

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

December 22, 2006

Volume III, Number 18.



Some Monocacy Elementary School students were hosted by some prominent folks in Annapolis. See School News on Page 19.



Toni Koerber, Perry Kephart Kapsch and Sue Ewald continue the holiday party spirit. More on Family Album on Page 2.



Herb White, Jim Sporey, Rachel Sporey, Tony Pirroni and Ann Harrison at an Oddfellow's fundraiser at Selby's. See more Family Album pictures on Page 2. (Note: Jim Sporey has made a December cover three years in a row.)



These aren't elves, and the lights don't go up by magic. They don't get repaired by magic either. See Local News, in here somewhere.

St. Nick Breaks Ground for New Home in Darnestown

By Rande Davis

No, we are not referring to the Santa Claus kind of St. Nick. Rather, we are referring to the Darnestown St. Nicholas's Episcopal Church which has been holding services at various locations throughout the past ten years as they planned for their own facility. A milestone was reached on Saturday afternoon, December 9, 2006 as members, friends, and supporting clergy joined together in worship and for a groundbreaking ceremony signaling the advent of the construction of the new St. Nicholas's Church.

The cold spell broke just in time as the large crowd processed from the parking lot of Seneca Academy to the spot overlooking Route 28 where the new church will be built. Seneca Academy is not connected to the church, but St. Nicholas's has been using its facilities to hold services as they prepare for their new home. The thirteen-acre location, just a hundred yards east of Route 28 and Route 118, has a natural rise in elevation that will provide an impressive

setting for the new building.

With a slight and convenient breeze helping an acolyte keep the incense burning, the regal procession through the open field marched to the spot where the new sanctuary will be built. The large procession included St. Nicholas's rector, Fr. Ken Howard, the Washington Diocese Bishop, Rev. John Chane, a bagpiper, choral group, banners from the church and various supporting churches, a large contingent of visiting clergy, and, of course, members of St. Nicholas's.

Replacing his bishop miter for a construction hat, Bishop Chane pointed out that this is the Washington Diocese's first new church building to be constructed within the last forty years. He congratulated the congregation in general and Father Howard in particular for the success of their long-sought dream of establishing a permanent home in upper Montgomery County. Stretching a ribbon from each corner, a cross was formed marking the center of the sanctuary. The group encircled a similar ribbon, an outline of the dimensions of

-Continued on Page 21.



As smoke from the incense drifts over the field, Bishop Chane puts his foot to the shovel officially breaking the ground for construction. Father Howard, rector of St. Nicholas, is to his right.

Grand Reopening of Clark/Willson Store in Clarksburg

By John Clayton



Councilman Mike Knapp, Wilson Wims of Clarksburg, owner Niki Lewis, and County Executive Ike Leggett open up the store.

When many people think of Clarksburg these days, the first thing that comes to mind is development—new subdivisions and more people as far as the eye can see; however, there is a small historic district along Route 355 in Clarksburg, and the historic preservation of that area just got a big boost with the rescue and restoration of an old building that was there long before much of anything else was there at all.

At noon on December 15, the occupancy permits became official and the historic Willson General Store reopened as Green Earth Goods, a twenty-first century version of the old general store that will specialize in organic foods and goods. They're not open for business quite yet—that will occur after the cash registers arrive—but that will follow in the very near future.

The grand reopening was well attended, with a short program featuring Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett, District 15 Montgomery County Councilman Michael Knapp, Clarksburg Historical Society President Kathie Hulle, and the building's owner and savior, Niki Lewis. Following remarks by these and others, Joann Woodson of the Clarksburg Historical Society presented Ms. Lewis with a framed Clarksburg poster which led to a ribbon cutting to formally open Green Earth Goods for

-Continued on Page 21.

Family Album

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



Santa and his helpers at the annual Sugarloaf Riding Club Christmas Party at the Potomac Hunt Club.



Vivian Neal, Father George Reid, and Cliff Neal at the Monocacy Lions Christmas Party.



Enjoying the Santa Train at the UMCVFD Santa Breakfast.



Santa visited Selby's Market to see the kids.



PHS Football Coach Steve Orsini presents awards at the team's annual banquet.



The PHS Choir performing at the Monocacy Lions Christmas party.

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A MONOCACY MOMENT

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Center Stage

The Blue Sky Traffic: Not a Flock of Seagulls

By Dominique Agnew

At some point in your life, you must have looked up into the blue firmament of a clear day and seen birds flying in a V-formation—that was blue sky traffic.



Lincoln Nesto, Justin Kalk, and Steve Britton.

For our purposes, however, The Blue Sky Traffic is a band on its way to success. The band is composed of Justin Kalk, front man, lead vocals, guitar; Steve Britton a.k.a. Stevie English (depending upon the day of the week, perhaps), bass, backing vocals; and Lincoln Nesto on drums and backing vocals.

This past fall, The Blue Sky Traffic was on the NBC internet show "Star Tomorrow." Of the four hundred musical acts that auditioned, one hundred were on the show, and The Blue Sky Traffic passed numerous cuts to be in the top twenty-four. The man hosting the show was none other than composer/producer David Foster who has produced the likes of Whitney Houston, Céline Dion, Madonna, and many, many others. About the band, David Foster had this to say, "Interesting song, and I actually kinda liked it." Compared to what he said to other groups, this was very positive praise. The Blue Sky Traffic won three out of six awards, including best music, best video, and best photograph.

The musicians of The Blue Sky Traffic have been together as a band for three years after forming at Berklee College of Music in Boston. Steve and Justin (Justin's grandparents are Allen and Pat Ahearn of Dickerson and the owners of Quill & Brush, see Monocacy Monocle, October 20, 2006) both attended Smithsburg High School, and when Steve first attended Berklee, he met Lincoln from Nashville, Tennessee. Lincoln already had considerable experience under his belt after having spent some time in New York and California as a session drummer for such acts as Dawn Robinson of En Vogue and

on recordings of Grammy-award winner Chris Kent (Lincoln began playing professionally at the age of fourteen) before joining forces with Steve and Justin.

The Blue Sky Traffic is putting the finishing touches on their debut album which should be released this winter. They have been in contact with some recording labels, but, for the time being, plan on releasing their CD independently through their website, www.theblueskytraffic.com which should be up by

January. With most of the tracks composed by Britton and Kalk, the band doesn't stop at just composing and performing. They recorded and produced all of their tracks in their own studio, Menace Peach Studios, in Hagerstown which they plan on opening to the public in January.

The band members have a lot of support from friends and family members, and Steve Britton's father, Jeff Britton, is their manager. "The families really support us," says Steve.

So what kind of band are they: pop, rock, rap, jazz, country, blues, gospel, hip-hop? Hmm...yes. That's exactly the point. They refuse to be pigeon-holed, and they draw from many influences of all genres. Their own genre is: doom jazz bee-hop turtle's back gospel. Is blue sky traffic just a flock of birds, or is there more than meets the eye? What about all the traffic we can't see? There are, of course, the birds and the planes; then there are the radio waves, ultraviolet rays, the Hubble space telescope, ghosts, and maybe even "a college girl with stem cell butterfly wings hiding in the clouds above Camp David" (from their Myspace site). The same can be said of The Blue Sky Traffic. Their tracks are tightly-composed songs encompassing overlapping styles from the driving funky bass underscoring jazz-influenced guitar progressions of "1983: A Robot I Should Turn to Be" to the McCartneyesque-Neil Youngish-Lynyrd Skynyrd-like melodic prose of "Blowin' Out West." The goal of the band is to be the first group to have a hit country song, a hit hip-hop song, and a hit rock song, simultaneously.

Upcoming performances of The Blue Sky Traffic will be: December 22 at Dale's in Thurmont, December 23 at Duffy's in Hagerstown, New Year's Eve at the Broad Axe I Hagerstown, and January 6 at the Leitersburg Theatre in Hagerstown.

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Just Listed!



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Commentary

Here We Are Again

By John Clayton

I realize with alarm that this is our last issue before Christmas and the end of the calendar year. At this time last year, we were still absorbing the shock of Hurricane Katrina's devastation, and the year before that the Asian tsunami had only just hit. This year, our intractable messes are predominantly man made. For that, I suppose we should be grateful, if only in that our major shared traumas are from one or the other, but not both.

As we just had midyear elections, a comment is in order. These were not the usually boring midyear elections, and we voters actually had something to say. As our resident Democrat here at the *Monocle* (yes, that means we also have a resident Republican) perhaps I should be crowing, but actually after several weeks of happy dances, some of the Democrats have already begun to annoy me, so I presume the euphoria period is over.

