

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

October 6, 2006

Volume III, Number 13



Kickball players getting up for the game. Read all about it in Tidbits on page 9.



There's a new doctor in town. See Profiles on page 11.



They're smiling in Clarksburg. See Youth Sports on page 19.



A local girl laughs her way through a typical day in school. See our photo exhibit on page 14.

White's Ferry Stays Open, Safe, and Secure

By Rande Davis

The future operation of White's Ferry is settled, and a cooperative arrangement with the Coast Guard has been amicably reached.

The uproar over the possible closing of the operation had its start last August when the Coast Guard, following up on an anonymous complaint, cited the ferry operation for allegedly operating without the proper supervision of a licensed master operator. The Coast Guard will not release the nature of the complaint nor the name of the person or persons filing it.

In mid-September, the Coast



Ed Brown, owner of White's Ferry, shakes hands in agreement with Lt. Cmdr. Lee Boone (right) and another representative of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Guard made the decision that a licensed master operator was not operating the ferry. The situation escalated through a press release issued by the Coast Guard which triggered a media frenzy at the location on the day of the intended shutdown of the ferry. Reporters representing television and print were on hand to witness what they anticipated to be the closing of the ferry. Additionally, the Loudon County Sheriff's Department and Montgomery County Police were requested to be available on the day the cease-operation order was to be delivered.

White's Ferry proprietor, Edwin Brown, did not concur that the ferry was being operated

without the supervision of a licensed master operator (LMO). While the LMO had occasion to leave the boat momentarily, he was always within sight and sound of the operation under his supervision. White's Ferry is a captive (tethered) cable ferryboat with a range of operation of only one thousand feet. Other than times of flooding, when the ferry ceases operation, the Potomac River at this junction is about four to five feet deep. Except for the brief interruption, the Coast Guard allowed him to continue operation until the matter could be brought to resolution.

Mr. Brown's sense of justice and indignation was aroused and he considered the media frenzy to be an unwarranted over-reaction. Mr. Brown has practiced law for over six decades specializing in issues of eminent domain. This highly successful barrister is not one to be easily intimidated by the government when facing what he considers to be administrative over-reach. In retrospect, Mr. Brown said that while he was adamant in his defense, his statements of defiance were meant to secure his rights. His intention to secure those rights and, at the same, find a way to conciliate the situation was lost through sound bites and flashing cameras.

Pastor Chuck Comes Home to Hosanna Worship Center

By Rande Davis

In a way, the Rev. Howard Charles Copeland's journey home to the pulpit of Hosanna Worship Center in Dickerson had its start in 1870. It was then that his great-great-grandfather, Albert Thompson, a former slave, was born in 1820 and later purchased land next to the location where the church stands today. The property has been in the family ever since.

Pastor Chuck's robust joy of life is



The Reverend Howard Charles Copeland

mirrored by his equally robust laugh. He is clearly a man who loves life, loves his Lord, and loves sharing laughter with friends. He met his wife, Winessa,

while both were in junior high school. Even though both of their parents were close friends, it was through a cousin that they were first brought together. Winessa opined that she wouldn't mind if Chuck called her. "My cousin gave me her phone number, and I still remember it today, it was 840-2087. We became really good friends, even going to the prom together." Friendship at this point did not blossom into romance, and after high school they went their separate ways. Then in 1989, after meeting again at the funeral of his grandfather, the couple rekindled their friendship and in 1991 they married. It was a personal journey with many turns but a journey that finally brought them together. Dena, their oldest daughter, is currently a freshman at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Youngster Paris is six years old and in the first grade.

Pastor Chuck and Winessa grew up down county, but the return to their ancestral homeland was not a simple straight line. When his grandmother went through the throes of Alzheimer's, the couple decided to move to Dickerson to be with her.

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Family Album

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



Net score champ Gianni Bardini.



Gross score champ Sandra Suddendorf.



The Monocle took lunch at the Comus Inn at Sugarloaf Mountain. Karie Legambi, Debby Lynn Dominique Agnew, Rande Davis, Maureen O'Connell, John Clayton Marsha Carmack, and Hilary Schwab.



Gross score champ Keith Raygor.



Net score champ Kathleen Heitz.



Mike Aldrich fronts the Monocacy Lion's charity Golf Tournament.

School News

Deena Levine

By Rande Davis

For Poolesville High School, this is not only the start of a new school year, but in many ways, it is like the start of a new school: new students, new teachers, new programs, new coaches, new portables, even a new marching band. For Principal Deena Levine, there are not enough hours in the day. Then again, a fourteen-hour day doesn't concern her so much since her driving passion is education, anyway.

Miss Levine came to the high school in 2001, but this was not her first time here. Her first tour started in 1975 as a teacher of advanced placement English for seventh, ninth, and twelfth graders. "It was very interesting especially since, in a few instances, I was teaching all the children in a family at the same time." Her non-classroom experience included being the advisor to a student newspaper and a volleyball coach.

She began her career advancement by becoming head of the English Department at Westland Junior High School. Ultimately, she moved into administration as an assistant principal. Along the way, she somehow found the time to go to law school and graduated from George Mason University Law School in 1985. She is still a member of the District of Columbia bar. Any parent would be proud at their daughter's graduation from law school, but Dr. Levine's mom must have been doubly proud since on the day she graduated, her

brother Joe, also got his law degree from George Mason University Law School.

She did a detour in her public education career to become principal of Hebrew Academy in Washington, D.C.

The summer of 2006 will probably be quite a year to remember for Dr. Levine. Change and challenges came at her from all directions. Her things to do list included: seventeen faculty positions needing to be filled, a new magnet program introduced by the county, installation of portable classrooms to accommodate the new students in the program, new coaches for sporting teams, overseeing the mold clean-up project, upgrading the cafeteria, and finding lockers for all students were at the top of her list.

With such a busy schedule, it's no surprise that we were only able to talk for a half hour. We did, however, get through half of the items on our list of topics to discuss and are looking forward to another conversation soon. At that time we will update and finish our list and conclude our profile in a future issue.

First on our list was to get an update on the new academic programs. Poolesville opened the year with two new magnet programs: the Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Program and the Humanities Program. These programs joined the two existing programs: the Global Ecology Studies Program (GESP) and an Advanced Engineering Program.

GESP provides the students an opportunity to specialize in environmental science and social studies, focusing on

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The Humble Chef

The Pleasures of Polenta

By Maureen O'Connell

Polenta is one of those ageless culinary lords, like bread. It has sprung from the hunger of mankind, and without apparent effort has always carried with it a feeling of strength and dignity and well being. It costs little to prepare if there is little to spend, or it can be extravagantly, opulently odorous with wines and such. It can be made doggedly, with one ear cocked for the old wolf's sniffing under the door, or it can be turned out as a well-nourished gesture to other simpler days. But no matter what conceits it may be decked with, its fundamental simplicity survives: to comfort our souls as well as our bellies the way a good solid fugue does or a warm morning in spring.

M.F.K., *How to Cook a Wolf* (1942)

M.F.K. (Mary Frances Kennedy)

Fisher (1908-1992), one of America's greatest culinary writers of the twentieth century, had a strong and favorable appreciation of polenta. Her curiously entitled book, *How to Cook a Wolf*, was published in 1942 when wartime food shortages were at their peak. I presume that the choice of wolf as an entrée was tongue in cheek, and polenta was more likely a meal choice.

Polenta is a grain that is often overlooked in today's kitchens. This is unfortunate, since it is a very versatile and tasty dish. Most people associate polenta, or cornmeal, a derivative of corn, with Italy, but it is really a Native American creation. Corn was cultivated by the Indians from Peru to Mexico long before Columbus brought corn seeds to Spain. The Spaniards were not fans of corn, but the Italians loved it. For the past three centuries, polenta has been the staff of life in much of Lombardy and all of Venetia. It is also very popular in Swiss, Austrian, Croatian, Corsican, Argentinean, Brazilian, and Mexican cuisine. There are many regional variations. When I was in Corsica, I noticed that their variety of polenta, called *pulenta*, is made with sweet chestnut flour rather than cornmeal. Everything from pancakes to cakes was made with this flour.

Polenta is made with either coarsely, medium, or finely ground yellow or white cornmeal. It was formerly considered peasant food, but today it has become quite upscale, and it appears on the menus of many select, gourmet res-

Center Stage

They're Good

By Dominique Agnew

"We're good," professed Dick Hanna of Not the Choir. Not that I wouldn't take his word for it, but hearing is believing—and doggone it, they are good. They are, specifically, Dick Hanna, guitar and vocals; Bill McDonald, guitar, bass, and vocals; Jill McDonald (yes, they're married and their names rhyme), vocals and rhythm instruments; Marcia Holpuch, mandolin, flute, and vocals; Brian Sheron, banjo and bantar (we'll get into what that is later); and Kathy Puckett, vocals and rhythm instruments (Brian and Kathy are also married even though their names don't rhyme). Everyone hails from the Poolesville area except Marcia who is from Damascus.

About that strange instrument: it has a banjo neck and is strung like a banjo, but it sounds like a guitar. "We call it a bantar," says Jill of the instrument Brian had specially made. "I call it a guitar with a different neck," says Brian. He had it made

when a number of songs the group was performing were deemed to not be "banjo songs." He didn't want to sit there twiddling his thumbs, so he came up with the design: a small-bodied guitar with the neck reshaped to have five strings including the short drone string typical of the banjo. He can pick it and do other strumming unique to banjos, but it sounds like a guitar—much mellower.

