

## Inside the Monocle



*The Humble Chef checks out the chef's garden, and apparently her kitchen as well. Page 23.*



*The Daytripper rides the train, which Engineer Christian Wallich has brought around the bend. See Page 5.*



*It's been a while since we ran an article on the Poolesville Town Hall, which is about to get all gussied up. Local News on Page 13.*



*The sort of cactus commonly found growing wild in Poolesville. You had better see In the Garden on Page 6.*

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

*Keeping An Eye On Local News*

*A Biweekly Newspaper*

*August 11, 2006*

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## Tragic Scenes Result in Close Calls

By Rande Davis

On August 1, Katy Szafranski of The Corner Store, a coffee, sandwich, and ice cream shop in Poolesville, was preparing for the normal expected lunch crowd when she was startled to hear a strange static-electric sound that seemed, at first, to be from her lights. Almost immediately, however, smoke began to come from the store's freezer, and she realized something more was amiss.

When flames started to shoot out from under the freezer, her worst fears were confirmed. Within three minutes, the place was filled with black smoke. After going through the trauma of being put on hold from 911, Katie reached the fire department, and they responded with great speed and brought the fire under control.

The Szafranskis are troubled

about business right now, but are very grateful to the fire department for preventing what could have been a major tragedy with the store connected to six other businesses including the town hall. "On the personal level, our greatest concern is that it is not unusual for our two children to be playing in the office while we are out front working."

On the business side of things, it could not have occurred at a more inopportune time reports Mr. Szafranski. The soft ice cream business is their mainstay during the summer months, something they count on to cover those slow February weeks. Now they will have to make it through the next few weeks without income and wondering about the insurance situation.

Since the fire was in a multi-dwelling structure, other departments joined the Upper Montgomery County fire company in responding to the emergency call. With multiple fire



*Responding to the fire at the Corner Store.*

**-Continued on Page 21.**

## MES Welcomes Principal Duranko

By Dominique Agnew

New Monocacy Elementary principal, Cynthia Duranko, arrived at school this summer to warm welcomes from the staff and from students and parents that she has met. "I have felt a very warm welcome," says Cynthia Duranko. "I felt like [the staff and parents] were welcoming me. Everyone has paved the way for

a wonderful start." Not only is this a wonderful start for Ms. Duranko at Monocacy, it represents her first official position as a principal.

Cynthia Duranko has had a long and varied career with the Montgomery County Public

Schools, but her history with MCPS goes back even farther, spanning most of her life. Born in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, Ms. Duranko moved to Montgomery County when she was in kindergarten and was raised and schooled in Montgomery County. She earned her undergraduate degree at Averett College in Danville, Virginia, then returned to her childhood stomping ground. All of her graduate and administrative studies have been accomplished at Hood College in Frederick.

In her roughly twenty years in the MCPS system, Ms. Duranko began her

career by teaching in the elementary schools. After about three years, she taught in the middle schools gradually moving into leadership positions such as interdisciplinary resource teacher (team leader) and resource teacher (chair of the math department). She also spent a few years working as a consulting teacher where she traveled the county working with new and underperforming teachers. At the time, she was concurrently working on her administrative certificate. "I felt that I could have a greater impact [as an administrator]," she says, and she enjoyed helping people reflect on their teaching. It just so happens that the primary responsibility of a principal is to be an instructional leader. "That seemed like a good fit for me," she adds.

Although she had spent many of her teaching years in the middle school ages, she decided that she wanted to be an elementary school principal. She says, "I want to give them a head start...feeling positive about education."

Apart from her traveling duties

**-Continued on Page 20.**



*Incoming Monocacy ES Principal Cynthia Duranko, all ready for the picnic.*

# Family Album

Sponsored by: *Selby's Market Your IGA Hometown Food Store*



*Paris Copeland, Winessa Copeland, and Lauren Francis at the ecumenical service.*



*Thelma Forman and Pearl Green take advantage of the only shade at Whalen's Commons--behind the stage.*



*Nancie Kondo, Morris Edmundson, Marge Edmundson, Jackie Kempa, Pat Smith, John Solomon and Donny Kempa at Potomac Hunt's Crab Feast Fundraiser for WUMCO and the Upper Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Squad at the Clarksburg home of Bubba and Kaja Farnsworth.*



*Chris Jones and Joe Ryba carry on a 131 year old tradition at St. Mary's annual festival. With eighteen turns per hour and eight hour shifts, you are witnessing the 16,005th turn of the bird.*



*Lemonade for sale in Boyds during the heat wave. Proprietors Dustin Baker, Kristen Drinnon and Peter Barber, with customer Susan Brinkerhoff of D.C.*



## The Arena County Councilman Michael Knapp: Tying It All Together

By John Clayton

Mr. Knapp (Democrat, District 2) grew up in a small town about the same size as Poolesville in upstate New York—very agricultural and very similar to the Upcounty. His hometown has more cows than people, so a lot of the issues that he's dealing with here are similar to things he knew growing up. Mr. Knapp went to William and Mary for college



District 2 County Councilman  
Mike Knapp

and ended up migrating to the greater D.C. area and working on Capitol Hill. He also lived in New Mexico before returning here to get into biotech. All in all, he has been here for not quite ten years.

Mike Knapp, when only a high school graduate, interned for the late Democratic Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York. "It was really interesting and a little like country mouse goes to the big city," he recalls. "In a week, I had to find a place to live, I had to figure out a way to get down here...it was fascinating." He said he was the youngest intern, as a result, the "college folks weren't going to let someone like me do much, so I got to go to everything...all the committee meetings, and I really got to see D.C. from an insider perspective."

Following college, Mr. Knapp ran a small construction company for a year, and then went into the army. Following that, his wife wanted to live back in the D.C. area. He knocked on doors for about six months trying to get a staff job on Capitol Hill. He finally was hired onto Republican Senator Pete V. Domenici's (New Mexico) staff. "I had no connectivity with New Mexico at all. They had a job opening, and I happened to walk by." He worked for Senator Domenici for five years and has high praise

for him as "just a great individual." He adds, "It was a neat juxtaposition, having worked for someone like Moynihan, and then working for Domenici." He observed that Moynihan, in a state like New York, really wasn't that connected to individual voters. He was a great thinker, but really wasn't that involved in constituent services. Then he worked for Senator Domenici from New Mexico which had about one million people, and the Senator had probably interacted with half the state over a twenty-year period. Domenici was very mindful of whom he served and why he served them, paying attention to any request that came in, no matter how small. Mr. Knapp said he liked seeing these two different ways to approach service. It taught him that you could pick aspects of both methods, that you could work on the broader ideals and ideas, but that you could still work on the service piece, making sure that you're really meeting the needs of your constituents.

In this day and age, it seems unlikely that someone could have worked for both major political parties. He says, "Nobody ever asked me. When I worked for Domenici, that was just never an issue." Most of the issues he worked on at that time were mainly nonpartisan. He worked on mental health issues, an issue for which the senator was an advocate, "It wasn't an R or a D issue, it was just making sure they had better access to healthcare than they did yesterday." He also worked on biotechnology issues at that time. "Again, there's no partisan notion there. It's: How do you make the human genome project work and how do you make sure people have jobs and that we're pushing science forward?" Remarking on his experience on the Hill and elsewhere, "The people that are the most well-respected are the people that serve the people they represent. They get the job done."

It came to the point where he and his wife had moved ten times in ten years. When they moved to Germantown, she said, "I hope you like it because here's where we're staying." He took a particular interest in the community, became involved in the Germantown Alliance, the Germantown Business Association, was on the board of Germantown Help, and he was interested in how the Upcounty was coming together. Even with all the history and heritage behind it, Germantown and the Upcounty were still wrestling with the questions of its identity and its sense of community. He wanted to help shape the community and make it the kind of place his kids, in twenty or thirty years, would look back on and want to come home to, a place

which would have good memories of the community they grew up in, and he wanted to help shape and make that community into something they could be proud of. All this led him to run for Montgomery County Councilman.

There are, of course, the challenges. Part of what he really likes about his district is that in most districts you have different communities with different interests, but they are all pretty much the same and pretty close together. In District 2, you go from Olney to Laytonsville, to Damascus, to Germantown, and to Montgomery Village, and they are not only geographically distinct, they are also culturally distinct. "They are in very different stages of their development and very different stages of their identity which is neat because you're looking at different things that different communities need."

Germantown would be the largest city in the county if it was incorporated, with 85,000 people, almost twice the size of Rockville or Gaithersburg, and the Agricultural Reserve is only a mile and a half away. People in the Ag Reserve may not recognize the size of Germantown, and people in Germantown may not realize there is a thing called the Ag Reserve just around the corner. Since there are great benefits to each, the key challenge is getting people in the rest of

the county to understand what the Ag Reserve is all about. "If you're going to have one-third of the county's acreage set aside for preservation, everybody else better buy off on that too, or you're going to continue to have challenges. What better advocate for the Ag Reserve than 100,000 people who live next door, who can appreciate the fact that they now have places to go bicycle riding or go swimming, and all those things they can take advantage of. While we are often working on different issues, there is a degree of synergy that we need to take advantage of. It's exciting and challenging, but that's what makes it fun."

A major issue for the area, he says, "interestingly, is jobs. Germantown is zoned for nearly 75,000 jobs, and is presently on trajectory for 35,000 jobs. If the area can approach 75,000 jobs, and if half of the workers are from this area, then you have 35,000 cars that aren't getting on Interstate 270 every day. So we need a stronger economic base for the Upcounty because that will help us to continue to grow and thrive and nurture stronger resources to advocate for the Ag Reserve."

The Crown Farm development, where developers were not required to purchase Transferable Development Rights (TDRs) from area landowners,

-Continued on Page 27.

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## Editorial

### The Ag Reserve Takes a Giant Step Forward

By John Clayton

In August 2004, I attended a program sponsored by the Sugarloaf Citizens Association to celebrate and observe the 25th Anniversary of the Agricultural Reserve or, for you sticklers for accuracy out there, the 25th Anniversary of Rural Density Transfer Zoning.

By any name, it was a significant observation. Among the various luminaries present were two former Montgomery County Planning Board members who were singled out as the "fathers of the Ag Reserve," or something to that effect: George Kephart and Royce Hanson, also a former chairman. Mr. Hanson is now back in the news, having been named the new chairman of the Planning Board. He replaces Dick Berlage who resigned in the face of accusations of mismanagement in the aftermath of irregularities in the development of the Clarksburg Town Center. Mr. Hanson is the right person at the right time.

During that 2004 meeting, Mr. Hanson presented a comprehensive list of steps that should be taken to protect the Ag Reserve and reminded his audience that the "greatest threat is complacency," as we will be faced by "incremental threats to the Ag Reserve." These words have only become more true over the past few years.

## Youth Sports

### Kickball Grows Up

By Rande Davis

We all remember the days of kickball and dodge ball of our youth. Now the game has become a sport for adults. The Poolesville Coed Kickball League is about to begin its second year of formal play.

If you haven't seen the sport in a while or have never seen it played by adults, there will be an exhibition game on Whalen Commons on August 13 starting at noon. This demonstration will also coincide with their organizational meeting, and they are very anxious to recruit new kickers.

