

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

October 20, 2006

Volume III, Number 14



See Center Stage on page 3 for more about ballet in the up county.



Read all about Field Hockey in Youth Sports, page 6.



There's even more youthful exuberance in our Homecoming Photo Spectacular on page 14.



An extremely green lawnmower, even safe for kids? Not quite. See our Photo Spectacular on page 16.

Photo Radar Expected to Debut in Barnesville and Poolesville

By John Clayton

The towns of Barnesville and Poolesville have decided to jointly implement a speed camera system to control traffic in their respective communities. The issue has been under investigation by representatives of both towns, and implementation could follow in the near future.

According to Town of Barnesville Mayor Pete Menke and Town of Barnesville Commissioner Luke Fedders, the idea began at the Maryland Municipal League Convention when they were given a presentation of photo enforcement equipment. Montgomery County is the only jurisdiction in Maryland which is allowed to issue tickets using this type of technology, officially termed "automated speed monitoring systems" in the state legislation which authorizes its use. The bill was presented by the Montgomery County delegation, and after being passed by the legislature, was vetoed by Governor Robert Ehrlich. The veto was subsequently overridden by the state house and senate and became law. Montgomery County currently has red light photo enforcement in a number of locations, but Mayor Menke commented that Barnesville is hoping to be the first municipality in the county, and hence the state, to implement a speed camera system.

The law will allow Barnesville and Poolesville to "issue citations to drivers for speeding based on images collected by automated speed monitoring systems." The systems can only be employed in residential areas with maximum posted speed limits of thirty-five miles per hour or in school zones, and citations can only be issued for speeds of at least ten miles per hour above the posted limits. The fines cannot exceed forty dollars. The cited vehicle owner can contest the offense in court, but as with civil offenses, the law provides for a standard of "preponderance of evidence" which might make it tough to beat



Barnesville's current warning system, which may be augmented by one with more bite.

the rap if the evidence is presented in accordance with the statute.

Legally, the violations have more in common with parking offenses than with speeding tickets issued by police officers. No points will be assessed for citations issued by speed-monitoring systems, the violations will not become part of one's permanent driving record, and the violations will not affect one's ability to get insurance. However, failure to pay the fines may result in suspension

or non-renewal of the owner's vehicle registration. The citations will also fall under reciprocity agreements with other states.

The vendor that the towns are considering requires that the equipment be in service at least thirty hours per week which is what led Barnesville to solicit Poolesville's participation. By sharing the equipment, which must be physically monitored during its use, primarily for protection of the equipment itself, it was hoped that the in-service requirement would be less of a burden. The towns do not expect to make significant revenues, as the stated intention is to "slow down traffic and pay for the equipment." Revenues will be shared by the manufacturer and the towns. The police must also receive a fee, as citations can only be issued after the photos are reviewed by a police officer.

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Quill & Brush: Turning Passion into Profit

By Rande Davis

When needing an expert opinion on a topic, the slogan "he wrote the book on it" means you have the top expert in the field. When it comes to collecting first edition books, Dickerson's Allen and Pat Ahearn really did write the book, *BOOK COLLECTING 2000 - A Comprehensive Guide*. Rick Puro, of the nation's leading internet book collectors service (Advanced Book Exchange), says the Ahearn's book is "the best reference work I know on the subject...we keep a copy at ABE, and I use it much as a Scrabble player uses the dictionary."

The Ahearns' firm, Quill & Brush, is nestled in their home office at the foot of Sugarloaf Mountain. They specialize in first edition hardback books from Dickens to Clancy. Their inventory ranges up to twenty thousand copies, they are primary publishers of catalogs on books, and they also wrote *Collected Books - The*



Allen and Pat Ahearn.

Guide to Values. It is the largest and most comprehensive single-volume guide on current market values of collectible books in the United States.

Their story is the story of turning a passion into profit by starting out very small but building a family-owned national and international business which today positions them among the elite of the book-collecting world.

We share their story and their insight

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Family Album

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



Garth, Seely, Susanne Johnson and Delores Milmoie at the Sugarloaf Citizens Association Fundraiser at Sugarloaf Equestrian Center



Phil Snoy helping 'Goldie' and Carlina Ichijo of the Great Falls Vaulting Team at the Sugarloaf Citizens Association Fundraiser at Sugarloaf Equestrian Center.



The Homecoming King and Queen: Craig Dykstra and Marisa Shapiro.



Checking out the books and tapes at the St. Peter's rummage sale.

After the rummage sale, the Hands of Love pack a truck load of un-purchased items for the needy in West Virginia.



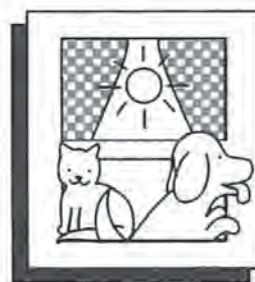
MONOCACY CRITTERS

Serendipitous Pet and Animal Pictures



Photograph courtesy of Hilary Schwab Photography

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Center Stage

Ballet in the Countryside Pirouette through the Tulips

By Dominique Agnew

Fran Ichijo has a dream. In her dream, young children and aspiring ballet dancers do not have to go to the big cities to further their training to reach their dreams and goals. Instead of driving to Frederick or



Fran Ichijo at work.

Baltimore or Washington, D.C. or New York, students of ballet will drive to Poolesville, become accomplished dancers, and dance for major ballet companies. Fran has this dream, and she plans on making it a reality — something she has done before.

Fran Drayton Ichijo grew up dancing ballet in Pennsylvania. She eventually made her way to New York where she studied with the now-defunct American Ballet Theater School with Patricia Wilde. She had already completed her four-year degree in dance and art at Hamilton College. Then the adventure began. A woman came to New York “looking for brave souls” — Fran says laughing — who could not only dance, but who could teach ballet. The two skills would be necessary to start a ballet company. Brave Fran left New York for Seoul, Korea where she helped found the Universal Ballet Company. While there for eight years, she danced, she taught, and she established this company which is not only still in existence but is known throughout the ballet world. Many of her pupils went on to become professional dancers — soloists and principals — for such companies as the Ohio Ballet, the Atlanta Ballet, the Universal Ballet

Company, and Stuttgart. “That’s my hope again,” she says.

Since her years in Seoul, Fran has married, raised a family (and some horses), all the while teaching ballet for local dance studios. Eight years ago, Fran opened the doors of Hope Garden Ballet, naming it after the farm she and her husband owned in Dickerson until a few years ago. She had wondered why ballet always had to be in the city, and she wanted ballet in the country. “The beauty of the country lends itself to creative thought,” she explains. She runs the

ballet studio out of the Healthworks Fitness Center building where she began with only three students. She now has forty students who put on two productions each year at the high school in December and May. “Of course, I’m impassioned by ballet,” she says, and she’s not reticent about explaining why.

Ballet has everything. It is artistic with line and beauty; it is athletic, musical, requires knowledge of anatomy to get the most out of the body, and it instills discipline which helps build character. “I don’t teach just to make money,” she says. She teaches to build characters and discipline in life.

As many know, ballet can be grueling practice and repetition, but Fran loves it, and easily shares her love. “I’m very joyful in my teaching,” she says, but don’t think she’s lax on technique. “I love technique,” she adds. “I love to have perfect technique.” If a dancer has lousy technique, it takes away from the artistry. Fran’s insistence on technique and her infectious passion have paid off for the girls. Two nine-year-olds auditioned for and were asked to dance in this year’s performance of the Nutcracker by the Joffrey Ballet at the Kennedy Center, November 22 to November 26. Veronica Contreras and Brooke O’Connell, both of Poolesville, were selected for this honor after auditioning in the nine-to-thirteen age group. Fran has other students in the same age group who were also ready, but the performances will take place over the Thanksgiving weekend, causing

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Offered at \$580,000



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Offered at \$825,000



Dickerson - Truly a gardener's delight, this charming 3 BR, 1 full BA bungalow is nestled on 2.8 acs. adjoining parkland. Amenities incl. an inviting front porch, wood flrs., pine ceilings, & crown molding. Exterior features incl. a 2-car detached garage, potting shed, dog kennel, mini-orchard & 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.

Offered at \$525,000

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Editorial

Now Is the Time for All Good Men and Women to Come to the Aid of Their Town

By Rande Davis

Nine people thought about running for Poolesville town commissioner but only three decided to do so. Of the three in the ring, one has served for twenty years and another for over ten. Only one new person proved willing to enter the arena.

Do you find it a bit surprising, in a town so deep with talented people possessing such impressive expertise and knowledge, that only three gentlemen have stepped forward to answer the call of civic duty? How can it be that with literally hundreds of examples of good people volunteering their skills and time in so many other important, good causes, that only three stepped forward?

Is it that so few care about the future of the town? Of course not. No one has a copyright on loving this place, although some seem to think they are only ones, especially those who express themselves through anger.

Is it that we are just too busy? Yeah, but so what. The fact is we are all too busy. Yet, time and again, from the churches to the little league, from the PTA to the Lions Club, good, concerned citizens step forward. Clearly, there must be something else on our minds.

