

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

July 21, 2006

Volume III, Number 9



Our State of the Garden report is on page 5.



The Daytripper stays local on page 6.



A young Doug May in front of the gas station on what was then Route 240, and is now Route 355. Read all about it in Focus on Business on page 22.



Hilary Schwab

Great fun on the Fourth of July. See all the pictures on page 14.

Montgomery County During World War II

By Jack Toomey

In 1941, most of the population of Montgomery County was concentrated in the lower portion of the county. The majority of the people lived in Bethesda, Silver Spring, Takoma Park, and Rockville. The populace had been cautiously watching the actions of the Nazis in Germany, the Japanese in the Pacific, and had been forewarned by the United States government about the possibility of war. In fact, during the last week of November 1941, six Montgomery County police officers had been sent to a special school run by the FBI which gave instruction on the handling of unexploded bombs, investigation of



Sam Rice, retired Washington Senator player, shows Japanese internees around his farm.

sabotage and espionage, making reports of air raids, blackout duties, and even the management of barrage balloons.

Poolesville's American Elm: Down but Not Out!

By Rande Davis

The very heavy rains and winds had come and gone and you would not have blamed Tom Evans of Elgin Road in Poolesville if he thought he had "weathered the storm." Then late on the evening of July 5, the front porch of the home was nearly destroyed when a large section of the historic American elm in his front yard split from the trunk and came crashing down close enough to take out the Maryland and United States flags but not causing any other significant damage.

Tom, his wife, Betty, and their three children, Tom, Andrew, and Caitlin, were home at the time and were grateful no one was in the front yard at the time.

The grand home, which is on the side opposite from Jon's video on Elgin Road, has seen nearly one hundred and twenty years of foul weather and is currently undergoing a fresh painting and restoration on the outside. The original owner, St. Peter's Parish, built the home in the 1880s for its rector at the time, the Rev. Henry Thomas.



Tom Evans and his American Elm tree.

How old is the American elm? Mr. Evans is not quite sure, but the following paragraph, which is taken from St. Peter's Parish archives, says this about the house: "On March 10, 1880, the Vestry appointed a committee to build a rectory, a two-story frame house, forty by thirty feet, for \$1,200.00. The site of this rectory is three acres of ground, on the Poolesville-Beallsville road, which includes a lawn with fine shade trees, a garden space, and a small field to the rear." We can only wonder if the now halved elm is one of those shade trees.

On the afternoon of December 7, 1941, some county residents were listening to the broadcast of the Washington Redskins game against the Philadelphia Eagles which was being played at Griffith Stadium. During the first half, the broadcast of the game was interrupted by a bulletin about the attack on Pearl Harbor. Strangely, even though military officers and government officials were being paged, the fans at the stadium were not informed about the attack. Bill Broschart, a retired Montgomery County police officer who is eighty-eight years old, was recently interviewed, and he recalled that he was on duty, was called into the Rockville headquarters, and saw his sergeant behind a desk where three shortwave radios were tuned to commercial stations. Sgt. Bodmer said, "Boys this is bad, we have been attacked." Mr. Broschart said that he was sent back onto the street with the instructions to "look for Japanese." Later that evening, the county police answered several calls from citizens in the lower county who were frightened by two men who were driving around blowing their car horn and ordering people to turn off their lights in their homes. The next day, the county government established command centers in the three existing police stations. In addition, trusted citizens of the county, such as judges and elected officials, were appointed as air raid warden commanders. They then began recruiting other civilians as air raid wardens. On the afternoon of December 9, a report was received that New York City was threatened by an imminent air attack. Judge Christopher, who was in charge of the command center at Bethesda, alerted the county police and ordered the schools closed. Police cars were dispatched to Bethesda Chevy Chase High School and Our Lady of Lourdes School in Bethesda. By the time that the report proved false, the students had gone home. The same alert caused the postponement of a murder trial in Rockville. County police

-Continued on Page 17.

Family Album

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The Park police came to the Whalen Commons summer concert series to bring their message of service to the community.



Lt. Governor Michael Steele brought his campaign for the United States Senate to Frederick's AMVET picnic grounds. Greeting him are Frederick County Commissioner John Lovell and State's Attorney Scott Rolle, a candidate for State Attorney General.

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Center Stage

Something Magical

By Dominique Agnew

When Janet Hartz's husband Gary was told that their stay on the East Coast would only be for two years, they decided that two years wouldn't be so bad—that was twenty-nine years ago. The Hartzes are still in Poolesville, the town to which they moved when told to head east. "I think had we not landed in Poolesville," muses Janet, "we would have gone back."

Gary and Janet grew up in Gary, Indiana and have known each other since the second grade. They weren't technically high school sweethearts, though, since they didn't go on their first date until the senior prom—but the point of this story isn't Janet's love life, after all, it's about her life of music.

She attended the University of North Dakota playing the clarinet in their wind ensemble, earning her B.S. in music, vocal and instrumental for grades one through twelve. "I always thought I would teach high school," she remarks, "but really enjoyed teaching young children."

Gary and Janet married while in college, then they did a little bit of moving for Gary's work with the U.S. Public Health Service. They were briefly in Chicago before living on a Navajo Indian reservation in New Mexico. Their first two children

were born there. For the three years there, Janet taught piano privately, mostly to high school students and adults.

The next three years found the Hartzes in Ketchikan, Alaska. Their third child was born there. Janet again taught piano privately. Alaska may sound like a forbidding place to live, but Ketchikan is located in the southeast, not far from Seattle. "It rained 183 inches the first year," Janet says, but it was so much fun, "we didn't want to leave." Leave they did, temporarily they thought, so that Gary could pursue his master's at Stanford University in California. In 1977, Gary completed his master's, and they were offered that life-changing two-year position.

Not only did the move change the Hartz family, it changed the Poolesville community—for the better. The year the Hartzes moved to Poolesville, the children attended preschool at Butler School, then known as Montessori Country School. The second year, Janet offered to teach to help with tuition payments. She taught music, she directed plays, and she taught piano privately at the school. She really enjoyed being able to teach piano during the school day, the children were not tired as they can be in the evenings—but the plays were the highlights of her years at Butler. Of teaching, Janet says it must be the most rewarding career possible. "Every day you can impact somebody, and every day they impact you."

This year, after twenty-eight

years at Butler School, she retired. In some ways, it has been very difficult to leave. She would ask herself, "How can I not do this anymore?" As the year passed, knowing that she was retiring, it became the best year she ever had. "You have to stop some time," she says. "Why not stop when you're having fun?" She now looks forward to being able to travel with Gary, helping her daughters with their children, and playing the piano for the fun of it.

Others in the community have known Janet for her position as choir director and music director at Poolesville Memorial United

Memorial Church. She has served her church in that capacity for so long, she's no longer sure when she started. She sang for many years and then directed the junior choir before becoming director of the traditional choir, the Chancel Choir. Although the choir is small, thirteen to twenty singers who volunteer their time, they still are able to perform special pieces. They sing cantatas on a regular basis, especially at Christmas and Easter.

"Music is full of magic," Janet says. "A week doesn't go by without something magical happening."



Janet Hartz

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Letter to the Editor

Thank you for the article you wrote on the fire that occurred at my home on Memorial Day. I was a little surprised at your statement that I was not available for comment. I was there the entire time. I was the one standing in absolute disbelief as I watched the frenzy around me. I was the one openly weeping as I watched smoke start to flow from the roofs of all my neighbors, thinking that their homes had also caught fire. I was the one friends and strangers alike walked up to, hugging me, asking what they could do, or what I needed. I was there, Mr. Davis, I was there.

What you reported was basically true. I had been burning a fire in my fireplace. Here are some details you do not know. I was sitting ten feet from my fireplace as it burned just as it has on many occasions. There was nothing unusual: no smoke, no funny sounds coming from the chimney, nothing to indicate a problem at all. I looked up and saw a small brown patch about the size of a business card on the wall just below the mantle. I got up and touched the wall, which was blazing hot. I knew something was terribly wrong, but wasn't sure what it was. I called the fire department. I got my dog out of my house and went to Mr. Ferrell's house, who is a

dear friend as well as a neighbor. I told him I did not know what was wrong, but that I had called the fire department and I thought he should leave his home, which he did.

I then went to the home of my other neighbor, Boris Seckinger, who did not answer his front door. I knew he was home, so I went around the back. As I turned the corner, he looked up and told me my house was on fire. I told him I had already called the fire department and they were on their way. Boris, bless his heart, jumped up on the ATV in his backyard and stood with his garden hose pouring water into my chimney until the fire department units came. I believe he may very well have kept that fire from spreading to the other homes attached to mine. The neighbors behind me later told me that they also were attempting to spray their hose into the chimney as well.

I am so grateful for the fire department and their quick response to this horrible situation. They moved quickly and contained the fire, and thankfully, no one was hurt. I am also grateful for many people I know who came out to be with me during the fire, and for the love and support of my family, my friends, and total strangers in the aftermath.

The fire marshal that came to the fire, Lt. Brian Anderson, as well as the

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man who came to determine the origin of the fire, whose name, I unfortunately, am unable to recall, both told me that there are a significant number of fires involving one piece, prefabricated fireplaces in our community, just like the one that was in my home. They said it wouldn't have mattered what time of year I used that fireplace; the fire was unforeseeable, and it was just a matter of time before it happened. Frighteningly enough, that means anyone in our community who has one of these fireplaces is at risk of having the same thing happen in their homes. Unless they take the time and money to have their fireplaces inspected and repaired if necessary, theirs could be a disaster waiting to happen.

I bought my home from two Montgomery County firefighters. I am sure that if they had any idea that there was a problem, they would have either had it corrected or closed it up. The first time I even heard about the hazards with these fireplaces was when I spoke to Lt. Anderson after the fire. My fireplace has been maintained properly with cleanings and proper care. Yet, still, this happened.

It isn't enough for the fire department to be concerned about the use of these fireplaces. If homeowners aren't

aware of the danger, they won't know to have their fireplaces fixed. Now is the time for the fire department to speak to people about the danger, before the cooler weather comes and the fireplace usage increases. I would be very happy to volunteer my time to go with members of the fire department to tell people what happened at my home, so that other people can take the steps necessary to prevent a disaster like this in the future.

This has been a very traumatic situation, but I believe that God has a plan for everything that happens to us in this life. I know that He will use this for my good and his glory. I hope others will benefit from hearing about what happened and find out what they need to do in order to spare themselves and their families the same trauma.

This community has been a tremendous support during a very difficult time, and I want to thank everyone for their outpouring of love. It really is the love and support of family, friends, and total strangers that helps us walk through these times. The Poolesville community has truly risen to the occasion. Thank you very, very much.

