

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

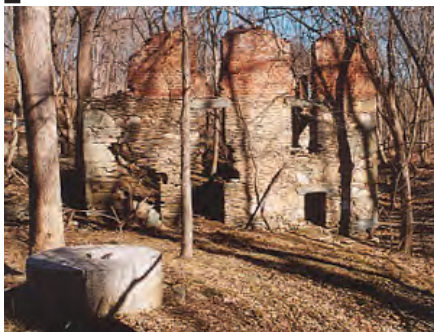
Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

April 8, 2005

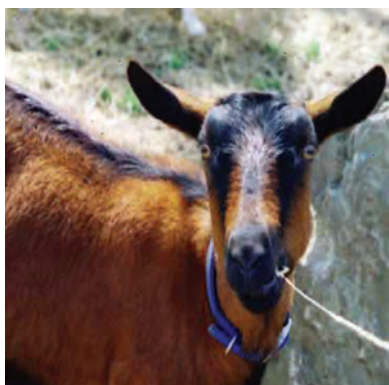
Volume 2, Number 3

## Inside the Monocle



You drive by it all the time, but there's history there.

See Mystery History on Page 14.



We haven't run a goat pic lately.



If this was a school day—you're busted. More on fishing on Page 13.



Hanna's back and she's out on the town. See Equestrian on Page 19.

## MD 28 to Be Closed for Eight Weeks

By Rande Davis

The Maryland State Highway Administration (MSHA) has announced road improvement projects on Route 28 that will impact traffic patterns in the coming months. The twofold project starts with the replacement and repair of the cement retaining wall at the Monocacy Cemetery which is at the corner of Route 28 and West Hunter Road in Beallsville. The concurring project involves the resurfacing of the Route 28 roadway from just below Route 107 up to the Montgomery County line, approximately one mile below the Monocacy River Bridge.

The resurfacing project, scheduled to begin on April 11, should be completed by this fall, depending on weather conditions throughout that period of time. The state plans to work on the resurfacing project between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to minimize the project's impact on commuting times. Traffic flow will continue by

using the process of alternating lanes at the point where the daily work is being completed.

The more disruptive of the two projects involves the work on the retaining wall at the Monocacy Cemetery. As this project gets underway, Route 28 will be closed to traffic at the intersection of routes 109 and 28. Coming from the south, the detour

will direct traffic north on Route 109 to Barnesville, left at the intersection of Barnesville Road, and left at the intersection of Mt. Ephraim Road, returning traffic onto Route 28 just north of the railroad overpass in Dickerson. The reverse traffic plan will be used coming from the north.

Residents living on Route 28 or needing access during the project will be able to reach their properties through the detours. Dickerson postal patrons and customers of the Dickerson Market will continue to have access at the Route 28 and Mt. Ephraim intersection.

MSHA spokesperson, Chuck Gischlar, advises residents to keep abreast of progress and announcements on the project by visiting [www.marylandroads.com](http://www.marylandroads.com). They may also call 1-800-323-6742 with questions or other concerns.



Soon to be closed Route 28 in Beallsville.

## All of the News That Was Fit to Print: The Poolesville News

Poolesville was settled over two hundred years ago and at one time was the second largest town in Montgomery County. Until the 1960s, people here had to rely on the *Montgomery County Sentinel* and newspapers from Washington and Frederick for news of local affairs. Then the town got the *Poolesville News*, a quaint little newspaper that began publication in 1962. The editor was Nana Hall, and the paper consisted of a combination of local news, personal announcements, and classified ads. We took a look at some past issues and were amused and intrigued by what was the "news of the day" over

## Lawsuit Against Town of Poolesville To Go Forward

The Town of Poolesville was denied a request for a summary judgment to dismiss a lawsuit brought by resident Conrad Potemra. The next legal step will be a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) on May 9, 2005.

Mr. Potemra states that the lawsuit is against the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) and is not aimed at the town. "In my opinion it is a dispute against MDE, not the town, and there really is no need for the town to get involved."

Mr. Potemra believes that MDE is exceeding their authority to permit the town to increase its water discharged from its Waste Water Treatment Plant. The town is concerned that should Mr. Potemra win his lawsuit, the Town will not be able to issue sewer and water allocations for new residential building.

While certainly disappointed that the court did not provide a favorable summary judgment in its favor, town officials remain confident in the final outcome of this legal process.

forty years ago.

Consider these entries in the July 1962 edition:

At the beginning of summer, there was concern that our students didn't get any scholarships. "Poolesville

High graduated thirty-nine seniors this year. Many of them were superior

—Continued on Page 13.

# Family Album

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There were indoor Easter egg hunts...



...and there were outdoor Easter egg hunts.



At the Comus Inn Guest Artist Reception, Cherry Barr, William Price, Chris Goodwin, and Wendy Gesche.



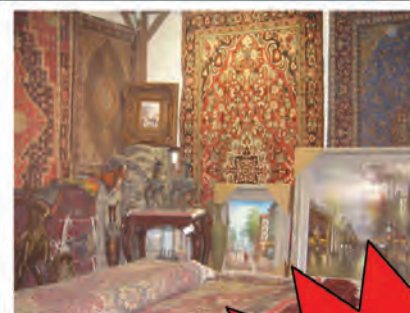
The Healthworks little lions exercise group.

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## Everyone Really Does Read The Monocle

We were thrilled with the response from so many readers about how much they enjoyed our contest. We certainly had fun bringing our readers together in a community game. Our winning entrant was Rudy Gole, scoring 26 of 27 right. It seems our *Concerned Citizen* is also extremely observant. Stayed tuned to the Monocle for more community games.

#	Location	#	Location
1	J. D.'s Beer & Wine	15	Poolesville Tire and Auto
2	Absolute Auto	16	Pooles. Beer & Wine (Jay's)
3	Selby's Market	17	M&T Bank
4	Poolesville Physical Therapy	18	Domino's Pizza
5	Sunset Mortgage	19	Pooles. Veterinary Clinic
6	Poolesville Hardware	20	Potomac Framing
7	McDonald's	21	UPS Man (Rich) at Family Dentistry
8	Cugini's (New Location!)	22	Post Office
9	Caudussian Rug Gallery	23	Subway
10	Pooles. Tack & Supply	24	Getty Station
11	Poolesville Town Hall	25	Drs. Pike and Valega's
12	Poolesville Library	26	Bassett's Restaurant
13	Historic Medley's John Poole House	27	Jamison Real Estate
14	Pooles. Small Engine & Repair		

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## Center Stage

### Palette and Palate at the Comus Inn

By Dominique Agnew

The food is delicious; the view is incredible; the wine, sublime; the ambience, perfect. Do you know where you are? Did we mention the art hanging on the walls is inexplicably beautiful? That just gave everything away.

March 24 marked the Inaugural Reception for the Visiting Artists' Program at the Comus Inn with oil impressionist Caroline Jasper the featured artist of the evening. She was on hand to talk about her paintings, many of which are hanging on the walls of the Inn. "We want the Comus Inn to be a destination for great food, great wines, great views, and great art," says Dr. R. Christopher Goodwin, president of the Comus Inn at Sugarloaf Mountain.

The Comus Inn will continue to have the works of different artists grace its walls with similar receptions. Presently, there is no set schedule, and the works of Caroline Jasper and Tom Shapiro, local photographer, will be

displayed for a few months. "At this moment we are very pleased with Caroline's work, and we're not ready for a change," adds Dr. Goodwin.

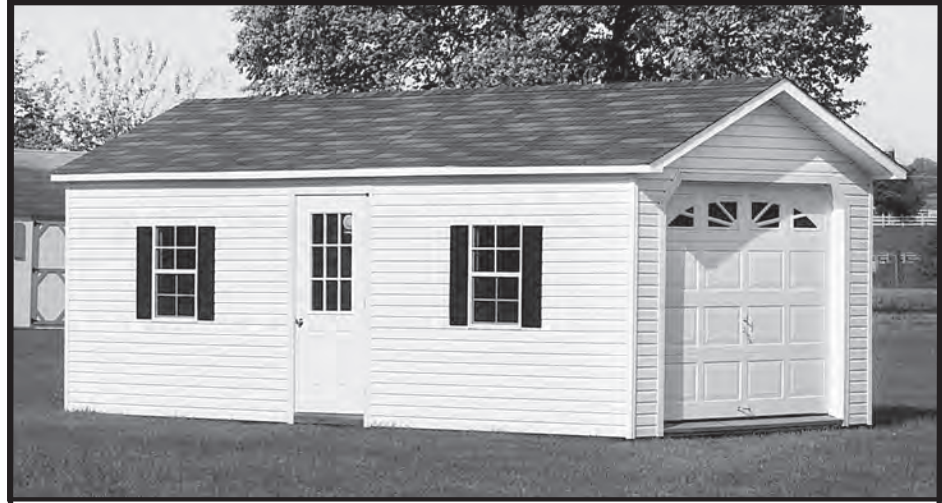
Not only will exquisite artwork hang within the restaurant proper, but plans are in motion for what was once an antiques store/chicken coop for previous owners to be renovated into the Gallery at Sugarloaf to host artists and hold receptions.

