

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

November 4, 2005

Volume 2, Number 16



Mystery History? Wrong. Local History? Wrong again. Try the Pulse on Page 11.



Double parking in the downtown business district becomes more aggressive. Is this a sign of overdevelopment in Poolesville?



All hail Benoni Julius Caesar. Then march to Profiles on Page 3.

Mike Riley to Step Aside as Athletic Director at PHS

By Rande Davis

Mike Riley, athletic director at Poolesville High School, announced his acceptance as the athletic director at the new high school in Clarksburg. As he begins this new challenge, we wanted to talk to him about his experience at PHS, highlights of the twelve years at the school, and to get his insight into building a most successful athletic department and program. We also thought we might talk him out of leaving. We had no luck.

At the time Mike Riley first began his job as athletic director of Poolesville High School, he decided to list his goals. When he got to the end of the list he had exactly 150 things to do. Twelve years later, he is pleased to know that he accomplished 148 of those original goals but muses that over the years he kept adding to it. With the recent announcement that Mr. Riley will accept the A.D. position at the new Clarksburg high school, we are certain he has already begun making a new list.

In leaving the position, Mr. Riley accepted our interview so that he would have a chance to express to the community as a whole his deep appreciation for all the support he has had from students and coaches, and

from the parents and the community. "Leaving to go to Clarksburg really is a lot like leaving home for me. This school really is something special," emphasized Mr. Riley. "This athletic department, through the efforts of the coaches and supporting parents, has really grown. Still, there is much more to do, so I have real mixed feelings about moving on to Clarksburg."

Mike and his wife, Mary Frances, have two children, Mary Anne (seventeen years old) and Patrick (fifteen years old.) Married twenty years, both parents share their educational vocation and live in Walkersville. Mary Anne has enjoyed playing competitively, traveling tennis and high school field hockey, while son, Patrick, has followed in his father's path as a wide

receiver in football.

When Riley became athletic director, his strong football background may have caused some concern among the other various teams. He attended the Citadel on a football scholarship and played as a wide receiver. To raise the concerns even higher, he had been coaching football at Richard Montgomery. Despite this emphasis on football, Mr. Riley was committed to building a complete athletic program. "My main goal was to build a strong, across-the-board program for both boys and girls. I knew the program had to have the resources divided equitably," said Riley. "At that time, in the beginning, we didn't have girls' tennis, girls' volleyball or boys' volleyball, indoor track, or JV wrestling." One way to measure success in the athletic program from his point of view was to judge it by the level of participation from the overall student body. Leaving at a time when nearly fifty percent of all students participate in high school athletics is a major achievement.

Mike Riley takes special pleasure in knowing that the coaching staff at Poolesville High School is esteemed throughout the state. "This is an amazing group. Rarely do you see



Departing Athletic Director Mike Riley with Head Football Coach Larry Hurd at a 2004 football game.

—Continued on Page 16.



Mr. Harris sets the tone at the Poolesville Elementary School Halloween Parade.

Family Album



Making the most of the St. Mary's annual Ham and Turkey Dinner.

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Mr. Carpenter and a kindred spirit at Poolesville Elementary School.



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Jim O'Connell runs the hayride at St. Mary's.

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Profiles

The Allnutts of Homestead Farm

By Rande Davis

Few families could rival the Allnuttt family for its profound influence and importance to the history of the Monocacy region. Our area's heritage is their family history. The Allnutts represent the very heart of this heritage. For the Allnutts, family farming stretches all the way back to the late 1700s when their ancestors left England to come to the New World. The family settled and grew on homesteads in Seneca, Dawsonville, Poolesville, Beallsville, Germantown, and Gaithersburg. In a personal book written by Austin Kiplinger in 1974 as a Christmas gift for friends and family, he noted that the Allnuttt family was estimated to have owned three thousand acres of land in the area. Mr. Kip-

linger described the importance of this family best when he wrote, "There's a saying around Seneca that if you don't know the name of the guest next to you at a party, try 'Allnuttt' and you'll be right half the time." There are landmarks to the family throughout the region, but the most well known are Homestead Farm and the Seneca General Store.

The *Monocle* visited Sarah and Benoni Allnuttt to find out more about them and this remarkable family. The family patriarch, Benoni, now eighty-eight years old, uses a cane to help him stand and get around. His humor and enthusiasm, though, are that of a man of many decades younger. As I came in the room, he stood, with just a bit of difficulty, to greet me and give me a very firm and hearty handshake.

Mr. Allnuttt and I are both Monocacy Lions. He is the last Charter member of the Monocacy Lions Club, so we had met before. When he stood — **Continued on Page 12.**



Sarah and Benoni Allnut

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Monocle Mail



A Letter in Response to "The Cost of Crime"

Lieutenant Eric M. Burnett
Director of Media Services MCPD

I have read Mr. Skip Etheridge's comments regarding the "Cost of Crime" (The Monocle, September 23, 2005) and I am surprised that a "former police officer" would write a response that is so limited in factual content.

Let me clarify a few points that are incorrect in Mr. Etheridge's letter:

To begin with, the name of the Chief of Police for Montgomery County is J. Thomas Manger. (*Editor's Note: The Monocle misspelled Chief Manger's name, for which we apologize.*) Secondly, the Montgomery County False Alarm Reduction Program is not police policy but the law as mandated by Chapter 3A, Alarms of the Montgomery County Code. The law was enacted in 1983 to deal with wasted resources and officer-safety issues inherent to responding to false-alarm calls. In Montgomery County, almost 96% of all alarm requests for dispatch are false. To put that number into perspective, in 2004 there were 39,000 requests for dispatch to alarm activations, which cost the taxpayers millions of dollars in resources.

Mr. Etheridge's statement that a county "business owner with an alarm system had to pay for police services" is totally inaccurate. All residents and businesses pay taxes that cover police services and Domino's Pizza is no different. The alarm fees that Mr. Etheridge references are incurred only when a business or a homeowner has recurring false alarms. Those

false alarms waste the department's time and resources that could be otherwise used for confirmed serious police matters. Montgomery County allows one free false alarm in a calendar year, which allows for a property owner to correct any malfunctions in the alarm system. The fee for a second false alarm is \$25.00, and increases with continued false alarms. For a business to register with the county, the initial fee is \$30.00, and there is biennial renewal fee of \$10.00.

The Montgomery County Police Department does not monitor alarm systems whether in a residence or a business. The alarm company (in this case ADT) must contact the police department to provide an alarm number, type of alarm and location. As a former police officer, Mr. Etheridge should have known this. In the event referenced in Mr. Etheridge's letter, ADT contacted the owner of the alarm (Domino's) and the owner advised ADT **not** to contact police. The owner of Domino's Pizza ostensibly should have known he has not had any false alarms this year. Why he chose not to contact police is unknown. The residents and business owners in Montgomery County cannot expect the

police to respond to alarms when they are not notified, by an alarm company.

Police officers patrol shopping centers, residential communities and the county roadways. In addition to these important functions, we are dispatched to a high volume of calls each and every day. As for the example referenced in his letter (elderly woman whose alarm was activated by her neighbor's cat), had she contacted the police we would have responded, and there would not have been a charge or fee for the police services rendered. If an individual contacts the police about a residential alarm, the police will respond. That is what we do. Serve and protect.