Perhaps the problem is that the hours are too long; that serving without pay really means the job will cost you money; or maybe it is just that the only fringe benefit is being able sit at a curved dais looking important. That could be part of it, and certainly would explain why the crowd is not hammering at the door to come in.

You could almost understand if the paucity of candidates was due to a person's reluctance to face disagreement and criticism. But, if that were the case then all the other non-profit groups in town would find their leadership chairs empty.

Or, maybe it is something much more simple and connected to human nature. Maybe it has

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something to do with dignity and respect. In the military, they speak of duty and honor. Well, as citizens we have a duty to honor those who choose to enter the arena, especially when it really is just another voluntary job. Affording people respect and dignity is nothing more than an extension of goodwill, and if nothing else, volunteers deserve our goodwill.

While citizens of the town should never surrender their right to critique, disagree, challenge, or even investigate those in leadership, we should hold accountable those who "recklessly and irresponsibly" bully, harass, and use exaggeration, hyperbole, and outright falsehood to attack people of goodwill trying to do a good job.

I think it is time for those us in the crowd, on behalf of those in the arena, to tell those in the peanut gallery to lead, follow, or get out of the way. Or, maybe just shut up.

With my hair bristling in the wind, my left hand in my suit pocket and with my right index finger jabbing the air, I proclaim, "Ask not what Poolesville can do for you, ask what you can do for Poolesville."

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Ag News

Today's 4-H: Having Fun and Learning Responsibility

By Rande Davis

Perhaps you know people who have a hard time making a commitment. You may be uncertain as to why that is so, but one thing you can know for sure, such persons most likely were never members of a 4-H club.

One of the first lessons gained by youths who participate in livestock 4-H projects is that a commitment made is a commitment honored. Unlike other educational or even entertainment projects, once you have taken on the responsibility of raising an animal, you don't get to simply change your mind after a few months. "4-H projects are really a means to an end," states Madeleine Greene Wojciechowski, an extension educator with the Maryland Extension Service. "Projects are a year in length, and the goal, among other things, is to learn to keep records and learn to live up to a commitment."

In 2002, the national 4-H club organization celebrated its hundredth anniversary, a century of community

service by America's youth. The familiar four-leaf clover represents the four parts of 4-H: Head – clear thinking and decision-making; Heart – the value of greater loyalty, strong personal values, concern for others; Hands – for service, useful skills; and Health – for better living through healthy lifestyles. Originally, the fourth H stood for hustle, but shortly after its origin, they changed it to health. 4-H does not have a single founder since its concept and initial development originated through many different people.

The whole 4-H organization is actually an amalgamation of different clubs. Primarily focusing on agricultural and livestock projects, today's 4-H also includes clubs for rocketry, sewing, crafts, and baking. While many members belong to more than one club, the organization is still largely agriculture-oriented through its beef, sheep and swine, poultry, dairy goats, meat goats, dairy cows, and rabbit clubs. Through the process of caring for and breeding livestock, youths from age eight to eighteen learn to take responsibility. For the younger set, the Clovers, aged five to eight, the involvement is less independent and closely supervised.

For Montgomery County youths,

4-H involvement in the Montgomery County fair started in 1945. The pinnacle in the 4-H members' activities evolves around the annual shows at the fair. A goal of the Maryland 4-H program is to provide the opportunities for children and youths to build character. The organization supports six pillars of building character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. "It is through 4-H that youths learn the value of community service – the idea of giving back," says Madeleine Wojciechowski.

In introducing our new feature department, Ag News, the Monocle has chosen to start with the Montgomery County 4-H Beef Club. Periodically, we will feature the other clubs in 4-H as well. The Montgomery County 4-H Beef Club has twenty-seven members with eight coming directly from our area. Those members from the Monocle area are Poolesville's Megan Mackenzie (13), Sean Mackenzie (16), and Matt Willard (16), Barnesville's Austin Wojciechowski (13), Boyds's



Sean McKenzie (right).

Matt Foster (16), and Dickerson's Madison Graham (11), and Adeline King (11). Amelia King joined the club for the first time this year.

Membership and participation are a yearlong commitment that includes daily responsibilities and attendance at monthly meetings. Sean Mackenzie, who entered three steers in last summer's fair, recently purchased two

-Continued on Page 12.

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Things to Do

October 20 and 21 & October 24 through 31
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 Martinsburg Road – Dickerson
 \$20.00
 Gates Open: 7:30 p.m.

October 21
Clarksburg UMC Bazaar
 Yard sale, crafts, food
 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

October 23
Commissioner Candidates Public Forum
 Poolesville Baptist Church
 7:30 p.m.

October 24
New Co-ed Youth Group Meeting
 Izaak Walton League
 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

October 27
Halloween Double Feature
 Rosemary's Baby and Poltergeist
 Weinberg Center for the Arts
 7:00 p.m.

October 28
Open House UMCVFD
 Beallsville Fire Hall
 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

October 29
Women's Club of Upper Montgomery
 Holiday Silent Auction
 Home of Kathy Viessmann
 1:30 p.m.
 Reservations and information:
 301-972-842

October 28 and 29
Barnesville School
 Annual Indoor Yard Sale

October 30
Poolesville Library
 Book Discussion Group
 The Devil in the White City
 7:30 p.m.

October 31
Monocacy Lions Halloween Kids Party
 St. Mary's Pavilion – Barnesville
 7:30 p.m.

Community Halloween Party
 Poolesville Baptist Church
 Games, candy, moon bounce
 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

November 3
David Cassidy in Concert
 Weinberg Center for the Arts
 Tickets \$35.00 to \$48.00

Big Board

Final Frederick Festival of Film

Sadly, this year will be the last year of the Frederick Festival of Film at the Weinberg Center for the Arts. Showcasing independent films, this year's festival will take place on Friday, October 13 and Saturday, October 14. For more details, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-228-2828.

Clarksburg UMC Annual Bazaar

On Saturday, October 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Clarksburg United Methodist Church will hold its 26th annual bazaar. There will be yard sale items, clothing, a craft table, plants, pumpkins, and other fall decorations. A home-style lunch will be served, and a baked-goods table will offer an assortment of homemade pies, cakes, and cookies. Clarksburg UMC is located at 23425 Spire Street, near the intersection of Routes 121 and 355 in Clarksburg, Maryland.

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. Registration 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. BBQ lunch in the grillroom. 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.

Poolesville Commissioners Forum

Concerned residents of Poolesville should mark their calendar for Monday, October 23 for the Chamber of Commerce's Commissioner Candidate Forum. The forum will be at the Poolesville Baptist Church again this year at 7:30 p.m. Questions will be accepted from those in attendance, and

the moderator will be Brian Hundermark.

High-Adventure Co-ed Youth Group Forming

A BSA Venturing Crew, sponsored by the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA), is being formed in Poolesville. This group is open to young adults who have completed the eighth grade, who are fourteen to twenty years of age, and who are interested in high-adventure activities. The crew will decide in which activities they will participate. Venturing crews provide leadership experience for the members involved. An introductory meeting for interested youths and their parents will be held on Tuesday, October 24 from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase IWLA, 20601 Izaak Walton Way, Poolesville. If you cannot attend this meeting but would like information about joining the crew, contact Steve Wolf at 301-972-7618 or Glenice Rhodas at 301-349-2203.

Poolesville Day Committee Meeting

The planning for the 2007 Poolesville Day has begun already and with six new people on board. The fresh energy promises to be a springboard for another great day. Jake Perkins will remain at the helm, but with a growing level of support and interest, it looks like no one will be overwhelmed with responsibilities. They make it as easy as possible without overburdening any one person. The committee is still seeking just a few more volunteers. Their next meeting is scheduled for October 25 at 7:00 p.m. at Cugini's. You can call 301-922-0115 if you are interested in helping on this project.

Halloween Double Feature

As if we didn't get enough horror on Friday the 13, horror movies abound for Halloween, as well. Friday, October 27 will be night of suspense and more with the 1968 Rosemary's Baby and 1982's Poltergeist. The evening of classic films will begin at 7:00 p.m. Ticket prices are \$9.00 for adults and \$7.00 for students. For more details, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-228-2828.

UMCVFD Open House and Free Home Fire Safety Inspection

The Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department will have its annual Open House on October 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. They will have free refreshments, exhibitions, free hands for children, and the op-

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Youth Sports

Falcon Field Hockey

By Jack Toomey

A happy group of field hockey players approached the practice field one cool and sunny day. It happened to be the birthday of one of the players, and her teammates had hidden a birthday cake in a baseball dugout. When the team was assembled, they surprised her with the cake and then broke into groups for exercise and drills. Coach Regina Grubb commented, "I can always depend that they will be working [without being ordered], I try to instill this tradition when they are freshmen."

Coach Grubb, who is a physical education and health teacher at Poolesville High School, has been the varsity field hockey coach for seven years. During that time, her teams have had impressive records

and have won the regional title the last five years. This year's team is unbeaten after eight games and has yet to be scored upon. Grubb said, "They are hard working, practice with each other, and help each other with all parts of the game." When asked to compare this year's team to her other teams, she said, "They are not much different, I've always had dedicated people." Twelve different players have scored this year and goalies, Courtney Bettinger and Megan Foy, have recorded eight shut-outs. The team has scored fifty goals in eight games, all against larger schools, an amazing feat.