Sincerely,
Nancy Swank



In the Garden

The State of the Garden

By Maureen O'Connell

**Mary, Mary quite contrary,
How does your garden grow?
With silver bells and cockle shells
And pretty maids all in a row.**

This seemingly innocuous old English nursery rhyme is steeped in history and blood. The Mary alluded to in this rhyme is reputed to be Mary Tudor, or Bloody Mary. She was the daughter of King Henry VIII, and, as Queen Mary, was a staunch Catholic who persecuted those Englishmen who continued to adhere to the Protestant faith. The "garden" is a reference to the graveyards where she sent many Protestant martyrs. The "silver bells and cockle shells" were instruments of torture. The "maids" was a device to behead people. It was not very efficient; it could take up to eleven blows to sever the head. An improvement was the guillotine. Now, since this is a gardening column, we shall have to look at this rhyme in its literal interpretation. I hope that Monocacy Mary's rhyme does not end in these words: "With weeds and mildew and blackspot, and hungry beetles all in a row."

This year the garden has endured a mixed bag of weather. Just like the 2006 Chelsea Flower Show, we went from drought to deluge. If you watered your plants enough, May and early June were the best of times in many years for flowers, especially roses. The weather was cool enough for young plants and just-budding roses to get a good start. The lack of rain and an early schedule of spraying with a fungicide stopped fungal diseases from getting a foothold. Then, towards the end of June, the entire East Coast was hit with torrential rains. The daily weather forecasts, well into early July, called for thunderstorms and high temperatures.

So Mary, how does your garden grow? I hate to brag, but I must admit that, for mid-July, my vegetable and flower gardens are doing very, very well. The roses are loaded with buds; and the white impatiens at the feet of the rose bushes are huge and lush; the foxgloves, in the shade of the rugosa roses are tall and fresh-looking; the calla lilies are elegant; the gerbera daisies are still blooming, and the lav-



ender is sheer perfume. The temperamental delphiniums are still thriving, while the Oriental Lilies are over seven feet tall. Now, the garden doesn't do this all alone; I spend a couple of hours each weekday and three to four hours every Saturday and Sunday spraying, fertilizing, dead-heading, weeding, and watering.

The Japanese beetles arrived on July 1, right on schedule. I am not a big fan of insecticides, but with the beetles, there is no other solution, especially if you have over one hundred rose bushes. Hand picking and dropping them in a jar of soapy water is not practical. When the infestation is high, which it is now, I have to spray with a systemic insecticide every three to four days. On my morning and evening walks in the garden with Max and Sam, I carry my pruner to dead-head and a spray bottle of insecticide to spot kill any newly-arrived beetles.

This has been a good summer for daylilies; they are blooming everywhere. If we have another dry spell, water them well. Their fronds will quickly yellow and turn brown, and there will be little flower production if they don't have enough moisture. The salvia in Molly's Garden is out of control. It is huge and spreading and is threatening to smother

his neighbor, Mr. Rose. The bees are having a feast on their deep purple flower heads. Coreopsis 'Moonbeam' is in his second year and looks light, airy, and cheerfully lemon-yellow. Tucked in between 'Moonbeam's' small flowers are several Lady's Mantle plants (*Alchemilla mollis*). Its frothy, chartreuse flower sprigs add an interesting touch to flower arrangements. Try adding variegated hosta leaves and other foliage to bring in a three-dimensional look to flower bouquets.

In the Upper Garden, the Oriental Lilies are putting on quite a show. 'Casa Blanca,' 'Leslie Woodriff,' 'Scheherazade,' and 'Silk Road' are up to seven feet tall with ten to twelve flowers on each stem. They all produce strong stems that need little support. The front of the border is decadent with the intoxicating scent of 'Stargazer' lilies. I planted four bulbs several years ago, and now they have more than quadrupled. There are ten to fifteen luscious pink and white flowers on three-foot tall, thick stems. There is no other scent like it in the flower world. If you only add one plant to your garden this fall or spring, make it an Oriental Lily. She is truly the queen of flowers. I should qualify that by saying that she shares that distinction with the rose.

The Upper Garden is becoming a victim of too-lush growth thanks to the wonderful state of the soil. It shows what a difference a well-prepared flower bed can make. The garden is quickly becoming over-planted. The phlox 'David' is getting smothered by the roses 'Queen Elizabeth' and 'Heritage.' The peonies can only peek out from the spear-like fronds of the irises.

As we get further along into sum-

mer, we often enter a dry period. By now the root systems of annuals and perennials have completely developed and they need lots of water to carry them through the next several months. The water from an occasional afternoon thunder shower is not enough to make a difference. Watering is not a science, but there is a right way and a wrong way to water your garden. Early morning is the best time to water. The objective is to provide moisture to the roots, rather than to lightly sprinkle the foliage. If possible, run a soaker hose into the flower bed and leave it there with a slow, constant flow of water. If you water in mid-day, you may scorch the plants' leaves and you lose more than fifty percent of the water to evaporation. If you are the gardener who goes out after dinner and spends fifteen minutes spraying the plants from overhead, don't bother. You are wasting your time and water, and you are only watering the leaves which encourages the development and spread of foliar diseases.

If you have been negligent about fertilizing your plants, now is a good time to add some 5-10-5 fertilizer to your flower beds. Most plants start to fade about now; a shot of fertilizer

-Continued on Page 20.

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Day Tripper

Down on the Farm

By Rande Davis

This Daytripper is not readily available in most areas but is one that really defines the Monocacy region. In celebrating our grand agricultural heritage, the 2006 Farm Tour Harvest Sale offers a two-day opportunity for every family to give their kids something every child should have: the memory of visiting the farm.

This annual event is scheduled for the weekend of July 22 and 23, rain or shine, with the farms open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There are thirteen stops along the way but a few are only open on Saturday.

Think of this as a grand festival spread out among the scenic country roads throughout the area. This time you don't have to be in a rush to get to a specific destination, so enjoy the beauty of the countryside as you drive from one farm to another.

We think the children will especially enjoy seeing and petting the variety of farm animals – some traditional and some not so traditional.

One not-so-traditional animal can be found at Blue Ribbon Alpaca Breeding. Seeing these unique creatures, which produce a fine fiber comparable to cashmere, will be fun for everyone and the parents will like visiting the boutique of various products and yarn.

The rain has been good and the fruits are ready for pickin' and eatin'. At Butler's Orchard and Homestead Farm you can pick your own. This is the perfect time of year for peaches, so don't miss going to Lewis Orchard. Since the family has owned and operated the farm since 1888, you know that they've got it down to perfection. They also have the full variety of seasonal vegetables (love that sweet corn!).

Phillips Farm in Germantown will give kids the special thrill of hayrides, pony rides, and they have many friendly farm animals to pet. You may want to pick some fresh flowers while you are there.

Not on the schedule but on the path is Plum Stuff. This boutique offers handcrafted, sculptured tables (Mexican tile) and furniture and other decorating accessories. If you go, tell you her you want some free chocolate. She promises us she will give it to

you. If you plan your trip so you are there around lunchtime, the Comus Inn is just a mile north of Plum Stuff on Comus Road and will be a really wonderful way to take a break in the tour.

A centerpiece to the tour is the King Barn MOOseum in Boyds. Here you can step back into the days when dairy farming was the county's most important agricultural product. There will be games, crafts, and story telling for the young and young-at-heart.

If you can only pick one day of the weekend, the following places are open on Saturday only. High on the do-not-miss-list is Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary. This four hundred acre farm is a refuge for the protection of wildlife and for abused and abandoned farm animals. Have you ever seen a wounded animal in the wild or heard of an abused farm animal in the news? These are the people who dedicate themselves to their care. Of course, you will see the healthy and recovered animals including horses, cows, chickens, and turkeys.

Camp Olympia in Rockville is a year-round horse center where you will be delighted with a variety of equestrian sports and demonstrations. The Red Wiggler Community Farm in Germantown is something special. It is an Art Farm displaying a multi-media celebration of arts in nature. There you will have music (old and new), dance, storytelling, puppetry, and do-it-yourself art.

Another sanctuary on the tour is Star Gazing Farm in Boyds. The kids will love meeting Mr. Newman (this goat knows how to open the car door), or Tetsuro, the robust and potbellied pig. Rocky and Bullwinkle, two friendly Holstein steers, will give something for the kids to look up to.

Finally, Mom and Dad will enjoy stopping off at the Catoctin Vineyards. There will be some wine tasting for

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Equestrian

A Brand New Show

By Debby Lynn

This year's agenda of local shows is enriched with a new series of schooling dressage shows. Two Sisters Farm, in cooperation with Tenacity Stables, is producing a series of five shows.

Everyone will appreciate the friendly, low pressure atmosphere and low entry fees. Supportive show personnel make it an easy place to bring your green horse. From Heather Fay's experienced eye on the warm up ring to Julie Kingsbury's luscious home-baked goodies, you will feel welcome.

Judges provide lots of feedback on your ride and will judge any USEF or USEA test you would like. If memorizing the test is your bane, you can even get your test read by a helpful show volunteer.

The Hanagens' Two Sisters Farm is a lovely venue with plenty of spit and polish evident on show day. Parking is conveniently located along the gravel oval around the barn, a boon for folks lacking

four-wheel drive. The new footing in the outdoor ring is excellent and very consistent. In fact, this series of shows was conceived as a method of recouping the cost of installing the footing.

The remaining shows of the season are scheduled for August 5, September 23, and October 14. Call Heather Fay at 571-276-9985 for more information.

Tidbits

Getting Ready for the Run

By Rande Davis

Field Hockey coach, Gina Grubb, and player, Lisa Catterton, have a great way for those wanting to train for the Poolesville Day 5k. For those up to the challenge, come join the PHS field hockey team in summer training on three dates this summer. The dates scheduled are: July 29, August 12, and August 26. The training sessions begin at 9:00 a.m. The best part is that it is also a fundraiser for the field hockey team. The cost of training is \$20.00 per session or \$50.00 for all three. If you make it to all three training sessions, you get a free t-shirt. (I can't be sure I will finish, but I will start. But girls, please don't run me into the ground.) See *more Tidbits on page 10.*



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The Arena

Delegate Brian Feldman— Teamwork Matters

By John Clayton



Delegate
Brian Feldman

District 15 Delegate Brian Feldman was kind enough to drive to the upcounty to spend some time with the Monocle for this article. Listening to him speak, I got the impression that he was meant to

become a Maryland State delegate, and he certainly has developed more than substantial credentials for the position. As he discussed his training and his work in the general assembly and as a university professor, his passion for all he does came through loud and clear.