Typically, games are played on Wednesday evening at the lighted fields

There are many different threats to the Ag Reserve, and unfortunately, nearly all of them are complex issues with, generally speaking, legitimate arguments and well-intentioned people on both sides. These threats include sand mound septic systems, allowances for so-called "tot-lot" development, the building of mega-churches, and new ideas for recreational facilities. Unfortunately, whatever their merits, all of these endeavors will ultimately fragment the remaining open space in the reserve--incremental threats indeed. This is the challenge that Mr. Hanson will rejoin as he reassumes control of the Planning Board.

The success of Montgomery County's Ag Reserve is commendable. There are certainly many counties, even in our expanded area, that have retained farmland and developed policies for its protection, but none of these counties, or probably any county in the country, has protected so much open space so close to a large and growing metropolitan area. As many have observed, the next twenty-five years will be more difficult than the previous twenty-five years, think of the threats from Virginia development just over the Potomac River. There simply isn't as much land left to develop.

The Chairman of the Planning Board serves at the pleasure of the County Council. The council has been steadfast in its support of the Ag Reserve in the past, and I think we can all take this action as a statement of their resolve to continue protecting open land and agriculture in Montgomery County. Thank goodness.

of the Upper Montgomery Volunteer Fire Department in Beallsville. Game time starts at 7:00 p.m. with the five-inning game lasting about forty-five minutes. Doubleheaders are a normal setup.

Last year's championship-winning team was the Young Bloodz who defeated a team from Smokey Glen to gain the title.

The official season opener is on August 23, and the season will last until September 27. Those over fifteen years of age who might want to join may contact Mark Kuhn at 301-349-2027.

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## Commentary

### Rande(m) Thoughts Sharing Thoughts on the Process of Choosing Candidates

By Rande Davis

The signs of the times can be seen everywhere, literally. Primaries are a month away and politicians have gotten their signs out on yards, fields, bumpers, and in the case of one candidate, on taxi cabs and tractor trailers.

Never one to keep my mouth shut, even against overwhelming advice, I was thinking about writing a letter to the editor to give my views on how I go about the process in deciding who to vote for, ending with a political tally on a local candidate to see how my system works. Then, I thought, I am the editor--or, at least,

one of them. The problem is we don't exactly see eye-to-eye on politics. Obviously, then, one of us must be wrong. Who? You decide.

I start the process on choosing whom to vote for the same as everyone else, with all my biases well in place. Those biases are first used in choosing one party over the other or no party at all. I am a Republican and why I choose to be might make an interesting article sometime, but not now.

Selecting the key issues is the next step. As a political science major, I am a lifelong political junkie who cannot get enough of the news. I think cable was invented just for me. Being a political wonk doesn't make me an expert, only opinionated.

On the big issues, if a candidate doesn't match me here, that person is out. On the other hand, I don't like single-issue voting. Nor am I motivated by the issues that drive the extremes that exist in both parties.

I don't expect the candidate will vote as I would all of the time. After all, I don't even agree with my wife on everything and sometimes it gets so bad, I even disagree with me. As regards those politicians who seem to indicate they will vote on everything the way I would, they are fatally flawed. They either are liars, or they think I am a fool.

One more thought on the matter of issues. Issues of today can be a lot like yesterday's headlines. Being able to understand the issues of urgent need is important, but even more important is keeping an eye on the future. Every solution to a problem comes with its own often unintended problems. Frankly, I really don't think we choose solutions so much as we choose problems. If the problems created are less damaging than those we faced, then I consider that progress. I guess that makes me progressive.

The final step in my process is the hard part. After I consider the issues, I vote the person. I want my candidate to be able to demonstrate a track record of concern and community service. Responsible and concerned citizens just don't pop up out of nowhere. If they really care about the community, then they will have a strong record of community service.


I need my candidate, when elected, to become a caretaker, my trustee. Since I cannot be there all the time, the person needs to be one who would make a great juror: fair, open-minded, patient enough to wait to hear all the evidence before rendering a verdict. Shoot-from-the-hip people don't make good jurors or elected officials.

Slick talkers are entertaining, great for a party. I prefer serious listeners. Being a good listener leads to good leadership. Those who talk are bosses. Those who listen are leaders. Leadership is not defined by the loudness of the voice or by the flurry of the action. Leadership is defined by how they work with others to foster cooperation. The playground bully is not a leader no matter how much he or she tries to push people around. In politics, calling others names is a great way to get attention, but in life it is not a great way to get cooperation.

There you have it. I think I am ready to vote. Using my process and looking at the county commissioner race in Frederick County, I can make a decision. I would select John Lovell, and if you can get past my biases, you might agree. Review the following Political Tally Sheet to see how I got there.

Decision Considerations	Comments
Biases	Big time biases - he is my brother-in-law and I am his campaign chairman. You don't get to choose your relatives but you do your friends. He's been that friend for thirty-five years. Plus, this means I really, really know him.
Party	GOP, but in Frederick, for the voters, party doesn't make a whole lot of difference. That he is Republican is just a comfort zone thing.
Key Issues	Almost the same in Frederick as it is in Montgomery. Education? PTA presidents prioritize educational needs. Growth? Not knee-jerk in either direction, but he understands that when population grows and jobs are created, houses need to be built. Fiscal Responsibility: Anyone who paints his own campaign signs knows how to be efficient.
Single Issue Candidate	No single issue drove him into politics. Wanting to be part of the solution not the problem did.
Would vote as I would on every issue	No, but that is a relief for everybody else.
Knows how to respond to urgent needs	He has been a naval rescue helicopter pilot during war time and an ambulance driver at home. He understands urgent. He understands triage. He knows urgent is important but so is patience sometimes.
Community service outside of politics or financial benefit.	Where to begin? The military, PTA president, officer in 4-H, fire department, elks, rotary, church--there has never been a time in his life where he was not involved in community service.
Understands the community	Father, farm-owner, businessman, life-long resident, Frederick High School graduate.
Talks to me or listens to me	He listens, asks questions, but not easily readable. Prefers to let his actions and votes speak for him. He is about as famous for his speaking as he is for his smile. People in Frederick understand that one.
Leadership	Again, where to start? As naval officer? Leader in so many community groups. He practices disagreeing without being disagreeable, bullying or grandstanding. A leader, yes - bossy, no.
Solutions	His number one rule? Don't make it worse. Number two, it will take money. Making sure that economic prosperity is protected will result in the money to solve the problems. May create its own problems but better than the option.
Caretaker	This one you can take to the bank since I do know him so intimately. His integrity and concern are so imbedded, I might even be better off if he took care of my family or business.

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## In the Garden

### A Walk in the Woods

By Maureen O'Connell

If you head out of Poolesville via West Willard Road, after several miles you will come to Izaak Walton Way on your right which leads to the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America (B-CC IWLA). Let me digress here briefly to tell you who Izaak Walton was and why the farm is called the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter, and not the Poolesville chapter. Walton (1593-1683) was an English author who became known for his classic on fishing, *The Compleat Angler* (1653). It is written as a conversation between Piscator, a fisherman, and Venator, a hunter. Piscator, who is Walton himself, converts Venator to the joys of fishing. The writing style oozed serenity and contentment. He lived a very simple life as a tradesman in London. In his lifetime, he did not take up any great causes, but his name has become synonymous with conservation. The Izaak Walton League is an American association of sportsmen formed in 1922 in Chicago, Illinois to

preserve fishing streams. The chapter in Poolesville used to be located in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase area. Now, let me get back to wandering.

If you continue further down West Willard, it dead ends into River Road. Take a right turn on River and follow it about a mile. If you are very observant, you will see, on the right, outcrop areas of reddish-brown rock meandering along the sloping hillside. If you look even more closely, you will come to an area of outcrop where you will see a score of patches of prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia humifusa*). A cactus, you say, in Maryland? Why is a plant native to the arid regions of the United States, especially the southwest, growing along the side of a road in Poolesville? Interestingly, *O. humifusa* is the only native cactus found in North America, from New Jersey north into Canada. Another common name for it is Indian fig. Some botanists have questioned whether the prickly pear is actually 'native' to the east. They argue that it may have been brought by Native Americans from the southwestern part of the United States. The important distinction to be made regarding their indigenosity is that this plant and all the other uncommon and endangered plants present in the West Woods require a particular set of conditions of light, moisture and nutrients that only exist in

the unvarying habitat conditions of the West Woods, known as the shale barrens. In coming upon this surprise, you have also stumbled upon a unique treasure in an ecosystem known as the River Road Shale Habitats. They support a complex of Triassic red shale habitats that include forests, woodlands, and small barrens



Byron "Butch" Mezick

which were laid down in the Triassic period, 202 to 245 million years ago. This geological period saw the rise of dinosaurs and bony fish. This unique and rare ecosystem is on property owned by the B-CC IWLA, and this parcel of land is called the West Woods. In 1997, the club's membership purchased, with an interest-free loan from the Maryland Environmental Trust and the generous financial support of its members, this 127-acre parcel adjacent to the 366-acre farm on IWL Way. This purchase insures that this piece of land will never be developed, preserving this unique habitat and the plants and animal life it hosts in perpetuity.

What are shale barrens? In the spring of 1892, American botanist John Kunkel Small (1869-1938) was exploring Kate's Mountain (named for a local pioneer heroine) in southeastern West Virginia. Coming out of a heavily forested area, he found himself on a steep slope covered with flat pieces of shale-like rock (shale resembles slate with fragile, uneven layers). Vegetation was sparse, with only a few scraggly trees scattered amongst small patches of wildflowers. He noticed a plant he had never seen before. It was about one foot tall with narrow, clover-like leaflets and round

white flower heads. Two years later, Small named this new species *Trifolium virginicum*, and it became known as Kate's Mountain Clover. In 1911, botanist Edward Steele introduced the term "shale barrens" to describe the steep, rocky slope on which the wildflower grew. You can find these habitats in eastern West Virginia, as well as Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland.

I recently spent a hot, humid Saturday morning with IWL member Byron "Butch" Mezick exploring the West Woods. He and fellow member Don Galoway are preparing a Forest Resource Management Plan for this area. A walk in the woods with Butch is not a walk in the woods with Bill Bryson. Butch is very passionate and knowledgeable about trees, wildlife, wildflowers, and everything else that concerns the woodlands. Hiking up narrow, wooded paths and overgrown no paths, we discussed the IWL objective in providing the stewardship for these woodlands. He said that the primary objective is the protection of rare plants. There are at least four state-endangered, one highly rare, and thirteen uncommon plant species occurring in these woodlands and small barrens. The secondary objective is wildlife management, with a focus on deer and turkey. The West Woods Mission Statement describes in more detail these objectives: "The mission for this property is to provide an opportunity that will allow all to experience the beauty of a natural forest environment and to create a balance between protection and use. Exposure of this property to our membership through outdoor activities such as hunting, hiking, wildlife observation, orienteering, and the identification of trees, wild plants, and flowers [will] provide additional protection by plantings seeds of ecological awareness and appreciation."

