

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

February 2, 2007

Volume III, Number 20.



The Poolesville Chamber had its dinner meeting. This and more in Family Album on Page 2.



If you are of a certain age and grew up in MC, you might recognize this picture. Read all about it in Local History on Page 8.



PHS Juniors and Seniors watch a simulated UMCVFD rescue.



What do you get when you cut open a pumpkin? Bleeding Pumpkins! Story on page 3.

Chimney Fire Destroys Townhouse - Again

By Rande Davis

A 3:00 a.m. chimney fire broke out on January 29 at 19568 Fisher Avenue in Poolesville. Montgomery County police Officer Jerry Binnox was heading west on Fisher Avenue on a routine patrol through Poolesville. As he approached the Meadow Val-

Inside the townhouse, Ron and Richlyn Carr and their seven children were sleeping, unaware of the danger beginning to emerge all around them. The smoke alarms apparently were not working.

Five fire companies were automatically dispatched to respond to the fire since it was in a multi-dwelling complex. As Chief Earl Moore arrived, he took his command position to the rear of the home where the chimney is located. "At that point, the flames and the smoke were being picked up by strong winds and threatening the adjoining homes." Because of cold and heavy winds, a second alarm was given and an additional four companies were dispatched to the scene to bring in reinforcing firefighters, set up a ride-on bus as a rehabilitation site for those needing to rest, and other service trucks and equipment. Fisher Avenue was completely shut down and remained so until about 7:30 a.m.

The Carr family was able to safely evacuate to another townhouse owned by an uncle. As we visited Mrs. Carr, the news report came on the television news, the family, which had gathered in the living room, gasped out loud as they witnessed for the first time on TV the flames racing through their home. "They tell me this is the fourth chimney fire here [at Meadow Valley townhouses], but I am so glad the family is safe." Chief Moore lamented to the *Monocle* that the chimneys are over thirty years old with a metal flue that is dangerous.



After preventing an early morning fire from spreading to neighboring homes, firemen make sure the fire is fully out.

ley townhouses, smoke was already pouring out of the roof of the home, which has two other units on either side. He immediately raced to the home to alert the family inside and the other families.

Dawsonville Mennonite Church's Wayne Roberson

By Rande Davis

When the formal call to become the new pastor for the Dawsonville Mennonite Church came in 1999, Adamstown's Wayne Roberson had been filling in on a temporary basis for about a year. While he may not have been entirely surprised by the search committee's request, the red warning flags were all over the place. After all, the Book of Mathew tells how Nazarenes scoffed at Jesus being a prophet: "He is just a carpenter's son." So this homeboy and son of a plumber wondered if it would work. Christ's warning in Luke 4 didn't help matters: "I tell you the truth, no prophet is accepted in his own hometown." Fortunately, Wayne realized he wasn't being asked to be a prophet, just a pastor.

Janice and Wayne Roberson didn't just grow up locally (she is from Barnesville, he from Dickerson); their families also are from the area. His path to pastoral duties was never a part of a plan—at least, not their plan.

His plan was to go into accounting and business, and after two years at Montgomery College, he attended the University of Maryland where he graduated in Business Administration. After a short three-year stint at Safeway, he decided to join his father at Roberson Plumbing in Dickerson. He's been there ever since. About the same time, he and Janice married, and they have been together ever since.

He was raised in the Dickerson Methodist Church, and Janice's mom, Marjorie Byrd, was a member of the Dawsonville congregation. As a young married couple, they liked to go back and forth between the two churches, but when their son, Kristopher, turned five, they decided to settle on one church. The young boy's attendance at the Mennonite Sunday school gave sway, and they joined the church in 1973—and they have been there ever since. You have it give to Wayne, once

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Family Album

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



Leslie Edwards and Kenny DeShields clear the snow off the sidewalk at Bassett's Restaurant during the first snow of the season.



The new colors of the old Town Hall are perfect for a wintry day.

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Center Stage A Series of Concepts

By Dominique Agnew

The point at which abstract energy and scientific theory meet just may be in the art of Mike Shaffer. As quoted: "Abstract painter and conceptual artist Mike Shaffer creates sweeping fields of energetic commotion," and yet again, "He works...with the kind of random order found in nature—the way fractals are orderly presentations of chaotic events..." Who comes up with quotes like that? I thought when I first read them. Then I met the artist behind the abstraction—revealed, was the scientist within.

Mike Shaffer didn't really begin his career as an artist until he was in graduate school in Illinois working on his Master of Science degree. He needed a diversion to get his mind off of all the science stuff, so he decided to make a sculpture with scraps of wood. He charred the sculpture to blacken it, and on a whim, he entered his creation into an art show at Southern Illinois University. It won an award—and an artist was born.

