

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

October 21, 2005

Volume 2, Number 15

## Inside the Monocle



See Local History on Page 18



These are not your usual dragonflies. See Center Stage on Page 14.



This is local? Yes it is. The Daytripper explains everything on Page 7.



Senior Nehali Patel of the PHS Girl's Tennis Team. Page 23.

## Police Credit Community Help in Recent Robbery Arrests

By Jack Toomey

Montgomery County Police credited an overwhelming community response and a relentless investigative effort in the recent arrests that seem to have put to an end to a robbery spree that terrorized merchants in the upper county since September 8. Over a period of two weeks, a gunman robbed the Oriental Gourmet and Subway carryouts in Poolesville and also struck the Boyds Country Store twice. Each time, the gunman was described as wearing a white mask over his face concealing his identity from witnesses.

After the robbery of the Subway on September 25, police blanketed the Poolesville business district with Crime Solvers flyers which gave a description of the robber, a phone number to call, and the option to remain anonymous. Detectives were particularly effusive in their praise for Joe Angulo, the owner of Domino's Pizza, who placed a Crime Solvers flyer inside each pizza box. Domino's had suffered a burglary on the night of July 23; however, a police source told the *Monocle* that the identity of the thief in that case is known, and he is not connected to the recent robber-

ies. Angulo said, "I'm glad to have helped and would have done more had the police asked."

A source close to the investigation told the *Monocle* that on September 26 and 27, many phone calls were received from citizens, but most consisted of speculation and theory; however, some callers provided specific information about the crimes. Officers who had responded to the original call and detectives also located citizens who had noticed something particularly suspicious immediately after the robbery of Subway. This

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## They Came, They Saw, and They Conquered

By Rande Davis

The warriors from Walter Reed Army Medical Center came, they saw, and they conquered—our hearts. The pavilion at White's Ferry protected the crowd from the downpour of the driving rain. Nothing could dampen their spirits.

On Saturday, October 8, a group of area residents hosted a special day of fishing and picnicking for soldiers recovering at Walter Reed. The day brought together grateful citizens with those who serve our nation so nobly in a tangible demonstration of support and appreciation for the troops.

The festivities not only provided a great day for the soldiers, but, just as importantly, raised money to benefit Fisher House, a temporary comfort home where military families can stay for free as they visit their wounded family members while they are recuperating. Fisher House has sixteen military medical facilities around the country. This event was the third such fishing festival. In addition to hosting the soldiers, the group raised \$2,000 for Fisher House last spring and \$2,500 this fall. The dream developed from four



Neil Brown, Don Hoffacker, Mary Hoffacker and Ed Brown greeting visiting soldiers at White's Ferry.

area men who were socializing at Bassett's restaurant. Paul Kelly, an Iraqi War veteran who at the time was still in the army serving at Walter Reed mentioned that soldiers really would appreciate a day away from the hospital to enjoy the countryside and fishing. Carl Hobbs, of Poolesville Small Engine and Repair, has extensive experience in putting together entertainment events at the Montgomery County Fair. He offered the opinion that such a day would be quite easy to put together.

Joined by Roger Strippey and Richard McKnight and through contributions from many people and businesses in the area, the dream became reality.

Our community really came together on this one. Roy Selby not only donated food but also got vendors like Coca Cola to help provide the beverages. Ed Brown, owner of White's Ferry, donated the use of the pavilion. Sports Authority donated door prizes of fishing rods, tackle boxes, and fishing lure sets so that all of the visiting soldiers would receive a gift.

The country party gave the visitors a taste of home and a great time for camaraderie. Mr. Hobbs proved to be a masterful griller of barbecued chicken, hot dogs, and hamburgers, but it was his grilled sausages that proved to be the biggest hit.

Edwin Brown, owner of White's Ferry, who provided the facilities, joined in the party and said, "It was a great day and everyone seemed to enjoy it. We were glad to sponsor the facilities, and they are always welcome back any time." Captain Alex Viessmann, (USN- retired) was grateful to join in the picnic and be around the soldiers. "When I learned about the event from the Browns, I wanted

—Continued on Page 12

# Family Album

**Sponsored by:**  
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*A Day at White's Ferry for Soldiers from Walter Reed Army Medical Center*



SSgt. Jackie Christian (right front) and Pfc. Nguyen Sang (right rear) guard the cookies.



SSgt. Rose: SSgt. Patrick Rose of Missouri braves the rain.



WRAMC Staff Sgt. Cherokee Hines of Las Vegas, Nevada hooked a clam.



Poolesville's Philomenia Roy and SSgt. Carlos Farler of Kentucky.



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## Editorial

### Just When You Thought it Was Safe.

By John Clayton

Death, taxes and a bridge across the Potomac River into the Agricultural Reserve. Some things never really go away. The Virginia Department of Transportation has a bridge into Montgomery County in their current plans, with intent to move forward.

There are many threats to the Agricultural Reserve which receive a wealth of well-deserved discussion. Battle lines are drawn on the proper use of the Ag Reserve. Each desire to use a piece of the Ag Reserve may represent a legitimate endeavor, but to the most ardent defenders of the Ag Reserve, each of these is a dangerous incursion. All of these issues pale in the face of a bridge across the Potomac and the new roads that it will bring. The bridge is the beginning of the end for rural Montgomery County.

There seems to be very little evidence that these roads (which is what the bridge is really about) will do anything to solve traffic problems in our region, other than perhaps providing

an avenue for commercial traffic and a more direct commute for a relatively small number of people. There is much to read on the matter if you wish to know more. My point today, however, is not to work through the pros and cons. The point is that the Ag Reserve and the small town oasis of Poolesville will cease to exist when they become home to a major north-south corridor. Be very concerned.

The people that want this corridor—Virginia developers, freight shippers, and yes, those that would develop the Ag Reserve—are relentless. They are pushing for this night and day. We need to help the population centers of Germantown and North Potomac understand how they would be affected by the fragmentation of the Ag Reserve, or by a major road through their neighborhoods. We need to continue to let the Montgomery County Council, and specifically District 2 councilman Mike Knapp know how we feel. The voices of opposition need to carry to the State House and U.S. Congress as well. Once the bridge gets some traction it will move fast. There's something in it for everybody, but it will be at our expense.

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Keeping An Eye On Local News

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## Big Board

### HALLOWEEN SPECIAL

The Rural Republican Women's Club has developed a Halloween theme for this annual fundraiser that helps support club activities, scholarships for high school graduates, and other charitable donations. Attendees are encouraged to come in costume to enjoy a barbecue chicken dinner and a great time of square dancing called by Charlie Stockman. There will be a silent auction, country store, games for kids, and door prizes. The fun starts at 4:00 p.m. on October 29 at the Izaak Walton League in Poolesville. Cost is \$30.00 per adult and \$12.00 for ages 6 to 12. To make sure that there are tickets still available, you should call Susanne Shorts at 301-349-0787 to determine availability.

For the younger kids, the Monocacy Lions Club will be sponsoring its annual Halloween Party at St. Mary's Pavilion. This decades-old party has games, food, and treats for kids in a safe (and dry) location. Starting just after the trick or treating ends around 7:30 p.m., the evening is free, and the treats include everything from cider to donuts and more. Dunkin' for apples is still *en vogue* at St. Mary's pavilion (301-972-4317).

In Poolesville, the Baptist Church is setting up a Halloween party night of games, candy, moon bounce, and other treats. This is open to all children and not just church members. It's free as well, and the festivities begin at 6:00 p.m. and run to 8:00 p.m.

Adults can have fun at Halloween, too. The Potomac Valley Lodge will host a very special Halloween costume party on Saturday, October 29 starting at 8:00 p.m. The evening will be a fundraiser for the American Red Cross with proceeds going for Hurricane Katrina relief. The popular Poolesville D.J., Valerie Dickerson, will be there to fill during breaks by the bands. Along with everyone's favorite, the Jim Bowie band, the up and coming Poolesville Band Project will also provide music. Those in costume will have the most fun. The cost for couples is \$25.00, and for singles it will be \$15.00 (301-349-0222).

Then there is the premier Halloween event in the entire area — Markhoff's Haunted Forest. This is for those thrill seekers who are not faint-at-heart. This offshoot of the traditional haunted house is an exhilarating and frighteningly fun-filled experience. The path through

the Dickerson woods is punctuated by many screams and shrieks — all in fun, though. While attendees wait their turn to go through the forest, there are festive food and drinks, bonfires, outdoor movies, haunted hayrides, fortunetellers, and more. Cover price is \$20.00, and proceeds go to the non-profit organization, Calleva Outdoors (301-216-1248).

Lawyer's Winter Farm is offering its Moonlight Maze. You can make your way by moonlight through Maryland's largest corn maze. Try their pumpkin cannon for some exploding fun [www.mazeplay.com](http://www.mazeplay.com) or 301-271-4826.