I personally was pleased with the election of Ike Leggett as county executive for the obvious and well-stated reason: we voters decided that while development has its place (somewhere else far away from us, that is—rim shot, please), there has been quite a bit of it over the last decade or so, and it may be time to slow down, step back, and take a look. I don't take that as a radical departure and a return to an extreme; I think it is more of an acknowledgement that moderation is in order. (The same sentiment could be seen in more national election results as well.) It is also interesting to me, with no particular wisdom attached, that four years ago we voted confidently for a pro-development, pro-Inter-County Connector slate in the county council, and much of that slate

remains, including our own District 15 Councilman, and now Council Vice President, Michael Knapp. Congratulations, Mike, by the way. (Editor's note: With regard to the election special in our November 3 issue, and in response to several inquiries, we did not exclude Mr. Leggett from our candidates' forum. Mr. Leggett's campaign did not respond to our requests.)

Once again, as the various holidays are upon us, Rande and I wish to thank our readers, our advertisers, and our *Monocle* contributors for all their efforts this year. This list would include many of your favorites, such as writers Dominique Agnew (also our copyeditor), James "Skip" Etheridge, Debby Lynn, Maureen O'Connell, Curtis Osborne, and Jack Toomey, and our photographer Hilary Schwab-Shapiro, and occasional photographer Tom Amiot. We should also mention our occasional Ag News contributor Alicia Agnew. Many of you have also mentioned that you like the new look of the *Monocle's* layout and graphic design. This is due to the efforts of Karie Legambi of WhipSmart Graphics, Inc. who has become an important part of our team. Behind the scenes, unbeknownst to almost all, Marsha Carmack of WhipSmart Mail, Inc. makes sure every issue gets printed.

Did we mention our advertisers? None of us would be here without you. All of you out there should make it a New Year's resolution to always consult the *Monocle* before you spend a dime on anything. Be sure to mention the *Monocle* after you do, by the way.

The *Monocle* will move into some office space in the near future, in the Parsonage next door to the Poolesville United Methodist Church. We'll provide more details on that at a later date, but for now, take that to mean we will be around for a while and will continue to try and present a quality product worthy of reading cover to cover. That is our goal.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

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Day Tripper

Oh, What a Time

By Dominique Agnew

Once upon a time—a Medieval Time, that is—there lived King Alfonso and his beautiful daughter, Princess Esperanza. This was a time of knights and honor, fine horseman-



The knights and squires at Medieval Times.

ship and exquisite swords; it was a time of grand tournaments and lofty ideals; it was also (imagine a voice filled with foreboding) a time of deceit and evil villains; and it was, sadly, a time in which food lacked seasonings and flavor, and using one's best manners meant eating sans utensils—eating, yes, with one's

fingers.

Yes, milords and miladies, all this (and more) took place in Medieval Maryland at the dawn of the twenty-first century which saw the renaissance of (insert booming basso profundo voice from the heavens) ...Medievaaaaaaaal Times.

Enter the castle and be given a crown in the color of your knight so you cheer for the appropriate one. Will it be the green, red, white, blue, yellow, or red and black knight? Before entering the great tournament hall, you may choose to be photographed with members of royalty by photograph serfs and wenches. Once inside the tournament hall, all nobleboys and girls proceed to their color-coded section and await refreshments to be served by more serfs and wenches. Every seat faces the sandy pit where the tournament is to take place, and there isn't a bad seat in the house. Why have a tournament? Because it was so decreed by the King Alfonso. Wonderful things occur at the tournament. To begin, the knights ride out on their magnificent Andalusians, the preferred horse for royalty and knights since the eleventh century, to greet the crowds and their supporting nobles. Then the games begin



Cub Scout Pack 1241 at Medieval Times.

and the knights compete against each other honorably in such feats as throwing the javelin and spearing the rings. Knight and mount breath-takingly move as one at high speeds. The crowd is then introduced to the master of the horses who performs intricate dances astride his horse. All is well as the knights enjoy camaraderie in the ring, and the nobles enjoy their repast in the stands...until...the sorcerer appears and predicts that there is a traitor amongst the knights. Who is it? How will the king ferret out the betrayer? It must be through a real battle—real fighting with authentic weapons. Lances splinter spectacularly. Broadwords clash and sparks fly as the muscular and brave knights fight for honor—and for their very lives. Yes,

noble readers, the last man standing (who doesn't crawl off in the throes of death attended by his squire) has vanquished the traitor—or has he?

Medieval Times began its reign in 1973 on the Island of Majorca. Bringing back the beauty and pageantry of medieval Europe proved highly popular and successful, so much so that the first Spaniard of Medieval Times landed on the coast of the U.S. in Florida in 1983. From there it has grown to eight locations across the United States. There is now a ranch in Texas that raises the purebred Andalusian horses just for the shows. The animals are trained in all the footwork and war moves necessary for a battle horse of the eleventh century, and after a few years in the show ring, they retire back at the ranch.

Medieval Times of Maryland is located at Arundel Mills Mall. How about a step back in time to top off the holiday shopping fun? Tickets for the dinner and show are \$47.95 for adults and \$38.95 for children under twelve. There are upgrades and discounts available. Visit www.medievaltimes.com for more information or call 1-888-WE-JOUST.

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Local News

Repeated Vandalism Fails to Dim Holiday Spirit

By Rande Davis

Poolesville's spirit has risen to the seasonal occasion of celebration by decorating its town park with festive lighting. Throughout Whalen Commons, the gazebo, both wooden entry archways, and many of the park trees brightly shine with bluish crystal lights as well as holiday greens and reds. The town Christmas tree displays its brightly-lit multi-colored splendor, while a wooden snowman and Christmas tree display (built by Alex Pike, son of Drs. Pike and Valega) light up the west end of the park.

To mark the celebration and to build community spirit, the town held an official park-lighting ceremony on Sunday, December 3. Although expecting 150 attendees, the town commissioners were thrilled with a crowd of almost double that amount. Choral groups provided entertainment from St. Peter's Church (including their orchestra), the Memorial Methodist Church, and a youth choir from Our Lady of the Presentation. The Monocacy Lions provided hot chocolate, cider, and cookies, while the girl scouts chipped in by helping to serve the refreshments.

Brown bags containing candles warmly illuminated the walkway around the park. During the event, a minor concern developed as the refreshments of cookies quickly diminished due to the unexpected size of the crowd, however, Lin Selby came to the rescue at the last minute by opening the already closed supermarket long enough to grab another supply of cookies.

While the festive mood carried the evening, the revelers were unaware of some disturbing vandalism that nearly crippled the community party. Just a day before the event, scores of tree lights were smashed onto the sidewalk and vandals cut strings of lights. There have been two more acts of vandalism since the lighting ceremony that have required the town to repair the display. Witnesses have reported that they have seen a small group of young people pulling at the lights in the early evening. To counter the vandalism, more spotlights in the interior of the gazebo have been added and will be kept on throughout the night. Town employees and county police are keeping closer tabs on the park and ask nearby residents or those just passing by to keep a closer eye on groups loitering around the gazebo. Teenagers who like to use the gazebo as a meeting place would be well advised to avoid that location so as not to come under suspicion of the vandalism.



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In the Garden

The Flowers of Christmas

By Maureen O'Connell

The weeks between December 1 and January 1 can be the most awkward from the viewpoint of a gardener. It is the time of the year when you look to fresh flowers to enliven the house during the holiday season, but the garden has been put to bed, and there are no flowers to pick. Luckily, the florist comes to our rescue with many greenhouse plants that have become part of holiday decorations. For many, the poinsettia is the harbinger-plant of the Christmas season. You can buy them everywhere. They originally came only in the color red, but over the years, plant breeders have created many different varieties in several new sizes, shapes, and colors. The colors range from creamy white, to shades of pink and orange. There are marbled bracts of pink and white, as well as pink flecks on red. There are miniature sizes, trees, hanging baskets, and fresh cut flowers. Poinsettias are native to Mexico, where they grow wild in the color red. Joel Robert Poinsett, amateur botanist and the first United States ambassador to Mexico, introduced this

plant to our country in 1825. Today, over eighty million are sold during the holiday season.

Other popular holiday plants are the Christmas cactus, holly, ivy, mistletoe, amaryllis, paper whites, and the Christmas rose (*Helleborus niger*). Of all these plants, the Christmas rose is regarded as a true Christmas flower. In High Dutch, it is called Christ's herb, because "It flowereth about the birth of our Lord." It is native to the mountainous regions of central Europe to Turkey, and it is believed to have been first introduced by the Romans. While it is not native to Britain, it is one of its oldest cultivated plants, growing in cottage gardens all around the country. The Renaissance English poet, Edmund Spenser (1552-1599), refers to it in the *Faerie Queene*. John Gerard (1547-1607), the best known of English herbalists, considered a purgative of hellebore "good for mad and furious men."

