

Inside the Monocle



Photo by Thomas Amiot

When we say everybody was at Poolesville Day, we mean everybody. Page 2 and elsewhere.



Hilary Schwab

Everybody.



Hilary Schwab

The rules for young drivers change on October 1. Details on Page 17.



Is this necessary? In your neighborhood? See Page 4.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

September 23, 2005

Volume 2, Number 13

Oriental Gourmet Robbed at Gunpoint

By Jack Toomey

On a quiet Thursday evening, just after dark, Poolesville citizens were startled to see several Montgomery County police cars rushing into town. The officers had been alerted to an armed robbery at the Oriental Gourmet at 19635 Fisher Avenue.

A police spokeswoman said that at about 8:30 p.m. on September 8, a lone gunman walked into the carryout restaurant, produced a handgun, and then demanded and obtained cash and fled out the front door. Officers were able to obtain a description of the suspect. He was a white male, seventeen to nineteen years old, 5 feet 9 inches to 6 feet tall, one hundred seventy-five pounds, blonde spiked hair, wearing a gray T-shirt, and wearing a white mask with eyeholes. Even though several police cars were in the area, the suspect managed to escape and there are no known leads as to his identity.

Sonny Sun, the owner of Oriental Gourmet, told a *Monocle* reporter that

he was in the rear of the store, eating, when the robber came in. He was not aware of the robbery until his clerk alerted him. He added that nothing like this has happened in the fifteen years that he has owned the carryout. A female clerk, who did not want

the first officer arrived in less than three minutes. Neville Smith, a patron of the restaurant said, "I don't exactly like it!" Michelle Seltzer, the children's librarian at the Poolesville Library remarked, "I was shocked when I heard the news; I always thought this was a safe area."

Although this robbery happened next door to Domino's Pizza which was broken into during the early morning of July 23, police investigators do not believe that the two cases are connected. Joe Angulo, owner of Domino's said, "It's deplorable, this is the kind of town where that [kind of thing] doesn't happen." It is believed to be the first armed robbery of a commercial establishment in Poolesville in over four years. The robbery of Oriental Gourmet is being handled by the Major Crimes Unit of the Montgomery County Police. Anyone with information about the suspect is urged to call them at 240-777-5070.



Sonny Sun, the owner of Oriental Gourmet

to be identified for publication, said that she was at the counter when the suspect walked in. He then pointed a gun at her and told her not to say anything and to give him the money. She called the police after he left, and

Commissioners Reviewing Proposals on the Old Town Hall

By Rande Davis

After many years of quandary as to what to do with the old town hall (originally Poolesville National Bank) the town of Poolesville has received a proposal to establish the building as a Heritage Gateway.

The commissioners of Poolesville have wrestled with the dilemma as to what to do with a building that has become an icon of the town. Unsuitable for use by the town for anything other than storage, the cost of maintaining the

building continues to be a drain on the town's budget. Sale of the building thus far has not been a viable solution due to the cost of renovation, concerns relating to the American Disability Act (ADA), structural repairs and improvements, potential difficulty of covenants that would protect the public's perceived interest in maintaining the façade, and lack of public parking spaces.

Rental for commercial use shares much of these concerns, plus it would not diminish risk and responsibility

on the town for such things as maintenance and repair costs of future problems, as well as issues relating to business failure on the part of a tenant.

On September 1, Steven A. Goldberg, president of the Historic Medley District, Inc., (HMD) presented a new proposal for consideration by the town government. HMD has initiated a concept to turn the building into a Heritage Gateway and Local History Museum center. "Using the Old Town

—Continued on Page 16



Family Album

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Hilary Schwab

Photo by Thomas Amlet

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Editorial

Trash Talk

By Rande Davis

With the uplifting festival of Poolesville Day just behind us, it may seem like a strange time to find fault in the community. The *Monocle* is second to none in pride for this area and for all the people who contribute to making the Monocacy region a great place to live. Nevertheless, it's time for some *trash talk*.



Party trash left on the roadside

At the end of the summer, this area witnessed an unacceptable increase in trash just being left on the side of the road for others to pick up. We are not talking simply about litter. Maybe you saw it, too. Near the Beauty Spot, a truckload of garbage was just dumped on the side of the road. We can assume the person made an attempt to take the garbage to the dump and, finding it closed, decided to just unload everything near the woods. We have seen this before, but this time the amount was even more unconscionable.

Then, on Willard Road, a very large pile of trash was also left. It's bad enough when someone just tosses a beer. This time it looked like they tossed the whole party.

Over on Edwards Ferry Road, I saw something I haven't seen since I moved here from New York, at least not in our area, anyway. Just a mile in from White's Ferry Road was the typi-



Abandoned car on Edward's Ferry Road

cal abandoned automobile with windows smashed-in, glass everywhere, and no license plate. At least in New York the scavengers take the car, piece by piece, over a few weeks. The only good news is they didn't set it on fire.

So what's the big deal? After all, our town has had a break-in and armed robbery just in the last month. The concern is that putting something like this in perspective will always result in minimizing the problem and eventually just forgetting about it. However, forgetting about it will result not only in continued problems, but as communities all over the nation can attest, trash, graffiti, and crime seem to go hand-in-hand.

I was appalled to learn from one of the Montgomery County police officers just how low the fine for this type misdemeanor is. We have seen the signs on many roads elsewhere that warn of a \$1,000 fine for littering. I would tell you how low the fine is, but I don't want to encourage the slobs any more.

It is interesting to live in a county where business people who call the police for help too many times can be fined about as much as it costs to just dump a payload of garbage on someone else's property. (Please see the Op-Ed on page 5.)

In talking to our police, they seem frustrated, too. While I was able to get names and addresses from bills and magazines in the mess, it seems that to prove they actually belonged to the dumper is just too challenging.

The real point of all this is simple. No one can deny that crime in the area is on the uptake. Blatant dumping of garbage is also growing. The good news is that it appears to be in the beginning stages. Perhaps the "one fine fits all" approach is too meaningless to have any teeth. How about fining \$100 a pound? Maybe those who dump cars and truckloads of trash will find patience or another place to go.

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Commentary

(Editor's Note: The following represents the views of its author and does not necessarily represent the views of Monocacy Press LLC or its principals.)

The Cost of a Crime

By Skip Etheridge

Dear Chief Mangus:

After reading the news article on the front page of the *Monocacy Monocle*, dated August 12, 2005, "Burglars Smash Entrance to Domino's Pizza", I believe that almost everyone has missed the larger issue here.

The article indicates that the owner, Joe Angulo, was notified by the ADT alarm company at 2:30 a.m. that his intrusion alarm had gone off at his place of business. Instead of having the alarm company immediately dispatch the Montgomery County Police, Mr. Angulo decided *not* to have the police sent, ostensibly because he would be "assessed a charge" for another false alarm. Upon arrival at his normal time in the morning, Mr. Angulo found that his place of business had been vandalized and

burglarized.

When I first read this story I had to re-read it to fully comprehend the idea that a business owner with an alarm system had to pay for police services, it seemed outrageous!

Now some may argue that the police have more important things to do than to respond to false alarms, and that they could be diverted from another more serious call. Well note to those people—every call is serious and an alarm call ranks near the top of the list along with domestic disputes and assaults in progress. You see, police officers respond to calls everyday which are sometimes bogus and unfounded. And yes, there should be a charge for false fire alarms, because they are more than a nuisance they are a crime. There is usually only one station in a large community and fire fighters do not patrol. They often respond from a sound sleep, having to bring along tons of equipment from the firehouse to the scene. Not to mention negotiating very large trucks through traffic, which makes it a very dangerous proposition.

