

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

February 25, 2005

Volume 1, Number 21



February's not a baad time for a little yarn. Read about Dancing Leaf Farm on Page 12.



Poolesville High School's Chris Kramek knows the action is on Page 19.



The Daytripper goes to Rome for the cherry blossoms? Page 12.



Sandra Meei-Wolf is excited about her March 4 concert. You should be, too. Details on Page 16.

New Study Sought to Expand School Boundaries

By Rande Davis

Poolesville area school officials and parents are concerned that a recent County study of school boundaries does not address the problem of declining enrollments within the Poolesville cluster. They are calling for a new boundary study to specifically address remedies for the reduced student population.

The Montgomery County Public Schools, under the direction of School Superintendent Jerry Weast, recently reviewed the issue of school boundaries as it prepared a study entitled "Clarksburg Boundary Change of 2006." With the expansion of population and housing in the Clarksburg area, the budgetary considerations concerned the pending new growth and new construction. This study

of the boundaries that separate area school clusters was completed without any impact or change on the Poolesville Cluster.

School administrators, PTA leadership, and many area residents are concerned that declining student population in the Poolesville Cluster, particularly for Monocacy Elemen-

tary School and John Poole Middle School, will have a negative impact on the quality of education offered in the schools. A broadening of the boundaries could have resulted in increased student population to the Poolesville Cluster. This formulation for growth had been sought as one solution to the concerns regarding the impact of the decrease in enrollment.

This issue took on urgency at the February 15 Parent Teacher and Student Association meeting when Poolesville School Cluster Coordinator, Liz Smith, presented the possible impact on low enrollment in schools within the Poolesville Cluster. Ms. Smith's presentation outlined the impact of declining student enrollment on area schools by highlighting key concerns within each school.

According to Ms. Smith, at Monocacy Elementary,

—See Study on Page 13.



Poolesville Cluster Coordinator Liz Smith, PTSA President Ron Hayden (left) and John Leach.

The Kitchen Garden

By Maureen O'Connell

It has been said that Adam toiled for a living on departing Eden, and the spade became the symbol of the archetypal gardener. By the seventh century Adam's curse had become a virtue in the eyes of the Church in the beatification of Saint Fiacre, one of the patron saints of gardeners. There is a bit of a gap in information about the history of gardening until we arrive at the Middle Ages. Even then there was little written works that would describe an actual medieval garden. For visual evidence we have to look to works of art and illustrated manuscripts. They provided vivid documentary evidence of the daily life of those living on manorial estates as well as the peasants in their abodes. Pieter Brueghel the Younger was one

of the leading Flemish painters of the 1600s. He painted religious subjects and scenes of everyday life. Most of his paintings were realistic, colorful and filled with precise details. His best know works are panoramic landscapes in which groups of figures perform everyday tasks. A detail from his "The Numbering at Bethlehem" shows an elderly couple's garden in which a woman is picking winter kale and cabbage.

One of the primary characteristics of the medieval garden was that, large or small, it was always enclosed. The gardens were of three types and were related to different social levels. There was the Herber, an herb garden and/or pleasure garden to delight the senses; an Orchard of fruit trees; and a Kitchen garden to supply food and medicinal products.

Royalty and nobility would have had all three types, while the humbler folk would have a small plot to supply their daily food needs. Vineyards were less successful in northern Europe than southern Europe, but grape plantings were useful for juice and the eating of the grapes even when wine quality was not achieved.

The contribution of medieval European monasteries to horticulture was enormous in developing an understanding of techniques such as soil enrichment, land reclamation and drainage. They were in the forefront of cultivation of vineyards, orchards, pleasure gardens and the kitchen garden. They had to grow enough food to feed not only the monks, but

—See In the Garden on Page 17.

Family Album

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Cub Scout Pack 694 at their February 5th Pancake Breakfast for the St. Peters Building Fund (in memory of Nancy Oyer) and Red Cross Tsunami Disaster Relief.



Poolesville boys supervise town workers repairing a water main break.



Warrant Officer Patrick Stevens (Army Helicopter Pilot), Ron Nubgaard (U.S. Coast Guard) and Lt. Col. Steve Silvey (Army Physician) at the JPMS Annual Career Day.

A few pictures from last month's CETA Science Fair at JPMS



First place in Organic Chemistry, and Best in Show to Jeffrey Carpenter.



Nicole Dahlen won second place in Organic Chemistry.



April Guise won an honorable mention in Botany and Zoology.



Amber Nubgaard won second place in Atmosphere and Geology.

Local History

The Poolesville Methodist Church Cemetery.

Who is Buried There?

By Jack Toomey

Many of us pass the small white building on the left side of West Willard Road just before Poolesville High School without a thought. Some of us know it as the Thrift Shop and occasionally drop in to see what is for sale—but this building has a long history that is integral to the history of Poolesville.

In the early 1800s, the citizens of Poolesville founded the Methodist Episcopal Church which would be the pioneer church for these denominations in the Poolesville area. The original church building was erected in 1826, and it was sufficiently large for worship until 1868 when the current brick building was built. Later, there was a division in the congregation and a new Methodist church was built on Elgin Road. The old church was painted white, the large windows were bricked in, and

the building was sold. Since then, the building has been used for a multitude of purposes. It has been used as a voting place, a dance hall, a school building, a place for band rehearsal, a drug store, a veterinarian's office, the town hall, and now we know it as the Thrift Shop. The Town of Poolesville purchased the building in 1954.

What many might not realize is that the grounds surrounding the old



The old Methodist Episcopal Church

church building encompass a cemetery and include the remains of some of Poolesville's oldest citizens and Civil War soldiers, some of whom were killed in battle. We thought our readers might be intrigued to learn a

little bit about the soldiers who fought and died nearby and ended up buried in the town.

In 1839, the congregants of the Methodist Episcopal Church saw the need for a burying ground for their members and a cemetery was established. Ruth Eagle, a twenty-two year old woman, was the first person to be buried there in 1839. Some of the other early burials at this site were Richard P. Spates, who was born in 1792, and his wife Amelia. Ellen Hiser, born in Sheperdstown, West Virginia in 1808 and died in 1850, was buried there. Others buried on the site are A. P. Eversole who operated a wagon wheel repair shop in town, Mary Hyatt, George F. Hughes, Daniel Heffner, who was born in 1782, Elizabeth and Margaret Leapley, Mary Freechtigg, Nancy Shanks, Benjamin Wood, Elton Moulden, and Anne Reed.

In 1861, war came to Poolesville. By October of 1861, there were about fifteen thousand soldiers stationed here because of the strategic location between the nation's capital and the shallow fords that crossed the Potomac River. Camp life was pleasant for some, and one youngster,

enlisted as messenger boy, remembered years later that he had become skilled at capturing wild turkeys with his bare hands. He wrote, "We were on our way to camp when I saw a flock of turkeys...I jumped off the wagon like a shot and caught it in a cloud of feathers...but since General Stone had forbidden foraging, I let it go....but when the officers approached [and asked why he hadn't held on to the turkeys] I jumped that fence...and ran into that meadow and returned in two minutes flat with the turkeys in hand." It appears that this young boy was happy to leave Poolesville. He mentioned that "Sgt. — was ordered back to (Massachusetts) to enlist recruits and I asked permission to accompany him...and I took two nice fat Maryland opossums north with me."

Another soldier wrote to his family in November of 1861 that "we are encamped on a slave holder's plantation here [Poolesville] and we find that his rail fence makes first rate camp fires...but the cold came last Sunday and there was nearly four inches of snow on the ground." Since

—Cemetery continued on Page 20.