The police in Montgomery County take pride in the job they have been sworn to perform, and let me assure you, Mr. Etheridge and the residents of Montgomery County, there is no surcharge for police services. If you have a legitimate need for police services, then I encourage you to contact the police at 911 for emergencies and 301 279-8000 for non-emergencies.

Lt. Burnett is the Director of Media Services For the Montgomery County Police Department And acts as a spokesperson for Chief Manger

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Published by Monocacy Press, LLC

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Poolesville, MD 20837

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Commentary

There Is Always Hope

(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.)

By John Clayton

The day had not gotten off to a good start.

First, I noted that my new status as a National League baseball fan has not gone well. I spent a lifetime as an American League fan following the Washington Senators and then the Baltimore Orioles. When it became apparent that Washington would return to baseball in the National League, I became a National League fan. I see now that the American League Chicago White Sox have won the World Series four games to none. All of us newly-minted National Leaguers are 0-2 in All Star games and 0-8 in World Series games. I suppose it can only get better.

But it did not get better this particular morning. I had written what

I thought was a decent commentary on the Harriet Miers Supreme Court nomination, focusing on the way that the Republican right wing had turned on their favorite son, President Bush. I thought it had balance, a little wit, and I knew it would annoy my Republican partner no end. Then I saw the latest news and kissed that column farewell.

Perhaps it is just as well. I had a theory that the conservative uproar was a right-wing plot to lull MoveOn.org and Ted Kennedy to sleep and sneak through a stealth candidate. I guess it wasn't a plot after all. When you can bully the president of the United States, you really don't need to resort to silly conspiracies. At least I don't think so—right?

Continuing in my despair, I am reminded once again that for some perverse reason we have to suffer through Virginia gubernatorial elections during the off years. If Virginia had its elections at the same time as normal states, the din of their campaigns would blend in with the others'. As it is, here in Maryland we are bombarded day and night about who

—Continued on Page 15.

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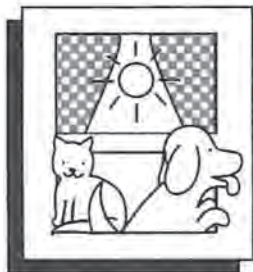


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In the Garden

Flower Power

By Maureen O'Connell

As we slide into November and the coming winter months, there is no need to forgo fresh flowers in the house. There are many flowering house plants that can thrive and bloom in the average house. People joke that when it comes to house plants, they have a brown, not green, thumb. With a little bit of TLC and some gardening knowledge, anyone can show off a window garden of beautiful blooms all winter. What is most important is the selection of varieties tolerant of special unalterable conditions of light, heat and humidity. All plants suitable for indoor culture have, to a degree, different requirements, but there are certain basic needs shared by them all. In addition to the above three conditions, moisture, food and rest are common to all. I think I'm safe in making this across-the-board observation regarding plant mortality: more plants are killed by over watering, not under watering.

All plants require a fully light location. A fresh-from-the-greenhouse plant stuck in a dark hallway or set on the mantle's ends of a dark living room is doomed to a short life. Most house plants appreciate a temperature much cooler than that of the modern house. They are better off grown at 60 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit than at 70 to 75 degrees. A night drop to 55 to 60 degrees is similar to nature's outdoor falling of temperatures after sunset. Another foe to successful indoor gardening is lack of humidity. This is especially important for flowering plants. There are varying make-shift ways to increase humidity. I find the easiest and most efficient way is to set the plants on a copper tray filled with pebbles with an inch or two of water.

I recently visited some local gardens centers and grocery stores to check out what was available in flowering plants. Any of the following plants, with noted special requirements, can survive and provide your home with blooms all winter.

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—Continued on Page 18.

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The Pulse

L.A.N.D. That I Love
By Dominique Agnew

Landscape and Nature Discoveries (L.A.N.D.), the brainchild of Garth Seely, brings together Garth's love of land and children with his dream of creating a link between children and their community through hands-on adventures in gardening and land-



Garth Seely

scaping. "I want to form a connection between the kids, the land, the community, and the environment," states Garth.

A landscaper all his life, Garth credits a Potomac couple as his inspiration. At the age of fifteen, Garth began working at the home of Ralph (now deceased) and Jane Reed. They had about seven acres "landscaped in a natural woodland setting." This experience led him to begin his own landscaping company, Gardens by Garth. At his property in Dickerson, Garth has tried to create what he used to take care of in Potomac—but it isn't enough. He wants to share his love of woodland gardens, landscaping, nature, and the Agricultural Reserve with children, so they will have the same wonderful experiences—and he

wants to do it on a grand scale, think a Hundred Acre Garden. "There is nothing up here like that," Garth says, "nothing like a natural garden."

L.A.N.D., a non-profit organization, has been up and running for over a year. Through field trips to his property for preschoolers and elementary school students, and after-school activities at Monocacy Elementary involving the grounds of the school (seeing is believing), the feedback from parents, teachers, principals, and kids has been good. Because many of the field trips take place on

his property, the house has to be mentioned. "I always wanted a house that fit in the woods," says Garth. Does it ever. About twelve or thirteen years ago, Garth and his wife, Amy, ordered the logs, and they peeled the bark off the logs. Then log smiths came and camped out for six to eight weeks to put the house together. The clay, mortar, and sand for the chinking (between the logs) are all from the Poolesville area. The house, the setting, the woods (the landscaping) are just astonishing.

Another upcoming project will be creating a landscaped entryway for the Woodstock Equestrian Center on Route 28 sometime in November. Twenty kids of varying ages from different parts of the area will work on the entrance with some two thousand daffodil bulbs being planted. Garth has many ideas and plans for future projects for children, and he's open to new ideas. Some of the special days he has in mind include Edible Plant Day and Native Plant Day. This is just the tip of the iceberg.

Back to the Hundred Acre Garden, Garth hopes the community will see the value of his vision of bringing together as a way to preserve the Ag Reserve, the environment, and agriculture through a meaningful long-term project incorporating children. "I can see properties connecting and hooking up," Garth muses. "If people see this in motion, it might inspire them." Most of the Hundred Acre Garden would reside on private property with easements allowing its creation. Garth also hopes to gain funding through grants and private donations for the Garden to become a

reality. "Funding is crucial in the long run," he adds.

While certainly the Hundred Acre Garden represents future aspirations (maybe not too far in the distance), Garth is happy to be busy getting L.A.N.D. rolling. With his two children attending the Elf School and Monocacy Elementary, these schools have been the primary beneficiaries of his enthusiasm, but he's now ready to start working with other schools in the community. If they receive

L.A.N.D. with half the enthusiasm the Monocacy kids have shown, we'll be hearing and seeing many more L.A.N.D. projects in our area—maybe his L.A.N.D. will become your L.A.N.D.

Garth would welcome thoughts and ideas from the community. He can be reached by email at landdiscover@comcast.net. "Nurture the kids, feed their natural curiosity, and watch them flourish."

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Allnutts of Homestead Farm Continued from Page 3—

up, I protested that he did not have to get up, but we both laughed about his being the last (Lion) man standing.

When Mr. Allnutt started school, the one-room schoolhouse in Dawsonville had just closed and he had to travel to Poolesville for grammar school. He was used to traveling by horse and buggy. Still he had a long walk up Sugarland Road to what is now the intersection of Route 107 and Sugarland.

