



Ashley Funk (center) and two colleagues ponder a summer spent helping others. Read more on Page 12.



Wine Tasting at the Comus Inn Wine Festival. See Family Album on page 29.



Special
Poolesville
Day Program
Inside! See
Page 15.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

September 9, 2006

Volume III, Number 11

Bombs Found Off Martinsburg Road

By Debby Lynn

It all started with nature's most basic call. An electrician was on site at the old Patuxent Rod and Gun Club on Martinsburg Road—he was running electric lines for the new automatic horse waterers being installed. As he neared a tree suitable to his need, the electrician discovered two 225 mm Howitzer rounds leaning against the tree. He happened to have worked on just such munitions during his military career, and so recognized what was before him.

The electrician put in a call to Robert Curry. The Rod and Gun Club had belonged to Robert's great-grandfather. Robert and his brother Anthony had recently taken over the property to convert it into an equine training and transport operation. Robert was stunned to learn of the bombs on his property and immediately called his uncle, Rupert Curry, a Montgomery County police officer.

In short order, Officer Curry and his partner arrived—his partner being Bo, a Black Labrador Retriever serving Montgomery County's finest as a bomb-sniffing dog. They certainly were bombs, albeit relics from the Vietnam War-era. The Montgomery County bomb squad was summoned, arriving shortly after in a large and imposing black truck, accompanied by several fire and rescue vehicles and enough squad cars to have policed the wildest post-prom party.

Captain Frazier of the bomb squad determined the bombs were a matter for the military, and put in a call to Andrews Air Force Base. The air force dispatched the army's 749th Explosives Ordnance Company to Poolesville.

Police went door to door and evacuated the area to make ready for the army's work. Unfortunately, none of the military or county personnel in charge of the operation were familiar with the handling of horses. Army personnel directed Robert to secure



Montgomery County showed up prepared for the worst.

his horses in a corner of their paddock using a rope line. The emergency vehicles, hulking bomb squad truck, people, and general commotion going

on immediately adjacent to the paddock had unnerved Robert's livestock. Upon finding themselves confined

-Continued on Page 22.

Water Line Break, Gas Leak, Power Failure Plague Wesmond Neighborhood

By Jack Toomey

Residents of the Wesmond neighborhood of Poolesville experienced a natural gas leak, a water main break, and a power failure in the space of one week. All were apparently caused by a contractor excavating for the repair of sewer lines.

The first of these unfortunate utility mishaps occurred on August 16. Kathy Jeffers, who lives in the 17500 block of Soper Street, told the Monocle that excavation equipment struck the gas line to her house. She called the fire department and was advised by officials to evacuate her house until the situation was stabilized. Police and fire equipment blocked off the street to traffic. Within a few hours, the rupture had been repaired and the street was reopened. Peter Perringer, a spokesperson for the Montgomery County Fire Department, said that fire equipment from the Upper Mont-

gomery Fire Department remained on the scene until the arrival of the gas company and until the situation was safe for residents.

On the morning of August 23, residents of Hempstone Avenue were surprised that their water pressure had suddenly dropped, and some saw water rushing down the culvert in front of their homes. Pat Trainor, of the 19300 block of Hempstone Avenue said, "I was putting dishes in the dishwasher when the water pressure went down, and I looked out and saw the river and water in my yard." Another resident was washing dishes when he had the same experience. He looked outside and saw muddy water rushing down the street. Poolesville town employees were quick to respond to the scene and had the water turned off in a matter of minutes. Water service was restored within three hours.

-Continued on Page 19.

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Local History

You're headed out the door to run errands, list in hand—hmm, yes, groceries, a new saddle, and ammunition. Yep, that would mean stopping in one store. Right—not in this day and age, but at one time, 150 years ago, long before Selby's or Costco, the lucky buyer could have stopped into Hall's Store in the heart of Poolesville.

Thomas Hall, Merchant

By Jack Toomey

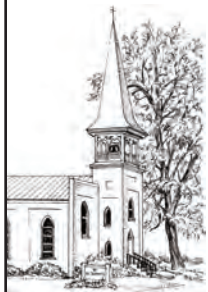
Thomas Randolph Hall was born about 1828 to Thomas Hall, a successful farmer who later ran a tailor shop in Poolesville. By the age of twenty-six, Thomas R. Hall was a dashing figure about town. He wore a mustache and smoked cigars, but did not wear a beard as was the style of the day.

In 1855, Hall decided to open a store in Poolesville. His store was located very close to the present-day intersection of Fisher Avenue and Elgin Road. Hall needed provisions to open his store, so he secured a letter from a

prominent citizen of Poolesville. Hall carried the letter to Baltimore where he hoped to establish credit and secure items for his store. The letter described him "as a young man of sober and industrial habits...and he enjoys the confidence of the community in which he resides. His father, a gentleman of considerable means, will back him to any reasonable amount...if you care to sell to him."

Hall's Store carried groceries, saddles, tobacco, dry goods, parasols, and ammunition. Some of his competitors were Daniel Heffner, whose store was next door, Benjamin White down the street, and Jesse Higgins. Once he had secured a supplier, his goods were shipped by railroad, and Hall had to meet the train at Adamstown. Shipping was expensive and sometimes he had to pay forty percent of the value of the goods to the railroad and commission agents. When the new Metropolitan branch of the railroad opened in 1873, Hall was able to pick up his goods at Sellman Station, and his costs were lowered. His store became popular, and he attracted customers from all over the northern part of Montgomery County. His business continued to prosper allowing him to

-Continued on Page 23.



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2004 & 2005

Editorial

Poolesville Day 2006

By John Clayton

The first good omen of the day is that as I write this and watch the rains from Ernesto, which in my opinion are way too cold to be called tropical, I can say to myself (is anyone else listening?), "Better this week than next." The past has shown that rain will only dampen, not spoil, Poolesville Day, as I remember from being drenched a couple of years ago, but dryer is still better. We rarely get biblical down-pours two weeks in a row.

A little history is appropriate at this time. As our copyeditor and ace reporter Dominique Agnew explained several issues ago, the name Poolesville was derived from the French "poules" and means "town of many chickens." In the late 18th century, it was common for the locals to parade their chickens through town once a year in late summer in advance of the equinox to celebrate another year of good fortune. Hence the name eventually became anglicized into Poolesville, and Poolesville Day continues into the 21st century, although the foxhounds in the parade have scared away all the chickens. (Editor's note: None of this is true. We apologize to all members of the Poole family, especially those that have paid for advertising in this issue, but we know we can rely on their sense of humor.)

In any event, what is all the fuss about? I'm not from Poolesville. Is all this really necessary? Is this something we rubes from Barnesville, Beallsville, or dare I say it, Clarksburg, can really appreciate? Does one have to be a town sophisticate to absorb the pageantry of the occasion? Well, of course not.

First and foremost, Poolesville Day is a gift from the many civic-minded people who have formed a committee, performed a myriad of thankless jobs, and weathered untold abuse to get everything in place. It only looks like it happens by magic. There is a great deal more to it than throwing up a few barricades and getting Smokin' Ray's barbecue sauce on your new Ocean City T-shirt. The committee deserves our thanks, to say the least.

Second, except for you Caribbean winter jet setters out there, swimsuit season is now over. Barbecue, hot dogs, pretzels, subs, kabobs, paella, pizza, cotton candy, funnel cakes, bake sale goodies, ice cream, and snow cones await—all this and live music too. Need I say more?

Third, Poolesville Day has kept all of us too busy to argue about the elections. The primaries will be over, which will thankfully reduce the number of candidates working the crowd. Think about it—if Poolesville Day had been last week, during Ernesto and before the primaries, you wouldn't have been able to swing a cat without hitting a politician. We at the Monocle have been too busy getting this issue ready to spend any significant time haggling over who's for the Ag Reserve, who isn't, the Big Red R, fraudulent early elections, the etymology of the word "macaca," Baltimore City crime rates, and who really is in favor of the Purple Line? I shudder when I think of how much carbon dioxide would have been exhaled talking about even half of these topics.

So enjoy it, don't miss a thing, and don't get lost, which would be totally unnecessary. Just consult our convenient Poolesville Day Program on Page 15. Most of all, don't be afraid to try anything new—lest we call you a chicken.

News Reporters Needed Clarksburg and Upcounty area

The *Monocacy Monocle* is looking for freelance reporters to help us cover the extended Clarksburg area.

Good writing skills are essential, plus the initiative to find and follow up on stories. Experience desirable, but not necessary.

E-mail editor@monocacymonocle.com, or call 301-349-0071.

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Keeping An Eye On Local News

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Center Stage

Music in the Air

By Dominique Agnew

Like all Poolesville Days everywhere, one of the great attractions is the live music to be heard, and this Poolesville Day is no exception. Most of the musical groups have played for the Poolesville crowds in the past, but this year there will be one group new to the Poolesville Day scene, and one group that returns in a chameleon-like change of names. Repeat performers include the Poolesville Day Band, ROX24, Not the Choir, and Doug Bell.