Senior captain Lisa Catterton said, "It's awesome, we get along so well and our passing is so much better this year." Lisa is looking forward to playing field hockey in college.

Kaylee Rattie, also a twelfth grade captain, remarked, "I think a small school helps us [because] the

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Business Briefs

By Rande Davis

Corner Store Is Up and Running

Fans of terrific coffee and great ice cream can rejoice once again—the Corner Store is back in business. When an electrical fire hit the establishment in August, it could not have come at a worse time. Business from their ice cream sales during the summer time is a crucial part of the store's annual picture. While hoping to reopen the doors sooner, Paul and Katie Szafranski are back with the smiles and friendly service and hope residents stop by to see them and enjoy the usual fare including breakfast, sandwiches, and a full line of coffee delights.

Bob's Bikes Has a Great Use for Your Unwanted Bicycle.

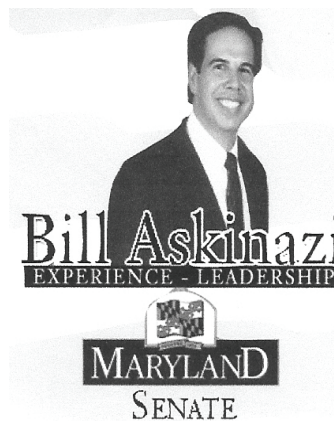
There is a better use for an unwanted bicycle than a yard sale or junkyard, and Bob's Bikes thinks you ought to know. Bikes for the World was launched in 2005 to collect unwanted American bicycles, bike parts, and bike accessories, and then ships all items to poverty-stricken areas around the world. With minimal value here, they become highly valuable overseas, enabling disadvantaged

people to earn more income, get to school, access health services, and learn business management. Bob's Bikes serves as a local drop off point, and owner, Bob Mallasch, would love it if you would remember to bring that old bike to him, and he will make sure it gets put to good use.

Stump Insurance Moves Down the Street

David Stump Insurance Agency has been in Poolesville since 1982 although you might not have known where he is located. His location at the Frederick Poole House in the center of town, upstairs with a back entrance, has not been exactly high profile. He plans to change that by moving to another historical site at 19910 Fisher Avenue. With 2007 right around the corner, we think it is a great way to celebrate twenty-five years of providing insurance service to the community.

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In the Garden

The Last Fling

By Maureen O'Connell

As we head into the last days of October, a sense of relaxation takes over in the garden. The four seasons unfold for us a change in the landscape; we see the world through a different lens. Gone are the anxious and busy days of early spring, when we await the emergence of new life in the garden. The hot, lazy days of summer usher in an explosion of multiple colors in the trees, flowers and shrubs. It is both exhilarating and consuming. We know that the shift into the next season will be more demanding of us. The days will be shorter, as the sun takes to bed at an earlier hour. Heavy sweaters, wool coats and mittens will replace our comfortable shorts and sandals. The garden will slow down and prepare for its long winter nap. Some plants, such as sedums and hellebores, will try to escape the coming days of winter. My dusky rose sedum 'Autumn Joy' will play dead, but its now prostrate stems will still be covered in fading flower heads. If the winter is on the mild

side, my beautiful *Helleborus niger* (The Christmas Rose) will bloom just before Christmas. Its large one and a half inch flowers will open white, mature to dusty pink, and last for months above evergreen leaves.

The berrying plants are a joy in the autumn garden. While relinquishing their colorful flowers and leaves of the spring and summer seasons, they now take on a new role with their brilliantly-colored berries and hips. The birds of winter will enjoy these treats well into January. My *Viburnum* 'Cardinal Candy' is now covered with scarlet berries, making it a must-have shrub for bird watchers. Nothing can beat my rugosa roses, *Roseaie De L'Hay* and *Blanc Double de Coubert*, in their production of large, apple-red hips. They feed my hundreds of songbirds all winter. My David Austin roses also sport many, beautiful rose hips. In late September and early October, I have to curtail my tendency to deadhead my shrub roses. The garden would look tidier, but the birds would miss their tasty treats. So now, 'Winchester Cathedral,' 'Graham Thomas,' 'Heritage,' 'Pat Austin,' and sixty or so more of these wonderful roses are almost leafless, but they continue to add interest to the ever-changing land-

scape. Their almost barren limbs are hung with a heavy crop of small, red, rounded hips. The garden's evolution continues on its way, and each season brings in a new meaning and new beginnings.

Odds and Ends

Last year, *The New Yorker* magazine ran an amusing cartoon that



In the Garden's new Apprentice Sous-Gardner.

all gardeners could identify with. It showed four potted plants standing outside on a patio and knocking on the sliding-glass door; the caption read: "Can we come in now?" I don't know about you, but every year I debate in my mind which outdoor potted plants will escape the cull and move into the warmth of the house. It is difficult to kill the still-gorgeous, pink geranium, and the brilliant, white impatiens. The rose *Angel-wing Begonia* is still covered with tightly-curved flower buds. The tall *Ostrich Fern* has many baby fronds emerging near the soil line. I have two standard-form hibiscuses on the patio. One has the most brilliant, egg-yolk yellow blooms that I have ever seen. It is dazzling in the early morning sunlight. The other has large, deep-pink flowers on a five-foot braided stem. I stare at them and contemplate their future. They are tropical plants and will need a warm, moist environment. I have room for the geranium and impatiens on a wonderfully sunny box bay window ledge in my living room. The floor-to-ceiling windows on the north side of the room could be a good spot for the fern. But I also know that in order to water them properly, I have to lug the heavy clay pots to the kitchen sink. I also know that when the heat is turned on in the house, the air will become drier, and the fern will drop many of its fronds, and fallen begonia

buds will soon cover the living room rug. But then on the other hand, I remember the year before last when the selected, lucky plants that were chosen to come indoors for the winter remained beautiful and bloomed well into early spring. On cold, rainy winter days, they were a joy to behold. This year, I will have the same debate; some plants will make the cut, and others will not. The answer is, I need a greenhouse. That is another project, another year. I will definitely try to save the hibiscus plants. They will need a warm and bright location. I'll give it a try and let you know in the spring how well they fared.

Now is the time to start your fall garden cleanup. Pull up and dispose of all annuals. Cut back to the ground perennials, such as phlox, daylilies, hostas, coreopsis, delphiniums, and digitalis. I leave standing the *Echinacea* plants; the birds love their seed-packed cones. The sedum skeletons provide interest in the winter landscape, especially when they are lightly covered with snow.

Clematis plants are pruned according to the group number in the description of each variety. If you don't remember their number, use this information as a guideline. Group I blooms in the spring; prune after blooming. Group II blooms in early summer; in March, prune six to eight inches to a pair of strong buds. Group III blooms during the summer and fall; prune in March to twelve inches from the ground.

After the first killing frost, I look to pruning my roses. This is not a major pruning; I save that for early spring. It is mainly to remove any dead or diseased wood and lanky stems that might be damaged by winter winds. I do this for my hybrid tea roses and the shrub roses.

If you have spring-flowering bulbs to plant, wait until after Halloween. If you put them in the ground too early, they might sprout prematurely. Keep them in a cool, dark spot until ready to plant. Do not feed them at planting time; wait until after they bloom.

Do you have any potted chrysanthemums on the patio that you want to transfer to the garden? Don't wait until they are nipped by a killing frost. If they are dead when you plant them, they will not re-bloom next season. Remove them now from their pots, score the bottom of the root ball and plant. Don't cut back the foliage; wait until new growth starts in the spring.

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Tidbits

Stephanie Ferris McSweeney Returns Home for Visit

Pat Ferris and Samantha Ferris Baker are planning an open house reception on October 22 to honor Stephanie Ferris McSweeney. Readers may recall that Mrs. McSweeney was the victim of a hit and run accident in Colorado. She grew up in Poolesville and graduated from Poolesville High School. Her recovery has been remarkable, and she is coming to Poolesville to visit her mother, Pat Ferris, and other friends and relatives. All friends are encouraged to come to the reception at St. Peter's Episcopal Church from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pat reports that Stephanie is excited to see and socialize with everyone.

Free Flu Shots for Children

As part of the Maryland Elementary School Influenza Vaccination Project, the FluMist vaccine will be made available free of charge to Maryland school children ages five to eleven. All Frederick County Public School elementary schools are partnering with the Frederick County Health Department to provide the FluMist vaccine. Each elementary school is sending home paperwork to parents. Full parental consent is required. For a school-by-school schedule and additional information, go to www.fcps.org/content/news.cfm. In Montgomery County, flu vaccine clinics are being held Friday, October 20, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Albert Einstein High School and

Gaithersburg High School. Schools are closed for MCPS students on that Friday. For more information, call the Montgomery County Immunization Line at 240-777-1050.