Brian Feldman was brought up in Pittsburg but has been in the Washington, D.C. area since 1982 when he took a job with Price Waterhouse Coopers as a tax attorney. His back-

ground as both a lawyer and a certified public accountant gives him a unique blend of qualifications, particularly in the Maryland State House where a remarkably small number of the members, contrary to popular belief, are even lawyers. Mr. Feldman subsequently worked at the Department of Justice, litigating federal tax cases in courtrooms across the nation. He met his wife in the DOJ cafeteria, and when they married, they moved to Montgomery County into the same house in Potomac that they live in today.

A "confluence of events" and a life-long interest in politics led him to get more involved in local politics, and he found time (part-time) to add a Master's degree in Government and Politics from John Hopkins where he now teaches as an adjunct professor in state politics. He said his completion of his graduate studies back in 1997 and 1998 led him to think more and more about local politics and the prospect of actually running for office, and he became president of the District 15 Democratic Club. After twelve years with the Department of Justice, he moved to the private sector with a law firm that he felt would give him the flexibility to contribute. At about this same time, Mark Shriver and Rich-

ard Levay each vacated their District 15 delegate seats, leaving two open, "which doesn't happen very often."

We asked him if being a legislator was what he expected. He said that most people underestimate, as he says he did, the time commitment. The session lasts ninety days (usually), but the reality is you have an office in Annapolis for twelve months a year, and a huge district with 110,000 people, "many of whom have e-mail," and aren't afraid to use it. "In the old days, it wasn't so easy to get in touch with your legislators in Annapolis, now with technology..." Mr. Feldman made it clear this is all for the good, and he enjoys and values the contact and interplay with constituents.

Mr. Feldman also discussed the Maryland assembly's strong committee system, where most of the actual work of the legislator is done. In his committee, the House Economic Matters Committee, he is the only attorney among twenty-four members. He said this gives him a little more influence and clout for a freshman in terms of framing issues and questioning witnesses. He knows he has learned a lot in his first term, and experience does

-Continued on Page 9.

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Youth Sports

Racing to the Finish

By Dominique Agnew

Is it a waste of ink to say it's hot out there? As if nobody noticed. Fortunately, for the Poolesville community, there's the Western Montgomery County Pool open to the public for a little swimming. For those really into swimming, those under age nineteen, there's the Poolesville Swim Team.

The Poolesville Piranhas are having another great season in the water. Says Head Coach Tim Auer, "The kids are getting faster and faster each week." At this printing, the team will be preparing for divisionals at home on July 22 then the All-Stars meet the following weekend, so the final results of the season are still undecided as of this writing. Coach Auer says that of the six teams in Division C, the top three are so closely matched that there's no predicting which team will win: Poolesville, Westleigh, or Woodley Gardens. The Poolesville Piranhas won divisionals last year and hope to defend that title.

While the whole team is swimming really well, as a whole, and times are dropping all around, there are a few

standouts. For the coaches' long course, where the top eight swimmers per stroke and per age group in the county come together for a championship meet, the Piranhas sent five swimmers: Zack Long, 8, Lauren James, 9, Elizabeth Pepper, 13, Lauren James, 15, and Kirk Jackson, 17. What's even more commendable is that most of these swimmers are young for their age groups (the 9-10 age group, the 13-14 age group, etc.).

Another swimmer of note is Laura Wolford who just graduated from Poolesville High School this past June. She has been on the team since she was in the 8 and under age group, more than ten years.

These swimmers and more than two hundred others may make up the team, they are not the reason for its survival. Coach Auer says that without the parents, there would be no team. "They're the reason the team is able to exist." He especially mentions Amy Hsu, "She does a lot to keep the team afloat." The B-team reps Shelley Stamm and Judy Murgia are essential, as well as many other parents who help at all the meets and between the meets, such as Sarah Beckstrand.

Tim Auer has been the head coach of the Poolesville Piranhas for three years and is assisted by Stephanie Failor, Catherine Ruprecht, Christine Smith, and Katie Stamm.



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Offered at \$680,000.

"Brian Feldman" Continued From Page 8.

count as there is a steep learning curve for the first-term member. He says being in the public eye is a unique and rewarding experience. "If you can get something done...if at the end of it you feel you've made a contribution, you've had some bills that passed, some successful bills," then the time and effort has been worthwhile.

Over the past four years, he feels the District 15 delegation has been effective with a good working relationship among its four members which include him, Delegates Jean Cryor and Kathleen Dumais, and Senator Rob Garagiola. He cited examples of "good case studies of a pretty effective delegation" such as the Healthy Air Act, the winery bill which supports the operation of small wineries, bond bills that supported the Poolesville Town Hall and the Barnesville Town Hall, the emergency medical facility in Germantown, and the MARC train debate. As Ms. Dumais noted in an earlier issue of the Monocle, the District 15 delegation is perceived as a pretty unique and bipartisan situation with Kathleen, Jean, and Brian sharing an office suite. Most delegations do not share a suite, let alone a bipartisan team. He thinks they work together well through different roles, different committees, and different niches that they've formed, with different areas of expertise and influence.

Mr. Feldman also discussed his championing of Montgomery County's biotechnology and life sciences industry, an issue with which he is often identified. During the 2005 session, he introduced and gained passage of the Maryland Biotechnology Investment Incentive Act, and worked further in the 2006 session to maintain its funding. BIO, an international biotechnology organization, gave him their state legislator of the year award for the whole country. He noted the unbelievable potential in this area for biotech with NIH, Johns Hopkins, and NIST all on the I-270 corridor. What legislation addresses, however, is that there is a shortage of venture capital available to keep companies alive during the long lifecycle of development, testing, and approval of new drugs.

There is now a fifty-percent tax credit for Marylanders investing in Maryland-based small biotech companies. Other states such as Massachusetts, North Carolina, and Pennsylva-

-Continued on Page 22.

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The Humble Chef

It's a Berry Good Season

By Maureen O'Connell

This has been a banner year in the garden for berries, especially blackberries, blueberries, and raspberries. Two years ago I planted behind the barn six blueberry bushes and several raspberry canes. There was not much fruit production the first year, but this year I am reaping, or I should say eating, the abundant harvest. The raspberries are especially prolific. It has made the chore of mucking stalls a little more bearable while passing the bushes en route to emptying the wheelbarrow. I have to be careful when I pick the berries that I don't eat more than I put in my basket. Here are two very simple recipes using fresh berries.

Mixed Berries with Mint

- ½ pint blackberries
- ½ pint raspberries
- ½ pint blueberries
- ½ pint strawberries
- 2 tablespoons Sugar Syrup (see recipe below)
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped mint

In a large bowl mix the berries together. Pour sugar syrup over the berries and add chopped mint. Mix the mint in carefully, taking care not to break up the berries. Garnish with fresh mint leaves. This is also very good spooned over honeydew melon.

Sugar Syrup: 2 cups water, 2 cups of sugar (adjust amount of sugar to your liking).

Place water and sugar in saucepan. Over medium heat, bring to a simmer, stirring until the sugar is dissolved. Let the syrup cool to room temperature. Refrigerate in a sealed jar. It may be kept up to one month in the refrigerator.

I enjoyed this wonderful, light dessert at the Ivy Restaurant in London. The chef was kind enough to give me the recipe. This would be a fitting end to a summer dinner.

Scandinavian Iced Berries with Hot White Chocolate Sauce

2 pints of mix berries (I use strawberries, blueberries, blackberries, and raspberries)

- ½ pound good quality white chocolate cut into small squares
- 1 cup heavy cream

Place the berries on a cookie sheet and place in freezer until they have a touch of frost on them.

Place the chocolate pieces and cream in a medium mixing bowl over a saucepan of simmering water, stirring occasionally. When the sauce is hot and slightly thickened, you are ready to go. You might have to fool around with the amount of cream versus chocolate to get the right consistency.

Put the berries on dessert plates. Transfer the chocolate sauce into a serving cup. Place the berries in front of your guests or family and pour the hot sauce at the table. Cover the berries generously for the best results.

An Italian friend of mine recently told me about sprinkling balsamic vinegar over fresh raspberries and letting them steep for two to three hours with sugar to taste. Try it. You will be completely surprised at the flavor.

Tidbits

Queen for the Day

By Rande Davis

The grand lady of Poolesville, Mary Chiswell, has been chosen to be the grand marshal of the 2006 Poolesville Day parade. Mary is a perfect choice since she will be celebrating her 104th birthday this coming October 8. This beloved lady remains very active by attending church every Sunday, going out to restaurants with friends and family, and receiving her guests on a regular basis. Many of her visitors were students of hers during her long career as a teacher in the Poolesville school system. Mary tells us one of the things she used to enjoy on occasion when her husband was alive was riding the sidecar attached to his motorcycle. It's been a long time, but with the parade in mind, do you suppose, maybe one more time we could coax her into one more ride. Anyone have a sidecar? *See more Tidbits on page 11.*

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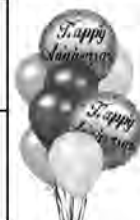
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Local News

Area Escapes Flood Damage

By Jack Toomey

The northwest part of Montgomery County escaped the damage from the torrential rains that affected some parts of the metropolitan area from June 22 to June 27. While there were five drownings in Frederick County, major flooding to buildings and homes in Washington, Virginia, and Prince George's County, and evacuations in the area of the Rock Creek flood plain, the Poolesville area had no reported damage. Areas in the eastern part of Montgomery County received twelve inches of rain, Potomac had ten inches, but weather watchers in the Poolesville area agreed that the average rainfall in this area was about seven inches. Both the Potomac and Monocacy Rivers approached flood stage, but an inspection of both rivers at Point of Rocks, Edwards Ferry, Seneca, and Dickerson by a Monocle reporter revealed only minor flooding. White's Ferry was closed for several

days because of the high water.

Poolesville town officials reported no water-related problems. Neal Brown, the owner of R. N. Brown Plumbing, said that his company received only four calls related to water damage. Two were for failed sump pumps that resulted in water



Flooding at Dickerson.

damage to basements and one in Potomac where sump pumps could not compete with water rushing into a house. Brown remarked that the Poolesville area was "lucky because there were no power failures" and recommended that those with sump

pumps consider a backup system. A spokesperson for the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department said that the fire company received no water-related calls besides the normal reports of traffic accidents and downed utility lines. Steve Pratt, the manager of Poolesville Hardware said, "We sold some sump pumps and shop vacuums. There was a little increase in business." Most area farmers welcomed the rain that broke the drought that had persisted during the spring.

Dickerson's Jack Shawver reported that he has been monitoring the rainfall on his farm since January. He reports that from then until June, he got fourteen inches of rain, but in the four days of the severest weather he got eight inches.