Not the Choir innocently came to be on Mother's Day Eve 1998. Dick's wife was involved with preparing coffee hour at Poolesville Presbyterian Church, and he didn't think it was right that she should labor on Mother's Day (that's what the rest of the year is for, after all), so he managed to wrangle the help of a few good men with promises of playing some music for a little while together. The first performance of Not the Choir before it had its name was the three men: Dick, Bill, and Brian. They had already been getting together to play for quite a few months for the fun of it. Brian had been taking banjo lessons for perhaps a year, something he had wanted to do since he was a schoolboy, and he had asked the two guitarists to play with him as he thought it would improve

his skills and musicianship.

They must have been having too much fun. Naturally, this would require that wives join the band, so Jill and Kathy decided to join in the fun, as well—plus they were tired of being Saturday night widows. Marcia, who also plays the banjo, had the same instructor as Brian. They kept running into each other between lessons, and he recommended that she also join in on the Saturday nights as he had seen the benefit of playing in a group. They soon decided that two banjos in the group was one too many. At one point, the group numbered as many as nine musicians, but they've found that with six they're much more comfortable. "[You] have to get the sound to gel," says Jill.

How did they get that name?

After trying on numerous names for themselves, the name finally came to them accidentally before they performed at the Poolesville Presbyterian Church for the first time. They were carrying in all of their equipment when they overheard one person in the congregation say, "Who's singing, today?" Another person answered, "Well, it's not the choir."

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taurants. This is a tribute to its versatility. It also has a reputation for lengthy and laborious cooking. This harkens back to its Italian roots. It was cooked in a pounded copper cauldron called a *pailo* over a wood fire in a central hearth or on a wood stove. Constant stirring with a long-handled spoon was necessary to keep the polenta from burning. Today, few of us cook over a wood fire, and most of us do not have the time to spend hours stirring a pot on the stove.

There are compromises you can make today with polenta. You can still find the longer cooked version, but Safeway, Giant, and Whole Foods carry an instant version. Some purists would find this blasphemy, but I use the instant version and the results are equally good. You can cook polenta with good success in an oven, not a microwave, but I find the stovetop method gives the best results regarding texture. What is the best liquid in which to cook polenta? Some recipes recommend milk, stock or water. I prefer water.

Polenta is very flexible and forgiving. You can eat it, creamy and smooth, after a short cooking time, or you can let it rest and thicken. It can then be sliced and baked, grilled or fried. Unlike

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Letter to the Editor

On behalf of the Poolesville Day Committee, Inc., I hope everyone enjoyed Poolesville Day 2006. From all accounts, it was our largest crowd anyone could remember. The committee would like to thank our sponsors, the vendor and parade participants, the Montgomery County Police Department, and, last but not least, the staff of the Town of Poolesville for all of their help.

The question now is whether we will have Poolesville Day next year.

This event is not hard to run, but it is time-consuming. The same six to eight people have done all of the work for the past three years. Family, business and/or health issues are requiring many of us put other parts of our lives at a higher priority. If another ten to fifteen people can be found to help divide up the work, the event could continue and grow.

Therefore, I will make the following promise—if ten new people step forward by October 15, 2006 and commit to working with us next year, several current members and I will stay on in our current roles to help them learn the ropes. The division of labor among a larger group will make it much less time-consuming for everyone.

The committee looks forward to your response.

Jake Perkins
Chair
Poolesville Day Committee, Inc.

I live right on the curve where the accident occurred this morning (September 25) between the motorcycle and the bus. I am actually surprised, but thankful, that we haven't had more incidents. I can't tell you how many times over the years—cars come zooming around the corner—and would fail to stop for the school bus picking up or dropping off my children. We have witnessed so many large delivery trucks, and cars alike, crossing the yellow line on the curve because they misjudge it and are simply going too fast. Many times I have pulled out of my driveway onto Route 109 with no cars in sight—and suddenly I see in my rear view mirror a car on my tail that came out of nowhere. With the development Brightwell Crossing, planned for the Elgin farm across the street from my house, it is hard to fathom that the

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plans call for the entrance of the development to be placed on the very curve where this accident occurred. . There is no safe access point for a development on Route 109—unless the state plans to install a three-way stop sign at the intersection. A safer alternative would be to have the traffic enter and exit the development on Jerusalem Road. We need a speed camera placed in this area!

Sarah Defnet
Poolesville Resident
18010 Elgin Rd



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*trial membership offer expires 9/30/06.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

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Focus on Business

Bringing the Whole Community Together

When Poolesville's Community and Economic Development Committee (CEDC) was formed last February, the mission was to join together all sectors of the community in an effort to improve the quality of life in Poolesville. The CEDC plans to bring citizen assistance in: finding ways to improve the business environment in the town through resident recommendations of desired services, helping develop the potential for tourism and heritage programs, and helping and enhancing the ability to attract new businesses to the town.

The committee represents three sectors of the community: government, business, and citizens. Unlike the standard economic development organization, this committee seeks not only to enhance the business environment but also the civic and social aspects of the community. An improved business atmosphere can have benefits to the town as a whole.

Seasonal events such as a winter festival to be held at the time the

Poolesville Christmas lights are lit are an example of the projects they will be establishing. The expectation that a holiday lighting ceremony will prove to be popular is just one way they hope to uplift the community. The CEDC will also work to help support Poolesville Day and the summer concert series.

The current committee chairman, Tom Yeatts of Jamison Real Estate, will chair the organization for six months when the rotation to a new chairperson will be selected. The first chairperson was Karen Michaels of Corporate Network. The third individual representing the business community is Mary Beth Dewey of Decorating Den. Representing the town government on the committee are Link Hoewing and Roy Johnson. Those representing the citizens are Brian Hundertmark, Chris Marrott, and Julie Carpenter.

In talking with Tom Yeatts, he stressed that a major goal is the full development of the Poolesville.com website which would enable all sectors of the community to better communicate special events in the town and which would promote and serve all aspects of the community. Mr. Yeatts, who previously owned a company specializing in website development, expects that

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Offered at \$825,000



JUST LISTED!

Dickerson - Truly a gardener's delight, this charming 3 BR, 1 full BA bungalow is nestled on 2.8 private acs. adjoining parkland. Amenities include an inviting front porch, wood floors, pine ceilings & crown molding. Additional features include a detached 2-car garage, potting shed, dog kennel, a mini-orchard of fruit trees & a 60'x30' tilled garden. Walk to MARC station. MLS#MC6176321.

Offered at \$480,000



Poolesville- Westerly

Lovely 3 BR, 2.5 BA colonial on large level lot w/ mature trees & fenced backyard. Numerous amenities & upgrades incl. FR w/ stone FP, kitchen w/HWD flrs., silestone countertops & cherry cabinets, renovated BAs, 20' x 10' addition, replacement windows throughout. MLS#MC6121047.

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Things to Do

October 6

Homecoming Weekend for PHS
Home Game vs. Snow Hill
6:30 p.m.

October 7

Annual Lord's Acre Festival
Memorial Methodist Church,
Poolesville
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Wine & Cheese Fundraiser

Benefit Kids at the Barn Dairy MOOseum
Waters House at Pleasant Fields,
Germantown
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Cost: \$25.00

Voter Registration

Poolesville Public Library
Voting Machine Lessons
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Germantown Oktoberfest

Live music, biergarten, fireworks
Ridge Road Park, Germantown
11:00 a.m. to dark

October 8

15th Annual Kentlands Oktoberfest
Numerous activities
Village Green and Mansion Lawn
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

"School News" Continued From Page 2.

human impact on the natural environment. The humanities courses will focus on an interdisciplinary connection among English, social studies, communications, and fine arts. It will strengthen student's oral and written communication skills while developing top-quality print, photo, and video products. Science, engineering, mathematics, and computer science students will focus on the problem-solving requirements of engineering and will develop skills in analysis and lab investigations

While the primary goal of these courses in advanced placement has a student assessment requirement at the end, all students are encouraged to take the courses. Miss Levine emphasizes, "The whole school magnet program also enriched the entire instructional offerings for all students in grades ten through twelve. Several new courses were offered this year that had not been offered in the past because of limits in staffing, funding, and student numbers. The exciting new classes are: theater journalism, advanced placement national, state, and local government, advanced placement human geography, Russian history, and multi-variable calculus. Each year, the program will be expanded to offer more of the challeng-

October 12 to 13

Fall Rummage Sale
St. Peter's Parish
5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Thurs.
9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Fri.
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Sat.

October 12

Poolesville Public Library
Cuddleups – Babies to 23 mos.
Finger play, music, stories
10:30 a.m.

October 13

PACC Golf Day
Poolesville Golf Course
Starts at noon
\$50.00 per player

October 15

Vendor Boutique and Bake Sale
Congregation Or Chadash – Damascus
10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

October 17

Monocacy Lions Fall Blood Drive
St. Peter's Church
3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Magician Mike Rose
Poolesville Public Library
Magic and illusions – fun for whole family
7:00 p.m.