To my uneducated eye, the woods we were walking through looked like any other woods which I have hiked.

-Continued on Page 22.



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**The Humble Chef**

*The Humble Chef: A Chef and Her Garden*

By Maureen O'Connell

The Four Streams Golf Club in Beallsville has one of the finest and most challenging golf courses in the area. It also has a first class executive chef in its kitchen, Mary Howley. Very often, the food served at country clubs is nothing to write about. Four Streams is fortunate to have such a talented and innovative chef as Mary. In the eight years she has been with the Club, her culinary skills have been favorably compared to the finest chefs in the metropolitan area. I recently spent a couple of hours with her at Four Streams to get a view into the world of a first class chef.

Mary, the oldest of seven children, grew up in D.C. As a part of a large family, she was always needed to help out in the kitchen. Her mother encouraged all her children to be adventurous eaters. There was no "I'll have spaghetti, but hold the sauce." During her college years, she worked at various restaurants to help pay her college ex-

penses. Prior to the late 1980s, kitchen staffs were male dominated. The few women who worked in kitchens were assigned menial jobs. Mary started from the ground up and learned all the phases of running a kitchen. She worked at an Italian restaurant in Baltimore and ran a B&B and her own catering service. While working at the private club Cave Valley outside of Baltimore, she met Mr. Joseph Myerhoff. In 1998, he asked her to become the executive chef at his new golf club, Four Streams, in Beallsville. While at Cave Valley, she also met Gerardo Gonzalez, a graduate of the Baltimore Culinary Institute. He came with her to Four Streams as a sous-chef.

In the last ten to fifteen years, the culinary world has seen a change in the American cuisine. It has a more subtle palate with an emphasis on quality and freshness and the use of more fruits, vegetables, fish, and leaner meats. During the spring and summer months, most of the vegetables, herbs, and flowers come from a garden on the grounds of the Club which as been created and lovingly maintained by Gerardo. Over time, as the garden grew larger, he stopped

-Continued on Page 23.

## Business Briefs

By Rande Davis

### Community Lawyer Receives Special Honor and Marks 20th Anniversary

Attorney William J. Roberts of Poolesville will be celebrating twenty years of practice in Poolesville on September 1. Located in the "1785 House" at the corner of West Willard Road and Fisher Avenue, he has specialized in administrative law, including land use, zoning, property development, and environmental matters, as well as legal matters concerning real estate and personal property.

He recently had the honor of being named a voting member of the National Association of Administrative Law Judges (NAALJ). NAALJ is a nationwide nonprofit, professional organization dedicated to improving administrative adjudication. Voting membership is a limited honor restricted to administrative law judges, hearing officers, and commissioners.

Mr. Roberts has served as a hearing examiner for the Board of Examiners for the Montgomery County Board of Education. He is also the town attorney for Barnesville.

Congratulations to Mr. Robert

for this honor and his milestone. We are pleased for him and kudos for all his community pro bono work to the Friendly Thrift Shop, Poolesville Presbyterian Church, The Barnesville School, and Sugarloaf Citizens Association.

### Brimming with Barrister Benevolence

We cannot be sure if it is something in our water or all the jokes about lawyers is over-stated, but the lawyers in Poolesville appear to be a breed apart. In another example of pro bono goodwill, Jake Perkins, in handling the settlement on the purchase of the old Town Hall, decided not to charge the customary amount for his services and instead decided that the good use of the building was something he preferred not to bill. The recipients of this kind gesture were very pleased and they whispered in our ear how grateful they were.

### Silver Lining to the Oil Cloud

Oil was at \$74.00 gallon this week and gas prices fluctuate only at the upper end. So, who isn't upset? Not Lee Bristol of Beallsville since his company is the silver lining in that dark summer cloud of high oil prices and extreme heat. With everyone counting on technology and innovation to help bring balance to the energy situation, Mr.

Bristol's firm, LBA Renewable Energy Systems, has been serving area homes in solar power systems since 2003.

Now his company has merged with Standard Solar Inc. of Gaithersburg to help meet the rising demand for alternative energy sources.

Their grid-tied solar home system converts sunlight (we've had just a bit too much of that lately) into electricity that can provide from one-third to up to the full amount of a home's energy need. Believe it or not, your electricity meter spins backwards during the day and forward at night. Now if they can only get my car's odometer to do the same thing, I might not have to buy a new car again.

### Where'd She Go?

If you head over to the Poolesville Tack and Supply store for the first time this month looking for Debby Lynn, you will get a big surprise. Her place is empty. Don't panic, though, just turn around, and look down the street. She has set up shop next to Pro-Tech Keys in the spot where Caudusian Rug Gallery had been doing business. She's thrilled with the new location that offers better parking.

Mir Mozafarri, owner of Caudusian Rug Gallery, is selling his flooring, carpeting, and Persian rugs services on special order for the time being and will let us in on his new plans and location real soon.



Drs. D. Timothy Pike and Margaret A. Valega with sons Alex, Ryan, and Conner.

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## The Arena

### State Senator Rob Garagiola: One Building Block at a Time

By John Clayton



State Senator Rob Garagiola.

Although State Senator Rob Garagiola has been in Germantown since 1994, he grew up in six states, moving around a lot due to his father's work. He was born in the Detroit suburbs, apparently not that long ago judging by his youthful appearance.

Mr. Garagiola was active in Germantown area civic associations and beginning to raise three small children when he decided to run for public office. He was tempted to run for state delegate when two seats came open in 2002 but ultimately decided to run for the state senate. He said he came to know his predecessor, Republican Jean W. Roesser, quite well before, during, and even after the campaign, but his perception was that it was time for

new ideas, particularly in the areas of education, transportation, environmental issues, and energy.

Senator Garagiola highlighted a number of issues where he felt he had made a positive difference in his first term. Most immediately, he mentioned the new Shady Grove Adventist medical center in Germantown which recently held its grand opening. It is a free-standing emergency department, the only such facility in Maryland. He said that most people don't realize how difficult it was to get that opened, and how much resistance there was from the various regulatory agencies and "every hospital in the state." It turned out to be an uphill battle that required a great deal of legislative support.

Mr. Garagiola spoke at length about the recent battle over the closing of the MARC train stations in Boyds and Dickerson. The first law that was put into effect this past year (notwithstanding a few veto overrides) will keep these stations open for at least one year to allow additional study. Mr. Garagiola wrote the law and then shared it with the District 15 House of Delegates members—Jean Cryor, Kathleen Dumais, and Brian Feldman—who presented it in the House. The Maryland Transit Agency must now help analyze the effects of improved marketing of MARC ridership, signage,

more stops at the station, impacts on traffic, and the stations' role in current regional planning, such as the Clarksburg Master Plan. Mr. Garagiola remains convinced that the goal is "to expand mass transit rather than closing options for people." He also noted that the state's cost for keeping the Boyds station open was \$670,000.

Mr. Garagiola listed some of the local projects that received money from the legislature in recent sessions, such as the Barnesville Town Hall, the Poolesville Town Hall, the BlackRock Cultural Arts Center, the Boys and Girls Club, the Dairy Mooseum, the Soccerplex, and preserving the Dairy Barn to highlight the area's agricultural heritage. He reserved special comment for the Red Wiggler Farm and its founder, Woody Woodroof. The farm employs developmentally-disabled adults to grow farm produce which is provided to soup kitchens, Leisure World, group homes, or sold on site. The legislature gave money for the construction of a building to provide shelter during inclement weather, office space, and classrooms to help host elementary school students who come to learn about farming and get fresh produce.

Mr. Garagiola also highlighted the Solar Energy Grant program, where Maryland citizens can get reimbursed for

solar energy systems to generate electricity or heat water. The governor signed the bill for \$100,000 in its first year, and the program has increased in popularity and grown to an authorization of \$1.5 million in just two years. He said he visited the first grantee in Anne Arundel County in early 2005 and saw their electrical meter running backwards, putting solar-generated electricity back into the power grid. The number of applicants for the program has been growing.

He explained that he became involved in issues such as solar energy to find a way to use his tenure in the senate, however long that may prove to be, to enact long range improvements. He says he is not just looking at the next election, but "what is the ten- or fifteen- or twenty-year vision of where we need to be for a given issue? With respect to the environment and energy, we can be more energy efficient; we can be using more renewable energy. We can be using bio-diesel to power our cars, and our trucks, and our tractors." He continued his discussion of renewable energy, "It's cleaner, it's a health issue as far as the air that we breathe, the water we drink, the health of the Chesapeake Bay; it's all interrelated, and I think there are ways to go about doing this that aren't neces-

- Continued on Page 21.



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## Local History

### Seneca A Place of Relaxation and Calamity

By Jack Toomey

If you are a fisherman, a bicyclist, a hiker, or a boater, Seneca is probably a familiar place on your list of locations to visit. Situated at the confluence of Seneca Creek and the Potomac River, Seneca was originally settled in 1787 but was not heavily populated until the building of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal which brought a large group of workers in the nineteenth century. The canal reached Seneca in 1831, and a lock was constructed and was later named after John C. Riley who was the lockkeeper for many years. The old Seneca Hotel, once called the Riverside Inn, was located near the lock house. Washingtonians, seeking relief from the heat of the city, used to visit the hotel and took rooms during the summer. Other city-folk kept summer cottages even though electricity did not come to Seneca until 1934. Only a few of these cottages remain, the rest having been swept away or ruined by the floodwaters of the river. Of course, the boat rental concession and snack bar have long ago closed. In the 1970s, the hotel became a drug treatment facility and then sat vacant until it was demolished in the mid-1990s. If you walk up the towpath far enough, you might find the ruins of the old quarry where sandstone was cut and shipped to Washington to build government buildings and the C & O Canal.

Just up River Road is the Seneca Schoolhouse which was built in 1865 and was the only school south of Poolesville for many years. The Poole's General Merchandise Store, built in 1901, is just across River Road and is a place that locals know will most likely carry merchandise that cannot be found anywhere else.

During the Civil War, there were Union troops stationed at Seneca to guard against Confederate incursions into Maryland. The shallow waters of Seneca Breaks, a series of rapids just south of Riley's Lock, allowed Confederate cavalry troops to make several raids against Union troops during the war. During the summer of 1863, Confederate troops forded the shallow waters near Seneca and intercepted a canal boat and looted it of about a thousand dollars' worth of goods. Later that year, they crossed the river during the night, attacked a Michigan unit stationed there, killed four soldiers, burned their camp, and escaped back into Virginia.

After the invention of the automobile and its proliferation among the upper class, the Washington Post used to run articles about day trips that Washingtonians could take to nearby points of interest. In 1913, the Post encouraged its readers to visit Seneca because of the upcoming fishing season. An article related that the road from Potomac to Seneca was hazardous because of the rough dirt surface and advised extreme caution at the ford that was twenty-one miles from Washington. One article in the Post read, "The view from the towpath is beautiful and there are many spots ready for a motoring picnic party...and because there are no hotels yet built it is advisable to carry a lunch." The Post recommended a return trip through Darnestown, Gaithersburg, and Rockville but reminded motorists that the speed limit through towns was eight miles per hour. In 1956, the Post again trumpeted the Seneca experience; "Why chase off to Cape Hatteras, Deep Creek Lake, and other far away places...opportunities lie so much closer at hand...like Seneca, Maryland?" Ray Riley, the son of the old lockkeeper was there to greet the Post reporter, and was renting rowboats for twenty cents an hour. The Seneca Hotel had just reopened and advertised rooms for five dollars a night. By the early 1960s, Seneca had become commercialized. The hotel was doing good business, several boat concessions were in operation, there were plans for a small amusement park, and a jukebox on the front porch of a store blared music towards the creek.

