

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

April 28, 2006

Volume III, Number 4

Inside the Monocle



Where does this trail lead? Look just a little to the right. More...more...



Read about the Circle of Hope in Equestrian on Page 19.



Why is this goat smiling? Mr. Dolney knows why. School News on Page 3.



Boyd's resident muralist Melissa Foster. See Profiles on Page 14.

Hit and Run Accident Causes Chaos in Poolesville

By Jack Toomey

Lance Corporal Sebastian Parker-Vaughan, a member the United States Marine Corps, had just arrived home for a weekend visit when an alleged hit and run driver caused a colossal uproar in the Westerly neighborhood of Poolesville on the evening of April 13. Parker-Vaughan, who is stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, was sitting on the front porch of his in-laws' home in the 17200 block of Hoskinson Road with his wife. At about 9:45 p.m., he heard the sound of a tremendous collision, and he looked up to see a Jeep Cherokee that had run into his parked Honda Accord. Parker-Vaughan said, "We both looked over, and we saw a Jeep Cherokee slam into my car." He then ran across the lawn only to see the driver, whose vehicle had climbed over the hood and nearly onto the roof of the Honda, back off of the parked car and flee down Hoskinson towards Westerly Avenue. Parker-Vaughan was picked up by a neighbor who had heard the crash, and they followed a heavy trail of liquid being deposited on the roadway by the Jeep until they found the end of the track

at a house in the 17100 block of Butler Road.

In the meantime Angela Parker-Vaughan, his wife, yelled for her parents to call the police while jumping into her own car. She took off in pursuit of the Jeep and also followed it to the house on Butler Road. When Sebastian arrived at the house, he was

shotgun, and he and a woman were struggling for control of the firearm. Sebastian finally took control of the weapon and hid it. The police then arrived and placed the man under arrest.

Parker-Vaughan, who is scheduled to deploy to Iraq in the next few months, told a *Monocle* reporter,

"It's not about what the car was worth, it's about what gets me back and forth from North Carolina to see my wife and family." He later discovered that his car, which was a complete loss, had been shoved into his wife's car causing additional damage. Angela Parker-Vaughan, who was helping her husband salvage items from the wrecked car, said, "He has been in the Marine Corps for two years, he's going to Iraq, and basically giving this guy the freedom to drive (like that). This was the last weekend that we had together, and this guy ruined it."

A spokesperson for the Montgomery County Police said at least five cruisers responded to the disturbance and that they have charged Michael S. McCollum, age 43, of the 17100 block of Butler Road, with leaving the scene of an accident and speeding.



Sebastian Parker-Vaughan and his car after the hit and run.

told that the driver had run from the car and had disappeared somewhere in the neighborhood. Before the arrival of the police, the man returned to the house, went inside, and Sebastian could hear loud shouting. The man emerged from the house with a

Joey Caywood, Postmaster

By Marcie Gross

"Neither rain, nor sleet, nor dark of night can stop the postman from his appointed rounds" is a phrase from the U.S. Post Office's motto. Nothing could be closer to the truth when it comes to our dedicated postmaster in Dickerson, Mrs. Joey Caywood. This amazing woman has been serving the Montgomery County, Maryland postal service and its residents for the past thirty years.

When you think of the postal service, do you think of art? Maybe you will. Our hard-working postmaster just so happens

to be an art lover. She loves to paint. After Joey graduated from high school in North Carolina, she attended the Ringling's School of Art in Sarasota, Florida (she even had an art studio at the John Poole House in Poolesville for seven years). On her way to the D.C. area, she lived in Indiana, Wisconsin, and Florida (again). When Joey arrived in the District, she worked for Deleuw Cather, an engineering company, the company that built the Metro. She did secretarial



Joey Caywood

—Continued on Page 17.

Family Album

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Bishop John Bryson Chane and Reverend Steve Hayward at the Poolesville home of Linda and Henry Nessul.



Carissa Moore (piano), Morgan Maneely, (oboe) and Gracie Jones (singing) performed at the Sandy Cameron reception.



Poolesville High School principal Deena Devine, Heidi Rosvold-Brenholtz, Benie King, and Carol Hopenik at the sponsors' reception hosted by Tom and Debbie Kettler for the Sandy Cameron Music Benefit Fund.



State Senator Rob Garagiola addresses the Sugarloaf Citizens, Delegates Kathleen Dumais and Jean Cryor already had their turns.



PHS Carson Scholar award winner Lori Defnet, with Mrs. Jane Lindsay, her English teacher.



Dr. Peter Eeg and Delegate Brian Feldman at the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association Annual Meeting



Tom Kettler, Tom Lee and Gail Lee at the Cameron reception.

School News

Carson Scholar: Lori Defnet

John Poole Middle School eighth grader, Lori Defnet, was recently selected as a 2006 Carson Scholar. She is the first student in the Poolesville Cluster schools and probably one of very few within Montgomery County Public Schools to receive this prestigious honor.

The Carson Scholars Fund, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity that was founded in 1994 by Johns Hopkins pediatric neurosurgeon, Dr. Benjamin Carson, and his wife, Candy, to recognize and reward students in fourth through eleventh grades who strive for academic excellence and demonstrate a strong commitment to their community. The scholarships are awarded without regard to race, creed, religion, or financial need.

In addition to her scholarship, the school receives a trophy. The scholarship applications are delivered through the schools, and each school receives only one application to apply per year. The applicant must have at least a 3.75 average (Lori has a 4.0), demonstrate volunteer service to the community, and write an essay from a select list of topics. For Lori's essay, she chose to address her thoughts on what Hurricane Katrina revealed to the world and how it blew the issue of poverty in the United States into focus.

Lori was honored along with other Carson Scholars at the tenth annual awards banquet on April 23, 2006 near Baltimore. Lori will receive a \$1000 scholarship which will be invested for four years and payable to the college of her choice. She will also be eligible over the next four years to compete for additional scholarships. Lori will be attending the Global Ecology Program at Poolesville High School in the fall.

Rites of Spring

By Dominique Agnew

Yes, spring is in the air, so naturally our thoughts turn to...*l'amour*. Even better, our thoughts turn to kissing...goats. The Roots and Shoots Club at Poolesville High School brought back your favorite and mine, the Kiss the Goat fundraiser wherein the most popular teacher gets to kiss a goat. How does one choose the most popular teacher? For two weeks, jars with pictures of the thirteen lucky potential puckers are set out during lunch for the wild bidding. During the second week, only the five jars with the highest amounts of money received the week before remained (interestingly, English teachers proved highly popular, maybe, it's their way with words?), with the numbers dwindling by single elimination – un-

til only one man, I mean jar, was left standing. So who was the lucky kisser this year? Whose lips would lock with those of a gregarious goat? Through whose heart would Cupid's arrow pierce? You'll find out...right after these messages.

The funds raised from the Kiss the Goat event will all be donated to the Heifer Project International which buys animals for poor families to help them become self-sufficient. Cute goat provided by Chantal Agnew.

We're now back after that brief commercial message (I might feel more like Ryan Seacrest if my hair were messier) to let you know the results of the voting. Remember, we started with thirteen performers, and after America voted, only one is left. The one who will be this year's American Ideal Kisser...based on your votes...is...(pregnant pause)...before

complaining about the results, ask yourself whether you bothered to vote...(obviously pregnant-with-twins-pause)...English teacher, Mr. Dolney, ladies and gentlemen.

There is plenty more *School News* on Pages 20 and 21, but that's it for goats for this issue.



Mr. Dolney makes his move.

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LOTS AND LAND

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Poolesville: Surrounded by farmland with pastoral views, this 13.5 ac. building lot has an approved sound mound perc to service a 5 bedroom residence. Partially wooded with a stream, this lot is approx. 5 miles from the Town of Poolesville, and 14 miles from Potomac Village. MLS # MC5528055. Offered at \$750,000.00

Barnesville/Dickerson: This 6 ac. building lot offers the best of both worlds: a totally private, wooded setting with a stream and close proximity to the MARC train station and State Route 28. Approved sound mound perc to service a 5 bedroom residence. MLS#MC5547275. Offered at \$550,000.00

Dickerson: Wooded 4 ac. building lot with stream adj. 700 acs. of parkland. County approved perc test. Well on property. MLS#MC5432488. Offered at \$299,000.00

Dickerson: 18.71 acs. currently being utilized as a tree nursery, this property consist of 2 lots with one approved perc. Lovely homesite on a high elevation. Easily accessible to the Frederick area and Gaithersburg/Rockville. MLS#MC5308569. Offered at \$550,000.00

Poolesville: 25 ac. building lot with County approved septic system for a 5 bedroom residence. Surrounded by farmland, this level lot is within and mile of State Route 28 and approx 7 miles from White's Ferry and the C & O Canal. MLS#MC5389405 Offered at \$750,000.00



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Local News

Accident Spurs Debate over Intersection Safety

By Jack Toomey

Just as Poolesville Elementary School was about to dismiss students on Friday April 7, people in the area heard the terrible sound of a collision at the intersection of Fisher Avenue and Wootton Avenue. A full complement of fire apparatus responded to the scene while scores of high school and middle school students gathered on opposite corners to watch the spectacle.

A Montgomery County Police spokesperson said that a Pontiac Trans Am driven by Ashley Morgan was traveling on Fisher Avenue when an Isuzu Rodeo being driven by Stephanie Hellwig failed to yield the right of way while attempting to make a turn from Wootton Avenue onto Fisher. No charges had been placed at the time of publication. Both girls, who live in Poolesville, were taken by ambulance to Shady Grove Adventist Hospital and were treated and released.

The accident renewed debate about whether more traffic controls were needed at the busy intersection.

Kim Parise who lives near the intersection and was watching the investigation said, "It's awful, there have been two accidents in the last month, and the last time we were sitting on the porch and we heard the crash. You can't get through there when you take the kids to school."

Gabrielle Jacob, the mother of Stephanie Hellwig, told a *Monocle* reporter that she had happened upon the accident while in town and realized that it was her daughter involved

in the accident. Mrs. Jacob said, "I'd like to see a four-way stop, it's tricky to pull out there." Ashley Morgan could not be reached for comment.

Poolesville Town Commissioner Edward Kuhlman told the *Monocle* that on two occasions, the Town had requested a traffic survey in hopes of improving safety at the intersection. After the most recent survey, which was conducted during the summer of 2005, the State Highway Administration announced that no improvements

were being considered. Commissioner Kuhlman added, "I think that the intersection warrants a four-way stop sign." He commented that it is particularly hazardous in the morning when commuters are attempting to leave their subdivision and have to deal with a steady stream of traffic on Fisher Avenue.

State Highway Administration officials confirmed that studies have been conducted, but the intersection does not warrant additional traffic control devices at this time. Citizens who have concerns about this intersection or other state roads can write to the State Highway Administration at District #3 Traffic, 9300 Kenilworth Ave., Greenbelt, MD, 20770.