October 19

Twosomes
Stories, finger lays, music
10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.

October 23

Barnesville School Annual Golf Outing
Registration at 10:30 a.m.
Holly Hills Country Club
\$175.00 per player

ing courses that the students and parents request."

Another example of the full student body benefiting from the new programs is that the new computers are available to all students, not just those in the computer science program.

Of course, change and growth come with a price. For some of the students at PHS, it means getting used to portable classrooms and shared lockers. "It is hoped that this freshman class is the first senior class to occupy the new addition that is currently planned for 2009-10," says Miss Levine. Most of the sharing of the lockers is by seniors on a voluntary basis. "We offered free passes to football games as one incentive to volunteer to share a locker," she adds, and thus far it looks like they were able to attract enough seniors to satisfy the school's locker demand.

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Big Board

A Reminder from Last Issue: Annual Popcorn Sale to Benefit the Scouts

With fall coming on, this is the time for the sale of popcorn by area scouts. This is the scouts' major fundraiser for the year and seventy percent of all proceeds go right back to the community. They offer a variety of different packages of microwave popcorn and also have fresh-popped, flavored selections including cheese, chocolate, caramel, and others. They don't have a contact number, but you will be seeing the scouts out and about and possibly knocking on your door.

Wine and Cheese Party at the MOOseum

The Kids Barn Dairy MOOseum will be the recipient of the proceeds from a wine and cheese party on October 7 that runs from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The cost for this fundraiser is \$25.00 per person. The event will be held at the Waters House at Pleasant Fields, 12535 Milestone Manor Lane, in Germantown. "Moosic" entertainment will be provided by the New Southern Cowtippers.

54th Annual Lord's Acre Festival

The Memorial Methodist Church has their 54th annual Lord's Acre sale on October 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. They have plenty of attractions and things for the whole family including outdoor food, silent auction, Memorial's famous homemade apple butter, children's games, mums for sale, fall produce, furniture, baked sale, attic (yard) treasures, and a full lunch served by the Crafty Ladies inside. They will also feature cake walks, a pie-eating contest, Christian clowning, and entertainment by Doug Bell and the Memorial Minstrels.

Wir Sprechen Deutsch

It's October which means Oktoberfests:

The Germantown Oktoberfest is Saturday, October 7 featuring numerous activities, live music, a biergarten, and food from 11:00 a.m. until fireworks after dark at Ridge Road Park.

At Kentlands, the 15th Annual Oktoberfest will be held on the Village Green and the Mansion lawn Sunday, October 8 from noon to 4:00 p.m.

Much Anticipated St. Peter's Rummage Sale

This fall's rummage sale at St. Peter's Church will open on Thursday afternoon, October 12 and will continue through Saturday. Friday, it will be open from 9:00 a.m. and run

until 9:00 p.m. Saturday sales will run through 2:30 p.m.

Vendor Boutique and Bake Sale at Congregation Or Chadash

The congregation of Or Chadash has a vendor boutique and bake sale on October 15 at their location in Damascus. There will be over twenty specialty vendors of all types, bake sale, and free donuts and coffee from the PTO [QE: What's a PTO?] from 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The bake sale begins at 11:00 a.m. and ends at 2:00 p.m. or until it sells out.

Puppets and the Wolf

Prokofiev's classic Peter and the Wolf in which each character is represented by its own instrument and musical theme is performed at the Weinberg Center for the Arts on October 6 at 10:00 a.m. and October 7 at 2:00 p.m. by the famous Das Puppenspiel Theater. After the show, see the puppets up close and meet the actors. Prices range from \$5.00 to \$15.00. For more details, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-228-2828.

Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce Hosts Golf Day

October is perfect for golf and the PACC is sponsoring it Fourth Annual Golf Day at the Poolesville Golf Course on Friday, October 13. Entry fee for each golfer is \$50.00 with the fee including eighteen holes of golf, cart, lunch, prizes, and a goody bag for every golfer. Lunch and starting times will begin from noon to 1:00 p.m.

Friday the 13th Double Horror

The masterpieces, Horror of Dracula (1958) and Dracula: Prince of Darkness (1966), will be showing at the Weinberg Center for the Arts on Friday, October 13 (ooh, we have shivers already) at 8:00 p.m. Christopher Lee stars as Dracula in both critically-acclaimed films. Parental discretion is advised due to scenes of graphic violence, gore, and erotic overtones. Ticket prices range from \$7.00 to \$9.00 for the double-header. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-228-2828.

Guitar Virtuoso Back on the Road

He has performed with such greats as Bob Dylan, Ringo Starr, George Harrison, Linda Ronstadt, John Hurt, the Reverend Gary Davis, Tom Paxton, John Prine, the Eagles, Willie Nelson, and Chubby Checker, but David Bromberg is well-known in his own right as a fantastic musician on electric and acoustic guitar, mando-

-Continued on Page 10.

"White's Ferry" Continued From Page 1.

Mr. Brown responded to the Coast Guard in a September 20 letter stating his regret that the unwarranted closure of the ferry on September 14 caused such consternation. He assured the Coast Guard that it was his "desire to, at all times, operate our public service in a safe, secure, and proper manner for the convenience and pleasure of the public. If the writer (Mr. Brown), under the glare of television cameras, occasioned primarily by the unfortunate Coast Guard press release to the Associated Press, made any remarks which offended or agitated the service (Coast Guard), I certainly meant no offense or disrespect for the rule of law, and offer my sincere apology."

For his part, Captain of the Port, Captain Brian Kelly, was satisfied with the arrangement and personally met with Mr. Brown at the ferry and reported through a letter to the editor of the Washington Post on September 26, "To be sure, the risk posed by the White's Ferry operation is less than posed by many ferries. Long ago the Coast Guard worked with the White's Ferry owner to create a specially-tailored license for that operation. This simplified license ensures that the

operator is able to carry out his or her duties, including the safe loading and unloading of passengers and vehicles, and able to take actions that could prevent or respond to an incident on board the ferry." He concluded in the letter that "he (Mr. Brown) pledged cooperation and assured me that he will cooperate and assured me that he will operate his ferry in compliance with the federal regulations. I do not anticipate further disruption to ferry service."

White's Ferry has four licensed

master operators who are licensed under an agreement that was originally approved in 1957. At that time, the Coast Guard, citing three unique aspects of the ferry operation, relaxed licensing requirements. In a statement made April 22, 1957, the Coast Guard listed the "limited route of the ferry, the area of operation, and the limited amount of control necessary to be exercised by the operator in handling the ferry."

The arrangement by the parties involved requires that the LMO is on

board at all times and that the ferry is under proper certificate of operation at all times. The Coast Guard accepted the offer of Mr. William Lermond of Dickerson to monitor and ensure that White's Ferry honors its commitment.

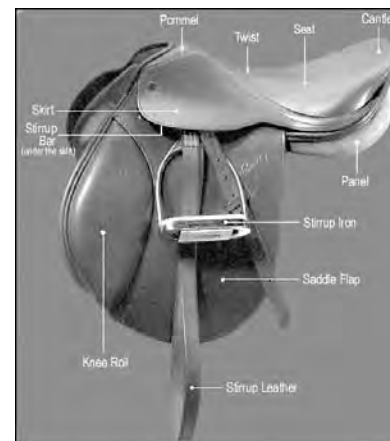
White's Ferry has operated for sixty years under Mr. Brown's supervision without any safety issues involving the public. His commitment to that achievement remains, and the Coast Guard appears to be satisfied with the mutual and cooperative result from the incident.

Equestrian

Saddle Fitting 101

By Debby Lynn

How your saddle fits is one of the single most important factors that influences your ride. The saddle is what joins two unlike bodies so they may perform as one. First, it must comfortably fit both rider and horse. Second, it must keep both parties balanced. The rider must be balanced over his own center of gravity, and his weight must be carried over the horse such that the horse is working under a balanced load at all times. As well, it must absorb and redistribute the shock created by two



The basic English saddle.

moving bodies so that neither horse nor rider becomes sore.

In addition to the above require-

ments, a saddle must stay in the correct place on the horse's back, must not rub horse or rider, and must, as a basic matter of safety, not come apart or loose during use.

As you may imagine, saddle design is not a simple matter. Most riders, however, need not design them; they only need to select one that meets the above criteria.

Sometimes it's harder to find a new saddle that works than it is to find a new horse. Start by selecting the type of saddle most suited to the job you and your horse will do. Sometimes the name tells you, sometimes it doesn't. Cowboys tend to be practical. If you

-Continued on Page 10.

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In the Garden

Fashion in Bloom

By Maureen O'Connell

In mid-September, New York City hosted fashion designers from all over the world for Fashion Week.

At this annual event, the top names in the industry unveiled their Spring 2007 collections. The garden and horticultural world also presents their new plants, shrubs, and trees for 2007 in September. Under the umbrella of the Garden Centers of America (GCA), this year's event was called "Fashion in Bloom." It provided a focus on new plant introductions for all product categories, at six state-of-the-art locations in the mid-Atlantic region.