This idyllic place, seemingly so safe for family outings and vacations, has also been a place of tragedy and ruin. In 1905, John Riley and his family were still living at the lock house tending to the boat traffic on the canal. One day, someone left the gate open which led from the house to the canal. Little Elizabeth Riley, who was three years old, wandered out of the front yard and through the open gate. She drowned in the canal.

The Independence Day weekend of 1928 ended in tragedy after three young

- Continued on Page 18.

## Center Stage

### Moving Pictures

By Dominique Agnew

How many adages exist touting the value of persistence? Too many to count. For Glen Percy of Barnesville, persistence—and hard work—paid off in a big way, and his life has never been the same since.

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Born in New York, Glen was raised in St. Louis, Missouri and graduated from Harvard University in 1966 with a degree in philosophy, the same year he married artist Susan Due Percy (see the December 10, 2004 issue of the Monocacy Monocle). He then entered Union Theological Seminary in New York City intending on becoming a minister but finding a different calling along the way. "I had a great interest," he recalls, "but I didn't want to be a minister." After his first year at the seminary, he and Susan did a one-year internship with the Southwest Georgia Project, part of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). The following two years he spent back in New York City finishing his Master of Divinity degree. Again, they returned to Georgia for another year with the project.

While attending Harvard, he developed his interest in photography by writing and taking photographs for the college newspaper. The interest in still photography led to some moviemaking attempts. The first two, shot in Georgia in the late sixties and 1970 during the second trip, he says, were "completely amateurish" even though the second attempt was a little more professional than the first.

The year 1972 found the Percys

in La Paz, California working for Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers. Glen was hired as a photographer and writer. In 1973, the United Farm Workers had a big strike, and Chavez wanted it documented on film. Knowing of Glen's interest in movies, Chavez asked him to film it. Glen spent five months shooting it and more than one year editing, this time with help from a professional editor, Bob Dalva from San Francisco. "I didn't know what I was doing," says Glen, "and without him, the film would not have gotten done." The film, "Fighting for Our Lives," was nominated for an Academy Award as best feature documentary ("somehow it got entered and nominated"), and it won as best documentary at the International Film Festival in Grenoble, France, as well as winning a Gold Hugo at the Chicago International Film Festival. So it happened that Glen became a filmmaker. "My photographic interest continued to develop, and that's what I ended up doing," he says.

The Percys moved to San Francisco in 1975 where Glen worked for a public interest media group, Public Media Center, doing TV spots—issue spots, not commercial spots. In 1979, they moved

- Continued on Page 14.

## Tributes

### Sharon Miller's Park

By Jack Toomey

When Sharon Miller moved to Boyds in 1990, the small lot across the street from her house was a dump.



Sharon Miller at work.

Located next to the commuter parking lot at the Boyds train station, the small place was a dumping ground for construction workers and people who were too lazy to take their trash to the county facility. She decided to do something about it, and it took

to clear the debris, carry off scrap metal, and to grow grass. To make her job harder, she realized that the remains of a train wreck were still scattered in the vicinity. In 1987, a freight train had derailed right in front of the waiting platform and one of the freight cars demolished a house. She talked a friend into sinking barricades into the ground to discourage dumping, and by 1992, she began planting trees and flowers and erecting benches, birdhouses, and a bell. Sometimes well-meaning utility companies hindered her work. Verizon installed a new junction box and, in the process, killed some flowers. This year, the CSX Corporation defoliated their right of way and, in the process, killed a row of black-eyed susans. Sharon has planted dogwood trees, a Japanese maple, and a plum tree. She has also ringed the park

sedum. Miller said, "I love to work outside. My house is in the shade, so I can grow flowers here in the sun." Who cuts the grass? Sharon Miller does, of course.

When she moved in, there was an old sign welcoming travelers to Boyds. The county did some maintenance one day and apparently removed the sign and never returned it. Sharon had a new one made and it stayed put for several years until the recent furor over the potential elimination of the commuter stop there. The sign disappeared the day after the decision was announced. She now has had another one built and had it affixed to the waiting station. Miller said, "I think that everyone should make their neighborhood a nice place for everyone else." Sharon said that commuters constantly come

over to her house to thank her for making their commuter station such a pleasing little place. In addition to maintaining the little park, Sharon has adopted White Ground Road and regularly patrols the road picking up trash and cans.

Next time that you see a place in your community that has fallen into disrepair, ask yourself the same question that Sharon Miller asked herself sixteen years ago. What can I do to make my neighborhood a nice place for everyone else?

**MONOCLE**

**The BCC Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America and the Maryland Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society hold Youth Day**

On August 26, 2006 a Youth Day will be held at the Pcolesville BCCIWLA property. This event is to introduce young adults 14 to 16 years of age to outdoor conservation and some shooting sports. Topics covered will include gun safety, marksmanship, habitat, conservation, bird dog demonstration, care and training. There are only 25 slots available so registration is required. There will be no charge. For additional information call Jack Price at 301-349-2125.

## A MONOCACY MOMENT

*Alison and Emily Hauber Enjoy Dancing At the Summertime Music in the Park.*



Photograph by Hilary Schwab-Shapiro

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## Antiques & Collectibles Old But Not Forgotten

By Rande Davis

**I**n our desire to always keep the Monocle fresh, we are introducing a new section this issue on a topic we are certain many readers will enjoy: antiques and collectibles. Our plan is to find experts who like to contribute to this section on occasion. With that in mind, we turned to Sue Ewald of Sugarland Road who has earned her credentials as an expert in antiques and who has over forty-five years specializing in valuable antiques.

We begin with an interview with Sue to gain some insight into antiques.

**Monocle:** How did you get started in the antique business?

**Ewald:** It began with the need to furnish a large historical house. From there, I realized that antiquing can become an excellent investment. I started with a few inherited early American family pieces of furniture.

**Monocle:** An investment program? Very interesting, any advice?

**Ewald:** When times are unsteady, the establishment fragile antiques are not a bad way to go. It's not just a matter of buying low and selling high. One key is always to buy quality. When you do it right, I don't mind comparing it to blue chip stocks.

**Monocle:** What differentiates an antique from a collectible?

**Ewald:** Collectibles often get a free ride under the name of antiques. Being thirty to seventy years old places items more in the collectible column. A true antique must be one hundred years old. A term often used is "circa" meaning "around." It is a safe way to date the antique within twenty years to avoid misrepresenting the item.

**Monocle:** Beyond furnishing homes and an investment, what else draws people to antiques?

**Ewald:** I think interest stems from a sense of history, a sense of the aesthetic beauty, or the thrill of the hunt. Antiques are rare works of art and craftsmanship. The field of antiques being so vast and diversified has collectors on a permanent quest for their special interests. Going to shops and shows is much like going to a museum for those wishing to learn.

**Monocle:** What is a good way to get

## Big Board

### The AgFair Is Open

This is just a reminder that the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair starts August 11 and runs through August 19. They have the full line of midway attractions and the 4-H shows and competition. Monster trucks, tractor pull, and racing pigs can be a thrill for kids not otherwise ever seen. There are concerts in the evening every night with such groups as Sumakta, the Newporters, and the Big Woods Band. For all the details, visit mcagfair.com.

#### Practice Your Vote

The Poolesville Library now has a practice voting machine in place. If you are a first-time voter or would like a refresher on the process, they are there to answer questions and help you. The county uses the new Diebold Touch Screen Voting machines, and the display will be available through November 7, 2006.

#### Whalen Commons Summer Concerts

The town has released a list of performances at Whalen Commons through the end of the summer. While detailed information is not available on them, the list might be helpful. On August 13, Project Natale, billing itself as incorporating all the styles of jazz, with a fresh exciting concept, will perform. On August 20, Billie Jo and the Distractions "take the gazebo" with Ray Owens coming on August 27. The very popular Poolesville entertainer/guitarist Doug Bell returns with acoustic guitar on

started in serious collecting?

**Ewald:** Beyond the many great antique shops right in our area, we are also fortunate to have some extremely good shows. One on September 2, 3, and 4 is the York (Pennsylvania) show and sale. The historical societies in Annapolis and in Alexandria are always superb shows. Closer to our area, Leesburg has some nice shows. You can find great treasures at all of them.

**Monocle:** We know you specialize in tables and look forward to your writing about them in coming issues. Any parting thoughts for now?

**Ewald:** One must not deny the best prize of collecting. It is the collectors with whom we deal. With their quest comes a pleasant walk through the intricacies of humanness of which I am in awe.

**Monocle:** Thanks, Sue. We look forward to hearing more about antiques soon.

September 3. All concerts are free and start at 7:00 p.m. Blankets and chairs will need to be brought. Bring something to drink or eat or visit one of the restaurants in walking distance around the park.

#### Comus Inn Has a Couple of Great Events on Tap

The Comus Inn has a unique Caribbean Jump Up Festival on August 19, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. They will feature live music by the Islanders Steel Band and be presenting West Indian and Guyanese cuisine. This special evening is priced at just \$29.00 per person and children under twelve are half price.

Their first annual Wine Fair and Gala Dinner will be offered on August 26. This is a daylong celebration of wine, starting with live music, a special menu, and wine tasting. This is a chance to taste over one hundred wines from all around the world. Their First Gala Wine Dinner tops the evening. Months have gone into the preparation of the eight-course tasting menu, each course paired with a wine that accentuates the flavors of the dish. The wine tasting is from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (priced at \$39.00) and the Gala Dinner starts at 6:00 p.m. and priced at (\$195.00 per guest).

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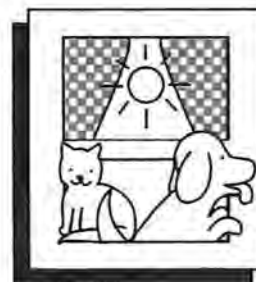
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## Local News

### State Grants to Help Restore Old Town Hall into a Museum

By Rande Davis

The Town of Poolesville went to settlement July 21 on the sale of the old town hall to the Historic Medley District, Inc. The building originally opened as the Poolesville National Bank in 1908, with stockholders and directors from Poolesville and the surrounding area. HMD purchased the property for \$150,000 and will begin the process of restoration with the help of two grants obtained from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority. When the project is completed, the building will be restored to the original floor plan of its bank origins. The walls on the first floor will be taken out, and that whole floor will be an open space with a balcony on the second level.

The cost of restoration is estimated to be \$180,000 to \$200,000. While grants will cover about half of the purchase and renovation costs, HMD

will have to provide matching funds in order to realize the full amount.