—Continued on Page 16

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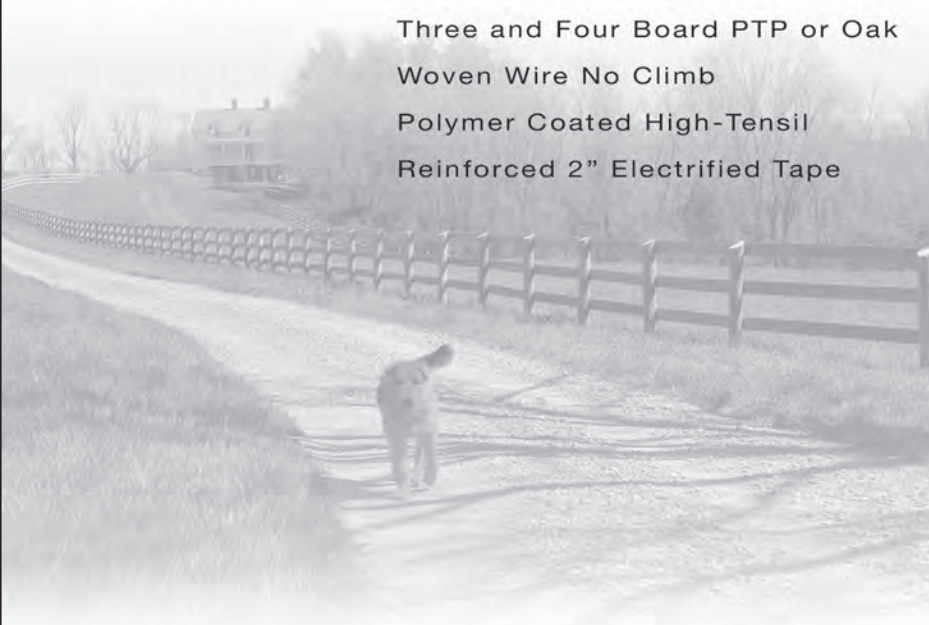


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More Poolesville Day 2005



Hilary Schwab



Hilary Schwab



Hilary Schwab



Photo by Thomas Amiot

In the Garden

Tulips — The King of Bulbs

By Maureen O'Connell

As we welcome the last days of September, the leaves on the trees will soon start to turn glorious shades of rich red and gold. The morning air will have a noticeable nip to it, and the cricket's song will echo the shortening of days and the arrival of fall. There is still work to be done in the garden for now is the time to plan and plant your spring bulb garden.

Gardeners casually use the word "bulb" to include any plant that stores energy for its seasonal cycle in an underground storage package. But not all of these plants are truly bulbs—they are one of five categories: true bulbs, corms, tubers, rhizomes, and tuberous roots. What they do have in common is the ability to store food to carry the plants through dormancy and get them to the following growing season. Unlike most of the flowering plants, true dormancy does not exist in bulbs. While there are no external visible signs of growth, the bulbs con-

tinue to develop. For example, tulips' flower buds form during dormancy.

A true bulb is a tidy powerhouse of fleshy scales with a small basal plate and a shoot that emerges from deep within the bulb. If one was to slice through a bulb at planting time, you would see a complete embryonic plant inside with tiny flowers, stems, leaves and roots. The scales, which surround the embryo, store food for the plant. In many bulbs, a paper-thin layer, a tunic, protects the scales. Tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, amaryllis, ornamental onion, snow drops, and lilies are true bulbs.

A corm is a stem that is packaged into a mass of storage tissue. Foliage and flowers arise from buds on the stem. Crocuses, gladioluses, and fresasias are corms. A tuber is also a solid mass of food-storing stem, but it lacks both a basal plate and tunic covering. Roots and shoots grow from growth buds called eyes on the surface of the tuber. Tubers may be shriveled and hard or slightly fleshy. Tuberous begonias, gloxinias, caladiums and potatoes grow from tubers.

Rhizomes are solid, thickened storage stems. They grow just along or slightly below the soil surface. To

propagate rhizomes, cut the parent into sections, making sure that each section contains an eye. Cannas, calla lilies, lilies-of-the-valley and some types of irises grow from rhizomes.

Tuberous roots look like tubers but are actually nutrient-storing root tissue. While in the growing season, they put out fibrous roots to take up moisture and nutrients. New growth buds, or eyes, appear at the base of the stem where it joins the root. Daylilies, dahlias, and foxtail lilies grow from tuberous roots.

Of all these "bulbs," the tulip, in most people's minds, is the true harbinger of spring. It has a long and interesting history. Gardeners usually associate tulips with the bulb fields of Holland, but tulips are actually native to the Mediterranean region—Greece, Syria, Turkey and Morocco. It was called tulip after the Turkish word for turban. Originally it was a wildflower growing in central Asia, and was first cultivated by the Turks as early as 1000 A.D. It was introduced into Western Europe and the Netherlands in the latter part of the sixteenth century by Carolus Clusias, a famous Viennese botanist. In 1593 he left Vienna and moved to Holland, where he became a

professor of botany at Leiden University. This area has come to be known as Holland's bulb district. In 1594 he planted tulips at the university's botanical garden.

From this small effort it grew into the enormous Holland bulb industry that produces three billion tulip bulbs a year. The growth of the tulip took many bizarre turns on the way to becoming Holland's flower. In the latter part of the sixteenth century, tulips were mainly grown for medicinal purposes. By the beginning of the seventeenth century, they started to be used as a garden decoration. The interest for the flower soared, and bulbs were sold for unbelievably high prices. Only the very rich could afford them. In the months of early 1636 to early 1637 there was a complete "Tulipmania" in the Netherlands. Some types could cost more than an Amsterdam house at this time. A single bulb of the variety Semper Augustus once sold for 13,000 florins, the equivalent of \$6,500.

As the ordinary man saw how much money the upper classes were getting for the bulbs, he too joined

—Continued on Page 13.

Center Stage

grubspoon

By Dominique Agnew

The age-old question, unanswered for centuries, finally solved: What came first, the band or the name? After plaguing philosophers great and inconsequential for centuries, the answer is: grubspoon, the name definitely came first. As Matt Raschka (guitars, vocals) tells it, an ESPN fishing show was the inspiration (yes, all great guitarists watch fishing shows). The bass master, an experienced fisherman, held up his catch for the camera, and in a voice particular to bass masters, as impersonated by Matt, said, "Y' kin ketch this fish with a grubspoon worm."

Obviously, grubspoon worm not only makes terrific bait, it is the perfect name for a theoretical rock band, in this case, the worm is now silent. Says Matt, "It was a fictional name for the longest time." He and Poolesville native, Andy Swick (vocals, guitars), founded the band three years ago (at this point, it would be nice if they were all from Poolesville, so you could read, "The four lads from Liverp...ahem, from Poolesville—"). They were soon joined by Dave "Turbo" Gertz who had to be the drummer because he was the only one who could play drums. Fortunately, the original bassist left a year and a half ago allowing Dave to move up to bass, and Jeff Stitely came on as drummer. "Just in time to record the album," he adds. Jeff was a former drummer for another band with whom grubspoon periodically shared a billing, so when the opening came available, the first call went to Jeff.

For all the members, this is not their first experience performing music, and they bring with them many years of experience. They all began studying music in their elementary schools (keep instrumental music in the schools!) followed by a variety of musical pursuits through college including high school marching bands and college cover bands. They concur that their varied backgrounds and

influences contribute to their creativity and their particular style.