Last year was the first year Poolesvillians heard the Poolesville Day Band as it was formed for the sole purpose of performing on Poolesville Day 2005 after which it disbanded. The brainchild of Paul Hooper, this year's lineup is just slightly different and expanded from last year's with: vocals, Holli Hopkins, Gina Beck, and Debbie Johnson; guitars, Brain Snyder, Paul Hooper, ten-year-old Daniel Hooper, Tinker Johnson (vocals), and Brian Benoit (vocals); bass, Chip Dietz; keyboards, Chris Dominici; and Ron

Miller on drums. The music this year will focus a little more on country and soul with a little less rock (sorry Donny-baby). The other main difference in this year's band is that it won't disband immediately — they'll have an encore performance the following weekend on Whalen Commons. If anyone wants to join the band for next year, don't hesitate to talk to the members.

ROX24 returns for its third straight Poolesville Day performance after their debut two years ago. The jamming, groovy Guise girls, Meghan, 15, and April, 13, are still wowing the crowds (accompanied by older men not admitting their ages, dad Dale Guise and April's soccer coach Pat Hanscom) with popular modern rock as well as some arrangements of oldies but goodies. If you hear something unfamiliar, it may be an original composition — the girls play, sing, and compose.

The group, Not the Choir, wasn't heard from at last year's Poolesville Day, but they are no strangers to the Poolesville Day stages. The members are: Dick Hannah, guitar/vocals; Bill McDonald, guitar/vocals/bass; Marcia Hopluch, mandolin, flute; Jill

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Youth Sports

Solved: The Mystery to Poolesville Sports Success

By Rande Davis and Dominique Agnew

The breeze was blowing in the small town's stadium as the crowd murmured expectantly and the players and cheerleaders gathered with nervous excitement on the field below. The last Friday of the summer (not officially, but with school beginning the following Monday, it was true for all the kids) found the whole of the Poolesville Athletic Association's (PAA) football teams and the PAA cheerleaders preparing for the season-opening pep rally at Poolesville High School's stadium. From the youngest player or cheerleader to the oldest, as each name was called, applause and cheering rose from the stands as the boy or girl walked onto the field with pride.

The great success of the sports program in the Poolesville area may mystify those from outside the area. For those of us living here, though, there is no mystery just a little "se-

cret" that outsiders might not know about. The secret to the success is really no secret at all when you consider that scores of parents and hundreds of children know all too well where the success originates. It comes from the concerned parents and eager children who are part of PAA.

PAA is a remarkable organization whose success results from the crucial involvement of parents who have as a guiding beacon the goal of teaching all children to work together using sports as the vehicle to that goal. It's a program whose design guarantees each child the assurance that his or her experience will reward them regardless of his level of talent.

PAA has a year-round program that begins in the fall with football and moves to wrestling, basketball (Poolesville Basketball Association), and baseball. The organization is a textbook example of volunteerism at its best. Its structure would be the envy of any business or government agency.

Fundamental to good sports is being a good sport. By emphasizing good sportsmanship, PAA has as its first basic goal, rules of conduct for

-Continued on Page 14.



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Admission: \$25.00 – Hors d'oeuvres-
Cash Bar
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

September 9

Poolesville Day Street Festival
5K Race – 8:00 a.m.
Parade – 10:00 a.m.
Festivities begin at 11:00 a.m.

Poolesville Library
Used Book Sale
All Day

September 12

Primary Elections in Maryland
BE SURE TO VOTE

September 13

Poolesville Cub Scout Pack #694
Join Scouting Night
Poolesville Elementary School
7:45 p.m.

September 14

Poolesville Library
Storytime/Cuddleups
Stories, fingerplay, and music
10:30 a.m.

September 15

Annual Monocacy Lions Club Golf
Outing
Poolesville Golf Course
Registration at noon
Play starts at 1:00 p.m.
Dinner and awards at end

September 16 to 25

Montgomery County Historical Society
Used Book Sale.
Federal Plaza, 12274 Rockville Pike,
Rockville.
Monday to Saturday hours are 11 to
9:00 and Sunday hours are 11 to 6:00.
Closed daily between 2-3:00 daily for
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September 17

Summer Concerts at Whalen Commons
Poolesville Band Project
7:00 p.m.

September 18

Poolesville Commissioner's Meeting
Town Hall
7:30 p.m.

September 21

Poolesville Library
Storytime/TwoSomes
Stories, fingerplay, and music
10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

September 23

Rural Women's Republican Club
Saturday Night in Country –
50s Sock Hop
Izaak Walton League – Poolesville
Happy Hour: 5:00 p.m. BBQ Chicken
Dinner: 6:00 p.m.
Admission: \$30.00 call 301-972-8609

September 25

Poolesville Library
Book Discussion Group
Sick Puppy by Carl Hiaasen
7:30 p.m.



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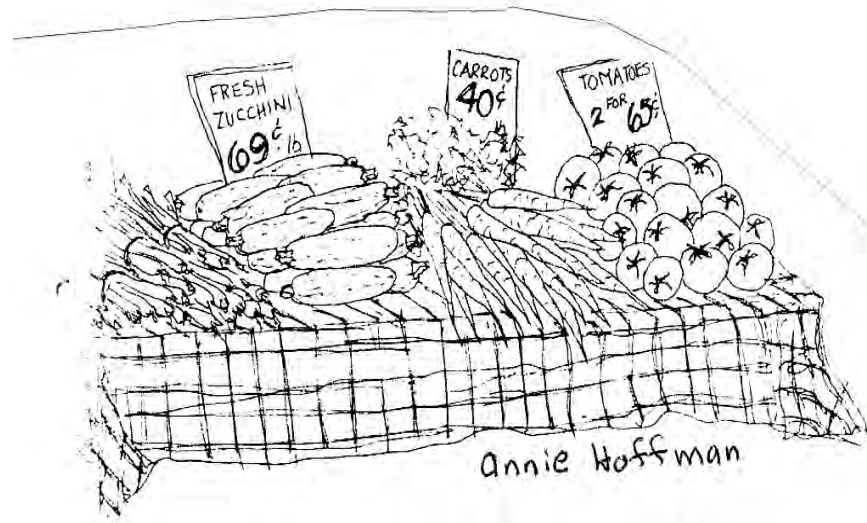
The Humble Chef

I Say Tomayto, You Say Tomahto

By Maureen O'Connell

No matter how you pronounce it, if there were a "poster vegetable" for the summer vegetable garden, it would definitely be the tomato. What gives it this iconic reputation? See its smooth, round shape and deep red skin. Touch it straight off the vine, warm and sensual from the sun's rays. Taste it, a burst of soft sweet, juicy pulp. The taste of summer captured in a five inch round ball. The tasteless, mealy tomatoes of winter have no right to be called tomatoes.

The humble tomato has a very interesting history. What was the only vegetable to be the subject of a Supreme Court case? The answer is the tomato. In 1883, the United States Congress passed the Tariff Act imposing a ten percent tax on imported tomatoes. This was in response to increasing international trade. A few years later, a tomato importer challenged the law, stating that, botanically speaking, the tomato was technically a fruit, and therefore should be exempt from said tax. The case came before the Supreme Court in 1893. Justice Gray ruled, "Botanically speaking, tomatoes are fruits of a vine, just as are cucumbers, squashes, beans, and peas, but in the common language of the people...all these are vegetables which are grown in kitchen gardens, and which, whether eaten cooked or




raw, like potatoes, carrots, parsnips, turnips, beets, cauliflower, cabbage, celery, and lettuce, usually are served at dinner with or after the soup, fish, or meats which constitute the principal part of the repast, and not, like fruits as a dessert." The court decided against the case and the botanical truth that the tomato is a large-sized berry.

Where did the tomato originally come from? For centuries, tomatoes have been growing in gardens in many locations around the world. Most botanists believe that they are native to the Americas. By the fifteenth century, the tomato was an important crop among the New World Indians. For many years, botanists were baffled by the question of where wild tomatoes became domesticated. Most evidence leads us to believe that the domestication of the tomato occurred in Central America. Around the sixteenth century, the tomato was introduced into Europe by explorers returning from expeditions in the New World. It was not well received, though, in all parts of Europe. The tomato belongs to the genus *Lycopersicon*, which is in the same family, *Solanaceae*, as potatoes. There is a strong resemblance between the leaves and flowers of potato and tomato plants.