Tidbits

Peace Poster Winner Recognized

By Rande Davis

The Monocacy Lions Club held its 6th annual peace poster contest, which is part of international organization's worldwide contest. This year's poster theme was Peace without Borders. The contest, which has grown over the years (originally it started with three posters and is now over one hundred), was won by John Poole Middle School student, Roxi Pourshoushtari. Charles Kearse, District Governor of Maryland's District 22-C, presented the award to Roxi at the school's annual awards day. Roxi's poster was runner up in the district, which has sixty-seven Lions clubs. She also received a \$100 prize for her efforts. Merit award winners also include Megan Weaver and Allison Pappas, who also received a \$50.00 prize. See more Tidbits on page 21.

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**Police Blotter
 Past and Present**

By Jack Toomey

Present

June 7. 19500 block of White Ground Road, Boyds. Residential burglary. Forced entry to a home, property taken.

June 9. 2300 block of Mt. Ephraim Road, Dickerson. Residential burglary. Forced entry to a home, property taken.

Past

July 23, 1971. Montgomery County police were investigating the accidental drowning of a sixteen-year-old boy who had attempted to swim across a farm pond near Slidell Road in the Clarksburg area of the county.

July 23, 1898. Montgomery County Deputy Sheriff of Darnestown was severely beaten by James Jackson of Seneca when he attempted to arrest Jackson at his home.

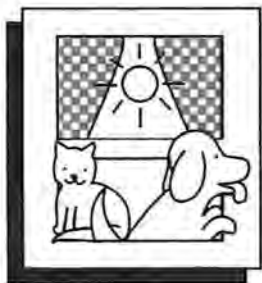
July 25, 1911. Judge Joseph Reading visited the Glen Echo amusement park with Sheriff Edward Vielt and

Deputy Whalen after complaints were received that the park was operating on Sunday. Judge Reading held court in a ticket office and fined eighty-two employees of the park and ordered that it be shut down.

July 25, 1915. John Yoeckel, a member of the navy, was killed instantly when an automobile in which he was riding skidded and overturned on the Rockville-Darnestown Pike about eight miles northwest of Rockville.

July 27, 1929. Following an all-day search by Montgomery police and citizen volunteers, the body of Walter Weaver of Baltimore was found near Catfish Rock in the Potomac River. Weaver had been drowned while fishing.

August 6, 1899. John T. Hawkins, a farmer living near Clarksburg in Montgomery County, was arrested by Deputy Sheriff Gibson and charged with trying to kill his son, Oscar Hawkins, twenty-one years old. It was said that the elder Hawkins had picked up a large gate hinge and struck a terrible blow to Oscar's head. Recently, the father had quarreled with another son which resulted in the son suffering a broken leg when struck with a large rock.



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Tributes

Family and Friends Welcome Home Major Harman

A large group of friends and family celebrated on July 9 with a welcome home party for Major John W. (Billy) Harman and his family. Major Harman, a 1990 graduate of Poolesville High School, just completed a tour at Camp Blue Diamond in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, with the United States marines. Major Harman was the Material Readiness Officer for the 2nd Maine Division. In this role, he



Nathaniel, Carole Harman (mother), Timothy, Major Harman, and Jodi Lynne Harman.

managed the distribution pipeline of supplies "from the factory to the foxhole."

Major Harman, his wife Jodi Lynne and two sons, Nathaniel (age ten) and Timothy (age six) currently reside in Fredericksburg, VA. He will be posted at Henderson Hall, for the coming year.

The party was not just to celebrate his return but also as a way to honor Mrs. Harman, for her steady and strong support for her husband and in the courageous manner in which she managed home life while he was gone. Jodi Lynne Harman is a fifth grade teacher in Spotsylvania, VA. The couple first met while in high school when she was working part time at the (formerly) Meadowlark Inn.

Although stressful and worrisome, she was glad that through email and telephone the family could remain in contact on a regular basis. "Sometimes I would leave an email message just

-Continued on Page 26.



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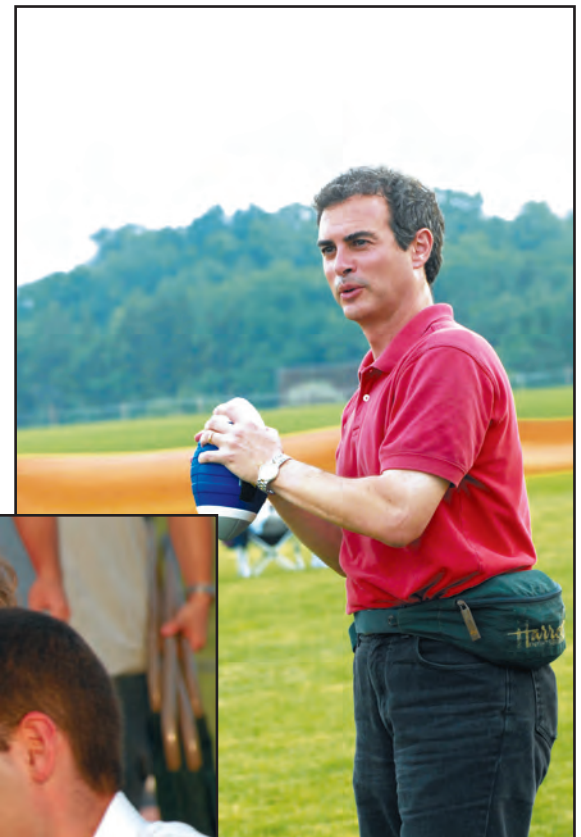
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4th of July, Poolsville 2006

All July 4th pictures are courtesy of Hilary Schwab.



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**"MC During WWII" Continued
From Page 1.**

were assigned to the filtration station at Burnt Mills on Colesville Road to guard against sabotage. All days off were cancelled for the police department, and officers were assigned to work fourteen-hour days. It was also announced that all dental offices in the county would be reserved as emergency first aid stations and that drug stores would also be used for first aid dressing stations.

On the evening of December 13, Montgomery County conducted its first blackout drill. There was a real belief that the Axis powers had the capability of launching air attacks against the east coast. Storekeepers and homeowners were ordered to turn off their lights or to blacken their homes with blackout curtains which were suddenly in great demand. Police officers were stationed at the District line and stopped cars entering the county and gave the operators the choice of turning around or extinguishing their headlights and driving fifteen miles an hour. Some of the printed instructions that were given to citizens included: "Don't stand around on front porches and lawns to see what is going on." However, the air raid sirens could hardly be heard, and county authorities reported that the sirens were: "fair, bad, or terrible." Later that month, serious consideration was given to equipping about one hundred automobiles with portable sirens in lieu of the fire sirens that could not be heard.

In February 1942, three steam whistles were purchased and placed in Bethesda, Silver Spring, and Takoma Park for use in air raid warning tests. By March 1942, a centralized command center had been established at Rockville which contained a large map that would give officials a view of possible attacks and sabotage. On March 2, 1942, the county conducted an all-night blackout. The entire police department was mobilized and simulated bomb blasts, and fires were used to add to the reality of the drill. The owner of a men's shop in Silver Spring became the first person charged with violating the blackout rule. He had accidentally left a light burning in his dressing room and was fined. In July, 1942, a rumor swept the county that enemy parachutists were landing in Maryland. Even though the report proved false, two police cars were dispatched to a home on Capitol View Avenue near Kensington when a woman reported that she had sighted a parachutist jumping out of an airplane. The old Kensington Junior High School was used as a training ground for firemen and police officers for education in poisonous gas, bombs, and fire suppression. The fear of enemy sabotage was so great that the police were used to keep tabs on suspected "Fifth Columnists" who were suspected of infiltrating the air raid warden system. The county police also assisted the FBI in raiding the homes of four suspected Axis sympathizers in Silver Spring. A short wave radio, firearms, and binoculars

were seized.

As might be expected, crime did not stop because of the war. In January 1942, two men placed collection boxes in stores throughout Montgomery County. Shopkeepers were pleased to place them on the counter since they bore the label "National Defense, Keep Them Flying," and the men presented a bogus telegram purportedly from Mrs. Roosevelt saying that the men were "okay." Every few days, someone would come by and empty the boxes of the cash that had been collected. It turned out that it was a fraud, and the police arrested two men who were living at a District hotel.

By May 1942, gas rationing was in effect throughout the county. Residents were required to register all cars, trucks, motorcycles, and boats with outboard motors. Gas rationing cards were distributed at most county elementary schools. Charles Knill of Barnesville was living in Takoma Park at the time because he worked for the Capitol Transit Company. He recalled that he received "about ten gallons of gas a month" and wouldn't drive his car during the week so he could conserve the gas to allow him to visit his parents at Sellman. In December 1944, a gas shortage occurred when a surge of panic buying happened. Long lines of cars were reported at gas stations in the lower and mid-county, and most gas stations had to close.

Montgomery County was very active in the scrap metal collection

movement. The county was divided into sectors, and each area had a designated place where citizens could bring scrap metal. Residents were urged to search their homes and barns for pipes, old stoves, ice boxes, boilers, plumbing fixtures, wheelbarrows, and radiators. When the piles of metal became very large, trucks were sent to pick up the metal and take it to a smelter where it could be turned into military armament and for other needs. Women block captains went door to door to encourage people to search their homes for scrap metal. The Poolesville chapter of the Future Farmers of America collected over thirty-six thousand pounds of scrap metal in 1944 and was able to paint the lavatories and cafeteria at Poolesville High School with bonus money they earned. During the salvage drive, a nineteen-year-old Wheaton boy blew off one of his hands when he came across an explosive device mixed in with the scrap metal at the Silver Spring site. Salvage Director George V. Menke declared that every bit of scrap in the county must be added to the melting furnaces so American soldiers would have material to win the war. John Menke who lives in Barnesville is the son of George Menke and recalled that his father was in the National Guard at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Shortly afterwards, he and a few other soldiers were sent to the Monocacy River Bridge on old Route

-Continued on Page 18.

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**"MC During WWII" Continued
From Page 17.**

240, the road to Frederick, to guard the bridge. Although they had rifles, they only had one bullet among them. Later, Mr. Menke became involved in the USO program and John recalls accompanying his dad to USO activities around the country. Citizens were encouraged to plant Victory Gardens which were gardens, sometimes planted on vacant park or government land, where people living in apartments or small homes could grow vegetables to combat the food shortage. The summer of 1943 apparently was very dry, and the Victory Gardens were drying up. The fire department was enlisted to pump water from creeks and then spray it onto the gardens so the water fell like a heavy rain. A lady living in Chevy Chase, who was present when the fire department saved her garden, was quoted in the Washington Post as saying, "It's a grand idea and bound to do some good. I have hope now of getting some more string beans and cantaloupes."