Here garden center buyers, landscape contractors, designers and architects, greenhouse growers, garden writers, and consumers got a sneak preview of the new annuals, perennials, trees, vines, shrubs, woody ornamentals, and tropical plants that will be in the

2007 garden catalogues in early winter and in the garden centers in the spring. Thirty-six world-class horticultural companies were chosen to exhibit at one of the GCA's locations. In our area, River Farm, national headquarters of the American Horticultural Society (AHS), was selected as one of the locations. If you have never been to River Farm, you should put it on your list of



things to do, especially when the gardens are in bloom. This twenty-five acre historical site, on the banks of the Potomac River in Alexandria, Virginia, four miles north of Mount Vernon, was once part of George Washington's five farms. It has been the home of the AHS since 1973. The property includes an early 20th century mansion,

formal gardens and meadows, and a spectacular view of the Potomac River. The goal of the AHS at River Farm is to provide a platform from which to promote horticultural innovation, practical experimentation, and conservation. Five garden companies showcased their new plants in the mansion's formal gardens.

The day I visited this event, it was a picture-perfect day, and all the plants were in top fashion.

Each year, new plants make their debut to the gardening public. Some are new-to-the-market species, but the majority is improved versions of old favorites. They may be bigger, sport new colors, be more prolific, or be more disease resistant. You might ask, "Where do new plants come from?" Before I answer that, let's look at the history of the domestication of plants—where and when did it start?

Plant breeding is one of the oldest professions. Agriculture and the domestication of plants play an important role for humans. Plants supply man with food, clothing, and shelter—his most important needs. There is evidence that shows humans' efforts to domesticate plants in 9,000 B.C. in the Fertile Crescent in the Middle East. This process evolved over a great length of time. Cereal crops were probably one of the earliest domesticated plants, slowly followed by annuals with large fruits or seeds and small trees, including apples and olives.

In the late 1700s to the early 1800s, the many mysteries of plants started to unfold. London nurseryman, Thomas

a columbine (*Aquilegia*) that would tolerate warm climates. More than twenty years were devoted to producing a Dutch Elm tree that was resistant to a fungus disease known as Dutch Elm Disease. Chicago Botanic Garden Rosarian William Radler was determined to create a maintenance-free, disease-resistant, and ever-blooming rose. After more than ten years of experimentation, the wonderful rose 'Knockout' was introduced to the gardening world in 1998; it has been one of the top-selling roses ever since.

Bringing a new plant to market is not always the result of carefully-planned crosses. Sometimes, it is the result of a serendipitous discovery. A good example of this is *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Endless Summer.' Several years ago, a nurseryman in Minnesota admired a hydrangea growing in a neighbor's yard. These plants usually do not fare well in cold, northern climates, but this one was thriving. He took a cutting and placed it in a trial block, where it grew for five years forgotten. Award-winning horticulturist Michael A. Dirr saw the five-year-old hydrangea. He took a cutting and went on to develop one of the most important plant introductions in fifty years. 'Endless Summer' marked a milestone in Big Leaf Hydrangeas, by flowering in spring on old wood and then in summer on new wood. It isn't nipped by late spring frosts. This breakthrough made it possible that one of the most beautiful of southern shrubs could now grow in gardens as far north as the Canadian border. Since it can bloom on old and new wood, you can still get beautiful blooms after the coldest winter and the most inept pruning. More than three and one-half million of these 'serendipitous hydrangeas' have been sold since its introduction in 2004.



Fairchild (1667-1729), began experimenting with hybridization during these years. He is credited with the first documented artificial hybridization. He crossed the pollen of Sweet William (*Dianthus barbatus*) with the pistil of a carnation (*Dianthus caryophyllus*). He created a hybrid, an offspring of two animals or two plants of different species, varieties, or breeds. Fairchild's hybrid became known as 'Fairchild's Mule,' and it began an era of plant hybridization that continues today.

Where do new plants come from? There are several sources. Some come from seeds, which is a multiple-step process requiring careful planning and record keeping. Others come from cuttings and tissue culture. All of this takes time. It took seventeen years to develop

What's new for your 2007 garden? If you liked 'Waves' petunias, you'll love this new petunia variety, 'Ramblin.' The advertising pitch says it all: "There's no gamblin' with Ramblin." This new plant is covered from crown to tip with blooms—no bare spots. It blooms all summer, and it has been voted number one for heat tolerance. It also has a more pleasing shape—mounding and spreading. Nine years ago, the rose 'Knockout' appeared on the market, and very soon it became the most sought-after landscape rose. The original color was cherry red. It was soon followed by 'Pink Knockout' and 'Blushing Knockout.' The latest release is 'Rainbow Knockout' which sports coral-pink singles with yellow centers

-Continued on Page 18.



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Tidbits

Kettler Forline Homes Helping Out in the Community

Tom Kettler of Kettler Forlines Homes at Brightwell Crossing has announced that his company will paint the exterior of the Old Town Hall in Poolesville. Historic Medley District, Inc is restoring the building into a Civil War museum for the town. Painting and restoring the Poolesville Town Hall is, in a way, symbolic. "We are preserving the character that this town was built upon with a new chapter in Poolesville history by refreshing the Town Hall," says Mr. Kettler. Mr. Kettler also announced that the company has purchased seat cushions for home football games emblazoned with the Poolesville High School Falcon emblem. The seat cushions will be available at the homecoming game on October 6.

Get in the Arena

It's still not too late to file for election in the Poolesville Town Commissioner race. Current town commissioners, Roy Johnson and Tom Dillingham, have filed for re-election which will be held the same date as the general election. Voters are

reminded that balloting will only be at Poolesville High School. Office seekers need only pick up a petition form at town hall, get twenty-five verifiable signature endorsements, and return the form no later than 3:00 p.m. on October 10.

Volunteers Coming Forward for the Poolesville Day Committee

Poolesville Day chairman, Jake Perkins, was thrilled to have another ten volunteers come forward to help on the 2007 Poolesville Day festivities. While the overwhelming consensus was that this year's program was excellent and very successful, the organizational meeting for the 2007 event was spilling over with new ideas and suggestions to improve the event. The new volunteers with their enthusiasm plan to work for the best Poolesville Day yet, and anyone interested in pitching in only need to call Jake Perkins at 301-922-0115.

Brunch with the Ponies

Personal Ponies, Ltd. is a one hundred percent volunteer, 501c(3) organization with a primary mission to make magic in the lives of children with disabilities by providing a small equine companion to care for. This November 5, Personal Ponies invites the public to their annual fundraiser

under the theme "Brunch with the Ponies." The Sunday event runs from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and is being held at the Chasin Dream Farm in Barnesville. There will be pony grooming, brunch, face painting, and more. Check out their website at personalponies.org for all the information.

Local Kickballers Finish Season in Style

The Poolesville Coed Kickball League wrapped up its second season under the lights at the Upper Montgomery Volunteer Fire Department fields in beautiful downtown Beallsville. The final night's triple-header featured a sumptuous barbecue and much revelry, not to the exclusion of some intense competition on the field of play.

When the dust settled, the Farmers took the coveted season title. They actually finished with the same record as the Youngbloodz but had a better record in head-to-head competition. The Farmers lost to Sotally Tober that night, but beat All Jacked Up and the Fishers to secure their title. Farmer Team Manager Maureen Dolan said that outscoring their opponents 86 to 24 over the course of the season had a lot to do with their ultimate victory.

The league modified the rules to counter the Farmers' ferocious bunting attack, but as Ms. Dolan observed, speed and strategy on the base paths won out in the end.

The league was organized by Mark Kuhn who looks forward to signing up even more teams for next year's season. Chrissie Harney, wife of the event's grillmeister, Paul Harney, said, "It's fun and different from softball, not competitive, just out to have fun. It's like reliving childhood, and it's a family event. Kids come and run around like crazy while we play."

Poolesville Golf Course 2006 Club Championship Results

Mike Aldridge of the Poolesville Golf Course has announced the 2006 Club champions.

In the men's category, the low gross winner was Keith Raygor, and the low net was Gianni Bardini.

For the women, the low gross winner was Sandra Suddendorf, and the low net went to Kathleen Heintz.

The *Monocle* joins Mike in congratulating the 2006 Champions.

The Monocle Needs Your Tidbits.

The Tidbits editor is always looking for news of local interest. Are there any small, medium, or large events in your life that you can share with *Monocle* readers? Announcements, observations, occurrences, or experiences from any of our lives are welcome. E-mail us at editor@monocacymonocle.com, or call us at 301-349-0070, or drop us a piece of paper at P.O. Box 175, Poolesville, MD 20837.

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Shrimp with Vegetables	Vegetable Sweet and Sour chicken
Shrimp with Cashew Nuts	Vegetable Pad Thai
Shrimp with String Beans	Vegetable Double Pan Fried Noodles
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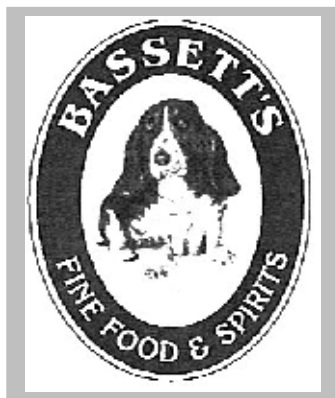
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"Saddle Fitting 101" Continued From Page 7.

are barrel racing, look for a barrel racing saddle. Roping cattle? Look for one that's called a roper. English disciplines are sometimes less straightforward. "Close contact" sounds like everyone would want that saddle, but, in fact, it would be most suitable for the show hunter ring. The ubiquitous all-purpose saddle works for many occasions, but tends to be a "jack of all trades, master of none" saddle.