This resemblance led many northern cultures to associate the tomato with poisonous members of the *Solanaceae* family, especially henbane, mandrake, and deadly nightshade. The latter, *Atropos belladonna*, looks very much like the tomato plant. Old German folklore believed that witches used plants of the nightshade family to stir up werewolves. The common German word for tomato translates to "wolf peach." The eighteenth century Swedish botanist, Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1787), paid attention to this legend when he named the tomato *Lycopersicon esculentum*, literally meaning

-Continued on Page 27.

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In the Garden

A Garden for All Seasons

By Maureen O'Connell



This summer, the devil wore Prada, but if by now your garden looks like the devil, it is time to change designers. Just as the world of fashion changes with the seasons, so does the garden world. Soft pastels feel like spring; summer adds a dash of hot tones; fall relaxes into more serious tones, and winter gets cozy with comforting colors. I would not enjoy living in a climate where there is no change of seasons. The change gives us another chance to regroup and set new goals.

As we enter the early days of September, the garden may look as if she has lost her youth. She is overgrown and matronly. The much-anticipated flourish of new spring arrivals is a distant memory. The riotous high days of summer with extravagant blooms are slowly fading. The 2006 garden has more good days in the past than good days in the future. If that is how you view your September garden, take heart—a garden has four seasons.

The fashion runways in Milan this spring showed dark, somber, and serious colors for fall: sienna, rust, and black. With these colors in mind, last week I visited several local garden centers to see what was new in the fall

garden world. The plants dressed in soft pinks, apricots, whites, and pale blues have given way to dusky rose sedums, dark yellow black-eyed susans, scarlet dahlias, apple red and pumpkin yellow asters, and chrysanthemums in shades too numerous to mention. The curtain on your garden does not have to fall with the arrival of autumn. The palette of colors has just changed. There is a new designer in town.

At the garden centers, chrysanthemums are the icons of the fall season. Over the years, these plants, commonly referred to as mums, have become quite boring. They are used in bouquets from roadside stands to refrigerated flower cases at Giant and Safeway to florists shops' all occasion bouquets. Despite its current common use, the chrysanthemum has a very ancient history. It is a genus of about thirty species in the family Asteraceae, native to Asia and northeastern Europe. The chrysanthemum has been called the "Flower of the East." They have been cultivated in China as a flowering herb for over two thousand years. The plant found its way to the Western World around the seventeenth century. The Swedish botanist, Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778), named the flower from the Greek prefix chrys which means golden (the original color of the flower) and anthemion, meaning flower.

Today, chrysanthemums come in all shapes, colors, heights, and bloom times. Some are daisy-like, while others have pompons and button forms. White Flower Farm's (WFF) catalogue used to list Shasta daisies under the genus Chrysanthemum, but recently the plant's name has been changed to the genus Leucanthemum (L.) because it has been found that they don't share all the same traits as true chrysanthemums. In Greek, leukos means white. Most people associate the word chrysanthemum with the plants we see in the garden centers in early September. The

-Continued on Page 9.

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"A Garden for All Seasons"
Continued From Page 8.

different varieties are from both genera. *Leucanthemum* resemble what we commonly call the daisy, which blooms from early July through September. White Flower Farm introduced a new Shasta daisy in its 2006 fall catalog, *L. maximum*, 'Broadway Lights.' It promises "a big, bold daisy with luscious blooms that open the color of canary-yellow diamonds and turn white before your eyes." This profuse bloomer continues on until frost. Growing to a height of eighteen to twenty-four inches, this sounds like a winner for the middle border of your 2007 summer garden. I

recently ordered six for Molly's Garden. 'Becky' is another Shasta daisy with eye-catching pure white arms and yolk-colored eyes. I have several in the Upper Garden that have been blooming non-stop since July.

Mums and daisies are not the only perennials that come into their own and flourish in the fall while many others are getting ready to exit the stage. I call *Coreopsis verticillata*, 'Moonbeam,' "the little yellow engine that could." He has been blooming and thriving above his needlelike foliage since June and will continue well into October. The only down-side to his robustness is that he has completely smothered his neighbor,

Alchemilla mollis, 'Lady's Mantle.'

Another stalwart plant for the fall garden is the perennial *Gaillardia*, Blanket Flower. 'Oranges and Lemons' is an exquisite new color form of this very prolific plant. It loves poor soil and plenty of sun, and takes Monocacy Country's summer humidity and winter cold well in stride. White Flower Farm's Amos Pettingill says, "It's as tough as old boots" — that sounds like another winner for your garden.

Last year, plant breeders fell into a "cone craze" which produced many new varieties of *Echinacea* (E.) with scents as extravagant as their colors. WFF Fragrant Coneflower Collection includes E. 'Big Sky,' dazzlingly coral-orange, 'Harvest Moon,' with golden blooms and yellow and green cones, and 'Fragrant Angel,' with pure white double rays. I planted three of each this spring, and they are still blooming their heads off. The top prize-winning garden at this year's Chelsea Flower Show featured one outstanding plant that jumped out at you and punctuated the entire floral panoply. The randomly placed four- to five-inch reddish-violet balls darting here and there were the Flowering Onion, *Allium* 'Purple Sensation.' They are borne on twenty- to thirty-inch stems, which, when tucked in amongst clumps of shorter, sum-

mer-flowering perennials, dance and sway in the summer breezes high above the flowers at their feet. Order some now for fall planting, WFF offers six varieties, ranging from twelve inches to four feet in height in shades of silvery purple, clear blue, dark rosy lilac, and pure white.

If you followed my advice last spring and planted re-blooming irises, you should now be admiring the soft pink blooms of 'Lenora Pearl,' the dark violet and soft lavender of 'Best Buy,' the reddish, golden-yellow of 'Orange Harvest,' the delicate indigo blue of 'Cloud Ballet,' and the pure lavender of 'Victoria Falls.' These irises have no special requirements other than a light dose of fertilizer after the first bloom is complete and regular watering when things get hot and dry.

Whoever said that fall is the end of flowers in the garden is wrong—she is about to get her second wind. The garden has four seasons, each one a slice of heaven—to hell with the devil.

P.S. *Don't fertilize your roses anymore. The rule of thumb is to stop fertilizing six weeks before a hard frost. Our hardiness zone is seven which places a frost sometime in late October. My goal for my roses is to have them still blooming on my daughter's birthday, October 26. Some years I make it, and some years I don't.*

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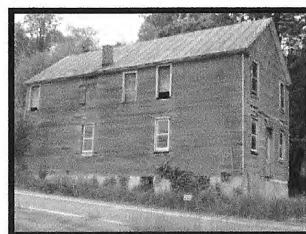
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Remembrance

Greta Dicus

On Wednesday morning, August 30, 2006, former Poolesville resident, Greta Dicus, passed away. She was an active member of St. Peter's Parish and was a homeowner in Tama II until she returned to her home in Arkansas where, at the time of her death, Ms. Dicus was being treated at a local hospital.

Greta Dicus was a former Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman, and she had a long and distinguished career as a health physicist, research scientist, medical school instructor, and as a public servant in federal and state governments.

A native of the state of Arkansas, she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in biological sciences at the Texas Women's University in 1961 and a Master's degree in radiation biology from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in 1967.

From 1961 to 1977, she conducted research in radiation health effects at the Harvard Medical School, Rice University, the University of Texas, and the Southwestern Medical School. Subsequently, she served as Director of the Division of Radiation Control and Emergency Management at the Arkansas Department of Health; Chairman of the Central In-

terstate Low-level Radioactive Waste Commission; Director of the Board of Directors, U.S. Enrichment Corporation; and member of the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors.

In February 1996, President Clinton appointed her as a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to fill an existing vacancy; in October 1998, the president reappointed her to a new five-year term, and in July 1999 named her as the NRC Chairman on the expiration of former Chairman Shirley Ann Jackson's term of office. In October 1999, she vacated the NRC Chairmanship but remained a commissioner until her second term expired on June 30, 2003.

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Remembrance

Family of Sandra Smith Heartened by Public Outpouring of Support

By Rande Davis

An outpouring of love and support surrounded Richard Smith and his family as they faced the mystery of life's tragedies. Sandra Smith, 44, died on August 13, 2006 after the car she was driving plunged into Lake Churchill in Germantown. The circumstances are still under of-

ficial investigation.

Sandra Smith was well known and highly appreciated for her contributions to the community. She has been a longtime volunteer at Poolesville Elementary School where she could often be seen helping at recess or in the cafeteria. Although she had battled difficulties of depression for many years, she was most remembered for her energetic and bubbling personality. That she is most remembered for the smile on her face comforts the family at this time of mourning.

Sandra was a graduate of Richard Montgomery High School and moved

to the Poolesville area about twelve years ago. She shared her love of children by being a daycare provider for many years giving care over the years to more than a dozen children. Family and friends remember her enthusiasm for sports and fondly recall times when she and Richard played on a coed softball team at the Hilliard Field in Beallsville. She enjoyed playing on a volleyball team and also was a fan of



Sandra Smith.

school. Attended by over 150 people, they released forty-four balloons as a symbol of her spirit moving on. It was remarked that the balloons lifted and quickly moved in the direction of Germantown, the area where she was last seen. Candles in the shape of a heart were lighted as remembrances of Sandra were shared.