When restoration is completed, the building will serve as a Civil War museum and information center. Poolesville, Beallsville, and White's Ferry are already stops on Maryland's Civil War driving tour, and it is hoped that the museum will further strengthen the town as a weekend tourist destination--something that could prove vital to the businesses in the community.

The building's iconic façade serves as a town logo and is also depicted on the town flag. A great many people in the town had been suggesting its use as a museum throughout the long public discussion of its fate.

HMD has various plans to raise the matching funds starting with the sale of Warful Store, the building next to the Barnesville MARC station. The site of this old general store is suitable for various uses.

Steve Goldberg, acting president of HMD, hopes that the public pressure to save the building will translate into public help in raising the funds. To that end, the organization will have a fundraising art show September 8, the Friday night before Poolesville Day. This gallery of local talent will present the work of over twenty art-



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ists and sculptors. The evening will include wine and cheese refreshments along with appetizers provided by Bassett's Restaurant. Details of the event are still in the planning stages.

During the Poolesville Day festivities, the building will be open to the public for people who have never been inside or for others who want one last look around before the renovation begins. The entry fee of \$5.00 will go toward costs of the restoration project.

In addition, Steve Goldberg, HMD acting president, invites individuals and families to join the preservation and history group. Membership starts at \$25.00 and includes benefits such as discounts at their gifts shop, invitations to special lectures, and group tours out of the area.

HMD also operates the John Poole General Store museum and gift shop and Seneca Schoolhouse on River Road that gives students of today the one-room school experience of yesteryear. They have just completed the exterior renovation of the United Memorial Methodist Church's old parsonage and will immediately begin renting its meeting space (with full kitchen), offices, and storage space.

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**"Moving Pictures" Continued  
from Page 10.**

to Silver Spring when Glen was invited to work in the Labor Department of the Carter administration. As he was a political appointee, he was out at the end of 1980 when Reagan took office. It was at this time that he went on his own. Glen Pearcy Productions opened its doors in 1981, and they've remained open, as such.

As with most businesses, the beginning was a little rough. "For the first year or two, it was sketchy," he recalls. "I can remember being on unemployment from time to time." Within a year, things worked out, and he began to get fairly busy. For the past twenty-five years, the bulk of his work has been for labor unions with other clients and topics interspersed. The Alliance for Justice and Families USA have been two other major clients.

He does the writing, directing, and editing, but has somebody else do the shooting. "I don't like to direct and shoot at the same time," he explains. Sometimes—this has become a little more rare—he just shoots political spots. "I hand them the tape at the end of the day," he says. He doesn't direct or edit.

Of course, with the dawning of the digital age, things have changed quite a bit in film making. Where he used to sit at a flatbed editing machine physically cutting film while assembling scenes,



Glen Pearcy.

Glen now does everything on computer. Except for his time with Bob Dalva, he is mostly self-taught. Computers also made it easier for Glen to move his studio to his home which in 1995 moved from Silver Spring to Barnesville. At the time, they hadn't necessarily decided to move out of the city, but they both were ready for a change. "Our kids have grown and have gone," Glen recollects saying, "wouldn't it be nice to live and work in the same place?" They looked in the city, and they looked as far away as Martinsburg, West Virginia. Then they decided to look at towns along the MARC train line. Both Glen and Susan were always city people, and they knew living in Barnesville would be different for them, and it has been—pleasurably so. "We both really enjoy the country here," he says. "The visual environment has had a

-Continued on Page 26.

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## Tidbits

The Music was Joyful, the Spirit Grateful, and the Hot Dogs the Best Ever

Area churches gathered together for the second annual ecumenical worship and songfest on Whalen Commons in Poolesville. This Sunday evening event had spirited music by a contemporary musical group whose lead singer, Peggy Arnold, and band members were primarily from the Memorial Methodist Church. Adding to the fun and picking up the beat a bit was the choir from Hosanna Worship Center in Dickerson.

Participating churches were Memorial United Methodist Church, Our Lady of the Presentation Catholic Church, Hosanna Worship Center, Poolesville Baptist Church, Poolesville Presbyterian Church, and St. Peter's Episcopal church.

After some song, a short sermon, and readings, the group stayed around for some fellowship and refreshment. The crowd was quite good for a hot summer night and the only thing concrete in numbers was that nearly 120 hot dogs were eaten.

Karl Heimbach named Athletic Director of the Year

The Maryland Athletic Directors Association honored Poolesville's Karl

Heimbach as the Athletic Director of the Year this past spring. A social studies teacher at Magruder High school for twenty-two years, he coached varsity soccer before becoming A.D. at Magruder six years ago. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh where he played soccer.

He was the first athletic director to appoint an academic advisory to assist athletes with their studies, and two years ago he was also named Montgomery County Athletic Director of the year.

Karl and Margaret Heimbach have lived in Poolesville for eighteen years and have three children, Matthew (15), Kevin (11), and Katherine (7).

Poolesville's Carroll Retires after Thirty-Two Years at MCPS

Poolesville's Joan Carroll recently retired after thirty-two years with the Montgomery County Public School system, leaving as the Director of School performance. In this position, her responsibility was in overseeing school improvement programs, curriculum, and administrators. Within her supervision were twenty-eight schools from the school clusters of Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard, and Seneca Valley.

Joan actually got started later than most, getting married and having her

children before starting a teaching career at thirty-two years old. Her first position was at Monocacy Elementary School where she taught first grade. In 1991, she held her first principal position at Ashburton Elementary, and the following year she opened North Bethesda Middle School.

She reports having a lot of travel plans to see family and possibly moving in the direction of college administration. She has not totally retired though. She has already returned, temporarily helping out MCPS in some administrative areas. We guess, just like a locomotive, Joan needs to slow down before she can stop.

No Ands, Ifs, or Butz about It, This Girl Is Beautiful

Teddy and Cara Butz are still high on the joy of the birth of their first child, Barbara Ann. She was born on July 12 weighing 8 lbs. 3 oz. The parents report she already sleeps almost all night, cries only when a little hungry, and recently spent over an hour in church never making a sound. This beautiful little girl joins the legacy of a great family that has been farming in the area for five decades. As a farmer, Teddy has produced many things over the years, but, naturally, nothing quite as exhilarating as this sweetheart.



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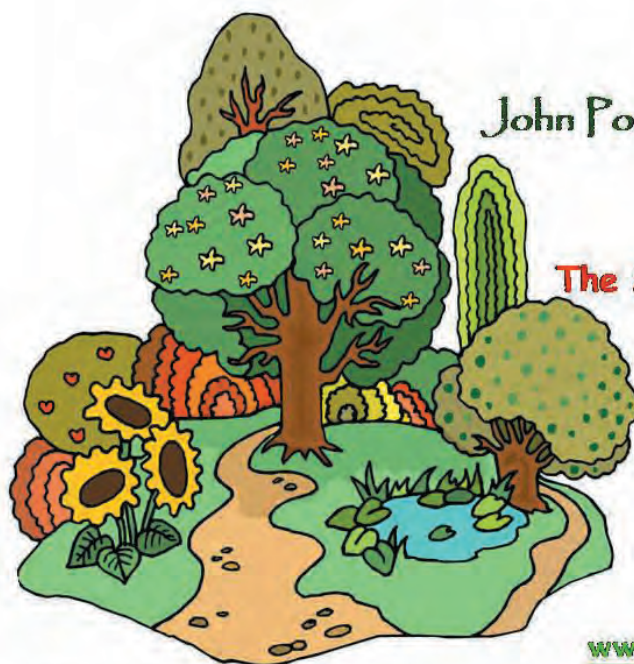
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**"Seneca" Continued from Page 10.**



*Tranquil Seneca, Maryland.*

women rented a canoe and set off for an adventure on the river. The canoe upset and the three women, all from northwest Washington, drowned. In December 1929, five men were crossing the river, which was almost completely frozen, when their boat became marooned and started to break up. Their cries alerted the proprietor of the hotel who called the fire department. Ray Riley, who was still living at the lock, set out in a small boat and was able to reach the stranded men before the arrival of the fire department and just before the boat was about to be swept over the rapids downstream.

On September 1, 1929, crowds gathered at Seneca for the Labor Day

weekend. Thomas Dawson, a prominent Rockville attorney and former state's attorney, rented a boat, and family and friends climbed aboard. As many as twelve adults and children were reported to be in the boat. At about 7:00 p.m., the boat capsized throwing everyone into the water. Stedmon Prescott, also a prominent attorney and later a Rockville judge, heard the cries from inside the Seneca Club where he was staying. He launched a boat to help rescue the people in distress but was unable to save his friend's son. Nine people were rescued, but three drowned including the eleven-year-old son of Dawson. Word of the tragedy spread like wildfire and by dark over fifteen hundred people flocked to the shoreline to watch rescue efforts. The police, who were called to assist in the rescue effort, had to hold back the crowd, some of whom wanted to dive into the water to assist firemen and professional swimmers.

In August 1935, four young men, one the star shortstop of the Gaithersburg baseball team, went to Seneca for a day of swimming and boating. They rented a rowboat and Forrest Briggs, who played for the Gaithersburg Independents, tried to swim the width of the river. He suddenly called to friends, sank below the water, and drowned.

In July of 1938, a family picnic attended by over fifty people was underway when a dozen people set off in

a flat-bottomed boat. Several children were in the bow causing it to tip over into the water and four people were drowned. The Rockville Fire Department, using their new oxygen diving helmet, tried to find survivors without success. Over a thousand onlookers watched the rescue effort.

Naturally, flooding has always been a problem at Seneca and several times disrupted commerce on the canal. In 1836 and 1843, raging floods damaged the newly built canal and nearly bankrupted the canal company. Several other floods during the nineteenth century interrupted boat traffic and caused great damage. In 1924 and 1936, the greatest floods in recorded history carried bridges, homes, and other debris down the river and damaged property at Seneca. In the flood of 1936, the hotel, then called the Riverside Hotel, was dislodged from its foundation and water was reported to have been flowing through the third floor of the building. The owner of the hotel, Hattie Griffith, refused to leave her place and piled furniture on the roof. Chickens, sheep, and cattle were washed downstream as well as many of the summer cottages. Someone even rescued a bull from the raging water.

In the summer of 1962, county officials, acting on complaints, visited Seneca and found many illegal trailers, cottages that had been turned into year-round homes with illegal priv-

ies, and sewage leaking into Seneca Creek. Disaster again came to Seneca in September 1971. At that time, about forty families occupied cottages that lined the creek. Torrential rainfall

-Continued on Page 19.