Dr. Goodwin has a grand view for the Inn, "The Comus Inn is a destination that celebrates the upper county, the Agricultural Reserve," through fine dining, great views, and exquisite art.

Visitors are encouraged to visit the Comus Inn just to admire the artwork if they so wish and are welcome for tours. Dr. Goodwin only asks that non-dining visitors respect the privacy of diners. Viewing of artwork is recommended between meals during the middle of the afternoon. The Comus Inn at Sugarloaf Mountain is open Wednesday through Saturday for lunch and dinner, and Sundays for brunch and a family-style supper.

*Please see the related Center Stage article on Page 12.*

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PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENTS IN ADVANCE BY THURSDAY APRIL 14.

## Editorials

### Rande(m) Thoughts

By Rande Davis

#### To Reduce the Tax Rate or Not to Reduce the Tax Rate: That Is the Question

At this time of year, the commissioners are always up to their necks in the annual process of finalizing a general operating budget for the town. While the primary focus right now is on the 2006 budget, the process also includes listing, itemizing, and estimating future costs, both variable and non-variable.

The budget process is always controversial due to healthy debate over priorities, needs, wants, and other goals. This year is no different. Just as you and your spouse may disagree on household improvements and projects, so too do the commissioners and the residents at large. This year's debate is again compounded by a decision that will have to be made regarding the additional revenue that the town will receive from the rising

property values.

If the commissioners do not reduce the property tax rate (now set at a constant yield of twenty-three cents per hundred dollars), the town will gain an estimated \$104,000 in additional revenue from property taxes. This increase in tax revenue has resulted even though the tax rate was reduced last year. The simple fact is that the tax rate can remain the same or even be reduced while tax revenue increases. How do I know that? Because the rate in 2005 was reduced from twenty-four cents to twenty-three cents per hundred dollars. Still, total revenue from property taxes increased. Without doing anything to the tax rate, the town can realize an increase in property tax income.

As it now stands, the new revenue from property taxes is about eleven percent higher than the previous year's. If the commissioners choose to accept the increase by keeping the tax rate the same, town residents will then have an option to call for a voter referendum (the trigger for a referendum is a seven percent increase) Twenty percent of the registered vot-

—Continued on Page 22

### In Spring a (Young) Man's Fancy Turns to...

By John Clayton

Winter is a good time to worry, and by spring I've either forgotten what it was I was worrying about or the worry has resolved itself. Spring is the time of new hope and new growth, which in this country is usually expressed through baseball in spring training, when every team is a pennant contender. This year in particular, with a team in Washington, D.C., the feeling is a little more immediate, and I feel like I can really participate, even though I'm still trying to learn the names of the players.

By the time you read this, assuming this rain ever lets up, the Washington Nationals will have started their season. Perhaps this summer will be the sports season of all time. For a while I thought this winter was going to be the ultimate sports season of all time. All at once, the Washington Wizards were winning, the Maryland Terrapins and the Georgetown Hoyas were bound for March glory, we became assured of having an American League team in Baltimore and a National League team in Washington,

and best of all, there was no hockey. The Nationals will have to win a lot of games to top that.

Of course what I was really worried about over the winter was the bridge. Yes, that bridge, the one across the Potomac River that will, to paraphrase Lib Tolbert, "end life as we know it in our little town." This is true if your town is Barnesville, Beallsville, Dickerson, Boyds, or even Poolesville, where one rarely hears the bridge discussed, but if giant leeches fell out of the sky people would accept or reject them based on their opinion of the town's water policy.

I'm not sure this was a good winter for the preservation of the Agricultural Reserve. Viewed from a few thousand feet, the Monocacy region seems to be ever more surrounded by roads and development that want to hook up with each other. Over in Loudoun County, Virginia, the State Supreme Court overturned restrictive pro-preservation zoning that had been established by their county council.

—Continued on Page 22

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Keeping An Eye On Local News

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## Big Board

### Scholarship Help Available

The Woman's Club of Upper Montgomery County is offering graduating students who will be attending college in the fall of 2005 the opportunity to apply for a \$1000 scholarship award. Applicants must be a resident living within the Poolesville High School District but do not have to attend Poolesville High School. Applications can be picked up at the PHS Guidance Office, or you can contact Mrs. Marguerite Showers at 301-972-8415. Deadline for receipt of the finalized forms and essay is no later than April 24, 2005.

The Monocacy Lions Club is also in the process of accepting applications for the annual sponsorship of scholarships for area high school students preparing to go to college. Applications can be picked up at the PHS Guidance Office or by contacting Mr. Ben Daughtry at 301-349-5207

### Fundraiser for Monocacy Elementary's Student Government

Monocacy Elementary will hold its annual Silent Auction/Curriculum Night on April 14 at 6:30 p.m. Call Mrs. Lineberry at 301-972-7990 for details.

### Spring Midnight Player's Production of Brigadoon

Don't miss the ever-popular high school drama club's spring play, Brigadoon. Performances will run from April 14 through April 16 at 7:30 p.m. Matinee fans can catch a performance on April 16 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are available in advance at the school box office or at the door - adults \$8.00.

Celebrate Rural Montgomery Celebrate Rural Montgomery on the 25th Anniversary of the Agricultural Reserve launches its year of celebrations on the Saturday of the Spring Art Studio Tour. Join them at their open house at the Poplar Springs Animal Sanctuary Saturday, September 16, from 10:00 to 5:00. For directions and details, visit [www.ruralmontgomery.org](http://www.ruralmontgomery.org) or [www.countrysideartisans.com](http://www.countrysideartisans.com).

### A Mother's Day Tea

Don't know where you're taking Mom for Mother's Day yet? The beautiful setting of the Waters House at Pleasant Fields for Afternoon Tea may just be the answer, Sunday,

May 8 at 3:00 p.m. Prepaid reservations are required, \$14 (member), \$18 (nonmembers). Call 301-340-2825 for reservations.

### Calleva Outdoors Announces Its Summer Program

Matt Markoff announces the organization's outdoor summer program geared towards augmenting more outdoor fun experiences for young people. Too much television and computer video time can be trumped through this group. Camp Outerquest has been running outdoor programs targeting younger kids by giving them a positive outdoor experience to increase their awareness and appreciation of the outdoors. Together, Camp Outerquest and Calleva share a mission of making sure the outdoors becomes an important part of a young person's life. Interested parents can call Mark at 301-216-1248 or visit [www.calleva.org](http://www.calleva.org).

### Poolesville Day Preparation

We all love Poolesville Day! Believe it or not, preparation begins in April, and anyone interested in helping out, participating with an exhibit, vending, or with any other ideas to help make the day better should call Jake Perkins at 301-922-0115. Jake is everywhere helping out on many community projects, so don't delay in calling him. He needs your help now!

### Your Unwanted Things Can Really Help

Springtime brings forth those flea markets and rummage sales that offer such incredible deals! The United Memorial Methodist Church's spring flea market is Saturday, April 16. St. Peter's Episcopal Church has its ever-popular and spectacularly-priced rummage sale coming at the end of April. They have a big building project planned, so don't hesitate to give them your unwanted items. You'll have more room, and they'll be able to breathe more easily.

### Spring Art Studio Tour

The annual Spring Art Studio Tour takes place the weekend of April 15, 16, and 17. Fabulous crafts, beautiful artwork, yarn, glass, pottery, nature, emotion, destiny—don't miss any of it. Keep your eyes peeled for yellow flags along the roadways. Brochures with maps can be found around town or visit [www.countrysideartisans.org](http://www.countrysideartisans.org). Hours are from 10:00 to 5:00.

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## In the Garden

### The Garden – A Work of Art

By Maureen O'Connell

It is April and color is back in the garden. The spring bulbs tulips, iris, hyacinths, and daffodils provide a fantastic palette of hues. Everyday we can now look for signs of new plants emerging from their winter sleep. I recently wrote about plant personalities. What gives a plant a personality? Growth habit, size, shape, texture, fragrance and color all combine to distinguish one plant from another.

I think of painting and gardening as related art forms. They demand that we take into consideration basic elements of texture, line, form and color. In the art world one painter in particular comes to mind, Claude Monet (1840-1926). He was one of the founders of Impressionism, a style of painting that originated in France in the 1800s. Unlike the styles of art until that time, Impressionism was characterized by small brush strokes that would capture reflected light and express the artist's visual "impression" of an immediate scene, usually outdoors. No two people would see

the same scene nor would they feel the same emotions.

Monet had a passion for gardens. For him, it was more than a subject; it was a site for a specific way of seeing, and, finally, as a specific way of painting. The garden was a living still life. It was the lab where he experimented with colors that would become his paintings. In 1883 he moved to Giverny, a small village along the Seine about forty-six miles west of Paris. He bought and restored an old farm house, and transformed the existing over-grown gardens. New rose and perennial beds were created; there were extensive orchards. He designed a garden around a pond of water lilies, accessed by a Japanese foot bridge. This was immortalized in a series of mural sized paintings of water lilies.