Once you have an idea of the general type of saddle you want, think about new or used. New has all the usual advantages concerning warranties, dealer assistance, and product life. Used, however, has an important advantage: your saddle will already be broken in. This is most important for old-fashioned construction using leather panels and wool stuffing. It's less important for foam-flocked and synthetic saddles.

Fit is your next consideration. Here's where buying mail order saddles is most often a failure. You cannot assess the fit without sitting in it while it is on your horse. The fit on your horse's back will be different under load than without a rider. This is because most English saddles use spring tree construction to absorb shock. The front and back portion of the tree is joined by two pieces of spring metal. These pieces are designed to absorb and redistribute the weight of the rider. Unloaded, the saddle may bridge, or have very little pressure on the horse's back through the middle portion of the saddle. When the

rider's weight is added, the middle of the saddle will bear on the horse's back, hopefully distributing the rider's weight evenly across the whole panel. You can check this by putting a clean, thin, white pad under the saddle, then riding in it until the horse has sweated enough to leave a mark. An even dirt mark the shape of the panel is a good indication of correct weight distribution.

Tree width is a most important aspect of saddle fit and is fairly easy to determine. When the saddle is on the horse and, again, with the rider in the saddle, there should be two fingers' clearance between the saddle and the horse's withers. The saddle should lie evenly along the horse's body with no gaps when viewed from the front.

As well as fitting the horse, the saddle must fit the rider. You can at least get a preliminary idea at the saddle shop. Sit in the saddle while it is set on a form the shape of a horse's back. There should be four fingers' space between you and the back of the saddle. In the front, your crotch should be no more than halfway up the rise. Your knee should be at the middle of the panel. If it seems to fit, take it on trial and see how it fits when on the horse.

If you are inexperienced at buying and fitting saddles, be sure to get some qualified help. There are some good professional saddle fitters in this area. Riding instructors are another good resource. You and your horse will reap the benefit of the time and effort spent in acquiring a well-fitting saddle many times over in balance and comfort.

"Big Board" Continued From Page 6.

lin, and fiddle and as a consummate entertainer. Accompanied by his Angel Band including more acclaimed musicians, David Bromberg has returned to performing after a hiatus of a few years. He promises an extraordinary show on Saturday, October 14 at 8:00 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$20.00 to \$30.00. For more information, visit www.weinberg-center.org or call 301-228-2828.

It's Time to Give Blood Again

October 17 is the date for the quarterly blood drive of the Monocacy Lions Club. The drive will be held at St. Peter's Parish in Poolesville and will be from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. To make an appointment, call Peter Gallo at 301-972-4317.

Your Chance to Golf at Holly Hills and Help a Good Cause, Too

The Barnesville School is holding its golf tournament at Holly Hills Country Club on October 23. Registra-

tion starts at 10:30 a.m., and participants can enjoy the driving range and practice putting greens while waiting for the 11:00 a.m. barbecue lunch in the grill-room. Just to hedge your bets a bit, you can purchase mulligans and power balls at that time, too. The school is looking for corporate sponsors from \$250.00 (tee sponsors), \$500.00 (beverage cart sponsors), \$750.00 for dinner sponsors, and other more prominent sponsorships with signage and golf included up to \$1,550.00. Cost per individual is \$175.00 and for foursomes it is \$650.00. Monies raised by the tournament will help fund upgrades in their computer infrastructure. They are hoping to replace outdated computers for staff, faculty, and library student computer labs. Funds will also go for new hardware and software, color laser printers, and wireless internet access, among other things. If you want to help sponsor or play, call 301-972-0341 or email mwood@barnesvilleschool.org.

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Profiles

There Is a New Doctor in Town

By Jack Toomey



Doctor Amar Duggirala.

A hundred years ago, the arrival of a new physician in a small town would often be met with much fanfare: a band serenading him at his house and townspeople bearing gifts. Even in the larger cities, having a new doctor move into the neighborhood was a talked-about event. The recent arrival of a new physician in Poolesville was a much quieter affair than experienced years ago.

Dr. Amar Duggirala is a quiet and reserved young gentleman whose personality seems ideal for practicing medicine in a semi-rural area like Poolesville. He grew up in the Pacific Northwest, New Mexico, and New Jersey. He graduated from Rutgers University with a degree in Environmental Studies, obtained his master's degree in Public Health, and then he went to medical school in Arizona. After graduation, he returned to Washington where he was in residence at Georgetown University Hospital for three years. Dr. Duggirala did a research fellowship at Johns Hopkins Hospital, and then decided that he wanted to join a family medical practice. He began seeing patients at Poolesville Family Practice on a part-time basis in January, and now is in the office five days a week. This fall, he will often be seeing patients from Monday through Saturday.

A recent visitor to the doctor's office was immediately put at ease by Dr. Duggirala who is soft spoken and very friendly. He confided that as a young boy he wanted to be a pilot even though his father was a physician. It wasn't until he reached college and had taken courses in the history of public health that he considered becoming a physician. He found it fascinating how doctors were able to stop epidemics, years ago, without the benefit of the sophisticated equipment in use today. He was also interested in reading about the efforts of the doctors of a different era who recognized some of the most deadly diseases in the world. Be-

cause of his interest in public health, Dr. Duggirala is especially concerned with treating childhood and adult obesity and other chronic diseases. Because of sedentary diversions that children have today such as watching television, playing video games, and eating far too much fast food, obesity among our young people is going to be a real problem in the future. The doctor says, "We don't do as well at preventing diseases as we do treating them." He makes it a point to discuss with every new patient he sees the danger of smoking, the importance of healthy eating and exercise, and other things that can cause premature death.

The doctor has enjoyed his first months in Poolesville and says, "I was very surprised about how friendly and welcoming everyone has been, I've enjoyed being in a smaller family practice rather than [one] in a larger urban setting." He especially enjoys seeing patients at Poolesville Family Practice because by seeing every member of a family, he can get an idea about past family medical history and form a plan of treatment. Dr. Leonard Sax, the senior member of the practice, has been very busy in recent months and Dr. Duggirala has learned a lot from Dr. Sax. "We have a nice relationship, he is very smart, and you don't normally see someone with his [Dr. Sax's] academic background." [As mentioned before, Dr. Duggirala spent several years at hospitals in the District of Columbia and Baltimore. He chuckled when he mentioned, "I didn't see much poison ivy in D.C. or Baltimore," and soon realized that he would be seeing quite a few patients with that affliction in this area. Once, when he was covering the intensive care unit during his residency, the doctor was introduced to a college student who was near death from an infectious disease. He took a special interest in her case along with the other doctors in the unit. A few weeks later, he was thrilled to see her walk out of the front door of the hospital. Dr. Duggirala remarked that one of his favorite things about treating children is their honesty. One time he had a child who was about to undergo a very simple procedure. The child asked if it was going to hurt and the doctor said, "No, it won't hurt a bit. You trust me, right?" The child looked at the ceiling, stalled a bit, and finally answered, "Yes." Needless to say, the mother and doctor were relieved by the answer.]

There might not have been a band playing when Dr. Amar Duggirala drove into Poolesville for the first time, but in a few short months, he has become known as a caring and respected professional by his many patients.

Police Blotter Past and Present



Present

September 9. Commercial burglary. ADS Carpet, 20301 Bucklodge Road, Boyds. Forced entry, property taken.

September 11. Residential burglary. 15100 block of Sugarland Road, Poolesville. Forced entry to a home, property taken.

September 11. A thirty-five-year-old Poolesville woman reported that her brother, who is living with her, pulled a loaded shotgun and pointed it at her after a verbal dispute between the two. The woman then grabbed a baseball bat and the suspect left the house. The suspect's identity is known, and the investigation is continuing.

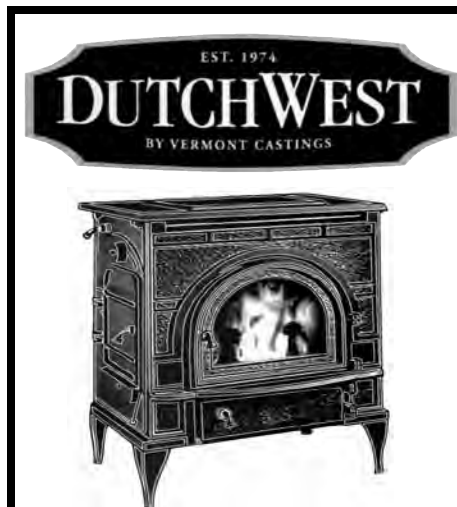
Past

October 7, 1964. Five youths were arrested in Poolesville and charged with breaking over two hundred windows and car windshields. Police said that the teens cruised residential areas as late as 4:00 a.m., hurling rocks, bricks, and railroad spikes at cars parked along streets in Rockville, Gaithersburg, and Poolesville.

October 7, 1900. A riot occurred among people attending a picnic near Germantown. One person was killed and another was badly wounded and is said to be lying in a precarious condition. The dead man is Howard Hall of Germantown, and Nathan Doy is the wounded man.