Phillips Farm Pumpkin Patch at 13710 Schaeffer Road in Germantown offers a corn maze, hayrides, pony rides, and haystack climb. They'll have fresh cider and apples as well (301-540-2364).

Homestead Farms will also be offering its traditional maze and hayrides.

Lewis Orchard and Kingsbury Orchard offer a huge selection of pumpkins, corn stalks, apples, cider, fall decorations and mums — perfect to make sure your home reflects the season.

## Day Tripper

### The Covered Bridges of Frederick County

By Rande Davis

The cool, crisp air of the fall season merges with the spectacular changing colors of the forest foliage into an enticing invitation to spend some time outdoors. Nature alone is reason enough to make you spend some time outdoors in the coming weeks.

However, in case you still need an excuse to get away by yourself or share a quiet time with a friend or loved one, consider a fall daytrip visiting the historic covered bridges of Frederick County.

Frederick County's three historic covered bridges are listed in the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places. The Utica Mills, Loy's Station, and Roddy Road covered bridges all cross streams in the northern end of the county. Only twelve miles separates them from one another, so you will not feel rushed to get from one to the other. If on the day you decide to go you have perfect

picnic weather, Loy's Station and Roddy Road both have park space and picnic tables. A roadside, country picnic does not have to be something of a bygone era. Young children and grandchildren have a way of holding the memory of such short trips in their hearts forever.

Don't despair about the possibility of a colder or rainier type of day, though. This auto-tour allows you to get outside even when the weather is something less than perfect. If the weather isn't ideal, instead of a picnic, plan to stop at one of Frederick County's cozy, small town restaurants. In fact, you go right through Thurmont on this tour, so if you haven't been to the Cozy Inn or it has been a long time since your last visit there, then plan to eat there for a real treat.

Our direction for the tour uses the starting point of the junction of 15 north and Route 26. From that intersection, travel north on Route 15 for just over four miles and turn right onto Old Frederick Road following it for about one and a half miles. Make a left onto Utica Road to find your first covered bridge — Utica Mills.

Circa 1850, the Utica Mills covered bridge originally spanned the nearby Monocacy River. It was washed away

—Continued on Page 17.

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**Rockville:** Like new 1 BR, 1 BA condo w/ numerous amenities. Upgraded kitchen, new Berber carpet (2003), new windows, eat-in kitchen, separate dining rm, spacious bathroom w/ large closet. Conveniently located less than one mile from the Twinbrook Metro Station. Offered at \$228,500.00.

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**Local News**



**Sporey Family Involved in Tragic Car Accident**

On Friday, October 7, 2005, Poolesville residents Jim and Shirley Sporey and Martha Fiebert (Mrs. Sporey's mother) were involved in a head-on collision near Breezewood, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Fiebert was killed instantly. Mr. Sporey was rushed to the Baltimore Trauma Center, University of Maryland suffering from a split kidney, multiple broken bones, and remained in critical condition through Friday, October 14. Mrs. Sporey was released from the hospital on Thursday suffering from a broken ankle.

The family was traveling together from an outing to show glassware when an automobile crossed the centerline in the rain and hit the Sporey car directly. Readers of the *Monocle* may recall that Mr. Sporey has been featured in the paper for his exceptional talents in woodworking crafts, an avocation that has won him multiple awards at the Montgomery

County Fair. Mr. Sporey's talent is even the more exceptional since he has suffered acute arthritis over the years and completes his artwork with radically crippled hands.

**Knapp Makes Visit to PACC**

The featured speaker at the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce meeting on October 13 was Montgomery County Councilman Michael Knapp (Democrat, District 2). The meeting, attended by fourteen members of the chamber, developed into a nearly two-hour round table



Councilman Mike Knapp and PACC VP Dawn Albert

discussion of a variety of issues.

Mr. Knapp's remarks featured an update on county issues including the problems relating to the Clarksburg zoning fiasco, Ag Reserve concerns, growth, and budgetary preparation. Mr. Knapp informed members that the county is moving to review processes through the Parks and Planning Commission to prevent future problems in enforcing zoning requirements. The objective of such reforms would be to make the process far more transparent.

Town Commissioner Eddie Kuhlman raised four issues of concern about improved police presence, renovation needs of the high school, potential of the county purchasing the land next to the elementary school to safeguard its use for expansion and/or improved parking, safety concerns about outside area cyclists not properly following standard roadway

rules, and the prospects of the Mar-koff's outdoor facility being proposed in the Ag Reserve.

Mr. Knapp proffered that with so many county officials potentially planning statewide campaigns next year, that the up county level of influence will rise due to the political needs of such candidates to have a very strong showing of voters from our area. The councilman suggested that with a planned increase in Montgomery County Police by thirty-four offices next year, that could lead to improved police services in the coming year. He took suggestions on the school issues under advisement, noting that the capital budgetary process will begin near the end of the year.

Mr. Knapp also emphasized that with a population of 50,000 people in the Ag Reserve, the challenge will be to better inform and educate the other 900,000 Montgomery County citizens as to the benefits they garner from its existence.

With Homeland Security concerns coupled with challenges of disaster relief in the headlines, Mr. Knapp reported that communication difficulties facing the metropolitan area are

—Continued on Page 11.

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**Local News Continued from Page 8**

being addressed and improvement is being made, but that there remains much more to do. Residents should be advised that in the event of such an emergency, our area would be more inclined toward a "shelter place" concept as opposed to an evacuation. This is due to the limited danger of hurricanes or floods. He strongly emphasized that individuals will need to take very seriously their personal safety role in planning for a three-to-five-day need of self-sufficiency. Suggestions and instructions to residents are available on the website [www.makeaplan.org](http://www.makeaplan.org).

**New Sign Concept Being Tested**

Residents will soon see a test sign placed at the entrance of the plaza where the town hall is located. This structure is being placed in order to better visualize the pros and cons of changing town sign ordinances regulating signage for shopping centers.

The structure itself will not become the prototype for a new sign. Rather, the commissioners requested its placement so that its size, dimen-

sions, and location can be better analyzed prior to making any changes in current sign zoning restrictions.

An additional objective of the sign change would be to diminish the need for use of temporary, A-frame signs. Once the commissioners have had adequate time to review and discuss the test sign, it will be removed, and a decision on changing town sign requirements will be made.

**Parents Seek Town Skateboard Park**

At a recent town meeting, eighteen young people who were accompanied by their parents appeared before the commissioners in a demonstration of support of building a skateboarding park for the town.

After testimony by group leaders, they were instructed to meet with the Town's Park and planning commission to begin the process of full consideration. There is reported to be up to fifty young people interested in such park. The activity has become a growing and significant sport for young people throughout the area and the nation, and the parents voiced their objective of bringing such a park to the area.

**Well Pump-down Test Put on Hold**

When Steve Goldberg of White's Ferry Road found his water supply muddy and murky, he immediately suspected that it was the result of well pump-down testing by Winchester Homes who plan a ninety-eight home development that surrounds his property. He was right.

"My greatest immediate concern was having enough water for my horses," said Mr. Goldberg, "and I have to compliment Wade Yost and the town for their quick response in getting me temporary water supplies."

Since the Winchester well draws from the same fractures as Mr. Goldberg's well, the test impact resulted in his water problem. The problem does not necessarily impact the future use

of the Winchester well, but it does show that an accommodation will have to be made.

**What's in a Name?**

So you think you live in the Town of Poolesville? The only problem is that name doesn't exist – on the town charter at least. Technically speaking, Poolesville's Town Charter is issued to the Commissioners of Poolesville and not to Poolesville. (Now you know why your checks for the water are made out to the Commissioners of Poolesville and not the Town of Poolesville. This quirky anomaly came up at a recent meeting, and the town attorney was requested to take the steps necessary to make Poolesville, well, Poolesville.

**Frederick Students Step Up for Disaster Victims**

All across Frederick County, students did their parts to help folks in hurricane-ravaged areas to our south. In just one month, public schools collected more than \$105,000 in relief aid, with the majority of support going to the American Red Cross 2005 Hurricane Victims Fund.



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## White's Ferry Continued from Page 1—

to come by and visit with the soldiers. They were all so appreciative of the day."

The smiles and humor abounded. Staff Sergeant Cherokee Hines from Walter Reed Medical Center, a native of Las Vegas, Nevada, cast her line into the Potomac River only to snag a clam. While it was not the biggest catch of the day, it quickly became the one most joked about. No word on how many fish were caught, but then again all we really got was your usual fishing stories.