While it is called the Christmas rose, in our area, it does not always bloom right on schedule. Several years ago, when we enjoyed an unusually warm November and December, my four plants, true to their name, were in bloom on Christmas morning. More often than not, they start to bloom in mid-January, making them a herald of the start of the New Year. One has to be patient with hellebores; they are slow to become established. Mine are about ten years old, and they now form a dense, flowering ground cover, about ten to twelve inches in height. There are many varieties of hellebores on the market, but I think that the flowers of the Christmas rose are the most beautiful. It has large, one and one-half inch flowers that open white, mature to dusky pink, and last for months, above deeply-lobed, thick, leathery leaves that remain evergreen all year. The flowers are nestled deep inside the leaves; one has to hunt for them. Right now, my plants are bright green, and small buds are breaking through at the soil level. Years ago, I had them in bloom when snow covered the rest of the garden. Hellebores like a rather moist, semi-shady spot in rich soil. I have planted mine amongst hostas, English bluebells, and ferns.

Over time, a variety of plants have come to be called the Christmas rose. In Mexico, it is the poinsettia. They are all based on a legend that dates back for centuries. It is the *Helleborus niger* that is most commonly associated with this old legend. There was a young girl who wanted to come to worship the Christ Child. Being very poor, she

had no gifts to offer. She searched the countryside for a flower that she might bring, but, it being winter, there were no flowers. She began to weep; an angel passed over and saw her tears. Where they fell to the ground, a beautiful bush grew that bloomed with white roses.

A Rose has sprung from a tender root

From Jesus, as those of old have sung,
And it bore a flower,
In the middle of a cold winter,
Translated from the early fifteenth century German poem, "*Es ist ein Ros' Entsprungen*." Author unknown.
I wish you all a very joyous Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Local News

Public Hearing Held Regarding Possible Closure of Road

A public hearing to consider the possibility of closing a section of Elgin Road in Poolesville was held on Thursday, December 14. The section in question is a small spur that juts off of Elgin Road (Route 109) just north of the Memorial Methodist Church and across from the Elijah Methodist Church. It is at the point that Route 109 makes a sharp turn to the left by the church while this section of Elgin Road extends to Jerusalem Road about two hundred yards away.

The application to close the road was submitted by Kettler Forlines Homes, Inc., the builder of Brightwell Crossing, a new home development that will be located on the east side of Elgin Road.

The request was submitted by the builder since the development not only has an entrance planned to the development just before this intersection, but there will also be a park entrance near the same location. The concern is that three entrances to Route 109 so close together will prove to be not only highly congested but also very dangerous.

Opposing views are concerned as to how farm equipment will be able to turn onto Jerusalem Road from northbound Route 109 and, that when turning toward Poolesville while entering Route 109 from Jerusalem Road, there is a blind spot for traffic traveling south on 109 from Beallsville. Of course, the blind spot exists in its current form regardless of whether the Jerusalem-Elgin extension is closed.

The results of the hearing are expected around the first of the year.

BB&T

Thank you for your Christmas Spirit!

It is with pleasure and pride that the staff of BB&T wishes to express it's sincerest thanks to all the people of Poolesville and surrounding towns who donated to the Mission of Mercy Toy Drive this holiday season. It is through your generosity that over 70 children, who would not have otherwise, will be able to receive a gift this Christmas.

The Mission of Mercy organization provides mobile clinical medical care to those who cannot afford it. With each year, the number continues to grow. During the holidays, Mission of Mercy collects unwrapped toys and distributes them to the children when they make their weekly stops.

*and Joe Barbara Ruben
Mattie Sarah*



Wishing Everyone a Safe and Happy
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Remembrance

George W. Brenholtz

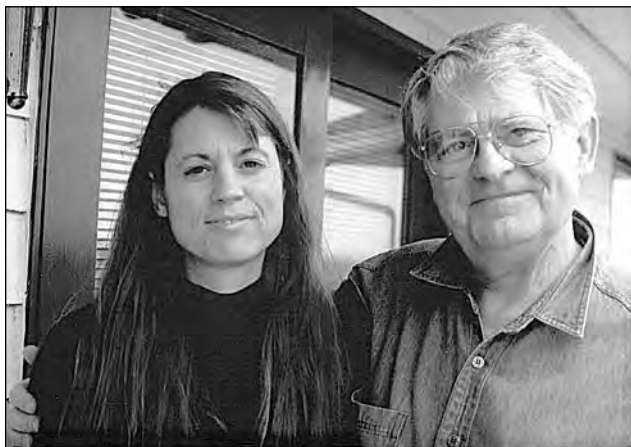
George Brenholtz, the father of Roger Brenholtz of Beallsville, died November 20 from injuries sustained in a car accident on U.S. Route 17 in Spotsylvania County, Virginia.

Mr. Brenholtz, 76, was a retired executive film producer for the U.S. Naval Media Center at its Anacostia Annex. During his thirty-six-year career as a civilian with the Department of the Navy, Mr. Brenholtz produced *The Salvage of the Challenger* (1988), a documentary of the Challenger space shuttle disaster, and *Trial by Fire: A Carrier Fights for Life* (1973), one of the most-viewed training films in the navy's history.

In 1964, Mr. Brenholtz became head of the Television and Motion Picture Section of the Naval Recruiting Program in Anacostia. Thirteen months later, he joined the Naval Photographic Center as a writer. From mid-1965 to January 1969, he served as a writer-producer for the presidential film series. "He was detailed to the White House where he directed monthly films on President Johnson's life," said his son Roger Brenholtz. Those films are archived in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum in Austin, Texas.

After Richard M. Nixon's election, Mr. Brenholtz returned to the Naval Photographic Center from which he retired in 1999. He received the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award for his work.

Mr. Brenholtz, a native of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, graduated from Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania and served in the army as a first



George Brenholtz, and his daughter Brenholtz Gipson.

lieutenant in the Korean War stationed in Hokkaido, Japan. He received a master's degree in communications from the University of North Carolina in 1955 and worked as a director and production manager for NBC affiliate Channel 5 in Raleigh. He was fired from Channel 5 following a disagreement with then-station manager and future senator Jesse Helms, a career move of which he was proud.

Mr. Brenholtz's passions included writing, the Chesapeake Bay, and sailing. All who knew him knew that he was happiest when he was on his sailboat, *Minou* (short for *Minou la Belle*), with his wife Nancy C. Brenholtz, who passed away in 2001. Mr. Bren-

holtz moved to the Northern Neck in Virginia in 2000, in no small part to continue to be close to his beloved Chesapeake Bay.

Mr. Brenholtz, who was known as George to all, including to his children, was an accomplished storyteller and all around raconteur. He was knowledgeable and opinionated about sports, politics, and film, among other topics. As his longtime close friend and one-time graduate school professor, Dr. John S. Clayton, of North Bethesda observed, "He had zest and gusto. Saying he had opinions is like saying Moses had suggestions."

Mr. Brenholtz was also renowned for, while stationed in Japan, shoot-

ing his commanding officer in the leg while on guard duty. Apparently, the officer was returning from a night on the town and did not respond to a legitimate challenge. He was absolved of any wrongdoing, but in keeping with military decorum, was required to pay for the bullet.

Mr. Brenholtz is survived by his son, Roger Brenholtz, who resides in Beallsville with his wife, Heidi Rosvold-Brenholtz, and their children, Benjamin, McKinnon, and Quinn. Mr. Brenholtz is survived by two other children, Laura Brenholtz Gipson of New Orleans and James Brenholtz of Stevensville, Maryland, and six other grandchildren.

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Horizon

Catoctin Aqueduct Restoration Project

The Up-County has celebrated the success of the restoration of the Monocacy Aqueduct and the preservation of this historical structure. Frederick County is now preparing a similar project to restore the Catoctin Aqueduct, (built 1832 to 1834), an historic C&O Canal structure of great importance to the infrastructure, transportation, engineering, architectural, social, and cultural history of our nation, the states of Maryland and Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

The Catoctin Aqueduct spans the historic Potomac River Valley site where two archrivals, the C&O Canal (out of Georgetown) and the B&O Railroad (out of Baltimore), first clashed and then fiercely competed to cross a major tributary of the Potomac River: Catoctin Creek in Frederick County, Maryland. The aqueduct is located at the 51.5 mile mark of the C&O Canal towpath.

In 1973, sixty percent of the then 139-year-old hand-cut stone and wrought iron railed aqueduct collapsed. Today, the remains of this national commerce, engineering, and transportation icon (one arch, all or the abutments and wing walls, and many of the original cut stones) lie deteriorating under a visually intrusive temporary steel Bailey bridge—unnoticed, unappreciated, uncared for, and rarely seen and enjoyed by hikers, bikers, joggers, and the many other users of our C&O Canal National Historical Park.