October 13, 1954. The second floor of the Poolesville High School was ordered closed by the Montgomery County Fire Marshall's Office because of unsafe conditions. Fire Marshall Charles Howe issued the order because the stairways to the second floor were not equipped with doors. Replacement of the high school has been delayed because school officials could not agree what the capacity *should be*.

October 13, 1961. Four employees of the Drug Fair in Wheaton were arrested in a crackdown on retail es-



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tablishments that sell the controversial book, "Tropic of Cancer."

October 15, 1941. The Montgomery County Commissioners ordered police to guard all public schools in the county against burglars and firebugs as a result of the fire at the J. Enos Ray School in Takoma Park.

October 17, 1942. The chief of the Bethesda Fire Department drowned in flood waters on River Road near Cabin John Run. Officials said that John Buell drowned while attempting to save citizens who were trapped in the flood. Chief Buell had responded from home when he heard about cars trapped in the floodwaters sweeping across River Road. He was attempting to attach a tow line to one of the cars when he was swept away.

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School News

Monocacy's Boat Floats

Remember all those T-shirts that were being sold last year by students of Monocacy Elementary School? Well, the fruition of their hard effort is at hand. The new canal boat is in the canal at Great Falls and is pulled by mules along the towpath. Through the month of October, rides are only \$2.00. Normally, they are \$8.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children. The rides are at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. daily with an additional 1:30 ride on Saturdays and Sundays. Each ride lasts forty-five minutes and is narrated. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/choh/ then click on "Things to Do." The hours of operation change with the seasons. Information can also be found by calling Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center at 301-767-3714.

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"Not the Choir" Continued From Page 3.

Hanging out with the band while they drink a pint or two makes you wonder whether they're in it for the music or to crack jokes—something that went on incessantly during our interview. They're quite sure they're not in it for the money. "We're keeping our day jobs," quips Marcia. "We will sing for food," adds Jill. "We're proud to say we've sung on both sides of 270," puts in Bill. Seriously, though, anytime they do receive payment or donations for performing, they turn around and give it to the church. They're good in more ways than one.

In their real lives, both Bill and Jill are involved in education. Bill retired from MCPS after thirty years to work for Discovery Education, and Jill teaches elementary music for MCPS along with private piano lessons on the side. Kathy is also an educator; she's a special education teacher at Rockville High School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program. Brian holds the title of Director of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Dick is a retired master electrician who now works as a consultant for BAE Systems. He's presently designing the interior communications systems for the U.S.S. Makin Island (the final LHD-1 WASP Class ship). If he tells me much more, he'll have to kill me—or even worse, cut off my electricity. Marcia owns a business and is a computer programmer.

They have been asked to sing at many functions from club meetings to receptions to private parties to weddings—and, of course, the gig to surpass all gigs, Poolesville Day. They have also sung at some nursing homes. "There's nothing quite like an audience tied up in chairs," jokes Marcia. Dick adds, "We got an audience that couldn't hurt us." Despite all of the wisecracks, one of their performances was nothing short of miraculous. At one nursing home, there was a woman who appeared to be somewhat comatose, but when the group began playing, she started moving and dancing in her chair. "She came awake," says Jill. People at the nursing home couldn't believe it. She had been in that state for months, and it was assumed she was deaf and blind. Another especially memorable performance was when they were invited to play for an international Presbyterian convention in Falls Church in 2000. They played before at least one thousand people. "We were really honored," says Jill.

When asked about their goals, Bill says, "We're thinking about writ-

ing a book, Churches Where We Have Played." In reality, they are working on finishing a CD for which many of the tracks have been recorded. They want to do their own mixing, so it reflects their interpretation of their songs. Dick has one other goal in mind, "Our goal is to have fun."

To conclude, just a few words from our sponsors, "All these people are characters except for me," says Dick—right. "We have a lot of fun," he adds.

Marcia has the last word, "Sometimes we stop talking long enough to actually sing."

"Polenta" Continued From Page 3.

pasta, where you can easily pass the point of no return, it is pretty difficult to ruin polenta. Basically, you slowly pour it into boiling water. If you pour it too quickly, you can end up with a lot of lumps, but you can easily mash them out with a fork.

Today, time spent in the kitchen preparing a meal is becoming a shrinking task. That is the beauty of polenta, especially the instant version. It is as easy as boiling spaghetti. The easiest, and I think the most delicious, recipe for polenta is Polenta with Cheese and Butter. Cook the polenta according to the directions on the package until smooth and creamy. Pour into a warm bowl and mix with freshly-grated Parmesan cheese and butter. Serve promptly.

The late James Beard was a big fan of polenta. Here is an easy recipe from his cookbook, *The New James Beard*.

Polenta with Sausage Polenta

- ¾ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1½ pounds of mild or hot Italian sausages
- 2 cups of tomato sauce (preferably homemade, but Ragu will do)
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 teaspoon salt

Cook the polenta until it reaches a medium, creamy consistency. Stir in the butter, salt, and ½ cup cheese. Set aside.

Prick the sausages, place them in a skillet with water to cover, and bring the water to a boil. Lower the heat and simmer the sausages for ten to twelve minutes. Drain them, then brown them slowly on all sides over medium-low heat.

Oil a baking dish and pour in the cooked polenta. Top with the sausages. Bake in a 375° oven for 15 minutes, then spoon ¾ cup tomato sauce over the top and sprinkle with the remaining ¼ cup cheese. Serve with remaining tomato sauce and additional grated cheese.



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"Fashion in Bloom" Continued from page 8.

and golden anthers.

Have you given up trying to grow camellias in our zone-seven winters? New hybrids are coming to market in 2007 that can be planted throughout most of the eastern United States. Camellia x 'Winter Star' has large, single plates with bright golden yellow anthers.

The plant *Monarda* (Bee Balm) is a powerful magnet for butterflies, but many gardeners have stopped growing it because it is so prone to mildew. *Monarda* x 'Fireball' is new for 2007. It has hot balls of fire red on compact plants with wonderful mildew resistance.



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The rosy-russet color of - 'Autumn Joy' is a welcome flower in gardens in mid-September, while most other flowering plants are starting to fade. There is a new sedum for 2007, 'Xenox.' It shows off in the fall garden with chocolate/purple/green foliage

on compact plants with umbels of orange, creamy pink, and burgundy tones. These are totally new colors for sedums.

Daylilies are the workhorses of the summer garden. You can't beat them for low maintenance, disease and pest resistance, heat tolerance, and length of bloom season. A new variety to hit the 2007 market is one that should be special for Marylanders, 'Chesapeake Crablegs.' One look and you can tell where the name came from—bright red-orange arms with light orange rays and a reddish chevron. Put a crab feast in your garden.

I could continue on with a list of more exciting new plants for your 2007 garden. By early October, most gardeners are getting ready to wind down garden chores. But by early January, our mailboxes will be flooded with new plant catalogues. Go beyond the tried and true this year, and look for what is new on the garden fashion runway.

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Youth Sports

The Clarksburg Coyotes Howl

By Rande Davis

The spirit and promise of Clarksburg High School's athletic program got off to a great start through an enthusiastic, time-honored tradition—the high school pep rally. With the entire student body of nearly one thousand students in the bleachers, each class decked in T-shirts of a different color, the crowd cheered wildly when they collectively formed the letter C. With speeches by coaches and staff and an exuberant Coyote mascot on the field, this school without seniors displayed a spirit that is sure to set the standard for years to come. (As a new high school, there is no senior class since it was decided that no twelfth graders from other schools would be required to switch schools.)

Mike Riley brought his special brand of promotion and emotion to the high school this past summer when he became its first athletic director. "I am thrilled to be here and very

pleased with the response from all involved, especially the athletes and parents." A man known for setting goals and making lists, Mr. Riley has already accomplished the first need of hiring coaches. "We are in great shape with only the JV cheerleading position open for now."

After twelve years at Poolesville High School, he began his new assignment well ahead in his plans to develop a first-rate athletic program. The most striking edifice beyond the building itself is the impressive football stadium with full bleachers on both sides of the field. "We have almost everything in place, all the equipment and staff, a concession stand, and the scoreboard will be in place soon." On his long-term list are field lights so the teams can play night games. In getting the lights, he has enlisted the help of the newly-formed booster club.

The Clarksburg High School Booster Club was established this past June with an eleven-member board of directors and approximately sixty active parents as volunteers. A brigade of moms headed by Martha Stapleton enthusiastically began "knocking on doors" to find supporters for the athletic department. With the mentoring of Athletic Director Mike Riley, they

were encouraged and guided to formalize the organization, write bylaws, develop a board of directors, and to seek tax exemption status. Stepping forward, Bern Stapleton volunteered to be president and was elected by the fledging organization. Mr. Stapleton credits having board members with expertise in specific areas of need and the guidance of Mike Riley for the quick success that the group is already experiencing. Mr. Stapleton told the Monocle, "There is not one person on the board who has been part of a booster club in the past; however, we are fortunate that people with the right experience stepped in to help in their personal areas of knowledge. As an example, treasurer Doty Hills is a certified public accountant. Mrs. Stapleton, who heads up fundraising events, has experience in organizing festivals and events at Butler's Orchard. While their concession leader, Joe Tableaus, is in real estate, he has a background in running a restaurant. Of course, Bern Stapleton lends a special talent in managing the details since his expertise is in nuclear plant security.