Kentuckian SSgt. Carlos Farler, arriving on his crutches, said to Carl Hobbs, "Man, I just want to get on the fishing bank, get a cold beer, and eat some good food." Carl told him to just "kick back, have fun, and if [he] needed anything, just ask any of the people and they will get it for [him]." In talking to SSgt. Farler, his only request of the *Monocle* was to let our readers know "just how appreciative we are for this event. It really means a lot."

A group of area neighbors joined Pfc. Nguyen Sang, (44<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion) and SSgt. Jackie T. Christian (660<sup>th</sup> Trans. Company of Ohio) in a lively and humorous conversation about SSgt. Christian's apparent overzealous guarding of a pack of chocolate chip cookies. Everyone agreed that drinking a beer and eating a chocolate chip cookie defined a great party.

Pfc. Sang and SSgt. Christian represented the full span of military service with Sang having just completed his third year of service and Christian

considering retiring from a thirty-six-year army career.

SSgt. Patrick Rose (51<sup>st</sup> Infantry) may have been the most appreciative of the group. "I got up at 4:30 a.m. only to see the heavy rain outside—but nothing was going keep me from a day of fishing." SSgt. Rose, an eighteen-year army veteran, has been in the thick of things going all the way back to Panama. Winning a new fishing rod as a door prize especially pleased this Missouri native whose family lives in Alaska. Covered in plastic sheeting, he spent most of his time in the rain by the river, fishing and helping others with their lines. His military reconnaissance specialty of guarding against insurgents crossing the borders left him unimpressed by a few raindrops. The mud by the river was slick, but then again, he has low-crawled in much worse.

A serious speaker, SSgt. Rose looks you intently and directly into your eyes when speaking. He stated to the *Monocle*, "I just wish more people understood how much we have accomplished in Iraq. I know firsthand that ninety-five percent of us (at Walter Reed) want to return to our units and know what's getting done there."

The party began to break up at about 3:00 p.m. with hugs and hearty handshakes all around. As the soldiers boarded the military bus back to the hospital, the smiles and waves symbolized the bonding that occurred between those from the Monocacy area with those who, although coming from so many faraway places, had just spent a wonderful day at "home."



## In the Garden The Last Fling

By Maureen O'Connell

As we wind down to the last days of October, the forgiving light of autumn gives the garden a softness that it did not have on the harsh overhead glare of high summer. We often think of light in the garden in terms of sun and shade. But, there is dappled shade, filtered shade, dense shade, part shade, filtered sun, part sun, full sun, and many other nuances as the sun crosses the sky in the course of a day. As the garden ages, the pace gradually slows, as it ebbs towards its winter dormancy. Every day now the leaves of the deciduous trees give us clues as to where we are in the garden's journey.

Almost all leaves are green during spring and summer. Their color comes from chlorophyll, a green substance in the chloroplasts. The leaf also has other colors, but they are hidden by the chlorophyll. As autumn approaches, the shorter days and cooler nights cause chlorophyll to break down. The leaves then die, but before they drop to the ground, they reveal their hidden colors. They may show the yellow color of the pigment *xanthophyll* or the orange-red and purple tones of *carotene* pigments. There is also a group of red and purple pigments called *anthocyanins*. The color of autumn leaves depend upon which of the pigments is most plentiful.

Gardeners can't put away their gloves and pruners yet. There is work to be done, if your garden is to face spring all spruced and healthy.

Your spring-flowering bulbs should be in the ground now. However, there is still time, as the October weather has been quite warm. Don't forget to fertilize them after planting. They need food as they send out new roots. Heavy feeders, such as lilies and hybrid tulips, perform best if fertilized in both the fall and spring. I recommend using a slow-release fertilizer especially for bulbs. You can buy at garden centers one (analysis 5-10-20) specifically for daffodils, which like extra potassium in their diets. I don't recommend using bone meal. It contains only one primary nutrient (phosphorous) and it attracts dogs and rodents, who may dig up the bulbs. Max and Sam proved that theory right for me.

Autumn gives us a window of

opportunity to take stock of our garden needs. The soil in our area is still warm, so we can take advantage of autumn planting. Many garden centers push spring planting of deciduous trees and shrubs, but I think that fall is a better time to plant. It gives the young plants time to get a hold in their new homes before the onset of winter. By spring they will have a jump start on their growth. Be careful, though, to water them well before the ground freezes, apply a winter mulch and stake them, if necessary. If you do stake trees or shrubs, check the ties throughout the winter to make sure they have not come loose.

October is an ideal time to split some perennials. As the soil is still warm, there is time for the roots to re-establish themselves. Many perennials respond well to division either in early spring or mid fall. The following are best split in late summer or fall. Divide crowded clumps of alliums, crocuses, daffodils, grape hyacinths and other spring-flowering bulbs before new roots form. When splitting delphiniums, enrich the soil and then replant firmly to avoid winter heaving. Lilies can be divided, split into separate bulbs and replanted. It is said that peonies can be divided now, but they can be a puzzle of a plant to divide. Aim for two to five growing tips and don't reset too deep. Another school of thought is that peonies resent being moved to new homes. I guess it all depends on how temperamental your plants are.

Many gardeners regard pruning as a dilemma; do I prune now or wait until spring? There is no mystery to it; it all depends upon the plant's growth cycle. For some perennials, it doesn't make too much difference; it depends on aesthetics and plant hygiene. For plants and shrubs that re-bloom on old wood, if you cut them back now to the ground, there will be very few, if any, blooms in the spring. The hydrangea is such an example. Most of the hydrangeas offered at local garden centers and featured in catalogues, are the common greenhouse or French (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) variety. The buds originate near the tips of the canes formed the preceding year, and they should be pruned after flowering, or not at all. Pruning in the fall or early spring will reduce the number of flowers or prevent flowering. Another perennial you shouldn't cut to the ground in the fall is lavender. Clip or prune in spring, before new

—Continued on Page 16

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### Community Help Continued From Page 1—

critical information led to the issuance of arrest warrants for Zachary Tyler Warring, 21, of the 19800 block of Beatriz Lane, Poolesville, and Paul Aaron Stoll, 22, of the 17400 block of Hughes Road, Poolesville. On the evening of September 28, Warring and Stull were arrested while driving in Stull's car as they were returning from Washington, D.C. Both were charged with Armed Robbery and a variety of other charges and incarcerated in the Montgomery County Detention Center. Detectives believe that Warring was the gunman who actually robbed the Subway while Stull waited nearby in a car. Following the arrests, police seized a loaded handgun and a mask from the home of Warring. Investigation is continuing into the involvement of the duo in the other three robberies. Stoll was released on bond on September 29 and Warring was released the next day. Preliminary hearings are set for October 28 although it is likely that indictments will be sought before then.

John Slagle, the owner of J.D.'s Beer and Wine, said, "I never thought that they would hit our store because we know (the people) in the community." Slagle praised the quick police work and expressed relief that the arrests had been made. Sonny Sun, the owner of Oriental Gourmet, expressed relief upon hearing the news and remarked, "Everybody in the business (sector) is happy now, it's good news for the whole community." Vinod Patel, owner of Subway, remarked, "The police did a good job," and Thomas Kettler, the president of the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce, told the *Monocle* that "we are pleased that the police have been able to make arrests, I had members calling me asking what was being done about crime in Poolesville." Katie Antonelli, a student at Poolesville High School, probably summed up the feeling of the community when she said, "It was pretty crazy, pretty scary because it's a small town."

Anyone with information about these robberies is asked to call the Robbery Squad of the Montgomery County Police at 240-773-5070.

### At Your Service Mary Bernardo

By Jack Toomey

A post office is not necessarily a place that one looks forward to visiting. At some offices, there are many people in line and the service is slow, but there are exceptions, and a lady at the Poolesville Post Office makes a visit a pleasant experience.

Mary Bernardo was born in Minneapolis and her family moved to Montgomery County forty years ago. She attended Walter Johnson High School and, after graduation, the family moved to Poolesville.



Mary Bernardo

In 1974, Mary obtained a position with the Postal Service as a part-time rural mail carrier at the Dickerson office. Her daily routine was to deliver mail throughout the rural sections of upper Montgomery County and southern Frederick County. Some of her fondest days were spent delivering mail on those winding and narrow roads in her Volkswagen Beetle. She reminisced that some people looked forward to the arrival of the mail carrier. There was a family that would often greet her with fresh-baked pie, a man who would present her with flowers from his garden, and a lady who, upon seeing Mary's car approach, would hurry down the farm lane and continue the conversation that had ended the day before without missing a sentence. Once, she had a registered letter for a family on upper River Road. As she pulled into the farm, she heard a screeching noise and suddenly a goat jumped onto the hood of her car! She then realized that the screeching was coming from a flock of peacocks that surrounded her car. Another time, she was delivering mail on the Frederick County side of Sugarloaf Mountain when she was stopped by the Natural Resources Police. They wanted to know if she had

—Continued on Page 18.