The purpose of the project is to facilitate and fund a broad-based grass-roots partnership restoration project to reconstruct collapsed sections (two of the original three arches) and stabilize endangered (but still standing) sections of the historic 3,000 square foot Catoctin Aqueduct on the C&O Canal in the Maryland section of the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

The goal of the project is to reconstruct the now 172-year-old Catoctin Aqueduct as it appeared in the nineteenth century with its three distinctive arches, hand-cut stones, and classic hand-wrought iron railing. Fortunately, many of the original cut stones and numerous segments of the original railing have been salvaged and retained to be incorporated into the restoration of the aqueduct. Once restored, the Catoctin Aqueduct, a.k.a. the Most Beautiful Aqueduct on the Line, will function as an interpretive educational portal to the rich national transportation, engineering, commerce, rail, trail, and canal history of our great nation; and it will serve concurrently as a clean and green regional tourism destination appealing to a broad range of interested individuals and groups.

After restoration of the Catoctin Aqueduct and removal of the obtrusive temporary steel bridge that has hidden the aqueduct for almost thirty years, annual visitation from the vantage points of both rail and trail, is anticipated to increase from roughly 2,600 to as much as 75,000.

The Catoctin Aqueduct Restoration Fund, Inc. (CAR Fund), a 501(c) (3) public charity formed in 2005 for the single purpose of raising funds for and facilitating the restoration of the Catoctin Aqueduct and other historic structures located in the Maryland section of the C&O Canal National Historical Park is partnering with the C&O Canal National Historical Park, the C&O Canal Association, the Community Foundation of Frederick County, Frederick County Maryland, the City of Brunswick Maryland, the Historical Society of Frederick County, and numerous other private and public entities to complete this project in the spring of 2009.

The total cost of the entire restoration project will be about 2.5 million dollars. To date, \$720,000 has been raised (in hand, pledged, in-kind, and in a House HUD Bill).

Corporate, individual, and state funds are being sought.



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"No Job Is Too Large or Too Small"

In our December 8 Mystery History, we asked our readers to identify the people in the picture to the right. There's still time to help us out. Send your answers (or opinions) by emailing to rdavis@monocacymonocle.com, calling 301-349-0070, or faxing to 301-349-5646. We'll print them in our January 19 issue.

The Humble Chef

Ring in the New Year with Black-Eyed Peas

In the South, black-eyed peas are a traditional item on New Year's Day menus. They are supposed to bring you good luck for the coming year. I can't promise you good luck, but I can guarantee you a very hearty and tasty dish. There are many recipes for this versatile legume, but my favorite is the following soup. Serve it at your New Year's Day buffet. It will surely be a hit.

Black-Eyed Pea Soup

2 cups dried black-eyed peas, soaked overnight in water to cover and drained
Ham bone with meat
2 cups celery, chopped
2 cups onions, chopped
2 cups carrots, sliced
1 pound andouille, kielbasa, or other smoked sausage, cut into ¼ inch thick slices
Chili powder, salt, and pepper to taste
¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
2 bay leaves
5 sprigs fresh thyme
2 quarts of water

Cook peas in water with ham bone until peas are almost soft. Discard bone. Add celery, onions, carrots, and spices. Cook for about one hour. Add sausage and cook for thirty minutes. If needed, add more water. You want, though, a fairly thick soup. Serve with a tossed green salad and cornbread. Happy New Year!



The gentleman in the wheel barrel is Frank I. Davis who was born in 1885 and died in 1960. What we don't know is who the other gentlemen are, when the picture was taken, and the full story of why Mr. Davis is in the wheel barrel. Mr. Davis owned a farm on Westerly Road, west of the current location of the high school. In the 1950s, he became sheriff of Montgomery County.

Did you know Mr. Davis or are you related to him?
Do you know what the bet was about?
Can you identify the loser of the bet (pushing the wheel barrel)?

Local News

Soldier, and PHS Graduate, Helps Write Army's Counterinsurgency Manual

The Department of the Army recently published a new field manual on counterinsurgency operations (COIN), which is the first new document of its type in twenty years. Designed from the contemporary experiences of Afghanistan and Iraq, this 240-page, eight-chapter military field manual, which will be used by both the army and the marine corps, establishes the doctrine (fundamental principles) for military operations in a counterinsurgency warfare. Through this document, the army is identifying counterinsurgency as the primary form of warfare in the future.

Poolesville native, Maj. Sean Davis (PHS Class of 1989), is the army's principal author of chapter eight covering matters of combat logistics.

For the layman, logistics refers to the processes of supplying everything the soldier in the field might need, or, as Major Davis describes it, it is the difference between "a click or a bang." The manual, which will be used by battalion commanders and above, is innovative by providing direction beyond standard combat to include civilian stability operations.

Over a year in the making, this new manual was put together under the joint leadership of Lt. Gen. David Petraeus (U.S. Army Command) and Lt. Gen. James Mattis (Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command). The manual establishes the new operational tactics of a counterinsurgency along the lines initiated by the 101st Airborne under General Petraeus's command during its campaigns in Afghanistan and the invasion of Iraq. Those tactics combined the standard offensive and defensive techniques with civilian stability operations which were designed to gain the support of the population. At the time, Petraeus described his approach as "trading bullets for dollars," or as it is now stated in the manual, "leaders at all levels must adjust their approach constantly, ensuring that their elements are ready each day to be greeted with a handshake or a hand grenade."

Major Davis served with the 101st Airborne under General Petraeus during both Afghanistan and Iraq invasions, and returned for a third eleven-month tour with the 1st Cavalry as its divisions support operations officer. While attending the army's Command General Staff College and studying for

Tidbits

Something New at Selbys

Congratulations to Mike and Corrine Selby on the birth of their little girl, Addison Mae, born in the early morning hours of November 16 at Frederick Memorial Hospital. Her three-year-old sister, Charlotte Ann, was delighted on her arrival as were grandparents, Roy and Betty Jean Selby, and Cindy Heivilain.

No Shots, No School, No Exceptions

The Montgomery County Health Department is notifying parents of students in sixth through ninth grade that their students will not be allowed back in school on January 2 if they have not been vaccinated for hepatitis B and varicella (chickenpox), as required by state law. This requirement applies to private school students as well.

While the vaccinations have always been required, the county health department has tried to work with procrastinating parents, but the results have been that there remain far too many students not in compliance. While the vast majority of parents take their responsibility seriously, many do not, and this puts all students at a greater health risk.

Free shots will be available at the School Health Services Center at 4910 Macon Road in Rockville on December 22 and 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.



Major Davis displayed the Maryland flag used as a gift to supporters back home. The flags were donated by Poolesville Hardware.

his master's in business administration, Major Davis was selected to write the chapter on logistics in a counterinsurgency environment. He worked with Lt. Gen. Kevin Brown who represented the Marine Corps and with Lt. Marian Vlasak. As he is now completing another master's degree (military arts and sciences), he is also preparing to return to Iraq this April as he rejoins the 1st Cavalry which deployed to Iraq last month.

-Continued on Page 14.

Vaccines are also available at county clinics and through private providers. Poolesville Subdivision Puts on the Lights for WUMCO

Christmas Eve is the night for Elizabeth's Delight's Annual Luminaries Tour. The entire subdivision puts out luminaries and collects contributions for WUMCO. People drive from all over the Monocacy area to see this unique display. The rain date is Christmas night.

Nationals Bring Big League Help to Youth Sports

Bob Cissel holds four season tickets to the Washington Nationals, so when this UMAC youth baseball vice president got an invitation to a reception sponsored by the Nationals, he was thrilled. He was even more thrilled upon learning that the purpose of the reception was to announce that the new team ownership and management were making assistance to youth sports one of their highest priorities. Greg Moore and Gary Adell from UMAC joined Mr. Cissel at the reception.

The Nationals' president, Stan Kasten, outlined a number of things the team wants to do to help the youth leagues. He pointed to the team requirement of player appearances at youth events at least once per month during the season as an example. Such an appearance could be used to promote an event or even as a fundraiser, or both. The team is also making available

discounted tickets to games so the league could sell them to raise funds.

In discussions with team marketing and sales director, Mark Tilson, UMAC learned that there are some funds from major league baseball that could help in purchasing lights. It was also brought forth that letters of support to field-lighting companies that serve MLB could also help provide better rates for such expenditures. Mr. Tilson will be going to the UMAC field in Boyds to further explore this possibility with Mr. Cissel

Banking On a Mission of Mercy

BB&T Bank made Mission of Mercy of Emmitsburg, Maryland a corporate project of support. Mission of Mercy has been operating mobile medical programs since 1994, providing free medical and dental services to the uninsured working poor, the homeless, and those unable to access healthcare. Operating in conjunction with various churches and other private sector service groups, Mission of Mercy has five clinic locations in Frederick County where the mobile units visit to provide services.

The clinic provides more than 9,000 patient visits a year and dispenses over 18,000 free prescription medications. Almost half of the patients are women and about a quarter are children. BB&T, a corporate supporter, has helped in collecting Christmas toys and presents for needy children throughout Maryland.