In the space of just a couple of months, the group organized and held a successful golf tournament which netted \$8,500.00. They ordered Coyote seat cushions, introduced light blue (school color) coyote tails (made of cloth not fur), and printed T-shirts that say, "I got caught shaking my tail." At games, the crowds shake their coyote

tails and dance to the music of "Twist and Shout." Shaking the tails has proven to be a real crowd pleaser.

When the Student Government Association set a goal to purchase an outfit for the Coyote team mascot, the booster club stepped forward to loan them the money to purchase the \$800.00 costume so they wouldn't have to wait months to have the mascot at games.

The first goal of the club is to raise enough money so they can have lights at the outdoor field. The cost is estimated to be \$100,000. As soon as they can raise more than half, the school will be prepared to get the lights in place even before they finish the full fundraising drive.

One of their more successful programs is to sell large banners for commercial sponsors for the football stadium. Stapleton points out, "The best part is that the banners can be moved to different fields for different sports and with the change of seasons, or can even go inside during the winter sports events."

The excitement of a new venture fills the hallways and fields of the school. A third of the students are new to high school and for everyone else, the thrill of a new high school has proven to be very motivating even at its earliest stages. The Coyotes of Clarksburg High don't need a full moon to howl their pleasure since no one on campus will dare get caught not "shaking his tail."



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Youth Sports

Young Falcons Ready to Come Home

By Skip Etheridge

Those folks with a close relationship with Poolesville High School football have in recent years become very accustomed to winning. However, since the move by Coach Larry Hurd and nearly all his assistants to Clarksburg High School, and the decision of last year's starting quarterback, Matt Ray, to transfer to Urbana High School, the program has been dealt a severe blow. Coupled with the fact that only six of the twelve key seniors returned, this places new Head Coach Steve Orsini in the position of rebuilding a team almost exclusively from last year's junior varsity. Mr. Orsini is making no excuses though. He believes in the athletes that are here, "They are a great bunch of kids, and

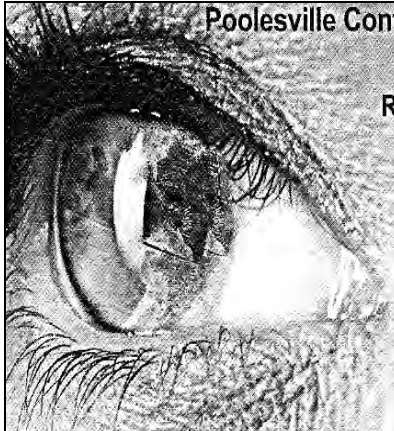
I love coaching at Poolesville, and we will win again!"

The Poolesville Falcon varsity football season opened on the road with a close 13-6 defeat at the hands of their archrival, the Brunswick Railroaders. The Falcon ground attack showed promise as senior tailback co-captain, Mike O'Halloran, and junior fullback, Tommy Hughes, grounded out chunks of yardage with Hughes scoring on a sixty-yard scamper off left tackle. After exchanging touchdowns in the first half, the Railroaders pushed across the game's deciding touchdown.

The defeat was followed by another road loss to a strong Smithsburg team from Washington County (33-19). Even in defeat, the undermanned Falcons could take heart in a strong offensive effort. Sophomore quarterback, Nick Loftus, starting only his second varsity game, passed for over 270 yards and two touchdowns.

-Continued on Page 21.

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“Young Falcons” Continued From Page 19.

Senior co-captain, Kevin Campbell, caught five of Loftus's passes for 119 yards. Fullback Hughes again electrified the crowd with an 80 yard pass and run for a touchdown. Hard-running O'Halloran ground out 94 yards in ten carries and a touchdown.

With only twenty-five available players and a short practice week, the injury-depleted Falcons limped into Joe Good stadium to face the revenge-hungry Rockville Rams. Last year, Poolesville won at home 46-6. This year was another story. The Rams' air attack was devastating early, and the ground game was equally successful. The Rams forced the Falcons into costly mistakes, and the home team capitalized (48-0). Again, a courageous effort was turned in by wide-out, Kevin Campbell, who was not only playing with a broken wrist but a severely sprained ankle. Campbell had three catches for 80 yards and two tackles. Two-way starters, co-captain Mike Olney, Sam Hept, Mark Bonifant, Luke Marchwicki, Milik Banana, and O'Halloran, also played gut-check football before the hostile crowd at Rockville.

The road-weary Falcons return home on October 6 to host Snow Hill High School as homecoming opponents. Hopefully, the team will have time to heal, and the injured players will be ready to play in a friendly environment. Despite the 0-3 start, there is good reason for optimism. Along with the solid play of Hughes, he is joined by a bevy of juniors on defense. End, Dave Johnson, linebackers, Pat Zapata and Dave Loh, have all been bright spots. Offensive tackle, Chase Spencer, center, A. J. Smith, and wide-out, Zach Etheridge (seven catches), have shown promise on offense. Sophomore defensive end, Chase Beck, is second to Olney in tackles.

Motorcycle Collision with School Bus Proves Fatal

By Rande Davis

A motorcycle collided with a Poolesville school bus on September 25, 2006 at 7:53 a.m. The accident was the cause for closing Elgin Road for about an hour. Through the course of the investigation, Montgomery

County Police determined that the school bus was traveling northbound on Elgin Road and was attempting to turn left into the parking lot of the Elijah Methodist Church. The driver of the Triumph motorcycle, Matthew J. Coulson, age 31, of Spates Hill Road in Poolesville, was behind the bus. For unknown reasons, Mr. Coulson chose to go left around the school bus and collided with the bus's left rear tire.

Mr. Coulson was flown to Suburban Hospital where he died of his injuries. The driver of the bus,

an aide, and a four-year-old child were unharmed. Investigators with the Montgomery County Police are requesting that anyone who may have witnessed the collision contact them at the Collision Reconstruction Unit at 301-840-2435.

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Local History

The Pigeon with a War Record

By Jack Toomey



Most people know that the Poolesville area was a major site for military activity during the Civil War. Although no major battles happened

here, at one time there were almost twenty thousand soldiers stationed in this area. Their major purpose was to guard the shallow fords of the Potomac River and to maintain a sizeable defensive force between Harper's Ferry and Washington. Soldiers would sometimes capture livestock, wild turkeys, and hunt wild game to feed their units, but who would believe that a common pigeon was part of this massive fighting force?

In 1861, the 42nd New York Infantry Regiment was formed in New York. Since most of its members came from New York City, it was named the

Tammany Regiment. One of the members was a man named Tinker who was not a soldier but a teamster, a man who drove a team of horses that carried supplies for the army. The regiment's first assignment was at Kalorama Heights which today is a neighborhood in northwest Washington, but in 1861 it was an overlook and defensive position for the city of Washington. Sometime after his arrival at Kalorama Heights, a pigeon landed in the campsite of the New York troops. Mr. Tinker began feeding the bird, and it returned every day for its handout. After a while, it took up residence in Mr. Tinker's wagon and became quite a conversation piece among the troops. In September of 1861, the regiment was given orders to move to Poolesville in anticipation of a Confederate threat from Virginia. To the surprise of Mr. Tinker, the pigeon flew along with the wagon train, flying away at great distances only to return to rest on the wagon as it plodded along the Frederick Road, out the Darnestown Road, and on to Poolesville.

The New York troops made their campsite at the corner of Edwards Ferry Road and Westerly Road, and the pigeon would occasionally leave the area, forage for food, but would always return and select a roosting spot

in Mr. Tinker's wagon. The 42nd New York participated in the Battle of Balls Bluff, and apparently, the pigeon came through the battle unscathed. Soldiers in the unit, so impressed with Mr. Tinker's bird, made offers of up to twenty-five dollars to purchase the pigeon, but Mr. Tinker refused to sell the bird. The bird's reputation was well known and townspeople even came to the campsite to talk to Mr. Tinker and to see the pigeon.

In 1862, the regiment left Poolesville and proceeded back down the Darnestown Road, through the city of Washington, and to the docks where they boarded ships bound for the

Northern Neck of Virginia. Tinker took the bird aboard a steamer boat, and they traveled together to Yorktown where the pigeon would take flights over enemy positions, but would always return to spend the night in Tinker's wagon. It was reported that the New York troops participated in the battles of Antietam and Harper's Ferry and that the bird was actually on the battlefields. After these battles, Mr. Tinker sent the bird home as a present to a friend.

Apparently this bird was not the common pigeon that is seen on the streets of metropolitan areas. It was

-Continued on Page 25.



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Remembrance

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Gordon

Lieutenant Colonel
By Rande Davis



Lieutenant Colonel
Thomas Gordon.

Poolesville's Lt. Col. Thomas Gordon (retired) passed away in July and was laid to rest at Arlington's National Cemetery. Lieutenant Colonel Gordon had retired in 1996 after a distinguished and highly decorated thirty-seven-year career in the U.S. Army.

Originally from Green Bay, Wisconsin, he began his military career through R.O.T.C. at Saint Norbert College in Wisconsin. Lieutenant Colonel Gordon's expertise was in explosive ordnance removal and in military intelligence. He had distinguished

himself serving his country through two full tours in Vietnam. He also served at the Naval Security Group Headquarters in Nebraska where he was remembered for his professionalism, knowledge, and dedication to the mission. "He was a model for all of us to follow. All of us held Tom in the highest esteem and appreciated his wonderful sense of humor," recalled Cathy Bing who worked with him.