The aftermath of the Fisher Road accident.

Suspect in Armed Robbery Dies

The Montgomery County Police is investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of a Poolesville man who was found deceased on April 4. Paul Stoll, 24, of the 17400 block of Hughes Road, died at a residence in the 17600 block of Kohlhos Road.

A police source told the *Monocle*

—Continued on Page 19.

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Published and Edited by
John Clayton and Rande Davis

John Clayton
Production
Financial
301-349-0071
jclayton@monocacymonocle.com

Rande Davis
Advertising
Circulation
301-349-0070
rdavis@monocacymonocle.com

Dominique Agnew
Copyediting
dagneu@intairnet.com

Departments
editor@monocacymonocle.com
advertising@monocacymonocle.com

Contributing Writers

Dominique Agnew
dagneu@intairnet.com

Marcie Gross
samimgross@mail.com

Debby Lynn
debbylynn@comcast.net

Maureen O'Connell
mafoconnell@msn.com

Curtis Osborne
cptoz@aol.com

Jack Toomey
jackt21262@aol.com

Contributing Photographer
Hilary Schwab
hilary@hschwabphotography.com

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John Clayton, President
Rande Davis, Vice President
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Local News

Sugarloaf Citizens Meet in Dickerson

By John Clayton

Over seventy citizens turned out on a rainy Saturday morning at the Linden Barn in Dickerson for the annual meeting of the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association. The program, introduced by Association President Jim Brown, featured all four members of the District 15 state delegation and representatives of the association.

The speakers covered the topics which are the main battlegrounds for the preservation of the Agricultural Reserve: Tot lots, sand mound septic systems, and mega churches and similar facilities that contribute to the creeping fragmentation of the Ag Reserve by removing land permanently

overcoming the fact that much of the Ag Reserve will not perc or support traditional septic systems, a de facto barrier to development. The County Council recently fell short of enacting a moratorium on sand mound construction but is instead forming a task force, specifically, an "Ad Hoc Agricultural Policy Working Group" which would provide the council with comprehensive advice on proposals dealing with the county's 93,000-acre Ag Reserve. Qualified parties were encouraged to apply for the task force.

Ms. Milmoie also discussed the Crown Farm development project in Gaithersburg which will develop one of the last remaining open spaces down county. The issue at stake is whether the developer will donate one million dollars to an agricultural easement plan, or be required to purchase TDRs (transferable development rights) for around \$8.4 million. The

ever, were the addresses by the four members of the District 15 Delegation. The speakers, in order of appearance, were Delegate Jean Cryor, Delegate Brian Feldman, Delegate Kathleen Dumas, and Senator Rob Garagiola. Ms. Cryor is a Republican and the other three are Democrats. Each speaker, in his or her own way, attested to the teamwork, solidarity, and great working relationship felt by not only this small bipartisan group, but by the Montgomery County delegation as a whole. Each representative spoke to his own particular areas of interest and Ag Reserve-relevant issues, and there was much comment on the thus-far successful effort to keep the Boyds and Dickerson MARC stations open. Senator Garagiola also touted his two-year-old Solar Energy Grant program which has received a dramatic increase in state funding and has a backlog of participants claiming solar energy credits.

The proceedings were closed with an informative and well-received Earth Day presentation on the Agricultural Reserve narrated by three students from Poolesville High School's Global Ecology Program, Salmana Diallo, Samantha Roser, and Michelle Dietz. The program was introduced by Program Director Billie Bradshaw.



Michelle Dietz, Samantha Roser, and Salmana Diallo of the PHS Global Ecology Program.

from agricultural use. For the most part, as observed by Billie Bradshaw, Director of the Poolesville High School's Global Ecology Program, the speakers were preaching to the choir.

Sand mound septic systems remain an active and controversial issue in the Ag Reserve. As noted by speaker Dolores Milmoie, the original intent was for sand mound systems to be deployed for existing properties with failed septic systems or for legitimate tot lots, which allow family members to build on small lots on existing farms. As it has turned out, sand mound systems have been proposed for much more development,

latter program is designed to benefit landowners who keep farmland in agricultural production as part of the Agricultural Reserve. Ms. Milmoie also made derisive reference to the fact that the developer, Aris Madirossian, is associated with \$48,000 in campaign contributions to various members of the Montgomery County Council.

Carol Oberdorfer provided an update on the Sugarloaf Association's squabbles with Neutron Products in Dickerson and lamented the lack of follow-up by the EPA. Bill Ransohoff of Neutron Products was rebuffed in his attempts to counter her comments.

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The Horizon

St. Peter's Construction Project Is Moving Ahead

By John Clayton

There are huge piles of dirt and rock and rows of stakes with ribbons attached. A sign out front heralds the growth of the church. After many years of planning, fundraising, and preparations, construction has begun on a major renovation and addition to the grounds and building of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Poolesville. The church has an architect, a plan, a builder, funding, and a mind-numbing collection of permits from various entities. Finally, the work is in progress.

The process began over eight years ago when the Reverend Stephen Hayward, St. Peter's rector, then Senior Warden Alf Andreassen, the late Frank Wilson, and others in the church realized that they had reached a saturation point in terms of having room for Sunday school students, parish functions, and the many community activities that were increasingly becoming a part of the church's day-to-day existence. According to Reverend Hayward, it is a well-known occurrence that as churches grow, and the church does not respond to perceptions by newcomers that the church does not have room for them, attendance will inevitably decline.

St. Peter's developed a strategic plan, led by parishioners, Chris Hall and Susan Daniels, that analyzed how and where the church should focus its attention and resources in the coming years. This planning process was a key part of the decision to move ahead with a building plan. The church last expanded in 1984 when a free-standing parish hall (purchased in the 1950s and moved from a parish in Washington, D.C.) was replaced by a permanent structure attached to the main building. Hosler Hall, named after parishioner Bill Hosler for his efforts in support of that project, supported the church admirably for twenty years, but in the opinion of many parishioners, the parish hall and the kitchen are now too small to serve the growing needs of the church.

The parish, led by Reverend Hayward, went through a long process of identifying and accepting the need for new construction and developing a detailed list of requirements that the new facility must support. A building committee selected Chatelain

Architects, P.A. of Washington, D.C. and Hardy Construction Services, with offices in Frederick, Maryland, to implement the plan.

The work involves significant new construction that will add 14,348 square feet to the existing facility to



result in a total of 22,372 square feet. The church sanctuary, built in 1847, will not be touched. The primary focus of the construction is on new classrooms, a larger parish hall, and offices for church staff, but it will also feature additional rooms for other typical church functions. The vast majority of these functions have subsisted without any dedicated space at all, sharing what space exists with other groups and managing as best they could. (Assistant Rector Cindy Simpson, has survived in office space carved out of the main foyer with portable room dividers for over seven years.)

The new kitchen will be outfitted as a commercial facility to serve the expanded parish fellowship hall. An elevator will be added to improve handicapped access, and the nursery, with separate areas for toddlers and infants, will be moved to the ground floor adjacent to the church's main entrance.

Among the new areas that the new structure will provide include a vesting room for lay readers and acolytes (who will probably not miss getting geared up in the main hallway) which will also provide a private space for bridal parties before their wedding ceremonies. The Altar Guild members will retain their own room with some marked improvements, but they will no longer need to share their sink with flower preparation, as there is a new dedicated room for

the Flower Guild. A large portion of Hosler Hall will be converted to a practice room for the St. Peter's Choir, with space for risers and storage for music and instruments.


The greatly expanded office spaces will include space for volunteer and mission groups, expanded office and administrative working areas, and new offices for the rector and, at long last, the assistant rector. There will also be a parish library, a formal living room for small private gatherings, and a Children's Chapel. On the lower level there will be over 3,000 additional square feet of church school classroom space.

One of the driving forces behind the construction program has been the use of the facility for outside community groups. With the new expanded parish hall and larger commercial kitchen, St. Peter's is hopeful that the facility will attract even more community users.

The work to date has unfortunately gone a good deal slower than expected. The Bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington, the Right Reverend John Bryson Chane, attended a groundbreaking ceremony several years ago to kick off construction, but the path to actual construction turned out to be longer yet.

The first order of construction was to build a retention pond on a small parcel of land behind the church grounds. The parcel was named "Frank's Field" after Frank Wilson who engineered its purchase from St. Peter's neighbor, Poolesville Baptist Church and Family Life Center. By the time the earthmoving began in earnest, the winter rains arrived, and work was greatly delayed. However, with the arrival of spring the site work has been completed and honest-to-goodness building construction will follow.

—Continued on Page 24.



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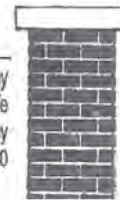
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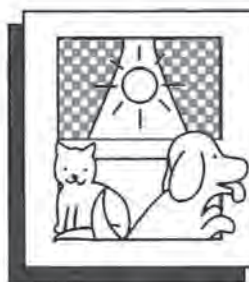
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An Oldie But a Goodie

It Came from Outerspace (1953) is a science fiction classic from the 1950s showing at the Weinberg Center for the Arts. Starring Richard Carlson and Barbara Rush, the film is based on a story by Ray Bradbury about a spaceship that lands in the desert. Considered to be one of the more sophisticated of the sci-fi films by director Jack Arnold, it still plays as well today as it did five decades ago. Showing Friday, April 28 at 8:00 p.m., tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. Call the box office at 301-228-2828 or visit www.weinbergcenter.org for more information.

An Evening of Comedy and Magic

Join the Weinberg Center for the Arts on April 29 at 6:30 p.m. in this

benefit to support Heartly House in Frederick. Heartly House provides a wide range of services and help to victims of domestic abuse, rape/sexual assault, and child abuse. Tickets are \$16.00 for all seats. Call the box office at 301-228-2828 or visit www.weinbergcenter.org for more information.

15th Annual Dancefest Celebrate the 15th anniversary of this county-wide extravaganza featuring local dancers, guest performers, and a few toe-tapping surprises on April 30 at 2:00 p.m. at the Weinberg Center for the Arts. Tickets are \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for seniors and students. Call the box office at 301-228-2828 or visit www.weinbergcenter.org for more information.

Come Welcome a New Neighbor: Am Kotel Sanctuary and Renewal Center

On Sunday, May 7 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., the Board of Directors of Am Kotel and its Sanctuary Committee invites the public to join them in the grand opening and dedication of the Am Kotel Sanctuary and Renewal Center at 19520 Darnestown Road in Beallsville. Rabbi David Shneyer, founder and director, will lead the dedication ceremony which will be at 3:00 p.m. The day will be festive with food, music, Mezuzah Making, tours, children's activities, and a silent auction. For more information, you can call 301-349-2799.