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

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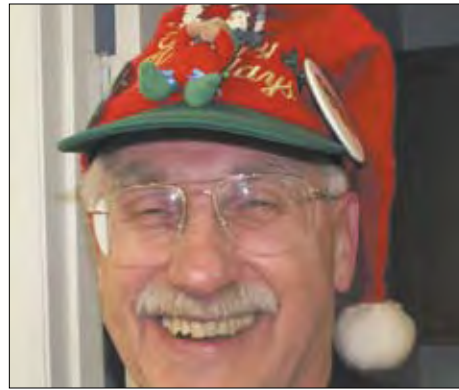
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 Jay Schwartzman – Poolesville Beer & Wine.
 John Sim – The Corner Cafe.
 Jon Chisholm – Jon's Video.
 Lib Tolbert – Mayor Emeritus of Barnesville.
 Maureen Dolan – Postal Employee, Barnesville.
 Jack Toomey – Monocacy Monocle.
 Ken Fitzwater – Poolesville Baptist Church.
 John Speelman – Poolesville Hardware.
 Poolesville Town Manager Wade Yost.
 Mary Bernardo – Postal employee, Poolesville.
 Chief Earl Moore – UMCVFD.

Churches of Poolesville

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2006 CHRISTMAS SCHEDULES

BAPTIST

Poolesville Baptist Church
17550 West Willard Road
301-972-8151

December 17

6:00 pm Christmas Musical
The Go-Fers Christmas

December 24: Christmas Eve

10:30 am Sunday Morning
Worship

7:00 pm Christmas Eve
Candle Light Service

www.poolesvillebaptist.com

EPISCOPAL

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
20100 Fisher Avenue
Poolesville, MD 20837
301-349-2073
E-mail: stpeters387@verizon.net

December 24: Christmas Eve

8:15 am Holy Eucharist for the
Fourth Sunday of
Advent

10:15 am Holy Eucharist for the
Fourth Sunday of
Advent

1:00 pm Children's Christmas
Pageant

10:30 pm Holy Eucharist for
Christmas Eve

December 25: Christmas Day

10:30 am Holy Eucharist for
Christmas Day

www.stpeterspoolesville.org

METHODIST

*Memorial United
Methodist Church*
17821 Elgin Road
Poolesville, MD 20837
301-349-2010
E-mail: pmumcmail@aol.com

Every Sunday

9:45 am Sunday School (all ages)

11:00 am Worship

December 17

5:00 pm Potluck Dinner &
Sunday School Program

7:00 pm Live Outdoor Nativity

December 20

6:00 pm Caroling to seniors and
shut-ins

December 21

7:30 pm Longest Night Service
*(a service for those
experiencing loss and/or
sadness)*

December 24: Christmas Eve

7:45 pm Christmas Music in the
sanctuary

8:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
with communion

December 31

11:00 am Worship for Epiphany

www.pmumc.org

PRESBYTERIAN

*Poolesville Presbyterian
Church*
17800 Elgin Road
Poolesville, MD 20837
301-972-7452

December 17

11:00 am Children's Pageant
*The Twelve Days of
Christmas*

December 24: Christmas Eve

11:00 am Sunday Morning Worship
On the Road Home

7:00 pm Candle Light Service

www.poolpres.com

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301-972-7504 (DC)
E-mail: Olpresentation@aol.com

December 24: Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Children's Christmas
Mass with Gospel
Pageant

6:30 pm Vigil Mass of Christmas

12:00 am Midnight Mass

December 25: Christmas Day

10:00 am Solemn Mass of
Christmas with Brass

www.ol-presentation-md.org



...so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another.

Romans 12: 5

**"Soldier, and PHS Graduate"
Continued From Page 11.**

Major Davis was asked to summarize the purpose of the new manual:

"First of all, the position of this manual as a keystone doctrine is a testament to the army's recognition that learning to fight insurgencies is as important as major combat operations. This allows lessons from Vietnam and today in Iraq to become more a part of the army's operational future. Lessons like having protective armor on our trucks [were] learned in Vietnam and lost in the 1980s only to be relearned today in Iraq. Making this a keystone manual ensures this lesson and many more are not lost again.

"Secondly, this manual posits the idea that physically isolating and killing insurgents alone will not defeat an insurgency. By contrast, this manual focuses on resolving the grievances [from which] the insurgent draws recruitment and support. By using "a less kinetic-non-lethal" approach in concert with the army's amazing war-fighting ability, we can truly defeat an insurgency. This is where Chapter 8 steps in and changes the role of logistics as not only a support organization sustaining soldiers but as a contingent stabilization force that can deliver essential civil services, assistance in governance, economic pluralism, and

support to the host nation security even in a hostile environment as seen in Iraq. Military logisticians and combat engineers can, under the most hostile conditions, provide to the host nation purified water, medical augmentation, road construction, power generation, food, fuel, and supply distribution, and much more. By taking advantage of all of the army's assets in this way, we accomplish the hard task of not only killing insurgents but also defeating their ability to draw support from civilian populace.

"Finally, humility is a central unwritten theme that appears throughout the manual in statements such as: 'What works today will not work next week.' The campaign design that allows for a continual reassessment of a continually changing environment talks to this and provides something I wish I had back before 2002."

While Major Davis returns to Iraq, his family, wife Camille, daughter Alexandra, and son Joshua, will move back to Ft. Hood, Texas where the 1st Cavalry is headquartered. Major Davis is the son of Rande (of the Monocacy Monocle) and Laura Davis and the son-in-law of Gary and Janet Hartz, all Poolesville residents.

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Days End Farm Horse Rescue Assists in Recovery of Horses.

Days End Farm Horse Rescue, a non-profit, volunteer-based animal welfare organization, is providing crucial assistance in the seizure and sheltering of seventy-four horses impounded by the Humane Society of Washington County, Maryland as part of an on-going criminal investigation.

Recovery efforts began Saturday, December 2, 2006. Working at the request of Paul Miller, Director of the Humane Society of Washington County, under warrant issued by local officials, Days End's large animal rescue team was deployed on-site to Sharpsburg, Maryland. Under the direction of Brooke Vransy, Days End's Director of Programs and Emergency Services, the team began tagging and assisting local veterinarians in the medical evaluation of the horses. Those identified by veterinarians as in

the most compromised state of health were transported to Days End's rehabilitation facility in Howard County, Maryland for further evaluation and rehabilitation during the on-going investigation.

The horses, which included pregnant mares, foals, yearlings, and stallions roaming with each other among make-shift paddocks and fields, were each first tagged with an identification number. According to Vransy, that task in and of itself was overwhelming just given the sheer number of horses. "The identification process was daunting, but with care and patience over a three-day period, the teams were able to isolate each of the over seventy horses in portable round corals we brought on-site. That's the first critical step in the evaluation process," Vransy said.

After being identified and tagged, local veterinarians conducted field evaluations on the health and condition of each animal. Those appearing to suffer from malnutrition or other medical conditions requiring immedi-

ate attention were transported to Days End for further evaluation and care in a safe and controlled environment. One horse died in transit to veterinary care.

The seizure and recovery process was a combined effort on the part of the Humane Society of Washington County, local government officials, and law enforcement as well as Days End's large animal rescue team and the Humane Society of the United States whose responders have stayed on-site since the recovery efforts began.

Providing emergency services is a part of Days End Farm Horse Rescue's mission. Its trained team of first responders has provided much-needed assistance in the wake of numerous natural disasters and emergency situations, including hurricanes Charlie and Frances in 2004, and Katrina and Rita in 2005. "We're no stranger to these types of situations, and Days End is proud we can offer this type of assistance to communities locally and throughout the country," Vransy said.

"Since arriving at Days End, twenty-four of the Washington County horses have undergone more extensive veterinary examinations" said Kathy Schwartz, Days End's

Executive Director. "Our work here is just beginning, though. Much is needed to assure the health and safety of these and other horses while under our care." Supporters are encouraged to provide their tax deductible donations to provide much-needed hay, feed, and medical supplies as care and rehabilitation of the animals continue. Contributions can be made through the Days End Farm Horse Rescue website at <http://www.defhr.org> or sent by mail to Days End Farm Horse Rescue, P.O. Box 309, Lisbon, Maryland 21765-0309. All donations for the Washington County horses should be designated: WCO. Donations may also be sent to The Humane Society of Washington County; Attention: The Sharpsburg Horse Rescue Medical & Rehabilitation Fund, 13011 Maugansville Road, Hagerstown, MD 21740.

Days End Farm Horse Rescue, Inc. is a non-profit, volunteer-based animal welfare organization dedicated to rehabilitating abused and neglected horses. The all-breed horse rescue has long been nationally recognized for its work in the fields of equine rescue and rehabilitation, educational programs, community outreach, and animal disaster recovery.