Pet Portraits for the Holiday Season

We know you have the cutest pet in town, and now you can prove it. Hilary Schwab Photography, the renowned Monocle photographer, will have a special event studio at the Old Town Hall on November 18 to take special pictures of your small pet (with or without the owner). Patrons will be able to view photos taken on www.hilary.lifepics.com, and there will be flexible offers to order prints taken, a variety of sizes, or even holiday cards to fit their needs. Twenty-five percent of proceeds (or \$5.00) will be donated to the renovation of the old Town Hall which soon will become a local museum. You may schedule an appointment by calling 301-349-2322 or just walk in.

Got a Tidbit?

Do you have some public information about someone that he or she would like to share with the community? A birth, a wedding, milestones, awards, and achievements are things we would like to share with our readers. Just send a brief note to editor@monocacy-monocle.com and put Tidbits in the subject line. You can also call 301-349-0070, or fax to 301-349-5646..

Focus on Business

The Dogwood Hill Alpacary

By Debby Lynn

It was as if the universe had done a very slight paradigm shift. I found myself in a world where spinners, weavers, felters, and knitters were still gainfully employed—a world filled with delicate creatures with long slender necks and soulful brown eyes. I was a visitor at the Dogwood Hill Alpacary.

This little slice of an alternate universe is peacefully nestled on a green hillside just off Conoy Road. The alpaca dotting the landscape look disconcertingly out of place so far from the Andes Mountains. The alpaca, however, are completely unconcerned and trip lightly around their pasture, nibbling the short grass. You see, they don't like the longer



Dutsi and Damaru.

grass. They are waiting for the mower to come and fix it for them.

Dr. Susie Homire, owner of the Dogwood Hill Alpacary, raises these shy but curious animals for their fiber. Sheep have wool, alpaca have fiber. Alpaca fiber is hollow which gives it better insulative properties than wool. It is lighter, warmer, stronger, and softer than wool. It is also hypoallergenic. If you are allergic to wool, you can probably wear alpaca fiber. Alpaca are bred for the quality of their fiber. It should have crimp, density, and fineness. Their soft, thick coats give the alpaca of Dogwood Hill a soft unfocused look, like cuddly plush toys.

Alpaca are shorn once a year in the spring. The shearing produces five to ten pounds of fiber per animal, enough for three or four nice sweaters. Their heads are not shorn. The resulting topknots hang over their sultry eyes like rakish punk 'dos.

The coats are in beautiful earth tones. Chloe is a rose-gray. Josefa, who was imported from Peru, is a silver-gray. Some are a rich chocolaty color, some are cream or a mixture of light browns and cream. No need to dye the fiber, Mother Nature's palette is color coordi-

nated and looks good on everyone.

After shearing, the short fibers are sent off to a co-op in New England to be made into warm socks which get fluffier every time you wash them. The socks are returned to Poolesville and sold at the local tack shop. The bulk of the shearing produces roving. Roving is the longer fibers, up to six inches long, cleaned and carded and ready to spin. A mill in the south cleans and cards the fiber and returns the roving to Susie to sell to the above-mentioned spinners, weavers, knitters, and felters. It is a long circuit from grazing alpaca to a finished sweater.

Some of the fiber makes a long and fruitful journey from Barnesville to Mongolia to provide warm hats and gloves for orphaned children. Dogwood Hill participates in the national Dulaan Project, a network of knitters who knit warm hats and scarves to be sent to the orphanages of chilly Mongolia.

The alpaca are all named according to birth year, starting with "A" names. In honor of the Dulaan project, a fourth-year alpaca is named Dulaan. He can be seen peacefully grazing on the hills of the Dogwood Hill Alpacary, quietly growing out his luxurious coat to provide comfort and beauty for the human race.

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"Quill and Brush" Continued from Page 1.

in book collecting through an interview held at their home business.

How and why did you get started book collecting?

I was an English Lit. major at the University of Maryland because I had more credits in English than anything else, and I was always a heavy reader. In college, we read and collected paperbacks because that was all we could afford, but we got interested in first editions and started buying and collecting authors we liked. It became a hobby for us. Soon after graduation in 1960, we began to collect first editions (first printings) more seriously, and by 1961, we had enough to do a small catalog.

In 1976, we opened our bookstore, The Quill & Brush, specializing in books and art in the antique barn next to the Olney Inn. We didn't stay long, and it was a good thing since the property owner's son was convicted of burning down the restaurant.

After moving to Bethesda Square, at the corner of Woodmont Avenue and Old Georgetown Road, a one-time bowling alley that had been converted into a mini-mall, Pat took over the property rentals of the building and turned it into an art boutique center with art stores, drama and dance studios, antique clock repair, even tennis instruction. It was attached to a movie theater, and the center had an antique carousel.

In 1980, I resigned from the Pentagon, continued to do some consulting, and in 1984, I joined Pat in running the Quill & Brush full time. In 1987, the bookstore was closed, and we moved entirely into the catalog and internet business.

Is there a simple way for our readers to check out the value of a book?

A good starting point is the website of Advance Book Exchange (Abebooks.com) and the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America (abaa.org). The actual value of a book is dependant on its condition and whether or not it is a first edition, has a dust wrapper, and is signed by the author, a limited edition, etc. and the relative availability of the book. Keep in mind that this business is purely based on supply and demand.

Collecting books doesn't just mean old books, does it?

Most collectors concentrate on authors they like to read or loved in their youth or subjects that interest them, such as children's books, books on railroad, chess, exploration, hunting, guns, et al.

Some collectors center their collecting on categories of major prizewinners: The

Booker, Caldecott, Edgar, Hugo, National Book, Pulitzer, etc. Some collectors center their collecting on titles that have been selected by a notable writer who has chosen what he or she thinks are the best books ever published in a particular genre. Today's Pulitzer Prize winning first edition may be tomorrow's valued collectible.

So you started by buying first editions of books you personally liked. Is that the usual way?

Book collectors begin as readers. Collectors just don't enjoy these books; they feel an affinity with the author and admire the author as one of the best in the field.

People attracted to book collecting do so for three reasons: the true enjoyment or fun of the search, the love of the books as an object, and the economic or investment potential. Book collecting is fun because one can find bookstores in just about every town and reasonably priced books. Even bargains can be found in most of them. A. Edward Newton, in his *The Book-Collecting Games*, puts it well: "Book-collecting – it's a great game. Anybody with ordinary intelligence can play it. There are, indeed, people who think it takes no brains at all; their opinion may be ignored. No great amount of money is required unless one becomes very ambitious. It can be played at home or abroad, alone or in company."

The point is that the greatest pleasure for the collector is in the chase, and if you can afford to buy an occasional new book, you can also afford to buy an occasional old book.

As a hobby, how is it as an investment?

When we started buying first editions years ago, the decision was based (rationalized) on a simple fact: If we bought a first edition, we believed we would always be able to get back one half of the cost, and there was a good chance that we might eventually get all of our cost back or even more.

As an example, we enjoyed Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye*, but in 1960 the hard-back first edition was selling for \$15.00 to \$20.00, four to ten times higher than a reprint. Back then, this was a lot of money, but given our feelings for the book's importance, there was little choice. Today, that book is valued at \$7,500.00. Time and care is the key. We are talking about a relatively long period of time, probably five to ten years at a minimum, and probably ten to twenty years for real growth in value.

If you are looking for a good investment for the short term, don't buy books, but if you want to spend a certain amount of money for books or already spend a certain amount of money for

-Continued on page 19.

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By Maureen O'Connell

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saffern,
Soles, onions, garlic, roach, and dace.*

*The Ballad of Bouillabaisse
William Makepeace Thackeray
(1811-1863)*

Many of us have friends or acquaintances who say, "I don't eat fish." They rank it right up there with spinach, broccoli, and beets. I grant you that there are some dyed-in-the-wool fish haters, but sometimes, I think this dislike is due to improper cooking methods and unappetizing recipes. There is nothing worse than mushy, overcooked fish. Some fish can taste too fishy or strong, for instance perch or bluefish.

Now that we are into cooler weather, our taste buds crave warm and hearty dishes. Cioppino, cac-

ciucco, bouillabaisse, chowder, fish stew, zuppa di pesce—there are lots of names for one of the most delicious, easy, and pleasantest ways to cook fish: soup. Many of these recipes have humble origins. The choice of ingredients varied depending upon geographical locations and what fish and shellfish were available from the sea that day. For many fishermen, the soup would consist of what was left unsold at the marketplace at the end of the day.

Bouillabaisse is legendary among fish stews, carrying with it a reputation of the excitement of the waterfront and the seafaring stories of its home port, Marseilles. All along the Mediterranean coast, from Cape Cerbère near the Spanish frontier to Menton, near the Italian border, there are many varieties of this stew. But purists believe that the true bouillabaisse can be found only in Marseilles. Bouillabaisse provençale is a saffron-flavored soup prepared with olive oil and tomatoes. It does not contain shellfish or potatoes. An American version would not use fish found only in the Mediterranean. Good substitutions could include flounder, halibut, haddock, cod, sea bass, or red snapper. Any version must include the finishing

touch of a dollop of rouille, the fiery red pepper sauce from the Mediterranean.