Radio Control Boat Regatta

For those who might enjoy watching radio control boat racing, the weekend of May 6 and 7 will give you plenty of time to take in the fun. The R/C boat regatta features twenty classes of boats racing for the two days. Some of the world record holders and world champs will be present. The event starts at 8:00 a.m. both days and ends at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday and 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. It is held at Frederick Pond next to Wal-Mart on Route 26 and Monocacy Blvd., Freder-

ick. You can call 301-984-4005 for more information.

Gaithersburg Antique and Collective Show This annual event is on May 6 at the Montgomery County fairgrounds. Come look over 250 booths with quality antiques and collectibles including Americana, furniture, porcelains, paintings, prints, movie memorabilia, and much, much more. It will be at building 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Cost is just \$6.00.

The History of Trains: Boyds and Beyond

Sunday, May 7 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. a program will be presented by John King, who has been studying the history of the railroad in the area, at Kerr Fellowship Hall in Boyds. The program will include photos of Boyds, a few artifacts and a short slide show. Arthur Virts and Sid Earle will share in the presentation. Refreshments and coordination by the Boyds Historical Society. The public is invited.

I'm Glad You're Here

On May 7 at 3:00 p.m., David Parker comes to the Weinberg Center for the Arts. Hailed around the world as the "Pied Piper of Sign," David Parker combines American Sign Language, live music, movement, and visual comedy to create an energetic and interactive evening of top-notch

family entertainment. Ticket prices range from \$10.00 to \$15.00. Call the box office at 301-228-2828 or visit www.weinbergcenter.org for more information.

Images of Spring

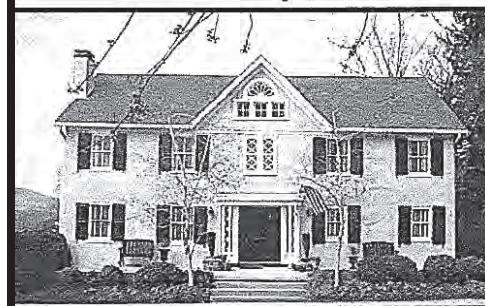
The Hyattstown Mill Arts Project's Annual Member Exhibition will run May 7 through June 3 at the Mill Gallery. A reception for the artists will be Sunday, May 7 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The show is titled "Images of Spring" and will include a collection of fine art by professional artists from the region including Montgomery and Frederick Counties. For more information about the Hyattstown Mill Arts Project, HMAP, including its mission, activities, educational events, and history of the mill, consult the organization's web site at <http://hyattstownmill.org>.

MUMC's Popular Annual Spring Flea Market

The Crafty Ladies and Gents of the Memorial United Methodist Church have their very popular Spring Flea Market on May 13 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. In case of rain, the date would go to May 20, 2006. Along with antiques and used items, there will be fun games and rides for

—Continued on Page 14.

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May 1

Book Discussion Group

Poolesville Library

How My Mother Raised 10 Kids on 25

Words or Less

7:30 p.m.

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Baby farm animals and storytelling

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2:00 p.m.

May 6

Spring Flea Market

Urbana Volunteer Fire Dept.

Urbana

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

May 7

Grand Opening and Dedication of Am Kotel Sanctuary and Renewal Center

19520 Darnestown Rd., Beallsville

Community and Visitors Welcome

2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Gaithersburg Antique and Collectibles Show

Montgomery County Fairgrounds

\$6.00

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

May 13

Crafty Ladies and Gents

Spring Flea Market

Memorial United Methodist Church

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

May 13

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Focus on Business

Tiptoe through the Tulips and Much More at Alden Farms

By Marcie Gross

When you were younger, did you know what you wanted to be when you grew up? I don't mean fantasizing about being a cowboy or a ballerina. I mean having a dream of becoming a doctor, police officer, veterinarian, etc. When I was younger, I dreamed of being a journalist. So you see some

people are lucky enough to make their dreams come true. Case in point: Dave Therriault of Alden Farms. You see, Dave knew that when he grew up, he wanted to own a garden shop.

Dave grew up in Potomac and studied horticulture and design at the University of New Hampshire. This is where he met Sandy (originally from Connecticut). When they got married, they moved back to Montgomery County and purchased a farm in Beallsville.

If you have ever driven by and seen the sign on Beallsville Road and were curious, you must stop in to see

what Alden Farms offers our community. Everything about Alden Farms is interesting and fun. Take the name for example. Alden is Sandy's grandmother's name. "It is a great name and it comes at the beginning of the alphabet," Dave says. People seem to come here to hang out and look around. Dave says that about eighty percent of customers are drive ins, and the rest are locals, "but once they come in, they tend to come back," he says. One of their customers called the

Washington Post raving about what he saw, and subsequently, an article was written about Alden Farms. They have also been written up in the Washingtonian magazine and ranked as one of the top garden nurseries in the area by Washington Consumer's Checkbook magazine.

Dave and Sandy will be married for twenty years this September. You can tell that they really enjoy being together and working together, even two children later. Sidney is nine and loves to dance and ride horses, and Dylan, age seven, enjoys karate. The couple spends time attending shows in New York and Atlanta and buying the kinds of craft and statuary items

they like and that aren't available at other garden shops.

These garden merchants showcase unusual and rare annuals and perennials. Most of these are hard to find and not usually seen at giant garden centers. Some of these beautiful, exotic flowering plants include: Begonia Dragon Wing Pink, Fuchsia Golden Marinka, Ipomoea (Sweet Potato Vine) Marguerite, Portulaca Yubi Pink, and Trailing Snapdragon Crocodile Deep Pink. You can get plants in patio pots, window boxes, and hanging baskets all designed in custom containers for

—Continued on Page 26.



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The Humble Chef A Few of My Favorite Things

By Maureen O'Connell

I am not a gadget person. But, whether in the garden or the kitchen, I like to have good quality "tools of the trade." It makes chores easier and more enjoyable. One could get very carried away in this regard. You could line your pantry and drawers with anything imaginable: yogurt makers, peanut butter machines, culinary torch to brown your crême brulée, professional mandolines, mango pitter, pineapple slicer, and garlic mincer. There is a gadget for any chore in the kitchen. I must admit that I was once a little "gadget crazy." Most of these items are now stashed in an out-of-the-way closet. However, there are some things in my kitchen that I could not cook without. Let me tell you about "some of my favorite things."

I was married in 1969. In those days, Revere Ware was the most popular line of pots and pans. Every young bride loved to get a piece at her bridal showers. I remember polishing the bright copper bottoms after each use. Hanging from a pot rack, they would gleam in the afternoon sun. The older I got, the less often the bottoms saw copper cleaner. Since then many new brands of cookware have come on the market. There are Dansk,

Faberware, Creuset, Calphalon and All-Clad. I have tried them all, and I have had many a heated discussion in friends' kitchens debating the pro's and con's of Calphalon versus All-Clad. My favorite is Calphalon. My husband Jim often asks me if the pot or pan makes any difference. I firmly believe that it does, but only a humble chef would know that. Introduced in 1975, Calphalon became the first successful hard-anodized-aluminum cookware available for home kitchens. A few years ago, Calphalon One entered the market place. It featured a sear-and-release technology known as infused anodized aluminum that is harder than stainless steel. Now, don't ask me what that means. You will have to ask a chef less humble than I. I have tried the old and the new, and I am sticking (no pun intended) to my old, original Calphalon. There is also a non-stick version. I find this feature helpful in fry pans. My collection includes a six and a half and an eight quart stock pot, ten and twelve inch fry pans, paella pan, one, two and three quart sauce pans, a large roaster with V-rack, a non-stick twelve inch round grill pan and a ten inch wok with lid. I find that with Calphalon it is easy to keep an even cooking temperature. I probably use the large stock pot and the paella pan the most. Soups, stews and braised meats and poultry cook perfectly in these pots. The highly-polished, stainless steel All-Clad cookware looks beautiful,

but I find it hard to control the heat, and if you cook at too high a temperature, they are very difficult to clean. If you don't cook very often or not at all, the All-Clad looks great hanging from your pot rack above your Aga or Viking stove. Did you ever notice that some non-cooks have fancier and better equipped kitchens than most professional chefs? I wonder what they do in there as they occasionally pass through the kitchen.

A good set of sharp, high quality knives is essential for serious cooking. I stress the word "sharp" because



A few of the Humble Chef's favorite things.

there are more cut fingers in the kitchen from dull blades than from sharp ones. I will not admit to you how many times I have visited the Shady Grove Hospital Emergency Room from knife cuts in the kitchen. Some of my more successful dinner menus often had a little added chef's blood in the sauce.

Henckels, Hofritz and Cutco offer high quality cutlery. You can buy impressive looking wooden storage blocks for knives for any job.

I might not use my Cuisinart food processor every day, but when I need it for puréeing soups and sauces, evenly slicing potatoes, onions and other vegetables, and making pastry dough, it is indispensable. It makes light work of chores that could take hours. I use my Cuisinart Min-Prep Plus more often. It is more efficient than the larger one for small jobs such as dicing and chopping nuts, hard cheeses, herbs and garlic. It is also easier to clean.

"Double, double; toil and trouble. Fire burn and cauldron bubble..." Where would Macbeth's witches be without their wooden spoons? I love to cook with wooden spoons. There is no scientific reason behind this; I just like the feel of a sturdy wooden spoon
—Continued on Page 23.

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Reaching for The Stars It's in the Genes

By Dominique Agnew
 Poolesville High School Senior, Jamie Eakin, has art in her blood. Both her grandmother and her mother are artists, many know her mother best as the art teacher at John Poole Middle School, Nori Thorne. As a matter of fact, Jamie plans to follow in her mother's footsteps and become a teacher, as well, although she hasn't decided whether she'll teach art or science. To this end, she has received a scholarship of three thousand dollars per year as a Maryland Distinguished Scholar, Finalist in the Arts. To earn this scholarship, she presented her work to a panel of judges and defended her piece while pointing out what was good or bad about it. "I thought that was a really good experience for me," she says. She plans on attending

Salisbury State University. It may be that she'll somehow blend teaching art and science together, as she already incorporates themes of environmental responsibility into her art. Most recently, Jamie has painted a large mural in the greenhouse of PHS as her senior project for her AP Environmental Science class. The mural, through the depiction of a nature scene focusing on the Chesapeake Bay, explains the nitrogen cycle. Jamie wrote a trust grant to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation requesting materials to paint the mural, plus a heater and UV filters for the tanks in which bay grasses are grown. In her request, she explained the interest to the trustees "because we donate grasses to the Chesapeake Bay," and she related the use of the mural as an educational tool. Another example of a collaborative work involving meshing art and science is a logo she made for the Montgomery County Environmental Film Festival. Depicted is a can of film with a reel coming out showing what the film could be.