Edwin Johnson, who now lives in Comus, lived on his father's farm in Old Germantown. Johnson, who was an All-Southern Conference player in basketball and baseball for the University of Maryland, tried to enlist for military service but was turned down because of a kidney ailment. He recalled that the family got some of their war news from the truck driver who came to the farm to pick up the milk that they produced. Mr. Johnson also recalled going around the farm and collecting scrap metal such as plow parts, old refrigerators, parts of machinery, and then taking them to Frederick which was the scrap collection point for the upper part of Montgomery County. Clifton Martin, who also lives in Comus, was a farmer on his family's dairy farm between Olney and Norbeck. Mr. Martin, who was deferred from the draft by virtue of his status as a farmer, recalled that they would ship milk to Washington and would also take their scrap metal to a collection point on Georgia Avenue in Washington. Gas was about sixteen cents a gallon, and he would travel to Olney to buy about two gallons at a time.

People in Montgomery County were also very active in supporting the war effort by purchasing war bonds. In fact, the students at St. Michael's Catholic School in Silver Spring sold so many war bonds that they were able to buy the equivalent of seven jeeps to be sent overseas. Montgomery County public schools also sold and bought war bonds and were able to raise over two hundred thousand dollars for the war effort.

The Hyattstown School sold three hundred percent of its quota. Citizens were also required to ration gas, and Montgomery County residents were recognized for their thriftiness. County citizens saved thirty percent more than expected through the use of carpools and riders clubs. During the summer of 1942, citizens were warned that the county police would be on the lookout for people carrying hidden auxiliary gas tanks or gas containers.

By 1943, Maryland had enacted a "loafer law" which stated that healthy men, who were exempt from the draft, had to either work or enlist in military service. Some thought that the law was unconstitutional; however, a Montgomery County man became the first person convicted under the new law. He had been convicted of refusing to work as a farm laborer for the prevailing wage and sentenced to thirty days in the county jail. He then left Montgomery County, went to the Eastern Shore where he was found loitering on the streets of Snow Hill, Maryland and was sentenced to one year in the House of Correction.

Police officers were not exempted from wartime service and soon the ranks became depleted because the officers had enlisted or had been drafted into the military. By 1944, the department's strength had been cut in half and "emergency" police officers were hired for specific terms. Bill Broschart laughed when he recalled when the first emergency officer reported for duty. "I didn't know where the hell they got him; he was skinny and had no teeth." After the war, some of these officers, who were older men, stayed on the department after providing valuable service. Even the Washington Senators provided help. In 1944, Jake Powell, an outfielder for the Senators, became an emergency police officer and served until the war ended. By July 1944, police shifts were scaled back to eight hours as the threat of sabotage lessened.

Although there were no confirmed acts of sabotage in Montgomery County during the war, there were three train wrecks where sabotage was initially suspected. On September 24, 1942, an express train stalled on the incline just west of the Dickerson train station and was rammed in the rear by another train killing fourteen passengers. Bill Broschart, who was also a volunteer fireman, drove a fire truck to the scene, assisted the injured, and then put on his police uniform and spent a week at the accident scene helping with the investigation. On July 2, 1944, a freight train plowed into the rear of a stopped

passenger train about two miles west of Waring Station Road. It was feared that signals had been tampered with. Then on January 10, 1945, the locomotive pulling a troop train exploded near Boyds killing the crew of the train. The



A WWII soldier on leave visits his family on a Montgomery County dairy farm. More in Local History

FBI entered the investigation of all three wrecks, but sabotage was ruled out.

At least four military plane crashes occurred in Montgomery County during the war. In July, 1943, an army training plane crashed near the Bethesda Chevy Chase Recreation Center. The pilot was able to bale out and was not injured, and there was no fire. In October, 1944, a large Army transport plane crashed on a farm between Boyds and Germantown. Again, the pilot, the only person on board, was able to parachute to safety. On May 26, 1945, an Army B-25 exploded over the White Oak section of the county killing four crewmen. In the most spectacular accident, two navy planes on a training mission were practicing maneuvers over downtown Bethesda on July 1, 1945. The pilots decided to show off and accidentally collided sending one of the fighter planes hurtling down into the heart of Bethesda on a busy Saturday afternoon. The plane crashed just behind the old Peoples Drug Store at the corner of Wisconsin Avenue and Old Georgetown Road. The plane narrowly missed an apartment building and exploded. Miraculously, no one was injured or killed.

After the invasion of Europe, many German prisoners of war were captured and thousands were shipped to the United States. About eighty were assigned to farm labor on farms in Montgomery County. German POWs worked on the farms of Harold C. Smith, Poolesville, Thomas Darby, Dawsonville, Elmer Walter, Darnestown, and Lawson King's farm at Gaithersburg. They lived at a POW camp that was located on the Trundle farm on Goshen Road and then trucked to farms in the morning. The prisoners were guarded by a military policeman

for each group of ten and each prisoner was paid eighty cents a day with the farmers contributing thirty-five cents an hour per worker. A dispute broke out between farmers who were desperate for help because of the labor shortage. Even the police chief alleged that he was being discriminated against because his crops were in the field, and he claimed that he had very few prisoners of war to work at his place. After the war ended, prisoners of war were still in custody, and on September 7, 1945, one Werner Koehler escaped from Clifton Viers's farm near Rockville. In a police bulletin issued at the time, he was described as "speaking no English and wearing clothing marked 'PW.'"

Many Japanese citizens, who lived on the west coast of the United States, were interred at the start of the war because of the fear of sabotage and espionage. Later in the war, some apparently requested to be moved east and a few ended up working on farms in Montgomery County. Sam Rice, a retired Washington Senators outfielder, had a poultry farm near Olney. Some of the Japanese were moved to his farm.

Finally, in August 1945, the long struggle came to an end. County commissioners planned to sound all fire sirens; however, they were overruled by the War Department. Parades and celebrations were held in many towns including Rockville and Bethesda. In a Victory in Japan parade in Rockville on August 17, 1945, the Potomac and Poolesville bands played, and police, firemen, and servicemen marched in a parade that lasted three hours. However, newspaper accounts of the time revealed that Montgomery County was quiet in comparison to the horn tooting and celebrations of neighboring cities and counties. All county policemen were called to duty; however, there were no disturbances. In September 1945, twenty thousand residents lined the streets of Bethesda to honor Lt. Colonel James Devereux, hailed as the "hero of Wake Island." Devereux rode in an open car as his neighbors hailed his return to Bethesda.

Montgomery County sent thousands of soldiers, airmen, sailors, and nurses to war. Many did not return and are buried in Europe and in unmarked graves in the Pacific. To them, we owe our gratitude; however, this story was about the men, women, and children who remained behind in Montgomery County and helped support the war effort.

Local News

The Blues in Frederick

By Curtis A. Osborne

In a few days, many people in the Frederick area are going to feel the blues--no, not a sense of melancholy or despair, but a sense of boogie-woogie, a sense of fun. The tenth annual Frederick Blues Festival is coming to town, bringing with it national and local performers, churning out their own brand of blues music.

The blues is America's own home-grown music, our own original musical art form, growing from the field hollers of slaves, later incorporating forms of gospel music. The music told stories about a way of life, of pain, sorrow, love, heartbreak, and happiness--but not all of the blues is sad. There is a lot of humor in the music too.

The problem is that the blues, as an

art form, is dying, as is jazz. Jazz and blues, always linked together musically, are distinctly different. As far as record sales, blues barely makes a dent percentage-wise, way behind country, rock, rap and hip hop, and even behind gospel. However, the music is thriving in communities like Frederick and Hagerstown. The Frederick Blues Society is doing all it can to keep the music alive and to showcase local and national blues bands to the area.

The FBS is an organization that was started in 1999. The society, affiliated with the Blues Foundation, has a mission, according to their informative website, to "promote a greater appreciation of the blues as an art form, provide education through the Blues in the Schools program, support regional blues bands, and to help attract national blues artists to the Frederick area." The membership is made up roughly of fifty percent musicians and fifty percent fans. Steve Norris is the

new incoming president of the society. His vision for the future is to stay the course with new wrinkles. Steve's stated goal is to "continue the educational aspects of the FBS and increase the overall local music scene. The Frederick Blues Battle and the Freddie Awards are good examples of that, but the best way to increase the local music scene is to keep musicians employed."

To make sure that the legacy of

blues stays strong and lives on in the youngsters of today, the society has a program called Blues in the Schools, a very innovative educational component in conjunction with Frederick County Public Schools. The program introduces youngsters in Frederick to the blues. "Everyone has received it well," says Steve. "We were bringing

in Fruteland Jackson, an award-winning blues guitarist from Chicago. Now we are starting to use local bands more and more." In the hour or so that the musicians speak to the kids, "You try to smash in an appreciation of blues music history and blues music theory into high school and middle school students. They are pretty smart kids. Most of them get it and come away with a

-Continued on Page 21.

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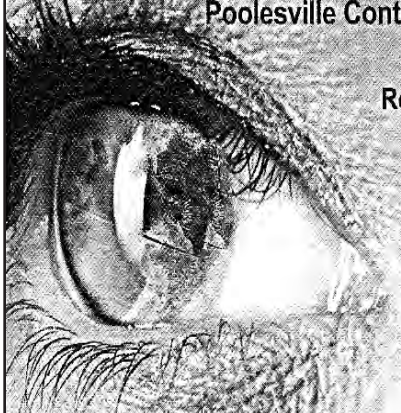
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"State of the Garden" Continued from page 5.

will give them a needed boost. If your annuals are getting leggy, don't be afraid to cut them to approximately one half their height. If they seem to be more on their last legs, yank them out. Replant with annuals and perennials that bloom in late summer to fall, such as sedum, gaillardia, and dahlias.

Before you apply pesticide or fungicide to your plants, water them several hours before spraying, especially during dry spells. Water-starved plants have less water in their tissues, systemic chemicals that enter through the leaves will be more concentrated and may burn the leaves.

In one of my early May columns, I mentioned that I was going to try

placing weed-control woven cloth over the soil in my vegetable garden. I don't know why I did not try this before. It's great. My vegetable plot looks neat and there are NO weeds. In the past, by this time of the year, you could not find the vegetables amongst the weeds. So next year, save you and your back hours of weeding; carpet your garden with no-weed cloth.

While you are relaxing on your patio or on the beach, now is a good time to peruse the fall garden catalogues. Many nurseries put their fall plants on sale now. You will also get your order in early so you won't be disappointed with out-of-stock plants.

Put a little extra work into your garden now, so you can sit back in August and enjoy it.