Mike came back east—he had grown up in Cumberland, Maryland—and decided to try a dual career. "I have a lot of energy," he says. Between his jobs—he had various careers in the sciences including laboratory work, teaching, and finally a part-time government position—and, at first, his art business, he was "busy all the time." In his work as a scientist, his responsibilities were always spelled out, but in his art business, he was free, and as time passed, he became more serious about and more involved with his artistic side, so that he finally retired from the government after twenty years to solely pursue artwork.

His first art business in the 1970s involved wall art designs: welded metal designs, flowers and bowls, large screens, mobiles, and sculptures. These, he sold through furniture outlets, usually contemporary furniture stores. He had contacts with design architects, and his pieces were placed in show houses and model homes.

Then, Mike became interested in the fine arts, and he decided he wanted to move away from design work and pursue painting. He spent one summer vacation with his family

traveling throughout the country to visit numerous museums to study the works of great artists. He names the architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, as one of his influences.

As an artist, Mike Shaffer focuses on conceptual art—art about ideas. This is evidenced through his different series. Most of his series are concurrent because he continues to create within the given themes, and they are as different from each other as the works are similar to each other within the series.

One of his series, entitled Houseworks, studies the idea of what Mike calls houseness—what makes a house. Is it the roof, the windows, a door, a chimney? Every work of art within the series has something about it that lends the meaning of a house to it. He also finds the idea of houseness fundamental to art and to the thoughts of people. What child has not drawn a house? When a child does draw a house, what are the basic elements found in nearly all their beginning drawings?

Another series that readers may have seen while out and about is the Intersections series. These were typically temporary pieces that Mike would assemble on-site. Sometimes vaguely reminiscent of log cabins, sometimes not, the works would boldly stand ten to fourteen feet high wearing bright urethane enamel on the wood pieces. These were displayed at Montgomery College, the University of Maryland University College, the City of Rockville's Civic Center Park, and at the Strathmore Hall Art Center in Rockville until the new concert hall was constructed.

The Objets Trouvés series is a cross between sculpture and painting. "If you take away the paint, you have a wall sculpture," Mike says. "If you take away the objects, you'd have a painting." All of these pieces include found objects, hence the name, that are in some cases painted over or which protrude from the painted areas. A spectacular large, electrical one consists of a number of lights. The whole piece can be plugged into an outlet.

Mike Shaffer also has a way with words. Writing as E.W. Shaffer, he has published some poetry and is compiling a collection of poems for publication. And Mike's latest experiment has been in the area of filmmaking. At a show at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, he showed "some of the ideas that

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Commentary

Groundhog Day

By John Clayton

While watching the State of the Union address, I was reminded of the movie *Groundhog Day*, wherein a television weatherman (played by Bill Murray) wakes up each day to the same day, to be confronted by the previous day's occurrences. Since this issue of the *Monocle* will actually come out on Groundhog Day, it seemed like a good place to start.

It is hard to watch it and not feel you have been there before—and will be there again. Not much changes from year to year. Party foes applaud each other (at least at the beginning), shake hands, hug and kiss, and seem to ignore the fact that they are publicly calling each other names most other times. Of course, it is also a reminder that we change governments under the most bitter of circumstances without tanks in the street, which is not to be taken for granted.

The president and the speaker of the house, Nancy Pelosi (Madam Speaker!), were quite cordial to one another, as they should be, comfortable in the knowledge that they could go back to throwing rocks in no time at all. I think the toughest job is probably that of Senate President Cheney and the aforementioned speaker who have to sit behind the president, on camera virtually the entire time, and pay enough attention to applaud or scowl at the

right moments. Mr. Cheney also looked like he was trying not to laugh for a while, and I probably worried about that as much as anything. I decided that either he and the speaker were passing notes when the camera was elsewhere panning reaction shots in the gallery, or he had looked out upon the gallery and was reminded one more time, as I was, how much John Kerry looks like Herman Munster.

Then again, I sort of miss seeing the speakers of old such as Carl Albert and Tip O'Neill, who seemed to sleep through most of the speeches.

The speeches are all pretty much the same. Many things are said (and promises made) that will never be heard of again. President Bush is probably no worse than his predecessors in this regard, and is possibly better than some. I think the best speeches are when the president has faced recent setbacks or other adversities and has to face a predominantly unsympathetic, if not hostile, audience. This gives him a chance to show his mettle and display grace under fire, figuratively speaking. This was certainly true this year, as President Bush, wallowing in a mess of his own making, followed in the proud tradition of Nixon and Clinton, among others, who either just had their clocks cleaned in the off-year elections or were navigating threatening scandals. I think it's good for the country to see how the president faces up to resounding disapproval, and it makes for a more interesting evening of television. I hope you enjoyed it, too. If it goes as well next year, I may run this column again.

better to do something than nothing.