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The staff is friendly, a must when you're getting there early in the morning and you haven't had your coffee yet. They are also really knowledgeable and ever helpful. It is like you're part of a great family which has really kept me coming back year after year. I can't tell you how many gym memberships I've had in my 50+ years and have had the whole second half of a year's membership totally wasted because I just wasn't motivated to go. All of the above and MORE!! I started doing the work outs to get more tone and to lose weight and I had no idea that I would ride my horses better! That is after all what I really want to do, I want to ride really really well and I spend hours working on my riding. I never expected that the personal training that my trainer does could make such a difference to the way I am when I am on horseback. My personal trainer is very precise with the correct angle, the correct alignment the appropriate weight, the balance of the exercises so that I am becoming more of an athlete than I ever dreamed possible.



Francie Dougherty

Francie Dougherty, DVM, Poolesville

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Editorial

Flu Season

By John Clayton

We hope you enjoy reading this issue of *The Monocle*, and I thought it was important for you to know that we are all lucky there is an issue here to read at all. This is because most if not all of us have worked through the flu or a cold over the past couple of weeks. As I write this at least one of our star reporters is struggling to produce the quality prose our readers have come to expect. I don't know about you, but when I'm sick, work of any kind is the last thing I can motivate myself to do, even more so than usual. The common cold causes millions of dollars of lost productivity each year, and if you don't believe me, then you can probably look it up somewhere. (Google means never having to say you're uninformed.)

Being under the weather for a period of time made we wonder about the flu season, and feeling poorly I really wanted someone to blame. I decided to blame the Republican Party. As we all know, a systemic vulnerability in the vaccination

supply chain, which lay dormant for at least eight years through a Democratic administration (and perhaps a Bush administration before that), asserted itself (the vulnerability, that is) during a Republican administration. As you may remember from the recent Presidential debates, that made it the Republican's fault. It's a cold world.

Now, here in February, there are apparently enough vaccines to go around, and in an amazing twist of fate, the flu season arrived late this year. Think about it—the opposite eventuality—an early flu season—could have been a public health disaster, but the flu actually waited until we could all run out and get our shots. (Of course a REALLY early flu season, like October, in Ohio, could have turned the election, but that's another matter entirely.) I'm no fan of the current administration, but since they got the blame for the vaccination shortfall then I think they should get credit for the late flu season. We're fair here at *The Monocle*. Plus, I'm feeling a lot better.

—Continued on Page 7.

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The Holy Name of St. Mary's will hold its annual basket bingo fundraiser at St. Mary's Pavilion on February 25 to benefit Tsunami victims. The doors open at 5:00 p.m. and the games begin at 7:00 p.m., featuring Longaberger Baskets, door prizes and raffles. Tickets are \$20.00. Call 301-349-5092 for information.

Once in a Decade Tournament Comes to Poolesville

The Poolesville Basketball Association (PBA) is hosting the Mid-Maryland Basketball League's Annual tournament beginning on March 3. The Poolesville boy's team of seventh and eighth graders will compete against nine teams from Frederick and Washington Counties. The tournament is held in rotation, and Poolesville only hosts the event every ten years. Games start Thursday evening (7:45 p.m.) at PHS with all day tournament games running from 9:00 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, March 5 and 6, with tournament championships on March 8. A donation of \$2.00 defrays costs to the

league. The event is tentatively scheduled for the PHS but could shift to JPMS. The girls' tournament is in Middletown on February 26 and 27.

Monocacy Lions Open House Friendship Night

Now in its sixty-third year, the Monocacy Lions Club will host a Friendship Night on February 28 at 7:30 p.m. for area residents who would like to consider becoming a Lion. The evening dinner meeting will feature presentations on Club services and events, overviews of Lion activity at the district and national level, and installation of a new member. This will be a great opportunity to learn about this club that has attracted nearly eighty area residents to join its ranks. Those interested in service to the community are welcome and should contact King Lion Rande Davis at 301-349-0070

Girl Scout Cookie Sales Ongoing

The traditional cookie sale is now in progress. The girls are also looking for people to sponsor some boxes for our guys and girls in the military. Call troop leader Pat Ferris at 301-972-7205. Leave your name and number if you get the message machine.

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Flu Season continued from Page 7—

So I wonder, if this country can spend billions of dollars on a missile defense system that doesn't work (thank you Allen Ahearn of Quill & Brush Booksellers for your thoughts on this very issue), why can't we develop a vaccine for the common cold? I would think a few billion would do it, and since the missile defense system doesn't work anyway, no one would miss the money.

On a more local note, I would like to direct your attention to Maureen O'Connell's gardening article. Last issue she got us ready for spring with her overview of gardening catalogues. This issue's article is full of fascinating information, but the three guidelines for a vegetable garden hit me right between the eyes. I truly wish I had a picture of my last over-planted, oversized, under-planned and overrun-with-weeds plot of ground that was intended to be a vegetable garden. I swore a mighty oath and said never again. But now I've got the fever. I know how to proceed. Come on spring.

If that is too herbaceous for your sensibilities, we have fauna covered as well in Dominique Agnew's report from Dancing Leaf Farm.

On a more serious note, Rande Davis's lead story touches on the very real problem of the population of Poolesville's schools. Smaller schools are a plus for many reasons, and a surprising number of parents send their kids out here for school, but they're crunching the numbers down in Rockville and too-small creates serious problems. From the Cluster Coordinator down through local school administration to concerned and active parents, this fight will continue.

You may be surprised to learn that our next issue will be the beginning of our second year. We may do something momentous like advance from Volume 1 to Volume 2, but beyond that, we're just glad to be here. Thanks for your support.

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Gaithersburg: Located in the Flower Hill subdivision, this charming home has been freshly painted w/ numerous upgrades & amenities. Main lvl LR, DR, table space kitchen, deck, MBR & MBA, 2 more BRs, full hallway BA. Lower lvl fam. rm w/ FP, laundry rm, powder rm, 1-car attached garage. Amenities include: new roof, new heating & a/c systems, new carpet, kitchen w/ new cabinets, Corian countertops, new appliances. MLS#MC5154404. Offered at \$415,000.00.

"Orchid Haven"

Barnesville: Nestled on 2.73 wooded acres, this rustic log cabin is updated with modern amenities. Enter through the front porch into the main lvl which consists of a living rm, dining rm, kitchen, California rm w/ woodstove, 2 BRs & full BA. Master BR and Master BA. The basement lvl houses a storage & utility area & an exit door to the outside. Amenities include: hardwood floors, exposed log walls, recessed lighting, professional quality greenhouse, attached garage. Conveniently located just one block from the Barnesville train station. MLS#MC5124946. Offered at \$449,000.00

Poolesville – The Hoskinson House – This commercially-zoned property, located in the heart of the Town of Poolesville, is improved with a 2-story colonial w/Federal detail. The original section of the home was constructed circa 1826, making it one of oldest properties in Montgomery Co. Originally a primary residence, the property has in recent years housed a dental office on the main lvl & an apt. on the upper lvl. Most recently, it has been modified to house 2 separate apts, one on each lvl. The upper lvl can be accessed from the main lvl or through a separate exterior stairway. Each lvl contains a table space kitchen & full bath in addition to 3 large rms on each lvl. Amenities include: replacement windows throughout, new vinyl siding, 2-year old gas furnace. MLS # MC 4881960. Offered at \$550,000.00