Members of Our Lady of the Presentation Roman Catholic Church in Poolesville, nearly two thousand friends, and neighbors lined up for over two hours to attend her viewing and funeral. The family selected Monocacy Cemetery as her final resting place.

Mrs. Smith leaves behind three children, Samantha, sixteen, Charlie, thirteen, and Crystal, ten. The family has endured tribulation in the past finding strength in each other through their faith. The Smith family always made vacations and travel a priority and at this time of challenge, they are comforted by memories of great joy from their second home at Deep Creek Lake and vacations to Bermuda, Jamaica, and Disneyland.

Richard Smith has been overwhelmed by the immense support that surrounds his family, and while hearts are broken, he reports that spirits are on the mend. Mr. Smith requests that in lieu of flowers, friends consider making a donation to the National Institute of Mental Health's Gift Fund, 6001 Executive Blvd., Room 8104, MSC 9655, Bethesda, MD 20893-9655.

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bowling.

Her friends gathered at Poolesville Elementary School in a vigil to mourn and console the family and to let them know just how much she was loved and appreciated for her help at the

Local News

Good Emergency News

By Dominique Agnew

The residents of the Monocle area will be happy to know that the new Shady Grove Adventist Emergency Center located in Germantown just opened its doors for the first time on August 7, 2006. This emergency center will provide all the same emergency medical services provided at either Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville or Frederick Memorial Hospital without the long drive associated with those for many Monocle readers. The main difference between the Germantown emergency center and hospitals is the lack of inpatient beds in Germantown. If patients need to be admitted, they will be transported to a local hospital. On the other hand, it may happen that if

the hospital emergency rooms are overcrowded and Germantown is not, patients could be transferred there to receive treatment sooner. Technological advances will permit the Emergency Center to be linked to Shady Grove Adventist Hospital. If necessary, doctors at one location can review necessary medical data of a patient at the other location. Standing on Route 118 just west of Route 270, the Shady Grove Adventist Emergency Center will provide a much-needed service to the residents living between Rockville and Frederick.

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**High School Students from
 Poolesville Baptist Help
 Others**

By Rande Davis

The youth at the Poolesville Baptist Church decided that a great way to spend part of their summer was on a mission trip to help others in need. In their case, they headed to Charleston, South Carolina on the summer camp mission entitled Mission-Fuge

(M-fuge). The goal was to give the students an opportunity to serve people in social, construction, and creative ministries. Their outreach impacted young people and the elderly.

The students split up into different ministries with those on the creative ministries going to a center for abused children and later to a senior care facility to entertain with puppet shows, guitar playing, and other games that included special messages of love and caring.

Those who participated in the construction ministry helped improve the center for abused children by doing groundwork outside as well

as some room painting inside. Other good works included hand-picking fresh vegetables to help stock the food supply in various mission kitchens.

Rev. Ken Fitzwater and his wife, Diana, accompanied the six high school students. While on the week trip, they stayed in dorms on the campus of South Charleston University. The week away was not all work and no fun. Beyond the mission activity, they joined together in the evening for daily devotions, Bible study, fellowship, and worship. There were other Baptist youth missions who had come to help from a variety of different

states, primarily from the east coast.

The church wanted the students to have the “opportunity to go, to share, and to serve as a group” and “to grow in their walk with the Lord” by helping meet the needs of others.

Rev. Fitzwater shared with us some of the comments recorded by the students upon their return home. Matt Fitzwater (no relation to the pastor) said, “M-Fuge really helped me step out of my comfort zone, as far as being a missionary is concerned, or just being a Christian in general. To see people’s lives touched for Christ is

-Continued on Page 13.



Back row: Billy Lewis, James Knight, Jonathan Murray, Rev. Ken Fitzwater, Matt Fitzwater. Front row Rachel Hawkins, Ashley Funk, Diana Fitzwater.

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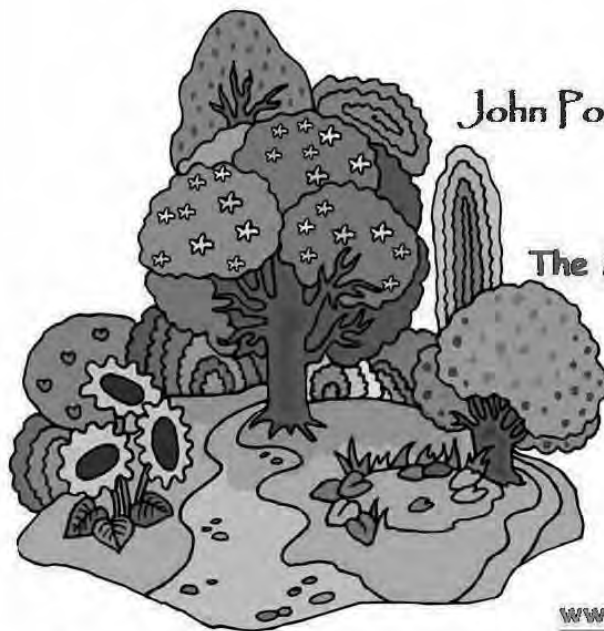
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exhilarating.”

For Ashley Funk, the experience was “Awesome! We ministered and shared God’s love to many people both young and old.” One thing they shared was that M-Fuge touched their lives in a huge way. Billy Lewis was grateful to have helped on the facility improvements at the center for abused children.

For others, the experience moved them spiritually. James Knight came away with the thought that “no matter where I am, I am a missionary for God.” Rachel Hawkins expressed similar sentiments: “At Mission-Fuge, I learned that God watches over everyone, even though some people have never heard of him.” Jonathan Murray’s comments seemed to sum it up for everyone, “One thing that touched me was to see how blessed I am and to be able to go down there and do the Lord’s work for them...so that they know God loves them.”

We had hoped for a quote from Rev. Fitzwater or his wife, but true to form, he had just enough time to drop off the pictures and some comments from the students before the both of them took off to another youth camp out of the area.



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"Solved: The Mystery to Poolesville Sports" Continued From Page 5.

players and parents. Before anyone takes to the field, the skills of sportsmanship, having fun, listening to and learning from coaches, and having respect for others on the team by making sure they are on time and prepared for practices and games are basic lessons in sports and in life. Parents and spectators are teachers, too. Their behavior is mandated to be a positive role model for all athletes, and the league does not tolerate inappropriate examples along the sidelines.

Chris Lee, the commissioner of the football program, oversees a four-tiered league of players ranging in age from four to fourteen. Weight considerations are used along with age categories so that play is also balanced by size not just years. The safety of all players is a primary consideration in the league. Rules of the league require that players weighing from 130 pounds or more at the start of season and mid-season weigh ins are "red-striped" so officials can readily identify them. Their play has some safety restrictions that involve the total number playing at one time. In addition, those playing defense that

gain possession of the ball are not allowed to move the play forward.

This year, PAA introduces a new flag football team for youngsters beginning at age four. Chris Lee emphasized how the growth and success of the program has finally made it possible for the flag football team to exist. The other three teams include: The mini-pony league for seven- and eight-year-olds who must weigh less than eighty-five pounds. In the nine- to ten-year-old league called Pony, the weight range is from 100 to 110 pounds. Junior varsity players are eleven and twelve years old weighing from 115 to 130 pounds. Finally, the varsity team of thirteen- and fourteen-year-olds has a weight range of 145 to 155 pounds.

As the football season for PAA kicks off, the victory in the first season game at Middletown is a good idea of where the team is headed. Regardless of wins or losses, all the kids are heading into a winning season, and the future of Poolesville sports couldn't look brighter.

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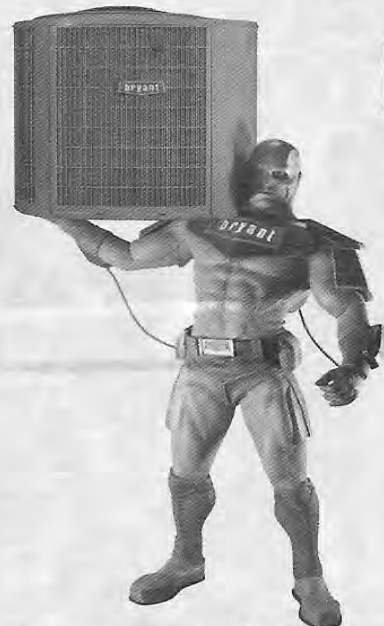
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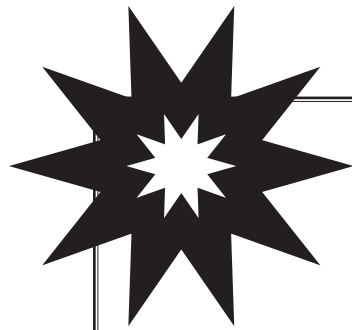
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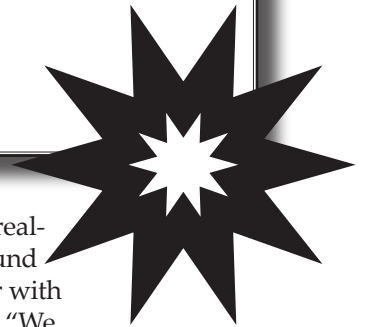
A Biweekly Newspaper

September 9, 2006

Volume III, Number 11



Poolesville Day 2006



We ran this story last year when Mary Chiswell celebrated her 103rd birthday. Since Mary is the Grand Marshall of this year's Poolesville Day parade, we thought it appropriate to run the story one more time in her honor.