Jamie also works in various media including paper making and digitally created artwork, but her medium of choice is clay, "Red stoneware is my favorite," she says. Its versatility allows her to throw, build, use a high fire, use a low fire, and "you get beautiful glazes." Her most recent pieces using red stoneware are complementary sculptures entitled "Daphne" and "Helios." Her challenge was in finding a glaze that would not be shiny or glossy, she wanted something skin-like, so she turned to her local expert, and her mother suggested using floor wax. "I wouldn't have known about it," she says. It goes without saying that her mother strongly influenced her. "Any idea that I have, I can go to her." She adds, "Whatever I want to do, she'll help me," and they hash out ideas. Her grandmother, on the other hand, doesn't like clay, but she paints beautiful portraits.

Environment versus genetics? In Jamie's case, she enjoys the best of both worlds and is forging her own path with her own vision.



Artist Jamie Eakin in front of her mural.

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Profiles

Painting for Kids

By Dominique Agnew

Local muralist, Melissa Foster of Boyds, may have found the purpose of her life—to paint murals for children, specifically for children at HSC Pediatric Center, formerly known as the Hospital for Sick Children in Washington, D.C. The HSC Pediatric Center provides long-term care to children and teens requiring rehabilitative and transitional care, as well as teaching these young patients how to deal with lifelong issues stemming from chronic illness.

Last fall, Melissa was contacted by the HSC Pediatric Center through a website with which she is affiliated, www.artistshelpingchildren.org. From there, Melissa contacted community members she knew would be willing to donate money towards the purchase of materials, and since then, she has created four murals with the fifth begun. “It’s a great cause,” Melissa says. “[The children’s] environments are so stale.” Before she began the murals for the hospital, they had bare, white walls. Melissa’s murals help distract a “scared child in a hospital for a long stay.”

Since beginning her murals for HSC Pediatric, Melissa has received commissions to produce murals, but she says the private murals are not as fulfilling. “There is no greater feeling than doing murals for the hospital,” she says. “I’ve never been as excited about anything in my life as I’ve been about this.”

Each mural she paints takes about

fifteen hours, and she paints them on canvas in her garage studio. The hospital has asked her to do an on-site mural directly onto a wall, and she is excited about the prospect, but has

her full rein over her murals, and her creative juices are running wild.

Melissa would be happy to keep painting murals as long as the funds cover the materials. At this point, the



to figure out the logistics of taking care of her children. Speaking of her children, “It has been amazing for my six-year-old, Jess. It has made him aware of other people. He gets excited about the murals and bringing them to kids.”

Up to now, Melissa has painted murals with a jungle theme (animals eating fruits—this mural is in the cafeteria), a fairy theme, and two of her murals have circus themes. She plans to try to incorporate children engaging in various activities into her next murals. The hospital has given

account established at the hospital has enough funds to allow Melissa to possibly do another seven murals. “I will do this until all of their walls are filled up if they’ll let me.”

To contribute to the special account that handles funds for the murals, send a donation to HSC Pediatric, Attn: K. Currier, 1731 Bunker Hill Rd., Washington, D.C. 20017. On the memo line, enter “Melissa’s murals.” Visit Melissa’s website: www.kidsmuralsbymelissa.com to see murals she has already completed.

“Big Board” Continued From Page 9—

the kids, and, of course, the luncheon menu will feature the ladies’ special offerings. Stop in twice. Go early to find the best deals, and then come back for their wonderful lunch.

Frederick Celtic Festival

After visiting the MUMC Spring Flea Market on May 13, run up to the Urbana Fire Dept. for the annual Frederick Celtic Festival. This seventh annual gala has Celtic entertainment, Highland athletics, pipe and drum bands, Scottish clans gathering, and, of course, food, drink, dancing, music, and fun. The festival has a special evening concert. The festival runs from

10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. (More Information: 301-942-0086)

Share In a Day of Fun and Tribute to Our Soldiers

It’s that time of year again, when wounded soldiers from Walter Reed Medical Center come out to White’s Ferry for a day of fishing and picnicking. The soldiers will arrive at 10:30 a.m. and will return to WRMC at 3:00 p.m. They enjoy the day of fishing and conversation away from the hospital. This event also helps raise money for the important Fisher Houses which are visiting facilities for the families of wounded soldiers. If you need more information or can’t attend but would love to send a donation, you can call Roger Strippey at 301-367-3080.

Local Artists Sought for Exhibition at Poolesville Library

The Poolesville Library is seeking local artists from Poolesville, Barnesville, and surrounding communities who would like to display their artwork for a special exhibit as part of the 15th Anniversary Celebration of the Poolesville Library. The exhibit will be on display from May 10 through May 23. This exhibit will be part of several activities planned for the anniversary celebration starting April 15 and culminating with a special ceremony on May 16 at 7:00 p.m. Interested artists should contact Mary Ann Powell at 301-407-2121 before April 29. For additional information, call the Poolesville Library at 240-773-9550. The library is located at 19633 Fisher Avenue in Poolesville.

Memories Are Made of Music

Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 25 for the return of Sandy Cameron to her alma mater, Poolesville High School, where she will perform for the community in her third benefit concert. Expect not only the stunning virtuosity of this incredible talent—but this time, she’s bringing friends from New York, and there will be other special guests from the Poolesville area, as well. All proceeds from the concert and silent auction will go towards the music programs of the schools in the entire Poolesville cluster. The Sandy Cameron Music Benefit Fund continues to seek corporate sponsors for the upcoming event. You may contact Roger A. Hayden at rah22222@netscape.net if you would like to step forward as a sponsor or donor.





In the Garden

A Tree for All Seasons

By Maureen O'Connell

For people living in the Washington, D.C. area, the month of April brings to mind visions of frothy pink cherry blossoms. There is an annual Cherry Blossom Watch, a Cherry Blossom Festival and a Cherry Blossom Princess. Various neighborhoods in and around the Capital are renowned for their cherry blossom trees. While the flowering cherry trees, especially the *Prunus yeodoensis* "Shidare Yoshino," the revered Japanese Cherry found along the banks of the Potomac River, are indescribably beautiful, our native Dogwood tree (*Cornus*) is no Cinderella. In our area there is no Dogwood Festival or Dogwood Princess, but, interestingly, our native flowering Dogwood tree played a role in the introduction of the Japanese Cherry trees to Washington. The annual National Cherry Blossom Festival, begun in 1935, commemorates the gift of three thousand Japanese cherry trees to the city of Washington, D.C. in 1912 by the then Mayor of Tokyo Yukio Ozaki. The gift was to

encourage and celebrate the growing friendship between the United States and Japan. In 1915 the United States government reciprocated with a gift of our native flowering Dogwood tree. Over the years, many more of these two spring flowering trees were exchanged. The most recent event occurred in 1999. There was a formal planting ceremony in the Tidal Basin of a new generation of saplings from cuttings from a famous Japanese



A dogwood in full bloom.

cherry tree in Gifu province reputed to be over 1500 years old.

The Cornaceae or Dogwood family has an interesting background. It is composed of ten genera with about ninety species; one-half of the species are in the genus *Cornus* and are native to the Northern Hemisphere – Europe, Asia and North America. In legendary history, the dogwood tree has been associated with the crucifixion of Christ. The Romans used the very strong wood of this tree to construct the crosses used for crucifixion. It also bloomed around the time of Easter. This story is probably apocryphal, since the dogwood tree was never that large.

There are several derivations of its name. John Parkinson (1567-1650) was a London apothecary and botanist to Charles I. In his definitive book, *Paradisi in Sole, Paradiuss Terrestris* (1629), Parkinson described about one thousand plants – "their nature, place of birth, time of flowering, names and virtues of each plant, useful in physic, or admired for beauty.." It was his opinion that the fruit of the European *Cornus mas* was "not fit to be eaten or to be given to a dogge." Other botanists believed that the name comes from England, where people used the bloodtwig dogwood (*Cor-*

nus sanguinea) to bathe mangy dogs. The name may also have come from "dagwood," since in Europe the wood considered hard as horn, was used in making daggers. *Cornus* means horn. In the New World, Native Americans used flowering dogwood to make scarlet dyes and tinctures. Although the dogwood's fruits are poisonous to humans, the early Colonists, in the late 1700's, made a tea from its bark to reduce fever and calm colds. William Byrd II (1674-1744) a noted explorer, trader, merchant, landowner and politician, considered the bark a preventative against malaria. All parts of the tree were useful. Up until the end of the nineteenth century, tooth brushes were made from the tree's frayed twigs. Today the tough wood still has many uses, including the making of shuttles for the weaving industry and handles for tools and golf clubs.

Mark Catesby (1682-1749), an English-born artist-naturalist, lived during the exciting time of the great plant hunters and scientists. They made numerous expeditions to the New World and Asia in search of new plants and animals. This was the time of important plant exchanges between England and America and significant

—Continued on Page 22.



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Local News

Gardener's Delight

By Dominique Agnew

Beautiful Putrescence

Ah, flowers—they are beautiful, their fragrance pleasant and appealing—except when they smell like death, and they look like...well, one of the names of this particular flower is devil's tongue. Better yet, the Latin name is *Amorphophallus konjac* from the Greek, *amorpho* meaning deformed, and *phal*—cough, cough—lus... Excuse me, this is where we insert the this-is-a-family-newspaper line. Do all scientists have dirty minds or just botanists?

Moving along.

A Tale of Two Bulbs

Many years ago, Joe Long of Poolesville, professional gardener, lived in Wheaton where he had a tropical garden. Obviously, Wheaton does not enjoy a tropical climate, so he had to bring plants and bulbs indoors every winter to protect them. One of the bulbs in his possession was that of the *Amorphophallus konjac*, also known as voodoo lily and devil's tongue. He didn't know much about the flower, but it had a "really cool leaf," and it originated in the Vietnam-South China region of the world.

Every summer, when Joe would have the plant outside, it would grow a huge fern-like leaf, and the bulb would continue to grow. Then, during the winter of 1985, it happened. "One day, I came home," Joe recounts, "and it smelled like something died." In the corner of his basement, there had grown a bloom about two and a half feet tall. Joe ended up throwing out the bloom—too much of a good thing?

Sadly, one winter, Joe didn't get the bulb inside, "but he kept talking about it," Joe's wife, Stacy Surla, says. The search was on. Despite the fact that Joe is a gardener and goes to many nurseries, it wasn't until 2002 that he acquired Bulb Number Two. His good friend, Elizabeth Thornton, found a little bulb, smaller than a golf ball, at a plant swap.

The new bulb found its home in a pot. Joe and Stacy were relatively new to Poolesville and hadn't yet had time to prepare their beds. Again, every summer, the bulb would put out one huge fern-like leaf, four feet tall with a four-foot spread, which would die back after the first frost. The winter would find the growing bulb in the basement with all the other plants that were not hardy. After four years, the bulb had grown to be the size of a volleyball and had broken through a plastic pot.

