 20-5), the Lady Falcons faced the challenge of losing eight of twelve players. Then, again, last year's JV went undefeated!

Senior Jamie Morningstar, who at 5' 7" and a talented guard, brings

Key to their success is Laurel Caywood, Nicole Onley, and Katelyn Poss. Although not starters last year, they bring to the team experience from being part of last year's varsity team. Adding to this group are Kristin Fink, Brittany Hilton, Michelle Hecker, and Jacqueline Orona. Alice Hardwick has come on strong and has become an unexpected bonus even though she did not play varsity last year. New to the team this year is Jesse Brown, Rachel Stream, and Emily Stovicek.

Coach Swick's passion for basketball goes all the way back to when he was just three years old. Most high school players do not play



The E-Lemon-Ators. Back: Jerry Miller, Stephanie Hilton, Jill Caw, Jacqueline Orona, Erica Neville, Kaitlyn Rackens, Laura Wolford, and Louise Walker. Front: Gisèle Agnew, Maddy Keese, Jessica Rolle, Natalie Miller, Sarah Bell, and Marisa Shapiro.

—Big Board Continued.

**Another Important Way to Help
Tsunami Victims**

The Monocacy Lions Club's blood drive has special importance considering the increased worldwide need for blood. There is a great shortage of Rh negative blood in so if your blood type is negative you should consider coming forward to help out. Lion Peter Gallo can be reached at 301-972-4317 to sign up for January 18, 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Charity Still Begins At Home

UMCVFD will be conducting their annual door-to-door fundraising

campaign. All representatives will wear identification badges. These funds will go towards updating equipment and for training the volunteers. For each family who participates, a complimentary family picture portrait will be offered at the station. For more information or questions call 301-972-8888.

Black Rock Center for the Arts

Black Rock Center for the Arts will hold an information and orientation meeting for all prospective volunteers on Wednesday, January 19

at 7:30 p.m. at the center. For those who love the arts and want to pitch in, this is a great opportunity to help out in areas of concessionaires, ushers, technical, etc. Volunteers must be fourteen years old and above.

Contact Christine Carlin at 301-528-2260, ext. 1050.

**36th Annual Barnesville
Inaugural Ball**


The Upper Montgomery County Bipartisan Committee is planning their 36th annual Inaugural Ball for January 20. Founded by

Father Reid of St. Mary's and Lib Tolbert, former mayor of Barnesville, this gala event helps bring the community together in celebration of our unity. The formal event (black tie optional) will start at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Pavilion in Barnesville. Entertainment includes a band, hors d'oeuvres, and an open bar. The cost is \$25.00 per person. Persons wishing to join in the festivities may call Pat Sutherland at 301-972-7794.

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Call Rande Davis at 301-349-0070 to
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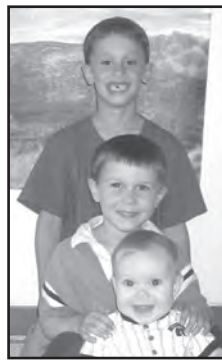
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Equestrian

George Washington Hunted Here

By Debby Lynn
Special to the Monocacy Monocle

"Here" being our very own Woodstock Equestrian Park. The land now belonging to the Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission was previously owned by our first president. President Washington used the land to raise crops and hunt fox.

Due to an extraordinary cooperative effort between generous local citizens and the Park and Planning Commission, this large and beautiful tract of land will remain much as it was centuries ago.

It began with two significant tracts of land being donated specifically for an equestrian park. Mr. Hermen Greenberg donated 418 acres on the west side of Maryland Route

28, and Mr. William Rickman donated 118 acres on the East side of the road. Mr. Rickman made available an additional 236 acres, which MNCPPC purchased.

MNCPPC began soliciting input from local horse people through a series of public meetings. These meetings were well attended, and input was enthusiastic on the part of local horse people. Our cooperative dream began to take shape.

A planning committee was formed to draw up a master plan. In addition to park personnel, Mr. Greenberg, Mr. Rickman, and several prominent local horsemen donated their expertise to help make the master plan a qualified and viable horseman's dream. The committee included trail riders, endurance riders, three-day event riders, the Masters of Potomac Hunt, polo players, and combined driving people. All the different equestrian sports were represented by people at the top of their game—people that had represented our country in

various international competitions.

The fruit of their labor—the master plan—was published in 2002. That plan is now in the process of being implemented. Another volunteer organization, the Friends of Woodstock Park, has undertaken the task of organizing people to help. Several work parties have taken place, attended by representatives of local organizations such as the Potomac Hunt, Seneca Valley Pony club, and Trail Riders of Today (TROT). The bridge in the accompanying photo was completed by volunteers.

Hermen Greenberg's vision of an Olympic class equestrian center is under way, a testament to the dedication of local landowners, horse people, and an innovative, forward thinking park commission. President Washington would be thrilled to see his old land still in crops, with Potomac's award winning pack of foxhounds coursing over the fallow fields.

If you would like to help, call The Montgomery Parks Foundation, parent organization of the Friends of Woodstock Park. They can be reached at 301-767-0002. You can find out more about them at www.montgomeryparksfnd.org.



Equestrian Park bridge.

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Things To Do

January 16

Martin Luther King Day
Public Schools closed

January 23

Half Day of School
Teachers Work Day
Schools open only half day

January 18

Poolesville Public Meeting
Open discussion on Master Plan
7:30 p.m. – Town Hall

January 25

Poolesville Public Library
Family Story Time Stories,
fingerplay and music
7:30 p.m.

Monocacy Lions Club
Winter Blood Drive
St. Peter's Church
3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Call Mr. Gallo 301-972-4317

January 26

St. Peter's Parish
Preschool Time
Infants through Pre-schoolers
Singing, Bible Stories, crafts,
snack
10:00 a.m.

January 20

Poolesville Public Library
Storytime/Twosomes
"When Winter Comes"
10:30 a.m. Stories and music
1:30 p.m. program repeated

January 25

Poolesville Public Library
Storytime
Stories, fingerplay, music
10:30 a.m.

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