At Giverny, his painting technique underwent a profound change. In his earlier paintings, the scenes were visually correct. You could look at the same river view and see the same scene. Now his art began to reflect more his memories and emotions,

than actual visual representations. There evolved a reciprocal relationship between gardening and painting. His paintings represented the complex of sensations and emotions that he took away from a particular garden setting or flower. Monet said that "his garden was not an organized garden; he married flowers by their color." When I saw his garden a few years ago, it was definitely "organized." Monet would visit the site of a particular subject at various times of the day to see how the play of light affected the colors. Light was crucial. The color blue of a flower gave a different "impression" in the shade, full sun, in the shadow of the petals of a neighboring iris, and at dusk. In 1905, answering a question about his colors, he wrote, "As for the colors I use, what's so interesting about them? ... the most important thing is to know how to use the colors... In short, I use white lead, cadmium yellow, vermilion, madder, cobalt That's all.

What is color? It surrounds us everywhere. We see it in the sky, in the oceans, in the rocks, and in all plants and animals. We use the names of color in many common sayings: a person sees red when he loses his temper or becomes green with envy. He may feel blue or be singing the blues. You may be called yellow, or once in a blue

moon, you have a red letter day. And sometimes you're in the pink. Color conjures emotions that sometimes can be opposite. You can feel blue which can mean sadness or melancholy. But there is also "true blue," blue skies and ocean blue, which implies fidelity, clarity and an expanse of beauty.

An artist can paint a sunset by starting with only three colors: red, yellow and blue. On the color wheel, they are called the primary colors. We can use them to make a wide range of colors. Next there are the secondary colors orange, violet and green, which can be made by mixing the primary colors. Yellow-orange, red-orange, red-violet, blue-violet, blue-green and yellow green lie between the primary and secondary colors and are called intermediate colors. Artists also speak of tertiary colors, which are the soft colors formed by mixing the secondary colors. Any two colors opposite on the color wheel are called complementary. To an artist color harmony is the use of combinations of color to produce a pleasing effect.

Let us now look at color harmony in the garden. Random use of color can produce a pleasing overall effect,

—Continued on Page 8.



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**Garden Continued—**

but the beauty of individual plants, particularly if they are in soft or subtle tones, can be impaired by more vibrant neighbors. Careful design and color selection can avoid most of such clashes. I am not a slave to rigid rules for the garden. Above all, the garden must please you. But, there are some overall guidelines that might influence your choice of plants. For beginner gardeners a kaleidoscope of color is appealing, but it is difficult to successfully achieve. A festive look can degenerate into color chaos. At the garden centers, it is very tempting to buy one of those and two of those. I know since I have done that many times. Before you go plant shopping, draw-up a plan of what plants and colors you want in your garden.

What are some pleasing color combinations? Our first primary color red can evoke feelings of danger, fire, hot emotions, and steamy tropical spots. Plants' names often give us a hint of this: "Fire Flame" Tulip, "Lucifer" Crocosomia, Rose "Lasting Love," and Phlox "Starfire." Red is rarely a pure color. It is bluish-red, purple-red and yellow-red. They are "hot" colors and attention-grab-

bers, so it is important where you place them. I do not use much red or orange in my garden. I find some colors more elegant than others, such as the cool tones of whites, pinks, and blue – periwinkle colors. I use small touches of red in a mixed border of blues and purple. Bright red combines easily with orange and yellow, as we can see in the autumn leaves. Observe the many combinations of red –purple in the Fuchsias. Red and green always mix very well. The contrast of the vivid beet-red spikes of Lobelia "Bee's Flame" planted amongst a stand of dark green Hosta "Fair Maiden" is stunning. The red is furthered softened by the irregular bands of pure white surrounding the central green of the hosta.

The second primary color, blue, can be very moody. For years hybridizers have tried to breed the "blue rose" and the "blue daylily." They are missing the genetic chemical which controls the presence of blue. But there are many beautiful blues in the plant world. "Button Blue" Scabiosa, Agapanthus "Storm Cloud", Lobelia "Cambridge Blue," Blue Mix Delphinium, and the beautiful soft blue of Geranium "Johnson's Blue" are a few selections. An all-blue garden

can be tricky for at a distance—it fades. It needs the addition of complementary colors to add a sparkle. A good combination is a grouping of the June-blooming Siberian Iris in tones of blue, white and purple. Standing above their blue-green leaves, they seem to flutter in the early Spring breezes. Blue brings the sky and sea into the garden. It is romantic with pink, vibrant with red, cheerful with yellow and luminescent with silver.

Our last primary color is yellow, the color of sunshine, butter and the first blooms of spring. After a long dreary winter when gardeners have a hunger for color, it is fitting that yellow blooms are the first to welcome us to Spring. Yellow is softer on the eyes than orange. It eases our way into the flowering season ever so gently. Add brilliant white to form a partnership with clear yellow, and creamier whites with softer shades of buff yellow and warm golds. Some charming marriages are the golden-yellow climbing rose "Golden Showers" and weaving through it the large white Clematis "Candida." David Austin's pure yellow rose "Graham Thomas" looks spectacular with the white spires of the foxglove Digitalis "Alba." A soft light edging plant would be the char-

treuse flowers of Alchemilla mollis, Ladies Mantle. Another choice which looks wonderful is Achillea millefolium Colorado Mixture. Its red, pink, apricot yellow, cream, beige and pure white colors look like the colors of a dish of summer sherbets.

On the painter's palette, green is a secondary color created from equal amounts of blue and yellow. It plays a very important role in the garden, for it is the green foliage which is the basic fabric through which the others colors are woven. You could describe it as the perfect backdrop or foil for everything in the garden; the green hedges form the walls, the green trees form the canopies and the green lawn is the carpet. Kermit might not agree, but in the garden, it is easy being green. You are the Leading Man.

In days of old common folk were not permitted to wear the color purple. It was reserved for royalty, and evoked feelings of privilege, weight and intensity. Purple is a recessive color; it is the color of shadows. In the garden it can disappear in shady areas. As in kings' robes, purple needs a touch of gold. Lavender is the pastel version of purple. You can achieve a

—Continued on Page 9.

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wonderful two-tone effect by combining the deep purple of Clematis jackmanii Superba with the clear lavender blooms of Clematis "Mrs. Cholomondelay." Train this duo up a fence, trellis or tuteur with the golden Rosa "Golden Showers" for a striking display.

Purists do not consider white as a color, but as a pure light or absence of color. But in the garden, white is a very useful color. It has always signified purity and innocence. The white of roses, lilies and narcissuses have been immortalized in literature and arts for centuries. It played a symbolic role in religions and in politics as the flower herald. There are many shades of white. If you ever went to the paint store to pick up a can of "white paint", you know what I mean. A touch of white in a garden of red, blue, yellow and purple adds a spark that subtly ignites the entire garden.

The understanding of the place of color in the garden is central to its success. If you are re-doing a garden this year or making your annual trip to the garden center to select your annuals and perennials, take time to look at colors. For like an artist, your garden is your work of art.

*"If I can someday see M. Claude Monet's garden, I feel sure that I shall see something that is not so much a garden of flowers as of colors and tones, less an old-fashioned flower garden than a color garden, so to speak, one that achieves an effect not entirely Nature's because it was planted so that only the flowers with matching colors will bloom at the same time, harmonized in an infinite stretch of blue or pink."*

Marcel Proust, "Splendors" Le Figaro, June 15, 1907

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## Things To Do

### April 7

*Ducks N Stuff*  
Poolesville Library 2:00 p.m.  
Petable Farm Animals, Storytelling

### April 8

(No School in Montgomery County)  
*Lions Club Basket Bingo*  
St. Mary's Pavilion  
5:30 p.m. doors open  
7:00 p.m. games begin  
\$15/\$20 - Snacks  
301-831-8203

### April 9

*Oldies and Goodies Dance Night*  
Potomac Valley Lodge, , Lower Ballroom, 8 p.m. to closing.  
\$6 per person, \$10 per couple  
V. Dickerson - DJ

### April 12

*Poolesville Elementary PTA 6:30 p.m.*

### April 14

*Silent Auction/Curriculum Night*  
Monocacy Elementary School 6:30p.m.  
*Cuddleup Stories*  
Poolesville Library 10:30 a.m.  
Finger play, music, Babies to 23 mos.

**April 15** (Have you filed your taxes?)  
*JPMS Dance 7:30 p.m.*

### April 16

*Let's Share Shakespeare*  
By the Round House Theater players  
Excerpts of the Old Bard's plays  
1:30 p.m.

### April 17

*Family Dance Night*  
St. Mary's Pavilion  
\$5.00/person; \$25.00/family  
4:00 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### April 19

*Carrabba's Night PTA Fundraiser*  
Monocacy Elementary School  
St Mary's Pavilion  
6 p.m. Adults: \$9; Children: \$6  
301-349-3728

**April 21** Take Your Kid to Work Day  
*Story time*

Poolesville Library  
Twosomes, 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

### April 22

*Kindergarten Orientation*  
Poolesville Elementary School

### April 23

*Crafty Ladies Flea Market*  
Memorial United Methodist Church  
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



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**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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## Local News

### Celebrate Rural Montgomery!

By Dominique Agnew

For the Chinese this may be the Year of the Rooster, but for the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve, 2005 is the Year to Celebrate Rural Montgomery! In recognition of its twenty-fifth year of preserving our rural heritage, the Ag Reserve plans to hold special events throughout the year to better inform the public of the treasure the Ag Reserve represents and to celebrate the achievement of having come this far against so many encroaching forces.

The Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve is considered the most successful farmland preservation program in the country. It has been a model for communities across the country even to the point of being included in college textbooks as the ideal plan for the development of suburbs around great cities.

At the end of World War II, most of Montgomery County was farmland. In 1980, it took great vision and foresight for the Montgomery County

Planning Board, the Montgomery County Council, and other county leaders to realize that the beauty of the western and upper reaches of the county could disappear if something wasn't done to preserve them. The Ag Reserve was born.

Melanie Choukas-Bradley, author of numerous books and articles on the Ag Reserve and its wildlife and the official Ag Reserve spokesperson says, "We want to demonstrate to people who live in the suburbs that the Ag Reserve is a resource for them." Year-round, people drive to any of the five hundred plus family-owned farms for a variety of reasons: pumpkins in the fall, berries in the spring, Christmas trees, and landscape plants, to name a few.

The Ag Reserve offers more than these tangibles, it protects the watershed for the local rivers, the Potomac, the Patuxent, and the Anacostia. Also, Melanie adds, "In preserving the wetlands, fields, and woods, the Ag Reserve is preserving absolutely critical wildlife." This is evidenced by the abundance of birds, butterflies, wildflowers, and other wildlife. She continues, "How wonderful the Ag Reserve is for children — those who grow up on farms and are surrounded

by farmland, and [those] who live down county that can interact with the land in an intimate way."

The inaugural celebration exhibits just this kind of intimacy. After an April 14 press conference to launch Celebrate Rural Montgomery on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Agricultural Reserve, the public is invited to an open house at Poplar Springs on Saturday, April 16 from 1:00 to 4:00. The four hundred acre farm on the Potomac is an animal sanctuary. Guests are welcome to interact with the animals, most of whom roam freely. There will be materials available about the Ag Reserve, and one can look across the banks of the Potomac where there is no preservation of farmland, where buildings rise on the banks of the Potomac, where the future of all of Montgomery County would be if there were no Ag Reserve. This event coincides with the spring studio tour and is listed on the list of studios to visit.

Also, the Ag Reserve works closely with the schools to try and educate the students about the importance of this heritage. Two students from the Global Ecology Program at Poolesville High School, Jackie Hancock and Stacie Payne, have prepared

a PowerPoint presentation about the Ag Reserve. They plan to present it to students of the Poolesville area, as well as those in down-county schools.

Dr. Royce Hanson, chairman of the Montgomery County Planning Board in 1980 and significant architect of the Ag Reserve sums it up most eloquently, "Value is added to every home and household in the area when we know future generations can see Sugarloaf rising from fields instead of roofs; bike a country road on the weekend without having to drive to West Virginia; and learn that it is possible and practical to grow smart; and, if we remain constant in purpose and inventive in spirit and policy, this broad wedge of piedmont will forever interrupt an unremitting urban advance. It will tomorrow, as today, give us a chance to catch our breath, enjoy a trace of what the county's landscape once was, and realize a promise of how to reconcile urbanization and the environment."

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## Center Stage

### Seeing Red

By Dominique Agnew

Caroline Jasper stood before the mingling crowd in front of two canvases. One was startlingly red, the other had once been this striking red, but now showed the beginning of a scene – and the artist wore a red apron. The paintings of Caroline Jasper are stunning in their visual intensity and dynamic colors. The caption for her brochure reads: “Radiant paintings in the colors of light and emotion.”

The subjects of her works include a variety of landscapes and water-scapes, and, frequently, structures of an architectural interest of varying sizes – from a staircase, to a gate, to a house. While this may seem like a wide variety of subjects, it becomes evident that she draws strongly on the style of the impressionists, capturing strong swaths of light while avoiding the blending of colors.

Caroline grew up on Maryland farms outside of Ellicott City and Hagerstown, spending much of her time outside. “I was always outside as much as possible,” she says. “I enjoyed the beauty of nature, as corny as that may sound.” Corny or not, it has been a driving force in her art and in her life as she is still an avid outdoors-woman playing golf or simply walking with her camera. Why the camera? It just isn’t practical for her to paint *en pleine nature*, sometimes a color of paint must dry for a few days before she can add the next color.

Another driving force from Caroline’s childhood is her mother who was very artistic. She encouraged her in all her artistic endeavors for which Caroline had a natural aptitude from a young age. Many of her childhood pieces of art were saved; one of them, a drawing Caroline did while riding in the car at the age of six, is on the dedication page of her newly published book, *Powercolor*. Of course, the book is dedicated to her mother – her mentor.

From the farms of her youth, Caroline went to college in Baltimore and earned her Master’s Degree in Fine Arts from the Maryland Institute College of Art. While working towards her Bachelor’s at Towson State, she knew she wanted to major in art, but she didn’t know what she was going to do with it. Destiny intervened.

During the summer between her freshman and sophomore years, she was a camp counselor at a camp for teenagers focusing on the arts: visual arts, dance, drama. “I was hooked,”



Carolyn Jasper

she said of the experience. She went on to earn her teaching certificate and taught middle school then high school in the Baltimore County system.

As her children got older, she found that she had a little more time and began spending more time on her own work. There was a direct correlation between the teaching and her art. Every day the students showed her a fresh point of view. “I learned a lot from my students. I became a better teacher, and the teaching made me a better painter.” Even now that she’s no longer in the schools, she teaches workshops across the country and continues to learn from her students. “My students are older, but almost childlike in their appreciation of the art.”

Along with her teaching, Caroline is involved in numerous art shows across the country which is what brought her to our neck of the woods. During an art show where her work was displayed at Black Rock Center for the Arts in Germantown, Caroline met Dr. Goodwin, president of the Comus Inn at Sugarloaf Mountain. He was impressed enough to purchase one of her works for his home. He was also impressed enough to feature Caroline at the Inaugural Reception for the Visiting Artists’ Program at the inn – Palette and Palate. On March 24, the doors of the inn were open to the public to come meet Caroline Jasper, view her work, and listen to her speak of the events that shaped different

works and the emotions she tries to capture and evoke.

This, in a roundabout way, brings us back to Red – the color that makes us think of “blood, violence, and Valentine’s.” Red is the color that is the attention-getter, the one that draws us in to look more closely. Interestingly, the human eye has more cones and rods for the color red than for any other color. “Red is part of the initial impact that interacts with other colors,” Caroline says. “It can mingle really well with bright colors, or it can be juxtaposed so other colors aren’t actually touching each other.”

It is no surprise that she ended up writing a book about color. While she was teaching a workshop at an art expo in Pasadena, California, agents from Watson-Huptill Publications of New York approached her about a book. While she wanted to write a whole book about red, she managed to reign in her impulses. She hopes *Powercolor* covers everything about color, the practical and the realistic, with an emphasis on teaching and working with color – the sort of book she was never able to find for herself. Nine other artists contributed with

different approaches to the subject matter, each chapter closing in the studio of the artist.

Surprisingly, Caroline avoided a red canvas when experimenting with different colors, “I thought it would be hard to deal with it,” but finally found that the emotional impact of red was what she was seeking. She found much of her technique comes from a sequence of experimentation. “Most of what I do is in direct opposition to what I was taught.” On her red canvas, she’ll usually paint whites first and avoids mixing colors as much as possible; “color is brightest and cleanest straight from the tube,” she adds. Sometimes, by the time her painting is finished, there is hardly any red left, a revelation considering the vivid beginning of the work.

Many of her works are still on display at the Comus Inn, for admiration or for purchase, many of these being more architectural in scope as that was what drew her to the inn. She also has many of her paintings displayed on her website [www.carolynjasper.com](http://www.carolynjasper.com) where one can view incredible waterscapes and intense landscapes.

## School News

### Monocacy Elementary School

The Juggling Club at Monocacy Elementary will perform during the pre-game ceremonies for the Frederick Keys on Friday, April 15. Immediately following their performance, the Monocacy Elementary chorus will sing the National Anthem.

The Fifth Grade Art Show will be on display in the main hallway until April 15 in celebration of Art Month and the graduation of these fine students.

The Third Annual Carrabba’s Night, hosted by the Monocacy Elementary PTA, will take place on April 19, 6:00 p.m. at St. Mary’s Pavilion. The delicious dinner is open to all in the community. Tickets are \$9.00 for

adults, \$6.00 for children and reservations must be in by Thursday, April 14. For more information, contact Sharon Armstrong at 301-349-3728.

You loved the book, the movie was sensational, but you have yet to see the Monocacy Elementary School Drama Club’s version of *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*. Mark your calendars for May 6 and come out and enjoy this timeless classic.

This year’s Annual SGA Silent Auction Night will take place on April 14. Funds raised support many special school projects including the butterfly garden, computer software, and recess games. For more information, contact the main office at 301-972-7990.

## Poets Corner

### OSAMA

Tell me Daddy. Tell me, Mama.  
Whatever became of that man Osama?  
Maybe he’s become a Tibetan Lama.  
This mysterious man called Osama.  
Or gone on vacation in Grand Bahama.