Local News

Repeated Vandalism Fails to Dim Holiday Spirit

By Rande Davis

Poolesville's spirit has risen to the seasonal occasion of celebration by decorating its town park with festive lighting. Throughout Whalen Commons, the gazebo, both wooden entry archways, and many of the park trees brightly shine with bluish crystal lights as well as holiday greens and reds. The town Christmas tree displays its brightly-lit multi-colored splendor, while a wooden snowman and Christmas tree display (built by Alex Pike, son of Drs. Pike and Valega) light up the west end of the park.

To mark the celebration and to build community spirit, the town held an official park-lighting ceremony on Sunday, December 3. Although expecting 150 attendees, the town commissioners were thrilled with a crowd of almost double that amount. Choral groups provided entertainment from St. Peter's Church (including their orchestra), the Memorial Methodist Church, and a youth choir from Our Lady of the Presentation. The Monocacy Lions provided hot chocolate, cider, and cookies, while the girl scouts chipped in by helping to serve the refreshments.

Brown bags containing candles warmly illuminated the walkway around the park. During the event, a minor concern developed as the refreshments of cookies quickly diminished due to the unexpected size of the crowd, however, Lin Selby came to the rescue at the last minute by opening the already closed supermarket long enough to grab another supply of cookies.

While the festive mood carried the evening, the revelers were unaware of some disturbing vandalism that nearly crippled the community party. Just a day before the event, scores of tree lights were smashed onto the sidewalk and vandals cut strings of lights. There have been two more acts of vandalism since the lighting ceremony that have required the town to repair the display. Witnesses have reported that they have seen a small group of young people pulling at the lights in the early evening. To counter the vandalism, more spotlights in the interior of the gazebo have been added and will be kept on throughout the night. Town employees and county police are keeping closer tabs on the park and ask nearby residents or those just passing by to keep a closer eye on groups loitering around the gazebo. Teenagers who like to use the gazebo as a meeting place would be well advised to avoid that location so as not to come under suspicion of the vandalism.

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Local News

Meadow Valley Townhouse Association Turns to Town for Help

The Meadow Valley Townhouse Association has asked for help from the town in repairing its deteriorating parking lots. While the association does collect dues from homeowners, the amount of \$25.00 per quarter is not sufficient for them to maintain their lots in proper condition. In attempting to raise dues so as to be able to keep an ongoing maintenance program, the homeowner members have not provided the two-thirds majority to approve this. Meadow Valley Townhouse Association reports that the investor-owner part of their group would approve the necessary funds, and that the failure to achieve the required majority stems primarily from owner-occupied members. While the investor-owners understand the need to protect their investment, they also have the advantage of passing on the cost through rental fees.

The estimated cost per home is \$1,200.00, not much different than what it costs to maintain and repair driveways in single-family homes.

Without that vote, the parking lots continue to fall apart year by year. When a similar problem occurred with the Westmond Townhouse Association (WTA), the town made an agreement that WTA would pay the town \$60,000 to take over ownership, regulation, maintenance, and repair of the parking lots. At that time, nearly ten years ago, that amount covered nearly seventy-five percent of the cost of repair. Both organizations require a two-thirds majority in order to raise association fees. Neither have done so, but WTA charges \$75.00 per quarter.

At the time of the transfer of ownership of the parking lots, research showed that the standard quarterly fee for townhouse association membership in the area averaged about \$200.00 per quarter. Most of those associations hire management companies and WTA chose to keep the management responsibilities within the

association thereby preventing the raise in fees.

Of major importance to the Westmond homeowners was the realization that personal injury due to their failure to maintain the parking lots could result in a major loss in a lawsuit. Should the town take responsibility for the parking lots, they would then have the ability to assess taxes on the property to raise the money to bring the parking lots to a safe condition.

Commissioners Reverse Decision on Where to Advertise

Regulations require the Commissioners of Poolesville to advertise in a weekly printed publication specific public notices that come up periodically. A few months ago, the commissioners voted to switch from the Gazette newspaper to the Western Montgomery Bulletin, and many citizens have complained since they regard the paper as being so severely inaccurate as to be detrimental and a disservice to the town. The commissioners considered the issue, agreed with those complaints, and voted 5-0 to stop advertising in the publication.

Town Seeks Educational Committee on Wellhead Protection

To better inform residents on protecting the town water supply from pollution, the town is seeking volunteers to serve on a wellhead protection committee. The committee would pro-actively help educate residents and businesses on the proper way to dispose of hazardous and polluting materials, provide input and support for zoning regulations, and assist in various other ways to ensure our water supply is safe. Concerned citizens willing to help on this committee should contact town hall.

Requested Water Pipeline Raises Concern

Tyler and Elizabeth Abell, owners of a two-hundred-acre farm near White's Ferry, have applied for permission to draw water from the Potomac River to supply their cattle farm. Due to problems in the past from droughts, the pipeline,

-Continued on Page 17.

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Police Blotter Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present

The Montgomery County Police Department has issued these reminders concerning after-holiday disposal of gift boxes.

Cardboard packaging from holiday gifts or significant purchases such as electronics, appliances, or computers can be invitations to break-ins. Reduce this risk by:

Removing information about the

make, model, and serial number of your item from the box. Cut out this information and save it with your records.

Preparing the cardboard for recycling. Flatten and bundle the cardboard. It may be tied with twine or placed into smaller cardboard boxes. Please do not use plastic bags because it causes problems with the recycling process. Once bundled, the packaging will no longer advertise what you have just bought to people walking or driving down your street looking for information.

Residential burglary, 11/02/2006, 22300 block of Nicholson Farm Road, Dickerson. Residence entered, nothing taken.

Residential burglary, 11/06/2006, 14100 block of Bear Creek Drive, Boyds. Forced entry to a residence, property taken.

Residential burglary, 11/07/2006, 19500 block of Jerusalem Church Terrace, Poolesville. Forced entry to a residence, nothing taken.

Armed robbery, 12/10/2006, Econo Lodge, Francis Scott Key Drive, Frederick. Three suspects, one male and two female, entered the motel at 12:55 a.m. and went to a room where they had been invited. One of the suspects displayed a handgun and robbed the occupant of his wallet, and the suspects fled.

ery County Sheriff and four of his deputies were kept up all night responding to calls about a strange man trespassing on private property. Those with phones reported that the man sometimes landed on their roofs and made such a commotion that farm animals were excited. The reports covered a wide area from Barnesville, east to Dickerson, south to Boyds, and as far west as Poolesville.

December 27, 1887. Sheriff W. W. White, of Rockville, was on a train between Washington and Rockville when he was struck in the face by a man known as Dink Nell. The man was promptly arrested by the sheriff, but then one of Nell's friends continued to assault the sheriff.

December 29, 1909. The many incendiary fires in the Boyds district have so aroused the people that Lee Ganley, charged with arson, narrowly escaped rough handling when brought to court. Three hundred people had assembled for the hearing, and Ganley plead not guilty. His father refused to post bail for him.

January 5, 1929. Two huge fuel tanks exploded in Frederick killing one man and seriously injuring several others. Fifty tons of cement fell onto the street causing great fear among passersby.

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Past

December 22, 1924. R. C. Garnett was arrested in Rockville after police found a still, intoxicating liquors, and mash on his premises. He claimed immunity from arrest because he was a member of the bar.

December 23, 1960. Two freight trains derailed along the Baltimore and Ohio railroad tracks near Boyds. Freight cars were scrambled like a gigantic zig-zag and blocked both tracks. Commuters were detoured through Baltimore and then back to Point of Rocks.

December 24, 1923. The Montgom-

"Local News" Continued From Page 16.

which in part would be underground, is sought to prevent the problems when such conditions occur. The Abells have support from the country's Agricultural Advisory Committee and the agricultural services division of the Department of Economic Development. The Abells also lease property from the National Park Service and have obtained their support for the proposal. The national park service supports projects they deem to be consistent with its parkland and agricultural mission.

The right to access river water for farmers has been a time-honored practice within the county.

Controversy arose during a pub-

lic hearing among many residents in attendance due to its precedent-setting possibilities of approving the application. They voiced concern that such a project would further erode protection from development of the Agricultural Preserve. Mr. Abell developed the Merry-Go-Round Farm in the mid-1990s by building seventy-nine homes, and the citizens voicing concern pointed to that as their primary objection to the approval of the application.

Citizens wishing to make their opinions on the matter available prior to the January 7, 2006 deadline may email <http://parkplanning.nps.gov> or write to the Superintendent, C&O Canal National Historic Park, 1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100, Hagerstown, MD 21740

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Legal Tips

Legal Tips

By Jake Perkins

As interest rates begin to creep down again, many people are purchasing new homes or refinancing to fixed-rate mortgages. While most of us are on guard for hidden fees in the loan itself, fewer people are aware of how the actual settlement process works. Understanding a little about that process can save the purchaser or borrower time and, more importantly, money.