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**"The Blues In Frederick"
Continued From Page 19.**

new appreciation of all music, not just the blues, but they also figure out the roots of rock, the roots of rap, and how they are all related and have a common ancestor. It's a little like learning about your family tree, in a musical kind of way."

The pièce de résistance is the Frederick Blues Festival which will kick off July 21 at the Weinberg Center for the Arts with contemporary blues legends Delbert McClinton and Deanna Bogart. It will move to Martin's Walkersville (Fireman's Carnival Grounds) on July 22-23 with local and national acts including the Nighthawks, Bo Weevil, and former Saturday Night Live band leader G.E. Smith.

Many of the great blues artists from the Mississippi delta region and from Chicago where the blues became electrified are passing away or getting older. Buddy Guy, James Cotton, Bobby "Blue" Bland, and his buddy, the legendary B.B. King, are still going strong, but the torch has to be passed. Bonnie Raitt and the late great Stevie Ray Vaughn introduced a new generation of rock music lovers to the blues, but Keb Mo, Shemekia Copeland, Robert Cray, Linwood Taylor, Jonny

Lang, and Susan Tedeschi have to find a way to keep the music and its traditions alive, in a time where hip hop and rap rule. They are the caretakers--and so is the Frederick Blues Society. The task is great, but it can be done. Come on out and help support the blues. For more information on the festival, visit www.frederickbluesfestival.com. The FBS website at www.frederickblues.org offers much more information about blues in Frederick.

Tidbits

By Rande Davis

Woody Rupp, the chairman for Monocacy Lion's poster project reports that there were over 350,000 entries worldwide in 2005. The winner was Cleverson da Silva Rosa, a thirteen-year-old from Brazil. Mr. Rupp appreciated the hard work of art teacher, Nori Thorne, in coordinating the contest. The theme for 2006 is Celebrate Peace and is open to all persons ages eleven to thirteen. Entries must be submitted by November 15. Everyone was grateful to Mathew Moving Company of Clarksburg for supplying the display boards for mounting. See more Tidbits on page 23.

Tidbits

**It Plays Like a PGA
Tournament Course**

By Rande Davis

Well, maybe not quite, but golf pro Mike Aldrich reports that the Poolesville Golf course is in the best condition of any course in the county. "The amount of rain we got was just right," says Mike "The greens are smooth, true, and fast, but will hold your shot." The course is promoting hot time discounts, Junior Club championship, Ladies League, Couples Night, and Night Golf. (Night golf? At least then I would have a great excuse for losing so many balls.)

Youth Sports

**Poolesville Falcons Girls
Soccer Team Continues
Winning Ways**

Some of the Poolesville Falcons, who play MSI Soccer, have been together since the first grade, and they are now entering into the fifth grade. Some of them go to Poolesville Elementary and some go to Monocacy Elementary.

They are a great group of girls, and all have great team spirit, fantastic sportsmanship, and are very considerate of each others' feelings as well as those of the other teams they play.

The Falcons have won first place in their division for the last three seasons, and plan to move up in the Classic Division through MSI next season.

The Falcons are looking to add some extra players (girls ten to eleven years old) to join their new classic soccer team for the fall season. For more information please contact: Earl Kenneweg at mercury200@verizon.net.



Back: Assistant Coach Jim Peelman and Coach Earl Kenneweg. Devin Peelman, Rosie Barry, Kaitlin Aaby, Darina Callear, Rebekah Chittenden, Olivia Jackson, Courtney Holston, Julia Potts, Sara Kenneweg, Heather Johnson, Rachael Harris, and Sophia Coates. Thanks again Joan Aaby



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**"Bryan Feldman" Continued
from Page 9.**

nia are competing just as aggressively. He said the governor put six million dollars in the budget for this year, and if the credits exceed that, he will ask for more funding in January. Mr. Feldman wants to look out for the small companies that are just trying to get started but typically "die on the vine" because they don't have enough capital to keep going to make their innovations pay off.

Working on pro-business legislation such as the biotechnology industry tax credits is one of the ways he has tried not to pigeonhole himself or be the typical Montgomery County legislator with a limited range of interests. He feels that many legislators become typecast in one area of expertise, so he has tried to show he can work with the governor and "people on the other side of the aisle" on a wide range of issues. One of the important tasks for a new legislator is to establish yourself as a credible player, a serious legislator that can get a lot of different things done, working with different legislators from both parties and different regions.

I asked about the working relationship between the two parties, and he

acknowledged that the rancor between the governor, senate president, and house speaker gets the headlines, but that there were 1600 or 1700 pieces of legislation to work on in the house each year, and another 1100 bills in the senate. The rancor everyone reads about probably affects about a half dozen or so bills. Veto overrides certainly get a lot of press, but very few bills overall, and certainly in his committee, break down along party lines. He acknowledged that with this year being an election year, there was more tension, particularly among the aforementioned governor and leadership, which caused an "unfortunate level of disfunctionality." When you look at the big picture, however, there is tremendously more cooperation than fighting going on.

When asked about the early voting bill which had been in the news, Delegate Feldman acknowledged that it was a more partisan issue, but "that it shouldn't be." He continued, "All we are saying here is that, like thirty other states, we want to make it easier to vote. We know that in this country, voter participation is a problem. You go to Western Europe and a lot of other places, and voter participation is over ninety percent. In this country, we're

lucky if we get half our people voting for presidential elections." He said that for working people in particular, the ability to get to your voting spot on one specific day within a limited time is harder than it is for people who don't work or have more flexible schedules. "Things that make it easier to get to the ballot box are a positive thing." He said that critics of this program have said that Democrats have put the early voting sites in predominantly Democratic areas. The problem with that is that since Montgomery County is predominantly Democratic. "Where could you possibly put them where that would not be the case?" He discussed the petition drive that challenged early voting on the basis of fraud and said that would make sense if we were the first or second to be doing this, but it has been used in thirty states, some with voting as much as two weeks before election day, and there is no evidence or even a claim of fraud in those states. He stated that he did not think these facts have been presented by the proponents of the petition. In his case, he said that no one has explained where the fraud has occurred or the types of problems anyone has experienced. "Until someone points this out, I really don't get the other argument. I don't get it." Delegate Feldman also noted that they changed the rules to allow on-demand absentee ballots, so that "unlike the past, when people had to lie about their sick aunt in Seattle—you don't have to do that—again, another mechanism to make voting easier."

In closing, Mr. Feldman highlighted his interest in environmental issues, specifically the Healthy Air Act which he cosponsored and worked on extensively to get passed. A similar bill had failed to get out of committee in 2005 under a different name. (Yes, the name may have made a difference.) He added that this area (the upcounty) is very mindful of environmental issues and he sits on a committee that "has pushed the ball forward these past four years," especially with regard to Healthy Air and the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard, which requires a certain percentage of energy use to be from renewable sources. He also noted the huge increase in funds to Montgomery County for Project Open Space, twenty-four million dollars, and a constitutional amendment question which would prevent the governor from selling parkland without input from the general assembly as examples of environmentally sensitive legislation.

Focus on Business

May's Restaurant: Discovering the Secret to Success

By Rande Davis

When May's first opened its doors, most customers would just say, "Fill 'er up." They still do today, just not for the same reason.

In 1945, Joe and Bernard May, along with their spouses, Bernice and Peggy, decided the location on Route 240 (Route 355 today) in Frederick County was just right for a gas station. Back then there wasn't much around for nearly as far as the eye could see. In the early days, their sons, Doug and Joe, could practically play in the street worry-free.

When May's Gas Station began offering produce and other items along with the auto service, they got ahead of the coming convenience store boom, and the changes to the business were beginning to emerge.

When Doug and Joe May took over from their parents in 1975, they wanted to innovate, so they added a carry-out food service specializing in the simple sandwich items of hot dogs, hamburgers, etc. It quickly began to outstrip the selling of gas, changing tires, and working on engines.

Thinking far outside the service station box, their next vision was to include a full service bar, feature their mom's highly popular homemade soups, and with the help of Freddy Baxter of Mr. B's Seafood, figured that Maryland crabs was the way to go. The car lifts, grease pits, and gas tanks were gone, and the new May's Restaurant began to take shape.

Doug emphasizes, "Without Freddy, there would be no May's. He was our guiding light. Can you imagine, when business picked up and we needed more suppliers for crabs, he was the first one to tell us and even helped us in our search."

Those who know Doug and brother, Joe, would tell you success hasn't changed them—not that they fear change. In fact, innovation with them is almost non-stop. Just a couple of years ago, against all advice from others, they took the bold step of removing the bar and going smoke-free. They still have a service bar for those who want to imbibe during dinner. Recently, they added a large patio area in the rear, covered by a tent and accented with pleasant land-

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-Continued on Page 26.

Youth Making a Difference

Local Residents Give, Gain More in Return

From June 17 through June 24, forty-one members and friends of Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church of Poolesville traveled to Piketon, Ohio to perform repair and renovation work on homes of residents in need. In 2004, Ken Fell, pastor at Memorial, encouraged church leaders to undertake a mission trip. Dan Stout, a member at Memorial, came up with the idea of going to Piketon, which is located in the Appalachian region of south central Ohio. Through his job, Dan had made frequent trips to the Piketon area. Over the years, he has observed firsthand the needs of the people there. Memorial undertook its first mission trip to Piketon in 2005. The success of that trip prompted this year's return.

Work performed included repairing and staining decks; repairing and replacing sections of flooring; replacing gutters and siding; power washing, scraping, and painting houses; replacing a ceiling; and interior painting. Participants ate and slept in the Piketon High School. Bob Snyder, Pastoral As-

sistant at Memorial, observed, "After a long day's work, we were fortunate to be able to come back to the air-conditioned school each day and enjoy great home-cooked meals prepared by three of our adult leaders: Karin Stout, Kim Kalal, and Lydia Powell."

Residing at the high school is but one example of the great cooperation between Memorial and officials in Ohio at both the state and local levels. The state of Ohio provided grant money to cover the cost of building materials and supplies. Participants were welcomed by one of Piketon's town commissioners. The Community Action Committee of Pike County, Ohio, selected home sites, purchased and staged building materials and equipment, and supervised work projects. The local Joint Area Vocational Technical School supplied tools and equipment. Local businesses donated food, and the Piketon-Jasper United Methodist Church held a reception for work camp participants. Dan Stout commented, "The cooperation we receive from the people of Ohio is tremendous."

That spirit of cooperation is perhaps best embodied in the homeowners themselves. Scott McGrew, Chair of the

Church Council at Memorial observed, "The name of our mission trip is P2P which stands for 'Poolesville to Piketon' and also stands for 'Piketon to Poolesville.' We give to those in need in Piketon, but we gain so much more in return from the homeowners we are privileged to serve." The theme of Memorial's mission trip this year was the "Heart of Worship," an idea that came from Jimmy Stout, a 2006 graduate of Poolesville High School and participant on the trip.