He will never forget his first day of school. As he stood near the blacksmith's store waiting for a school bus, a Model-T came by and hit him. He wasn't hurt badly, but the local physician, Dr. Nourse (pronounced nurse), came to his aid and then got him on his way to school.

Benoni went on to the University of Cincinnati after high school, but farming was in his blood. When he came home after the first semester and worked a bit on the farm during the semester break, his parents were seriously ill, so he made up his mind that farming was what he wanted and didn't return to college.

The family farm, Homestead Farm, is well known throughout the metropolitan area. In the earlier days, Homestead Farm raised mostly hay, corn, and "fat cattle." He still fondly recalls the local "cattle drives" that herded the cattle from Dawsonville to Boyds. He laughs about the problems they used to have in approaching Boyds when neighborhood family dogs would go berserk at the site of the cattle slowly passing by. The barking and growling of the dogs would scare the cattle so much that they had a terrible time trying to keep them in line.

Mr. Allnutt purchased the present-day Homestead Farm from his nine surviving siblings (brothers Thomas and Dawson were deceased at that time) after their dad died and left the property to the children. Long before

Homestead Farm became famous for its pick-your-own theme, Mr. Allnutt always liked to host field trips for area school kids to the farm. He delighted the young students as he demonstrated how to milk a cow and would always get a big laugh from the kids when he would squirt the teacher directly while milking the cow.

When area residents think of Homestead Farm, the thought of fresh strawberries and other fruits and vegetables comes to mind. For friends and family, however, it's the special delights of bread and butter pickles and Benoni's homemade sausage that rise to the top of their list of favorite farm specialties. Benoni became famous also for his Bloody Mary mix when the Washingtonian rated his mix the Best Bloody Mary mix. We tried to break the secret to both the sausage and the mix, but he slyly kept it vague.

The family reports that it was in Benoni's early days that the family ate pickled peaches. We are not sure why it seems to have fallen out of favor, but Benoni relates a story that might give us a clue. It seems that one of the Allnutts was eating this once-favorite dessert when it became lodged in the throat and he couldn't catch his breath. His sister decided he needed to be rushed to Dr. Nourse for immediate help. Not a particularly experienced driver, she put him in the old Essex and started to speed out of the yard. As the car began to move forward, she awkwardly popped the clutch, and the sudden jolt and jumping of the car caused the pickled peaches to become dislodged, shooting out of his mouth straight out

of the car.

An even closer brush with accidental death came when Benoni had problems moving a team of horses pulling his wagon. As he got out to "help them move ahead," they bolted, causing him to fall directly between the horses and the wheels of the wagon. The team of horses and wagon sped right over him but luckily never even touched him at all.

Benoni, who is nearly as famous for his sense of humor as for his sausage, gets a big laugh from his wife, Sarah, when he responds with a straight face to the question of how others might describe him: "Always easy going and calm."

Married for more than fifty years, Benoni encourages Sarah to pursue her interests in swimming and horseback riding. Sarah helped to start the Seneca Pony Club. She has literally traveled the world participating in the U.S. Masters Swim Team competition, a seniors group that divides the competition by age group. Now representing the eighty to eighty-four-year-old range, she looks forward to when she will move up to the eighty-five and older group. "It's always great when you are the youngest in the group," she says laughing and showing the sense of humor she shares with Benoni. She proudly displays her subscription to a new sports magazine, "GeezerJock," in showing her enthusiasm for her athletic accomplishments.

While Sarah has traveled, Benoni has stayed mostly at home. The

Allnutts don't have to travel to see the world, since the world has practically come to them over the years. Sarah shared her scrapbook of pictures of individuals who have come to visit their farm as part of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) program to help educate people about American farming. They have come from areas like Indonesia, Africa, India, Afghanistan, and Asia.

Today, Sarah and Benoni have traded homes with their son, Ben. He and his family now reside in the Allnutt home at Homestead Farm. Sarah and Benoni enjoy the country-road quiet on Berryville Road in Darnestown. Ben carries on the family farming tradition. Their other two sons are Tom, a microbiologist, and Bob who is into commercial real estate. They also have two daughters, Anne, a graphic designer, and Caroline, a video editor.

Just before we left the interview, Sarah showed us their family pictures. In the hallway is a twenty-foot mural of the family tree. The picture that really caught our eye was a humorous shot of Benoni dressed up as a Roman Emperor with wineglass in hand and grapes all around. The afternoon left us thinking, they really do have a special corner of this world. They have worked hard but have lived with humor and joy. To these two fine people from one of our area, we toast them with our own proclamation, "Hail, Benoni and Sarah, your love of this land and your family inspires us all."

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Monocacy Area Residents Flood Local Newspaper With Contest Entries to Win a Free Lunch



Many of our readers correctly identified Poole's General Store in response to our August 12 Photo Contest. In fact, we had more responses to this contest than all previous contests combined.

The winner of the drawing for the free Rib-Eye Steak & Cheese, Fries and Soda from Poolesville Beer and Wine is *Mr. Robert T. Johnson of Beallsville.*

Congratulations to Mr. Johnson! Our latest Mystery Photo is on page 17 of this issue.

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Police Blotter Past and Present



By Jack Toomey

Present

October 17. Frederick County Sheriff's deputies and Maryland State Police troopers arrested Joanne Stone, 40, and Donald L. Stone, 42, neither of fixed addresses, and charged them with two burglaries. One had occurred on September 26 in the 1800 block of Mt. Ephraim Road near Adamstown. Jewelry, guns, and cash were stolen.

After the defendants were released on bond, police were able to connect them with a third burglary in southern Frederick County, and another warrant was issued. Mr. and Mrs. Stone were arrested in Flatwoods, West Virginia and are being

held pending their return to Frederick.

October 17. Residential burglary, 14400 block of Foolish Pleasure Road, Boyds. Forced entry to a home. Property taken.

Montgomery County Police remind citizens that they can call the Crime Solvers tip line at 1-866-411-TIPS to report information about criminal activity. Callers need not give their names and are eligible for a reward if their tip leads to the arrest of a suspect. Crimes in progress should be reported to 911.

Past

November 9, 1943. Two persons were killed in traffic accidents in a rainstorm that swept through Montgomery County around six in the evening. A tornado, which accompanied the widespread storms, destroyed farm buildings and other property near Washington Grove.

November 9, 1956. Montgomery County Police were called to Poolesville to stand watch over groups of citizens who milled around the streets after the town election last night. Police Sergeant Gorman Butler's eligibility to run for the Poolesville Board of Commissioners and his probable election as Board Chairman were

recently ruled legal by the county personnel board.

Nov 11, 1949. A Barnesville man was given a sentence of one hundred and twenty days in jail on three whiskey charges in Rockville Police Court.

Nov 10, 1956. Montgomery County Police were looking for thirteen thousand rounds of ammunition that were stolen from the rifle range at Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring. Police said that someone had entered the school by an unlocked door on Election Day, when the school was closed, and removed the ammunition from a closet.