Fruition

This past January, Joe noticed a bud growing from the bulb. At first, he wondered if it was a leaf because the bulb had been placed near the furnace, but he realized it was, in fact, another bloom. The bulb was transferred to the enclosed porch. Friends and family were notified to be prepared to enjoy a wine, cheese, and cracker reception. From January through March, the bud grew until it got to be sixty-two and a half inches tall, nearly one inch per day. Unfortunately, the bloom didn't last anywhere near as long. "Once it flowers, everything happens very quickly," says Stacy. The odor lasted a day and a half, but it was an intense odor. Stacy says, "It started turning my stomach."

Perhaps we should all be happy it only blooms once every four or five years.

Interestingly, this wonderful odor draws the type of flies that is attracted to carrion—not just a few flies, mind you, but hundreds of flies. These flies then pollinate the flower. The flies go in and move the pollen around, then the flower stops smelling, rather suddenly.

The flower is a cousin to the jack-in-the-pulpits, but for those who may decide they want to partake of this, ahem, life-changing experience, they should take care not to confuse it with the *Amorphophallus titan* which recently bloomed at the U.S. Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C. That bloom's average size is eight or nine feet, and it smells ten times worse. Apty, its common name is corpse flower.

The Gardener

The question on everyone's lips is obviously: What kind of person grows flowers that smell like death? An avid gardener is the obvious answer—not that Joe grows *A. konjac* for its special aromatic quality, that was just a lucky side benefit.

The cobbler's children have no shoes is a familiar saying describing the common difficulty of doing at home for nothing, what one does day in and day out for a living. This cobbler saying translates itself into other professions, as well, but is there a correlating one for gardeners? If it exists, Joe doesn't know about it. One could say he's a gardener by profession—or one could simply say Joe is a gardener.

Joe grew up in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase area where his mother encouraged him to help her tend the garden, but, as he says, "I was most influenced by my grandfather." Visits to his grandparents' house in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania created fond memories of climbing the cherry tree to pick cherries and seeing his grandfather always putting (no, not golf) in



Joe Long and the Devil's Tongue. Is Joe breathing?

the garden. So impressed was he by his childhood gardening experiences, that most of his high school science fair projects involved growing things.

Upon graduating from North Carolina State University where he studied forestry and botany, Joe sought a job with a research facility. He ended up at a tropical plant store during the week and doing landscaping jobs on the weekends. Not surprisingly, the weekend jobs paid better than the work during the week, so Joe became a professional residential gardener.

After spending his days creating beautiful gardens for clients (he likes to promote "greenhouse effects landscaping" implementing a good use of the environment—yards that work, the right plant in the right place), he comes home to do more gardening because he loves it. This love is shared by Stacy, "I love it. It's so relaxing. It makes the day worthwhile."

Joe and Stacy are in the process of planting orchards and berries on their property and look forward to creating their summer tropical garden once the temperatures climb again. The excitement of the flower has passed. "It was very satisfying," says Stacy. "In a strange sort of way," concludes Joe. They have plenty to keep them busy while they wait four years for the next bloom.

"Joey Caywood" Continued
From Page 1—

work and organized their library. While in D.C., Joey met her husband, Jim Caywood (they're now celebrating thirty years together.. Jim is from Montgomery County, but when they met, he was attending Wake Forest University. He went there on a full scholarship for football and played the only year in history that they won the ACC. When they got married and moved to Dickerson, Joey worked as a tree digger for Stock Nursery in town. One day, while having lunch at Staub's with Mrs. Sears of the Beallsville Post Office, Mrs. Sears suggested that Joey take the test to work for the postal service.

From then on, Joey has been a proud member of the United States Postal Service. Her first job was at the Boyds Post Office. After that, she worked at post offices all over the county including Germantown, Poolesville, Glen Echo, and Rockville. For fifteen years, she was in and out of the Dickerson Post Office, and in 2001 came to Dickerson full time. In September 2003, Joey was made postmaster. She says, "I really like working in a small post office. It's like having your own business; there is always something to do."

It is a long day at the post office. Joey and her staff start the day at 6:00 a.m. They work on distribution and do transactions in the office. When the post office closes at 5:00 p.m., Joey does the finances and transmits the daily data. This is a six-day per week operation. When necessary, Joey even carries the mail. The Dickerson Post Offices has both fifty-five- and sixty-five-mile-long routes. This is no easy task, but Joey doesn't complain. In fact, she simply loves her job. "I'm a

people person, and I enjoy talking to people and helping them," she says.

Joey is not only loyal to her customers but also incredibly modest about her accomplishments. She attributes a lot of the kudos to the Dickerson Post Office to her staff of three: two letter carriers and a part-time clerk as well as the people in the neighborhood. Joey says, "I especially enjoy working in my own hometown, and after thirty years of seeing people in the grocery store and library, I put names to faces. There are so many nice people in the area. They are good to me and supportive of me."

In her spare time, Joey likes to travel with her girlfriends. She also loves to visit art museums in D.C. and New York. Joey and her husband have two daughters, one is a junior at Poolesville High School and the other attends Shepherd University in West Virginia. Visiting the Dickerson Post Office has its rewards because Joey's kindness will brighten your day.



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The Pulse

American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Poolesville

Let's Walk to Help Find a Cure

By Marcie Gross

Everybody has a story. Sometimes the story has a happy ending, and sometimes the story has a sad ending. Unfortunately, when you mention the word cancer, people, both young and old, seem to share a common thread. You see, people are touched by cancer every day. Fortunately, there is something positive that we can do to help find a cure and get rid of this horrible disease—a disease that is disguised in so many forms, yet affects every type of person.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 10. This will be the next historic date in our town. We will hold the first American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Poolesville. It is a fundraiser both to raise money to fight cancer and to raise awareness of cancer in the community. It is about celebration, remembrance, and hope. The relay will honor cancer survivors and pay tribute to the lives lost by this disease. Everybody has a story. Poolesville residents Chrissie Harney and Chontelle Hockenbery decided it was time to have the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life come to Poolesville. They participated last year at the relay in Damascus in honor of their mother Glenna Dorough. Unfortunately, Glenna lost her battle to liver and lung cancer on July 28, 2005. Chrissie and Chontelle are the co-chairs of this event and have brought it to life. Their committee has worked countless hours to make this relay in Poolesville a reality.

During the relay, teams will walk around the Poolesville High School track to raise money for the event. Teams consist of approximately fifteen people. The event will take place from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. the following morning. During this time, there will be entertainment including music, dancing, mascots from local sports teams, movies, games, food, and prizes for all ages.

Everybody has a story. Teams have formed, and people will walk for

various reasons. This disease has no boundaries. It takes the lives of grandmas, grandpas, moms, dads, aunts, uncles, sisters, brothers, and children. Children in our own community from Poolesville Elementary, John Poole Middle, and Poolesville High School have experienced and thankfully survived different forms of cancer from leukemia to brain cancer. The road has been hard for those families, yet the community has been supportive. Poolesville resident Cheryl Deitz shared her experiences with cancer in her family with me. She established a team to remember her dad and rejoice in her son's recovery. Cheryl says, "By walking in the relay and supporting this cause, it helps the healing. We can make a difference and make the world a better place."

When the sun goes down on June 10, hundreds of luminarias will be lit and a moment of silence will follow during the Ceremony of Hope. Luminarias are glowing bags that on first glance appear to be simply paper sacks filled with sand and candles; however, these bags represent people, each with a name and story. During the Ceremony of Hope, everyone gathers to remember those lost to cancer, support those fighting cancer, and rejoice with those who have fought the disease and won.

Montgomery County has five relays this year: Damascus, Olney, Poolesville, Rockville, and Silver Spring. For Poolesville and Olney, this is their first year. Chontelle and Chrissie are proud of what has been accomplished so far. "It is a learning year for us," says Chontelle, "and we only hoped that it would get this big. We've reached so many goals and will do even better in the years to come to raise money and awareness."

There are still ways you can help make Relay for Life of Poolesville a successful event. New teams and sponsors are welcome. There are currently fifty teams registered! In addition to walking to raise money, you can volunteer at the event, make a donation to the cause, and, of course, come and check out the relay. It is a great way for companies to get exposure, an excellent way for volunteers to meet other people, and for the community to unite to eliminate cancer. You'll quickly see why it means so much to so many.

The Poolesville Team's Mission Statement: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."



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Equestrian

A Little Girl Trades Her Wheels For Wings

By Debby Lynn

I was recently privileged to meet a little girl named Nicole who was learning to ride—and a great deal more. Like all of us who learned to ride, Nicole was receiving instruction on holding reins, steering, and sitting up. Her instructor's directions took me back to my early days, but unlike me, who simply walked up to my horse for my lesson, Nicole arrived at her horse's side with the aid of her walker. She had to muster impressive determination just to get there.

Nicole, and the nearly five hundred others who have been lucky enough to ride at Circle of Hope, is a person with a disability which would normally preclude her from participating in an active sport like horseback riding. Fortunately, Circle of Hope Therapeutic Riding Center is there for her.

Circle of Hope is the brain child of Leslie Shear. She began in 1996 at a leased barn in Poolesville. By 1998, her center was accredited by the North American Riding for the Handicapped

Association, better known as NARHA. Leslie is very much a part of NARHA and currently chairs their accreditation committee. In this capacity, she travels around the country to visit other centers and conduct peer reviews. The mark of a NARHA accredited

All volunteers go through a two-day training program, and all instructors are certified by NARHA. Leslie's extensive knowledge of the training needs of her students comes from the many seminars, workshops, and courses provided by NARHA. That and ten years



In the ring at the Circle of Hope Riding Academy.

program is evident at Circle of Hope. The wall of the tack room is covered with name buttons, one for each of the sixty-five well-trained and dedicated volunteers who help make a little girl's dream of riding horseback a reality.

of experience coupled with her special education background and a great deal of ingenuity make Leslie eminently qualified to direct Circle of Hope.

To a young person like Nicole, a riding lesson is a chance to bond with a

horse, do something her able-bodied friends would envy, and just have a great time riding, but a great deal of thought, planning, and coordination go into structuring her lesson. Lessons are either private or semi-private so that each student gets a therapeutic lesson exactly suited to his or her needs. Circle of Hope consults with the student's physical therapist, doctors, and family in preparing each student's program. While the students thoroughly enjoy their mounted games, each game has a specific therapeutic goal. Students typically improve dramatically in physical balance and control.

The horses of Circle of Hope are some of the most special equines I have ever met. Take "Sam I Am," for instance. She is a twenty-year-old paint mare, as kind as the day is long. She stands patiently while Nicole improves her coordination by catching bubbles while mounted. The arena looks like Lawrence Welk just left, but Sam doesn't mind. Each mount for the program is carefully chosen for suitability and lovingly cared for. Sam's red hide gleams with health and good grooming. I can almost see a pair of Pegasus wings gently arching over her back, wings of physical freedom for little Nicole.

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"Local News" Continued From
Page 4—

that a resident of the house told police investigators that Stoll had arrived at the house in mid-morning and asked for a ride. The resident went upstairs for a short time and when he came back downstairs he found Stoll unconscious on the floor. Fire and Rescue personnel arrived and determined that Stoll was deceased. An autopsy was ordered to determine the cause of death and the results were not available at the time of publication.