This bane of civilization, this Osama.  
Maybe he’s moved to Yokohama  
And runs a Sushi bar, Mr. Osama.  
The news reports every new trauma  
In Iraq’s horrible, unending drama.  
If you don’t know Daddy, let’s ask  
Mama.  
Why never a word about Bin Laden,  
Osama?  
The Mudge

**All the News Continued—**

students. How does it happen that not one of them was granted a scholarship? Our boys and girls deserve consideration for some these (scholarships) to advanced education." (*Thank goodness for all the local groups today that provide scholarship money.*)

Crime had a quaint feel and the suggested punishment was an old-fashioned solution:

"Some teenagers dug up and turned upside down and replanted several fence posts in a Poolesville yard recently. Whatever happened to Grandpa's old-fashioned razor strap?"

New product brought win-win-win: "You can now get Michelob beer at Staub's in Beallsville. Save the brown bottles and return them to Mr. Staub. We need them for the flower show." (*Who needs Tiffany crystal when good old brown beer bottles will do?*)

We were intrigued by the August 1962 edition which featured these items:

"To the gentleman who offered to be our Walter Winchell and supply us with all the tid-bits of gossip—now, you just KNOW there isn't anything in upper Montgomery County to gossip about. Or is there?" (*Perhaps you have some juicy gossip for The Monocle.*)

New businesses in town also consisted of the door-to-door type: "Did you know that we have a Fuller Brush man in the community? Only he doesn't sell just brushes as in Grandma's day. He sells cosmetics, vitamins, aerosol sprays, and all kinds of things to make one look prettier and to keep the house cleaner. Just call Mr. Olson at DI 9 - 2323 and he will call on you." (*Man, we thought telemarketing was intrusive.*)

How about the hot news of today that centers on issues of growth. In 1962, it was not different as you can tell by this story headlined "Growing Pains." "Mr. Frederick Gutheim, inter-

nationally-known planning consultant who lives near Dickerson was invited by the Town Council to make a study and offer advice in the matter of the controversial annexation of more than 3,000 acres adjacent to Poolesville." (*The more things change, the more they stay the same.*)

Here is just a brief recap of what was the hot news of the day:

September 1962 edition:

"The most welcome visitors to Poolesville are the three on Saturday's Bookmobile."

"For Sale: Rambler on half acre lot. \$27,500. (*Try about \$300,000 today.*)"

"To the person in the loud blue car, please slow down, your loud engine is disturbing our peace and quiet!" (*We think the same guy is still around.*)

Spring 1963 edition:

"Poolesville Pranksters: The residents of Poolesville are becoming exasperated with peeping toms, property destruction, and homes and stores being broken into. There is thieving at the high school parking lot and general hooliganism during the past few months. It has been suggested to the Montgomery County Police that they send more frequent cruising night patrol cars up here...perhaps the police should deputize at least two Poolesville citizens with power to arrest." (*Peeping Toms? Just a warning, we know who you are.*)

"Spring Cleaning: Recent restoration in the center of our village should prove an inspiration to others. There is a certain shabby grace about Poolesville. After our long, cold, and bitter winter, perhaps a general spring house cleaning is in order". (*I thought that is why we have boy scouts.*)

"Unfenced dogs have been busy killing fowls again. Tom Oxley recently lost twenty-one chickens to one dog. This is wanton and expensive

destruction. Unless something is done about keeping pets off other people's property, Poolesville residents are threatening to take up arms." (*Whoa, take up arms?*)

"Uncooped chickens are equally damaging. They scratch up kitchen gardens, eat grapes and strawberries, and are apt to end up in someone's frying pan." (*Knew the dog lovers would fire back.*)

January 1964 edition:

"WANTED! This community desperately needs a pharmacy. It's a mighty far piece to Rockville or Frederick to get a prescription filled." (*The call got answered with a prescription-only pharmacy where Jon's Video is now.*)

"WANTED! A dentist. Preferably one that doesn't hurt and has a silent drill." (*Way to go, Tim, Margaret, and Stephen!*)

"WANTED! An apartment house. We lose many good teachers from our local schools because there is no place for them to live."

While The Poolesville News ceased publication in 1964, the area has not lost its passion for the written word, especially since we have about as many media outlets as New York City.

**Local News****Trout Fishing in the Monocle Area**

By Dominique Agnew

The darkness was punctured by the lights of flashlights and lanterns; the silence by voices calling out, "What time do you have? Is it 5:30 yet?" Finally, the one with the fastest watch called out, "I've got 5:30!" A cacophony of splashes sounded as a multitude of lines hit the water.

It was 5:30 in the morning of Saturday, March 26, and Anglers' Addiction had set in. On the banks of Great Seneca Creek near the overpass for Route 28, nearly fifty fishermen of all ages and genders were manning their lines trying to catch a full day's quota of trout. That morning marked the reopening after a scheduled closure to stock the river from March 6 to March 26. A similar opening occurred at Izaak Walton Pond.

If you missed the action, there will be another closure from April 10 to April 16, for Great Seneca Creek. So be prepared for an early morning on April 16. Fishing licenses and trout stamps are required for fishermen sixteen years of age and older. For more information, contact the Maryland Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-688-FINS or visit [www.dnr.state.md.us](http://www.dnr.state.md.us).

a good two-thirds of its existence. It wasn't until this point that I began to experience the emotions of the characters. But, the film does ultimately deliver.

Perhaps, however, I am not entirely qualified to judge the first two-thirds of this film. It does contain a number of easily identifiable "Chick Flick" elements. A key char-

—Continued on Page 14

**Video Update**

By Ray Clark

**Finding Neverland.** Stars Johnny Depp, Kate Winslet, Julie Kristie, and Dustin Hoffman. Directed by Marc Forster (Monster's Ball).

Early twentieth century playwright James Barrie (Depp) is coming off of a major flop. He takes to being frolicsome with the children of a widow (Winslet) everyday, all the while acquiring ideas for his next project, Peter Pan.

Johnny Depp is wonderful in this low key performance, which is most of what this film has to offer for

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## Mystery History

### Fugitive George Atzerodt's Escape into Montgomery

By Jack Toomey

One hundred and forty years ago this month, a sensational incident happened in Washington, D.C. The story of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln is well known. What is not widely known is how Montgomery County played a part in this important part of history.

George Atzerodt was shocked. After a day of drinking in a city that was celebrating the end of the Civil War, he had been summoned to a hotel near Ford's Theater to meet his friend John Wilkes Booth. For months, he had been part of a loosely-knit group that had planned to kidnap Abraham Lincoln and transport him to Richmond. Under the leadership of Booth, they had planned to kidnap Lincoln while he rode in his carriage out present-day Georgia Avenue on the way to his country home in the wooded area north of the city. When that plan fell through, Atzerodt stayed around Washington until being summoned to meet with Booth, but now Booth announced that he intended to kill the president and ordered Atzerodt to kill Vice President Andrew Johnson.

George Atzerodt was born in Prussia in 1835. When he was eight years old, his family immigrated to the United States and they settled in Germantown, Maryland. He was uneducated and worked at a series of odd jobs until he was sixteen, when his family moved to southern Maryland. After the family moved, some of his relatives stayed in the German-town area, and he visited occasionally. He took up residence in Port Tobacco and opened a carriage shop. He has been described as a "seedy man, short and dumpy, and a ne'er-do-well" who spent his time working on carriages during the day and smuggling Confederate spies and messages across the Potomac by night. Booth had met Atzerodt through mutual friends and asked him to enter the plot to kidnap Lincoln because Atzerodt owned a boat and knew the river like no other man.

On the evening of April 14, 1865, Booth went to Ford's Theater and assassinated President Lincoln. At about

the same time, another conspirator went to the home of Secretary of State William Seward and stabbed him repeatedly. Atzerodt had taken a room in the same hotel where Vice President Johnson lived. At the last minute, he lost his nerve, did not carry out his orders, and left the hotel. He then visited a few taverns and eventually



Conspirator George Atzerodt

checked into another hotel and fell asleep.

The next morning, Atzerodt realized that he was tied deeply to the conspiracy. He knew that he had to leave the city immediately, so he walked to a hotel in the area of Wisconsin Avenue and P Street where a stage coach to Rockville was scheduled to depart. Atzerodt was the only passenger on the stage as it traveled up present-day Wisconsin Avenue to the area of Fort Reno where soldiers were under orders to stop all suspicious persons. He jumped off the stage and began talking to other travelers until he met a Montgomery County farmer, George Gaither, who had a wagon and was going to his farm north of Rockville. Atzerodt talked himself into a free ride past the check point, apparently because of his friendly demeanor and willingness to share some hard cider with the soldiers.

Atzerodt rode on the wagon about three miles past Rockville until Mr. Gaither turned off the Frederick Road to his own farm. Atzerodt got off and began walking until he reached

the road that ran northwest towards Barnesville. This road closely followed present-day Fields Road and Clopper Road. At about 11:00 p.m., he came to Clopper Mill. He knew the mill owner and asked to spend the night. When he awoke the next morning, he walked up Clopper Road to a lane that led to the farm of Hezekiah Metz. Today, as you travel north on Clopper Road, after passing Metz Drive, there is a large oak tree on the left side of the road. It is said that this oak tree was one of two that marked the lane to the Metz farmhouse. Atzerodt went to the Metz home and was invited to eat Easter Sunday dinner with the family. After leaving there, he reached the intersection of present-day Route 118 and Clopper Road. He headed west towards Darnestown and reached the lane that led to the farm of his cousin, Hartman Richter. His cousin allowed him to stay on the farm in exchange for doing chores, having no idea that Atzerodt was being sought by the military.