November 12, 1904. Twelve peo-

ple were injured at two o'clock this morning in a collision that was heard for miles between two Baltimore and Ohio trains near Boyds, Maryland. A westbound passenger train sideswiped an eastbound train as it was pulling into a siding to let the westbound train pass. The Pullman sleeping car Des Moines plunged over an embankment trapping the twelve travelers. It was said that the railroad block operator thought the track was clear.

November 17, 1937. Washington numbers factions, who have been at war, were blamed by police for the shooting death of James Allen, of New Jersey Avenue Northwest. Allen was found murdered on the Gaithersburg-Laytonsville Road near Smith's Corner in Montgomery County.

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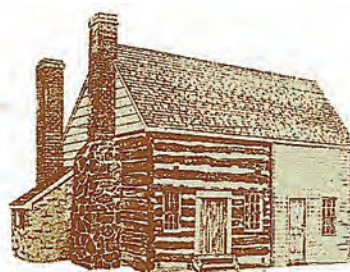
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**Commentary Continued From
Page 5—**

did or didn't or wouldn't raise taxes and how best to punish mass murderers. As my aforementioned partner points out, since they don't allow incumbents to run, we also have to keep learning about new candidates, all of whom I assume want to build bridges into the Ag Reserve. I just get tired of it. The campaigns may not be any worse than any other state's campaigns, but they certainly aren't good enough to deserve all this exclusive air time. All of this is so they can go to Richmond. I'm sure Richmond is a swell place if you know more about it, but I personally haven't slowed down there since they took out the toll booths on I-95.

On the other hand, (there's always another hand), I am getting a little excited about Maryland's elections. There's quite a battle brewing for Senator Paul Sarbanes's seat, with the Republicans running Lt. Governor Michael Steele, who will probably not be seriously contested in his primary. Mr. Steele has had quite a high profile for a lieutenant governor (quick, name two others) and as a member of a minority and a Republican to boot, I expect his supporters are excited about his prospects. He also banked

his Karl Rove fundraising support early, so you know he's no dummy. On the Democratic side, we apparently have Ben Cardin running as the party favorite. That's right, Ben Cardin. You know, the congressman. He's from somewhere up around Baltimore, just like Senator Sarbanes, and Senator Mikulski, and the governor, and for all I know Lt. Governor Steele, as well. Former NAACP President and CEO Kweisi Mifume has also declared for the Democratic Senate primary, but he's from Baltimore too. This Baltimore thing is a problem.

That's why I like the Maryland gubernatorial race. We've got two Rockville guys running for the Democratic nomination: (Baltimore!) Mayor Michael O'Malley and Montgomery County Executive Doug Duncan. In fact, they both declared their candidacies in Rockville. Granted, O'Malley has that Baltimore thing working against him, but both O'Malley and Duncan went to high school in Washington, D.C. In fact, to make it even more interesting, O'Malley went to Gonzaga and Duncan went to St. John's. This is a rivalry on the level of Dallas and Washington or Duke and North Carolina, only much older. That alone should prove to be more interesting than Virginia gubernatorial commercials.



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Riley Leaves PHS Continued from Page 1.

the kind of support each coach gives to the other coaches. It is very typical for our coaches to show up at the games, especially the more important playoff games, of other coaches. Everyone supports one another."

We wanted to know his priorities in selecting coaches. His answers may be surprising to some. Interestingly, past performance as an athlete in the particular sport is not necessarily the highest on his list. "I look for four priority things in coaches. I select on: motivation, enthusiasm, energy level, and communication skills. I need to know their drive to build a program. Wins and losses is not the highest thing, especially in public schools where athlete recruitment cannot be done."

As Riley talks about the coaching staff, the respect and appreciation for each one of the coaches shines from his eyes. Rattling off their records and championships, he comes across as a man in awe of his staff—a team that he put together, we might add.

Riley wanted to relay how the community of Poolesville has become

very special to him. "Over the years, class after class, the parents in the community have always come forward to help build the athletic program." He hesitates to name names knowing he cannot help but leave some names off his list. Still, he points to Debby Base, Bill Moore, Bob Cissel, and Rob Ganassa as examples of the great help the athletic department gets from the parents. "The program has been successful because parents like these are always there—no hesitation."

One of the most proud, yet humbling, honors came to him last June when the Class of 2005 selected him as their commencement speaker. Since Mike Riley has been coached and mentored by some of the best (Bobby Ross, Ralph Friedgen, and Frank Beamer), it was not a surprise that his speech was a rousing call for a positive attitude. The commencement address had the theme of "If You Think You Can, You Will" and drove home the point that accomplishment comes to those who: keep a positive attitude, set goals, have dreams, tackle adversity head on, and always keep learning.

From the coaches' perspective, Coach Larry Hurd represented the

group in saying, "He will be sorely missed. He has done a tremendous job and, without a doubt, he is one of the best."

The *Monocle* ends this report on the pending departure of Mike Riley with words of a poem taken from his own commencement address to the Class of 2005.

If you think you'll lose, you're lost
For out in the world we find
Success begins with a person's will
It's all in the state of mind.

Life's battles don't always go to the
Stronger or faster one
But sooner or later the one who
wins
Is the one who thinks he can.

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Big Board

Planning Meeting for Community Fight against Cancer

Area residents are having a kickoff meeting for a community Relay for Life fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Relay for Life is a nationwide event that raises money to help fight cancer and raise awareness of cancer in communities. This is a different kind of walkathon where participants relay turns walking around a track all night to raise money.

The Relay for Life committee will hold a Kickoff Party at the Poolesville Baptist Church on November 11 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Their volunteers are looking for walkers, caregivers, cancer survivors, sponsors, and vendors. The kickoff party will have free pizza and beverages. Contact Chontelle Hockenbery at 301-972-7867.

Ice Hockey Players – This Team Is for You

Mike Young of Poolesville is interested in developing an adult instructional ice hockey program for this winter. Interested skaters who would like to participate need not have been on hockey teams in the past. This group is for new and experienced ice hockey fans. The plan is for eight

practices, eight games, and a single-elimination playoff. For information on joining, costs, and practice dates, contact Mike Young at 240-812-3070.

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 for more information.

Who Can Resist Basket Bingo?

Everybody is invited to attend Basket Bingo to benefit the Poolesville Community Preschool at St. Mary's Pavilion in Barnesville on November 11. This is a great opportunity for us to help our little ones get a great start. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the games begin at 7:00 p.m. on November. There will be twenty games, three specials, raffles, door prizes and more featuring Longaberger Baskets filled with lots of goodies. Refreshments will also be available. For advance tickets which are \$15, call 301-349-0781, otherwise, tickets are \$20 at the door. Come and have a great family night out.

Christmas Comes to Poolesville

Two area churches have events on

schedule to help prepare for the festive part of Christmas. *Memorial Methodist Church* has its annual Holiday Bazaar. This craft fair and luncheon will be on November 12 at the church from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Vendors can get a table for only \$20.00. They should contact Sharlene West at 301-349-5128. Festivities for the day will include a luncheon put on by the Crafty Ladies & Gents (\$6.00), silent auction, and a big selection of crafts.

Then on November 19, the *Women of St. Peter's* will hold their annual Christmas Attic. This is similar to the church's now famous rummage sale except that all items are for Christmas and the holidays. The large selection includes holiday lights, decorations, crafts, clothing, as well as a bake sale and holiday pecans.