Friends and family gathered at

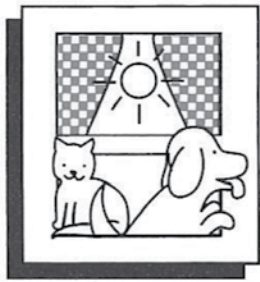


The flag that draped Lieutenant Colonel Gordon's coffin is presented to his wife, Marie, on behalf of a grateful nation. Tomas Gordon, Lieutenant Colonel Gordon's son, is on her right.

Arlington National Cemetery where his devotion to the nation and family was celebrated. "He was an expert in the complex area of physical security, whose largely unseen work ensured that sailors and marines could perform sensitive information technology work safely. He was known for his hard work and willingness to lend a hand to help colleagues," stated Steven Myers, Captain, U.S. Navy (retired) from Bedford, Pennsylvania.

After leaving the military in 1996, Lieutenant Colonel Gordon continued to work with the Defense Department. After a lifetime of military service that included worldwide travel, he was very content in his last days to rest and enjoy life in Poolesville. "In his retirement, he greatly missed his military career," said his wife, Marie Gordon. The military life they shared included military stations at Ft. Hood, Texas, Okinawa, Japan, and an extended period in Latin America where he shared his expertise in unexploded bomb removal.

Children, Annette, Bob, Michael, Tomas, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild survive Lt. Col. Thomas Gordon. His son, Tomas Gordon, was a 1989 graduate of Poolesville High School.



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5:00 p.m. Dinner Buffet in Clubhouse

“Copeland” Continued From Page 1.

Winessa pursued her career in education and is a para-educator at John Poole Middle School. For Pastor Chuck, his journey to the ministry moved forward through a process of many starts and stops. While his vocation as a correction officer for Montgomery County developed, his avocation as a pastor came about from a series of life experiences and a growing involvement in his church. In 1991, he made his personal commitment to follow Christ. In 1992, he had a nighttime experience that altered his life forever. One sleepless night, during a moment of personal prayer, he felt God’s presence with the admonition, “I am your Father and you are my son. You will bring many people to repentance.” Like David and Moses, Pastor Chuck was a reluctant volunteer.

In fact, it wasn’t until 1993 that he finally had a profound sense that “it’s time.” While ministry was something he thought would be the last thing he would do, he became aware that ordinary people could do extraordinary things. Study and involvement in his church began to open his eyes.

With encouragement from friends, Rick Hackett of Germantown and DeWayne Upchurch, and his service

at Seneca Community Church, Pastor Chuck finally decided it was time to “come home” to the small church next to his family’s property. Hosanna Worship Center is in a building that was built in 1903 after a fire had swept through the previous building located just down the road. The church had not been used for nearly ten years, but the pure and simple sanctuary only needed sprucing up.

Members and visitors to the church are first impacted by the mural right behind the altar that depicts a train racing through the countryside with the moniker “Gospel Train.” This original work of art painted by Lemuel Graham in 1948 shows the train heading in a direction that ends at a point where Jesus stands beside the tracks. Above the train are the mysterious initials TJP&H. Pastor Chuck has not been able to decipher the meaning of the initials, but perhaps one of the Monocle readers will know.

Starting with eleven members, they have grown to forty-two today. The church is a casual, Bible-centered ministry which draws members from various backgrounds. The members enjoy its lively music from piano and guitar, Sunday children’s church, and a Bible study. They have plans to introduce a unique form of worship ministry by

Winessa that she best describes as dance ministry. Pastor Chuck prefers that his sermons have themes on a monthly basis. The current sermon theme is “Love Languages” which entails all the ways we communicate our love to one another and the Lord.

This historic and old church has a new spirit and a lively mission. Pastor Chuck’s message of renewal is reverberating in old walls, and we can almost hear for ourselves the congregation proclaiming, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.”

“The Pigeon” Continued From Page 22.

most likely a passenger pigeon which was so abundant in the late 1800s that it was estimated there were four billion passenger pigeons in existence east of the Rocky Mountains, and flocks would darken the sky at times. The species became extinct during the early 1900s with the death of the last passenger pigeon in the Cincinnati Zoo in 1914.

Presumably, that bird was not the pigeon that attached itself to Mr. Tinker and lived in Poolesville in 1861 and 1862.

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"School News" Continued From Page 6.

The issue that took up most of our time was the concern of teacher turnover and retention. The loss of valued faculty, especially in the few years, is the white elephant in the room. The complaints from parents coming to the attention of the Monocle emphasized not just numbers but the quality of the teachers leaving. In meeting three parents who were representing a much larger group of parents, Miss Levine discussed the issue. While she maintained that ninety-five percent of the turnover can be traced to standard causes such as new advancement opportunities, especially with Clarksburg High School opening up so close by, she also heard their complaint that some of the faculty turnover is also part of frustration in administrative management style.

"My focus as a principal is having the highest quality staff work with our students. Poolesville High School is fortunate to have exemplary teachers and support personnel with an unparalleled commitment to our students and their academic achievement. It's been a joy to see our topnotch veteran staff welcome the new staff members and make them feel a part of our learning community. Our new staff comes with strong

credentials: over 178 years of teaching experience from Sherwood, Springbrook, Montgomery Blair, Watkins Mill, Wootton, Walter Johnson High Schools; Frederick County Public Schools; California public schools; middle schools; and private schools. In addition to their teaching, some have experiences as diverse as working as a Ph.D. in industry, practicing law, consulting in the computer industry, directing security communications at Georgetown University, and serving in the military. Our new staff members have already embraced the Poolesville student body and are proud to be here."

Miss Levine strongly emphasized to the Monocle how much she values the staff and that she is trying different things to make sure that her appreciation of the staff is better understood. She has begun to introduce new approaches she hopes will ameliorate parental concerns on turnover and result in a turnover rate much closer to the average nine to ten percent annually. The faculty has already been involved in team-building exercises and even the simple "anonymous suggestion box" is now in place. While the parents remain concerned, they have decided that with the issue now out in the open, they

"Bringing Whole Community Together" Continued From Page 5.

a comprehensive website for the town would have many benefits. "We are planning to make it easy for citizens, businesses, and organizations to access website and input information that will help all of us better work together as a community."

Mr. Yeatts also stresses that in helping to improve the business opportunities and atmosphere in the town coupled with quarterly events that will be fun for the entire community, a unity of purpose between the government, business, and residents will benefit all. In the early stages, the CEDC started with a survey of the business community on their thoughts on improving economic conditions in the town. At Poolesville Day, the committee circulated surveys for residents to help bring more clarity to what town residents really desire in new services.

Through marketing programs that will help create a "brand" for the town and by reaching out to businesses that could benefit by fulfilling citizen desires, it is hoped that the committee can play an important part in attracting new businesses to Poolesville.

Unlike a standard volunteer organization, many of the CEDC's activities will be funded in order to be able to have the means to accomplish many of their goals. The town has contributed the first \$3,000.00 with the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce making further donations. Grants from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority will also be sought.

In the tight competition for business development and enhancement of tourism in and out of the county, the CEDC hopes they can help improve the town's economic picture while at the same time adding to the quality of life.



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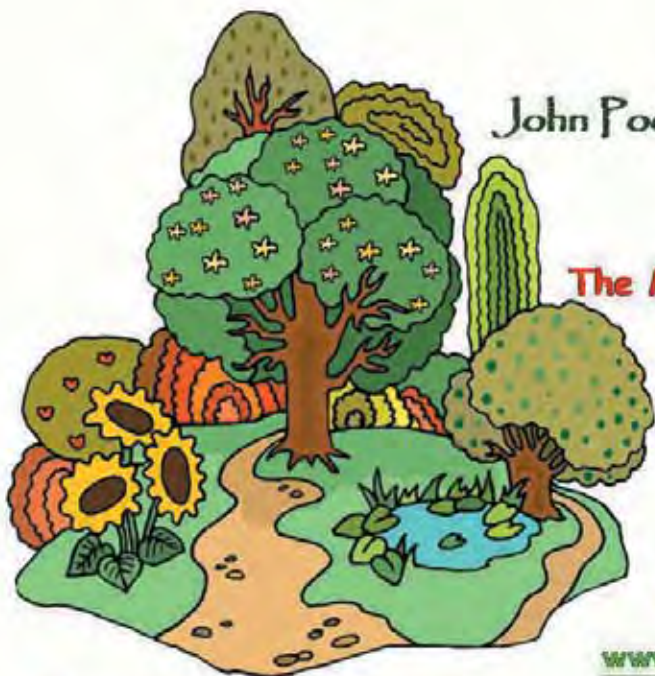
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are comfortable extending time to the administration to put in place programs to improve the situation.

As all these issues occupy the administration, she emphasizes that she maintains her clear goal of challenging the students at all levels. She is pleased with test scores that put Poolesville High School above the ninety-five

percent range in performance, and that excellence in the school has even been recognized in Newsweek. Poolesville increased its ranking in the Newsweek list from within the top six hundred schools to now being placed in the top three hundred nationally.



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