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The Scoop on Slots

By Debby Lynn

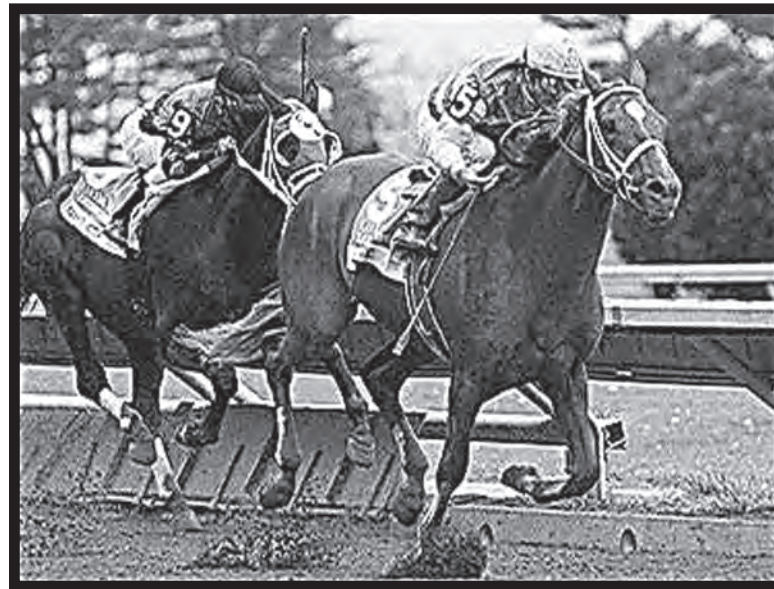
If you've been keeping up with current events in Maryland, you know there is an effort afoot to legalize slot machines in Maryland.

Whether or not Maryland legalizes slot machines and how they are implemented will undoubtedly impact horse people in our state. Collectively, Maryland horse-related enterprise comprises the third largest industry in our state. The economic support base for this industry is horse racing. The sport of kings has deep roots in Maryland. Prior to the Civil War, Maryland and Virginia were the primary thoroughbred breeding states. (During the war, many breeding operations were relocated to Kentucky for safety.) We are home to the Preakness, the second leg of the Triple Crown, which is run each year at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore.

Wagering on horse races in Maryland generates an astonishing five hundred million dollars annually. Maryland has a pari-mutuel gambling system. This means you are not betting against the house, as you would be in a Vegas casino. When you bet against the house, if you lose, the house keeps the proceeds. In a pari-mutuel system, bets go into a pool. The total amount in the pool is divided amongst all the winners, after deducting expenses. The biggest "expense" is the state's portion. The public gets these wagered dollars returned to them in the form of whatever public services are currently mandated.

Governor Ehrlich has been trying to get a slots bill passed for three years. Why? The 15,500 slot machines he would like to see installed at

various Maryland race tracks would produce an estimated eight hundred million in revenues to the state. Ehrlich wants to use 150 million of this money to meet "mandated increases in education spending." When our third largest industry benefits mostly the state, we begin to see why public services in Maryland are, in general, pretty good.



The future of the Sport of Kings in Maryland may depend on slot machines.

What happens without slots? Most folks inside the racing industry believe the addition of slot machines at West Virginia's Charlestown race track is accountable for the resurgence of their racing industry. Track attendance is up, and purse sizes are attractively increased. In short, racing is happening in West Virginia. Maryland thoroughbred owners are encouraged to race out of state. Maryland bettors are encouraged to bet out of state, increasing the coffers of other states. Without

slots, Maryland's racing industry has a less preferable product to offer the public, and will undoubtedly lose market share.

There are several editions of the slots bill circulating. Which one is passed will have a direct affect on the horse industry. The horseperson's point man in Annapolis could be considered to be J.B. Jennings.

Delegate Jennings is a professional horseman himself. He has sponsored a slots bill that allows for breeders' incentives and

increased purse sizes designed to encourage breeders to stay and race in Maryland.

It is our state delegates who will determine whether or not slot machines come to Maryland, and just how that pari-

mutuel pot is divided. If you want to communicate your questions or opinions to the delegates in Legislative District 15 (that's us), they are: Jean B. Cryor (Republican), jean_cryor@house.state.md.us; Kathleen Dumais (Democrat), Kathleen_dumais@house.state.md.us; and Brian Feldman (Democrat), brian_feldman@house.state.md.us. Delegates interviewed for this article were helpful, kind, didn't mind "dumb" questions, and in general were very responsive and informative. If you care about slots—one way or the other—be politically active enough to let your delegate know how you want them to vote. It can't hurt!

Tributes

Pooles Celebrate their 50th Anniversary

By Rande Davis

Family and friends surprised Bill and Jane Poole with a surprise party to celebrate the couple's fiftieth wedding anniversary, which was officially on February 5, 2005. The exciting event was held at Dutch's Daughter Restaurant in Frederick.



Bill and Jane Poole

The couple can thank Santa Claus for their chance meeting in 1953. It was the holiday season and Bill had completed his military duty and had been discharged from the army when he found himself back in Dickerson. In those days, a store in Dickerson named the Major Barton Store had a wonderful tradition of giving a bag of apples and oranges to area residents for Christmas. With a need for someone to play Santa Claus Bill was "called to duty" once more to play the part of St. Nick at this annual event. At some point during the festivities, Bill spotted Jane from behind his white beard. From that point on one thing lead to another, and just a little more than two years later they married.

—Continued on Page 12.

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The Monocacy
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That Was Then...



Poolesville Town Band
Late 1930s -This troop could have easily been called The Mathews Band since each member is from the Mathews family. That's Doris Lewis on the left. Do you know the others?

This is Now...



This is part of today's PHS band performing in Selby's this past holiday. Residents going to the March 4 fundraiser at PHS - *An Enchanted Evening* - might just help this group get some uniforms!

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Center Stage Dancing Leaf Farm

By Dominique Agnew

Enter the studio of Dalis Davidson, proprietress of Dancing Leaf Farm in Barnesville, and be overwhelmed by color and texture. From floor to ceiling, myriad hues



Dalis Davidson among friends.

attract the eye, bidding the beholder to touch. All the different skeins of yarn long to be perused by the hand as well as the eye. Whether it's "Slubby Nubby Woolly Yarn," or "Pizzazz," the variety of texture is a surprise. "It's these new novelty yarns that brought in the younger people," says Dalis, they also brought a resurgence of knitting and yarn shops.

Dalis started her yarn business in 1992, not so much because she was crazy about knitting, but to have a use for the wool from her sheep, "the sheep came first." Dalis had the sheep first as pets—and (surprise!) sheep have to be sheared. "I had all this wool and didn't know what to do with it." It didn't all happen at once, though. Like many artists, experiences and travels wove a pattern through her life to bring her to where she is today.

Born in South Dakota as Cynthia Davidson, Dalis (she later changed her name because she never felt herself to be a Cynthia and liked the alliteration of her new name) was always crafty and artsy. "I liked to draw and paint even though there were not many options presented," she explained. She ended up as a graphic artist working for weekly newspapers doing a lot of

cutting and pasting (when cutting and pasting didn't mean CTRL+X and CTRL+V). "An exacto blade was like another finger," adds Dalis. Through those years, Dalis moved from Colorado to Florida to Virginia. The first moves were to be with friends, but the beauty of the Flint Hill area of Virginia held a strong attraction to her, and she moved there within six months of first seeing it.

Because steady work was hard to find, she moved to Charlottesville. She not only hoped to find employment there, she knew there was an ultimate Frisbee team at the University of Virginia. Ultimately, she met and married the president of the ultimate Frisbee

program at the university, Houston Miller (like you, I also think his last name should have been Texas).