Scouting for Food – Another Good Turn

The scouts of Troop 496 collected over two and a half tons of donated food for area food pantries for the needy. Last November they distributed bags to be used to collect the food, and on Saturday, November 12, they will go door-to-door to collect the donated food items.

They are looking for nonperishable such as canned food, boxed

items, plastic jars to fill the shelves of local pantries. If you have a bag, put it out by the front door by 9:00 a.m. If you do not have a bag and want to participate, they will be knocking at your door anyway. If you are not going to be home, go ahead and put your items in your plastic bag. This is the time for everyone to find a way to help those in special need throughout the area.

The Washington Balalaika Society Orchestra

Saturday, November 12, 2005
- 8:00 p.m. General Admission \$20.00
Visit weinbergcenter.org for more information.

The Brooks Tegler Orchestra

Travel back in time with this historic recreation of Benny Goodman's legendary Carnegie Hall Jazz Concert on Sunday, November 13 at 3:00 p.m. A thirteen-piece orchestra performs the music just as it was played on the night of January 18, 1938, when Goodman and his ensemble were at the pinnacle of their success. Visit weinbergcenter.org for more information.

Buster Keaton Double Feature

"The Cameraman" (1928), silent,
& "Spite Marriage" (1929), silent

—Continued on Page 17.



School News

All FCPS students

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.

Yearbook Pictures Wanted

Pictures are needed for this year's yearbook. Please send copies in an envelope marked "Yearbook." They will be accepted through January 6.

Kudos to Krasners

Congratulations to Jesse and Joshua Krasner who both received their black belts in the martial art of Tang Soo Do on October 8.

Chesapeake Bay Birds

The fourth graders are proud to present an art show dedicated to Chesapeake Bay birds. The display will be in the art room through

November 22. Visitors are welcome. Please be sure to sing in at the office and in the guest book by the art room.

Poolesville Elementary

Family Movie Night

Come to the Poolesville Baptist Church for an incredible evening watching "The Incredibles." Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the movie starts at 7:30 p.m. Kids may bring sleeping bags. This is a fundraiser for a new playground at the school. Donations of \$3.00 per person or \$10.00 per family are requested. Snacks will be available for purchase.

John Poole Middle School

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 seniors 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.

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Big Board Continued from Page 16—

Friday, November 18, 2005 - 8:00 p.m. Buster Keaton's first feature film for MGM, followed by his last silent film – both accompanied by the mighty Wurlitzer. \$9.00 for Adults, \$7.00 for Seniors (ages 62+), Students (ages 13 – 18 or any college student with ID), and Children (ages 3 – 12) Visit weinbergcenter.org for more information.

Museum Welcomes Return of Hometown Girl for Solo Exhibit

November 18 to December 30, 2005, the Washington County Museum in Hagerstown, Maryland welcomes the return of homegrown artist Caroline Jasper, who as a child attended art classes at the Museum. After winning Best of Show honors at the Museum's 2002 Cumberland Valley Artists Exhibition Jasper was invited to return for a solo exhibition.

Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For more information call 301-739-5727 or www.wcmfa.org.

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Flower Power Continued From Page 7—

the gesneria family, *Gesneviaceae*. It is classified as genus *Saintpaulia*, species *S. ionantha*. Baron Walter van Saint Paul discovered it in East Africa in the latter part of the nineteenth century. He sent samples back to Germany, where it was catalogued and given the botanical name "Saint Paulia" in his honor. There are hundreds of varieties in colors of white, pink, fuchsia-red, purple, violet, lavender, blue, blue and white, pink and white. In our area, Selby's grocery store always has a large, assortment of healthy-looking violets in many colors. When I am shopping there, I am often tempted to buy one or two to add to my collection.

Violets are easy to grow if you follow a few guidelines: provide them with bright indirect light; sunlight will scorch the leaves. Contrary to popular thought, I wash the leaves weekly with lukewarm soapy water. This removes dust and discourages the growth of mealy bugs. Water your violets when the soil just begins to dry. I fertilize once a week with African Violet food (12-36-14). This makes a big difference in their ability to produce flowers. Before you use the fertilizer/water combo, thoroughly drench the soil with plain water to flush out any old, crystallized fertilizer.

Rieger Begonias, with their large, showy flowers in bright colors, are

easy plants to grow indoors. Their cousins, *Begonia semperflorens* (Wax) and *Begonia coccinea* (Angel Wing) adapt well and thrive in average home conditions. Outdoors, they need light shade from intense summer sun, but indoors, good light is necessary for flower production, especially in winter.

As we get close to the holiday season, you will see such plants as cyclamen, gloxinia and kalanchoe in gorgeous shades of pink, deep rose, white and dark red in garden shops. Don't be disappointed if they don't last too much past the first of the New Year. They are among the most difficult of all plants for the conditions of the modern house. The florist grew them in a moist atmosphere and temperatures of 40 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Your house is probably too warm and dry. I treat these beautiful plants as holiday decorations. Keep them cool, well watered and away from too much sunlight. When they lose their charm, chuck them.

Now I know that I promised that this article would recommend flowering plants that were easy to grow indoors. So far, I have mentioned two, African Violets and begonias. There are some plants, though, that are so spectacular, if only for a month or two, that they are worth their brief shelf life. The gardenia is a gorgeous, perfumed plant that falls in that cat-

egory. She tempts you with her glossy, green leaves, creamy, white, full buds and overpowering, spicy scent. You convince yourself that "I can care for her to re-bloom." It is often a hit and miss situation. Every year I succumb to her charms; I buy another plant. I mist her daily to satisfy her high atmospheric humidity needs. I wash her leaves with warm, soapy water to kill any white, woolly mealy bugs. But, eventually, the leaves drop and the young, emerging buds turn brown at their base and drop off. My motto for the gardenia is, "enjoy her beauty and her fleeting time of glory."

Around this time of the year, Smith and Hawken on Connecticut Avenue has beautiful white-flowered jasmine plants. Some are bushy plants, and others are trained onto topiary forms. Unfortunately, they are as temperamental as Miss Gardenia. But, with daily misting, and a little bit of luck, jasmine can perk-up your winter doldrums with her sweet scent for at least a month or two. If you can nurse her along until spring, she will do much better outdoors.

Orchids are centuries-old symbols of love and luxury, and are prized for their exotic and beguiling beauty. Nature outdid herself with this specimen. As I mentioned in my article about Hillwood, there are over thirty-five thousand types of orchid species. Lacking the greenhouse of Hillwood's

dimensions and climate controlled conditions, it is possible to grow orchids that bloom and re-bloom in the average house. Given the appropriate variety selection, given a comfortable spot near a window, regular watering and orchid food, it will produce exotic flowers for months. I have a white dendrobium in my kitchen that has bloomed faithfully for the past five years. A pale yellow, touched-with-pink phaleanopsis is in her third year of repeat bloom. Last week I bought at Smith and Hawken a shocking-pink phaleanopsis. With the number of her un-opened buds, she should be still blooming at Christmas. So, don't shy away from growing orchids. You might be surprised to find a new gardening passion.