### Focus on Business

#### It's A Fine Life

By Rande Davis

The phrase "salt of the earth" would be a good way to label Bernie and Kathy Mihm. We think that would be just fine with them.

When Bernie started his landscaping business in 1977, the name Fine Earth Landscaping Co. Inc. came to mind. "No real reason, just sort of a sixties-seventies thing. Sounded right," Bernie explained. From a start as a one-man operation to its present status of employing fifty-five people and winning many awards, we think he could at least call it Great Earth Landscaping.

While many people struggle through their twenties trying different things and moving around to different places, Bernie and Kathy got it right the first time. The couple, married twenty-four years, have been together since they graduated from high school. We can't say they didn't move around, but moving from Kensington to Silver Spring to Rockville to Tacoma Park and, finally, to Poolesville isn't exactly what we call a rolling stone. These Montgomery County natives are pleased to be where they are, thank you very much.

Working his way through a landscaping program at the University of Maryland, Bernie, who was getting As at the time, faced the dilemma of

a growing business as a distraction to the classroom. The business demands won out.

Kathy's educational experience was, you might say, solid as rock—she holds a master's degree in geology. She works part-time with S.S. Papadopoulos in areas relating to Superfund programs, ground-water pollution, and other environmental issues. Her part-time status is a reflection of the couple's priority to make sure someone is at home with the children.

Bernie's vocation is landscaping, but his avocation is youth soccer. He currently coaches his daughter Anna in the Washington Area Girls Soccer League. In our last issue, we reported on the success of this team—the Red Dragons. This coaching stint fol-

lows many years of coaching his son, Carl, through elementary school. The Red Dragons is a competitive, travel team that just came off a championship season this past August. Carl has gone on to make the PHS varsity soccer team in his sophomore year.

Fine Earth donated the labor and provided materials at cost for Poolesville Elementary

School's award-winning waterfall and pond. Bernie still helps maintain it. Winning awards is something they have accomplished often in the past few years. Fine Earth has six designers on staff. They specialize in ponds, waterfalls, patios, and of course, beautiful plants.

—Continued on Page 15.



Bernie Mihm

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## Center Stage

### Molten Mysteries

By Dominique Agnew

*Ars longa, vita brevis.* Art is long, life is short.

Marguerite de Messières of Boyds has enamored herself of encaustic painting, and the translucent, mysterious quality of her work captivates the eye. Basically, to paint in encaustic, one melts wax, adds pigment, then applies it to the surface to be covered. A very old form of painting, encaustic can be found on mummies from thou-



Marguerite de Messières

sands of years ago. Greek painters did portraits called fayoums (Margot swore I wouldn't be killed if I used this spelling) in encaustic which were then put on the mummy at the time of entombment. "Encaustic lasts beautifully," says Margot—*ars longa*.

Needless to say, Margot does not paint fayoums for mummies, although she does paint portraits. Because the wax hardens after it has been applied to a surface, the flexibility of canvas is not well suited to encaustic painting. Margot usually uses braced plywood or other high-quality boards. She begins her works by applying clear wax to the wood to warm the wood and to allow the wax to soak into the wood. From there, it's a process of adding and subtracting. She explains that the process differs from oil painting, for example, one of her other favorite media, in that with oil, one adds layer upon layer. With encaustic, she adds a layer, then she'll scrape off some of the wax. She can scrape grooves or channels into the wax onto which she'll paint more wax. She says there are frequent occurrences of: "Oops, that didn't work, scrape it off."

Margot didn't start painting in encaustic until about two years ago; in fact, Margot didn't even start painting until college. In the mid-nineties, she attended Wesleyan College thinking to major in biology. In her first semester there, she took a drawing course to



Suburban Tangent — Gold

have a well-rounded education. Her next art class was painting with Tula Telfair. Margot says, laughing, "She made a little painter of me; she taught me to paint." The biology major fell victim to the art major. Upon graduation, she moved to New York where she worked at an art gallery. Her time in New York was not productive. In two years, she worked as an artist's assistant while sharing a small apartment. "I wasn't getting any painting done trying to pay the rent," she remembers. She came back home to Boyds to paint—and study—and travel.

Her studies and travels took her from D.C. to Italy to Bulgaria. In D.C., she took a metal-working course at the Corcoran. "I was happy to try it," she explains, "but it made me want to paint more. Florence, Italy saw her studying conservation at the Saci School. "I wanted to know enough to not make stupid mistakes," she says. She broke short her studies after one semester to travel a little more freely. A brief sojourn in Bologna to study Italian led to Naples, the city of epiphanies (perhaps James Joyce was in the wrong country). Naples has not been given the best of reputations. Margot received much advice telling her to avoid visiting Naples.

She went anyways and was struck by the beauty of the artwork she found there. She visited wonderful churches—sometimes located in forbidding streets—and found herself surprised at how much beauty could be found in Naples that was mostly ignored by the art textbooks and art literature. Margot decided that maybe she shouldn't listen to all the advice to which she'd been listening—epiphany number one.

While still in Naples, she met up with her class from Florence. The class was touring different museums in the Italian art world, and Naples had two museums on the itinerary. Margot was surprised to find that the teacher, a well-educated, well-respected woman, held the class in a grip of fear for the dangers of Naples. Students fiercely clutched their bags to their sides, the teacher showed the students the museums, then they were gone, as quickly as possible. They missed much of the beauty of Naples found in Margot's inquisitive searches. Thus came epiphany number two: she would have to travel more to see for herself what is not in the books. "I had to do it myself." *Vita brevis*.

Home in Boyds again, the year 2003 found Margot painting full time.

—Continued on Page 15

Are you scared of the dark?



Oct. 20-22,25-31.

[www.calleva.org](http://www.calleva.org)

**Molten Mysteries Continued from Page 14—**

She received many portrait commissions, she painted her first mural, and was having some success selling her works. One day, she was visiting the studio of another local artist who showed her how to apply wax to pottery. Margot was immediately enthralled, and on impulse, she bought pounds and pounds of beeswax from the neighbor of the potter. In the realm of encaustic art, Margot had to rely on trial and error to hone her technique. She quickly learned, for example, that heating the wax in the microwave might prove unreliable when she almost caught the studio on fire. Trying to find other encaustic painters or information on encaustic painting has proven to be difficult as their numbers are few. "So many encaustic artists are self taught," says Margot. However, all those Margot has met have been very forthcoming in sharing techniques.

Back to her traveling, Margot found her way to Bulgaria in the fall of 2004. She had received a grant to study woodcarving at the Academy of Fine Arts in Sofia. From a street vendor, she ended up buying a little bit of wax to which she mixed a little paint. She created a few encaustic paintings and entered one in a small exhibit at a gallery in Sofia. Her little painting caused quite a stir, so she left it there at the end of her stay. When

she returned after a few months (love beckoned), it was to expect to sell the painting as buyers had shown interest. Unfortunately, the painting had a sort of chemical bloom that kept growing and rendered the painting flawed. Margot learned from an encaustic artist in New York that adding dammar resin to the wax would help to stop the bloom. Happily, Margot says, "Now my paintings don't bloom." The resin also makes the wax harder, giving it a higher melting temperature, and, she says, "The wax is shinier when I polish it."

This shine and polish give the works of Margot an almost eerie iridescence. This quality manifests itself through the fusing of the layers, as well. The viewer frequently sees the undercurrent of earlier layers of wax. Margot describes her work as "not too abstract, so there's a sense of mystery without too much confusion." She likes to incorporate an obstruction to heighten the mystery and to invite the viewing participant to "look more deeply."

It's usually nice to be able to give the readers a place to see the works of a featured artist, and while Margot has shown with the Hyattstown Mill Arts Project, most recently at Black Rock Center for the Arts, her next show will be in Sofia, Bulgaria. The Astry Gallery, due to the success of the little blooming piece, has asked her to come back to display a number of her works. *Ars longa, vita brevis.*

**It's a Fine Life Continued from Page 13—**

This year, Fine Earth was the recipient of ten awards given by the Landscape Contractors Association (DC, MD, VA). The most notable awards were for a beautiful waterfall cascading down a hillside, an outdoor kitchen with gas fireplace, arbor, water feature, patio, and lush plantings, and two Georgetown-style gardens.

Prior to moving to their new home on Edwards Ferry Road, the family resided at the business's current location on Budd Road. It's a quiet place for the most part, but "when you have fourteen crews loading up in the morning in dry weather, the dust can really fly."

Typically, their landscaping jobs are priced in the range of \$2,000 to \$4,000, but on occasion, they have landed contracts that have run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Asked about celebrity jobs, Bernie pointed out they have done work for General Colin Powell and for Ethel Kennedy at her famous Hickory Hill Estate.

In between the family needs, business demands,

and coaching pleasures, Bernie finds time to hunt deer.