The Portuguese were great fishermen. Many superlative seafood dishes can be found in all parts of Portugal. In the coastal town Aveiro, caldeirada is their fish and shellfish stew that tastes of both ocean and lagoon. I remember eating a wonderful dinner in this charming seaside town. The thick stew included chunks of ocean mullet, inland river eel, red snapper, sole, octopus, crabs, shrimp, clams, and mussels. It was cooked in a thick sauce the color of oak. It was sharp with tastes of cumin, parsley, and coriander. There were slices of carrot and onion, and it was solid as a meat stew.

In the north eastern point of Spain is the region of Catalonia. For centuries, these tough, proud people believed they were a separate, special part of Spain. They were Catalanian first and Spanish second. Their shellfish stew is zarzuela, Spanish for light operetta. In addition to the lobster, shrimp, clams, mussels, sea scallops, saffron, tomatoes, and white wine, they add finely chopped Serrano ham.

If you lived in San Francisco, ciop-

-Continued on page 19.

Police Blotter Past and Present



Present

The Frederick County Sheriff's Department is beginning a program called "Operation Lifesaver." It is a program open to Frederick County residents that is an innovative solution for rescuing and locating individuals suffering from dementia-type disorders. For information call Cpl. Thomas Johann at 301-600-3909.

October 9. Montgomery County Police arrested Margaret E. Stierle of Boxbury Court, Gaithersburg, and charged her with crimes involving a plot in which men were lured to a house in Gaithersburg and then robbed. It is alleged that Ms. Stierle would contact men on various internet sites such as Myspace.com, flirt with them, and then invite them to the backyard of the house where they were robbed.

Past

October 23, 1906. County officers were on the lookout for Howard Downs, a resident of the Darnestown district, who was wanted to answer charges of a murderous assault upon Alexander Broome, one of the best-known residents of Darnestown. It was said that Downs gave Broome a terrible beating a few nights before.

October 23, 1971. The Poolesville branch of the First National Bank of Maryland was robbed by two armed men who took an undisclosed amount of money. Montgomery County Police were actively searching for the men who were presumed to have escaped in an auto.

October 25, 1896. The public school building at Gaithersburg lay in a mass of ruins after having been destroyed by fire. All of the contents were ruined by the fire that was thought to have started in an overheated stove that had been left burning overnight.

"Ag News" Continued From Page 5.

heifers at his own expense (\$4,000.00) that he will enter in 2007. He earned the money from last year's entry and sale of three steers. "We usually buy the livestock in early fall and the starting weight is about 600 pounds. Next summer at the fair they will have grown to 1200 pounds or more." Sean will breed his heifers, and if all goes well, his return on investment will be even greater this year.

Sean, who lives on Maple Run Farm on Cattail Road in Poolesville, is beginning his third year in the program primarily because he enjoys working with the animals and "because it is fun and I enjoy the friendships made."

The original purpose in introducing the care and sale of livestock was a way to help rural youth work and save for their future. Getting up early to feed their animals and feeding them in the evening prepares the youths for meeting responsibility later in life. Austin Wojciechowski at thirteen years old is already a five-year veteran of the beef club. "I like it a lot because it beats sitting around, and being outdoors is something I like as well."

October 25, 1901. Doctors at the Emergency Hospital in Washington were amazed after Henson Smith, a Montgomery County man, survived a delicate operation to remove a bullet from his back. Smith had been brought to the hospital from Montgomery County after being shot. Doctors used an x-ray process to locate the bullet which had been imbedded in Smith's body for over a month.

October 27, 1971. James T. Hall, a Montgomery County deputy sheriff, was found shot to death on the grounds of Manor Country Club in Norbeck. Hall, who had been working overnight on a security detail, was thought to have interrupted thieves who had broken into vending machines. His own gun was found underneath his body. (Note - this is an unsolved crime and anyone with information about this thirty-five-year-old murder case is urged to call the Major Crimes Section of the Montgomery County Police at 301-773-5070.)

October 29, 1984. A forty-year-old Montgomery County man was shot to death and another man was wounded in an apparent confrontation with a third man at a location on Mt. Ephraim Road in Dickerson.

Matt Willard of Poolesville, like many in the beef club, began his involvement in the sheep and swine club. A sophomore in high school, he particularly likes the aspect of learning about animals and working with them. "In the shows, you have to walk them, and the training involved begins immediately and will go on for nearly the whole year."

The livestock purchased in the fall weighs between 500 and 600 pounds and by the time the fair starts, may increase to as much as 1300 to 1400 pounds. A typical selling price is \$3.00 per pound. Of course, that's not all profit when feed, straw, show equipment, and various other expenses are deducted. While the commitment to the animal is daily, the club members also get together each month to socialize, discuss club business, and plan for the fair.

About a month before the fair opens, 4-H members will begin community service at the fairgrounds preparing the site for the weeklong event. Included in their volunteer work is pitching in to help clean up the site, decorating around the stalls, and laying mulch. A teen doesn't have to live on a farm to participate. In fact,

for those who do not have available land, they can contact the 4-H, and the organization will help them find a farm that will host their livestock.

The mission of 4-H is "to empower youth to reach their full potential working and learning in partnership with caring adults." In considering the 4-H youth we know and who we talked to about the club, its motto—"To make the best better"—is more than mere words, it is right on the mark.

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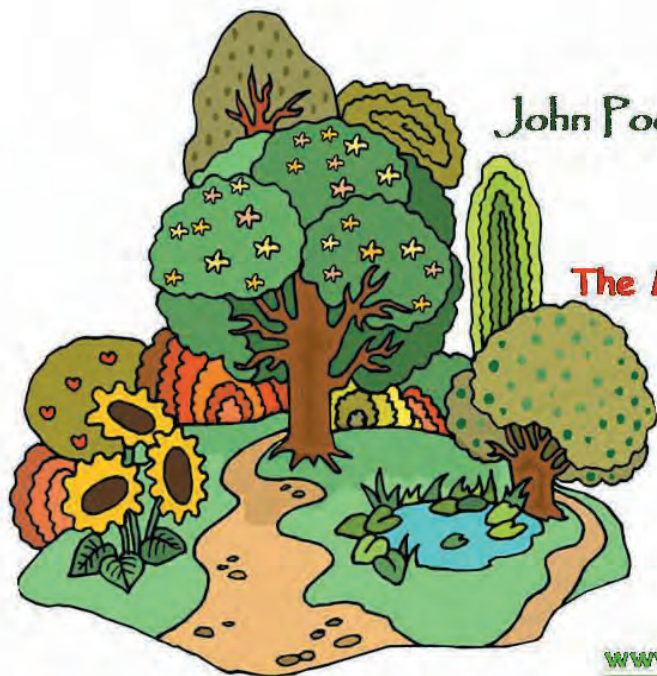
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Local News

Halloween Fun for All Ages

Halloween festivities throughout the area offer something for everyone this year. Halloween is not just for the little ones anymore. We will have the regular trick-or-treaters, for sure. In fact, those living in the townhouses in Poolesville have learned a long time ago they had better load up with a couple hundred treats just to appease the onslaught of costumed visitors. Finding a lot of homes in a tight area is every kid's hope at Halloween.

In Search of Ghosts

The Montgomery County Historical Society wants you to know that you don't have to wait until Halloween night for some scary fun. Do you dare to meet the ghosts of Montgomery County? It's a night of mayhem of your choice. Murder, disease, and thwarted love can all be vicariously experienced through their local ghost lore. This eerie evening of storytelling gives you history from a different angle.

On October 27 at the Old Baptist Cemetery at the intersections of Route 28 and West Montgomery Avenue, the MCHS will provide a variety of tours that last approximately one and a half

hours. They will have cider and cookies for refreshments for those daring enough to participate. There will be six tours at 7:30 p.m., 7:45 p.m., 8:00 p.m., 8:15 p.m., and 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$15.00 or only \$10.00 for MCHS members. However, beware, reservations are required, so call 301-340-2825 to let them know your preferred time. Not recommended for children under nine years old.

Monocacy Lions Hosts Annual Halloween Party

For the younger kids, the Monocacy Lions Club will be sponsoring its annual Halloween Party at St. Mary's Pavilion. This decades-old party has games, food, and treats for kids in a safe (and dry) location. Starting just after the trick or treating ends around 7:30 p.m., the evening is free, and the treats include everything from cider to donuts and more. Dunkin' for apples is still in vogue at St. Mary's pavilion. Call 301-972-4317 for more information.

Poolesville Baptist Halloween Party Open to All

In Poolesville, the Baptist Church is setting up a Halloween party night of games, candy, and other treats. This is open to all children and not just church members. It's free as well, and the festivities begin at 6:00 p.m. and run until 8:00 p.m.