McGrew, also the Youth Leader at Memorial stated, "The shared experience of the mission trip has helped bring our youth and adults even closer together." Of forty-one participants, eighteen were youth and twenty-three

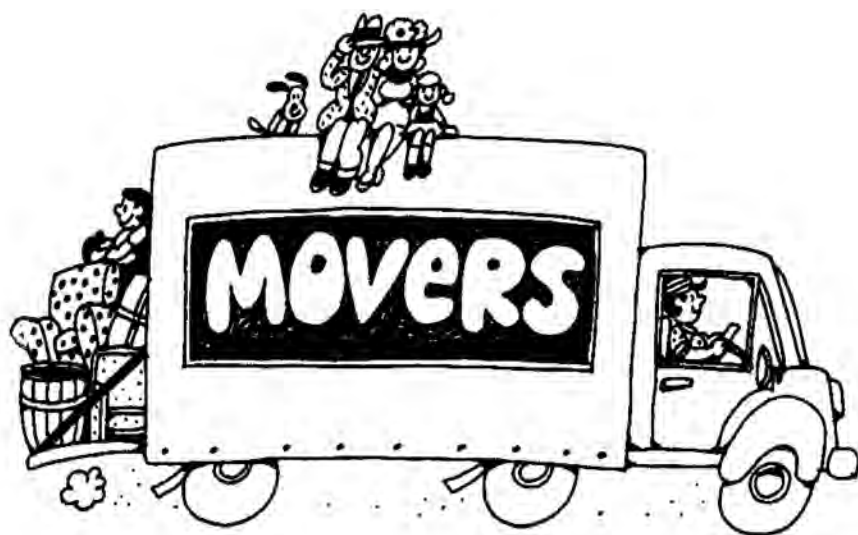
were adults. The News Watchman, one of Pike County's local newspapers, reported in their Sunday, June 25 edition, "One of the homeowners who received the largest amount of work this year was Helen Elmer of 210 West Second Street, Piketon. 'It is awesome, great,' said Elmer, 'I have never seen anything like it.'" If it's up to Emma Cook, a new ninth grader at Poolesville High, Mrs. Elmer will be able to continue to see God's love working through the people of Poolesville and their friends. Says Cook, "This is my first time doing this, and I plan to do it again." Based on this year's outpouring of support, Emma will have a lot of company from members and friends of Memorial Church.

Tidbits

It Was a Long Time Coming

Friends, family, and associates of Poolesville's Jake Perkins are delighted with the news that he has obtained the long-awaited kidney transplant. We think Jake is delighted too, but it's hard to tell such things with Jake. With the weekly hours of blood transfusions a thing of the past, he reports that the transition and adjustment are going

well. It's a good thing because the community needs him in health since he is so active in community events. Even from the hospital bed, as chairman of the Poolesville Day Committee, he was firing off memos to members with instructions and suggestions. As president of the PHS Booster Club he had just finished overseeing their annual golf tournament. Now we hope this energetic lawyer can learn to slow down just a bit. *See more Tidbits on page 25.*



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Welcome to the Neighborhood

AW Landscapes Garden Center

Slow down as you go into the little valley at the bend in the road so you don't miss the new AW Landscapes Garden Center, located at 25110 Old Hundred Road, in Comus, Maryland. The garden center, which opened this past April, has undergone a major transformation, and now it is a bright and colorful spot. Wildlife abounds in this "nature lover's paradise," with turtles, frogs, herons, a pileated woodpecker, butterflies, and luna moths.

Alan Walcoff, owner of AW Landscapes, a full-service design-build company, has been in business for over twenty-five years, specializing in stone walls, patios, pond installations, and up-scale residential landscape projects, as well as commercial maintenance.

The vision of the garden center is to establish an appealing and environmentally-focused center where members of the community and beyond

can come relax, enjoy the sights and sounds, and learn how to garden the natural way. Garden center manager, Sandra Stevenson, explains, "We want to teach and share with people how they can have rewarding and successful gardening experiences by choosing the right plants and techniques. Instead of installing exotic, imported trees, shrubs and perennials, why not go native! It's a cost-efficient and ecologically friendly way to landscape, reducing the need to water and the use of chemicals and fertilizers. Benefits include attracting butterflies, hummingbirds, and beneficial insects, and many of our native plants are also deer resistant. Whether you plant a small plot or many acres, by harmonizing with your surroundings, you can help preserve our land, our most precious resource.

"Our recent rains have inspired us to install a 'rain garden' on the site. This mimics nature's way of filtering stormwater slowly, reducing pollution and preventing damaging runoff. Come and check it out! Plans for the future also include a nature trail, educational seminars, and interactive children's programs, so that together we can enjoy our heritage."

Big Board

Whelan Commons in Poolesville will be the site again for this year's Sunday evening ecumenical gathering themed "Celebrating Grace." The UMC's Memorial Minstrels will entertain and lead the participants in song as the community comes together in praise, thanksgiving, and prayer. Refreshments (hot dogs, soda, etc.) will be served. Everyone in the community is invited to attend.

For Those with a Wedding on their Minds

Brides, grooms, mothers, and maids are invited to attend the Kentlands Mansion's bridal show on July 23 from noon to 4:00 p.m. The first twenty-five brides to enter will get a special bride's package of free gifts, samples, and assorted goodies. This is a great way to visit with wedding professionals including caterers, photographers, planners and more. There is a \$5.00 entrance fee.

131st Annual Chicken Dinner

That's a lot of years and a lot of great chicken. St. Mary's has the much-anticipated Chicken Dinner and Fair set for July 29 from noon to 7:00 p.m. The jousting contests are always exciting and last from noon to 3:00 p.m. The fair will also offer many carnival games, the white elephant sale, baked

goods, handmade crafts, fresh vegetables, and more. The chicken has gained a great reputation, and the crowd will be large again, so you might want to plan to come earlier. The full-course chicken dinners, \$10.00 per adult and \$5.00 for children aged six to twelve years, can also be ordered to go. Entry is free.

Whalen Commons Site of Summer Music Concerts

The Montgomery County Summer Music in the Parks program has continued with a variety of music performances. These concerts are always very family friendly. On July 30, Jeff Jones Acoustics— will be on hand to entertain. Bring your chairs, blankets, pack a dinner, or get a carry out. Dominoes, McDonald's, L'Nora, Cugini's, Subway, Jay's Poolesville Beer & Wine, and The Corner (Soft Ice Cream!) are all close by. Come a bit early to picnic for the concert that starts at 7:00 p.m.

If It's Summer, It's Vacation Bible School Time

The churches in the area are all offering wonderful vacation bible schools that children love so much and the end of July is not too late to get your child involved. Check out our Things to Do column in this issue for many of the VBS offerings in the area. We may not have gotten them all in, so don't hesitate to call any of the churches you might prefer to see if they have one.

Barnesville Baptist Church
Vacation Bible School (VBS)
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

VBS – Poolesville Presbyterian Church
Treasure Cove: Where Kids Search for Hidden Treasure
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

July 25
Poolesville Public Library
Special Event: Mike Rose – Mystery and Magic
7:00 p.m.

Poolesville Public Library
Special Event: Agricultural Fair
Fair representatives bring farm animals
2:00 p.m.

July 29
St. Mary's 131st Chicken Dinner and Fair
Pavilion in Barnesville
Noon to 7:00 p.m.

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Things to Do

July 22 and 23

2006 Farm Tour Harvest Sale
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Schedule and Map at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/agservices

Maryland Horse Trials
Loch Moy Farm, Buckeystown
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

July 23

Ecumenical Service in the Park (Whalen Commons)
Celebrating Grace
Area churches join together for a Summer service
Whalen Commons, Poolesville
6:00 p.m.

Summer Bridal Show
Kentlands Mansion
Admission: \$5.00
Noon to 4:00 p.m.
July 24 to July 28

July 30

Summer Concerts in the Park
Jeff Jones –Acoustics
Whalen Commons – Poolesville
7:00 p.m.

July 31

Poolesville Public Library
Book Discussion Group: Nighttime is my Time
by Mary Higgins Clark
7:30 p.m.

July 31 to August 4

VBS – Our Lady of the Presentation & St. Mary's Catholic Church
Pavilion – Barnesville
Circus of Stars – Spotlight on the Father
9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

August 6 to August 10

VBS - Poolesville Baptist Church
Arctic Edge – Where Adventure Meets Courage
6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Tidbits

Hooahs for the Firemen

Rande Davis

The UMCVFD did a magnificent job with the 2006 fireworks on the fourth. Of course, they give kudos to Jamison Real Estate, Selby's Market, Mike Rubin, the Commissioners of Poolesville, and the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring the event. The Odd Fellows, Boy Scout Troop 496, and the Monocacy Lions also assisted with the parking, which is reported to have been very much improved and ran quite smoothly this year.

In something a bit related, we recently got an email that is circulating to honor the bravery, courage, and determination of American firefighters with a national day of celebration. First, I think it is a great idea, and secondly, I am always in favor of another holiday.

See more Tidbits on page 25.

Business Briefs

Rande Davis

The American Academy of Implant Dentistry has recognized D. Timothy Pike, DDS of Poolesville, as Associate Fellow of the Academy. The Academy stated that as one of just 376 dentists nationally who hold this distinguished membership, he is one of the leading experts in implant care. To qualify, Dr. Pike had to complete three hundred hours of post-doctoral instruction in implant dentistry. The examination process measured Dr. Pike's clinical proficiency in surgical and prosthetic dental implant techniques, in-depth knowledge of dental implants, and commitment to excellence in implant dental practice.

CEO Karen Kalantizis has announced that Corporate Network Service (CNS) has earned the "The Workplace Excellence Seal of Approval" from the Alliance of Workplace Excellence. CNS is now in its tenth year and is a woman-owned IT services firm in Poolesville. An independent review panel through a process that included employee phone surveys and an in-house interview chose the award winners. The review panel consisted of the original archi-

tect of Working Mother Magazine's Top 100 best places to work award. Winners of this award demonstrate outstanding commitment to balanced leadership and the overall success of their workforce.

Congratulations to Katy and Paul Szafranski in marking the first anniversary of opening The Corner café in Poolesville. Summer is the perfect time for their wonderful selection of soft ice cream. They recently began offering a full service breakfast menu for those who were looking for more than coffee on the go.

BB&T has promoted David W. Mills to banking officer. Mills, who joined the bank last year, is a financial center manager based in Poolesville. He and his wife, Tamara, and their three children, Eric, Abigale, and Payton, reside in Frederick.