There's Something About Mary: Celebrating 103 Years of Age

By Rande Davis

"My Lord alive, I never thought it was possible." So stated Mary Chiswell as she reflected on her upcoming 103rd birthday. Spoken softly like a half-prayer of thanksgiving and half-thought of amazement, she expressed gratitude for her birth date which is officially October 8, but friends and family will gather in celebration on October 25.

We recently had the great fortune to visit with the grand lady to talk about her remarkable achievement of keeping an eye on Poolesville for over a century. The longevity is to be respected, for sure; however, it is her sharpness of mind and enthusiastic reflections on her life that are to be so admired.

You do not just visit Mary. She

receives you. As you wait in the parlor, she makes her entrance by use of her walker. Her beautiful brown eyes still sparkle as she sits down on the edge of her Masterpiece Theater-like chair. She has dressed for the occasion in her bright red dress complemented by a gold locket-watch hanging around her neck, a gift from her aunt on her sixteenth birthday.

Mary Fyffe Chiswell lives in the house her grandfather built. She bought it in 1923 and has lived there ever since. She has lived away from Poolesville for only brief periods of time. She left Poolesville for the first time to begin what was to become her lifelong vocation of teaching. "When I left Poolesville to attend Normal School to become a teacher, I was following the inspiration of those, like Betty Griffith, who taught me in school," said Mary. She crammed two years of study into one before finishing at Towson College. (Mary is the oldest living alumnus of what is now Towson University.)

As she jam-packed her trunk to go off to college in far-away Baltimore, her parents told her that she would not be able to come back before Christmas. "I remember celebrating Thanksgiving at my uncle's farm. I took a trolley to Ellicott City and then rode a horse and buggy out to his farm."

Mary taught elementary school (mostly second grade in Poolesville)

from 1919 to 1964. She started in a much bigger school in Darnestown. The building had twenty rooms. Darnestown was too far to commute so she, like the other teachers, boarded. She eventually came back to Poolesville. Most of her friends preferred to be closer to the District of Columbia for the cultural opportunities of the day like the theater, library, etc. For Mary, her passion for her hometown brought her back to Poolesville.

Most teachers were single, and for those teaching in the Poolesville area,

their social life really centered around getting together with fellow teachers. "We would do our fancy work (needlepoint, knitting, etc.), talk, share homemade pies and cookies, and have a good time sharing each other's company," reminisces Mary. A big deal would have been the field trips to Rockville where baseball and soccer were the games of the day.

-Continued on Page 30.



Mary Chiswell at 103.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

CONGRATULATIONS AND HEARTY APPRECIATION TO THE POOLSVILLE DAY COMMITTEE 2006

With special thanks for the immense dedication of Jake Perkins, Chairman, and the members of the committee – Dawn Alber, Tom Kettler, Brian Sheron, Angela Dimopolous, Bill Poole, Ray Hoewing, Valaree Dickerson, David MacKenzie, Preston King, Jim Brown, and Rande Davis.

PARADE

Featuring Grand Marshall Mary Chiswell

Our beloved 103-year old grand lady will be on a motorcycle.

Note: All area veterans are requested to join the parade following the American Legion banner. Must be at parade start by 9:30 a.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS

BINGO

Co-Sponsored **FUNdraiser** by
Monocacy Lions & Poolesville Day Committee.

CASH PRIZES

WHALEN COMMONS

CLASSIC ROD AND CAR SHOW

Dr. Pike/Asia Dynasty Parking lot:
Popular vote for 1st and 2nd Prize trophies.

3 on 3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Held at Healthworks Fitness Center Parking Lot

CIVIL WAR AND HISTORY DEMONSTRATIONS

John Poole General Store and Museum

OLD TOWN HALL – OPEN TO PUBLIC

\$5.00 Donations to help with restoration project of building

BAND PERFORMANCES

(Refer to Center Stage Article in this issue for details on bands)

Asia Dynasty Grass area toward BB&T Bank

10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Durham Station

12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Not the Choir

Noon – 1:15 p.m.

Durham Station

1:15 p.m. 2:30 p.m.

Not the Choir

Entrance to Total Automotive & Diesel

11:00 a. m.

Sonic Cheetahs

12:30 p.m.

Poolesville Band Project

Field Next to Poolesville's Beer and Wine

11:00 to noon

Doug Bell Band

12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Rox 24

1:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Doug Bell Band

FOOD, SNACKS, AND SODAS

Smokin' Ray: #37, 38

BBQ Sandwiches, French Fries

Memorial Methodist Church: #107, 108

Hot dogs, Tacos, soda, water

Carmen's Italian Ice: #109, 110

Italian Ice

Olney Ranger's: #21

Hot dogs, snow cones,

Our Lady of the Presentation: #9, 10

Baked Pies

Women of St. Peter's: #40, 41

Bake Sale, water, soda

Cugini's: #111

Pizza & Soda (Stop at Restaurant for Gelato Italian Ice Cream)

Bassett's: #132, 133 (Restaurant Open All Day)