This Fun-Filled Event Is for the Brave of Heart

Then there is the premier Halloween event in the entire area: Markhoff's Haunted Forest. This is for those thrill-seekers who are not faint-at-heart. This offshoot of the traditional haunted house is an exhilarating and frighteningly fun-filled experience. The path through the Dickerson woods is punctuated by many screams and shrieks—all in fun, though. While attendees wait their turn to go through the forest, there is festive food and drinks, bonfires, outdoor movies, haunted hayrides, death jumps, fortune tellers, and more. The nights of presentation are October 20 and 21 and October 24 through October

31. The gates open at 7:00 p.m. and close at 10:00 p.m. (Closing time is 9:00 p.m. on non-weekend nights) Cover price is \$20.00, and proceeds go to the non-profit organization, Calleva Outdoors. Call 301-216-1248 or visit www.calleva.org for more information.

For Those Staying Home or Hosting Their Own

Of course, getting into the season includes hosting your own party or simply staying at home. Lewis Orchards offers a huge selection of pumpkins, corn stalks, apples, cider, fall decorations, and mums – perfect to make sure your home reflects the season.

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Local News

Poolesville Baptist Church and Family Life Center Calls New Senior Pastor

The Poolesville Baptist Church congregation met on Sunday, October 1, 2006, and voted to call Jace Broadhurst as its new senior pastor. Reverend Broadhurst grew up in Montgomery County and was educated in Montgomery County schools. He started his seminary studies at Capital Bible Seminary while still an undergraduate at the University of Maryland where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in government and politics. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from Reformed Theological Seminary of Orlando, Florida and is working to complete his Ph.D. at Westminster



The Reverend Jace Broadhurst.

Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He has served in various ministry positions in churches in Maryland, Florida, and Pennsylvania and has taught ministers at Scott Theological Seminary in Kenya, Africa. He now teaches a class in Christian Ethics at Nyack College.

Reverend Broadhurst and his family expect to move to Poolesville in the near future. He and his wife, Jaclynnette, have three sons, Kadin, Rhyston, and Davin, who are six, five, and twenty-one months old, respectively. Jaclynnette is a graduate of Bryan College in Tennessee and has served as a missionary in various countries including a year in the Kenyan bush.

Poolesville Baptist's interim pastor, the Reverend Ken Fitzwater, will continue to serve with Pastor Broadhurst as an

integral part of the Poolesville Baptist ministry team.

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"Something Fishy" Continued from page 11.

pino is to the Italian fishing colony what bouillabaisse is to the fishermen of Marseilles. It was created by fishermen who settled in California; many were from Genoa. In the Genoese dialect, cioppino is the word for fish stew. It combines fish and shellfish; here again, the selection depends upon what the sea offers that day. If clams are not available, use more mussels. No lobster, try crab. All of these stews use some combination of tomatoes, onions, garlic, green peppers, fish or clam broth, red or white wine, and Tabasco. With all fish and shellfish dishes, timing is important, or you end up with a mess of soggy, overcooked fish, and tough, flavorless shellfish. Remember, the seafood will continue to cook after it is removed from the heat.

As I said, there are many variations of fish soups. Some are very simple; others can be more labor intensive. I have experimented with many recipes. I recently put together this very easy-to-prepare and simple stew. It is even better the next day. When reheating, do so gently—no brisk boiling of the stew pot. Add crispy French bread, a simple green salad, and a medium-bodied red wine. Voilà. Something fishy; something good.

Mrs. O's Seafood Stew

Olive oil
1 lb. large shrimp, peeled, deveined, and cut in half
1 lb. sea scallops
1 lb. sea fillets, cut into medium chunks
2 dozen cherrystone clams
1 35-ounce can plum tomatoes, coarsely chopped
1 medium onion, chopped
1 medium green pepper, chopped
1 tablespoon herbes de Provence
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 8-ounce bottles clam juice
Tabasco, to taste
1 can tomato paste
1 cup red wine

Sauté onions, peppers, and garlic in warmed olive oil until just tender. Add tomatoes, clam juice, tomato paste, red wine, and spices. Simmer for 10-15 minutes. Add clams, cook for 5 minutes. Add scallops, shrimp, fish pieces, and Tabasco. Gently simmer until all fish and shellfish are cooked. Don't overcook. Serves 6.

"Speed Cameras" Continued from Page 1.

Wade Yost, Town Manager of Poolesville, told the Monocle that the town had heard a presentation from one vendor under consideration. The project is still undergoing a preliminary investigation, and they plan to hear from more vendors before they reach a decision.

Mr. Yost noted that the requirement that the machine's output must be reviewed by a police officer would prevent anyone from removing pictures of known or loved ones from the machine before tickets were issued. An agree-

ment with the county police for these services has not been achieved.

The Monocle asked Mr. Yost if he believed the project would be controversial, and he said he did not think so, as the system would not cost the town any money and would help to make the streets safer for everyone. He also noted that while the system could generate a small amount of money for the town, the project is far from being a money-maker; safety is the goal. Mayor Menke and Mr. Fedders expressed similar sentiments.

"Quill and Brush" Continued from Page 10.

books every year, we believe that a collection of good books will not only give you pleasure over the years but will also not disappoint you or your heirs when the time comes to sell them.

What are the best sources for used collectible books?

The internet and catalogs are a great way to start. Of course, there are general bookstores that depend on walk-in sales, small book dealers operating from their home, and anyone who has inherited or accumulated a number of books and decided to sell them.

Any final advice to those wanting to start out in book collecting?

Start with your passion and interests, use the tools like the internet and catalogs, and don't keep your quality books on the bottom shelf where the dog can get to them.

At the end of the interview, Allen graciously gave us copies of the two books he and Patricia wrote together. After reviewing them, we would heartily encourage any collector or would-be collector to purchase them. They are invaluable whether or not book collecting is to become your new hobby or portfolio.



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School News

John Poole Middle School

Eighth-grader Sahara Saasta of Poolesville was selected out of nearly seventy-five applicants from MCPS middle schools to attend the third Human Rights Camp from October 6

through 8. Students at the camp take part in various workshops such as gang prevention, as well as regular camp activities. The camp, sponsored by the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights, is designed to promote diversity, acceptance, and tolerance.

Local News

Memorial Service for Greta Dicus to be held at St. Peter's

St. Peter's Episcopal Church at 20100 Fisher Avenue in Poolesville will offer a memorial service for the Honorable Greta Dicus on Saturday, October 28 at 2:00 pm. The Rev. Charles Hoffacker will preside. A reception hosted by the Women of St. Peter's will follow.

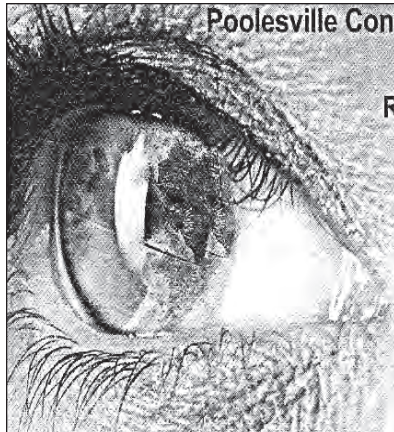
Born in Hot Springs, Arkansas, Ms. Dicus received her undergraduate degree in biological sciences from Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas and her graduate degree in radiation technology from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas.

She served as director of the Division of Radiation Control and Emergency Management of the Arkansas

Department of Health. The United States Senate confirmed her as one of the original members of the United States Enrichment Corporation Board. She was later confirmed by the Senate as a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, resigning from this position in June 2003. Ms. Dicus was a resident of Poolesville. She leaves no immediate survivors. Her funeral and burial took place this summer in Arkansas.

St. Peter's Church cordially invites friends, neighbors, and colleagues of the Honorable Greta Dicus to this memorial service and reception. For further information, contact the Rev. Charles Hoffacker at 301-349-2073 or 301-466-8133.

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**“Ballet in the Countryside”
Continued from Page 3.**

conflicts in their schedules. “They are really talented,” says Fran of the girls. “Talent has nothing to do with me,” she adds, but she can train them. Teaching ballet, Fran says, “is about creating beauty and goodness.”

The nine-year-olds are her oldest dancers because her studio in Poolesville is too small. Here is where her dream has been hindered. “My problem is space,” she says simply. “I

need a bigger studio.” She has had to send former students to the Maryland Youth Ballet in Bethesda. They need room to leap, and they need room to learn pas de deux. The Hope Garden Ballet is ready to make the leap to the big studio. Fran is willing to rent or build a studio, and she has many former students on whom she can call to help teach to expand the program—and parents of her students agree. Robin O’Connell says, “Brooke loves, loves, loves Miss Fran. She is kind and gentle with the children.” Robin hopes somehow a space will come available before her daughter outgrows the studio. “[Fran] is phenomenal,” she says. “She’s just a gem.”

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Local History

River Road Drag Racing

By Jack Toomey


No one seems to recall when the drag races started on River Road but it seems to have been around 1960 when some portions of upper River Road were unpaved. Teenagers and young adults from all over Montgomery County, Washington, D.C and southern Frederick County had realized that the isolated location, the lack of police presence, and a long straightaway gave them the opportunity to socialize, meet friends, and most importantly, to race their cars. During that era some young people spent a great deal of time working on their cars to improve the performance and speed. It was a right of passage to take the car to River Road, above Partnership Road, and prove to others that they had the fastest car. At the time there were commercial drag strips operating near Urbana, in Prince Georges County, and in southern Maryland but some young people preferred to take their cars to River Road to watch races and to participate.