Stoll was a graduate of Poolesville High School. In 1999, he was awarded the Gold Medal for Bravery by the Boy Scouts for saving the life of a child who had fallen on rocks at Halmos Park and had severed an artery. Stoll, who had been arrested by the Montgomery County Police in relation to the string of armed robberies that affected the upper county in the fall of 2005 was free on bond and was due in court on May 9 to face the charges.

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Profiles

Betty Titus Watkins: Purveyor of Pie Diplomacy?

By Rande Davis

We most likely will never really know why Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon brought Lyndon B. Johnson to Titus's Tasty Cupboard in Poolesville. This much we do know, it was one of those few times that these two, oft adversarial politicians of the sixties, would heartily agree on something. What they agreed upon was that Betty Titus, owner of the restaurant, deserved her reputation for making fabulous pies.

In those days, political maverick Wayne Morse, owned a farm in Poolesville while representing Oregon in the Senate. Morse's political career gave the term "political maverick" definition. First elected to the U. S. Senate as a progressive Republican, he switched to being an Independent only to finally switch to being a Democrat at the request of LBJ. Later, this anti-communist crusader, who was vehemently opposed to the tactics of Sen. Joe McCarthy, became one of only two senators opposing the Johnson Administration on the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.

One might suppose Senator Morse bought a farm in Poolesville because it reminded him of his childhood upbringing in rural Wisconsin. For those who lived in the area and who recall Titus's Tasty Cupboard, there is no supposition as to why he liked eating at the popular restaurant that was located where Bassett's is today. He, along with everyone else in town, loved the home-cooked food prepared by Betty Titus Watkins. Many in the area still rave about her soups, coleslaw and potato salad, crab cakes, and her fried chicken. Her early morning baking of eight to ten pies a day brought the customers in from as far away as Rockville to buy them while they were still warm. The most popular pies are reputed to have been her apple crumb, pecan, and lemon meringue.

Betty honed her cooking talent at an early age in the culinary school of real life. The Blacksburg, Virginia native was just twelve years old when her mother passed away at thirty-seven years of age. It was at the start of the Depression, and Betty was the eldest girl of six siblings when this heartbreaking tragedy hit her family.

Four years later, when she was just sixteen years old, her dad moved the family to Boyds where he became a tenant crop farmer. While older brother, Luther, and younger brother, Johnny, would do what they could to help out as much as possible, the youngest boy, Harvey was just four years old when the family lost their mom. Sisters Nancy and Edna would also help out as much as they could, but it was Betty who had to grow up the fastest and take care of this family. This would be at a time when most teens her age would have nothing more to worry about than having fun in high school.



A younger Betty cutting pastry,

Using her gift for cooking, she took part-time work at the old Staub's Restaurant at the corner of Route 28 and Route 109 in Beallsville. (Amish Direct is located there today.) It was while working for Charlie and Micki Staub that she met her husband and the father of her two children, Joan and Jane.

As she and Jimmy Titus got married, he worked for the county. Later, she started her twelve-year career in the Poolesville High School cafeteria. They moved into their home in 1941, the very place she still resides today. The grand house is right in the center of town on the southern side to the left of Poolesville Tire and Automotive. The onetime doctor's home was built in 1840 and at another time it was the town's only drug store. She shares the residence today with her daughter Joan and son-in-law Bill Carroll.

As we sat in her living room filled with beautiful antique furniture, we could not help but be intrigued by the knowledge that such personal items were things she or her family bought long before they became antiques. The old Victrola phonograph in the corner used to be the family's main entertain-

ment center. It still works today, and Betty, on occasion, will put on an old album when doing one of her favorite pastimes—entertaining friends and family.

The last two years at the PHS cafeteria were her favorite since the county let her select the daily menu. "I was glad when they let me make the menu because I knew what the students and teachers liked the best." She adds, with firm emphasis, as if she were still caring for her family, "And the menus had to be balanced, and I knew how to balance the meals."

Her reputation for great pies started with the school cafeteria since she made fresh pies on a weekly basis. Her pies became so popular that when she went on vacation, she would have to make up a bunch of them and freeze them since the school didn't want to go even one week without one of her pies on the menu.

Betty Titus's life-long service to family and this community took a new direction in 1959 when she opened her well-regarded restaurant. She always refers to the restaurant as the lunchroom. Of course, it was

more than that since it served all three meals, six days a week. On Sunday, when others rested, she had to do the paperwork and the ordering.

Not that the business stopped her



Betty Titus Watkins:

from going to church. This life-long Baptist became an active member in the Memorial United Methodist Church since there was no Baptist church in town back in 1941. She got involved in the women's group and enjoyed being part of a church community service group called the Sunshine Class. When the Poolesville Baptist Church was finally established, Betty returned to her roots and rejoined the church of her youth.

—Continued on Page 21.

School News

Seneca Academy: Turning Experience into Knowledge

By Dominique Agnew

"I love to tell people about my school," exclaims Jodi Thurmond. Not only is she Head of School at Seneca Academy, but she is also the founder of the school—it's really her school.

Seneca Academy, between Darnestown and Poolesville near the corner of Routes 118 and 28, began in 1983 as Circle School, a preschool. Jodi, an experienced teacher already by this time, began Circle School in the basement of her Darnestown home for her third child and only daughter whom she felt needed a strong preschool. It didn't take long

—Continued on Page 26.





School News

Monocacy Elementary School Building a Canal Boat

The SGA is joining the C&O Canal Association and the Friends of Great Falls, both nonprofits, in their fund-raising efforts to build a new canal boat to run on the canal at Great Falls. The last running canal boat has been out of commission for several years due to several leaks. The SGA will be selling T-shirts with a C&O Canal Association-approved design drawn by Emily Durr. The shirts will sell for just \$10.00 each and are available in adult small, medium, large, and extra large. The SGA hopes to sell all 120 shirts ordered. For more information, call the school at 301-972-7990.

Have a Bucket of Fun

It's family fun night time again, and on April 28, all attendees will play bucket bingo (variation on a theme of basket bingo). The fun will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will last until 9:00 p.m. Cards are \$2.00 each, limit two per person. Call Lorraine Jones if you have any questions or if you want to donate a bucket or items for a bucket, 301-370-2089.

Juggling Alumni?

Former alumni jugglers are being sought for a juggling reunion on Sunday, May 21 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Monocacy Elementary.

Poolesville High School

Save the Date: May 25, 2006

PHS's own violin prodigy, Sandy Cameron, will be returning to her hometown to perform the third annual benefit concert. Proceeds will go towards the music programs of all the schools in the Poolesville cluster. Don't miss the exciting concert and amazing Silent Auction.

"Betty Titus Watkins" Continued From Page 20—

In 1967, tragedy struck again when her husband, James Titus, passed away. Her strong friendship with co-workers and employees, Leora Beitzel, Anna Heger, and Ethel Eader got her through much of the difficult days. The four were often traveling buddies. Betty has traveled the breadth of our country on three different occasions, preferring driving tours over airplanes. "I would rather drive and stop and see the things that interest me along the way." She has traveled to England, the Holy Land, Australia, New Zealand, Greece, and other parts of Europe as well.

For those who say they don't have time to volunteer to serve the town, just consider that this little lady in the midst of all these hard days of work also found the time to be a Poolesville Town Commissioner in the 1950s serving with Bill Bliss and George Hillard. The town was smaller in the fifties, of course. Ask her about what she thinks about all the changes, and she is very quick to say, "The development doesn't bother me. We have wonderful families who have come out here. I happen to live in the old part of the town, so the changes never really bothered me."

In 1972, she married her second husband, Wilfred Watkins, who was a real estate agent with the Jamisons. Mr. Watkins passed away in 1979. After selling the restaurant in 1978, Betty took a couple of years off and then came right back to serving the people in the community as a teller in what was then the First National Bank.

At eighty-eight, she is still very active and, as a trained hospice visitor, often visits those who are sick or bereaved. Naturally, she takes them food. It was only a couple of years ago that she drove herself to visit her daughter, Janie Hottler, in North Carolina.

Today, she is grateful to share her residence with her other daughter Joan Carroll and her family. She has taken up quilting and has finished sixteen quilts—one for each of her six grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren and one great, great grandson. She is now busy planning to complete two more for her two great, great grandchildren. When she completes that, she may finally surprise her two daughters and make one for each of them.

Betty fondly remembers the grand days of Titus's Tasty Cupboard. She recalls sharing the building with the Poolesville Post Office (where the bar is today) and with her dear friend, Vera Seymour, who ran a small dry cleaning business in a cubby space

between the two establishments. She recalls a day when Jimmy Carter stopped in and still marvels at how quickly word spread in town when LBJ came in. "As soon as Lyndon Johnson and Sen. Morse sat down, the place began to fill up quickly—the word spread so fast."

In the nearly six decades just past, Betty has been serving the town of Poolesville in one way or the other. We should remind ourselves to be grateful for people like her, and, if we are really, really lucky, someday we just might get a chance to taste one of those pies that have been duly recognized by the very highest level of authority in the U.S. government as worthy of their grand reputation.



Poolesville in the 1950s or 1960s showing Titus's Tasty Cupboard, to the right of the vehicle, at the left end of present day Bassetts. The original Selby's Market is next, in the present day Healthworks parking lot.

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"Dogwoods" Continued From Page 15—

advances in the knowledge of botany and zoology. Catesby is credited with identifying and illustrating in his *Natural History* the pink form of the flowering dogwood he found growing in Virginia.

The spring beauty of the flowering dogwood is both unique and contradictory. Unlike the lavish and showy, cotton candy-pink clouds of flowers of the cherry tree, the individual flower-bracts of the dogwood tree are comparatively large and coarse. Yet the overall picture is airy and delicate. The white of the "Cornus Aurora" is the color of dazzling, fresh snow. I have several spring-flowering trees in my yard: pear, crabapple, cherry and red bud. For me the true harbinger of spring is the simple and delicate dogwood tree. Stand back from a dogwood and notice that its horizontal, graceful branching habit is reminiscent of oriental artwork. Might this be another connection with its diplomatic cousin, the Japanese Cherry Tree?

In Monocacy Country, the two most popular species of the genus *Cornus* are *Cornus florida* and *Cornus kousa*. They are both ideal ornamental trees for home gardens, due to their moderate size (18 feet to 25 feet tall)

and general hardiness. The florida blooms before leafing out in spring. Many purist prefer the white flowered dogwood. The profuse bloomer, "Cloud Nine," has simple, but superb, large pure white flowers. It is also a good choice for our climate. For an added splash of color, there are rosy varieties of this species, but many believe that they are less hardy and more disease prone. The original pink dogwood, "Rubra" is charming, especially when interplanted with the white flowering species. Several years ago the red flowering dogwoods "Cherokee Chief" and "Cherokee Sunset" were introduced. This year White Flower Farm offers the new florida "Cherokee Brave." It is especially good for our area and is highly disease-resistant. While a small tree, it has an elegant, spreading form with large, white centered reddish-pink flower bracts with white tips. The leaves are tinted wine-red all season.