We didn't have time talk to some employees to find out what it is like to work for him. If we had, we think Joel Hafner might have something to say. Mr. Hafner, a former U.S. Army Ranger, went to work for him seventeen years ago at the minimum labor rate. He worked hard, and today he is Bernie's full partner in the business. For Bernie, loyalty is obviously a two-way street, and that's fine with us.



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**Last Fling Continued from Page 12—**

growth starts, to promote bushiness and maintain desired height and form. Trim off flower stems after blooming in late summer to mid fall.

I do my main pruning of all my roses around St. Patrick's Day. After the first heavy frost, I will cut back any tall, lanky branches to prevent damage from winter winds. There are varying opinions as to whether one should cut off any new shoots that develop in the fall. If one has the time and patience, it is a good thing to do, since the young shoots are prevented from using the stored food in the stem. From a practical point of view, it is questionable whether the practice warrants the effort.

Pull up and dispose of all wilted annuals. Check your irises for signs of iris borers. If you find that the rhizomes are soft and rotting with a foul odor, dig them up and dispose of. If you leave them in the ground, they will infect neighboring irises. Clean up and dispose of all leaves and debris around them, as they can harbor insects and plant diseases. In our area, phlox are highly susceptible to powdery mildew. To discourage transmitting this fungus to next year's growth, cut the phlox to the ground and rake out all surrounding leaves and debris.

I dislike the look of a totally barren winter garden. There are many perennials that can be left untrimmed over the winter to add architectural interest. I leave sedum, helleborus, ferns, some herbs as they are. I also leave cone flowers and the rose hips of the Rugosas and some Floribunda roses. The birds love to feast on their dried seeds and bright red hips all winter. Speaking of birds, if you stopped feeding our feathered friends all summer, when insects and seeds were plentiful, now is the time to clean the bird feeders and baths for the coming winter, when you will be their main source of food.

Did you move any of your house plants outside for the summer? If so, now is the time to bring them back in. Before doing so, wash the leaves and drench the soil with an insecticidal soap or ordinary dish washing liquid to get rid of any pests. Several years ago there was a wonderful cartoon in the *New Yorker* showing about ten plants lined up on the patio and knocking on the door; the caption was "Can we come in now?"

In the fall many people decorate their patios and porch steps with pot-

ted mums. If you want to move them to garden soil for bloom next year, don't wait until the first frost takes a big nip out of them. Plant them now while they are still healthy and capable of sending out new roots. Water them well until the first frost.

The leaves on the trees are steadily falling to the ground now. Don't waste them. Chop them up with your mower, rake them into piles and spread over your garden beds. They provide a wonderful dose of nutrients and a free winter mulch.

It will soon be holiday time. If you want paperwhites and amaryllis in bloom by then, now is the time to plant the bulbs for forcing indoors. Here again, as with all bulbs, size is important, the bigger the bulb, the bigger the bloom. I buy my bulbs at Smith and Hawken on Connecticut Avenue. They have high quality bulbs that never disappoint. If you are looking for gift ideas for elderly friends who don't need more "stuff," plant these bulbs in a pretty container. It makes a much-appreciated gift, especially for someone living in a nursing home.

If you put away your garden tools for the year, get them out one more time. You'll appreciate this late effort in the garden come next spring.

**Tributes****Poolesville Grad  
Receives Ph.D.**

Christopher Douglas Henry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Henry of Poolesville received his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering on Oct 4, 2005 from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Dr. Henry is a 1997 graduate of Poolesville High School. He will be employed by Intel Corporation in Arizona.

**Ashley Conway Weds  
Andrew Mielak**

Ashley Ellen Conway, a class of 2000 graduate of Poolesville High School, married Andrew Jason Mielak on October 15, 2005 at the Calvary Lutheran Church in Silver Spring. The wedding was a candlelight evening service.

The bride graduated from Elon University with a degree in corporate communications and is working in Charlotte, North Carolina as a

medical coordinator assistant. The bridegroom is originally from Chargin Falls, Ohio, and graduated from Southern Methodist University with a degree in public relations. A former professional soccer player in Charleston, he now works for the Allen Tate Insurance Company in Charlotte. The couple will make Charlotte their home.

Ashley Mielak is the daughter William and Sharon Conway of McKernon Way, Poolesville.



Andrew and Ashley Mielak

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**Covered Bridges Continued from Page 7—**  
 during a severe storm in 1889. Local residents managed to gather the remains and reconstruct the 101-foot long Burr Arch design bridge at its present location crossing Fishing Creek.

Leaving Utica Mills, return to Old Frederick Road and make a left onto it and drive just over four miles until you come to a stop sign. Turn left onto Route 550 and travel four tenths of a mile and make a right turn onto Old Frederick Road. Loy's Station Bridge is now just a little over two miles away with the parking area on the left.

First constructed in 1848, Loy's Station covered bridge has been structurally modified and rebuilt. The original timbers remain throughout the 90-foot long structure which crosses Owens Creek. There is an adjoining area with picnic tables and a play area. For bridge design aficionados, Loy's Station features a multiple Kingpost design.

As you leave Loy's Station parking lot, turn left and drive through the bridge itself, then drive one third of a mile to a stop sign. Turn left here onto Rocky Ridge Road and follow

it for another three miles as you turn right onto Apples Church Road in Thurmont. At this point, go about one and a half miles to the bridge (from here, the road becomes Roddy Road at the Graceham intersection). You drive through the bridge to reach its parking area.

Roddy Ridge covered bridge was built in 1856 to span Owens Creek. The smallest of Frederick County's covered bridges, this single-span Kingpost design bridge measures forty feet long. You can also plan a picnic at this location as well since there are tables nearby.

Covered bridges were built to traverse the many rivers and waterways in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Artisans built these architecturally magnificent and wonderfully charming bridges. As you wind your way on the roads and through the small towns, you will also delight in wayside stores and other sites that will intrigue you. Set out with the mindset of stopping on a whim whenever something catches your attention. This short, thirty-three mile round trip can be planned ahead, but it should also be experienced spontaneously.

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Yom Kippur day, Oct. 13  
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**Mary Bernardo Continued from Page 13—**

seen the bear that had been spotted prowling in the area. Yet again, she was working in a snowstorm and her car became marooned on Big Woods Road. A resident, seeing her plight, lent a hand by shoveling the car out of the snow.

Bernardo then secured a position as a clerk at the Dickerson office and was transferred to Poolesville in 1994. She said that she likes working at Poolesville and remarked, "I like to make things easy and make (transactions) with us simple so they want to come back and not dread dealing with us."

There are things that go on inside a post office of which a recent visitor was unaware. Mary said that she has handled some very strange deliveries in her career at Poolesville. It's probably not a commonly-known fact, but as long as most items are properly addressed, they do not need to be wrapped or boxed. In the past, she has handled a stale pancake, unwrapped, but properly addressed to a home in Poolesville. She has delivered coconuts, tires, and car bumpers, all with clearly-marked addresses. Once she dealt with a customer who mailed a quantity of peanuts to Japan. The postage was sixty six dollars. Apparently it is not unheard of for people

who are moving to ship their belongings through the postal service instead of using a truck, and she has taken in furniture, books, and other belongings. Because Poolesville is still rather rural, the Poolesville office deals with customers who ship and receive baby chickens, crickets, unhatched eggs, and produce. One of the oddest outgoing deliveries she handles are boxes of dirt that are being sent for analysis. She showed a visitor a card, in twenty-four different languages which said, "Does this package contain anything dangerous?" So far Mary has only had to use English.

Mrs. Bernardo said that she enjoys dealing with the same people on a regular basis and gets a special satisfaction when she knows what they collect. "It's fun to know people well enough that when new stamps come out that I can (offer them) to the people." Postmaster Larry Kishanuk said, "Mary is a very conscientious employee, and she makes sure that the customers get the service that they deserve."

We are fortunate to have a very accommodating lady like Mary Bernardo behind the desk at the post office. She has served the community for over thirty years, and she makes a visit to the post office an agreeable experience.

**Local History**

**Murder at Snyder's Store**  
By Jack Toomey

Today, the intersection of Darnestown Road and Quince Orchard Road is a busy center of commerce. On one corner is a large high school; on the other corners are banks, gas stations, a garden center, and shopping centers. This intersection has not always looked like that. In fact, as recently as 1963, the only structure at that intersection was a ramshackle old building that served as a general store, antique store, and gas station. It was known as Snyder's Store.