In the spring of 2004, the band recorded an EP (a short CD), "the anger, the edge, and the joke behind it," that sold moderately well online and garnered some air time on the local radio stations, even a station in Florida. Encouraged, grubspoon went into the studio, Studio Unknown in Baltimore, to record a full-length album last fall and winter entitled "happy accidents." The title of the album reflects something of what they learned while recording in the studio and what they perceive as a positive development in how they plan on working on the



grubspoon

next album. Initially, they had entered the studio with a predetermined idea of how the songs would sound when complete. As the recordings progressed, there would occur some unplanned effects which ended up being "happy accidents—things that happened in the studio that we now do live," Matt comments. For the next CD, due out next year, they plan on entering the studio with a slightly different mindset. "We'll be open-minded for change," says Dave. The band members are enthusiastic about the collaborative effort that goes into the creating of an album, with everyone contributing to the composition of the various songs. Dave explains how special a group grubspoon is: "I've played before with people, and there's something here that's completely different than anything I've ever had. We have something."

When not in the studio, grubspoon is playing live performances in clubs throughout the Baltimore-D.C. area and beyond (including New York and Richmond), trying to get their name out there, building a follow-

ing. They are finding success, but the same old artists' refrain fits here, as well: don't quit the day job. By weekday, the members are mild-mannered professionals. By weekend, they're rocking the clubs. "We're having the most fun we've ever had in our lives," says Andy. The only way they could have more fun, adds Matt, "is if we got paid a million dollars to do this." Of course, they would like to make it big, but at the same time, they keep everything in perspective. "We take it all with a grain of salt," says Jeff. Dave agrees, "We've seen other bands that were very, very serious—almost to the point where they're not having fun."

While grubspoon continues to gain notoriety throughout the area, they are quick to point out that they couldn't be doing this without a good support network. "That makes a lot of difference," says Matt. Their wife and girlfriends are grubspoon's biggest fans and are always willing to help by recruiting other people and bringing other fans to the shows. Matt adds the familiar adage, "Behind every good man is a good woman."

All of the members presently live in the Baltimore-Washington corridor but prefer to call themselves a Washington, D.C. band. "We fit the D.C. sound better than the Baltimore sound," says Andy. Matt clarifies further, "Our sound is more in line with what has been coming out of D.C. for the last twenty years." Perhaps Jeff puts it the most succinctly, "We just say we're from D.C. because it's fun." Their sound can definitely be considered compelling. Unrelenting rhythm and insistent bass lines (no, not fishing bass lines) compounded with edgy vocals and guitars provide a cohesive style that is a hallmark of their latest CD.

Some of their upcoming dates are in the area and can be found on their website, www.grubspoon.com. In particular, they are organizing a hurricane benefit show with other bands on October 6 at Sonar in Baltimore and are excited to be able to do that. All proceeds will go to the Red Cross.

Tulips Continued From Page 12—

in trading for this commodity. Men speculated and gambled with them as is now done today in cotton, corn, and oil. The bulbs were sold by weight while they were still in the ground. This trade of an un-sprouted flower came to be called "wind trade." As the traders made huge amounts of money each month, more people sold their businesses, family homes, farm animals and furnishings to participate. But as with many traded commodities, soon oversupply led to lower prices and the "Tulip Crash." Many dealers went bankrupt and many people lost their homes and savings. It was one of the main factors that contributed to the collapse of the Dutch economy in 1637. Eventually the government stepped in and introduced special trading restrictions for the flower.

Interestingly, the most valuable tulips had broken flowers with flames of color swirling through the petals. In the twentieth century, it was discovered that the frilly petals and dramatic flames of color were symptoms of an infection by the mosaic virus. A healthy flower was supposed to be solid, smooth, and monotone. Botanists believed that the virus came to the tulip from a louse living on peaches and potatoes. Many of these elegant flowers that inspired Tulipmania in the 1600s and appeared in paintings of the Dutch Masters are still available today. These time traveling tulips are identical to their ancestors and some are look-alikes that replicate the historic varieties, but are genetically stable. The mottled broken-color tulips were called "Rembrandts" from the abundance of tulips in Dutch Masters' paintings of the era known as the "Golden Age" of Dutch painting. Curiously, tulips were not a prominent theme in Rembrandt's own work.

The tulip has come to be a loved symbol of the Netherlands. It also played a large role in their economy. Holland is the world's largest producer of flower buds. About nine billion bulbs are grown every year on little more than 44,000 acres. Seven billion of these bulbs are exported around the world. From April to September fantastic flower parades are held throughout the country. Alsmeyer, close to Amsterdam, is the world's biggest flower auction, where the

—Continued on Page 21.

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Big Board

Special Retrospective on the Art and Gentle Humor of Carol Stuart Watson

Historic Medley will be presenting a special art show featuring the work of Carol Stuart Watson. She is best known in our area for her work illustrating the *Country School Boy*, the child's storybook featured at the Seneca Schoolhouse. Her artwork, on loan from her family, includes original paintings, drafts and final illustrations, hand-colored pen and ink drawings, Christmas cards, and ornaments. The highlight of the show is the collection of satirical cards and drawings that Watson sent to her mother and her many brothers and sisters from her travels abroad. Her droll depictions of historical preservation are particularly on the mark. This exhibit will run through October at the John Poole House, Thursday through Sunday from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

You Don't Have to Be An Alumni

The Homecoming Weekend, September 23 and September 24, is a big thing for the students, their parents, and the returning alumni. However,

you do not need to be any one of them to enjoy yourself at the "big game" on Friday night. Sports events always promote "the color," and the homecoming game under lights, with the bands, the floats, and the crowd can be a great evening for football fans from all walks of life.

Frederick Film Festival at the Weinberg Center for the Arts

Two days filled with independent screenings, panel discussions, and guest speakers, Friday, September 23 at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, September 24 also at 8:00 p.m. General admission is \$10 for one night or \$15.00 for a two-day pass. For more information, visit weinbergcenter.org.

Great Day for Fun, Food, and Games

The United Memorial Methodist Church in Poolesville has its annual and popular Lord's Acre on September 25. The day has games, food, yard sale, and great family fun. The event goes on all day.

Fall Farm Fest in Boyds

October 15, Star Gazing Farm Fall Farm Fest in Boyds, 12-6pm: Incredibly friendly farm animals, live music, refreshments, activities for children, educational demonstrations including horse first aid and sheep shearing,

raffles, crafts for sale, live auction, and exhibits from other rural community organizations. FREE. 301-349-0802 or www.stargazingfarm.org for more information and directions.

In the Street! Festival

Visit downtown Frederick Saturday, October 1 for the In the Street! Festival. Activities begin at 9:15 a.m. with the Frederick Steeplechaser's Mile Run followed by a parade at 11:00 a.m. The outdoor street fest begins at noon, runs until 5:00 p.m. and includes entertainment, food, and live performances. Admission is free.

The Great Frederick Historic Treasure Hunt

October 1 marks the beginning of a year-long treasure hunt in Frederick. Complete the hunt and enter the monthly drawing for gift baskets worth thousands of dollars. Treasure Hunt maps can be obtained at the Frederick Visitor Center or at In the Streets on October 1. For more information, visit www.frederickfounders-day.com or call 301-228-2888.

An Evening on the Riviera

This is one of Frederick County's most popular fundraising events and will be held on October 8 at the Lynnfield Event Conference Center on Hanson Road. It features gourmet and specialty food presentations by

over thirty restaurants, three wine shops and vintners, two microbreweries, carriage rides, and more. Admission is \$85 per ticket. For more information call 301-662-2507.

An Evening with John Tesh

Grammy-nominated recording artist and radio show host John Tesh presents an uplifting evening of music on Saturday, October 8 at 8:00 p.m. at the Weinberg Center for the Arts. Tickets are \$45 (Front Orchestra & Mezzanine), \$40 (Mid-Orchestra), \$35 (Rear Orchestra & Rear Balcony). Visit weinbergcenter.org for more information.

The Great Frederick Fair

It's not too late to indulge the "fair-lover" in you. The Great Frederick Fair winds up on Friday and Saturday with the final judging on the livestock, crafts, etc. still in the making. The rides, the games, and the food are just waiting for you. Country music fans get to hear Bill Engvall on Friday and Tracy Byrd and Joe Nichols on Saturday. Both concerts begin at 7:30 p.m.