Circumstances brought them to their small farm in Barnesville. By this time, Dalis was no longer in the workforce full time, she was raising her sons—and she decided to raise sheep. Dalis gratefully explains that there was "a community of women shepherds in the area." One of these women, Peg Coleman, was instrumental in leading Dalis towards her present situation. "Peg Coleman taught me how to spin, then I had all this yarn," Dalis continues, "so she taught me how to knit and how to dye." Then Dalis started for herself.

At first, she started small. In the late 1980s, she began attending the Annual Sheep and Wool Festival, the largest in the country, in Howard County. A trip to New Zealand put her in contact with a maker of unique spinning wheels seeking a distributor in the United States, and her business grew. "Every year it grows more and more. The biggest growth has been between eighteen- and thirty-five-year-olds." Keeping this in mind, she offers a ten percent discount to students.

She and her husband built the studio in 1995 to replace a dilapidated

henhouse in the backyard. Initially, they intended to share it, but it really wasn't big enough for the projects Houston wanted to work on, and Dancing Leaf Farm outgrew its half to burgeon into the whole studio.

Dalis Davidson is more than just an enterprising spinner and weaver, she also paints and makes jewelry using her own fused-glass pieces. She uses dichroic glass, a sparkly spin-off of the space industry. Her creations are not limited to jewelry pieces, but encompass items such as buttons to match her yarns.

So what does Ms. Davidson do when she is not at her spinning wheel? She is at her bicycle wheel. An avid outdoorsman, she is passionate about mountain biking. She recently spent ten days hiking the Appalachian Trail, and she and her husband still meet with their old ultimate friends, going as far as Washington and Alaska for ultimate Frisbee get-togethers.

Want to learn how to knit? Interested in fabulous yarns and exquisite jewelry? Follow the rolling yellow ball of yarn painted on the floor of Dalis's studio—a rainbow of delights awaits.

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Day Tripper

When in Rome

By Dominique Agnew

Wait, this is a Daytripper, it would take all day to get to Rome, and that's not the purpose of the Daytripper. So, we'll have to bring to Rome to us—or to D.C.

At the John Paul II Cultural Center on Harewood Road, N.E., an amazing exhibit is on display through the end of May, "Creating St. Peter's: Architectural Treasures of the Vatican." Over one hundred forty artifacts, on loan from the Fabbrica di San Pietro in Vaticano (the Vatican office that maintains and preserves St. Peter's Basilica), from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries are on display.

Several themes are covered by the exhibit: the design and construction of St. Peter's Dome, moving and raising the obelisk, ceremonial illumination by candlelight, St. Peter's tomb, the bell tower, and the evolution of St. Peter's Square from Bernini's original design through the twentieth century.

The centerpiece of the exhibit is an eighteen-foot tall wooden model of St. Peter's dome commissioned by Michelangelo in 1560; it has been out of the Vatican only three times. The intricately-detailed model shows the inner and outer domes and how they function together.

Another artifact of great interest is the 1877 oak winch that was used to move items of heavy weights in the basilica and which is an exact copy of the types of winches used to move the 331-ton Egyptian obelisk into its present place in St. Peter's Square in 1586.

Works by great Renaissance artists such as Bramante, Raffaello, Bernini, Fontana, and Trevisani are also on display, as well as architectural drawings, papal portraits, and a sixteenth century compass. The John Paul II Cultural Center is the only stop for this unique exhibit. After the end of May, it will return to the Vatican City in preparation for the 500th anniversary of St. Peter's Basilica next year. The museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sundays, noon to 5:00 p.m.; it is open some holiday Mondays.

To see a real basilica without going to Rome, just go down the hill

from the John Paul II Cultural Center to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at the corner of Harewood Road and Michigan Avenue. After having visited the Basilica countless times since early childhood, it never ceases to amaze me. The incredible awe I first felt as a four-year-old walking through these hallowed walls has not diminished one bit.



The west facade of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

The foundation stone was blessed in 1920, after nearly twenty years of planning and persuading by founder Bishop Thomas J. Shahan. After receiving the enthusiastic support of Pope Pius X in 1913 and a donation of land from Catholic University, numerous Catholic groups from across the country raised funds for construction. There was a lull in construction during the Great Depression and World War II, but efforts resumed during the 1950s when the call went out for new funds to get things moving again.

Although the Shrine is still incomplete (remember it took hundreds of years to build cathedrals in Europe), it has more than sixty chapels and oratories representing various ethnic groups, and it is among the ten largest churches in the world. The Great Upper Church can seat more than six thousand worshippers.

If, like me, you have a love for beautiful cathedrals and stunning churches, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is a must-see.

Secret Family Recipe Revealed

By Dominique Agnew

This is a Day Tripper for those winter days when you really don't want to go anywhere.

It's only a secret recipe if you did not grow up in Martinique (like my mother) or in our households. In Martinique, on the morning of a child's First Communion, it is customary for the child, with friends and family, to have a cup of special hot chocolate thickened a little and flavored with cinnamon, nutmeg, and lime zest (as far as I can remember, I've never seen a lemon in Martinique—well, some of those French cars...). Nice, fresh pieces of *pain au beurre* are dipped in the chocolate, but we've found croissants to be a *délicieux* substitute for *pain au beurre*.

For me, growing up in the U.S., it was a special treat to have *Chocolat de Communion* on Sundays before mass, especially Easter Sunday, other celebrations, and, of course, when it snowed and we were sledding (surprisingly, it never snows in Martinique).

It pleases me to share with you my version of *Chocolat de Communion* to enjoy with your friends and family on special feast days, snowy days, or just days when you need a good cup of hot chocolate.

Chocolat de Communion

4 cups whole milk
4 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons cocoa
3 tablespoons cornstarch
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Combine all ingredients in heavy saucepan (be sure cornstarch is well dissolved in cold milk) and heat on medium-high heat, constantly stirring, until it boils, then stir for one minute at reduced heat. Let cool a little before serving.

Feel free to tweak the recipe to your liking, I never make it the same way twice. The better the cocoa, the better the *Chocolat*. My kids are always especially happy when I have Ghirardelli's "Sweet Ground Chocolate and Cocoa" on hand—très, très bon!

Tributes continued from Page 8—

We can understand why Bill fell head over heels in love, but poor Jane, we think the whole time she thought she was dating Santa Claus. Bill spent a career with the county and Jane worked for Monocacy Elementary School in Barnesville. Along the way they had three boys, Billy, Ronnie, and Joe. The eldest, Bill, and his wife Leslie live in Damascus, and he is the principal at Monocacy Elementary School, which he attended as a young boy. They have two daughters, Shannon and Kate. Son Ronnie works at the Poolesville Post Office, and he and his wife Karen along with their children Christopher and Karen coordinated the surprise party. Youngest son Joe is pursuing a new degree in archeology at Hood College.

Bill keeps busy in his retirement in the Odd Fellows and the American Legion. The Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce honored him in 2004 for all his community service.

Robillard Nominated for Top Honors

American Legion Daniel-Jeffers Post 247 recently named Stephen J. Robillard of Poolesville Legionnaire of the Year. The local post has also nominated Robillard for consideration for similar honors at the organization's national level.

Mr. Robillard, a retired Naval Master Chief Petty Officer, earned thirty-three decorations, including two purple hearts, which were accumulated over twenty-seven years of military service. He has held various leadership positions in the group, and he is currently the Legion's chairman for their annual oratorical contest, which is held at Poolesville High School. He is also the Legion's county chairman.