Donald Snyder was a reclusive man, 67 years old, who owned a great deal of property in Montgomery County. He owned two farms at Buck Lodge, a home on Longdraft Road, a substantial amount of property where the old Washingtonian Motel once stood on Shady Grove Road, and the ten acres where his store stood which is now the Potomac Valley Shopping Center. Even though he owned several homes, he preferred to live in the back of the store with his brother and sister-in-law. Snyder's store was best known for its wide variety of antiques and unusual items that were on shelves in the cluttered shop. Snyder seemed to know where everything was and haggled with customers over prices. Today, there is an Exxon station at the site where the store once stood. The vintage gas pump that once served Snyder's customers was removed only a few years ago. In the 1960s, the building was believed to be over fifty years old.

On December 23, 1963, it was snowing heavily. A lone customer entered the store about noon and asked for a pack of cigarettes. As Snyder turned to get the cigarettes, the customer shot him in the back of the head. At the same time, another customer, seeking to buy gasoline, pulled into the parking lot to see a young man run from the store and get into a 1957 Oldsmobile. The customer entered the store and found Snyder lying behind the counter. He called the police and was able to remember the license number and description of the car. Less than one hundred dollars had been stolen from the cash register. The car was owned by a woman living in Dickerson who had loaned it to her son. By 9:30 p.m., Detective Lt. William Jessee and other detectives working on the case had tracked the suspect to an apartment on East West Highway in Silver Spring. Charles S. Stull, 24, a farmhand from Dickerson, was arrested and charged with murder.

Stull stood trial in April 1965, was convicted, and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Snyder's store was torn down in the 1970s when the shopping center was built. Another one of the old general stores that stood on our roads was gone.

*Front page photo courtesy of the Montgomery County Sentinel*

**Lost Dog**

*Female German Sherd lost in Poolesville area from J. Muldoon's farm on 9-25-2005. ID*

*number tatoo in right ear. Three years old, small build—60 lbs. Needs medication on a weekly basis. Please call Muldoon farm with info 202-714-7656 or 757-515-7550.*



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## Big Board

Check out our Special Halloween Big Board on Page 7.

### Yard Sale Extravaganza

The PES PTA hosts a community yard sale on October 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the PES parking lot. Bring your goods to sell, as spaces are available at \$20.00 per space for businesses and \$10.00 for individuals. The PTA provides the space and the crowd, you provide everything else. To reserve space call Maria Briançon at 301-407-0663 for more details. No matter what, plan on coming for great bargains.

### Enormous Annual Indoor Yard Sale

Don't miss The Tenth Annual Barnesville Basement to benefit the Barnesville School. Bargains Galore! Rain or shine—October 29, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and October 30, 1:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Items donated by Barnesville School parent body include gently used, brand name children's and adult clothing, toys, books, sports equipment, electronics, furniture, and much, much more! Come early for the best selection! Corner of Barnesville and Peach Tree Roads, Barnesville 301-972-0341 [www.barnesville-school.com](http://www.barnesville-school.com).

### John Poole Middle Community Yard Sale

Spaces are rented and the goods are ready for Saturday, October 22 at the John Poole Middle School's annual community yard sale. Not only will area residents offer their treasures for you, but there will also be businesses showing their specialties. This will benefit the school's PTA. It kicks off at 9:00 a.m. and runs to 1:00 p.m. You might want to plan to go early!

### War of the Words

Washington's best-loved couple, James Carville and Mary Matalin, share their unique insights into the hottest political issues on Saturday, October 22 at 8:00 p.m. They provide an entertaining and enlightening look at politics—from two very different perspectives. Seats are \$47.00 for Front Orchestra and Mezzanine, \$44.00 for Mid-Orchestra, and \$39.00 for Rear Orchestra and Rear Balcony. Visit [weinbergcenter.org](http://weinbergcenter.org) for more information.

### Weinberg Afternoon of Piano

John Wickelgren, pianist and instructor at Frederick Community College, presents a program of Domenico, Janacek, Chopin, Ravel, and Liszt on Sunday, October 23 at 3:00 p.m.. Tickets are \$20.00 for Front Orchestra / Mezzanine, \$15.00 for Mid-Orchestra, and \$10.00 for Rear Orchestra / Rear Balcony. Visit [weinbergcenter.org](http://weinbergcenter.org) for more information.

### A Special Evening for an Uplifting Choral Concert

On October 23, Shepherd University presents "A Ceremony of Britten" a choral concert by Candlelight. It will be accompanied by harp featuring Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols." Performances will feature the Women's Camerata and the University Chamber Singers. This is the premiere performance of the university's director of Choral and Vocal Activities, Professor Erik Reid Jones. The program begins at 8:00 p.m. For more information go to [www.shepherd.edu/musicweb/](http://www.shepherd.edu/musicweb/)

### Phantom of the Opera (1925) and Young Frankenstein (1974)

On Friday, October 28 at 8:00 p.m., Lon Chaney and the mighty Wurlitzer take the lead, followed by Mel Brooks's comic monster-piece. Tickets are \$9.00 for adults, \$7.00 for seniors (ages 62+), students (ages 13 through 18 or any college student with ID), and children (ages 3 through

12) Visit [weinbergcenter.org](http://weinbergcenter.org) for more information.

### Monocacy ES's Fall Festival

Friday, October 28 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. join the fun with pumpkin painting, carnival games, tattoos, and much more. Games and activity tickets only 25 cents each. This event is open to the whole community.

### Annual Writers' Evening

The HMAP is announcing the Annual Writers' evening. All members who write or recite songs, poems, essays, fiction, etc. are invited to prepare a reading for presentation at the Mill on October 29, 2005. We hope to permit each reader approximately seven minutes to read an original piece of writing, maybe more as time permits. If you would like to participate, please contact Lee Robison by email [leerobison@aol.com](mailto:leerobison@aol.com) or [leerobison@yahoo.com](mailto:leerobison@yahoo.com) or phone 301-972-7689.

### Celebrate Rural Montgomery Fall Festival at Butler's Orchard—Take Two

The rain date for this day of celebrating the Ag Reserve is Sunday, October 30 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 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](http://www.ruralmontgomery.org) for details.

### A Benefit for the Weinberg Center for the Arts: "Flickers" (1995) and "Time Out" (2005)

Friday, November 4, 2005 at 8:00 p.m. First, a silent romantic comedy, and second, a short off-beat comedy—both written, directed by, and starring Frederick native Robbie Chafitz. \$10.00 per person. Visit [weinbergcenter.org](http://weinbergcenter.org) for more information.

### Holiday Season Begins at United Memorial Church

Holiday Bazaar, November 12. To reserve space call 301-349-5218.

## Police Blotter Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

### Present

September 28. Robbery Arrests. Montgomery County Police arrested two Poolesville men and charged them with the armed robbery of the Subway, 19710 Fisher Avenue, which occurred on September 25. Zachary Tyler Warring, 21, of the 19800 block of Beatriz Lane, and Paul Aaron Stull, 22, of the 17400 block of Hughes Road were charged with Armed Robbery, First Degree Assault, and other related charges. Both were held on \$40,000 bond.

September 29. Kingsview Middle School. Two students, aged 13 and 14, were arrested and charged with First Degree Assault and a variety of other charges as a result of an incident that happened inside the school during class. Police say that the thirteen-year-old shot two students in a classroom and then gave the gun to the fourteen-year-old who shot another classmate. All three wounded students were treated by the school nurse for minor injuries.

October 1. Hit and Run with injury. Route 118 near Crystal Rock Road. Police say that that a female from Germantown was traveling westbound on Route 118 when her vehicle was struck by a tan-colored Ford Explorer with New York tags. The vehicle should have extensive damage to the driver's side and front end. Anyone who sees a vehicle matching this description is asked to call the Montgomery County Crime Solvers line at 1-866-411-8477. A one thousand dollar reward is being offered.

### Past

October 23, 1906. Officers in Montgomery County are on the lookout

—Continued on Page 22.

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## The Pulse

### Keeping Our Heritage Alive

By Rande Davis

(Editor's note: the author is a member of HMD's Board of Directors.)

The John Poole General Store stands quietly behind the old Town Hall in the center of Poolesville. It stands its ground as a landmark reflecting the origins of Poolesville. It stands, restored, due to one group.

The one-room Seneca Schoolhouse near the corner of River Road and Partnership Road reverberates, even today, with the voices of young students learning their ABCs and writing on chalkboards. Thousands of students from the greater metropolitan area join in this unique school field trip that allows them to better understand the classroom of the 1800s. This living history experience exists because of just one group.

That group is the Historic Medley District, Inc. (HMD). This grassroots organization of over two hundred members is dedicated to preserving the heritage of the district and the preservation of buildings with histori-

cal and cultural significance.

Founded in 1974 by twenty-seven residents, Poolesville's Mary Ann Kephart was one of the key leaders in its development. HMD has played a role, either directly or indirectly, in the preservation and restoration of numerous historic sites throughout the Monocacy region. Just as importantly, it has acted as the custodian of some of the most significant artifacts and archives documenting the history and heritage of Poolesville and surrounding environs.