If you are still with me, I have saved for last the "plant for dummies." I guarantee you that you cannot kill it. It thrives on neglect. Many offices stick them in dark corners of hallways and lobbies. Forget to water it for three weeks; it droops; it weeps, but with a good long drink, it bounces back to health in no time. What is it? *Spathiphyllum*. With its bright green leaves and white calla-like flowers, it is a find for brown thumbs. I might be a tad exaggerating its level of tolerance, but it is very forgiving. It needs only low light. I have forgotten to water him many times over the past ten years he has lived in my living room. But, he still looks great.

Take heart gardeners. You might not have summer's huge bouquets of roses, lilies, zinnias, and snaps. But, no room in your house need be flowerless. Check out Selby's and the local garden centers. There are plenty of flowering plants to tide you over the winter.

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Youth Sports

Are You Ready for Some Football?

By Curtis A. Osborne

On a recent Tuesday evening, a beautiful powder blue sky hovered over a crisp, delightful autumn evening. A large contingent of young boys was participating in football practice at Crestwood Middle School as several dozen parents sat patiently on the sidelines observing the practice and talking. It was a beautiful evening with cool breezes, a reprieve from the stifling heat and humidity of late summer. It was perfect football weather. Off to the opposite end of the spacious fields were young cheerleaders of various ages practicing their routines as several mothers looked on. As Hank Williams, Jr. so famously sings, Are You Ready for Some Football?

The cracking sounds of pads and helmets colliding was music to the ears of football dads, bringing back memories of their own youth spent on the gridiron as well as the joy they received from watching their children participate in America's favorite sport. Back in the late summer, the goose bumps the kids got from the excitement of receiving their uniforms had given way to the pride of wearing their team colors. This particular night, the kids were practicing under the auspices of FYSA, the Frederick Youth Sports Association. FYSA provides youth tackle football for ages nine through fourteen, flag football, mini-pony instructional play, as well as providing a corresponding cheerleading program. They participate in the Mountain Valley Football League.

Walking briskly about all evening attending to a myriad of details were the founder of the organization, Shawn Carey, and his wife Kathy, president of the organization for the past fifteen years. The organization was formed in 1988 by Shawn, currently the head football coach at Tuscarora High School. "Shawn was coaching football at Frederick High and saw a need for a feeder program," states Kathy. With the rallying of a few parents whose high school sons he was working with and the twenty thousand dollar sponsorship of Shoppers Food Warehouse, he was on his way. The cheerleading program started at the same time. The rest, as

they say, is history.

According to Kathy, the mission of the program is to "teach sportsmanship, fellowship, fundamentals, good character, maintain a C average, no Fs, every player will participate in each game, learn to win and lose, and most of all, have fun." Fun sometimes seems to be the component that is lost these days in a commonly ultra-com-



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petitive sports environment, but the two are not mutually exclusive—they can coexist together. With FYSA, the proof is in the pudding.

When you speak to several of the parents and kids, they all have glowing compliments about the organization. Kids like and respect their coaches, as well as do the parents. For parents who want to coach, first they have to express an interest, and then the board of directors has to approve them if they are comfortable with them. First-year parents are not allowed to coach. "I will not let first-year parents coach in my organization," says Kathy. "Basically, I watch for interaction within parents, games, and coaching staff during the first year. Then they are asked to sign up at the end of the year at the banquet." They are then assigned as an assistant coach. One such parent who expressed an interest in coaching is Kenny LaVern. He currently has two sons playing this year, Brandon in the pony division and Dylan in the mini-pony. "I always wanted to coach when my kids got older," said Kenny. "I love football and want to get as close as I can."

FYSA must be doing something right. Several of the coaches have been involved for many years, long after their kids are no longer participating. It becomes a labor of love for them, and the desire to teach never wanes. "Three of the coaches don't have children involved in the league," says Kathy. "One in particular doesn't have children at all. I also have assistant coaches who have no children involved or whose children have been through and are still with me as well." That loyalty also extends to cheerleaders.

Kathy and Shawn both have a deep passion for their organization, so they pay attention to detail. They make the coaches all sign a Coach's

Creed which basically dictates acceptable and unacceptable behavior. The current head coaches are Mike Lee on varsity, Lonnie Diggs on junior varsity, Ty Crompton on pony, Greg Brennan on mini-pony and Chris Brown on flag football.

To get more details on the organization, go to www.fysafootball.org.

Mighty Falcons Soar On. Falcons Travel to Worcester County, Return with Big Win

By Rande Davis

The Falcon football team has lost its first game after having won twenty-six regular season games in a row. The team is now 6-1, and its full success will be profiled in detail at the end of the season. While we cannot cover each game in detail, we thought the game at Snow Hill in Southern Maryland typifies this innovative and energetic team.

On October 7, the Poolesville varsity football team faced a daunting task. Not only did their schedule require them to travel over a hundred and eighty miles to play the top ranked 1A football team in the state, but they had to face one of the most highly-recruited running backs on the east coast. In addition to coming away with a victory over Snow Hill, the experience that the team had visiting a town on the Eastern Shore was invaluable. At about 9:00 a.m., the team, coaches, cheerleaders, and some parents boarded two tour buses for the long trip to Snow Hill which is a rural town about thirty miles south

of Ocean City in Worcester County. Another fan bus, containing parents and students, left after school. On the trip to Snow Hill, the players watched movies and played video games and chatted among themselves. Team officials wanted to make sure that the team was rested for the game, so they arranged for a stopover at Salisbury University. They arrived in Salisbury at about 12:30 p.m. and were treated to a buffet lunch at the university and then walked around the campus visiting various academic buildings and facilities. Some players met with university counselors concerning college life. Then the team assembled on the football field and went through some drills before boarding the bus for the trip to Snow Hill. While the Poolesville area was experiencing heavy rain, the team experienced dry conditions most of the way to Worcester County. In fact, heavy rain was never a serious factor until the fourth quarter of the game, but field conditions were sloppy. The team arrived in Snow Hill at about 5:15 p.m. and had almost two hours to prepare for the game.

Parent Rob Ganessa, father of lineman Tom Ganassa, says, "It was the same small town atmosphere [as Poolesville], people were courteous before and after the game." Parent volunteer Scott Ray, father of quarterback Matt Ray, described the trip and accommodations as very relaxing and praised the school administration for providing the buses, the coaches for their preparation, and the parents for providing a meal for the players on the return trip to Poolesville.

Head Coach Larry Hurd told the *Monocle*, "What an awesome experience for our kids. They got the chance to tour a university and speak to university officials about admission requirements." Hurd said that he

—Continued on Page 20.

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Falcon Football Continued From Page 19—

thinks that it is necessary to play the best class 1A teams in the state, "The atmosphere there was electric." Hurd was obviously delighted with the win and had much praise for his boys and coaches and the support of the cheerleaders and fans that were able to make the long trip.

Running back Jared Christman also spoke to the *Monocle* saying, "It was pretty relaxing on the bus; we watched some DVDs, and we stopped at Salisbury which was pretty cool, and we walked around a little." On the bus ride back to Poolesville Christman commented, "We were pretty excited, but people started falling asleep." Christman carried the ball twenty-six times and gained two hundred yards in the game. Jesse Burton, a wide receiver who was found eating a late lunch in a Poolesville eatery on the day after the game, said, "It was kind of slow on the way down, but it was worth it because we needed the win to get home playoff games." Senior cheerleader Melanie Stidham related, "The bus ride was really long. Our crowd was really into the game, but they [Snow Hill] had more fans, and they had a drill team and a band."