Celebrate Rural Montgomery Fall Festival at Butler's Orchard

Saturday, October 8 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Bring the whole family for an afternoon filled with a variety of activities including face painting, hay rides, mazes, and live music. Admission is free, and food and beverages will be sold. Visit www.ruralmontgomery.org for details.



Fall Foliage at Its Finest

By Dominique Agnew

For those of us who live in the *Monocle* area, we know that the best place to watch the passing of the seasons, in particular the onset of autumn, is right in our own backyards, but every once in a while, it's nice to hop in the car (the one that gets good gas mileage) and wind our way west to take in the incomparable vistas provided along Skyline Drive.

The 105 miles and 75 overlooks of Skyline Drive can be accessed from many different roads, and one of the easiest may very well be in Front Royal, the Gateway to Skyline Drive. Just an hour west of D.C. on route 66, Front Royal offers a fine day for an outing. With the beautiful Shenandoah River passing through the town, the north fork and the south fork, many water-based activities are offered, including canoeing (this is the Canoe Capital of Virginia, folks), river trips, and fishing. In and around Front Royal are also Shenandoah National Park, George Washington National Forest, Raymond R. Guest State Park, and many Civil War Trails focusing mostly on the Battle of Front Royal.

A stop at the Visitors' Center on historical Main Street will furnish day-

trippers with maps and locations of interest. The driving tour of the Battle of Front Royal can take a couple of hours. Prospect Hill Cemetery was the hill from which Jackson commanded the Battle of Front Royal, and the Belle Boyd Cottage (she was the Confederate spy who overheard the Union soldiers talking about all the departing troops) is open to the public.

The other big winner in Front Royal is the superb Skyline Caverns. Here is the only place on Earth where one can find the rare Anthodites – amazing and beautiful – the orchids of the mineral kingdom, no less. Plan on spending about an hour at the Caverns for the tour and the gift shop. The Caverns remain open year-round with varying hours of operation, and no matter what the season, the tem-

peratures in the caverns remain at a cool fifty-four degrees Fahrenheit. It is entertaining to see what some of the different formations resemble (sometimes it requires a lot of imagination) and there is at least one formation visitors may touch. The guides are well-informed and the deadpan renditions of their corny jokes is perfect. A perfect place to experience complete darkness, once during the tour the lights are extinguished for a few moments, and, surprise, nothing can be seen. Beware the eighteen-year-old prodigal son strangling his fifteen-year-old sister (not that she didn't deserve it) during the blackout. On the grounds of Skyline Caverns, the younger visitors can enjoy a mini-train ride through the woods.

Things to Do

September 23 – 24

The Great Frederick Fair
See thegreatfrederickfair.com

September 23

Poolersville High School Homecoming Weekend
Class Parade
Fisher Avenue – closed
4:00 to 4:30
Homecoming Football Game
Vs. Rockville at 6:30 p.m.

September 23

Frederick County Public Schools Closed
Fair Day

September 24

Homecoming Dance
PHS High School
8:00 p.m.
Lord's Acre Festival
United Memorial UMC
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

September 26

Book Discussion Group
Poolersville Public Library 7:30 p.m.

September 27

Poolersville Public Library
Storytime – Three to Six Years Old
Fingerplay, music, stories
10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.

September 28

Montgomery County Public Schools
Early Release (after lunch)
Grading and Planning

September 30

Frederick County Schools Two Hour Early Dismissal
Teacher Work Session

October 2

Day of Beauty Fundraiser
Benefit for families in Sri Lanka victimized by the December 26 Tsunami
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Westwood County Club
\$30.00 per person
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October 4

Montgomery County Schools Closed
Frederick County Schools Closed
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Town Hall Continued From Page 1—

Hall as a historic landmark would benefit the whole Poolesville community," stated Mr. Goldberg. "We understand your [the commissioner's] concern for the future of this historic building. We feel the town and HMD will prosper under this arrangement both financially and logistically."

Mr. Goldberg further stated, "The proposal itself is designed to eliminate all of the concerns raised by various commissioners over the past few years about the building and preserve the public's interest in keeping the building as a town icon."

HMD is proposing that the town lease the building to the organization for five years with an option to purchase.

Under those terms, HMD would restore and maintain the building and would pay all utilities. HMD's architect, Tom Taltavull, AIA, and Mr. Goldberg have inspected the building. Mr. Taltavull's concluded that the building is structurally sound.

The estimated cost of restoration and renovation is estimated at up-

wards of \$200,000. Restoration would include restoring the exterior, putting in a handicapped entrance and bathroom, restoring the interior, signage, and putting in exterior lighting.

Financing of the restoration would be handled by HMD through a current State Bond bill, Heritage Area Grants, other federal, state, and county grants, private foundations, and donations and monies from HMD.

Stated concern raised about the proposal is primarily focused on the financing of the restoration. HMD can email the proposal to interested parties who call 301-972-8588.

The town is currently considering two other proposals to purchase the building and two to lease it. Due to the preference of these bidders to have their proposals confidential during the initial review process by the commissioners, the town is not releasing their details at this time. The *Monocle* has been informed that before the commissioners make any final decision to accept any one of these other proposals, the commissioners will make those proposals public for discussion and vote.

The Cost of a Crime Continued From Page 5—

However, a burglar alarm is another story; what happens when a frightened elderly lady calls the police at 1:00 a.m. because there is a noise on her back porch and it turns out to be the neighbor's cat? If this is her third call in a month, do we charge a fee to the lady, the neighbor or the cat? The good news is that the lady can now sleep because an officer has checked out the situation and allayed her fears. Isn't that the officer's job?

Officers are trained to respond to every alarm as if there are perpetrators present. The one time they do not, it could cost them their lives and they know it. In the Domino's Pizza story, had a beat officer responded in a timely fashion the officer could have possibly: A. Observed the suspects or vehicles leaving the scene. B. Collected crucial evidence at the scene before contamination. C. Actually caught the burglars!

As one who has reasonable knowledge of the dynamics of beat patrols, the officers working could have easily been at the Domino's shopping center in a few minutes.

The Montgomery County Police are an outstanding force and are paid well "to protect and serve." I find it most appalling to add a surcharge for routine police services. There should *never* be any hesitation of a business owner or private citizen to call the police when they need them, even if it is for reassurance.

Let me say that when I wore a badge I believed it to be something special and that every opportunity to catch the bad guys or make a citizen feel safe was an equal part of my responsibilities. I hope to use this as an open letter to Chief Mangus to re-examine this policy, because even if an officer is busy with another priority call, checking an activated alarm should *never* have a price tag. A real burglary could cost an innocent citizen more than just some cash.

(James M. (Skip) Etheridge is a resident of Poolesville and a retired fifteen-year veteran of the Maryland State Police.)

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Local News

New Driving Laws to Affect Local Teens

By Jack Toomey

Several new laws will go into effect on October 1, 2005 that will directly impact local teenagers. The General Assembly, no doubt influenced by the inordinate number of fatal traffic accidents involving teenagers, passed the laws during the last session.

Effective October 1:

The minimum age for obtaining a provisional driver's license will be sixteen years and three months.

The minimum waiting time between obtaining a learner's permit and a provisional license will be six months.

Cell phone usage while at the wheel will be illegal for drivers under the age of eighteen.

No minor passengers will be allowed in the car of a teenager for the first five months of the provisional license unless the passenger is a sibling.

At least sixty hours of supervised driving must be completed before a teenaged driver can take the test for the provisional license. Ten of those hours must be at night. The supervising person must be at least twenty-one years old and have had a license for three years. Parents must now sign a form and swear that they supervised their teenagers during these sixty hours.