Early in the morning of April 20, 1865, a squad of cavalry soldiers entered the house and dragged Atzerodt from bed. They had tracked him to that place through informants and neighbors who had seen a suspicious man around the farm. After questioning, they arrested him and took him to Ellicott City where he was placed on a military train and taken to Washington. Atzerodt eventually confessed to his part in the conspiracy to kidnap Lincoln. He denied any knowledge of the plan to assassinate the president. On July 7, 1865, George Atzerodt, along with other conspirators, was hanged at the Washington Arsenal.

Today the remains of the Clopper Mill can still be seen along Clopper Road. The Metz farm has been replaced by a shopping center and townhouses, and Metz Drive bears the family name. Hartman Richter's farm has been replaced by a sprawling housing development and Richter Farm Drive is named after this family. The Richter family farmhouse where Atzerodt was arrested is believed to have stood near the site of Northwest High School.

Nowhere is there mention of George Atzerodt. He is buried at St. Paul's Cemetery in Baltimore under a fictitious name.

Video Update continued from  
Page 13—

acter becomes deathly ill. You have a male lead who scores 100 in heartfelt compassion, and a zero on the drive side of the Sex-O-Meter. Meanwhile, you'll find yourself muttering words like "sweet" and "charming."

Here's your *Finding Neverland* compatibility quiz.

Would you rather:

- 1 a) have a picnic or b) tune up the old Chevy
- 2 a) take your meds or b) "play through the pain"
- 3 a) feed homeless children or b) win an arm-farting contest
- 4 a) sip white wine with dinner or b) discover a 96-ounce can of your favorite beer -- on sale (or not) and COLD!!!
- 5 a) order escargot or b) scarf some snails on a dare
- 6) And, finally, did you watch the film Titanic for:

a) the "story" or b) the shipwreck. Your score is based on the number of "b" choices you made.

0-1: SEE THIS FILM! You'll love it, I promise.

2-3: You probably want to pick a dif—  
—Continued on Page 17

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## At Your Service

### Mark Gochnour, Librarian Montgomery County Library - Poolesville

By Jack Toomey

He seems to know everyone who comes in the front door. He supervises seven employees and about thirty-five volunteers. His responsibility



Mark Gochnour assists Stacey Jesuitas

includes over forty thousand books and two thousand video tapes. The youngest customer is two years old and there are three in their nineties—all this, and he doesn't need a cape. Mark Gochnour, the librarian at the Poolesville Library, oversees all of

this with his friendly demeanor and willingness to serve.

Mark has spent his whole life in Montgomery County. He attended Wheaton High School and holds degrees in History and Library Science from the University of Maryland. He was hired by the Montgomery County Public Library System in 1973 and wound his way through a series of assignments before arriving in Poolesville in 1991. Mark worked at Twinbrook, Aspen Hill, Bethesda, Rockville, and Gaithersburg before coming here. He became head librarian in 2000.

Gochnour receives great satisfaction from helping people. He says, "My most satisfying moment is when a person leaves with what they want, and that gives me a reason to come to work." He sees himself as a conduit between patrons who might request a certain book and the next person who will recommend another book. Mark admits that he really doesn't know the name of everyone that comes into the library, but he knows that he has built relationships and credibility with people because they know they can depend on him for advice, research, and recommendations. The son of an FBI agent, Mark sometimes sees him-

self as a detective trying to track down book titles and information.

He has had some strange requests in his time. Once, a child who had selected a book on ducklings asked how difficult it was for a duck to lay an egg. Mark was stumped by that one. Another day, a gentleman who had misdialed began complaining about hemorrhoid pain after mistaking Mark for his doctor. The most frequently asked questions? "Are you open? What are your hours?"

Many may think of the library as a boring place where silence rules, but this ain't your pappy's library. Sometimes, Mark sponsors sleepovers for children. On one of these occasions, at about 3:30 in the morning, nearly thirty kids were asleep and Mark and a few adults were sitting in the front of the library. Suddenly they heard the roaring of a car engine and the screams of screeching tires; they saw a car rushing straight at the building. Fearing that a crime was about to take place, the adults took cover only to hear the morning newspaper being dropped into the book return!

Mark laments that more people do not familiarize themselves with the computerized library catalog and

the wonders of internet search capability. He is resigned to the fact that the Poolesville Library will not have the longer hours of the down-county libraries unless more people use the library and community support increases.

Children's Librarian Michelle Seltzer said, "I love working for him because he empowers us...he doesn't demand that we run every little thing by him, and he's always open for our suggestions."

If you haven't had the opportunity to meet Mark Gochnour, visit the Poolesville Library, he'll not only help you with your burning questions of knowledge, he'll also engage you in conversation and leave you the better for it.

### Thinking About Change

How did Maryland end up with the State House on the back of its quarter?

Is it possible that we have will end up having the most boring quarter of all fifty states?

What was wrong with a crab?



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**Video Update Continued from Page 14—**

ferent film.

4-5: You probably want to pick friends that don't own this DVD.

6: You believe that Finding Neverland is the media's nickname for the Michael Jackson trial.

Morality Check: Brief language. PG

**Ladder 49.** New on DVD. Stars Joaquin Phoenix and John Travolta. Directed by Jay Russell (My Dog Skip).

Firefighter Jack Morris (Phoenix) falls several stories through the middle of a burning skyscraper. Captain Mike Kennedy (Travolta) has sent a team to carve through rebar, attempting a heroic and expeditious rescue. Meanwhile, Jack slips in and out of consciousness, dreaming of his career as a fireman.

Jack Morris's dreams are not only coherent, they're chronological. This is the type of plot device that wouldn't bother me, if I really enjoyed the story -- this extremely predictable story. I watched this film with my son. I was pretty much able to tell him at the

beginning of each scene, what would be happening by the end of the scene. There is nothing in this tale that you haven't witnessed many times in made for TV movies.

The cinematography is what pulls this project out of the fire, so to speak. When the film goes big, presenting a multistory fire, for example, the photography can be quite spectacular. There are several shots that are suitable for framing.

So, the question is: If you give an old shoe a new shine, is it a better shoe? Answer: Somewhat -- but, this shoe still retraces a lot of familiar steps.

Morality Check: Lots of bad and blasphemous language. Some scenes will be too intense for the young.

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## Focus on Business

### All Under One Roof

By Marcie Gross

As reporter for The Monocacy Monocle, I have the opportunity to talk with and meet so many interesting people from our community. With each interview, I feel fortunate and even more proud to be a member of this community. This week, I had a chance to meet Joe Ryba. Joe owns his own business, Joe Ryba Roofing Company based out of Dickerson.

When Joe was younger, his Dad worked in the Defense industry. The family, consisting of six children, settled down not too far from here in Germantown. Early on, Joe developed an interest in hunting. Joe has traveled around the United States and Canada and has even gone on two African safaris. He hunted mule deer and

antelope in Wyoming, bear in Maine, elk in Montana and Idaho, sheep in Alaska, and mountain goat in British Columbia. Of course he loves hunting (during season) right here at home and has whitetail deer to show for it.



Joe Ryba in the field.

During high school and college, Joe worked with his neighbor, who was a partner in a roofing company in DC named Jack's Roofing Company. He learned the tricks of the trade and after he graduated from college in 1982, Joe went into business for him-

self. Thus, Joe Ryba Roofing Company was established.

Joe moved to an old farm house in Boyds and his business continued to grow. He restored the house himself (another hobby in his spare time). "I love the roofing business and like to think that I offer the best quality at a reasonable price," says Ryba. "Business and referrals have come from word of mouth," Ryba continues, "and that has made me what I am today." Joe takes pride that he is a visible sight on every job his company does. He performs all of the office work and repair work for his business. Joe also has a passion for building houses. So far, he has built ten houses on his own and two he even designed. Currently, Joe lives on fourteen wooded acres in Dickerson on the west side of Sugarloaf Mountain. He is working on his own home that he shares with his wife and two step-daughters, three cats, and two dogs.

In 1990, Joe joined the Monocacy Lions Club. He has gone up through the ranks of this prestigious community service organization "to learn the workings of the club," says Ryba. He has served as an officer, a Board member and was President in 1995. Joe says, "The Lions Club has a lot to offer our community." He says that in addition to offering two scholarships to deserving Poolesville High School students each year, the Monocacy Lions focus on eye care for those who can not afford eye exams and glasses. The club provides eye screening for preschoolers, too. Working with WUMCO, the Lions Club provides food baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas time as well as its own Christmas toy drive. From family man to community service volunteer to business owner, Joe is always busy and looking out to help our community all under one roof.



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## Equestrian

### Hanna's Birthday Party

By Debby Lynn

Readers may remember the little orphan donkey, Hanna. She was born last spring to an ailing jenny, who died when Hanna was three days old. Dr. Haley Kostinas, a local equine practitioner who had been called upon regarding the dam, undertook to save the little orphan donkey.