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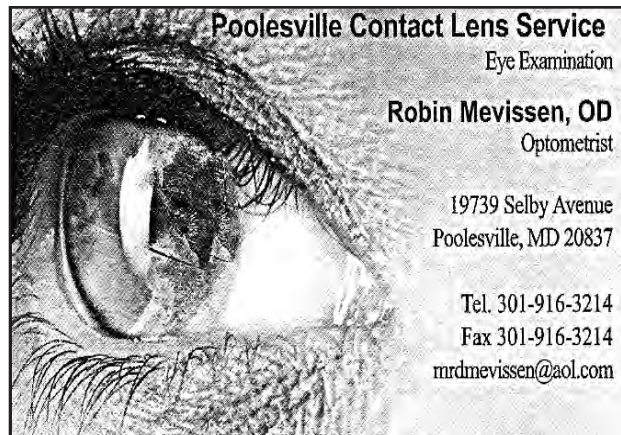
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**"Seneca" Continued from Page 18.**

caused the creek to rise, flooding the little town. A man, who barely survived after his house was flooded, told the Washington Post, "Somehow I ended up in the water, everything was floating: my house, my car, my boat, and me. I doubted that I would get out." In early June of 1972, there were still at least sixty-five homes of various descriptions along Seneca Creek. Montgomery County officials had just agreed to help homeowners rebuild after flooding in 1971, but on June 22, 1972, the rains from Tropical Storm Agnes put an end to those plans and most of the vacation homes along Seneca Creek were destroyed as the raging water of the Potomac backed up into the creek to meet the water cascading down from upper Montgomery County. Record flooding killed several people in Montgomery County, twenty-one people in Maryland, and caused millions of dollars worth of property

damage. County officials stepped in and prohibited new building on the flood plain.

Interestingly, matters concerning the waters of the Potomac River at Seneca have even invaded the chambers of the United States Supreme Court. The Potomac River, by virtue of the original land charter, belongs to Maryland; however, for many years, Fairfax County, Virginia has taken water from the river and built a treatment facility on the Virginia shore. When they wanted to extend the inflow pipe into the middle of the river the state of Maryland objected and the case was eventually decided at the Supreme Court.

Today, Seneca, with two centuries of history, is a very quiet setting during the colder months. The two-story sandstone lock house is still standing and is used by the Girl Scouts to give a presentation of canal life from spring to late fall. The old aqueduct, which once carried canal boats over Seneca Creek, is in poor repair, but during the summer, daring young people leap from its sides into the cooling waters of the creek and hikers and cyclists use the nearby towpath. There is a summer camp there and the shouts of young canoeists can be heard almost every day from June to August, and fishermen, picnickers, and boaters return to the banks of the river.



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## Day Tripper

### The Joyline Railroad

By Jack Toomey

Do you have children and have run out of things to do on the weekend? Take a leisurely drive to the Joyline Railroad and Train Museum near Harper's Ferry and you won't regret the experience.

The Joyline Railroad is a miniature railroad that runs around the farm of Christian and Dona Wallich near Harper's Ferry. The railroad was built by Christian's father and opened in 1970. It has been in continuous operation for thirty-six years. A Monocle reporter recalled taking his children there in the mid-1980s and recently made a return visit. The train traverses a course of about a half mile and travels over bridges, small streams, and open space. A visitor can see a portion of the Bolivar Heights battlefield while riding on the train. The railroad has four gasoline-powered locomotives, eight passenger cars that can carry about eight people each, and ten freight cars. All of the equip-



*The Joyline train crosses over one of the bridges.*

ment has been acquired over the years from amusement parks that were going out of business. The equipment is kept in authentic car barns when not running, and the main station on the Joyline Railroad is an old crew house imported from the real railroad in Hagerstown, Maryland. In fact, a portion of the waiting platform is made of cobblestones and streetcar rails from Georgetown. There are also miniature handcars that small children can operate over a small course away from the main line. These were acquired from Kiddy Land Park in Takoma Park when it went out of business in the

early 1970s.

The Christian and Dona live in a Civil War-era farmhouse next to which is a barn that houses the Harper's Ferry Toy Train Museum. The museum was originally housed in a baggage car in Harper's Ferry, but the contents were moved to the Wallich farm in 1985. In the museum, one finds Lionel trains of all kinds and a model railroad that runs around the barn on a scenic layout. There is also railroad memorabilia of all kinds.

Christian Wallich said, "I've always loved trains, I do it for the enjoyment of the [visitors], the children have so much fun. We aren't crowded, and we have time to talk to the people." He added that sometimes small children are reluctant to climb aboard, but once they do, he can't get them off. Dona Wallich, who usually runs the museum, said, "We have met people from all over the world: India, England, Japan, and Norway."

Compared to amusement parks, the experience is surprisingly inexpensive. A ride on the train, which includes two laps around the route,

costs only one dollar and fifty cents. There is a separate charge for the museum. Over the years, tens of thousands of people have enjoyed this unique little railroad. It is well worth the short trip to Harper's Ferry, and children and adults will love it! On the same road is the Schoolhouse Ridge portion of the Bolivar Heights Battlefield which is operated by the National Park Service.

The Joyline Railroad and Toy Train Museum are open on Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from April to the last weekend in October. For more information, call 304-535-2521.

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#### "MES Welcomes Principal" Continued From Page 1.

as a consulting teacher, the past two years have had Ms. Duranko moving around quite a bit. She spent one year at Flower Hill Elementary as an assistant principal, one semester last fall doing her internship at Rolling Terrace Elementary in Takoma Park (a long commute from her home in Frederick), and last spring she was acting principal at Darnestown Elementary. "I'm ready to put down roots," she laughs.

In settling in, Ms. Duranko has met with many members of the staff whom she's found very nice, extremely intelligent, and helpful. She has also had a meeting with Josephine Bacas, PTA president, in which she learned about the traditions of the school. "I'm really excited to be a part of all that," she says. Ms. Duranko was pleased that she had been able to meet with outgoing principal, Mr. Poole, before he left. They had a meeting that proved very beneficial. Much of the groundwork had been laid for the coming year, but Mr. Poole left key decisions for her to make. "I have the utmost respect for him," she says. "Mr. Poole and I worked together to make for a smooth transition." Of course, Ms. Duranko has been meeting parents and students. She sent a letter to all the students telling them a little about herself and asking them to come

in and meet her. One of her goals for the forthcoming year is to know all the students' names by the first of the new year. To do this, every two weeks, a class will be featured with a display of the class's work and the teacher's bio. Ms. Duranko will teach a lesson in the class and will have lunch with the students. Gay Riggs of the building service staff came up with the name of this special event: Bobcats on Parade.

Now, there appears to be a rumor circulating, perhaps exaggerated by a local publication, that Ms. Duranko is a clown. She was rather surprised by the question, reiterating that she is a principal; however, in her teen years she worked for the county recreation department sometimes as a clown, but she also adds that she helped with the Special Olympics. She enjoyed being with kids and helping kids. She thinks most teachers have a background in which they were involved with children in some capacity.

Ms. Duranko is excited about building connections with the community. She hopes that as many students and parents as possible will be able to attend the Bring Your Own Basket Welcome Picnic on August 27 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. where she looks forward to meeting them. Of course, she plans on seeing all the children at the Monocacy Elementary open house Friday, August 25 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.



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**"Tragic Scenes" Continued from Page 1.**

trucks in the street and in the parking lot, and multiple police cruisers closing down Fisher Avenue, the scene in Poolesville appeared more threatening than the reality. Fortunately, the rapid response by the fire teams brought the fire quickly under control and no injuries or serious damage resulted.

In another emergency incident, occurring at what is possibly the most dangerous intersection in the area. The juncture of Route 107 and 28 earned its reputation once again during the early part of evening commute time on August 3. This time the head-on collision, while crushing one car and totaling the other, did not

have the fatal results the horrific scene seemed to indicate.

The accident closed both roads for about a half hour causing traffic to quickly back up about a quarter mile in both directions on Route 28.

One driver, an eighteen-year-old woman, from Gaithersburg and the other, a middle-aged man from Boyds, were fortunate to escape major injury even though the damage to both cars was severe. While the gentleman was evacuated by helicopter, the police indicated the action was more precautionary. The police at the scene reported that the young woman, who was transported by ambulance, was not anticipated to have life-threatening injuries and both drivers should recovery fully.



Accident at Routes 107 and 28.

**"State Senator Rob Garagiola" Continued From Page 9.**

sarily anti-business. There are smart ways to do this, to put the building blocks in there." He wants to pursue the use of bio-diesel, an issue that "will unite both agriculture and the environmental community, creating a win-win situation." He has looked at what Maryland and other states are doing, to "get a sense of what is the next building block."

He has drafted legislation that would require state government buildings to reduce energy usage "by a modest ten percent by 2010" which, based on current usage costs, could save eight to ten million dollars every year. He is also looking at geothermal energy and wind as potential alternative sources of energy. "We're going to be seeing a society twenty or thirty years from now that is going to look back and say, 'How did we ever use coal and gasoline? Were we crazy to do that, we were polluting ourselves.' Much as we look at asbestos and lead right now."

Mr. Garagiola also discussed education and some of the challenges the county has faced with state funding rules, although there have been some significant increases, particularly with regard to school construction. He referenced the book *The World is Flat* by Thomas Friedman, as a good account of the demands of globalization of the economy and the challenge on our schools to educate "our next generation of entrepreneurs and leaders" sufficiently well to compete over the next thirty or forty years.

Senator Garagiola discussed more transportation issues and responded to his support for the Inter-County Connector. His extensive discussions with voters across his district have convinced him of strong support for the road, which has

been on planning documents for forty years, and he says a lot of development occurred with the presumption of a major east to west highway. He says he has also sensed acceptance of tolls on the ICC, as people recognize it has to be paid for somehow. He talked about working with Frederick officials and others to develop light rail in existing rights of way from Shady Grove Metro north through Gaithersburg, and Germantown, the Germantown Town Center, and out to Clarksburg by the Comsat site. He says there is strong

bipartisan support for developing the funding for the project, the Corridor Cities Transitway.

Having supported the ICC, Senator Garagiola reiterated his strong opposition to a bridge across the Potomac that would potentially cut through the Ag Reserve or North Potomac. He describes the project as a "non-starter," and helped organize legislative resistance to the joint Maryland-Virginia study of a crossing proposed in 2004.

Senator Garagiola said that balancing the different needs and time commitments of the job was the most unexpected part of being a senator. He alluded to the full-time commitment of the actual three-month session, and also to the amount of time needed to research and prepare one's legislative agenda in advance of each session. Adding to this the flood of

-Continued on Page 22.

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**"A Walk in the Woods"  
Continued From Page 6.**

I asked Butch what is so special or different about these woods compared to, for example, the woods around Sugarloaf Mountain. He said everything was different—and it was because the plants, the trees, the small shrubs, and the creatures of the forest, the birds, the squirrels, the deer, the wild turkey, and the fox, survived or even existed because of their needs for a particular habitat which existed in these woods.

In discussing a forest management plan, you first must decide on the objective of your forest. Managing for forest products such as timber, firewood, or Christmas trees is different than managing for wildlife, outdoor recreation, aesthetics, and ecological benefits. Forests are living, ever-changing ecosystems. The foundation of all forest management is based on several forestry concepts: site, growing space, shade tolerance, and succession. The moisture content and depth of soil on top of a south-facing forest hill or ridge differ from conditions at the bottom of a hill, next to a flowing stream. The former site will have soil that is dry and thin because of rapid water drainage and a sunny southern exposure. The latter site will have deeper and moist soil. These affect the type of vegetation that will grow there. Healthy

trees need adequate growing space. Crowd them, and their growth rate will decline. All trees and woodland ground cover have different tolerances for shade. Virginia pine, black walnut, tulip poplar, and sycamore are intolerant of shade. Red cedar, white oak, red oak, and pignut hickory are moderately tolerant. American holly, hemlock, beech, sugar maple, red maple, and dogwood are very tolerant of full shade. Species' tolerances explain why certain species are present and flourish and others are absent or have poor growth and health.