Edward McHenry, who grew up in the Bethesda area and now lives in

Arizona, was a frequent visitor to River Road. He said that sometimes he would drive all the way to the spot, about three miles south of Poolesville, after school where some racers would gather. He said that in those days it seemed like the end of the world to travel that far. Teenagers would gather at the old Hot Shoppes in Bethesda, brag about how fast their cars were, and then drive all the way to Seneca to race. There was a portion of the road that was perfectly flat that had been measured at a distance of a quarter of a mile long which is the recognized drag racing distance. When he first heard about River Road McHenry had to drive on an unimproved dirt portion to the asphalt stretch of road. Then after the race the asphalt would end and the racers would end up on another dirt section of road. The big nights were usually Friday and Saturday and crowds of several hundred people would gather, stand around bonfires, and sometimes drink beer. Often there was informal betting on who would win races and the drivers themselves would bet higher amounts of money.

Nick Cocuzzi, who now lives in Florida, grew up in Washington, DC, and owned a speedy 1964 Chevrolet Impala. He had heard about the River





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Road drag strip in late 1964 and used to drive out there to watch the races. He said that most of the spectators and racers came from Montgomery County but a few came from Washington. Cocuzzi recalls that it was a rather diverse group and people parked by the side of the road and enjoyed the festive atmosphere and met new people. It is his recollection that Poolesville was "the end of the earth", in fact he had never heard of Poolesville before he went there to watch his first race.

Mark Harding grew up around Travilah and remembered that on Friday and Saturday nights there wasn't

much to do besides going to River Road to watch the drag races. He recalled that once someone brought an authentic dragster and the driver couldn't stop the machine until it got to West Willard Road.

A woman, who asked that her real name not be used in this article, was recently interviewed. "Betsy" had just graduated from Richard Montgomery High School and had gotten married to a young man who was believed to have the fastest car in Rockville. He had participated in illegal drag races at River

-Continued on Page 23.

"Big Board" Continued From Page 6.

portunity for them to see equipment and even climb on a fire truck. An exhibit will feature a presentation on cooking and grease fires. In that regard, the fire department offers all residents a free home fire safety inspection. Bring the family, have some fun, and learn how to make your home safe.

Bargains Galore! Huge Indoor School Community Yard Sale

Don't miss the 11th Annual Barnesville Basement to benefit the Barnesville School rain or shine: Saturday, October 28, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 29, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Items include gently-used, brand-name children's and adult clothing, baby gear, toys, books, sports equipment, electronics, furniture, and much, much more. Come early for the best selection. The Barnesville School is located at the corner of Barnesville and Peach Tree Roads, Barnesville, Maryland. Call 301-972-0341 or visit www.barnesvilleschool.org for more information.

The Holiday Season Gets Started in October

Readers are cordially invited to join the members of the Women's Club of Upper Montgomery County for their annual holiday auction. In the spirit of giving, the group is asking those of you who come to the auction to bring canned goods or school supplies for donation to charitable endeavors. In addition, they will be collecting gently used summer/lightweight children's (ages six months to thirteen years) clothing, new books, coloring books and crayons, stuffed animals, toys, and hard candy that will be sent to Camp Delta in Iraq. This year's holiday party on October 29 will start at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Kathy and Alex Viessmann at 17650 Moore Road in Dickerson. There will be gift and craft items for auction for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukah, and New Year's. Refreshments will be served. You will need to R.S.V.P. by October 25, 2006 by calling Bette Sanders (301-972-7331) or Kathy Viessmann (301-972-8425).

Crafty Ladies and Gents Planning for the 2006 Christmas Bazaar

Memorial's Crafty Ladies and Gents are soliciting crafters, artisans, and anyone interested in selling their wares at their annual Christmas Bazaar. The cost for a table is only \$20.00. This year it

will be on Saturday, November 4, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the church at 17821 Elgin Road in Poolesville. The bazaar will offer a luncheon and silent auction. For further information, contact Sharlene West (301-349-5128) or Betty Jean Selby (301-972-7196) before October 31.

Dr. Seuss at McGuire Fine Arts

McGuire Fine Arts Gallery of Frederick presents, the "Art of Dr. Seuss—A Retrospective and National Exhibition." Celebrating the life and art of Theodor Seuss Geisel, this exhibit chronicles his life and career with a focus on the common artistic links throughout his nearly seventy years of creativity. McGuire Fine Arts is at 110 N. Market Street in Frederick. The exhibit is open October 28 to November 18 starting at 10:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday and at noon on Sunday. For more information, visit info@mcguirefinearts.com.

Operation Santa: Your Chance to Remember the Troops at the Holidays

The Arthritis and Osteoporosis Center of Maryland will be collecting items for soldiers posted overseas who will not be home for the holidays. Suggested items are: laundry detergent, puzzle books, nerf balls, jerky, granola bars, chips and crackers, sunflower seeds, nuts, dried fruits, trail mix, squeezeable peanut butter, raisins, hard candy, books, handheld games, gels for insoles, "clean" magazines, and party supplies (for New Year's Eve). Items can be accepted from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from November 1 through December 14. The center is at 71 Thomas Johnson Drive in Frederick. Call 301-624-1164 for more details.

David Cassidy in Concert

Get your vocal cords in screaming condition now. The 1970s heartthrob is back on the stage after a fifteen-year hiatus. The award-winning performer came to the nation's attention in 1970 when that real seventies show first aired, "The Partridge Family." Ticket prices for the November 3 performance range from \$35.00 to \$48.00. For more details, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-228-2828.

River Road Drag Racing"" Continued From Page 22.

Road and also had competed at the 75-80 Drag-Away in Frederick County. She recalled that on some nights people would line up their cars alongside of the road and turn on their headlights to provide illumination. On February 14, 1965 her husband was challenged to a race by an upstart racer. Betsy accompanied her husband to the drag strip on River Road and estimated that there were over a thousand young people there to see the challenge match. The race went off without incident but then



An open stretch of River Road, which many found perfect for drag racing.

the fun came to an end.

The Montgomery County Police had occasionally interrupted the drag racing in the past but the lonely stretch of River Road was at the far end of a patrol beat assigned to the Rockville station. The area of responsibility for the officer assigned to that beat was enormous so only one or two cruisers could ever be sent to River Road. It was also believed that the young people were monitoring police radio frequencies making it easy to escape when the police approached. On the night of February 14, 1965 a young officer, dressed in civilian clothing, was assigned to mingle with the young men and women, and then send a coded message to police headquarters when he thought it was an opportune time to make arrests. About 1:30 am police cruisers blocked off both ends of River Road and then officers began taking drivers licenses from people. Over a hundred people were herded into their cars and a caravan of seventy six cars was formed with police cars at either end and a procession set off for the Rockville station. Some tried to escape by driving off on side streets but they ran into pre-positioned cruis-

ers who were sitting on the side roads. Finally the procession of cars arrived at the Rockville station and a total of one hundred and one young people were charged with various offenses and released. The police commander revealed that the arrests came about because the mother of one of the assembled had called the police station and reported that her son had broken his leg in a drag race at another location the night before and she was afraid that someone would eventually be killed. Betsy admitted that even though her husband was charged with a serious offense that the police operation was well handled and that it

was exciting to be involved in something like that.

On that night Nick Cocuzzi had gone to dinner with his girl friend and then headed out to Poolesville to see the races. As he approached the strip he saw the flashing lights of the police cars, turned around and headed back towards Washington. The next day he read about the arrests in the newspaper. Mark Harding was there

that night and was standing next to the road watching the races when he and his friends saw the police cars closing in. They took off running through the fields and woods of the McKee-Besher hunting preserve and escaped.

The juvenile offenders gathered at the Juvenile Court on April 2 and were brought into the courtroom in groups of eight. Many were found guilty of various offenses and Judge Alfred Noyes, a legendary figure in Montgomery County jurisprudence, was quoted as saying, "its certainly the duty of you parents to know where your children are at night ... one of the things that impresses this court time after time is that parents don't know where there children are at night. We are not going to turn the county over to hoodlums who want to race and throw beer bottles." Nine of the adults had their drivers licenses suspended for ninety days when they appeared in court and one eighteen year old testified that he had just arrived and, "I didn't even see one race." Judge Phillip Fairbanks found him not guilty and said "you

-Continued on Page 24.



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River Road Drag Racing”” Continued From Page 23.

are the first one come up with a logical story and (to tell the truth). Betsy recalled that her husband was one of those who was convicted and lost his license for a year and after that stopped racing.

After that the police adopted a procedure to deal with the drag racing. Whenever a complaint was received about the racers a special code would be sent out over the radio. Jim Hartnett, who was a police dispatcher during those times, said that the code “Beallsville 2101” would be broadcasted and it would signal for police to move in from opposite directions to trap the racers on River Road.

After the arrests the county council actually appointed a committee to study the feasibility of building a drag strip in Montgomery County but that idea gained no support. Eventually increased police patrols, more traffic, and other diversions spelled the end of drag racing on River Road. Fortunately no one was ever killed during these races. Some of the people who were interviewed for this story reflected that even though they used this isolated spot as their own private drag strip that they were lucky to survive such a dangerous pastime.