Paella Rice w/chicken & Chorizo sausage

Asia Dynasty

Open For Lunch

Girl Scouts 3329: #114

Bake Sale

Boy Scouts #496: \$13, 14

Popcorn

**NOTE: ALL AREA RESTAURANTS
ARE OPEN AS USUAL**

FAMILY GAMES AND FUN

Boy Scout's #496: #13, 14

Rope Bridge

PHS Midnight Players: #5

Children games and face painting

Pom Pom Squad Face Throw: #138

Pie Face Throw

PHS Class 2008: #12

Dunk Tank

Poolesville Presbyterian Church: #16, 27, 18

Children's Games

Poolesville Golf Course: #42

Putting Contest

Poolesville Community Pre-School: #147

Painting, spin and crafts arts

Kiddie Rides: Center of Whalen Commons

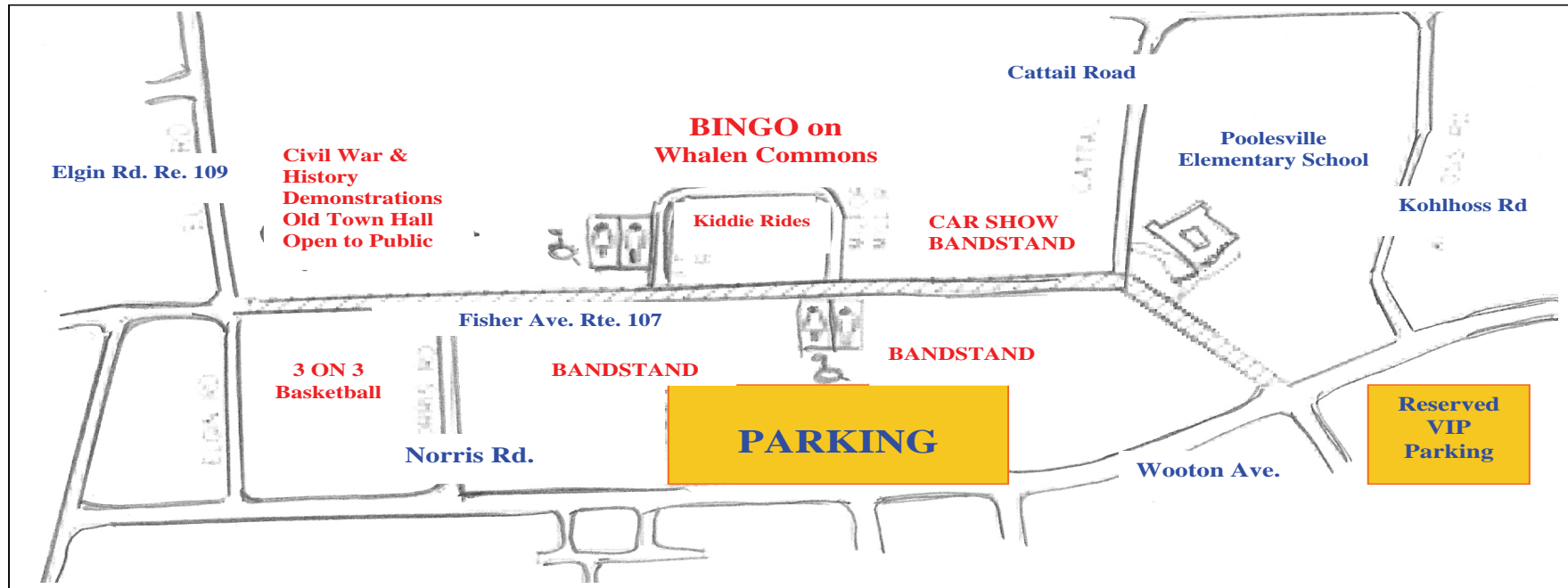
Railroad ride, moon bounce





Commissioners of Poolsville

Poolsville Day 2006 Map of Area and Festivities



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FISHER AVE. - (WHALEN COMMONS SIDE) From Entrance of BB&T to Milford Mill Rd			FISHER AVE. -MCDONALDS SIDE From McDonald's Entrance to Total Automotive & Diesel		
1	Personal Ponies	Info	105	American Legion Post #247	Raffle
2	Jessica Marler	Jewelry	106	Monocacy Lion	Car Raffle
3	Mont. Co. HHS	Info	107	Memorial Methodist Church	Hot Dogs
4	Geeks on Call	Info	108	Memorial Methodist Church	Tacos
5	PHS Midnight Players	Games	109	Carmen's Italian Ice	Italian Ice
6	Active Family Chiropractic	Info	110	Carmen's Italian Ice	Italian Ice
7	Poolesville Library	Book Sale	111	Cugini's	PIZZA
8	Democracy for America	Political	112	I.O.O.F. #97	Raffle
9	Our Lady of Presentation	Bake Sale	113	I.O.O.F. #97	Raffle
10	Our Lady of Presentation	Bake Sale			
11	BB&T Bank	Info			
FISHER AVE. (WHALEN COMMONS SIDE) From Milford Mill Rd. to Fyfe Rd.			FISHER AVE. -MCDONALDS SIDE From White House Next to Town Hall Ctr. To Poolesville B&W		
			114	Girl Scout #3329	Bake Sale
			114a	Girl Scout #3329	Bake Sale
12	PHS Class of 2008	Games	115	IOOF Patriot Lodge #2	Raffle
13	Boy Scout #496	Games	116	IOOF Patriot Lodge #2	Raffle
14	Boy Scout #496	Popcom	117	The Wright Idea	Lawn
15	Cub Scout #694	Info	118	The Wright Idea	Furniture
16	Poolesville Presbyterian	Games	119	The Wright Idea	Furniture
17	Poolesville Presbyterian	Games	120	Jazzercise	Info
18	Poolesville Presbyterian	Games	121	Jeff Foster & Assoc. Realtor	Info
19	Darnestown Design	Clothing	122	Knights of Columbus	Info
20	Drs. Pike/Velega	Info	123	Sport Gift Shop	Shirts
21	Olney Rangers	Food	124	Teddy Bear Day Care	Info
22	WUMCO Help, Inc.	Raffle	125	Great & Small Treasures	Gifts
23	Pooles. Economic Devel. Com.	Info	126	Ameritech Construction	Info
24	Tom & Laura Yeatts, Realtors	Info	127	Avon Products	Info
25	Kettler Bros./Brighwell Crossing	Info	128	Upcounty Regional Services	Info
26	Pooles. Area. Chamber of Com.	Info	129	When Pigs Fly Home	Gifts
27	Poolesville Day Committee	Info	130	Don Hoffacker's AC/Heating	Info
28	Poolesville Day Committee	Info	131	ACS/Relay for Life	Info
29	Pooles. Athletic Boosters Club	Spt Gd			
30	Poolesville Churches	Info			
			From Poolesville Beer & Wine/Cheese - BANDSTAND to Verizon		
31	M&T Bank	Info	132	Bassett's Restaurant	Food
32	Paiges Promotions	Info	133	Bassett's Restaurant	Food
33	PRO-TECH Safe&Lock Service	Info	134	Breast Cancer Sports	Info
34	Hilary Schwab Photography	Gift Card	135	Star Gazing Farm	Info
35	PHS Class of 2007		136	Rural Women Republican Club	Political
36	HENN	Info	137	PHS Student Government	Auction
37	Smokin' Ray	BBQ	138	PHS Pom-Pom Squad	Pie Face
38	Smokin' Ray	BBQ	139	Poolesville Vision & Contacts	Info
39	Ehrlich for Governor	Political	140	ALTO	Gifts
40	Women of St. Peters	Bake Sale	141	Ekapro Wireless	Info
41	Women of St. Peters	Bake Sale	142	Ekapro Wireless	Info
42	Poolesville Golf Course	Putting	143	Village Piecemakers	Gifts
			144	Gay Riggs	
			145	Arbonne International	
			146	Girl Scout Council	Info
			147	Poolesville Community Preschool	
101	Mudo USA/Glad-I-Yoga	Demons	148	Greyhound Pets of America	Info
102	MD National Capital Park Police	Info	149	Interiors by Decorating Den	Info
103			150	Gail Lee, Realtor	Info
104	Poolesville Physical Therapy	Info	151		

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"Water Line Break" Continued from Page 1.

Poolesville Town Manager Wade Yost said, "The contractor thought that he had hit a large rock, but water came rushing out." Yost confirmed that the company that had caused the water main break was also responsible for the gas main break.

Finally, on August 24 at about 12:15 p.m., the power went out on Hempstone Avenue and some adjacent streets. Again a piece of excavation equipment had severed an underground power line in the 19300 block of Hempstone. A Monocle

reporter spoke to Chuck Stocks, an employee of C&M Utility Company, who said that he had been operating the equipment as a sub-contractor for Amliner Inc., the company doing the sewer work. Stocks said, "We do what we can not to damage the utilities." He blamed the damage in all three cases on extremely dry soil conditions. Allegheny Power was on the scene within minutes and had restored power to all affected homes by 7:00 p.m. A spokesperson for Allegheny Power said that seventy-seven homes had lost power.



The broken water main on Hempstone Avenue.



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HEALTHWORKS!" Olga Maupin



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Gas main break on Soper Street.

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Police Blotter Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present

Commercial burglary. Between August 8 and 10. 17224 Potomac Riverside Farm, Elmer School Road. Forced entry, property taken.

Residential burglary. August 19, 19900 block of Fisher Avenue. Forced entry, property taken.

Armed robbery. August 23. A sixteen-year-old citizen reported that he was walking in the 19800 block of Spurrier Avenue at about 2:15 a.m. when he noticed that two cars were passing him repeatedly. One was a white BMW and the other a red Dodge Neon. The white BMW stopped and a black male got out and approached the victim, demanded money and implied that he had a weapon. The victim threw his wallet to the ground and it was retrieved by a suspect who got out of the Dodge Neon. Both suspects then began to beat the victim with their fists. Several other suspects then appeared and began to beat and kick the victim. The suspects then returned to their cars. The victim suffered minor injuries. Suspect number one is described as a black male, 17 to 20 years old, 5'7", about 140 pounds wearing a black T-shirt and a black baseball cap. The second suspect is described as a black male, 17 to 20 years old, 180 to 200 pounds, hair in braids, black T-shirt and blue jeans. The other suspects are described as black males in their late teens. Anyone with information about this crime is urged to call the Fifth District detectives at 301-840-2347.

Past

August 9, 1931. A Poolesville area farmer was arrested by police and charged with a wheat threshing racket. It was alleged that he would place bolts or other metal objects in the threshers of fellow farmers that would break their machinery. He would then eliminate competition because they could not harvest their crops.

August 10, 1925. Mrs. Alice Ricketts, 70 years old of Travilah, was drowned when a raging torrent swept away her house. A cloudburst caused a creek near her dairy house to overflow its banks and sweep away the unfortunate Mrs. Ricketts. It was said that her son arrived too late to rescue his mother.

August 17, 1900. At a picnic at the Shiloh Church near Clarksburg, a quantity of cider was consumed, a fight ensued, blows were struck, and men were injured. Wilbert Davis was severely beaten by a crowd of men; however, no arrests were made.

August 19, 1957. Marvin Atwell, of Blanford Street, Rockville, struck his head and drowned when he dived into the Seneca Creek from the aqueduct which crosses over top of it.

August 21, 1911. Deputy Sheriff Ramey, riding a fast motorcycle, collided with the motorcycle of Robert Cissell, an assistant bank cashier, in a crash at Rockville. Montgomery County officials had ordered a crackdown on the fast and dangerous operation of machines on the roads of the county and town.