The Falcons won the game in a squeaker, 13-12. Christman and Matt Ray scored touchdowns for Poolesville, John Miller added the critical extra point, and the defense stopped Snow Hill in several crucial situations in the fourth quarter and held Benny Tate, Snow Hill's star runner, in check.

Falcons Leading Stats

Passing:

Matt Ray
38 attempts; 69 completions
543 yards

Rushing

Jared Christman
151 carries; 1257 yards – 14 TDs
Tyler Bierly
35 carries; 387 yards – 1 D
Matt Ray
21 carries; 134 yards – 2 TDs

Receiving

Kevin Campbell
16 receptions; 238 yards – 3 TDs
Brandon Moore
7 receptions; 65 yards

A Coach and a Parent

By Curtis A. Osborne

Over the past several years, the number of athletic opportunities for kids has risen exponentially. In years past, the only organized sports opportunities that kids had were through the local recreation department, the YMCA, the Girls and Boys Club, or even CYO leagues. Now, every community has a sports association, and with new communities sprouting up throughout the area, the number of new associations continues to grow. However, there is a huge deficiency in the number of volunteer coaches to coach those teams. With the lack of volunteer coaches in various athletic associations, parents are being urged to step forward to coach their children's teams.

On fields and courts all across the nation, parents who have become volunteer coaches spend an inordinate amount of time preparing, planning, teaching, and coaching kids in various sports. Coaching becomes a passion, a commitment to time and energy that they come to enjoy. The kids normally get a great kick out of their parents coaching their team, and it also gives them a chance to bond, a special time that they can share together, even though separating "Dad" from "Coach" can be a little disconcerting for them at times. For many, even after their child is no longer participating, they still continue to coach because of their love of teaching and developing young athletes.

Dennis Bendorf, the President of the Carroll Manor Athletic Association, is also a soccer coach and basketball coach for the organization. "In 2002, the entire CMAA board stepped down, and I was asked to run for president," he said. "My daughter Julia's soccer coach at the U-6 level was not able to coach the following season, and we wanted to keep the kids together, so I volunteered to coach." He now coaches his daughter's U-10 coed soccer team, his son Matthew's U-12 soccer team, a U-12 girls' basketball team, and he runs the basketball clinic for first and second graders.

Once they get involved as coaches, for many, they end up coaching more than one sport like Dennis. Their fam-

ily lives are pretty much tied to it and sometimes it becomes a true family affair. Tim Ford and his wife are such an example. Tim is the head wrestling coach at Tuscarora High School as well as the Gym Manager and Strength and Conditioning Trainer for the United-Spirit All Star Cheerleading gym in which his three daughters are participants. His wife Stacey is a coach at the gym and also serves as the president.

Many volunteer coaches were coached by their own fathers. Kenny LaVern, an assistant coach for the FYSA mini-pony football team, was coached for two years by his father in the Maplewood Sports Association which his father founded. He thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and he learned a tremendous amount about coaching from his father. "I learned intensity," he said, "not to be laid back. Football is a funny sport. You don't go half speed, you go all out and give one hundred percent and practice like you play." That is a lesson that he likes to see instilled in young players because football is a very aggressive and fast-paced sport. "I love it when a kid finally gets it and the light comes on," he says.

Bubby Shankle coaches his son Zach's U-8 baseball team. He too was coached by his dad for five years, all the way through Little League. "My dad was tough on me and easier on the other kids," he says with a laugh, "but I enjoyed the experience. I learned a lot from him...to respect your players, to not get down when mistakes are made, and to keep on trying." Bubby is enjoying coaching his son, and his son Zach truly enjoys having his dad as his coach.

Other father/coaches take it a step farther. Tom Baugher, who coaches his son Randy for the Carroll Manor Mudcats, was coached by his father and has coached his son for five years, but Tom has added a twist this year. "We're going old school this season," Tom remarked at the beginning of the fall baseball season. He has done something that many people have not thought about doing. He enlisted the help of his father this season. His dad joined him on the bench as coach. That sage experience will pay numerous dividends for the team. More importantly, it is an experience that father, son, and grandfather will always treasure.



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Things to Do

November 8

Barnesville School Open House
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301-972-0341 www.barnesville-school.com

November 9

Preschool Bible Study Time
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
10:00 a.m. (301-349-2073)

Senior Activities

Owens Park
Exercise, Frank Plumer performs,
And Play Bingo
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

November 10

Storytime - Cuddleups
Poolesville Library
Stories, finger play, and music
Babies to 23 mos.

Twosomes

Stories, finger play and music
Two-year-olds with parents
10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

November 11

Relay for Life Kickoff Party
Planning for Fight Cancer Campaign
Poolesville Baptist Church
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (240-388-1170)

Veterans Day Ceremony

American Legion Post #247
Whalen Common
11:00 a.m.

November 12

Annual Holiday Bazaar

Memorial Methodist Church
Crafts, Auction, Lunch
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Info and vendors: 301-349-5128

Knights of Columbus Art Auction
St. Mary's Pavilion-Barnesville
6:30 p.m.

Scouts for Food

Area Scouts Picking Up Canned Goods

November 16

Preschool Bible Study Time
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
10:00 a.m. (301-349-2073)

Senior Activities

Owens Park
Coffee, Stretch, Turkey Craft, Performer
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

November 18

Knights of Columbus
Oktoberfest Dinner
St. Mary's Pavilion-Barnesville
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

November 19

Women of St. Peter's Christmas Attic Sale
St. Peter's Church - 1:00 p.m.
Christmas decorations and items on sale

November 20

Thanksgiving Worship Service
Ecumenical
Hosted by Poolesville Presbyterian Church

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Tips from Experts

Tips on Using Firewood as An Energy Source

By Chris Holmgren

With the approach of winter and standard fuel costs higher than ever, some people are turning to alternative fuels such as firewood to lower their energy costs. Any homeowner that has a wood-burning stove or furnace is ready to offset the high cost of fossil fuels.

How much can you save on fuel costs? Consider that a cord of mixed hardwood, when burned, produces approximately 19 million BTUs of heat. It takes 135-140 gallons of #2 fuel oil to equal that amount.

A cord of firewood in this area costs approximately \$200.00 and #2 fuel oil currently costs about \$2.50 per gallon. That's a savings of \$150.00 at current prices. Ask yourself how much fossil fuel you used last year. Now do the math. It won't take long for a wood-burning stove to pay for itself, will it?

Here are some tips: Firewood is measured in cords, one cord is four feet wide, eight feet long, and four feet tall when stacked. A stacked cord is the basis of comparison shopping. If you don't have the time or means, you will probably have your wood delivered. If, however, you do have the time and means, some firewood dealers will let you pick up your wood from them and pass a savings on to you.

Start with local dealers. Remember that the farther they have to bring

your wood, the more it costs them in both time and fuel. Before you buy, ask the dealer how he loads his truck. Does he stack the wood in the truck or does he load it with a machine? The difference can be significant.

If the wood is stacked on the truck, then it's very easy to determine whether or not you will get a full cord. Remember, a cord is a measure of stacked wood--not a cubic measure of a truck bed. Some dealers will quote a price for dumping wood in your driveway. This can save you some money if you are willing to move and stack the wood yourself. Other dealers will quote a price for unloading and stacking the wood a reasonable distance from their trucks.