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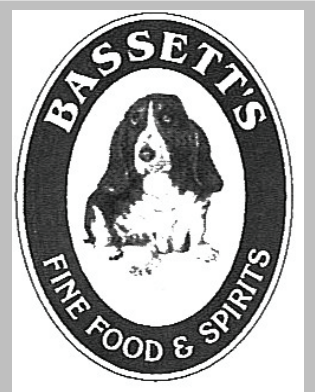


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Tributes

Volunteer Extraordinaire

By Dominique Agnew

On a recent Sunday morning in October, Rev. G. Paul Herbert of Our Lady of the Presentation Catholic Church in Poolesville celebrated special marriages, those couples who had been married more than twenty-five years or who were celebrating special wedding milestones. When he called up the Nightingales for the special blessing for their fifty-first anniversary, he asked for Maggie and Tom Nightingale. Father Herbert said he could have said Tom and Maggie Nightingale, but everyone around here knows its Maggie and Tom. "Tom even answers the phone, 'Maggie's secretary,'" he joked to the congregation.



Maggie Nightingale

Maggie grew up in Ohio not far from Tom. She always knew of him, but she didn't really know him. On one of Tom's visits home from the army, Maggie's mother was told, "Tom needs to meet somebody." So one Sunday afternoon, Tom took Maggie out to visit his aunt and uncle. Maggie thought, "You know, this is the weirdest person I've ever met." She laughs, "Here we are fifty-one years later." They married in Ohio, then moved to Colorado Springs where Tom was stationed. There daughter was born in Colorado. Tom was then sent to Germany where their son was born. They returned to the U.S. in Kansas when Tom got out of the army, and both Maggie and Tom attended Kansas State University on various scholarships. During this time, the children were in elementary school, and the

joke was: "Everybody went to school except the cat, and the cat took care of the house," says Maggie. Tom finally earned his Ph.D. in Kansas, then they moved to Delaware, then they moved here around Thanksgiving of 1977. "Now we're still here," Maggie adds.

When they were looking for a house in the area before moving, Maggie kept asking the realtor, "Don't you have a small town anywhere?" She wanted to live in a town where she would know her children's playmates, and she wanted to become involved in the community. For anyone who knows Maggie Nightingale even a little bit, she is definitely involved in the community. If you haven't seen her at the library, maybe you've seen her at church or at the Poolesville Chamber of Commerce or while you were voting. Says Poolesville Library Manager Mark Gochnour, "She is the epitome of the volunteer that has her fingers in so many pies—and keeps on top of it all."

Maggie began her community involvement with the school PTA since their third child was in kindergarten at the time. Then the library needed her. Maggie was first asked to join the Library Advisory Committee (LAC) when the library was still housed in Poolesville High School. Not long after, she was asked to lobby for a storefront library. Her answer was, "I don't know how to lobby." She learned. She took two classes, one from the League of Women Voters and another from the Montgomery County Council. Both classes were very informative, but she remembers two important things from the day-long county council class: stick to your point and expect results from the county in five years. After her classes, Maggie attended anything that even had the slightest political bent to be sure the politicians knew her. Petitions were signed by residents, the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce was approached. Finally, all the hard work paid off. The two new shopping centers were to be built, and the county council asked the LAC where they wanted their library. Virginia LaMarche, librarian at the time, liked the windows of the present-day Poolesville Library, so there it is, since 1991—five years after Maggie began lobbying for it. Maggie has also volunteered for the LAC of the county detention center and served on the Montgomery County Library Board for six years. While on the

-Continue on Page 26.

Local News

The Race for Town Commissioner Begins

By Rande Davis

The speculation is over, and despite many rumors of more candidates, just three people will seek the two open spots for Town Commissioner in Poolesville. Incumbents Roy Johnson and Tom Dillingham are seeking re-election with newcomer, Tom Yeatts, tossing his hat into the ring.

Tom Dillingham, the longest-serving commissioner with nearly twenty years under his belt, stated his "initial concern was that no other candidate would step forward." Mr. Dillingham's career includes twenty years in the Montgomery County Public School system as a labor negotiator. He states that his motivation is that the town "will be embarking on a new era and there are three main concerns: I want to make sure that our water/sewer capacity meets the demand of the new growth; I want to protect home value with slow growth – about thirty homes per year; finally, I want to secure financial security for the town, making sure that new revenues coming in through growth include 'rainy day' funds, not just spend the money." He also voiced concern that the water allocation process that is due to expire in October of 2007 continues in its current format.

Roy Johnson has served for ten years and, like Mr. Dillingham, lost re-election in 1998 during the uproar over town annexation. Mr. Johnson received his education as a naval architect and managed new ship construction for the shipping transportation division of Mobil Oil. He seeks re-election to ensure that the town's budget continues its track record of balancing revenue with expenditures and avoids deficit. Mr. Johnson also stated, "We are on the threshold to build more houses which, after bringing three new wells on line, will have adequate water and sewer for those homes as well as having enough sufficiency so we will not return to the days of water shortages. I think this is an example of good planning. It is important to have someone with their hands on the throttle who understands how the pieces fit together." Mr. Johnson cites his leadership role in developing a transparent and orderly budget preparation process which was in disarray when the

former town manager and town clerk stepped aside.

Tom Yeatts has resided in the area for the past fifteen years and graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in economics. He left a career as a financial analyst to partner with his wife, Laura, in starting VirtualSprockets, an entrepreneurial, internet software development company based in Poolesville. After selling that business, they went into real estate together. Mr. Yeatts currently volunteers as the chairman of the Community and Economic Development Committee. Mr. Yeatts told the Monocle, "I consider the issue of growth as a priority and think that we need to be in accord with the Master Plan with its prudent and modest objectives which includes having adequate infrastructure in place." Furthermore, he believes we are "at a pivotal time, and I want to maintain vigilance over change to keep the town's character." With three children, Mr. Yeatts also emphasizes his personal interest in school developments. "I watched closely the issue of molds in the school, and I am pleased at this juncture [that] the issue seems to be moving in the right direction."

All three candidates also cited their deep love of the community and gratefulness for living in Poolesville as key reasons they want to give back to the community.

-"Maggie Nightingale" Continued From Page 25.

board, she was the representative to the Poolesville Library and the Noyes Children's Library. "That was a delightful time," she says. She thought the Noyes Children's Library was absolutely delightful. The Poolesville Library has been in place for fifteen years now, but Maggie still has lobbying to do. She's either trying to get more hours or to keep the hours the library has.

For at least seven years, Maggie has been the secretary for the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce (PACC). She had been working full time when her employer went out of business. Eddie Kuhlman of PACC at the time approached her at the behest of Fr. David Brault, former pastor of Our Lady of the Presentation. Mr. Kuhlman said to her, "You know, Maggie, we need a secretary, [and] Father David said to give you a call." She's still there, and she enjoys it. "It's a lot of fun," she says.

As a parishioner at Our Lady of the Presentation, Maggie was on the building committee for the church, and

again her lobbying skills served her well, as the committee had to lobby the town for water rights which is why they built the rectory first. Before the rectory was built, Father David had lived in a small apartment above the Poolesville Physical Therapy office. Also, for the past six years, Maggie has been in charge of the School of Religion (CCD) for OLOP. "I thoroughly enjoy seeing all the kids," she says. "Father Herbert has been a delight to work with." She is really pleased with the CCD program and especially with what Father Herbert has done for it. "He really has been terrific for the CCD program," she says. He does special things for the kids, and he's very good about recognizing people whether they are children or adults.

If you live in Poolesville and will be voting, you will see Maggie. She is the assistant chief election judge at John Poole Middle School. "It's an interesting way to give back to the community," she says. She thinks it's important that people vote. "I feel that it's a necessary thing. You need to keep free elections." Fortunately, Poolesville

didn't have the problems much of the rest of the county experienced in early October. "It's not difficult here," she says. "It just makes for an extraordinarily long day."

What does Maggie think of volunteers? "Volunteers keep a lot of the country going." What do others think of volunteers like Maggie? "She's always willing to assist—making apple pies, sorting books—she's not afraid to get her hands dirty," says Mark Gochour. "She's one special lady." Cathy Raugh, secretary at OLOP mentions a quote from a Rudyard Kipling poem: "If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs... that's Maggie. She's such a calming influence." Of course, Father Herbert can't say enough about her, "I trust her. I trust her judgment. I never question her. She's gentle, but she can also make her point."

After reflecting a little on all of her community activities, Maggie says, "I wanted to get involved in the community, and I guess I have." Then she adds, "I just do little things."

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Photograph by Hilary Schwab Shapiro

“Falcon Field Hockey”
 Continued From Page 6.

Quince Orchard and Whitman still remaining on the schedule, this dedicated group of girls hopes to better their record of previous seasons and to advance to the state final game.

Jackie Brunn, another senior captain, said, “This year, we have had more attitude and we have the potential to go farther.”

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