The fourth concept for forest owners to consider is succession, or simply, what follows. Think of a forest site as having a pyramid shape. Begin with bare soil; weeds and grasses appear first. Wild raspberries, blackberries, and sumac soon follow. Birds, small animals, and the wind may carry seeds of black locust, black cherry, tulip poplar, ash, and birches. After five to ten years, the saplings of the shade intolerants have overtopped and eliminated the shrubby plants. They compete for growing space, usually maturing at sixty-five or seventy-five years of age. Following this, the moderate to very tolerant trees begin to take over. As they form a heavy canopy, the plants on the forest floor struggle to survive in minimal growing conditions. Due to site conditions, succession, soil depth, and moisture content,

the West Woods is primarily an oak and hickory forest.

The IWL faces a catch-22 situation in trying to formulate a proper stewardship plan for the West Woods. For the rare and endangered species to survive, they need moderate sunlight, but there is a fine line between how much tree harvesting can be done to open up the canopy of trees. One of the most serious threats to the ecosystem, the invasion of alien (non-native) species, also thrive in moderate sunlight. Bush honeysuckle is becoming a dominant species, especially in the area near River Road. Soil disruption and erosion must also be seriously considered. Each can drastically alter the habitats and thus the ecosystem.

The correct management of this exceptional woodland find, the West Woods, is a challenge now and for future generations. As I said earlier, forests are alive and constantly evolving. If you mismanage one aspect, the results can last for decades. It is the goal of dedicated people like Butch Mezik to provide the framework of stewardship that will guide the management of this ecological treasure, the West Woods.

P.S. I am sorry to end this column on a sad note. On July 14, my wonderful sous-gardener Max died. He was my ten-year old black Labrador Retriever. Sam and I shall sorely miss him on our daily garden walks.

**"State Senator Rob  
Garagiola" Continued From Page 21.**

invitations, commitments, and constituent issues all year long, family demands, and the need to actually make a living, the job takes a good deal more time than he would ever expect. Having said that, however, his zeal for the challenge of the job was clearly evident.

He finished with an anecdote from Hurricane Isabel which he said was his first real hands-on experience with how his position could be used to provide tangible assistance to his constituents. The story involved a neighborhood that had been without power for six days, out in the land of well and septic where living without power means living without running water. He was able to get some help for them in the wee hours, and stayed involved to the end, and said that was one of the first times that he experienced, as a senator, the reward of helping someone directly, and also one of his first experiences with the power and influence of his position. He followed that up with an after-action review (a facet of his Army Reserve experience) with Pepco officials to share his perspective on how response can be improved. "Taking the senate role to get things done that affect people's lives—it's very rewarding, and makes the sacrifice in time very worthwhile."

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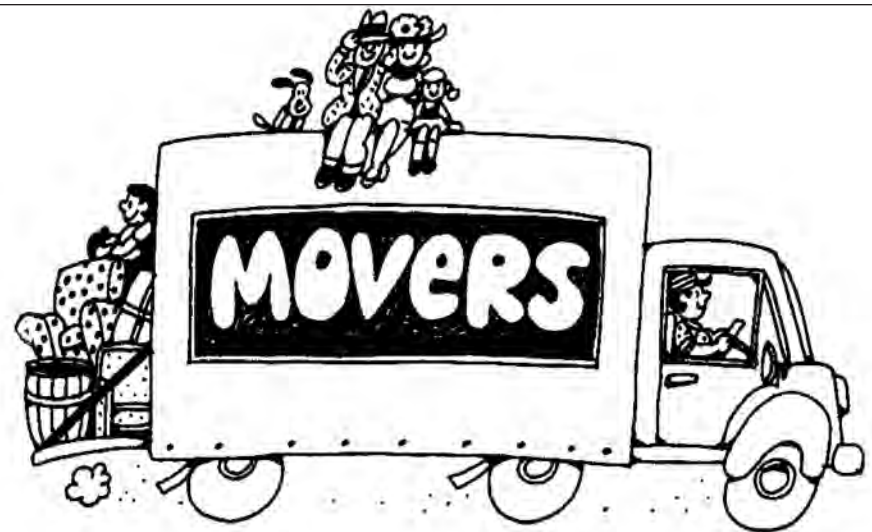
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**"Humble Chef" Continued from Page 7.**

working in the kitchen, and devoted all his time to the gardens. He also has responsibility for the Club's physical plant.

While at the Club last week, Mary and Gerardo gave me a tour of their beautiful and very productive garden. It is approximately forty-five feet by fifty feet and is enclosed with a tall wire fence. I noticed that the area about three feet from the fence on all four sides had a sand border. When asked about it, Gerardo commented that the red clay soil was very hard, so it was difficult to pull up weeds. It was back-breaking work to dig this two foot trench, but now it is much easier to remove weeds from the light sand. In the center of the garden were four raised beds, with woodchip-lined paths fanning out from the center. There were big, lush herb plants everywhere: rosemary, thyme, tarragon, parsley, lavender, oregano, marjoram, sorrel, several types of basil, dill, chives, and sage. Accenting the herbs were huge cockscomb flowers and tall cleome plants. Anyone who has eaten at the Club will recognize these flowers and herbs in Mary's signature garnishes delicately tied with chive stems. The vegetable plants were at their peak. The outer wire walls were covered with several kinds of tomatoes. There were stands of lovely purple, reddish, pink stems of rhubarb and chard plants. Zucchini and pan squash vines meandered in the corners. One corner was covered

in the pencil-thin haricots verts, the small, tender French green beans. The fennel plant was well over six feet tall, laden with its yellow flowers and aromatic seeds. The stubby, orange carrots poked out of the black, loamy soil. Young scallion sprouts were just emerging from the earth.

Every year, Gerardo changes the



*Gerardo Gonzalez and Mary Howley checks out the chef's garden.*

selection of the vegetables and their location so as to not deplete the soil. For the vegetables he does not grow, he supports the local farmers' markets. The herbs are dried or infused in oil for use during the winter months.

Leaving the garden, Mary, Gerardo, and I sat and talked awhile in the dining room. I asked her if she had an indispensable item in her kitchen. Yes, it was her high-tech, Italian ice cream maker. Mary makes all her ice creams and sorbets. What a difference homemade makes. If you have ever been to a Williams-Sonoma store,

you must remember their gadgets, neatly arranged and numbered on a wall. There is a tool for every chore. Mary admitted that she was a sucker for gadgets. Zesters, cookie cutters, and tart form pans were high on the list. Every cook needs the right tools. The foods that Mary makes are often acidic and in need of a carefully regulated temperature, so she mainly uses cast iron and copper pots and pans.

Ask any chef if he or she measures ingredients or just eyeballs it. Mary said that for her, tasting is more important. If you have cooked for many years, you establish a sense of knowing the right amounts and what tastes right. If she could give a novice cook one tip, it would be to taste the food you are cooking. Add if necessary. With baking pastries, measuring ingredients is more crucial to the outcome. If you are a little bit off, there goes the soufflé.

Do professional cooks read cookbooks? Definitely, Mary said. There are always new ideas. She is especially

fond of the works of Alice Waters, the original farm to plate chef.

In chatting with Mary and Gerardo and touring their garden, it is very obvious that they love their work. Not everyone is fortunate enough to get out of bed every day and look forward to the day's work. One of my favorites of Mary's recipes is her crab cakes. Now, I have eaten many crab cakes; some are made with too much mayonnaise or bread crumbs, others are loaded with spicy Old Bay Seasoning, and others are fried in too much oil. Mary's are just right. I asked her if she would part with the recipe. She asked if I was going to publish it. I honestly admitted that I was thinking of it. She thought a moment, and then admitted that her secret ingredient was tarragon. We did not go into exact amounts of every ingredient, so here is a simple version of Mary's Crab Cakes.

### Mary's Crab Cakes

1 pound lump crab meat  
fresh, white bread crumbs  
1 egg, beaten  
dry mustard  
dash of Worcestershire sauce  
salt and pepper to taste  
mayonnaise  
chopped fresh tarragon

Gently fold in the bread crumbs with the crab meat. Separately mix the other ingredients. Add to the crab meat and shape into patties. Chill for an hour or so. Sauté in clarified butter until nicely browned on both sides. Finish in 400° oven for five to eight minutes. Serves four.

## Local News

### Swim for Sarah 2006 Stupendous Success

By Dominique Agnew

There was music; there was splashing; there was great food; and there was an amazing silent auction. July 16 marked the fourth annual community event, Swim for Sarah, begun in memory of Sarah Auer, daughter, sister, swimmer, beloved swim team coach, and sorely missed Poolesville resident. With the intention of providing scholarships to graduating seniors in the Poolesville community and in the swimming community, the success of the event has astounded planners and visitors alike—and this year was no exception.

The final numbers as to dollars

raised are not in yet, but as of this writing, they look very promising. In all, about 170 swimmers swam roughly 180 miles, some swimmers came from four other teams: Stonebridge, Waters Landing, Tilden Woods, and RMSC. Two swimmers swam over two hundred laps: fourteen-year-old Kevin Kasner and thirteen-year-old Joseph Pepper. In attendance were seven former and present recipients of scholarships: Laura Wolford (PHS recipient), Samantha Hatfield (Poolesville Swim Team recipient), Jennifer D'Alessio (MCSL recipient), Joe Gordon (2004 PST recipient) Kyle Jackson, Ian Buckley, Christina Smith (2005 PST recipient), and Laura Eull (2006 MCSL recipient).

Musical entertainment was provided by Doug Bell and Brian Gross; and face painting by the Betters. The amazing silent auction had over 150 items. Of course, the most important aspect was community attendance: it is estimated

that over one thousand people attended over five hours.

The planning committee would like to thank the swimmers, the community, the businesses, all contributors, and all those who helped, especially, Boy Scout Troop 496.

Seven 2006 graduating seniors

received scholarships this year either through Poolesville High School, the Montgomery County Swim League, or the Poolesville Swim Team: Maureen Bowman, Andrew Barnes, Jennifer D'Alessio, Laura Eull, Laura Wolford, Samantha Hatfield, and Michael Maley.