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Tidbits

Recovery from Bypass Surgery Going Well

By Rande Davis

Admiral Gary Hartz from Poolesville was preparing for his retirement from the Public Health Service and undergoing an exit physical when the need for bypass surgery was discovered. This news was more than shocking to family and friends since he has devoted his life to healthy living. Just before the discovery, he had just completed a 5k race in mile-high Denver. Many people in Poolesville have seen him on his four-mile jog numerous days of the week. Gratefully, everything is going quite well and a complete and full recovery is well on the way. We offered to run with him during the 5k on Poolesville Day, but we acknowledge that he will undoubtedly be in better shape than us.

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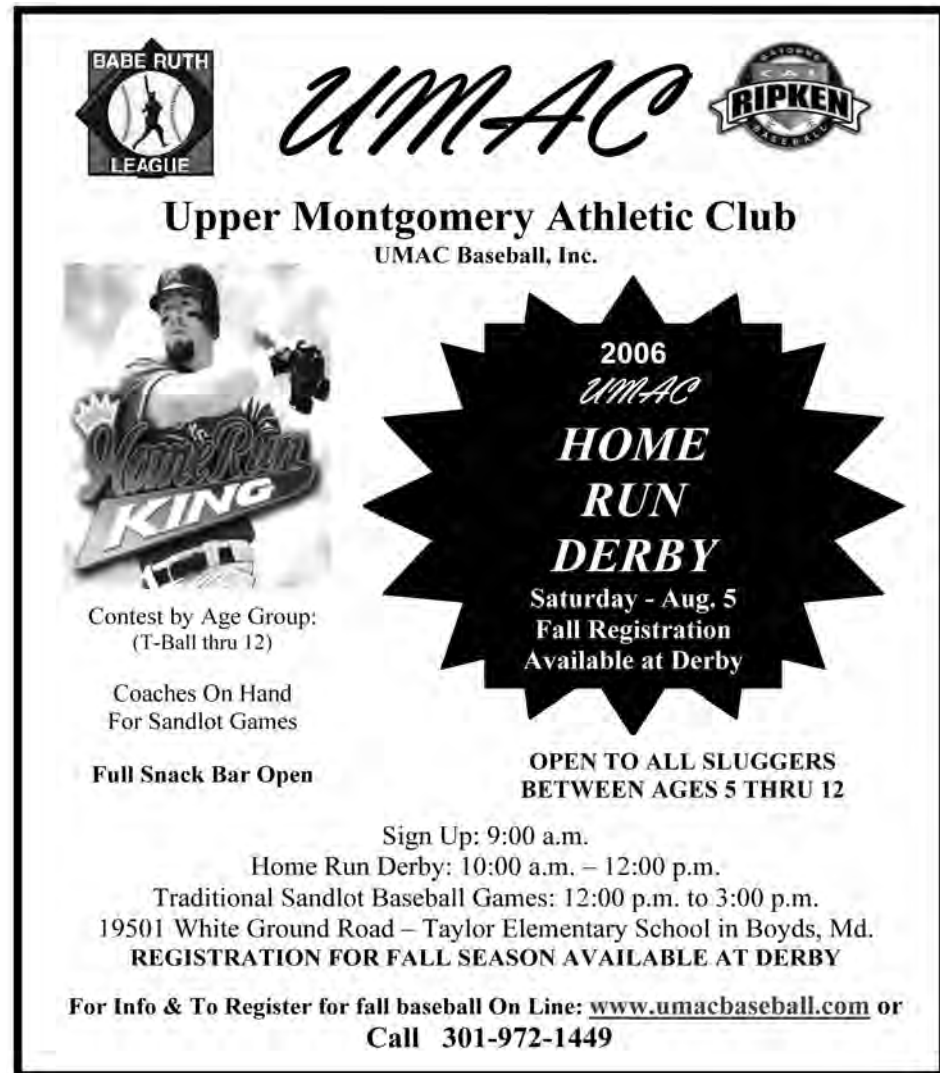
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"Family & Friends" Continued from Page 13.

before leaving for work and, occasionally, we would trade emails throughout the day. One of the more challenging aspects was the time zone difference." Mrs. Harman reports that the support of friends, family, and co-workers was exceptional and helped make a bit easier the time away from her husband. "The boys handled it quite well, each in their own way, and even though we are not living on post, the community and neighbors were very supportive and always helped in any way they could." "Sometimes I think I am more concerned about Nathaniel's pending entry into middle school," she stated with a laugh.

This return marks Major Harman's second excursion to the Middle East. He had already completed tour in Kuwait in a supportive role for action in Iraq. This time, he was in the heat of it. For him, being a marine supports his motivation to be involved in "something much bigger than yourself." "For me, it is what President Kennedy meant" in calling for Americans to put service to the country first. "Others choose being a fireman or policeman." Major Harmon speaks with conviction in stating that his being involved in Opera-

tion: Iraqi Freedom will help secure our nation. "I always point to a plaque in my office when talking to my staff. It reads: "Have you made a difference today?" "That's what being a marine is all about - trying to make a difference every day."

"May's Restaurant" Continued From page 22.

scaping.

Being able to change is one thing - working hard is another. This mom and pop operation (Doug and Joe can't decide who is the mom and who is the pop) takes the concept of hard work to its outer limits. The restaurant is open seven days a week from 11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. If the restaurant is open, they are there along with Doug's wife Susan, Doug Jr., daughter-in-law, Leslie Gill, and their floor manager, Mindy Fry. Today, they have twenty-five full- and part-time employees. Try to calculate how many Frederick people have worked there over the decades and the calculator jams up.

For them, the philosophy that enables them to work hard is rooted in one fundamental rule. You better have fun and you better love it. Almost as important as the great food at May's is the friendly atmosphere. Walk into

May's Restaurant, and Doug will be at a stage-left table, greeting all who enter, and making everyone feel comfortable, relaxed, and ready to enjoy their dinner. Joe more likely will be behind the cash register smiling or whistling. Susan will be making sure everything is going smoothly by moving Doug along so he won't linger too long at any one table.

The friendliness of the restaurant is best typified by one of their slogans: If you come in a stranger, you leave as a friend. Susan likes to say that the friendly, relaxed atmosphere can best be described as "shabby chic" before it got its name. When the Mays go to work, they are around their family and a great many of their friends. For them, where else would you want to be, anyway?

Nearly every year, May's ends up within the top two or three of the best seafood restaurants in Frederick Magazine. This doesn't just happen because Doug and Joe are good guys. We can't vouch for everything on the menu, but this much we know first hand: You can't beat their crabs, the crab cakes are as meaty as they get, and their mom's recipe for homemade cream of crab soup is absolutely wonderful. We didn't try their homemade apple dumpling or hot lava cake dessert. Both are from

family recipes. Perhaps telling you that one customer for an out-of-state family event ordered seven cases of this liquid chocolate filled concoction is testimony enough. Of course, they have a full menu with carryout, which features a hamburger specialty bigger than Doug himself. Once you meet the big guy with a big heart, you will appreciate that statement.

The key to their success really is not a mystery after all - work real hard, don't be afraid of change, and make sure above all else, you are having fun. Oh, it doesn't hurt to offer some of the best seafood this side of the Chesapeake.

The final word on May's comes from long-time and frequent customer, Don Ogg of Ogg Equipment Co. We asked him what he liked best on the menu at May's Restaurant. "I really couldn't just pick one thing over the other since there is so much I like, but if you really want to know, I would say the best thing isn't even on the menu." So what would that be? "It's the friendliness and enjoyable atmosphere and being with good people."

Youth Sports

Hot Fun in The Summertime

By Curtis A. Osborne

School is out and summer is in full swing. Mother Nature has been behaving pretty well and has given us a relatively mild summer so far. However, as Washingtonians know all too well, this peculiar weather phenomenon will be short lived. The stifling heat and humidity of another Washington summer will descend upon soon, as we melt in the daytime sauna, marinating and sautéing in our own sweat.

With the weather heating up, a nice, cool, relaxing dip in the pool would be a fantastic remedy, but for a lot of folks, especially kids, summer is not just for casual, recreational dips in the pool and swimming, it is also for intense competition and a whole lot of fun. If one is looking for that type of challenge, look no further than the Monocacy Aquatic Club, also known as MAC. MAC is a swimming organization based in Frederick, Maryland, with about 180 swimmers using the aquatic facilities at historic Hood College. The swimmers of the club range in age from six to fifty-five, from novice to advanced, though the majority of the competitive swimmers are in the eight to eighteen range. Jeff Reidler runs the club with President Toni James. "I got involved with MAC to help computerize summer league (FSSL) and high school meets," says Jeff. "I train the summer league parents in how to run the meets on computer using Meet Manager and

Team Manager." He now works with MAC year round, plus he is involved with high school swimming in the winter and summer league teams in the Frederick Summer Swim League. "Lots of kids learn to swim in summer league, and then they go into winter or high school swimming," says Jeff. The Frederick Swim League started competition on June 17 and features fifteen teams and approximately fifteen hundred swimmers.

Swimming, especially competitive swimming, takes up a lot of time and practice as the very best championship caliber swimmers train year round, participating in grueling practices. It takes a special athlete to excel in the sport because it can take a lot out of an athlete. Practices can be gut-wrenching, with top level groups swimming twenty to twenty-five hours per week and up to thirty miles each week. "Elite swimmers practice three times each day," says Jeff. "Michael Phelps and Katy Hoff fit this scheme, but they are Olympic quality."

The Washington metro area has produced some very strong swimmers over the years, including Baltimore's Michael Phelps, Good Counsel's four time All-Met Liz Kemp, and Bishop O'Connell's Kate Ziegler, a four-time Washington Post high school All Met, two time swimmer of the year, and FISH club and international freestyle distance swimmer.

Closer to home in Frederick, MAC has its own stars in Christine Mankus and John Hogan. "MAC had four qualify for Junior Nationals and Christine from Kingsbrook (in Frederick) qualified for Senior Nationals. Christine is the only girl to qualify for Senior Nationals from Frederick County in the last many years," states Jeff. "I don't recall anyone before her."



Josh Kim, George Rossick, John Hogan, Frank Reidler

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As for John, he says, "John graduated in 2006 from St. John's Prospect Hall and will attend the University of Connecticut."

As to the difference between MAC and other clubs, Jeff says, "MAC has produced several National and World Class athletes, and we continue to provide quality swim techniques, conditioning, and speed instruction."

Locally, MAC and FAST (Frederick Area Swim Team) are both part of USA Swimming, while the Frederick YMCA swimmers compete against other YMCA teams in a NCAA program. To get a taste of the competition and to see novices enjoy themselves, come to a MAC meet, and if swimming is pure recreation for you, MAC fits that bill too.

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