Even though a teenager might have obtained a provisional license before October 1, the law concerning minor passengers and cell phones will apply to them. If a teenager obtains the learner's permit before October 1 but has not yet passed the provisional test, then the six month waiting period will apply.

The Montgomery County Police Department has indicated that it will be enforcing these new laws. Lt. Ronald Smith, the Deputy Director of the Special Operations Division, told the *Monocle* "We support the new restrictions placed on teen drivers and we believe that this legislation is an essential part of a comprehensive safety program. We do believe that these laws will increase the tools available to law enforcement needed to address the ever-growing issue of aggressive driving by teens. The primary focus of the department's traffic safety program is very simple: to save lives and to facilitate the orderly flow of traffic throughout Montgomery County."

State Delegate Adrienne Mandel who sponsored the current Graduated Licensing Law in 1999 and is the author of some of the new laws said, "These new restrictions make a lot of sense. Any more time behind the wheel while under supervision will save lives, and, in addition, these restrictions that relate to prohibiting the use of cell phones and carrying teenaged passengers [are important] because inattention and distraction have caused many of our teenaged driving tragedies. These new laws will help stem the tide of accidents, but we will need the cooperation of law enforcement and parents."

Delegate Jean Cryor who represents the upper county said, "These revised driving laws came into being because of the sadness and horror all of us, legislators, families, teachers and students, felt when young people were hurt or killed in road accidents. The revised driving legislation aims at getting the driver to have more time behind the wheel before being licensed, as a new driver will have fewer distractions."

Parents, these new laws go into effect on October 1. Take heed and make sure that your teenaged drivers do as well.

To Zone or Not to Zone – That is the Question

By Marcie Gross

The vision of Calleva: To bring the youth to the beautiful outdoors; to have them appreciate and learn about themselves and the outdoor world we live in; and through adventure and team building activities grow into responsible young people.

The Sugarloaf Citizens' Association motto: Wise use; vigilant preservation; community service; to continue and enlarge its efforts to gather information and advocate for policies that promote sensible use of Montgomery County's land and its natural and human resources.

Both of these goals are just and admirable. They don't seem to be too far apart; however, these two organizations continue to battle over amending the Zoning Text for the Montgomery County Agriculture Reserve's Master Plan.

Calleva, who is making the petition to the Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA), would like to utilize its 165-acre farm located close to the intersection of White's Ferry Road and Martinsburg Road to add a covered horseback riding ring and stables, a small building, and four small wooden one-story cabins to be used as rainy day activity buildings. They maintain that all of these structures will be at least 400 yards off of Martinsburg Road. Currently on the farm there are 60 acres in cultivation, approximately 60 acres in woodland, and 30 acres in pasture. "The Calleva team would like to let the children of today see, enjoy, and appreciate the land of the Agricultural Reserve," says Alex Markoff, co-owner of the family-owned Calleva. Markoff continues, "The Reserve is an awesome resource and should be kept open, formed, and free to enjoy." Their plans, says Mar-

koff, "keeps development level down and protects the open space." Calleva welcomes the opportunity to talk to the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association to come to a conclusion to amend the text of the Master Plan and to ensure low impact use of the land.

The Sugarloaf Citizens' Association recently wrote a position paper on this issue. According to Jim Brown, president of the association, "While we applaud Calleva for their good work with children in their efforts to provide recreation and good experiences for them, we are disturbed about the strong possibility that this new, proposed category of land use would inevitably change the Agricultural Reserve." The position paper states that the proposed ZTA would allow overnight camping in the Ag Reserve which would be a departure from the Master Plan and could open the door to other forms of commercial development and lodging. Furthermore, it proposes a new land use to be defined in a zoning ordinance for an outdoor adventure education facility for youths and adults. Brown says that their concern is valid and "while they may agree to compromise with Calleva on other activities for the property, they are not going to budge on permanent overnight lodging."

Both Derick Berlage, Chairman of the Park and Planning Commission and County Council Member Mike Knapp were unable for comment. The date for the County Council to review and consider this proposal for ZTA has yet to be determined.

When this does come to a vote in the County Council, will there be a clear winner and loser, or will there be a happy medium, a compromise that both groups can live with and still benefit the welfare of the community and the Agricultural Reserve? Stay tuned.

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Focus on Business

It's a Family Affair

By Curtis A. Osborne

C&H Supply Company is a family-owned business that has been in existence and has thrived for forty-five years. The company is in the business of selling all types of outdoor decorative products including storage barns, gazebos, lawn benches, reproductions, and sculptures. The company has locations in both Adamstown and Jefferson and has over five thousand reproductions on its lot. They are also in the business of antique restoration and they stock refinishing supplies and hardware, as well.

The business is run by owner and proprietor, Harry Wolfe. It is a true family-run operation as four family members are involved in the endeavor. There is Harry, his wife Mary, and his two daughters, Teresa and Sherry. He collects reproduction items from all over the world. Because he is in a niche market, the company continues to thrive despite competition from the "big box stores" which tend not to carry the same types of items and services. Other than those retailers, there really is no comparable competition. Harry searches all over for the original source of a reproduction, and he carries items that no one else has. Always looking for the original source of a reproduction piece if possible, he has even gone down to Mexico to track a person down. "I was hauling antiques to Austin, Texas for an auction on I-35, south of Waco," says Harry, "and I saw some steel lampposts for sale. So I brought a few and tracked down the original source in Mexico."

Of course, he ended up carrying those items on his lot.

Harry is a very nice and engaging person, and listening to his stories was a treat for his road to success was a circuitous one. He is originally from Bethesda, and he later migrated to Adamstown. Over forty-five years, he has seen both of those communities grow.

The evolution of the business is not exactly from your textbook business class. His is a fascinating journey of entrepreneurship, hard work, and happenstance. He had been involved in many things prior to this venture, but at one point, he was in the antiques business. Once when he was driving down from New York, he spotted a gazebo. So he stopped and looked at it and thought it would be good for his business, so he started buying and selling them. Not a lot of people had them at the time. Next, they started carrying storage barns. "We are the first to have pre-built storage barns and gazebos in Frederick," states Harry. From there, the business kept evolving and he got into carrying hardware and supplies. "We were in the antique business and doing refinishing, so we needed supplies to do it. We just had them for ourselves. After a while, customers started asking for them, too, so we started carrying them." So they now have a full service antique restoration business to go along with their expansive lot of garden products. In the very near

future, Harry is looking into importing bronzes from the Far East for fish ponds. Perhaps his wife described it best when she referred to them as pioneers.

As far as the restoration business, it was once a competitive industry, but lost its share of companies that do this type of work. Mr. Wolfe attributes that to "EPA regulations because of chemicals and the harmful effects that they have."

Just describing the place in print does not do it justice. To get the full effect, one has to drop in to the store and experience it for oneself. The items are aesthetically pleasing and priced economically for the consumer wallet. Harry obviously is tuned in to his customers' needs and tries to meet them. Asked about his business philosophy, he says, laughing, "I buy them cheap, and I sell them cheap."

The phone number is 301-663-1812 and their website is www.candhsupplyco.com.

a sandwich menu of all the favorites.

Opening in 1975 in a building that previously had been a dance studio and an antique store, the business expanded its role by improving the facade and introducing their deli menu of sandwiches, fries, and salads. Fresh crabs and spiced shrimp have become one of their signature items which they offer seasonally. Patrons particularly rave about the store's rib-eye steak and cheese subs and its Reuben sandwiches as well as their heaping-hot steak fries.

Jay Schwartzman started the business based on family history as his father ran the Potomac Supermarket in Potomac. After his military experience in the air force, he decided to follow his dad's footsteps. The family tradition continues as Jay's sons, Jason and Thomas, have now joined him in running the business. Poolesville Beer & Wine is open seven days a week, and it is a very rare occasion when Mr. Schwartzman is not in the building.