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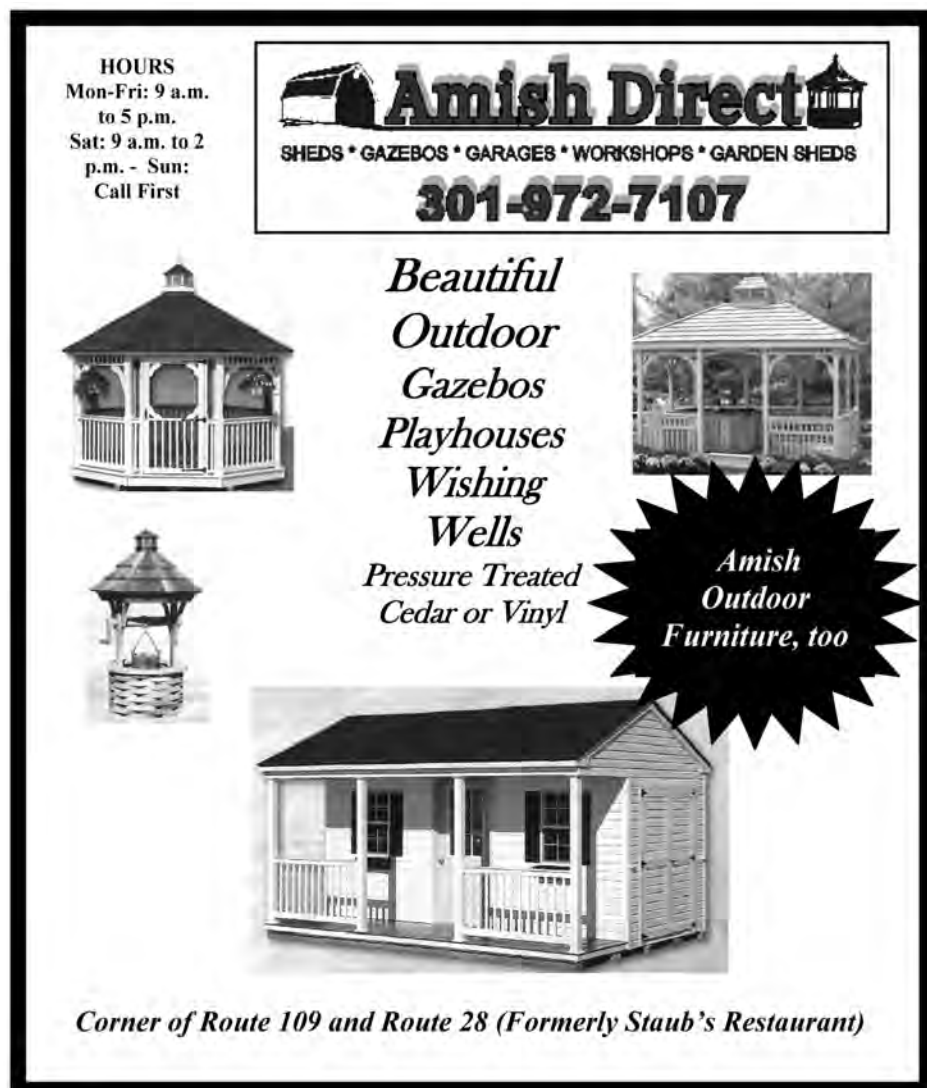
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## Youth Making a Difference

*Sarah Knight*

By Jack Toomey

After meeting her, it does not take long to realize that this is a young woman on a mission. She virtually bubbles over with enthusiasm about her likes and dislikes and makes it perfectly clear about her goals in life.

Sarah Knight is a rising senior at Poolesville High School and is involved in so many activities that an interviewer had a difficult time keeping up with all of her many pursuits. Sarah moved to Poolesville with her family in 2002. Her father is a career navy man and is stationed at the Navy Yard in Washington. Actually, her dad and mother were raised in Montgomery County, attended school here, married, her father joined the navy and traveled the world, and now the family has come full circle after returning to Poolesville.

Sarah joined an organization called the Sea Scouts last summer. It is an internationally-based group open to youngster and older teenagers founded in 1912 and similar to the Boy Scouts, with a nautical theme.

Sarah's company meets for drill once a month for two days, and a few times a year they take an overnight cruise on the Severn River in Annapolis aboard a United States Naval vessel. After joining the Sea Scouts, Sarah was required to attend boot camp at Camp Smith, New York which is near West Point. For two weeks, she learned how to do a variety of tasks and was under considerable pressure the whole time. They went on a five-mile forced march, explored a cave where simulated explosives were hidden, and learned how to properly clean the launch deck of a ship. Sarah proudly mentioned that her entire company of fifty girls completed the two-week boot camp while several boys dropped out. When she reports to her ship, which is docked near Annapolis, she is assigned duties akin to that of a seaman in the navy. She remarked that her favorite part of the voyage is when they pass the Naval Academy. Sarah said, "I like knowing that I am not a bum every weekend, I've been on a helicopter, learned how to field strip an M-16. I just like the structure." On duty weekends, she reports to Fort Detrick in Frederick where drill is held. Sarah said, "I like the marching the best, we are all

together and squared away." She has won two marching competitions while a member of Sea Scouts.

She is very active at Poolesville High School. Sarah is a member of the track team, cross country, swimming team, writes for the Literary Magazine, is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and takes several Advanced Placement classes. Since she is a member of a military family, Sarah has attended eight different schools. She remarked, "Poolesville (High) is smaller, I like the teachers, it's sports oriented, and I like the AP classes." She added the only drawback, "It's the first time that I haven't lived near a beach." In addition, she is active in her youth group at the Poolesville Baptist Church and recently participated in Relay for Life where her group raised two thousand dollars. Last summer, Sarah, who is considering nursing as a career, did an internship at the Bethesda Naval Hospital, and this summer, she will return and work in the ward where wounded marines from Iraq are treated.

Sarah Knight lives in Poolesville with her parents, Senior Chief Matthew Knight and Katherine, and her brothers, James and Maximus.

*"Moving Pictures" Continued*  
 From Page 14.

significant impact on both of us." Fortunately for them, they found a property on which there stood a house they like and a wonderful studio where they both work. "This place was ninety percent perfect," Glen says.

Glen enjoys what he does most of the time, but there is that hope for the future—the hope that one of his feature screenplays will be snatched up by a Hollywood studio. He has thus far written three, one of which was a collaboration with another Barnesville resident, George Miller, a novelist. "I enjoyed collaborating with George," he says. This particular movie script did attract attention from Hollywood, and, for a year, there were discussions about the possibility of making it into a movie. In the end, the movie didn't happen, but both Glen and George felt the better for the experience.

Of course, that first Academy Award nomination didn't come with the first movie Glen ever made, maybe the second nomination will come with the third script. Patience, Glen, is a virtue. Good things come to those who wait. Practice makes perfect. He who perseveres finds victory. C'est en forgeant qu'on devient forgeron. Ad infinitum...

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## Youth Sports

### On the Road to the Babe Ruth World Series

By Rande Davis

The Upper Montgomery County Athletic Club (UMAC) had quite a thrill this year. The team of players aged ten found itself on the brink of going to the big show. In this case, the big show is the Babe Ruth-Cal Ripken World Series.

UMAC is the official league for Babe Ruth-Cal Ripken baseball. The league has been fielding teams since the 1960s, at one point they put nearly eighty separate teams on the diamond. Even with changes in the population and the development of other leagues, they still field thirty-three teams each spring. Games are played primarily in Boyds with the teams divided by townships and age.

This year alone, over four hundred players went about learning and playing baseball. Some of today's coaches played UMAC when they were just kids. Others, like league president Gene Lowery, joined UMAC later in life. Lowery started coaching his son's team thirty-one years ago. He now enjoys heading up the league.

The season for the league starts in April and they accept all who want to play. Through June, the teams play intramurally, emphasizing the learning process. The league breaks the teams

down by age group. Those getting their first baseball experience at five and six years old, play T-ball. When they get to be seven and eight years old, they progress to machine-pitch ball. At this age, they are still very much in the basic stages of learning, and machine-pitch spares them the trauma of facing a wild pitcher.

When they get to be nine and ten, they get their first experiences facing a live pitcher. Later on, the eleven- and twelve-year-olds pick up the speed until they become members of the thirteen- through fifteen-year-old group. At this point, they are just about ready to begin playing high school. Mr. Lowery reports that for those players making the annual all-star teams, they have a historical record of having at least ninety-five percent of them going on to play in high school. Some, like Chris Benson who went to Clemson, earned scholarships. Others made it as far as the professional minor leagues.

As the regular season ends in June, the all-star tournament league picks up. These teams are selected, and tryouts are required. In tournament play, they face teams from other areas and begin a process of competition that will determine their ranking within the state.

UMAC knocked out quite impressive achievements this year. The eight-year-olds finished second in the state while the seven-year-olds came in third. The nine-year-old team did well, too, placing fourth in the state.

The big story this year, however, was

the ten-year-olds, their nearly perfect season, and how they came so close to full glory.

The ten-year-old boys of summer sure had one terrific journey this year. After racking up victory after victory (ending the full season 21-2), the road to the Babe Ruth World Series began to emerge beyond just a dream. When the tournament season ended, they found themselves moving on to the regional championships in Albany, New York. They knew all too well what this meant. A win in Albany and they were just one tournament away from the World Series in Abbeyville, Louisiana.

While they did not end up winning the tournament, they came back knowing that the goal was not just a pipedream. They learned they have the capacity to go all the way. They had a challenging situation to begin with. After driving over seven hours to get to Albany, they found they had barely enough time to get into uniform and get on the field. A team not known for errors, they had more than



Doug Metz, Jody Pearre, Dave Fishback, Carson Jones, Tyler Goodman, Tyler Magaha, Daniel Fishback, Jjohn Paul Boyle, Boaz Ru, Cory Savage, Joey Ingler, Hunter Pearre, Sam Shin, Thayer Seely, Robbie Metz, Ryan

they normal. Fatigue has its price.

They played against the other teams quite evenly through rainy weather and delayed games. While they won one game in three, they also won the knowledge that they have the potential to reach the ultimate goal.

For this team of players on the UMAC ten-year-old team, the adage that the journey is more important than the destination may have proved true, but their journey doesn't just end this year. As they say, there is always next year, and these boys have gained an important experience.

### "Michael Knapp" Continued from Page 3.

which might have cost the developers up to \$11 million was another important issue. (The TDR system compensates farmers who have kept their land out of development, by allowing them to sell development rights for other sites in the county.) Instead, developers were required to provide land for schools and to contribute \$2 million to an agricultural easement fund. Mr. Knapp defended the decision as "a good project for a number of policy areas." He pointed out that the deal provided a new school site that the county would otherwise have had to pay for, a number of transportation facilities, and additional resources for agricultural preservation. He also pointed out that the transportation improvements would support the Corridor Cities Transitway. He says, "People like to talk about it as if there is a right way and a wrong way. All of those things are really good things. The challenge is: how do you allocate those things? I think everybody won." There were probably many ways to set

up the agreement, with more or less for different interests, but "when we put it up in front of the whole council, people look at all of the issues that we're dealing with, transportation, education, agriculture, and we gave significant elements to each, perhaps not what everybody would want, but at the end of the day, it was a good solution."

Mr. Knapp's enthusiasm for his job and his district is evident in his closing comment: "I think we've got the neatest district in the county. We've got the population centers that we do, we've got agriculture, we've got things like the Soccerplex. You've got the diversity that we have which most people don't recognize, but if you look at this part of the county, we're demographically almost the same level of diversity as the county's demographics as a whole. Most people don't realize that. We have cultures from all over the world who are here too, and to see all those pieces come together, and try and help shape that into something, it's a neat task, it's a great opportunity to try and be part of that."

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