Even with the development of more hardy and disease-resistant varieties of the florida species, dogwoods are often afflicted with borers and fungal wilt. In the last ten or more years, dogwoods have been hit hard with anthracnose, a fungal disease. For this reason, many gardeners have turned to the Asia-native *Cornus*

kousa, which has proved to be a very hardy dogwood. He waits until June to produce his starry white flowers. Some of the best varieties include, "Summer Stars," free flowering from June to August and drought and pest resistant, and "Satomi," with luscious rose-toned flowers.

The recently introduced Stellar Series is a hybrid of the florida and *kousa* dogwoods; it is more floriferous, pest and disease-resistant and vigorous than its' North American or Chinese parents. It is highly resistant to anthracnose and borers. Blooming in late spring, it bridges the gap between the spring-flowering florida and the early-summer blooming *kousa*. Two good examples of this hybrid are *Cornus Aurora* with dazzling white bracts on an upright, but wide-spreading tree, and *Cornus Stellar Pink*. It sports solid masses of soft pink, large, round bracts.

In the proper location, dogwoods are fairly easy to grow and flourish in our area. Due to their propensity to borers and fungal damage, select young trees with high resistance to these two problems. In deciding upon a tree's location, keep in mind the dogwood's natural location preference. Walk through a wooded area and you will notice that dogwoods are

usually an understory tree. The best site would therefore have an acid soil, be well-drained and high in organic material. To do well, dogwoods like a lot of water. An annual layer of mulch will help in keeping the tree's shallow root system moist and protected from temperature extremes through the winter and summer seasons. Our summers can be quite dry, so it is important to water often to avoid wilt. I have six white dogwoods planted in "my middle earth garden area." They have lived there for about thirty years and have done well, up until several years ago. Dogwoods are not long-lived trees, so I am not surprised that several of the trees have more than a few dead branches.

I have called the dogwood a "tree for all seasons." Unlike many other flowering trees, the dogwood has year-round appeal. After the "flower bracts" have faded, the leaves unfold to a bronze-green to yellow-green. As summer approaches, they turn a dark green. For the fall season, the tree is clothed in leaves of red to reddish purple. The flowers of the dogwood are not the pink or white bracts; they are creamy yellow and borne in dense terminal clusters (heads) surrounded by white or pink, notched bracts. Each flower can produce a drupe (single seeded fruit). The fruit is a glossy red berry that forms in clusters of three or more. They ripen from September to October. Some can hang on until December, if not devoured by hungry birds. My dogwoods are planted in what I call "my bird village." There are several bird houses, feeders and baths scattered amongst the trees and flowers. In winter it is a treat to watch the bright red cardinals, the noisy blue jays and the timid finches flit from tree to tree to eat the red berries, which hang like bright Christmas balls from the bare limbs. For bluebird lovers, you should be pleased to note that the choice or favored berry of the bluebird is the flowering dogwood berry (*Cornus florida*). It is higher in lipids or fat content than many other berries, and it seems to withstand temperatures of fifteen degrees Fahrenheit and still remain red and edible for the birds.

In our area, late April to mid-May is a good time to plant dogwood trees. If your garden is small, a dogwood is a good choice due to its moderate size. If you have a larger space, a grove of dogwoods under planted with spring bulbs can be very attractive. This year, look to a dogwood to be a star in your garden.

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"Humble Chef" Continued From Page 12—

while stirring my cauldron of soup or stew. In my travels over the years, I have gathered quite a collection. In a small, beside the road artist's studio in southern Corsica, I found a lovely set of salad tongs made from brightly colored wood found on the island. My favorite spoon is a large, roughly hewed ladle I saw in an antique shop in the Cotswold, England. If Harry Potter was a cook, it looks like something he would enjoy using. I have a very small, light colored wooden spoon full of holes that I bought in Crete. I have yet to find much use for it. I suppose you could use it to drain a very small amount of petit pois.

How many times have you scrapped your fingers grating cheese with an old fashioned flat grater? I believe the best grater on the market is the one made by the Swiss company Zyllis. It is also ideal for grating nuts and chocolate. Simply place the food in the hopper, squeeze the handles together and turn the crank. It is easy to clean; just pop it in the dishwasher. It is attractive enough to place on the table for everyone to grate their own cheese.

Oxo makes very good small kitchen tools, such as vegetable peelers, plastic colanders and can openers. The handles are rubber clad for a sure grip. You might not use these next tools every day, but when you need

freshly squeezed lemon or lime juice, these citrus presses do an excellent job. They extract every bit of juice from citrus halves, separating out seeds, pulp and peel. Made out of cast aluminum, a bright yellow one for lemons and a green one for limes, they won't rust or react to the juice.

The next item is not a tool per se, but it comes in handy making soups, stews, gravies, stocks, risottos, stir fries and vegetable dishes. Williams-Sonoma offers demi-glace in flavors of veal, beef, chicken and wild game. It is a super concentrated reduction of stocks and seasonings, which have been simmered for more than twenty hours to achieve a rich taste and intense color. At \$29 for ten ounces, it might seem a little pricey, but a little goes a long way. All you need is a tablespoon or two. I keep a jar of the chicken and beef glace in the refrigerator. One opened, it can remain in the fridge for up to six months.

Last, but not least, I must have a good, large apron to cook. I feel naked without it. Literally, I am a hands-on cook. Instead of grabbing a paper towel or dishcloth, I wipe my hands on my apron. It is not meant to be clean after you cook. I have many aprons, in many colors, from many places, but my favorites are the generously-sized Williams-Sonoma ones. They have an adjustable neckband, roomy front pockets and long ties for tying around your waist twice. You can buy them in turquoise, lime, marigold yellow, orange, pink and a dozen other colors and designs. My special apron, which I wear on special occasions, is my white, button-up Chef's apron, personalized with Mrs. O.

Now that it is spring, do a little cleaning in your kitchen. Buy some new "gadgets" to make your cooking more fun and professional. If you don't like to cook, you can at least have a cook's kitchen.

Mike Aldrich is the PGA Head Golf Professional at Poolesville Golf Course. He is a protégé of Manuel De La Torre, one of Golf Magazine's Top 50 Teachers. Mike is a highly sought instructor, working with some of greater D.C.'s top amateurs and PGA professionals. Poolesville Golf Course offers a great golf course, top quality merchandise, and a home for your outing groups. The facility is only thirty minutes from Gaithersburg, Rockville,

Golf Tips with Mike Aldrich

The Secret to Great Golf

There is a secret that many good golfers use to play solid golf. Most beginning golfers have no clue that playing better golf hinges on a single secret. In this article, not only will I reveal the secret, but I will tell you the exact path to apply it to your own game!

You know the three Ls of real estate: Location, location, and, oh yeah, location. Golf has the same thing, only with the letter C: Commit, commit, commit.

Now you may be thinking, Mike should be committed — committed to an institute of mental health. You may be right! However, I am speaking of a golfer's ability to make a concrete decision about the type of golf shot that he or she intends to hit, and then sticking to that decision. Second-guessing will surely lead to disaster.

Think about the last time you came up really short on a pitch shot. I know that in my case, I took several practice swings, looked at the target, took my backswing, decided that it was too big, and tried to ease off on the forward swing. There it was, a disaster, instead of the ball popping up

on the green, it landed in the bunker with a resounding thud and a poof of sand.

Review your last round and think about how many shots you botched by second-guessing yourself. Consider putts that you "reread" in mid-stroke, drives struck with fear of the shot veering off line, and all those chips and pitches that only went half of the distance to the hole. I can almost guarantee you that three-fourths of those problem shots were due to a lack of commitment.

Now, with the diagnosis complete, how should you treat your affliction? It is a matter of keeping score. Next time you hit the links, keep score by evaluating every single shot on a scale of one to ten. A perfect ten means that you were totally committed to the shot; a one would indicate a shot that was filled with as much fear and doubt as the groom at a shotgun wedding. Do not keep track of your actual score. Focus on maximizing your level of confidence with each shot.

After the round, review your commitment scorecard to see if there is a correlation between committing to your shot and hitting a good shot. You will be pleasantly surprised by the results.

Local News

FY 2007 Budget Passed in Midst of Controversy

By Rande Davis

With a requirement that the FY 2007 town budget be passed by May 1, 2006, the Poolesville Town Commissioners wrestled with a problem of what to do with a \$675,000 expenditure that may become unnecessary.

The commissioners easily handled the issue of reducing the property tax rate from .22 cents per \$100.00 to .20 cents in order to maintain a constant yield of \$977,000.00 from property taxes. The hard part concerned an issue of what to do with the \$675,000 set aside for possible treatment for well contamination. Commissioner Tom Dillingham raised the concern about the line item expenditure should the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) determine that additional well treatment is not necessary.

The issue with well water began last year, when, through a process of quarterly testing for water quality, alpha emitters (naturally occurring particles that emit alpha radiation) showed an apparent elevation in Wells #9 and #10. The increase was not above the safe drinking range, but anytime there is a recorded increase in the level, retesting is required. At the same time, Well #7 showed a possible

level slightly above the acceptable level of 15 pc/L at 16.1. Since the problem could be in the testing process itself, retesting of the wells was the recommended action. Wade Yost, Poolesville town manager, stated, "We decided to shut #7 down just to play it safe until the retesting results could be complete. We are awaiting the MDE response to retesting, but it won't be finalized before our required time to pass the budget. Wells #9 and #10 were never reported to have reached an unsafe range."

As the process to complete the 2007 budget began, how to budget for possible corrective action became an issue. The estimated \$675,000 for corrective action was placed in the budget so that in the event retesting continued to show a problem with the wells, the money to solve the problem would be available.

Commissioner Dillingham was concerned that keeping the money in the budget should treatment not become necessary could have the appearance of a "slush fund" for pet projects. The town maintains an ongoing cash fund of \$850,000 to protect against any unforeseen emergency. Should the town then keep the additional "unused" \$675,000 on the books, it might appear that they have a \$1.5 million cash reserve fund. Commissioner Link Hoewing shared Dillingham's concern and recommended an amendment that would require that either a one-time property

tax rate reduction (for FY 2008) or tax credit toward proposed water and sewer rate increases could be used to offset the potentially unnecessary line item.

Commissioner Roy Johnson felt that the money, if not necessary for well treatment, could then be used to fund a series of unfunded projects that have been on the books for years. Mr. Johnson maintained that such projects should either get funding or be removed from the budget altogether, and that the proposed amendment would inadvisably tie the hands of future commissioners. He stated, "If these unfunded projects are not completed when we finally have the funds, why are we even keeping them in the budget." With both Dillingham and Johnson up for re-election this fall, it is possible that after next fall's election, the commission membership could change.