August 24, 1912. The body of Robert Edwards of Adamstown was found along the tracks of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. He was employed as a brakeman on the railroad, and he had been run over by a train.

"Bombs Away" Continued From Page 1.

in a corner with only a rope line, two horses, Buck and Casey, deciding to take their fate into their own hooves, leapt the rope and fled the scene. Casey trotted up Martinsburg Road and out onto White's Ferry Road. Buck made off down Martinsburg Road.

A very worried Curry clan scrambled all hands to retrieve the loose horses. Once they were captured, officials decided to have Robert move the horses into the neighbor's fenced yard. Although they were not home at the time and Robert had no way of asking permission, he knew



Buck and Casey, displaying estimable horse sense, knew which way to go when the bomb squad arrived.

the Knudsons to be genuine and kind-hearted horse people. Soon his herd was trotting around the Knudson's yard, safely away from the impending bomb disposal.

The army finished disposal preparations and signaled readiness with three siren blasts. The crowd of bystanders and evacuees lining Martinsburg Road seemed to draw a collective breath, and the bomb blew. The terrific

blast shook windowpanes and rattled teeth. Someone remarked it was enough to loosen fillings.

Their work done, army and county specialists packed up to leave, and crowds dispersed. In the meantime, the entire Knudson family was returning home from a three-hour school-shopping expedition. Curiously, all the vehicles passing them on Whites Ferry seemed to be either a police cruiser or a fire truck. Then came the ambulance, the great black bomb squad truck, and a military vehicle replete with camouflage-clad soldiers and explosives warning signs. Imagine their astonishment upon returning home to find all those vehicles

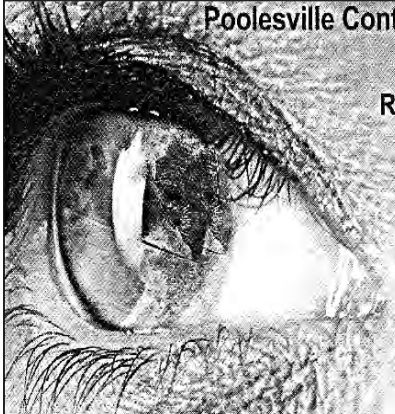
had been in their drive, and their yard had been, briefly, a bomb shelter for a band of refugee horses.

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"Thomas Hall, Merchant"
Continued from Page 3.

purchase land in both Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties.

One day in 1859, Clarinda Phillips, a sixteen-year-old girl from Pennsylvania, arrived in town with her father. A whirlwind courtship ensued, and Hall and Miss Phillips were married three weeks later. The couple had seven children and lived in a frame house about two miles outside of town near the sharp curve that one encounters on Route 107. Instead of moving to a larger house, Hall would simply add a new room every time a child was born.

When war came to Poolesville, Mr. Hall did not hide his feelings. He was a southern sympathizer but did not enter the Confederate Army, as some Poolesville citizens did, because of a heart ailment. He paid for a substitute so he would not be drafted into the

Union Army. On occasion, he mailed money to his brother-in-law who had been taken prisoner by Union troops. Since he was a shrewd merchant, he stocked his store with playing cards, tobacco, pocket knives, toothbrushes, and other items for Union soldiers stationed near the town. Occasionally, he had problems with the soldiers. The December 29, 1862 edition of the Montgomery County Sentinel reported, "Things have been very disorderly in Poolesville of late. Troops in the area have recently broken into the store of T. R. Hall and completely stripped the store of its stock in trade." The war caused havoc in the banking industry, and Hall had a difficult time dealing with his Baltimore suppliers. One supplier wrote that they would not be taking anymore "Virginia money" because "it won't pass at all in Washington." Another supplier told him that they would

not accept "Hagerstown" money and insisted on being paid with cash from their own banks.

Hall kept meticulous records of his business and a great deal of the correspondence, bills, and receipts were found in a trunk by a grandson during the 1950s. In 1871, Hall paid six dollars and ten cents for the extraction of three of his wife's teeth. In 1876, Thomas Hall paid a tax assessment on four hundred acres of land and five hundred cows and horses. Hall's medical bills for 1871 amounted to six dollars which included the extraction of six teeth. In 1878, the Halls' last child was born, and he paid the doctor nine dollars for the delivery of the baby and medical care of his wife.

Thomas Hall died of heart problems in 1884 and is buried at Monocacy Cemetery. The building that housed his store was destroyed in a fire in 1923.

Local News

Fatal Car Accident

Steve Furr, age fifty-one, of Damascus died in an automobile accident on August 26, 2006. Mr. Furr is the father of Emily Furr, senior at Poolesville High School in the Global Ecology Program and a varsity soccer player. They were traveling together to a soccer scrimmage in Smithsburg when an accident involving another vehicle resulted in Steve Furr's death. Emily Furr and Samantha Smith are teammates on the PHS varsity soccer team, and Emily had just been involved in supporting Samantha Smith after the recent death of Mrs. Smith.

Mr. Furr was an award-winning IT professional at Amdex, a contractor for the Department of Homeland Security. He was also a beloved coach for youth baseball, soccer, and basketball. His wife, Karen, and their three children, Charles, Sarah, and Emily survive him.

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“Music in the Air” Continued from Page 5.

McDonald, various rhythm instruments/vocals; Kathy Puckett, rhythm instruments/vocals; and Brian Sheron, banjo/vocals. Not the Choir came into being nine years ago on Mother’s Day when Dick Hannah’s wife was supposed to prepare the snacks for coffee hour at Poolesville Presbyterian Church. Dick thought “it wasn’t right for her to work on Mother’s Day,” so he got some guys together to prepare snacks and then to play some music (as long as they’d done the work first). The rest is bluegrass, folk, and gospel history.

Of course, the man whose name rings a bell, Doug Bell, will be performing his blend of “tourist music” in this his eleventh Poolesville Day. A popular Poolesville performer, Doug has entertained crowds at Whalen Commons, Swim for Sarah, and many other community events. Playing guitar and singing, Doug covers such artists and groups as Jimmy Buffet, James Taylor, Bruce Springsteen, and the Beatles.

The new group on the scene is the Durham Station Bluegrass Band. The four-member group is a top-notch band that performs traditional bluegrass all over Maryland and the

region. Members include: Willie Poole, mandolin; Evan Clark, guitar; Jimmy Greer, banjo; and Barb Diederich, bass.

Finally, who is this band that comes in the guise of another name and a different sound? Remember the hard-rocking indie band, grubspoon? Take those four lads, Andy Swick, Matt Raschka, Dave “Turbo” Gertz, and Jeff Stitely, add a fifth musician, Scott Carpenter, have everybody change instruments (except the drummer), take away their electricity, and voilà, you have the acoustic-based, indie pop/rock band bordering on alternative country known as the Sonic Cheetahs. Remember when it was just pop, rock, and country—ah the good old days. Formed in early 2006 and with a CD due out this fall, Poolesville Day is the band’s debut live performance. They will be performing six, new, never-before heard Sonic Cheetahs songs, as well as two grubspoon favorites and some covers.

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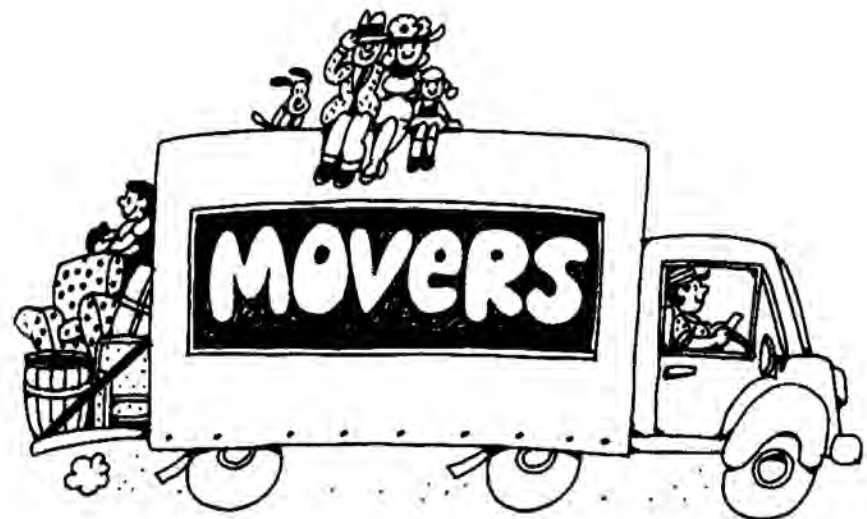
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"Humble Chef" Continued From Page 7.

"edible wolf peach."