Hanna arrived at Pheasant Hill Farm via the passenger seat in Haley's Ford. She was weak, dehydrated, malnourished and injured. Pat Douglas, who owns and operates Pheasant Hill, made Hanna her special charge. Working out of a makeshift emergency room set up in the tack room, Pat and Haley provided the necessary intensive care and medical support the baby donkey

required.

Hanna recovered and began to thrive. In the ensuing year, she has become a fixture at Pat's farm. She trots around the farm unconfined. There is no need to restrict her travels. Where ever Pat is, you will find the little donkey. She runs along behind Pat's four wheel "Gator" as Pat makes her farm rounds. When Pat goes into the house, so does Hanna, leaping nimbly up the

porch steps to follow Pat around the house. And, yes, she's house broken. She waits until she finds herself back outside.

Many of Pheasant Hill's clients and friends were touched by Hanna's story, and have watched little Hanna grow. It seemed only fitting she should have a first birthday party.

Dozens of Hanna's favorite friends gathered at Pheasant Hill on a recent Saturday to celebrate the first birthday of the little donkey who

almost wasn't. Hanna is now a robust yearling jenny, full of life and mischief. Wearing a party hat and standing in the dining room, Hanna opened her presents. Well wishers showered her with bags of baby carrots and boxes of raisins, her two favorite treats. The quintessential party animal, Hanna trotted through the house in her pointy pink hat, teasing Greta the German Shepard and poking her nose in the carrot cake.



Got any snacks for the birthday girl?

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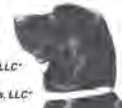
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## Day Tripper

### The Waters House at Pleasant Fields The Story of Harness Racing by Currier and Ives

By Dominique Agnew

Encircled by modern development and architecture of the past decade, the Waters House at Pleasant Fields stands incongruously in its solitude. Begun in the 1700s, like many of the homes of age that survived, a few sizeable additions over the next century enlarged the house to a comfortable mansion.

The importance of the Waters House is how the history of the home and its owners is a reflection of the history of Montgomery County and our own history. What was important to people of the 1800s? What were the crops of importance? How did people get around? While we mourn the inexplicable death of a loved one, imagine how tragic it must have been to lose a wife and two children in one month to an epidemic of the measles as happened to one of the Waters heirs—this after losing a young child years before as frequently occurred.

Despite these hardships—typical of the era—the Waters was a rather

successful family with a profitable farm of nearly one thousand acres and with a few well-respected doctors in the family. Much of the history of the farm comes from the memoirs of Marie E.L. Waters, born in 1895, depicting the delights of living and growing up on the farm. She also wrote of her father Charles's passion for horses, buying them, selling them, breeding them, and racing them. As a matter of fact, Waters's best horse, Kinster, was related to the famed Dan Patch.

In this day and age, horses are mostly pets for leisure, but before automobiles, they were of incredible importance. The traveling exhibition, "The Story of Harness Racing by Currier and Ives," is on loan from the Harness Racing Museum and Hall



of Fame through the end of April. Displayed at the beautifully renovated Waters House at Pleasant Fields are numerous original prints from the Currier and Ives printing company of the nineteenth century. Stunning in their complexity and beauty, the prints serve as a reminder the relevance horses played in our everyday lives while, at the same time, showing the importance of lithograph printing and the dominance of Currier and Ives, "Printmakers to the American People."

From 1835 until 1907, Currier and

Ives produced over seven thousand images in unlimited prints. At a time when there was no photography and commissioning paintings was for the wealthy only, lithograph prints were an option for decorating many homes. Each print was hand-colored in assembly line fashion with a different colorist adding only one color. At the same time, many of the prints were newsworthy, and now, of historical significance documenting a wide spectrum of American life of the nineteenth century. The exhibit at Waters House conveys varying depictions of horses in American life and details the history of lithograph printing through Currier and Ives.

The Waters House at Pleasant Fields located at 12535 Milestone Manor Lane in Germantown is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. On May 8, the Waters House will host a special Mother's Day Tea at 3:00, and a future exhibit will feature the photographs by Michael F. Dwyer of Lost Montgomery. Call 301-515-2887 or visit [www.montgomeryhistory.org](http://www.montgomeryhistory.org) for more information. The Waters House is also available for rental for a wide variety of functions.

## Golf Tips with Mike Aldrich



### Short Game = Scoring Game

If you walked up to me and offered to pay for a season of lessons by paying me \$200 per stroke that I can take off of your handicap, 80% of our time would be spent on shots from 80 yards or less. You probably do not realize that the largest gap between your game and a tour player is around the green. In my own tournament play, I have noticed that when I shoot even par or less, my putting and chipping

has been exceptional. I remember one round when I shot 72, and only hit 9 greens in regulation.

So, besides spending more time working on your short game, what specifically can you do to reduce your scores? Without actually observing and evaluating your game, I recommend that you consider the following.

1. Understand the physics of chipping - You do not need to "get under the ball". Focus on brushing the grass and allow the loft of the club to add the height to the shot. This will cause you to make cleaner contact and put more spin on the ball.

2. Learn your ratios - I chip almost exclusively with three clubs; 7 iron, 9 iron, and sand wedge. When I hit a chip with my sand wedge, I pick a point 1/2 of the way to the hole to land the ball on. With my 9 iron, this spot is 1/3 of the way, and with my 7 iron, 1/4 of the way. If you are like many of my students, your chips commonly go well beyond the hole.

3. Practice your 2-10 foot putts - These are the "money making" putts. Putts that go in beyond this distance are more than 1/2 luck. If you start consistently making putts less than 10 feet, it will take a lot of pressure off of the rest of your game.

I promise that time spent on your short game will effect your scores a lot more than hitting your driver another five yards. Also, the gains that you can make in your chipping and putting will come easier, and quicker. Next time that you go to practice, or take a lesson from your favorite PGA Professional, consider focusing on your short game.

Mike Aldrich is the the PGA Head Golf Professional at Poolesville Golf Course. He is a protégé of Manuel De La Torre, one of Golf Magazine's "Top 50 Teachers". Mike is a highly sought after instructor, working with some of greater D.C.'s top amateurs and PGA Professionals. Mike hopes that Poolesville Golf Course will become "Your home for all things golf". The facility is only 30 minutes from Gaithersburg, Rockville, and Frederick.



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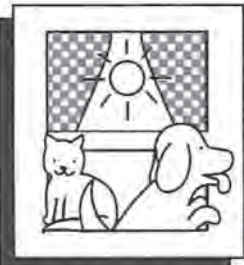
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**Rande(m) Thoughts Continued—**

ers in Poolesville will have to sign a referendum petition before an actual vote takes place. (Please note that only those registered on town rolls would be eligible to vote in such a referendum.) It will take approximately five hundred to six hundred registered voters to move for a referendum.

To head-off a referendum, the commissioners may choose to lower the town tax rate, as they did last year. By lowering the tax rate to a point where property tax revenue is not increased more than seven percent, a referendum will be avoided.

These decisions are serious and will affect all of us. Despite what others may try to depict, the public process currently being incorporated is very deliberate and not symptomatic of a commission out of control. Frankly speaking, the general public is not served by information that is misleading or when the motives of public servants are irresponsibly impugned or when a false picture of "a disaster to come" is presented. Concerned citizens should be very wary of critics who choose to hyperventilate and exaggerate the situation.

While others prefer to make it sound like the commissioners have already voted to make large increases in taxes to fund pet projects, the truth is the decision has not been made. In fact, we repeat, they may choose to lower the tax rate as they did last year.

Did you know that if the projected increase in revenue from property taxes was applied against the total revenue of the town, then that increase would only be 4.4% of last year's total revenue? Extra revenue a bit greater than inflation is useful, especially since it did not require an increase in tax rates.

We never met a voter who was not against waste in government. There is a difference between real waste in government spending versus disapproving the expenditure decisions that one personally does not favor. Your waste can be my need. The give

and take of politics always results in this disparity. Always getting your personal way on expenditure has a name—it's called dictatorship. Coming together to approve a budget by balancing the needs and wants of the community at large is much more complex and challenging. It is a process that is never perfect because individuals will never get their own way completely.

One other intriguing point to ponder in an atmosphere that is sometimes close to hysteria, did you know that the total projected final revenue for 2005 is \$2,602,319? The projected revenue for 2006 is \$2,254,989. That's right, even with the increase in revenue from rising property taxes, the total amount of revenue projected for the town is down \$347,330. Using the terminology of others, this could be called a 13% decrease in taxes.

As the town considers reduction of tax rates to modify the revenue picture, other income concerns are also on the horizon. The state and county budget issues bring in to question how much revenue will actually come to town. If they cut back, we could be cut back.

Most people would prefer a reduction in their rate to lower their tax bill. I know that is my first inclination. The most probable guess at this point is that the reduction will come, and the residents will realize a bit of tax relief.

By not accepting the revenue gain, the typical homeowner will gain between forty-one cents a week up to around one dollar per week off his town property tax bill. For those with homes up in the \$750,000 range, your weekly savings could approach three dollars per week.