The first thing you should determine is whether an owner's policy of title insurance covers the property. Title insurance is different from your annual property hazard insurance. An owner's policy is normally purchased when a property is bought and protects the owner against defects of title. This policy can save you money in two ways. First, the existence of a valid owner's policy allows your settlement company to do a rundown title search rather than a full title search. A rundown is normally forty to sixty percent of the cost of a full search. Second, the old policy will provide you with a discounted, or

"re-issue," rate on any new title insurance you purchase. A buyer can use a policy purchased by the seller to get the discount. Even if you choose not to purchase an updated owner's policy, your lender will require that you purchase a loan policy to protect the money it is lending.

It is also important to remember that Maryland law gives the buyer or borrower the right to select whichever settlement company he wants to use. Your real estate agent or lender may recommend a company, but it may not be the most cost-effective for you. A few phone calls can save you hundreds of dollars.

Youth Sports

2006 Girls' Soccer

BFF: Best Flames Forever
By Dominique Agnew

This is a story about a soccer team that had a phenomenal season, through good times and bad, but it's also about a group of girls that is graduating this year, a group of girls that have been playing together for the four years of high school, and in nearly all the girls' cases, have

There is no set way for a settlement company to charge a client. Some may charge a minimal "settlement fee" but have larger fees for document preparation, attorney's fees, or other charges. Others will charge you for a notary public or a release fee for every loan they have to pay off. When determining which company is most cost-effective for you, ask each one to give you a good faith estimate of its charges in writing.

If you are refinancing your home, there are a few pieces of information which can move the process along. If your property is currently mortgaged, provide your settlement company with the name of the company servicing your

loan, the loan number, the servicer's phone number, and your social security number. This will enable them to obtain a payoff statement for the mortgage. Second, you should check to see if you have an accurate survey of the property. If you have not made changes to the property (an addition, enlarging the driveway, a new fence, etc.), you can probably sign an affidavit and avoid the need for a new survey. Finally, have a copy of your current property insurance policy and proof of payment. Your lender will require that a paid policy be in force at settlement. The amount of time required to gather this information is easily worth the rewards later.

of the eleven seniors) include: Gisèle



Jess Rolle, Sarah Bell, Maddy Keese, Emily Furr, Natalie Miller, Katie Martin, Gisèle Agnew, Marisa Shapiro, Meghan Rose, Jacqueline Orona, and Kirsten Schuster.

been playing together since the second grade: The Flames. Former Flames (nine

Agnew, Sarah Bell, Maddy Keese, Katie Martin, Natalie Miller, Jacqueline Orona, Meghan Rose, Kirsten Schuster, and Marisa Shapiro. The other two seniors are Emily Furr and Jess Rolle.

The 2006 Poolesville High School girls' varsity soccer team broke school records. They had twelve wins, ten in the regular season, winning ten games in a row. For the season, they ended 12-3 including playoff games. When Coach Scott Mathias says, "We had a really good season," he means it. "All the girls bought into being a team," he adds, and that made a big difference. There were no individual stars. A team with a superstar is a good team; a team without one is a great team.

As a team, the girls faced a lot of adversity on the field and off. In the beginning of the season, junior Samantha Smith and senior Emily Furr each lost a parent to tragic accidents. "It brought the team together," says Coach Mathias. The girls cared about each other, and they cared about the team.

Among many memorable games (the weird win against Linganore, the excellent game against B-CC in which the Falcons lost in the second overtime), the one that stood out the most was the victory over long-time rival, Damascus. Not only was it a really intense game, it was Damascus's senior night—ouch.

This was the team that could have

-Continued on Page 19.

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**"2006 Girls' Soccer" Continued
From Page 18.**

gone all the way to states. "We had the chance to get to that level," says Coach Mathias. "We played at that level at the end of the year." The last time the

High School scored to tie. The game went into overtime—twice. After double overtime, Sparrows Point won in the shoot-out. "It hurt to end the season that way. [The girls] couldn't have played better," says Coach Mathias. "I couldn't be more proud of the team."



Seven of the present day Flames, circa 2002.

This season ends with not only eleven seniors graduating, but also Coach Mathias has made the decision to no longer coach at Poolesville High School after the indoor track season. When Coach Mathias talks about the girls, he mentions their tremendous personality and how much fun he had coaching them, "I'm going to miss the team a lot." At

Poolesville girls won states, it had also been a team of girls who had played together since childhood. He adds, "Every season ends with a loss unless you're a champion." In the region final, Poolesville was winning by one until the final few minutes when Sparrows Point

the end-of-season banquet for the girls' varsity team, there was something he tried to say, but he had a hard time getting it all out before he became choked with emotion (of course, he's a real man and didn't really cry): "I wouldn't want my final season at Poolesville to be with any other team."

School News

Monocacy Elementary School

Food Drive a Success

Students and staff collected 798 cans of food to donate to WUMCO. The top three classes were those of Mrs. Seder, Mrs. Walsh (grade four), and Mrs. Eye. They will each receive extra books for their classrooms.

Students Honored at State House

The first lady of Maryland sponsored this year's Maryland in Miniature as the theme for ornaments needed for the Holiday Tree at the State House. Nine students from Mrs. Cavaliere's third, fourth, and fifth grade art classes had their artwork chosen to decorate the special tree: Salome DeSalto-Schumaker, Jamie Eeg, Courtney Holsten, Meghan Lockett, Charlie Miller, Lilly Nichols, Alex Yaney, and Shirley Wolz. Numerous symbols of Maryland were realistically represented on the ornaments. had their exceptional artwork displayed. At a special hour-long reception at 12:00 p.m. on December 10, entertainment and refreshments were provided for the students and their families. In addition, Governor Ehrlich and his wife came to thank students for their contributions toward making the huge tree so beautiful. Alex was fortunate enough to have his ornament signed by the governor. Then the governor personally invited them to "make his house theirs" for the rest of the afternoon. Many of the

students and their families accepted his gracious invitation and enjoyed tours of the governor's house.

John Poole Middle School

Students Receive DIVAs "Rising Star" Recognition

The Donors InVesting in the Arts (DIVAs) giving circle awarded Michelle Murgia, eighth grade art student, a \$2,000 award which will enable her to further develop her artistic talent. Housed at the Montgomery County Community Foundation, the DIVAs fund is managed by a group of women who wish to encourage youths to develop their interests and talents in the arts. To be considered for the award, Michelle submitted a portfolio of her outstanding artwork and an essay to the foundation. Justin Price also received recognition from DIVAs and was awarded an Honorable Mention for excellence in literary arts.



Michelle Murgia, who received a DIVA.



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"Grand Reopening" Continued From Page 1.

business.

The building was originally an Indian trading post founded by John Clarke in the middle of the eighteenth century. The site supplied goods and services



Mike Knapp, Niki Lewis, and Ike Leggett during the reopening of the historic Willson/Clarke general store.

for people living on farms in the area and for travelers from Georgetown to Frederick on the old Washington Line. The building housed similar businesses over the succeeding centuries well into the latter half of the twentieth century, although not for the last thirty years during which it had remained closed and fell into severe disrepair.

That might have been the end for one more precious part of our historic heritage if not for the vision and efforts of Niki Lewis, the "proud owner" (her words) of the building and Green Earth Goods, her new venture. Ms. Lewis said she was ready to rent space elsewhere to get a business going when she wrote a letter to the owner of the old building

to see about starting her business there. They talked, and she "bought the store the next day."

Not all of the days that followed were so cheery as the building was in terrible shape and in danger of collapsing. When the project got underway just over a year ago, the building had slipped nearly a foot off its foundation on one side, was hanging on a beam on another side, and had a good-sized hole in the roof that had caused extensive water damage to the interior. Tree roots had grown under the foundation, buckling the concrete floor. There was no heat, electricity, water, or plumbing. During the restoration, the building was retrofitted with a new foundation and structural system while keeping the original structure intact. Remnants of the original trading post were discovered in the walls during restoration and are now exposed and preserved. The original counters, shelving, and fixtures are back in place, and items found in the building, such as old coffee crates and antique signs are part of the décor. Using green building materials to insulate and increase energy efficiency, while carefully preserving the historic and architectural details, was time consuming, but well worth the effort. The active restoration took less than a year. Ms. Lewis suggested more time for renovation might have been nice, but "it was time to move from negative cash flow to positive cash flow."

Councilman Knapp told the Monocle that he saw the building during the renovation and was pleasantly amazed

by the progress even to the point that he wasn't sure what to expect when he drove up for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. "They've done a heck of a job, a great job. It's really exciting."

Ms. Woodson and Wilson Wims, both lifelong Clarksburg residents who remember the old general store from their childhoods, were among the



Wilson Wims and Joann Woodson at the reopening of the Willson/Clark general store.

crowd admiring the clean and spacious interior of the building. Ms. Woodson explained that in the old days, the store carried staples that couldn't be produced on the farm, such as flour and sugar, and everything else would be made on the farm. She said that people didn't go to the market every day the way they do now.