Named for the original boundaries that made up the voting district known as the "Medley District of Montgomery County," the organization concerns itself with the neglect and potential disappearance of historic buildings in the area.

Its stated mission is the conservation of buildings, structures, objects, and spaces that contribute to the historic character of the area; the development and implementation of plans for preserving and using these resources; and the promotion of research and education in area history and its contribution to Montgomery County.

—Continued on Page 22.

## Equestrian

### Winterize Your Horse's Diet

By Debby Lynn

With the arrival of autumn, your horse's diet may need adjusting. If part of his daily chow is in the form of pasturage, you'll need to replace those calories which are fading out of the grass.

The equine digestive tract is tailor made for a grass forager. His stomach capacity is small at approximately two gallons. By comparison, the small intestine holds twelve gallons. Even the rectum holds a surprising amount: three gallons. Choose your shovel accordingly.

What does this mean to us? Horses are designed to eat small amounts constantly, as they would if foraging in their natural environment. Grass is a high fiber, low protein, low-carbohydrate meal. Horses in nature walk and munch this non-concentrated source of calories all day. Their walking is crucial to the digestive process. Gut motility is the muscular contraction which moves food through the digestive tract. In horses, walking promotes gut motility. It's been shown that incidences of colic drop sharply in horses turned out twelve or more hours per day.

By understanding how the horse's digestive tract works, we can design

our feeding plan intelligently. The closer we stay to his natural eating method, the fewer problems we will have with colic or founder. So a good start would be to plan his turn out. Work with what you have regarding available acreage and your own work schedule, but try to get as close to that golden twelve hours per day as you can.

For a forage animal, water is crucial. Hay is pretty dry stuff. A horse makes ten gallons of spit a day to moisten his hay enough to keep it moving through his system. Winter is the time we get impaction colic. Horses feel less thirsty in winter, just like us. Make sure they have constant access to water, and keep your stall buckets fresh and clean to encourage them to drink.


Now that the good has gone out of the grass, I plan on feeding enough hay to meet all my horses' forage needs. For a horse just getting hay, feed two percent of its body weight per day. That's twenty pounds for an average thousand-pound horse. Weigh a bale and see how long it lasts to determine if your horses are being offered enough. I feed my horses all they will eat. The more hay they eat, the less grain I have to feed to maintain weight and energy. Grain is where a lot of digestive problems come from, so the less fed, the better.

If your horse is lightly ridden and an easy keeper, he may do just fine on hay alone. If he's in moderate work, he will need more calories than just

forage can provide. Your horse uses calories to keep himself warm, so an increase in grain may be needed to maintain weight in the winter.

I start with the least concentrated grain possible to mimic nature. Plain crimped oats are a good choice. They are low protein (about nine percent) low carbohydrate, and high fiber. Because I feed plain grains, I supplement with a good vitamin/mineral/amino acid/probiotic supplement. If

—Continued on Page 23.



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## School News

### All MCPS students

All schools are closed for students and teachers on October 21 for the State Teachers' Convention.

October 31 marks the end of the first marking period.

November 1 is a professional day for teachers—no school for students.

### All FCPS students

All schools are closed for students and teachers on October 21 for the State Teachers' Convention.

November 4 is a professional day for teachers—no school for students.

### Monocacy Elementary

Jugs are set up in the front hall to collect change to benefit the victims of Hurricane Katrina. All funds collected will be given to the Red Cross.

### Family Fun Night

Friday, October 28 is MES's first family fun night from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. open to the public, a great evening of fun and games for students and their families. If you are available to help, please contact Lorraine Jones at 301-972-6618 or Libby Lawbaugh at 301-349-5704 or elawbaugh@comcast.net.

### Homeless Awareness Week

Every day in the week of October 24 through 28 there will be a different way for families to help the homeless culminating in a Mini-Walk on Friday during the Halloween Parade. Funds raised will support WUMCO.

### Poolesville Elementary

#### Flea Market/Yard Sale

Saturday, October 22 is the date for the PTA-sponsored flea market from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Come as a vendor or as shopper. Spaces may still be available at \$10 per parking space. Contact Maria Brançon at 301-407-0663 if interested in purchasing a space.

### John Poole Middle School

#### Caring for Katrina Victims

September's character trait was caring, and JPMS students showed their care for Hurricane Katrina victims by collecting \$734.00 through the Coins for Katrina fund drive.

#### New Winter Concert Date

A reminder to parents that the winter concert has been changed to December 20 at 7:00 p.m.

### Poolesville High School

A financial aid workshop for parents of college-bound juniors and se-

niors will be held at PHS in the media center on Tuesday, December 6 from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m. Parents attending will get their financial aid questions answered by representatives from the financial aid offices of Hood College.

## Advanced Engineering Program at PHS

By Dominique Agnew

Poolesville High School received a seventy thousand dollar grant from Project Lead the Way, Inc. (PLTW) to implement a new magnet program focusing on engineering and engineering skills. PLTW is a not-for-profit organization partnering with public schools and private partners to increase the number and quality of engineers graduating from the U.S. education system. The four-year program designed by PLTW, when combined with mathematics and science, introduces students to the rigors of engineering and technology prior to entering college. Through this program of study, qualifying students could receive valuable college cred-

its. For certain courses offered, if the students earn a B or better, they are invited to take a PLTW exam for the course to earn college credits. Some universities accept these credits as engineering credits, others accept them as general transfer credits from the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT).

Poolesville High School has already made a name for itself with its groundbreaking Global Ecology Program, a magnet program open to students from all over the county that provides rigorous study in the sciences, focusing on environmental studies. By offering the engineering program, PHS hopes to provide another track of study for students who either are more mathematical or for whom the Global Program may not be the best fit academically. To implement the program, teachers were required to take a two-week training course over the summer offered by PLTW.

For this first year, the program was open only to incoming freshmen from John Poole Middle School who averaged a grade of B or better during

the second semester of eighth grade algebra or higher. Interested students were required to fill out an application and submit an essay. If all the available slots are not filled by incoming JPMS students, then the program is open to students from other districts who will already be attending PHS for the Global Ecology Program. The Advanced Engineering Program is not available to students from other school districts who are not in the Global Program; however, JPMS students may choose to do either program or both, if accepted.

Some of the courses that will be offered as the program grows will cover such varying topics as: principles of engineering, engineering design; and biotechnical, civil, architectural, and aerospace engineering, to name a few. PHS hopes to lead the way with another excellent program of study for students seeking greater academic challenges and wider opportunities. More details can be found at the PHS website: [www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/poolesvillehs](http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/poolesvillehs).

## Poolesville Senior Receives Maryland Distinguished Scholar in the Arts Recognition

Poolesville High School senior Jamie Eakin was selected as a finalist in the fiercely competitive Maryland Distinguished Scholar in the Arts Program which honors Maryland's high school students who demonstrate exceptional academic or talent in the fine and performing arts.

On September 24, Jamie attended the Maryland Distinguished Scholar Recognition Day at Bowie State University which showcased talent in the visual and performing arts. Jamie and the twenty-six other visual arts finalists exhibited their work in a stunning art show at the Martin Luther King Center for Communica-

tion Arts. Scholars and their families were also treated to performances in music, drama and dance by finalists in the performing arts. Distinguished speakers at the Recognition Ceremony included Lt. Governor Michael Steele, Dr. Calvin Burnett, Secretary of Higher Education, MJTIEC, Dillard Menchan, Deputy Director for Education at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, and Dr. Calvin Lowe, President of Bowie State University.

Maryland Distinguished Scholar finalists will receive a \$12,000 scholarship to a Maryland state college or university.



Jamie Eakin



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## Things to Do

### October 22

Community Yard Sale

PES PTA Hosting

PES Parking Lot 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

### October 24

Book Discussion Poolesville Library

Dogs of Babel by Carolyn Parkhurst

7:30 p.m.

### October 25

Special Events – Bats Poolesville Library

Dispelling the myths about bats

7:00 p.m.

### October 26

Preschool Bible Study Time

St. Peter's Parish 10:00 a.m.

### October 27

Storytime – 3 to 6 year olds

Poolesville Library

10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

### October 28

MES PTA Fall Festival

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 pm.

St. Mary's Ham/Turkey Dinner

Pavilion 12:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Halloween Extravaganza

Potomac Valley Lodge

Fundraiser for Red Cross

Couple: \$25.00/Singles: \$15.00

Bands and DJ – Wear Costumes

Starts at 8:00 p.m.

Rural Women's Republican Club

Fundraiser for Scholarships/Charitable.

Izaak Walton League

### October 29 and 30

Barnesville School Annual Yard Sale

October 31

Monocacy Lions Halloween Kids Party

St. Mary's Pavilion - FREE

Starts at 7:15 p.m.