The tomato was popular in the kitchens of southern Europe, especially Italy. They did not see it as a poisonous plant as the British did. It soon became a key ingredient in many Italian dishes. Where would pizza be without the tomato? There is a belief that pizza was invented around Naples in the late 1880s by a restaurateur to celebrate the visit of Queen Margarita, the first Italian monarch since Napoleon conquered Italy. The pizza was made from ingredients that represented the colors of the new

Italian flag: red, white, and green. The tomato sauce was red, the mozzarella cheese was white, and the basil topping was green—hence the creation of Pizza Margarita, served in all pizzerias today.

Early colonists brought tomato seeds to Virginia and grew them in their flower gardens. Thomas Jefferson was one of the first to eat tomatoes. In 1847, canning of tomatoes was first recorded by Harrison Crosby of Easton, Pennsylvania. By the early 1920s, tomato consumption skyrocketed with the invention of mass canning. At that time, a young businessman, Joseph Campbell, made history

with his canned tomato soup. Today, the tomato is one of the most popular vegetables worldwide. Where would ketchup, salsa, spaghetti sauce, the BLT, and lasagna be without the tomato? It all started with a small plant growing wild in Central America.

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Chilled Tomato Soup with Goat Cheese and Olive Purée

The Provence Cookbook - Patricia Wells

This is a very easy no-cook recipe using the abundance of the end-of-summer's tomato harvest.

- 10 to 12 medium, fresh tomatoes, cored, peeled, seeded, and chopped
- 2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 teaspoons of sea salt
- 8 teaspoons soft, fresh goat cheese
- 8 teaspoons olive purée
- 12 fresh mint leaves, cut into thin strips

In a food processor or blender, combine the tomatoes, lemon juice, olive oil, and salt. Purée. Taste for seasoning. Transfer to a bowl and cover with plastic wrap. Refrigerate for several hours or up to twenty-four hours.

At serving time, re-blend the soup. Pour the soup into chilled bowls. Break off a small piece of the goat cheese, roll into a ball, and place in the center of the bowl. Place a dollop of olive purée alongside the cheese. Garnish with mint and serve. Serves 8.

Olive Purée – 2 cups of French brine-cured black olives, pitted
 2 teaspoons of herbes de Provence
 Combine olives and herbs, and process to a thick paste.

Tip: The easiest way to peel tomatoes is to blanch them (that goes for peaches too). Place tomatoes in large pot of boiling water for 10 to 15 seconds. Remove and, if desired, immerse in cold water. Slip off skins.

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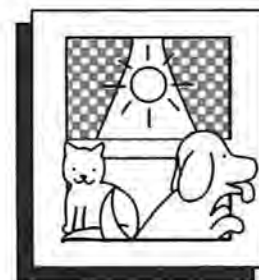
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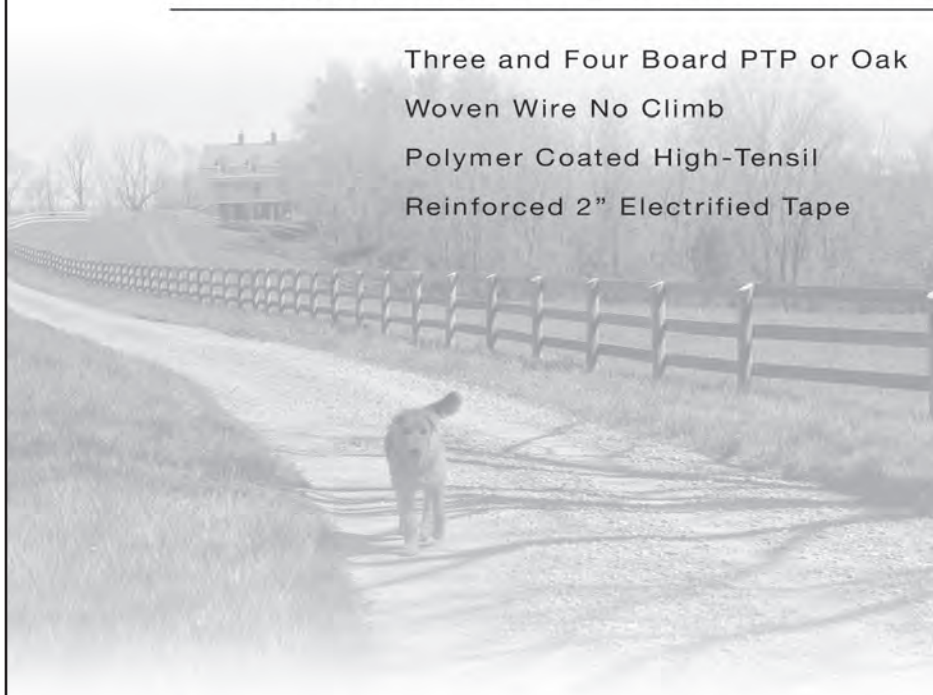


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"Mary Chiswell" Continued from Page 15.

The classrooms almost always had about twenty-three kids in them, although she remembers when one class had fifty-two. They assigned a teacher's helper in those situations.

Most of the ladies married local men. Mary was no different when she married Mr. Chiswell in 1936. He worked in Washington at the time.

Mr. Chiswell was not big on travel preferring to play golf and bowl as his way of relaxation. However, he encouraged Mary to travel, and travel she did. She joined the Frederick Travel Club and over the years visited pretty much all of the United States. She traveled by automobile and train, reveling in the industrial tours that were very popular back then. She fondly remembers going to glass factories, watching how potato chips were made, and other such tours. She also has fond memories of the Chicago World's Fair and recalls a demonstration on how automobiles were made. She left the country once on a cruise to Bermuda only to be challenged by Hurricane Cleo. Though the ship tilted a lot, the hurricane was not up to a match with Mary.

As she relates the stories of her life and travels, her secret to her long life

emerges unspoken. Throughout our hour-long interview, Mary sat upright on the edge of her chair, fully engaged in the conversation; speaking with enthusiasm and delight so fast I could barely keep up with the notes. She still expresses a youthful zest for life.

Her optimism is genuine. Asked how she does it, she replies, "My mother gave me advice when I first started living on my own in Poolesville. She said, 'Always remember that it is a small town and everybody knows each other. Many families are married to one another. So, never, ever talk badly about any person since you do not know how they may be related.'"

Mary speaks in a hard-to-find beautiful southern accent. It reminds one of the upscale, southern drawl in *Gone with the Wind* but with a modified Maryland tone. The only clue to her longevity that she can attribute to a physical reason is that her mom was a great cook. "The food was fresh, homemade, and we had plenty of it," she remembers.

Of course, being a member of the fourth estate, I couldn't leave well enough alone. So, I had to push for something negative. She finally relented with a small sigh that seemed to say, Okay, just one thing bad. She had a rough time when the Poolesville Na-

tional Bank closed its doors in the 1920s. "Everyone said to get your money out, but we kept it in there anyway. The day I found out was at a time we were planning a trip to Rockville to buy a new daybed. I was told I could forget about the trip because no one was able to get money out of the bank. We finally settled on getting back some money at twenty-three percent of our savings."

Then she quickly left the negative and resumed remembering fond things of the past. A life-long member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, she remembers her mom baking the bread and cutting off the crust for communion. Mary lived in what is now St. Peter's rectory. She recalls that the blackberry wine for communion was homemade and chuckles on reflection that the sexton at the time was often accused of sampling it when cleaning the church. She can still recall having the job of turning the hand pump to make the organ work.

Physically, Mary has only suffered some broken bones over the years. When she broke her hip, her travels came to an end; however, she greatly enjoys getting together

with friends and appreciates when so many of her past students drop in just to say hello.

In the coming weeks, friends and family will stop by with gifts and cards for Mary. When they do, Mary will have a very special gift for them. It is a rare, warm, and beautiful present. It is the gift of Mary's presence. When I left Mary, I asked permission for a kiss. She laughed robustly when she said, "Of course."

At 103 years old, birthday cards never arrive late. So, why not drop her a card and a wish. It'll give her a smile—and, when Mary smiles, the whole world smiles with Mary.

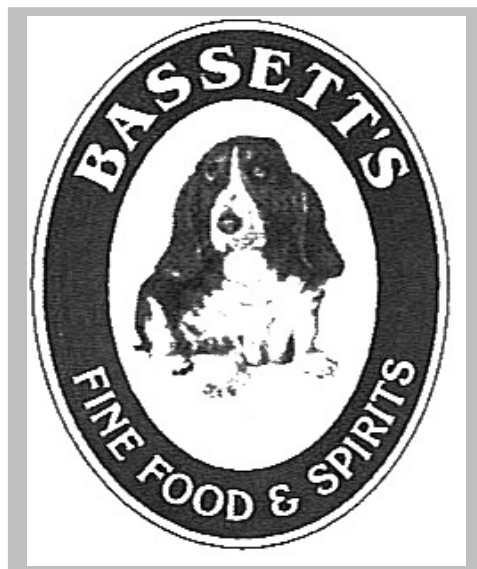
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