In the end, an amendment requiring that any unused funds slated for well treatment would not be used to fund other projects, and that a formula to reallocate the funds back to the taxpayer passed 3-2. (Final wording of the amendment was not available at press time.) Commissioners Johnson and Kuhlman voted against the amendment preferring to leave flexibility on the issue to town commissioners in the future. With the discussion finished, the commissioners then voted in favor of the budget.

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"St. Peter's" Continued From
Page 7—

Bishop Chane visited St. Peter's again the week before this issue came out, admired their progress (huge piles of dirt, new pond, big hole), and spoke to the overall value of the endeavor. Bishop Chane discussed the growing populations of western upper Montgomery County with Clarksburg, Germantown, and Darnestown all increasing their populations. He noted the need for more facilities to fulfill the church's mission, and that as it is difficult to get new churches built, it is vitally important for churches such as St. Peter's to expand to meet their community's needs.

In a discussion with the *Monocle*, Reverend Steve Hayward, who is retiring from St. Peter's this spring, reminded us that no less a person than King David wanted to build his temple but was unable to complete the job, and when it was eventually built, it was Solomon's Temple. Mr. Hayward observed that these things don't get done until the time is right. It appears that for St. Peter's Parish, that time has finally arrived.

Editor's Note: The author of this article is a member of St. Peter's Parish and its Building Committee.

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Police Blotter Past and Present



By Jack Toomey

Present

Montgomery County Police are issuing their yearly warning about crimes that tend to occur in the warmer months. Burglaries to homes with open and unlocked garage doors always increase this time of year because residents tend to leave doors open after lawn mowing and other yard chores. Burglaries also happen when older citizens are working in the yard. Transient criminals notice this and enter the homes by unlocked doors and loot the house of cash and jewelry. In some cases, a ruse is used to gain entry to the house and then the elderly resident is distracted while a confederate steals property.

Home improvement scams also increase this time of year where men offer to resurface driveways, insist on payment with cash, and use substandard material. Others offer to inspect the roof, sometimes at the home of an elderly resident, and then charge an exorbitant price for repairs that are not needed. Beware of anyone going door to door offering to do home improvements.

The 2005 crime statistics were released this week, and while overall crime increased by about one percent, some interesting data was also included.

There were 19 homicides in 2005 and 16 were closed by arrest and a warrant has been issued in another. In two thirds of the cases, the victim

knew his/her attacker.

There were 150 rape cases reported and in 110 of the cases, the victim knew her attacker. Alcohol or drug usage was involved in 41 of the cases.

Fatal accidents decreased from 60 in 2004 to 38 in 2005.

Fatal accidents where alcohol was involved decreased from 18 to 10.

April 12. Police arrested Janice E. Kollie, of Bethesda, and Desiree G. Gibson, of Owings Mills, Maryland and charged them with a theft scheme that had been ongoing at the Montgomery County Teachers Federal Credit Union. Both were charged with Theft by Scheme, Identity Theft, and other charges.

April 15, 2:30 a.m. Rape. A Poolesville woman reported that she had been raped inside her residence by a man that she knew. The suspect's identity is known and the investigation is continuing.

Past

April 28, 1903. The residence of Albert Meem, the agent of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at Gaithersburg, took fire at about 10:00 and was entirely consumed with most of its contents. Fire was discovered under the kitchen roof by a servant who gave the alarm.

May 2, 1955. Montgomery County Police accused a young mother of abandoning her three-month-old baby in the restroom of a Rockville gas station. The woman, age 22, said that the infant was putting a strain on her marriage.

May 4, 1904. For the third time in four years, the First National Bank at Sandy Spring

was visited by cracksmen about 1:30 in the morning. As in former attempts, they were unsuccessful in securing any plunder. Armed citizens gave battle to the robbers who were five in number.

May 5, 1923. In Frederick, Maryland, Robert Burns, alias Beaner, entered the grocery store of Frederick Main and shot the clerk twice. Burns rifled the cash drawer of its contents, sixteen dollars, and fled only to be captured by Frederick officers. He admitted to the crime saying he was "broke."

May 5, 1964. A man and his wife were freed after a peoples court hearing on charges that they killed a neighbor during a fight at a party in their Poolesville home. The court ruled that the deceased man was in a drunken rage and choked one of the guests and threatened the homeowner before he was shot. Witnesses said that the deceased man went home to get his shotgun, and when he returned, he was shot by the homeowner. The judge ruled that the case was one of justifiable homicide.

May 9, 1939. A severe rain and electrical storm struck Frederick County killing livestock, felling electric poles and trees, and flooding streams. Five valuable cows on the farm of C. J. Stump were killed when lightning struck a tree under which they were standing.

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**"Seneca Academy Continued
From Page 20—**

to outgrow the basement, and Circle School rented space in Darnestown Presbyterian Church and Fairhaven Methodist Church. In 1998, the property on Route 118 was purchased and a new school was built—Circle School became Seneca Academy, and by adding one grade per year, the school now covers pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Because the expansion is so recent, Seneca Academy is still thought of as a preschool. It is, in fact, the largest preschool in the state of Maryland.

While the preschool part of the school is based on the traditional part-time nursery school model, the fundamental theory behind Seneca Academy is active hands-on education with some of the curriculum developed in house. The key to the hands-on education premise lies in small class sizes. With Jodi's background teaching preschool through college, even teaching teachers how to teach, she knew it was impossible to use the hands-on approach with a large class, and the student-teacher ratio at Seneca Academy tends to be about ten to one. The active education approach at Seneca Academy is "a good vehicle

for all children to learn." The teacher can make accommodations to meet the individual needs of the students, and the students tend to work above grade level.

Jodi emphasizes that children love to learn. She says, "The children here like school." She also emphasizes that Seneca Academy is "a school that writes." Children begin writing at age four, and they begin typing in the second grade. Every year, each grade produces and publishes its own book, a compilation of stories written throughout the year. "They write all the time," adds Jodi.

The motto of Seneca Academy is: Turning Experience into Knowledge. This is implemented not only in the classroom through its arts program and its strong writing program, but outside of the classroom, as well. The seven-acre property is becoming an outdoor extension of the classroom through the efforts of the whole school, staff and students. "We really believe in children being part of their own learning," says Jodi, they are invested in their education, they are involved and responsible. The students use all of the property for a science lab, and they have classes outside. Close to the playground, they have created a "classroom" of large stones

called sitting rocks. "The sitting rocks are so special to the kids," says Jodi. Nearby are a gazebo, a dry stream bed, and a wildlife pond. Recently, students had an overnight event that included cooking their hobo dinners outside. All the kids have been working on the grounds to create a "schoolyard habitat" to be certified by the National Wildlife Federation; this is just the beginning.

There is something else rather special about Seneca Academy. While talking to Jodi Thurmond and visiting the school, I was lucky enough to hear it: the school song. A few years ago, Jodi's daughter, the one for whom the school was founded, asked her mother if there was a school song—there wasn't. "I'll write one," she said, and she did. "Oh Seneca!" is sung by the students every morning.

It has become evident that the students leave the school with fond memories because now Seneca Academy is beginning to have children come to the school whose parents were former students. One of the philosophies of Seneca Academy is that the parents be involved and committed to the educational program at the school. What could be more committed than multiple generations continuing the tradition?

**"Alden Farms" Continued From
Page 11—**

Alden Farms customers.

Dave offers unique home and garden items such as high-end gardening tools, weather vanes, picture frames, jewelry, figurines, framed prints, and music cds. There is also the most diverse collection of statuaries and birdbaths. All items range from traditional to modern—clearly something for everyone. Alden Farms also offers garden furniture. Dave loves to do design work, too. He offers origi-

nal custom garden designs in his side business, David Therriault Designs. Full designs include on-site consultation, a garden plan, plant list, and hardscape description. In addition, this is the first year that Alden Farms has been a part of the Countryside Artisans Spring Studio Tour.

Their website, designed by Dave's wife, Sandy, sums up their business. It says, "Alden Farms is a gardener's haven. We're not sure why, perhaps it's the setting, perhaps it's Dave's style, but people love to shop at Alden Farms." It's so true.

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Youth Sports

PHS Boys' Tennis: The Quiet Sport

By Rande Davis

Poolesville High School teacher, Jon Rogers, hadn't thought about coaching tennis until some team members asked him to be their coach. He had just finished a highly successful season as the varsity golf coach (division champs) and, although he had never coached tennis before, decided he would be willing to give it a try.

His tennis experience consisted mostly of recreational play and, even at that, it was not very recent. Then again, he has been active in competitive racquetball so the "leap of faith" was not that broad. He reasoned, "While the sports are different, the mindset and strategies are very similar."

Attending a high school tennis match is completely different than most any other teen sporting event. There are very few spectators, no cheerleaders, and no sounds except the occasional "grunt of the serve or shot" and the ongoing thump-thump of the ball. Even in a golf match, fel-

low players can watch your shots and provide some comforting encouragement prior to the next hole.

The challenge in coaching tennis is even more demanding since up to five matches are going on at any one time. For the tennis coach, forget about the typical "storming onto the



The lonely sport?

pitcher's mound" you might see in baseball or the stomping of feet and flaying of arms in a basketball game. The tennis coach, who has to stand outside the courts with his face to the

fence, can only watch one match at a time. He can only hope his exhortations and instructions can be heard by the right player as he shouts instructions through the wire fence. There are up to four single matches or three doubles play going on at any one time.

Although the team is young and needing more experience, the season looks very promising to the coach. Stephan Des-sel, (#1) single player, is only a tenth grader and Scott Kirtland (#3) is in eleventh grade. Both are returning veterans from last year's team which finished second in the division for

the year. Second and fourth singles are Sharat Buddahavarapu (ninth grade) and Daniel Elehadieh (ninth grade).

The doubles teams are made up of first seed: Xi Chen (senior) and

Prashanth Reddy (senior). Second seed team is Wences Shaw-Cortez (sophomore) and Justin Koeln (junior). Doubles competition is completed by Ethan Trope (sophomore) and Tony Kallarackal (junior). The boys' team is complete with alternates junior Andrew Bender, sophomore Kevin McCarthy, junior Allan Stevens, and sophomore Enrique Zaldivar. This already young team has added two strong freshmen in Etlehadieh and Buddahavarapu. The team gets great support and help from its team managers, Sarah Minkoff and Vavara Zemskova.

Coach Rogers has strong expectations for the team even though they are very young because of the progress they are making even on a daily basis.

Rogers, a University of Maryland graduate, is in his third year of teaching biology in the GESP program, he also teaches anatomy and physiology. He holds two master's degrees. One is in teaching from Johns Hopkins University and the other is in Kinesiology (the study of the activity of muscles, and the functioning, mechanics, and structures of the body parts involved in movement) from the University of Maryland.

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