Fun Fall Festival\*

Poolesville Baptist Church

### Historic Medley Continued from Page 20—

A more underreported contribution of HMD is its E. L. Stock, Jr. Memorial Arboretum. The designer of the nearly one-acre garden was Edward L. Stock, a 1929 graduate of Cornell University. The plants in the garden represent those brought by the earliest settlers and plants that were already here as the settlers arrived. Mr. Stock's daughter, Mollie, continues her father's legacy as the docent and curator for the Arboretum.

Current projects include the old railroad store next to the Barnesville railroad station. Commonly referred to as the Warful Store, restoration and renovation have been delayed until an adequate well could be established so that its future utility could be assured. A new well is in the immediate future, and with that accomplishment, HMD will be able to finalize plans with interested parties in its repair and use.

This fall, HMD will begin repair and restoration of the United Memorial Methodist Church's old parsonage. The scaffolding has arrived and the most immediate tasks will consist of: replacement of the roof, removal of the siding, and repair of the chimney. As the project evolves, HMD will use the building for its offices, for lectures and demonstrations, and to make additional space available for storage by outside persons or groups.

An active participant with the Montgomery County Heritage Tourism Alliance, HMD has helped establish heritage tourism in the Medley District. The goal is to augment the economic benefits of tourism for area businesses and residents by working to strengthen the town's "Daytrip-

per" appeal. While the heritage area offers specific tax and grant benefits to area residents owning historical buildings, a very important part is that participation of property owners is entirely voluntary.

Recently, HMD became one of four presenters offering possible uses for the old Town Hall. The goal is to establish the facility as a gateway for tourism for town heritage and Civil War commemoration. Other proposals have commercial uses in mind. All proposals preserve the building's façade as an icon of the Town.

The museum gift shop at the John Poole General Store has an intriguing array of antiques, collectibles, wedding gifts, toys, Civil War books, prints, art, note cards, and much more. Proceeds from sales assist the organization in its programs, and area residents need not be members to use the shop.

Members of HMD enjoy many benefits by joining the organization. Throughout the year, HMD presents a variety of historical demonstrations, lectures, and guided tours. Members attend other regular programs on local history, historic preservation, land conservation, culture, cooking, and architecture. Their social calendar offers seasonal gatherings such as a holiday party. Next spring, the group will bring back the very popular Preservation Barn Dance.

Membership comes from a broad spectrum of residents which includes those whose principal interest is his-

tory and those whose interest is in preservation. This non-profit, 501c heritage orga-

nization offers individual membership for as little as \$15.00 per year or a family membership for \$25.00. To learn more about HMD or to join, you can call 301-349-8588 or visit [www.historicmedley.org](http://www.historicmedley.org).

### Police Blotter Continued from Page 19—

for Howard Downes, a resident of the Darnestown district, who is wanted on charges of making a murderous assault upon Alexander Broome. It is said that a few evenings ago, Downes attacked Broome, one of the best known residents of the Darnestown district, and gave him a terrible beating.

October 23, 1971. The Poolesville branch of the First National Bank of Maryland was robbed by two armed men who took an undisclosed amount of money. Police blocked all roads leading out of Poolesville; however, the robbers escaped.

October 25, 1895. The public school building at Gaithersburg is a mass of ruins, having been destroyed, with all of its contents, by fire this night. Fires were left burning overnight in the school apartments, and the supposition is that an overheated stove is the primary cause for the destruction of the building.

October 29, 1984. A forty-year-old Montgomery County man was shot and killed and another man wounded in an apparent confrontation with a third man on Mount Ephraim Road in Dickerson.

November 1, 1944. Jake Powell, star outfielder for the Washington Nationals, yesterday closed out his baseball career by accepting an appointment to the Montgomery County Police force. Powell will fill a vacancy left by officers who have been called into the military for wartime service.

November 3, 1930. Two Washingtonians were in serious condition at the Frederick City hospital following an automobile accident early yesterday morning on the Gaithersburg pike near Clarksburg, Maryland.

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## Sports

### Girls' Tennis:

### A Sport for Life

By Rande Davis

"In tennis, you may play alone, but at Poolesville High School, the entire team cheers and supports you through your match," says Coach Rajappa.

Julie Rajappa was just finishing up her second year of teaching biology at Poolesville High School when word went out that they needed a tennis coach for the girls' varsity team. Mrs. Rajappa, having experience in swimming, crew, and softball, understood the importance of sports in high



The PHS 2005-2006 Girls' Tennis Team

school. She wanted to contribute to the athletic development of the girls as well as helping them gain the special experience of participating in team sports.

She is a native of New Jersey who graduated from the University of Maryland at College Park. Her enthusiasm for coaching is shown in her statement, "This team is a great group of young ladies whose attitude makes coaching them a real pleasure." Coach Rajappa is just as proud of the girls' academic achievements.

Unlike many of the other school sports, there is no feeder program that

helps develop youngsters into high school stars. It is common for the tennis players to simply have learned the game as they grew up in a more informal way. "The nice thing about tennis is that girls with athletic skills, physical endurance, and determination can start much later in their life, often as late as when entering high school.



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Just as importantly, it's a sport the girls can use all of their life."

This year's team has made significant progress from last year especially in the skill shots and in consistency of play. The team has also gained strength from its experience which has added to the depth of the team.

Competitive school tennis consists of singles and doubles matches. The team is represented in singles by Jennifer Ashley (senior), Sarah Minkoff (sophomore), Varbara Zemiskova (sophomore), and Erica Cleghorn (senior). The doubles teams are Michelle Dietz/Meha Patel (sophomore), Susan Smith (senior)/Stephanie Reio (senior), and Amanda Jones (junior)/Becky Saunders (sophomore).

Alternates are Amy Van Meter (junior), Nehali Patel (senior), Danielle Sambataro (sophomore)/Jamie Eakin (senior).

The fact that play is in singles or doubles does not lessen the impact of the team concept at all. Tennis promotes good sportsmanship (exceptional shots by the opposing team often get applause by the girls). The girls establish a strong, positive atmosphere of support for one another that goes beyond just the tennis court. These girls often get together as a team for social events.

The co-captains of the team, Jennifer Ashley and Michelle Dietz, lead the girls in fostering team spirit. Their season consists of ten matches, but it is the daily, two-hour practices of drills, jogging, and play that takes up most of their time.

While the PHS seniors are not planning to play competitively in college, Jennifer Ashley, Michelle Dietz, and Nehali Patel plan to continue their interest in the sport by playing intramurals next year. Six team members will graduate, but the coach is encouraged by the up and coming underclassmen. The team has six sophomores of great promise coming up the ranks. "Varbara Zemiskova is a phenomenally consistent player with unusually great form. She is very steady in her play, and many other players and coaches have commented on her abilities."

Coach Rajappa wants the parents of middle school girls to think about helping their girls play tennis. She points out that team tryouts are in August.

Flax Continued From  
Page 20—

you buy prepared feed, vitamins are added but at a rate which assumes an average feed consumption. If your horse is getting a handful of feed, he won't be getting a full measure of vitamins.

A high-carbohydrate diet, such as one containing a lot of corn, can increase the possibility of a gas colic. Your horse's digestive system utilizes beneficial microbes. When they digest large amounts of starch, these microbes can produce significant amounts of gas which may lead to a gas colic.

These microbes are very necessary for breaking down the fiber in your horse's diet. Your horse has a large cecum in which beneficial microbes flourish. It is basically a large fermentation vat where the microbes digest fiber. The particular blend of various microbes in your horse's gut is specific to the type of food he eats. This is why a change in feed must be done slowly. It takes three weeks for a new blend of microbes to become properly established. That's why it is recommended to change your horse's feed over a quarter of his ration at a time, one quarter per week for three weeks.

In addition to oats, I feed my horses flax. I prepare what the British would call a linseed mash. Flax is very high in fat. Fat is a good source of calories because it is absorbed slowly. Horses are prone to insulin spikes, just like humans, when they eat too many highly processed carbohydrates and sugars.

I boil the flax before feeding. This adds another quart of water to my horse's system, and every bit helps in winter. Plus, a cooked grain is easier to digest. You wouldn't want the bulk of his grain to be cooked, unless you were feeding a very debilitated or thin horse, but flax is fed in small amounts, like a supplement. I give a cup and a half per day. In addition to the calories in the flax, your horse will get more calories out of the rest of his food when fed fat. Fat helps metabolize the rest of his calories. The omega-3 and omega-6 essential fatty acids are beneficial to your horse's health and give his coat tremendous bloom. My horses find flax a more palatable form of fat than corn oil. It keeps better, too, since I leave it in the form of a whole seed until I feed it.

With a few simple adjustments, such as adding a high fat supplement and increasing hay, you can beef up your horse's diet to meet his increased nutritional needs for winter.

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