Now called Green Earth Goods, the restored store will carry a broad range of organic, eco-friendly, and healthy products, including home-cooked gourmet food to go, groceries, pet supplies, organic cotton home goods and clothing, and green building supplies.

Ms. Lewis said she is looking forward to offering organic produce from local farms, such as Red Wiggler Farm and other organic farms that may be too small to supply the large grocery chains. Her goal is for the store to help support organic farming and to educate people about the importance of organic farming and environmentally-sensitive living in our area.

"St. Nick breaks Ground" Continued From Page 1.


the center of the sanctuary. The group encircled a similar ribbon, an outline of the dimensions of the new church, as Father Howard, exalting in the occasion, reminded the participants that the real church is not a building but the people who come to worship in that building.

Bishop Chane told the Monocle that it is their (the Diocese's) prayer to continue the growth in Montgomery County. They hope that eventually such growth will include new churches in Forestville and in Clarksburg. His dream is to have a school at Forestville as well. He summarized his enthusiasm by simply stating, "We are lucky, we can grow, and a lot of places can't." He pointed to the building expansion of St. Peter's in Poolesville as further examples of the church's opportunities for growth.

Father Howard was exuberant in his expressions about the importance of the day's event. "It's been a long time coming. I was sharing with the bishop that it's been forty years, and we had to figure out all the steps along the way. It's like having to build a bicycle while you are learning to ride it. Building a new church is not in the living memory of most of us in the diocese,

so we're figuring out how to grow a church that reaches out to people who haven't been to church before or are not going to a church now. We are also teaching the diocese how to do it at the same time. We're like pioneers."

The three-hundred-member congregation has the goal of celebrating Advent 2007 in the new sanctuary. When the entire project is complete, which is estimated to be within ten years, it will include a 349-seat sanctuary, parish hall, administrative offices, and education and music facilities. More information about the church and details of the new building can be found at www.saintricks.com.



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Local History

Montgomery County's First Airborne Officer

By Jack Toomey

James Lawrence was born in a log cabin in 1918 in Smyth County, Virginia and attended Rich Valley High School. He and his father built the family house which was just across a creek from his grandparents' home. He is a descendant of both Revolutionary War and Confederate soldiers. In 1947, he joined the Montgomery County Police Department and was assigned to the Bethesda district. In 1952, Jim was on patrol when he heard a radio broadcast about an accused sex offender who had escaped from the Bethesda detective office. The man hailed a cab which took him to Rockville Pike near the White Flint golf course where he got out. Jim spotted him and chased him through the woods for about ten minutes until he fired a warning shot into the air which alerted officers coming from the opposite direction. The suspect was then apprehended. Sandra Lawrence Terry, a daughter of Jim Lawrence who now lives in Charlottesville, Virginia, recalled that when her father was promoted to private first class, she was about twelve and was put in charge of sewing her father's stripe on his shirt and green coat. When Jim got to work and it was time for inspection, the sergeant quietly told him that the stripe was upside down! In 1955, President Eisenhower suffered a heart attack while he was at Camp David. Officer Lawrence was assigned to meet the ambulance at the Frederick County line, and he escorted it all the way to Walter Reed Hospital.

Soon after becoming a police officer, there were reports of cattle rustling on farms in the county. Apparently, one of the detectives knew a man who owned an airplane that was kept at the old Congressional Airport located where Congressional Shopping Center is today. Jim was asked to fly as an observer with the pilot, and as they cruised above the Montgomery County countryside, Jim learned that the man wanted to sell his airplane. Jim was hooked and shortly afterwards purchased the plane, a Belanca Chief, a single propeller plane capable of flying at slow speeds and a low altitude if necessary. Lawrence, by his account, took "four or five lessons, took a written test," and was given his pilot's license.

Jim kept his plane at Congressional and frequently flew on his days off. When it became known that he had an airplane, he was often called on to fly while on duty on a variety of tasks. Jim Lawrence was recently interviewed by telephone from his home in Florida. He said that he was given a bulky radio that was on the police frequency, and he was able to communicate with officers on the ground. Some of his first assignments were to fly over the Poolesville and Redland areas looking for moonshine stills that were believed to be in the area. In one of his most daring cases, he was asked by two detectives to fly over a suspected still. Jim spotted a group of cars parked in a secluded area. He landed the plane, drove in a car to the area, purchased a bottle of whiskey from the bootleggers, went back to his plane, and directed other officers to the scene where they made arrests. He was also asked to fly up and down the Potomac River to look for drowning victims. Jim said, "I found some, too."

In another notable case, Jim was in the air looking for cattle rustlers in the Laytonsville area. He spotted a tractor trailer truck in the woods "which didn't look right." He used his radio to call the detective bureau who responded to the scene, and they were able to arrest the thieves in the act of stealing cattle.

Once there was an explosion at a fireworks factory on the Eastern Shore. Many people had been killed or injured and blood was needed desperately. Since Jim had a plane, he was selected to fly the blood to Chestertown. There was no other quick way to get the blood to where it was needed.

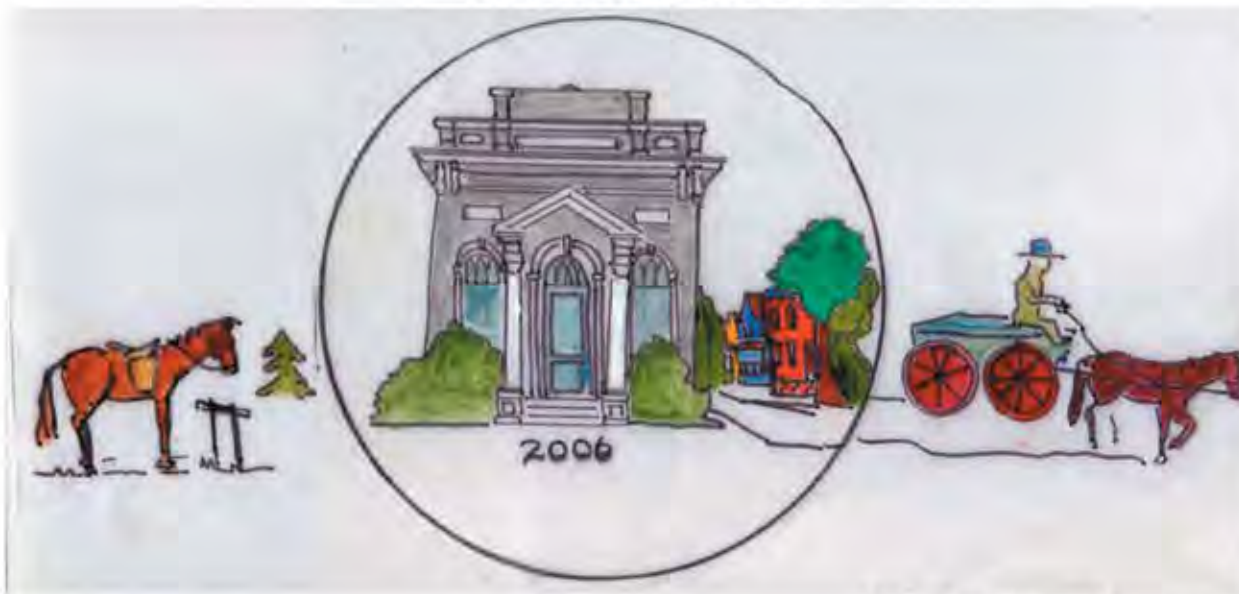
Then there was a hurricane that damaged the hangar and the plane. Jim had it trucked to his home near Norbeck and worked on it in his yard. His wife sewed pieces of canvas together which were wrapped around the fuselage and wings. Then he put several layers of paint and glue on the damaged areas. It was then time to fly the plane off of the property. With the assistance of his brother-in-law, he used the driveway and yard as a runway, started the motor, and flew the plane off the property nearly missing the bean poles and power lines.

Jim was also a member of the Civil Air Patrol and spent many days performing volunteer work for that agency.

In 1957, tragedy struck. Jim had been assigned to a motorcycle by

-Continued on Page 23.

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**"Montgomery County's First
Airborne Officer" Continued From
Page 22.**

then and was sitting at a red light on old Route 240. A driver came from behind and struck Jim, knocking him off of his motorcycle, and sending him hurtling at least fifty feet away. His back was seriously injured, and he spent weeks in the hospital. Jim had to wear heavy back braces, and doctors advised him to retire from the police department. Jim bought a little country store in Hyattstown, and his family worked there to help out.

In the early 1960s, he was advised to move to a warmer climate because of the pain that he suffered. Jim, his wife Helen, and youngest son Bill moved to Florida. They now live in Port Orange, Florida.

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