Steve Robillard is well-known throughout the area for his leadership in scouting, the Knights of Columbus, and the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce.

—Continued on Page 18.

New Study Sought continued —

which depends on forty percent of its student enrollment from the transfer process, potential staffing reductions will not only limit the faculty's ability to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all its students, but this shortcoming will make it harder to attract families to choose the school. Furthermore, Ms. Smith explained that lack of this student-by-student approach could result in lower achievement, especially for those students capable of advanced or accelerated study. She was also concerned that the declining enrollment's impact will result in fewer staff, which in turn would negatively impact teacher effectiveness and morale.

The enrollment decline at John Poole Middle School could result in limiting the number and scope of course electives in subjects such as foreign languages and geometry. (Please see the related article on French language classes in *School News*.) Part-time staffing options, seen by some as a solution, result in having less faculty to assist in after-school activities, according to Ms. Smith.

At the high school level, declining student population potentially would have an even broader impact in threatening to offer fewer electives and fewer athletic teams. This possible reduction in services could include fewer services in administration, maintenance, career development, and not having more than one option in the choice of faculty for some courses.

In her summary, Ms. Smith states, "The schools, at present, are walking a fine line. We are on the verge of inadequate staffing. Our achievement data is showing steady, sometimes dramatic growth, but we fear that staff will become overburdened unless we are provided with the assurance that someone out there understands the unique nature of our attendance area. Our community as a whole will be impacted if our schools are unable to offer Poolesville students what other schools in the county can offer."

Ms. Smith exhorted all in attendance to voice their concerns to county school and elected officials in support of a new boundary study.

Things To Do

February 25

Longaberger Basket Bingo
St. Mary's Pavilion-Barnesville
Doors Open: 5:30 p. m.
Games Start: 7:30 p.m. \$15/\$20

February 28

Poolesville Public Library
Book Discussion
The Blind Assassin – Atwood
7:30 p.m. – 301-972-7800

March 2

St. Peter's Preschool Program
Infants up to preschoolers
Music, Bible Stories & Crafts
Snacks, puzzles, faith-building fun
1:00 p.m.

March 3

Poolesville Library
Washington Opera Program
"The Magic Flute" – Pre-School
10:30 a.m.

PBA Basketball Tournament
JPMS Gym 7th and 8th Grade Teams
7:45 p.m.

March 5 and 6

PBA Mid-Maryland Basketball Tournament
PHS Gyms – 10 Regional Teams
9:00 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.

March 8

PBA Mid-Maryland Basketball Tournament
Championship Game
7:30 p.m.

March 9

St. Peter's Preschool Program
Infants up to preschoolers
Music, Bible Stories & Crafts
Snacks, puzzles, faith-building fun
10:00 a.m.

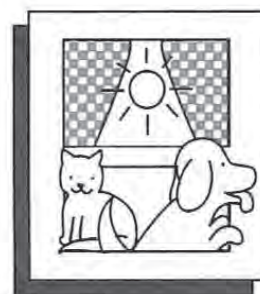
March 10

Poolesville Library
Cuddle Ups
Stories/fingerplays and music
Babies to 23 months
10:30 a.m.
St. Peter's Preschool Program
Infants up to preschoolers
Music, Bible Stories & Crafts
Snacks
10:00 a.m.

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Hi-Speed Impeller/Auger	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes
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Remote Deflector	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes
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School News

Black History Month Brings Music and Mythology to JPMS

By Rande Davis

John Poole Middle School recently brought an enthusiastically received assembly to its students as part this month's Black History initiative. The



Anansegromma of Ghana

pulsating program of West African dance, drum, story telling and games is called Anansegromma of Ghana, which shares with its audiences the unique culture of West African people.

Presented by an artistic duo, Kwame Ansah-Brew and Kofi Dennis, their goal is to stimulate and enhance the various developmental and creative skills through the folklore activities, which includes drums, dance, drama and games.

Anansegromma, which refers to African folklore concerning the special and mystical powers of spiders and their webs, aims to share the values of

sensitivity and respect for one another regardless of race, color, or creed. Mr. Ansah-Brew and Mr. Dennis, both originally residents of Ghana, have performed their show at many area venues including Wolf Trap.

Reamer Named Maryland's Top Volunteer

By Rande Davis

PHS senior Megan Reamer was recently named as one of Maryland's top two volunteers for 2005 by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a nationwide program honoring young people for acts of volunteerism. Now in its tenth year, this award program screens over 20,000 high school and middle school students in making its final selections.

Megan was selected for her voluntary project which resulted from a grant that allowed her to recruit other volunteers to help remove invasive plants that were crowding out native vegetation in a local park, and to plant trees in their place. Megan first became aware of the damage that invasive plants can cause when her Girl Scout troop worked to remove English ivy from an overgrown island during an eighth-grade camping trip. "In the year that followed, every time I went outside I noticed invasive plants taking over more and more territory. I decided that this was a major problem in my area and something had to be done about it soon."

She obtained a \$500.00 grant from the Wildlife Conservation Society and went to work. After getting approval from the City of Gaithersburg to work in Victory Farm Park, she recruited other students to help. Gathering a variety of tools and supplies, she and her assistants removed three truckloads of invasive plants and planted tree saplings along a stream. To help educate others along the pathway, she

also developed a brochure and display board to explain the negative impact of invasive plants.

As the Maryland state honoree, Megan received \$1,000.00, an engraved silver medallion, and an invitation to the program's national recognition events in early May in Washington, DC.

Parlez-Vous le Frenchie?

By Dominique Agnew

It goes without saying that the readership of the *Monocle de Monocacie* is well-educated and intelligent. I know that if I write using *les grands mots en anglais*, it will be understood. Even if I write *les petits mots en français*, the readership will comprehend. So when the *on-dit* rippled through the community that French would no longer be offered *au Lycée de Poolesville*, my first thought was, *Mais, c'est impossible!*

Fortunately, it is *impossible*; however (although it is remarkable that "however" is not derived from *le français* like so many really good words, it is such a puissant word), if the number of students desiring to *étudier le français* is down, it doesn't have to be offered every year. French and Spanish I through IV are Category One courses, and according to the MCPS website: Each high school is responsible for providing a comprehensive program for every student...Category 1 courses must be offered and given in each high school regardless of course enrollment, except that they may be offered and given in alternate years or in combined classes when enrollment is less than fifteen..

— For now, it looks like they will consider offering French I, *Mme Sarah Defnet, le président du PTA à L'Ecole Secondaire de Jean Poole, dit*, There appears to be a sufficient number of students at the middle school that is interested in taking French.

I didn't use quotation marks because *les français* do not—isn't that *drôle*?

To continue, *le français, c'est nécessaire!* Peruse your *dictionnaire*, see how many words are *dérivés du français*; just think of all *les références littéraires et scientifiques* that are found in varied writings; *imaginez* being *en Europe, en Afrique, en Asie, ou au Canada*, if you come across someone who doesn't speak English, *il parle le français, sans doute!*

Oui, we want our gâteau, and we want to manger le, aussi. Aux armes, mes enfants, aux armes!

Public Charter School Announces Enrollment Lottery and Open House

The Monocacy Valley Montessori Public Charter School is open by lottery to all students residing in Frederick County and attending kindergarten through eighth grade in the 2005-06 school year. The school also offers a parent-paid prekindergarten.

An alternative to the traditional school setting, MVMPCS follows the philosophy and methods of Dr. Maria Montessori, where the classroom is a prepared environment to provide multi-aged groups of children opportunities to self-select their work within a defined curriculum. Because students spend most of their school time actively practicing their skills and working on projects, the need for homework is minimal.