A reasonable distance may be about seventy-five feet or less and does not include stairways. Realistically, a reasonable distance may be the distance from your driveway to the back of your house. If you want it moved up a stairway and onto a deck or very far from where the dealer may park his truck, be prepared to pay extra.

Please, only use reputable professionals for the installation and maintenance of your wood-burning appliance. They are aware of national and local fire-codes. Remember that if you use a woodstove all season to have a chimney sweep clean your chimney once at the beginning of the season and once during the heating season.

This winter, the savings from using a wood-burning heat source will probably be significant. Even if you have to buy your wood and have it delivered, a smart shopper can realize a savings. Remember to shop locally first.

Tributes

Poolesville's Marshall Betz Receives Medal of Merit

On September 26, Life Scout Marshall Betz of Poolesville was recognized by the National Court of Honor, Boy Scouts of America. He was awarded the Medal of Merit "For Outstanding Service in Implementing Scouting Skills and Ideals."

A copy of the citation that accompanied the medal and certificate is attached, along with a photo of Marshall receiving the award. If you don't mind, he added the very last paragraph to inform people of his ongoing Eagle service project in case people wish to help him with that. The criteria for achievement of the award are very rigorous and specific. To preserve the integrity of the Award of Merit, please do not edit the citation without checking with us at this return email address.



Marshall Betz, Committee Chair Deborah Hixson, and Scoutmaster Joe Betz.



Scoutmaster Betz pins the medal to Marshall's uniform while Jo Ann Betz, Marshall's mom and the troop Advancement Chair, looks on.

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Local History

Some Historic Poolesville Fires

By Jack Toomey

Only a few long time residents of Poolesville remember what the old business section of town looked like. The center of commerce was grouped around the intersection of present day Fisher Ave and Route 109. Most of the business of the town was conducted here and where shopping centers stand today there were farms and stately homes.

But how many remember that the town nearly was destroyed during three disastrous fires that happened over fifty years ago?

In August of 1923 a fire started in the middle of the night. Most of the commercial district was destroyed. Mrs. Helen Pumphrey, who was fifteen at the time, recalled in a recent interview that she was asleep in her bedroom, when she was awoken "by all of the commotion and I looked out my window and the whole sky was red." She dressed and raced up the street where she first helped others remove goods from the stores. She recalled that "we formed a bucket brigade but there was just no water." Most of the townspeople were trying to help but Hoskinson's Store, Spurrier's Clothing and Furniture Store, Fisher's Lemonade and Ice Cream, Wootton's Store and the post office were destroyed. Many other shops were damaged including the barber shop, the drug store, and some private residences.

After the fire of 1923 townspeople began to raise money for a water tower for fire fighting but all of the money was lost when the Central Trust Bank failed.

In 1931 a fire broke out at the Kohlhoss & Sons Garage in the middle of town. On March 25, 1931 Joseph Butler, an employee, came to work early and intended to light the stove. He struck a match but a fragment flew across the room and landed in a vat of gasoline that was used to clean tools and machinery. The vat of gasoline exploded and set fire to the building and to Mr. Butler's clothing. Butler ran out of the building with his clothing on fire and dived into a barrel of rain water. Butler was injured but since he was wearing two pairs of trousers he was protected from life threatening injuries. The building and its contents, including several automobiles, were

destroyed in the blaze and only the fast action of the Gaithersburg and Rockville fire departments prevented the fire from spreading to other buildings. It was said that responding firemen could see the smoke from at least six miles away. Ironically one of the cars that was destroyed was that of Lawrence Clagett, a former Montgomery County police officer, who had been killed in a fire just a few weeks before.



The 1923 Poolesville fire in progress.

In September of 1935 another disastrous fire broke out in the middle of the night. The post office had been moved to the Norris house after the destruction of 1923. The fire was believed to have started there. Mr. and Mrs. Harry White were asleep in the old building when the fire started. Newspaper accounts of the fire relate that Mrs. Emma Kohlhoss and Mrs. Dora Hall sounded the alarm and helped rescue the Whites. Mr. Charles Kohlhoss ran to the scene of the fire but was severely burned when the door of the post office collapsed on him. The post office was destroyed but an even greater disaster was averted when the Rockville and Gaithersburg Fire Departments arrived and managed to save the house of Mrs. Fannie Williams who had a priceless collection of antiques in her home. A carload of firemen from Silver Spring overturned on the sharp curve outside of town.

In February 1953 another fire nearly destroyed the downtown section. Mrs. Frances Le Marr, who lived on Elmer School Road, awoke during the night with labor pains. She called her husband who was at work and he raced home and picked her up and they set off for Montgomery General Hospital. Edgar said "as we neared

Poolesville I could smell a fire...then I saw flames shooting from the building on the main corner." He stopped his car at his sister in law's house, who lived two doors from the building on fire, and telephoned the fire department. As Mrs. Le Marr sat in the car, about to give birth, "there was a roar and the whole flaming structure seemed to explode". The Le Marrs' were credited with saving many lives and the property of storekeepers and

residents. Daniel Breeden and George Hilliard moved furniture and clothing from their house which was threatened by flames and moved two trucks from behind the buildings that were on fire. Shortly after their arrival at the hospital Mrs. LeMarr gave birth to a baby boy.

The Upper Montgomery County Fire Department responded to the scene and to their dismay they found that an eight thousand gallon cistern was empty and they had to string hoses to pump water from a farm pond a mile from town. The Odd Fellows Hall, which housed a barber shop on the first floor, and a vacant building that had housed the Elgin Brothers Drug Store were destroyed and the Poolesville Plumbing and Heating Company building was damaged.

It has been over fifty years since a significant fire has affected the Poolesville commercial district. A professional fire fighting force, improved fire codes and inspections have prevented other fires. Today the vacant spaces and parking lots near this corner give stark reminder of the disastrous fires that happened here in the early part of the twentieth century.

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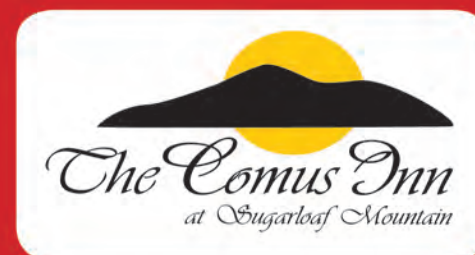
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The Fall Grand Buffet at Sugarloaf Mountain



The Comus Inn's Thanksgiving Bounty Menu

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Chef Carved Prime Rib with Perigourdine Sauce

Port Glazed Baby Lamb Chops with Pearl Onions

Comus Inn House Smoked Salmon

Seafood Bounty Raw Bar with Mussels, Clams, Crawfish, Shrimp, and a Warm Salad of Seafood and Mushrooms

Petite Oysters with Bacon and Leeks

Stone Crab Fricassee

Pasta station with Three Sauces and Three Pastas with Toppings to include Shrimp and Crab and much more

A Variety of Terrines and Pâtés

Green Gumbo Soup (Gumbo d'Zherbes)

Saucy Corn Bread and Andouille Dressing

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Grilled Vegetables with Garlic and Thyme

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