Mr. Schwartzman has been an active participant in the life of the community outside of his business through participation in the Poolesville Chamber of Commerce, past Chairman of Poolesville Day Committee, and donating to the many school and not-for-profit groups in the town.

—Continued on Page 20

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Local History

The Plane Crash at Dickerson

By Jack Toomey

During late September of 1931, weather conditions were uncharacteristically hot and humid in the Washington, D.C. area. Temperatures in Rockville and Washington reached over ninety degrees for several days. People of upper Montgomery County sought relief from the heat in farm ponds, creeks, and in the Potomac River. In Washington, schools were let out early for several days as buildings became overheated. On September 23, the temperature reached ninety-six degrees in Washington. As often is the case in our area, periods of high heat are sometimes broken by severe thunderstorms which form to our northwest and sweep over the area. The same was true on that day in 1931.

Lt. William D. Clements, 31, a member of the Army Air Corps, was undergoing training at Bolling Field at Washington, D.C. He was a na-

tive of Georgia and had joined the army in 1930. He had been assigned to a Boeing pursuit plane which had been developed after WWI. It was equipped with a machine gun, had a top speed of one hundred sixty-six miles an hour, could attain an altitude of almost five miles, and had a cruising range of five hundred and forty miles. Most recently, Lt. Clements had participated in mass maneuvers of the Army Air Corps in which six hundred and forty planes were assembled, and in the National Air Races at Columbus, Ohio.

Lt. Clements took off from Bolling Field at about 2:10 p.m. He had been temporarily stationed there while undergoing anti-aircraft evasion training. His destination was Middletown, Pennsylvania with the intention of having mechanical problems on the plane repaired by mechanics at that field. At the same time that Lt. Clements was preparing for his journey, a line of thunderstorms was developing across West Virginia and western Maryland. Lt. Clements had no way of knowing about the storms and headed northwest after taking off. As Clements entered Frederick County, he could see the developing line of

storms and apparently turned back towards Washington.

Norman Wolfe of Dickerson was out on his property watching the approaching storm when he saw an airplane appear out of a towering cloud from the general direction of the Monocacy River. He then saw a blinding flash of lightning and noticed the plane circling over Dickerson at a height of only one hundred feet. Lloyd Jones, the proprietor of the feed and grain store near the train station, heard a loud noise and saw the plane pass over his store nearly hitting it. Pliny Day and his son, Douglas, were repairing a barn when they saw the plane having trouble maintaining altitude. They stopped their work and saw the plane suddenly drop from the sky and nearly land on top of a train passing through Dickerson. The plane tried to climb but suddenly nosedived behind the feed and grain store crashing onto a field on the James Runkles farm. The farmhouse still stands at the corner of Nicholson Farm Road and Mouth of Monocacy Road. Jones, Day, and his son ran to the scene of the crash and dragged the body of Clements out of the airplane. He was dead. A few minutes later, a crowd

started to gather and apparently someone threw away a cigarette causing gasoline that had saturated the wreck scene to ignite. Mr. Day and his son pulled the body of Clements away from the fire, and Mr. Day suffered burns on his hands.

When authorities reached the scene, they found documents in the pockets of Clements which indicated that the airplane had a series of mechanical problems especially in the oil line and that he had been directed to travel to Pennsylvania to have it repaired. A board of inquiry was empanelled at Bolling Field and the cause of the accident was determined to be a malfunction of the airplane motor.

The body of Lt. Clements was taken to the Hilton's undertakers in Barnesville and then sent to his hometown of Durand, Georgia where he was buried.

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The Pulse

How Can I Help?

By Rande Davis

Hurricane Katrina may have hit the Gulf States, but its impact most certainly touched the hearts of all Americans. After the immediate impact of the devastation, most of us had the very same reaction: "How can I help?" Two local couples used a family foundation and a network of friends to answer that poignant question.

Tom "Hap" and Gaye Butz and Robert and Catherine Butz saw the devastation and sprang into action. With a donation from the Butz Foundation, they began to put together a tractor trailer full of those items we need every day but would find in short supply in the immediate aftermath of a storm.

By contacting area churches, the Monocacy Lions Club, and many other individuals, the efforts, started by just a few, quickly mushroomed into an impressive community effort. By September 10, the first results of their efforts rolled out of the area on the way to Mississippi. How much good can just a few do when reaching out to others to assist? We will let Hap Butz's letter of gratitude speak for itself.

"Thank you for all that you are doing to help those affected by Katrina and to those who helped me fulfill our goal of seeing an entire truckload of relief goods go to those who need it. My original plan involved Robert and me driving the truck ourselves. Thursday of last week, Alex Klemco of Moving Masters who wanted to donate his truck, driver, and fuel, to ensure the load was delivered, contacted me. I put my personal agenda of seeing the Gulf firsthand aside, accepted his incredible offer, and used the proceeds to buy additional supplies. With your help, the support of the Butz families, and my wife who can stretch a dollar till it hurts, the following was on the truck:"

13,824 Quaker Chewy Granola Bars
16,640 Peanut butter/cheese crackers
3,000 packages of assorted chips
2,592 sports drinks
3,584 Juicy Juice boxes
1,560 packages of Cracker Jacks
3,840 fruit-flavored water
320 bottles of John Deere artisan water (yes, you read that correctly)

4,224 adult Depends
56,320 baby wipes
480 large cans of baby formula
38,720 diapers
1,340 bars of soap
335 bottles of insect repellent spray
51,220 assorted bandages
988 packages of toothpaste
630 toothbrushes
240 infant body suits (onesies)
210 ladies' briefs
144 men's white Hanes T-shirts
180 men's briefs
240 gallons of bleach
1,100 bottles of antibacterial hand soap
120 tubes of Neosporin
256 bottles of saline solution
108 bottles of hydrogen peroxide
144 boxes of facial tissues
84 pairs of leather work gloves
200 new unwrapped toys
20 boxes of donated daily needs
2 ½ tons of donated clothing – this estimate is probably low.

"In total, over \$35,000 was spent at the local Costco, where they couldn't have been nicer or more facilitative. These goods are headed to the Christus Victor Lutheran Church in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. This was coordinated by St. Peter's Episcopal Church of Poolesville, Maryland, and the church in Mississippi is thrilled, ready for the goods, and will ensure their distribution. Please keep Joe Williams in your prayers. He is the driver who at this moment is pushing toward the devastated areas of Mississippi. As he left the parking lot on Friday, I wished him Godspeed, and for the first time, I think I know what that means. I am humbled by the generosity of you all and how quickly you, the people of St. Peter's and my local Lions Club responded."

The Monocle will report the efforts of area churches and synagogues, civic groups, and businesses that have sprung into action. Already we know of a number of families who have taken in New Orleans residents as temporary guests or are hosting those in transition. If you know of someone or a group whose efforts to help should be told, please let us know.

30 Years Continued From
Page 20—

Along with a large selection of beer and wine, soda, snacks, hot sauces, and other assorted food items, the store has a reputation of offering surprises on many occasions. As an example, they currently are promoting an assortment of ball caps of major league teams and other company logos.

Police Blotter Past and Present

Present

Fatal motorcycle accident - August 19, about 6:35 am on Route 85 at Greenfield Road, near Adamstown. Maryland State Police said that Matthew George Purdum, age 21 of Frederick, was traveling south and had passed three or four cars crossing a double yellow line when he struck a truck that was attempting to turn left onto Greenfield Road. Purdum was a 2002 graduate of Poolesville High School.

Residential burglary

August 8 between noon and 2:00 p.m. 25400 block of Old Hundred Road. Entry made to a residence, nothing taken.