The 2005-06 enrollment period is open until March 11, 2005. The school will hold a lottery March 17 to determine enrollment. All local public schools have enrollment forms, which are also available online at www.mvms.info or by calling 301-668-5013. For more information, please stop by the school's Open House from 5-7 p.m. on March 10 or April 7.



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Center Stage

Sandra Wolf-Meei Cameron Benefit Concert And Silent Auction

By Dominique Agnew

As the date (March 4) of Sandy's concert at Poolesville High School nears, anticipation is mounting. The Sandra Cameron Benefit Concert Committee and Principal Deena Levine are incredibly excited that Sandy has chosen to perform again at the high school. That a musician of this caliber would deign



to perform in our community is truly a blessing.

To add a little more fun and excitement to what will prove to be an Enchanted Evening, a Silent Auction will also take place the night of the concert. Doors will open at 5:00 to allow bidders to begin perusing various restaurant certificates, services offered, and even a vacation to Cancun, Mexico. During intermis-

sion, bidding will continue, then end just before the second half of the concert will begin. Funds raised will go to the senior class and the Music and Arts Department at the high school.

The Committee is asking for contributions of all sorts from the community that might be of interest to bidders: that exquisite antique sitting in the attic, a service or skill

that can be rendered or taught, or a week or weekend at that cabin by the lake or ocean. Contributors are asked to contact Poolesville High School at 301-972-7900 or Judy Trope at 301-349-5676.

Also, advance tickets are now on sale. The advance purchase price is \$12 for adults and \$5 for students. Again, contact the high school to order your tickets.

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In the Garden

Kitchen Garden continued—

also the numerous lay workers at the monastery, not to mention the large number of visitors and the poor. The Cellarer's or Kitchen Garden best known to us was Covent Garden in London. In the Middle Ages it was a garden tended by the nuns at the Convent to provide foods for the monks at Westminster Abbey. In 1656 it became a wholesale fruit and vegetable market for London. It remained so for over three hundred years. The area was immortalized in Shaw's *Pygmalion* and the musical *My Fair Lady* by the scene in which young Eliza Doolittle sells flowers to the ladies and gents emerging from the *Royal Opera House*. Today the Opera House still stands on that site.

What type of vegetables and herbs did these early gardeners grow? Surprisingly, the list is not that much different from what you might grow in Barnesville or Poolesville. They cultivated cabbage, kale, beets, parsnips, turnips, beans, peas, garlic, scallions, watermelons, fennel, leeks, carrots, strawberries, celery, cucumbers, lettuce, and much more. It reads like the produce department at Fresh Foods. There is a famous 15th century tapestry showing a unicorn seated in a small enclosure. Around this area are twenty-six identifiable garden and woodland plants of all seasons.

I am not suggesting that your 2005 vegetable garden have that many selections. Many people give up on gardens because they bite off more than they can chew, figuratively and literally. As with flowers, one can go overboard while ordering seeds and plants from catalogs or filling up your cart at the local garden center. In planning a vegetable garden I like to keep three guidelines in mind. First prepare the soil. You are wasting your

time and money if you plant in poor, non-arable soil. If you are preparing a new spot of earth, double dig it and add good quality compost. Our soil is very clay-like and it needs a lot of help to provide a decent growing medium.

Secondly, lay out a reasonably sized plot that is near your house. If you have to go across the whole yard and down a long lane to snip some parsley for a salad, you will probably grab some dried stuff in your pantry instead. When thinking about size, remember what it is like weeding this little bit of Eden when it is 95 degrees and humid and buggy. Pretty soon you can't see the vegetables for the weeds. Be kind to your back and your knees and keep the garden small.

Thirdly, plant only what you like to eat and in quantities that are reasonable for the size of your family. I speak from experience, since in my early gardening years, I violated all three tenets. I eventually became so frustrated with the whole project, I gave up and turned the vegetable garden into a flower garden. Don't follow my mistakes.

That first year I planted twelve tomato plants, row after row of beans, yellow squash, green squash, lettuce, carrots, melons, peas, peppers and cucumbers. I could have supplied food for a small monastery. Another year I decided to plant some different vegetables: the shape of patty-pan squash is cute, the purple skin of eggplant is beautiful and okra is always needed for gumbo. Right. Wrong. The squash, eggplant and okra plants were prolific beyond imagination. There was one small problem that I failed to address: how much squash can one really eat, I hate eggplant, and I rarely make gumbo. My friends would run when I started to say "would you like some..... from my garden." I am not into canning and freezing vegetables; Bird's Eye can do it better. Eat it off the vine or forget

it is my motto. Moral: Plant only what you like and in quantities that you can eat. I eventually sodded part of the garden and turned the rest into a flower garden. I had no more pang of guilt watching good vegetables rot on the vine.

After several years I started to miss my garden, no more plucking a brilliant red tomato off the vine for my salad and no wonderfully fresh salad leaves. I had to have my vegetable garden back; I could do it real small. So right behind the barn I (or rather my husband) dug a six feet by twelve feet plot. After much rototilling and many wheel barrows of aged horse manure, the soil was perfect and ready for all the little seedlings. I planted four tomato plants, two "Better Boy", one heirloom variety, and one cherry tomato. Since our growing season often goes from wet cool spring weather to scorching hot humid days, I selected mesculin for salad greens. These plants provide you a complete salad from a single bed, as it combines greens, herbs and young lettuce in a mixture of colors, shapes and flavors. It also matures faster than whole head lettuce and is slower to bolt.

I love *haricots verts*, the pencil-thin French green beans that sell for \$9.00 a pound at Fresh Fields. When my daughter lived in Paris, I would stock up on boxes of seeds that I would store in my refrigerator all year. They grew very well in Barnesville. I must return to Paris; my stock is running low. My pepper plants came in three colors, red, yellow and green. What you don't eat, you can dice and throw them in the freezer. I love asparagus, so I have a little plot of these fern-like plants; I eagerly await their emergence. Scattered

amongst the marigold plants are spring onions. I don't really know if the marigolds keep away some bugs, but they are colorful.

The last little stars in my new little garden are the blueberries and raspberries. They are very easy to grow. Besides the sweet and healthful fruits they produce, they make handsome landscape plants. When choosing a blueberry variety, check to see if they are self-pollinating and cross-pollinating. With both types, you will get a better yield if you plant two or more varieties. The raspberries surprised me and yielded fruit the first season. At the market, they can cost \$5.00 or more; why pay these prices when you can harvest your own. I feared that the birds would find the berries before I did, so I was ready with netting. I never got around to putting up the nets, but luckily the birds ignored the fruits. They were too busy eating all the seed in their four feeders by the porch. Berries are acid-loving plants, so don't forget to work some aluminum sulphate into the soil at planting time, and then again in spring, summer and fall.

So that is my little vegetable garden. It is small and simple and it provides more than enough for Jim, me and Peter Rabbit and family. The monks will have to go to the Safeway.

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Poolesville's Own Doctor Doolittle

By Marcie Gross

All animals, big and small, feel welcome and safe at the Poolesville Veterinary Clinic. The reason for this is Doctor Peter Eeg, D.V.M. Dr. Eeg is Poolesville's answer to Doctor Doolittle. He makes connections with each of his patients and has been an animal lover all of his life.



Ernie, Andy, Stanley,
And Dr. Eeg.