At a time when future inflationary pressures remain uncertain and state and county budgetary cutbacks threaten to fall below standard expectations, maybe, just maybe, the town would be wise to accept the property revenue increase this time. Either way, real waste needs to be cut—just don't cut my pet project.

**In Spring Continued—**

This was overturned on a technicality concerning proper notice to the citizenry, and opposition to the law involved a familiar issue of a well-meaning council allegedly usurping the rights of individual landowners, and apparently just as many bulldozers. As I was riding down Willard Avenue towards the Potomac Valley Lodge the other night I was once again amazed at how one can marvel at the pristine star-lit darkness of rural Montgomery County, only to crest a hill and get smacked upside by the blazing lights of development across the Potomac River in Virginia. As we see the onrushing glow of commerce in the Old Dominion we understand why they want a crossing over the Potomac. After all, when the whole thing is paved over people might start falling into the river. They'll need a bridge somewhere just to relieve the pressure.

In our own more local version, the Inter-County Connector, or ICC, a road that was originally surveyed by George Washington in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, is moving ahead with gold-plated support from Governor Ehrlich, Senator Mikulski, and any Montgomery County council person who wants a holiday card from County Executive Doug Duncan after he becomes governor. I must admit I am conflicted as to

my own view of the ICC. It is clearly an incredibly expensive road that will suck up available road money from our area for many years, environmentally intrusive, and a disaster for many homeowners. Many people say it will solve numerous transportation problems for people who have to drive from Montgomery to Prince George's County, but at what cost? I personally haven't felt the desire or need to drive to PG County since Ledo Pizza decided to franchise. But roads beget more development and more roads. We're in the way.

People worry about the reasons for the bridge. Proponents say it's needed for commuting and day-to-day driving, but others say that the real reasons are commerce and development. But does the reason really matter? After all, once it's built and cars and trucks are going across, and development begins to cookie-cut the Ag Reserve no one will remember or care why it was built in the first place. After all, if you can start a war for one reason—an imminent threat to our nation—and then thousands of lives and billions of dollars later justify it for an entirely different set of reasons, then glossing over a measly bridge and a few dozen paved-over farms is pretty small beer. No one will remember the lemons after you've served the lemonade. It's already been proven.

**Tributes****Poolesville Woman Headed to Law School on Scholarship**

Sarah E. Roberts, daughter of William J. Roberts, Esq. and Lisa Roberts of the Poolesville area, recently was accepted for the entering class of fall 2005 at the Columbus School of Law of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. She was awarded



*Sarah Roberts*

an unsolicited sixty percent tuition Merit Scholarship for all three years of the law school Juris Doctor program based upon her prior achievements.

She received her B.A. degree in the Liberal Arts from St. John's College in Annapolis in May 2004.

A life-long area resident, she first attended the Barnesville School through the fifth grade and St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Bethesda thereafter. During eleventh grade, she was accepted as a candidate for St. John's College and entered following completion of her junior year of high school.

During her senior year at St. John's College, she served as an intern in the office of State Senator Rob Garagiola, and in the Annapolis office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency where she was primarily responsible for the preparation of the 2004 *Maryland Congressional Briefing on the Environment* for that office.

You can see Sarah most weekends at Poolesville Hardware where she is working part-time until she has to hit the books again.

**Tributes****Barnesville Girl Makes Honor Roll**

Susan Winsome Brown, a grade 12 student at Mercersburg Academy has achieved Honor Roll for the Winter Term.

Susan is the daughter of Mr. Malcolm E.D. Brown of Barnesville,

and Mrs. Paula G.S. Brown of Gaithersburg.

Mercersburg Academy is a co-educational, independent college preparatory boarding and day school in south-central Pennsylvania.



## Youth Sports

### Go Mudcats!

By Curtis Osborne

Frederick County has some of the best youth sports organizations in the Washington metropolitan area. There is a long list of exemplary associations that serve our youth including Ballenger Creek Recreation Council, Linganore Urbana Youth Athletic Association, Libertytown, Middletown and Urbana Rec Councils and many others dedicated to providing athletic activities to the youth of the county. However, the one local association that stands out as a premiere community-based sports association is the Carroll Manor Athletic Association (CMAA). The atmosphere is very family-oriented because the Carroll Manor community, located in Adamstown, Maryland, is a small, tight-knit group. The values that the community represents are evident throughout the CMAA.

The success of any non-profit organization is predicated on the help of volunteers, and that is what makes CMAA such a success. They have a great pool of volunteers that are dedicated to giving the kids a first rate athletic experience. They also have a bunch of great kids and wonderful parents that truly exemplify the community. The coaches are dedicated to the kids, first and foremost, and their philosophy is to teach the kids the fundamentals, teach them good habits, good sportsmanship, a winning attitude, and most importantly, regardless of the win-loss records, they want the kids to have fun. Oftentimes in today's win-at-all-cost culture, the true meaning of "recreation" is lost—not so with CMAA.

In basketball, the success of CMAA's philosophy was evidenced by the success of several CMAA teams that played in the Monocacy Youth Basketball Association. Carroll Manor sent three teams to the championships. Jim Grant's Titans, with their sophisticated motion offense and intricate defenses, went 12-0 and won the U12B Red championship. John Adametz, new to CMAA, took his Rockets to the championship game with an 11-2 record, winning the U12B gold championship, and Thomas Treadwell, also new to the association, guided his Wizards to a 13-0 record and the U12 White championship.



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Soccer has also had great success with multi-talented coaches like Perry Perret, Tom Nixon, Chuck Wilson, and Dennis Bendorf, some of whom also coach other sports. They have all coached for many years, both in CMAA and other organizations, and have had tremendous success instructing and coaching the kids on the finer



Jordan Willis bangs out a hit.

points and theory of soccer.

Baseball, however, is the sport that brings the community out in droves and brings with it a certain passion and nostalgia that the others can't replicate. The game has produced some great teams and coaches for CMAA. There have been a lot of exceptional baseball coaches to volunteer their time to coach and teach the kids America's pastime. None has been more successful and more appreciated than Tom Baugher, coach of the CMAA Mudcats. Tom is a guy who is passionate and knowledgeable about baseball and has a great love for the kids. Tom has been coaching for five years, and anyone who has ever attended a Mudcats baseball game can attest to the positive motivation and the teaching approach that Tom has, as well as the family atmosphere that pervades the team. "I coach a great group of kids who have a great group of parents," he says. "It is more than just a baseball team. It is like family." At any Mudcats game, it is quite a sight to see the team in green and orange uniforms and dozens of family and friends dressed in orange t-shirts with "Mudcats Mom" or "Mudcats Dad" emblazoned on it. The parents, grandparents, and friends of the team all show great enthusiasm which makes for an exciting atmosphere at game time. After watching a game, win or lose, one walks away impressed by the knowledge, discipline, and skill level of the players.

Coach Baugher is a local boy, born and raised in Frederick. He graduated from Frederick High School where he played both baseball and football, but baseball was his passion, having played from the age of seven all the way up to Frederick Community College. However, just like an untold number of athletes with dreams of getting to the next level, an unfortunate shoulder injury derailed his career.

He followed in his father's footsteps and decided to coach when his children got old enough. He formed the Mudcats and he has gone on to tremendous success. "I decided to become a coach because my son wanted to play, and I didn't want someone who didn't know or love the game coaching him." His decision to coach was a wise one, and players on his team have benefited greatly from his coaching. Tom can be tough, but his purpose is to teach the kids the game properly and make sure they have fun in the process. He must be doing something right. In 2003, Tom coached his team to the Pony League World Series Tournament where he got to take his team to Pennsylvania to play. As for the trip, Tom reflected, "It was an awesome experience for seven- and eight-year-olds to get a chance to go out of state to play baseball. That's what it is all about—not me as a coach."

Because of his success and skill level as a coach, many parents seek him out to coach their sons, particularly those whose sons are gifted, but Tom takes it all in stride and shares the credit. "I surround myself with great coaches. Darren Jarvis and Dave Willis have a great deal to do with the success of our team. Mostly, we make it fun for us as well as the kids. If a kid is having fun, the teaching comes easily."

Parents would also like to see him coaching at the more competitive middle or high school levels, but Tom doesn't see things that way, "More than likely, I will follow my son through his baseball career, just like my dad did for me. Then we will see if I can give it up." Meanwhile, if you want to see some excellent baseball, wend your way to Adamstown this spring and check out the Mudcats.

## Focus on Business

### Welcome to Mid-Atlantic AG Consulting

Dickerson's Rob Baker has recently established Mid-Atlantic AG Consulting to assist area farmers with many of their agricultural needs. Mr. Baker, a 1996 graduate of Maryland University's agricultural business program, is a certified appraiser of livestock, and for both farm and construction equipment.

He specializes in agronomic consulting and agricultural appraisal. This involves field scouting, where he analyzes a farmer's pastures by checking for pests, diseases, and weeds and makes recommendations to correct any problems or shortcomings.

Mr. Baker is a life-long farmer who grew up in Dickerson in the family business as a corn, soy, wheat, and hay farmer. He is married to Samantha Ferris Baker, also a lifelong resident of Dickerson. They have two children: Joshua, three, and Zachary, eighteen months.



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