August 10/11, 18600 block of Broken Oak Road, Boyds. Entry made to a residence through a garage door. Property taken.

August 19, 16400 Darnestown Road, Dawsonville. Forced entry. Property taken.

Commercial burglary

Between August 14 and August 15, Potomac Valley Lodge, 16601 West Willard Road. Entry gained, property taken.

Armed robbery arrest

August 26, Michael Andrew Clements, Jr., 22, of the 19900 block of Fisher Avenue, Poolesville, was arrested and charged with attempted robbery and carrying a dangerous weapon as a result of an incident in the 10100 block of Falls Road, Potomac.

Past

September 7, 1945. The FBI joined the Montgomery County Police and military police in a search for Werner Koehler, 25, a German prisoner of war, who escaped at Green Meadows, the farm of Clifton Viers, near Rockville.

September 12, 1887. Sheriff Miller and his deputies were called to the campgrounds near Barnesville when a crowd of toughs from Seneca sought to break up the meeting. Miller was notified that some were attempting to sell intoxicating liquors and he immediately went to arrest them, but they resisted. Several bystanders became involved in the fight, knocking Miller down and hitting deputy Miles over the head with a tree branch. Miles then drew his revolver and fired three shots which reportedly killed one of his assailants. Miller and

Miles brought two men, Jackson and McDonald, to the jail in Rockville, and it was said that it was a difficult task to arrest them.

September 23, 1958. Flames from a backfiring tractor destroyed a two-story machine shed and hay mower at the W. F. Bullis farm near Poolesville causing an estimated \$50,000 in damages.

September 24, 1923. Richard C. Spates, an aged farmer, shot and instantly killed a man who was menacing him at his farm six miles north of Poolesville. It was reported that the man had come to Mr. Spates's place demanding liquor when he was shot. A coroner's jury exonerated Spates of any guilt.

September 24, 1942. A Baltimore and Ohio passenger train plowed into the rear of another stalled passenger train at Dickerson, Maryland, killing fourteen passengers. The stalled train had stopped on the grade just west of the Dickerson station when it was stuck in the rear. An east-bound freight train then was derailed when the toppling passenger cars stuck it. The engineer of the second train was arrested and charged with manslaughter.

September 27, 1906. William Riggs, a prominent farmer of Montgomery County, met with a fatal accident on the road between Rockville and Norbeck. He was on his way from Rockville to his home near Brookeville, and it is believed that while driving rapidly along that road, his buggy ran into the cross arm of a telephone pole.

September 29, 1930. Police in Washington, D.C. and Montgomery County were searching for William Jackson, of Blocktown, who escaped from two Montgomery County police officers amid a hail of bullets. It was reported that Jackson had attacked a woman and that his assault was foiled by the cries of children who alerted their father who burst into the room as Jackson had pressed a razor to the throat of his wife. It was thought that Jackson had fled into the woods near Hyattstown.

October 4, 1905. Pietro Catanana, an Italian laborer on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad work crew, was killed almost instantly while working in a pit at the Little Monocacy Bridge, just east of the Dickerson station. He was struck by a huge iron bucket that was being lowered into the pit. It was reported that fellow workers attempted to wreak vengeance on the operator of the machine.

Remembrance

Mrs. Anna M. Eeg, 84, of Germantown Passes Away

Anna M. Eeg, the mother of Poolesville veterinarian, Dr. Peter Eeg, passed away quietly on Saturday, September 20, 2005 from complications related to her three-year battle with cancer. Mrs. Eeg, 84, was residing at the Hebrew Home in Rockville, Maryland.



Anna and Henning Eeg

Born on October 15, 1920 in Denmark, she was the youngest of eight brothers and sisters. Mrs. Eeg grew up in Copenhagen, Denmark before World War II. She worked in the garment industry before the war and during the German occupation of Denmark. Her brother, Christian, was high up in the Danish resistance during the war and personally helped hundreds of Danish Jews escape to Sweden.

Leaving Denmark with her husband, Henning Eeg, and her sister, Sonja, they originally immigrated to British Columbia. Mr. Henning Eeg worked for the *Washington Post* and was a member of the International Pressman's union. Eventually, the couple moved to Wheaton, Maryland. Anna and Henning loved camping, boating, fishing, and traveling on family vacations.

Family and friends recall that she was a wonderful Danish chef. She loved most of all to feed people. Her Danish desserts were her specialty with pound cake being one of the family's favorites. For Anna, a pound cake really meant a pound of each ingredient. The family will especially miss her cheesecake which had the reputation of being "simply amazing."

Surviving Anna are her son, Dr. Peter Eeg and wife, Cindy, of Boyds, Sonja Devin and husband Robert of El Paso, Texas; four grandchildren, Jamie, John, Robbie, Christian; and

Tulips Continued From
Page 13—

flowers are sold to buyers from all over the world. The eighty acre Leukenof (kitchen garden) near Lisse, Holland, is the world's largest and most spectacular display of spring flowering bulbs. The park attracts 100,000 visitors during its brief open season in March through May. They come from all, over the globe to marvel at the beauty, bounty and diversity of the plantings. It is considered the most photographed sight in the world.

In our own part of the world, Monocacy Country, October to Thanksgiving is the ideal time to plant tulips and other spring flowering bulbs. Purchase bulbs through reputable garden centers or order through catalogues such as Wayside Gardens, White Flower Farm and Dutch Gardens. In the world of tulips, it's all measured in the circumference of the bulbs. This is where the energy is stored for next year's bloom. The bigger the bulb, the bigger the bloom. Pass up those small bargain bulbs at discount stores. You get what you pay for. Choose only bulbs that were firm and free of defects such as cuts, bruises, or mold. It is also recommended that you buy tulips by variety or species name, not color. Red tulips can mean different kinds of varying performance or a mixture of color.

Most people consider tulips as perennials. That is a bit of a stretch. They might reappear for a year or two, but their size and performance diminish. I treat bulbs as annuals. In the past few years, researchers have identified a series of Darwin hybrid tulips that have proven in field trials to provide up to five years of splendid bloom. These special tulips distinguish themselves by their giant size, fourteen centimeters or larger. To ensure the best success with this strain, provide them with the basics of good tulip culture: deep planting, a regular spring and fall feeding with bulb fertilizer, dead-heading after bloom, allowing the

leaves to yellow before removing, and minimal watering in summer.

Avoid planting single tulips or lining them up in a little straight row like tin soldiers. They look best in informal groupings that have at least five bulbs of the same variety. An impressive sight is a mass planting of tulips of a single color. Last year I grouped about sixty bulbs, twelve of five varieties of white tulips, under white dogwood trees and mixed with hostas, ferns, and white bleeding heart. The elegance of the white against the varying shades of green of the hostas and ferns was a respite from more festive hues.

Unfortunately, for many gardeners in Monocacy Country, selecting and planting bulbs is the easy part. The hard part is keeping the deer away. I have given up planting bulbs in the outer area of my garden. They are right in the flight path of local deer. I have found, though, that the closer I plant them to the house, the better chance of them living to bloom. There are other spring bulbs that are resistant to deer, such as daffodils. The truth is that if there are enough deer and they are hungry enough, they will eat anything. But, let's be optimistic for our spring bulb garden 2006. Go out now and buy tulip bulbs of all hues and plant these magical "lipsticks of the garden."

Odds and Ends

A new garden magazine recently came to my attention. It is called *Washington Gardener*. It is tailored specifically for the local metro area zones six to seven, Washington, D.C. and suburbs. It is a very colorful and informative publication. They are now conducting a comprehensive survey of local area nurseries and garden centers. It aims to provide unbiased and unfiltered truths about who is the best of the best in supplying area gardeners. Give them your two cents worth by filling out a survey online at www.washingtongardener.com. The survey takes place now until September 30. The results will be announced in the November/December issue.