Sometimes kids are lucky enough to find something they love and are able to pursue that dream as adults. Peter Eeg decided he wanted to be a veterinarian at the age of five years

old. At his home in Glenmont, Maryland he had fish and dogs. His parents took him for horseback riding lessons. He loved all animals, big and small. After graduating from Wheaton High School, Peter attended the University of Maryland and received an undergraduate degree in Animal Science followed by a graduate degree in Immunology and Parasitology. He next went to Virginia Tech's Veterinary School to get his D.V.M. in 1987. Eeg is a big believer in veterinary education. Even today, he travels once or twice a month around the country to lecture on laser surgery and pain management for animals. "Animals should live as well as they can for as long as they can," says Eeg, this being his motto.

In 1987, Dr. Eeg began working for the Peachtree Veterinary Clinic. He specialized in large animals and started the cattle part of that practice. Peter met his wife Cindy, a Dayton, Ohio native, in 1989. She lived and worked in D.C. but kept a horse out in the Poolesville area, and they were lucky enough to meet. They married the next year and now have a nine-year-old daughter, Jaime. They own a farmette in Boyds and are the proud family of nine horses, five dogs, and eight cats. Dr. Eeg began to work at the Poolesville Veterinary Clinic in 1995 and changed his specialty to smaller animals. In 2000, he purchased the practice, and the rest is history.

"I feel like the luckiest guy in the world," says Eeg. "It is a phenomenal opportunity to be here. I love the rural area here—it is the most beautiful area in the country, and I love the gentle nature of the people, too." When it comes to

his practice, Dr. Eeg doesn't believe in volume, but the level of quality he gives his patients is most important. He wants to promote good health for pets. As a member of the Poolesville area community, he is an active member of the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce and has a booth during Poolesville Day. Eeg is a past president of the Boyds Civic Association and past co-chair of the Peachtree Water Coalition. He is also a big supporter of the Agricultural Preserve.

In his spare time, Dr. Eeg teaches Hands-On Science at Monocacy Elementary School. Students love learning all about science from him. Maybe someday one of his students will be fortunate enough to follow in his footsteps as another Doctor Doolittle.

Welcome to L'Nora Restaurant

We welcome the newly opened L'Nora Restaurant, which is located next to the Subway shop at the Poolesville Village Center. The carry-out restaurant offers Greek and Italian cuisine specializing in roasted chicken, New York style pizza, along with a full range of appetizers, salads, calzones, deli sandwiches, and a children's menu.

The proud owner is Khaled Shawahin of Germantown who selected Poolesville rather than Germantown to open his restaurant because of the attraction that he and his family have for the community. Mr. Shawahin has over fifteen years' experience in the food industry but more recently was in the IT software business. When the opportunity came to return to the food business, he welcomed the chance to redirect his career. He and his wife, Jeanne, are new parents of their twenty-month-old baby girl, Nora—and you guessed it—the restaurant, L'Nora (for Nora), was named after her.

Tributes Continued from Page 12—

Odd Fellows Confer Special Honors on Area Members

Poolesville's Odd Fellows #97 recently conferred special honors to new members in a joint ceremony shared with Virginia Lodge #1 in Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. The honors, referred to as degrees, emphasize the member's commitment to the organization in Friendship, Love, and Truth. Herb White, the Noble Grand (leader of the group), was joined by past Noble Grands Jim Sporey and Bill Poole in honoring their members Tom Dillingham, Steve Horvath, George Kephart, Jr., Spencer Schmidt, and Jack Shawver. The name of the West Virginia club refers back to its origin when West Virginia was still part of Virginia. The club's lodge dates back to the Civil War, and damage from cannon balls still remains evident. Both organizations have provided public service for over one hundred years.

House Fire Extinguished By Residential Fire Sprinkler System

A fire in the kitchen of a townhouse located in the 100 block of Parkridge Court, in Frederick, was quickly extinguished by a residential fire sprinkler system before the fire department arrived. The sprinkler system, required by State law, was installed in the home in 1996. Fire/Rescue units responded to the home around 1:00 p.m. on February 15 after a pan of oil the homeowner was heating on the stove caught fire. Fire damage was limited to the hood over the stove and adjoining cabinet. There was also minor water and smoke damage in the home. There were no reported injuries.

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Youth Sports

Boys' Basketball on the Rebound?

By Rande Davis

When winning is what you are used to, hard times can be even harder. Poolesville High School's boys' basketball coach, Larry Hurd, doesn't have time to wallow in pity about a season that hasn't gone exactly as the team would like. The boys' varsity team has come off three winning seasons in a row with 15, 19, and 15 victories each year, respectively.

Coach Hurd knows very well that the team has had to face early challenges this year with injuries, sickness, suspensions, and inconsistency in the line. He also knows that PHS not only has to play 3A and 4A teams, but just as often as not, they have to do it twice. So, is he complaining? Nope. "The thing is that these are teams we have been beating for the past several years," says Coach Hurd. While the results have not been as strong as he would like, he quickly points out that "we have been competitive in almost every game we have played, we have had a chance to win them, but they have gotten away from us somehow."

The team responds to the challenge in the only way they know how. They work hard everyday. Their practices are just as intense and just as dedicated through the guidance of Coach Hurd and his staff. "Our goals are still within reach. We want to win regional championships. That has been the goal all along, and that is what we are going to try to accomplish," says Coach Hurd. At Poolesville, what Coach wants is usually what Coach gets.

When a team is on a roll, motivation comes much more naturally. When the results are up and down, how do you keep the team focused? Coach Hurd points out that under these circumstances, kids have a tendency to dwell on the negative. The coaching staff tries to show them the positive of what they are doing and encourages them to build on that positive experience. The key to ultimate success for the team may be in players maintaining confidence in the staff, and when considering the coaching staff's past success, the



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players know the coaches are doing the right things. Coach Hurd is proud of how well the team maintains its attitude. "They are great kids," states Mr. Hurd.

Perhaps the seniors are more affected than the rest of the team as regards the overall season. The final results aside, the group of senior players, Greg Brooks, Cory Christman, Stephen Smith, Chris



Senior Cory Christman

Kramek, and Ben Hept, has kept it all together. Coach Hurd says, "This group of seniors has been fun to deal with. They are a breed of their own. They provided memories for everyone in the community who loves basketball. Cory and Greg have been varsity players for three years and have been a part of a great winning tradition at Poolesville."

As was the case in coaching football, Coach Hurd's dad assists him in basketball. Larry Hurd, Sr. has coached teams for the past twenty-five years at Gaithersburg, Quince Orchard, and Northwest. As a Quince Orchard athletic "Hall of Famer," Larry Hurd, Jr. was a three-letter athlete in football, basketball, and baseball.

The PHS basketball program is one of the best programs in the county. It has become a model of how a basketball program should be, and the results can be seen in the pride of everything the team has accomplished through its players on and off the court.

Where do they go from here with the season winding down and the regionals on the horizon? "We feel we have a good opportunity to make a solid run in the playoffs. It will take great effort, but we can accomplish it if we put our effort and energy into it," proclaims the coach. It's a proclamation we have no reason to doubt.



The Pulse

The Roar of Good Character and Leadership Development

By Rande Davis

What parent would not want their child to develop leadership skills and at the same time experience the benefits and the importance of community service? For students at John Poole Middle School and Poolesville High School the Leo Clubs provide just that opportunity.

The Monocacy Lions Club sponsors these two groups and the name of the organization comes directly



JPMS Leos prepare collection boxes for their Pennies for Patients fundraiser to benefit the Leukemia Lymphoma Society.

from their connection to Lionism. (Your writer is also the president—I prefer King Lion—of the Monocacy Lions Club.) Although there is a great deal of pride in the work of kids, all credit for the success of both clubs truly goes to the students and their dedicated adult/teacher sponsors. There is special pride in knowing they are self-led, self-driven, and self-motivated to make their clubs so successful.

Since both clubs are very active and successful in their efforts to assist those in need in our area and beyond, the *Pulse* will present only the John Poole Middle School club in this issue and will report on the high school club in a future issue.

At JPMS Lisa Langevin and Lyn Becknell have been the adult sponsors of the club for three years. They picked up the baton from Kathy McNamara, who pioneered the group

with special assistance from then principal Joe Sacco.

While membership fluctuates, the group at JPMS has three dozen active members. Each and every month the group plans and executes programs to help others in need. The student members elect their leadership and this year the president is Kirsten Kirschbaum and Claire Jones is the vice-president. Amy Stamm, club secretary, and Sarah Jansson, treasurer, hold the other officer responsibilities within the group.

After doing some fundraisers during Poolesville Day and a bake sale outside of Selby's Market, the students moved quickly into a busy year of helping others. In October they took on an environmental improvement project by helping to clean up the area around Violette's Lock. In the same month they collected canned food for WUMCO Help, Inc. and collected enough funds to sponsor ten Thanksgiving Food Baskets for the needy.

During the holidays they made and delivered special baked goods to area police and fire departments as a token of appreciation for their community service. The students worked at the Manna Food Center in Rockville, helped UMCVFD in their annual Santa Claus Pancake Breakfast, and collected animal food and care accessories for the M.C. Humane Society and the Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary.

While barely taking time to catch their breath they collected diapers and baby food for Stepping Stones Shelter, visited with residents at the Shady Grove Rehabilitation Center, bringing them baked goods and valentine bookmarks.

This month the JPMS Leos have their annual Pennies for Patients collection fundraiser to help the Leukemia Lymphoma Society and will also collect coloring books and crayons for young patients.

The Monocle applauds the Leos for their excellent service and we think their learning experience could serve as a valuable example to the adults in our community. In fact, the students want to challenge area adults to join the Monocacy Lions Club. On Monday February 28, the Lions Club is hosting its annual open house Friendship night. Interested adults who would like to come the check out the club can contact Rande Davis at 301-349-0070.

Local History

Cemetery continued—

the living conditions were spartan, and there was little protection from the elements, soldiers fell sick and some died before they saw battle. Since several soldiers shared a tent here in the first months of the war, overcrowding was a problem. Wet campsites, overwork and exposure, and damp clothing were blamed for much of the illnesses such as consumption and typhoid. However, a citizen, familiar with army life, suggested that the government should send soldiers' pay directly to their families or wives making it impossible to buy "bad pies and rotgut whiskey"! One soldier from the Fifteenth Massachusetts wrote to his mother, "Please ask the ladies to make the mittens with a forefinger so the soldiers can handle their (rifles)."

The Sixty-ninth Regiment of the Pennsylvania Infantry was almost entirely made up of Irish immigrants. They were sent to Poolesville to provide patrol and protection at the several shallow crossing points on the river. Imagine how different these lads must have found Poolesville compared to their native land! While the regiment did see action, six of their members died here of disease. The remains of Privates Patrick Driscoll, Patrick Higgins, Stewart McCormick, Patrick Doyle, William Kearney, and Alexander Stokes lay in the churchyard today.

The Fifteenth Regiment of the Massachusetts Infantry sent hundreds of soldiers to Poolesville. They had been recruited from Worcester County, Massachusetts and arrived in Poolesville during the summer of 1861. Corporal Malvin Howland who was a teacher, Private Edward Ware, a shoemaker by trade, and Private Frank Hildreth who was a harness maker in Fitchberg, Massachusetts all became sick, died, and were buried in the church cemetery.

On October 16, 1861, the Third Regiment of the Wisconsin Infantry was stationed near Harper's Ferry. They became engaged with a Confederate force near there and Privates Henry Clemans, Daniel Tuttle, and George Mather were killed. Their bodies were sent to Poolesville for burial.

On October 21, 1861, one of the most controversial battles of the war was fought near Poolesville. At dawn, inexperienced commanders sent

Union soldiers from Poolesville to the banks of the Potomac River. They crossed the river to Harrison Island (just south of White's Ferry) where they intended to attack a Confederate force that was believed to be stationed near Leesburg. Most did not realize that there was a high bluff to climb on the Virginia side of the river. During the ensuing fiasco, over two hundred Union soldiers were killed or were reported missing and probably drowned. Some of the bodies were found weeks later downstream in



The restored memorial park by the old Methodist Church.

Washington. Colonel Edward Baker, a personal friend of President Lincoln, was killed, and his body was carried to Poolesville and was viewed by townspeople and fellow soldiers at the Frederick Poole House which still stands on Fisher Avenue.

The Fifteenth Massachusetts Regiment suffered heavy losses in this battle. Privates Lewis Haril, a currier by trade, Luther Turner, a blacksmith before the war, and Sergeant Moses Warren, a spinner before enlistment, were all killed in action and buried at the Poolesville cemetery. Corporal

Andrew Cowdrey, a carpenter, Privates Samuel Sibley, a miller, and Alonzo Belknap, a shoemaker, were also buried in the cemetery. In the ensuing months, their families had their bodies exhumed and returned to Massachusetts for burial.

The Twentieth Regiment of the Massachusetts Infantry also sent soldiers to Balls Bluff. Lieutenant William Putman and Privates Alexander Barber and Albert Stackpole were killed and buried at the church cemetery. A letter, sent to the Stackpole family, said, "Albert Stackpole has since died of his wounds. He bore his sufferings with courage and patience. We buried him as a soldier on Sunday last. A small inscription marks his grave, near the main road leading to the ferry..." Later Lieutenant Putman was sent back to Massachusetts for burial. Lieutenant Oliver Wendell Holmes, who later became a Supreme Court Justice, was wounded in this battle and in 1884 mentioned Lt. Putman in a speech. He said, "I see a fair-haired

lad...still young. As I awoke from my first long stupor in the hospital after the Battle of Balls Bluff, I heard the doctor say 'he was a beautiful boy' and I knew that one of those speakers

was no more."

Private Luther Olney of the First Rhode Island Artillery and Private Andrew Harper of the Seventy-second Pennsylvania Infantry were also killed and were buried at the cemetery.

It is believed that other Union soldiers who were killed at Balls Bluff were either buried at the church cemetery or near their camps in Poolesville or at Edward's Ferry.


Later in the war, Privates Thomas Davis and Charles Merrill of Maine, and Alonzo Pickett from New York, died of disease and were buried there.

Apparently, the last burial took place at the cemetery about 1864. After years of neglect, many of the headstones were broken or removed. By 1957, almost all of the headstones were missing, and the remaining ones were placed in storage.

In 2002, the Town of Poolesville, Boy Scout Troop 496, the Historic Medley District, and the Elgin family undertook a project to restore the unmarked graveyard. Much of the work was performed by Willard F. Martin (currently a PHS senior) as his Eagle Scout project. Fencing, landscaping, an exhibit sign, headstone display, benches, and a memorial were installed making it a dignified setting to honor these early residents and fallen heroes.

Poolesville High School Presents


**An
Enchanted Evening**



Violinist
Sandra Wolf-Meei Cameron
Friday, March 4, 2005
7:00 p.m.
Poolesville High School
\$15 Adults \$7 Students

Sponsors:

Bridge
Vending, Inc.






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