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Golf Tips with Mike Aldrich



Are You a Yeahbutter?

What the heck is a yeahbutter? A yeahbutter is a person who always is looking for something better. You hit fourteen out of fourteen fairways, but you could have hit it farther. You had your best round ever, but you missed two four-foot putts.

Golf is the ultimate sport for its participants to declare, "Yeah, but..." It is a sport that is impossible to truly perfect. Is the perfect round of golf hitting every green in regulation and taking thirty-six putts? I think not! What about firing fifty-nine, the best score ever in professional competition. Or, how about making eighteen birdies? The perfect round is eighteen strokes for eighteen holes! Obviously given today's equipment, this is an unattainable goal. I can foresee a golfer in the twenty-second century looking at our equipment in the USGA Museum and saying, "Can you imagine how hard the game must have been when they played with titanium drivers and elastomer covered balls?"

A key time to put aside the "yeah, but..." is when your game is improving or if you are playing well. When you are improving, even at a slow rate, just continue with whatever is working. Don't tinker with your swing, putting stroke, or any other part of your game unless there is a reason. Bernhardt Langer is proof of

the danger of messing around with a game that is already solid. He won multiple tournaments each year from 1980 to 1997, including several PGA Tour and European Tour majors. A visit to a "golf-guru" (whom I will not name), knocked his game so far off that he had four winless years while he struggled to regain his swing.

I commonly observe the "yeah, but..." syndrome on the lesson tee with my students. A student who is unable to straighten out a big old slice starts to hit some long, controllable draws. Even though she is improving, she says, "Yeah, but I was hoping to hit it straight and maybe ten yards farther." "Patience, grasshopper, patience!" is my usual response. "Let's try to get consistent with what we have right now, and then we will move to the next step."

A certain amount of drive and desire to play your best is healthy; just make sure that it doesn't get in the way of enjoying the good parts of your current game. Live in the present and look forward to the future.

Mike Aldrich is 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. Poolesville Golf Course offers a great golf course, top quality merchandise, and a home for your outing groups. The facility is only thirty minutes from Gaithersburg, Rockville, and Frederick, Maryland.

School News

All MCPS students

Changes in recording attendance, effective July 1, 2005. Students will now be recorded A.M. Absent if they arrive at school more than one hour late. They will be recorded P.M. Absent if they leave school more than one hour early. Students will be recorded as either A.M. Absent or P.M. Absent if they are absent from school for more than one hour during the school day, and students will be recorded as Absent for a full day if they are present for one hour or less of the school day.

All schools are closed October 4 and October 13 in observance of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, respectively.

Monocacy Elementary

October 7 is individual picture day.

October 10 is an all day open house. Parents are welcome all day to come to the school, meet the teachers, and watch the children in class. Please be sure to check in at the front office first. *John Poole Middle School*

The middle school is also offering the open house on October 10 allowing parents to visit their children's classrooms.

Poolesville High School

Homecoming weekend comes to Poolesville High School the weekend of September 23. Festivities get underway with a parade on Fisher Avenue Friday evening starting at 4:00 p.m. While Fisher Avenue will be closed during the parade, it will be less than thirty minutes for the full event. Detours will be at Wooton Avenue to Elgin Road.

The parade will feature the competition between the four high school classes for best float. Other groups participating will include the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department, the PAA cheerleaders, PAA football teams, PHS JV cheerleaders, PHS varsity cheerleaders, PHS poms, and PHS Midnight Players.

The focus will turn to the various candidates for Homecoming King and Queen. They will be chosen from the senior candidates, and the winners will be announced at the football game Friday night. Each lower class will select its own Prince and Princess to be part of the royal court; those winners will be announced during the pep rally on Friday.

After the parade the floats will move to the football field where the Falcons will host Rockville High School.

The highlight of the weekend is Saturday night's Homecoming Dance that will be from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

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Sports

The Most Surprising Athletic Team at PHS

By Rande Davis

You had better be real tough and dedicated if you are to be part of this PHS athletic team. You can expect long practices, sore knees, very tired muscles, some shin splints, frustration, and near exhaustion from working through the same routines over and over until you are ready to drop. Pre-season training includes rigorous sit-ups, push-ups, and sprints. Of course, beyond this rigorous challenge, the participants will also have the time of their life and build friendships that can last a lifetime.

What makes this athletic team so surprising is that many people, if not most, don't even view it as a sports team. Yet they are a team in every sense of the word. We are talking about the PHS Pom Squad.

The team is made up of twenty girls who can move as one to the beat of pounding dance music. Their official practice time of four two-hour sessions per week does not include the many hours spent by each girl alone or with other teammates polishing their individual dance skills. Unlike other sports, where coaches tell the players what to do, these girls create their own routines, select their own music, and even cut their own cd's to use in practice and during events.

Twelve of the Poms do not actually live in Poolesville but come to the school through the Global Ecology Studies Program. Since they are from out of the town, their level of their dedication is even more impressive as they must spend extra time commuting to school and to practices.



Poolesville High School's Poms



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The Poms role is to boost school spirit and help maintain and encourage fan support during the halftime of games. Their sophisticated dance routines are performed in complete synchronization. They perform at sporting events, parades, and eventually compete with other schools in county and divisional invitational competitions.

The bonding of the girls is so complete that outside of practice and



Poms coach Carrie Zimmerman

performances they often get together as a team for social events like pizza parties, going to movies, and even get together during the holidays. The friendships gained, pride in accomplishment, and a fun way to exercise and keep in shape make Poms worthwhile to these athletes.

The PHS girls closed out last season by placing second in both the county and divisional competition. The team's co-captain, Mary Beth Berry, brought the team additional honor by being selected as the number one captain during the competition.

Leading, mentoring, and coaching this team is Carrie Zimmerman. Mrs. Zimmerman has assisted in the coach-

ing of the team for the last two years and has taken up the challenge of coaching the team by herself this year.

Mrs. Zimmerman has a very strong history of Pom experience since she was on the Watkins Mill High School team for four years and then went on to Elon University in North Carolina where she was a Pom for all four years. She lives in Frederick with her husband of just two and a half months. She commutes to Rockville each day to teach at Beall Elementary School, and then Poolesville to oversee practices and work with the girls on their routines.

She has taken on the responsibility because she enjoys working with youth and helping the girls reach their personal levels of achievement. "It also brings back fond memories for me," says Coach Zimmerman. She would like the parents and the community to recognize this team as playing an important role in building school and community spirit. The next time you see the Poms perform their seamless routines of dance, just

remember you are watching toned and dedicated athletes perform at their utmost.

SSA Red Dragons Soccer Highlights

The Seneca Soccer Association Red Dragons, a U13 Wags girls' soccer team, captured the division championship at the August Cup Soccer Tournament. The Red Dragons include players from all of Montgomery County but are well represented by Poolesville area girls.

The championship game was the Red Dragons' second game of this hot summer Sunday. The girls found themselves down by a goal with less than five minutes left in regulation time. The heat could not wilt the Red Dragons, though, as they scored the tiebreaker in the fifty-seventh minute of the sixty minute match.

After two scoreless overtime periods, the Red Dragons decisively won the battle of penalty kicks 3 to 0.

The Red Dragons had outscored their four opponents by 16 to 1 to earn themselves the championship.

John Poole Middle School girls who play for the Red Dragons are Holly Chittenden, Mary Belliveau, Caryn Thompson, Katelyn Keese, and Anna Mihm.

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This is Jay Schwartzman, hard at work while celebrating the 30th Anniversary of his business, Poolesville Beer and Wine.

Jay is a bigtime supporter of Poolesville High School athletics, which is why we thought he wouldn't mind us running his picture on this particular page.

We hope you will read the article about his 30th Anniversary on Page 20.

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