I confess upfront that a major turnoff for me is Al Gore. For one thing, I find him pompous and condescending and, as a general point of view, I don't trust people who fit that description. I could be wrong about this new Al Gore—one reviewer even nominated him for the best actor award. Now that's something to contemplate: Al Gore, Best Actor.

Whether he is pompous or not, I remain highly skeptical of anyone proclaiming to hold the truth. As to the title, *An Inconvenient Truth*, I don't like it. First, truth is never inconvenient, and secondly, I prefer the "whole truth, and nothing but the truth" kind. That means that one side makes its case, and the other gets at least a respectful and fair hearing. The movie's

Commentary

The Whole Truth And Nothing But

By Rande Davis

It's been nearly two weeks since John Clayton challenged our readers to go see the film *An Inconvenient Truth*. I admit his challenge was impressive. I certainly believe in the truth, and I don't have a lot respect for people afraid to hear another opinion. Yet, I have not rented or borrowed the movie, and have no plans to rush out to do so. John's contention, if I may paraphrase, was that failure to see the movie was a result of not liking Al Gore, being afraid to face the truth, or being a denier of scientific fact. At the very least, he concluded the movie was convincing in accepting that it is

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School News

Monocacy Elementary School Jugglers Perform

On February 7, don't miss the Monocacy Jugglers as they perform at the Poolesville High School basketball game during halftime.

John Poole Middle School The Phantom Tollbooth

What is a bored boy named Milo to do with too much time on his hands? When a mysterious package arrives containing an enchanted tollbooth, almost anything can happen. Meet all the wondrous characters of "The Phantom Tollbooth" as presented by the JPMS Players. Performances will be held Friday, February 2 and Saturday, February 3 at 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$5.00, and tickets may be purchased at the door. There will also be fun, themed goodies available for purchase before and during the show.

Is Your Middle-Schooler Lacking in Social Skills?

Donna Miller, parent of a JPMS eighth grader is interested in putting together an extra-curricular program on social skills and etiquette for current eighth graders. The program would be modeled after a four-week Cotillion program in which her daughter participated. Donna thought spring was a great time to introduce the

program, especially with the culminating year-end eighth grade class dance in June. Donna is looking for parents who would be interested in helping with this program, and welcomes parents of sixth and seventh graders who would like to see the program continue for their children to participate in the planning and execution of the program to ease its transition. Please contact Donna Miller to indicate your interest in helping at 301-407-2198 or email her at donna@brii.net

Poolesville High School It's Miss Poolesville!

It's time again to crown the most graceful, most accomplished, most talented, and most perfect senior girl at Poolesville High School. February 16 at 6:30 p.m. is the reserved time for the girls to display their fashion sense and numerous talents.

Mark Your Calendars Now

Poolesville's own Sandy Cameron, world-renowned concert violinist, announced, after a surprise performance and appearance at the cluster concert January 25, that there would be a Fourth Annual Sandy Cameron Concert to benefit the music programs in the Poolesville Cluster. The date of the concert is Friday, April 20."

Big Board

Glory (1989)

The award-winning film about the "little-known act of mass courage during the Civil War" starring Morgan Freeman, Denzel Washington, and Matthew Broderick will be shown at the Weinberg Center for the Arts on February 2 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. For more details, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-228-2828.

Dist 15 Town Hall Meeting

Senator Rob Garagiola (D-15), Delegate Kathleen Dumais (D-15), Delegate Brian Feldman (D-15), and Delegate Craig Rice (D-15) are hosting two Town Hall Meetings to be held on Saturday, February 3. The first will be from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at the Up-county Regional Services Center in conference room A. The second meeting will be from 1:00 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. at the Potomac Community Library in the meeting room.

All are invited to attend and discuss issues of importance to Montgomery County and Maryland, as well as the current 2007 Maryland General Assembly Session. For more information, contact Diane Yeager or Erin Peyton

(301) 858-3169.

Living Legend Doc Watson

Doc Watson, renowned master of the flatpicking and fingerstyle guitar will be at the Weinberg Center for the Arts on February 3 at 8:00 p.m. As a soloist and as a collaborator, Doc Watson has released more than fifty albums since the early 1960s. President Jimmy Carter called him a national treasure. Watson is known for his honor, integrity, and grace as much as for his astonishing musical ability. Ticket prices range from \$20.00 to \$30.00. For more details, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-228-2828.

Young Concert Bassist in Solo Matinee

Chinese double bassist DaXun Zhang will present a solo recital in the intimate Kreeger Auditorium at the Rockville Jewish Community Center on February 4 at 3:00 p.m. The twenty-four-year-old Zhang has performed and toured with Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Project in concerts in Japan, California, and New York's Carnegie Hall. For ticket information, call 301-348-3872.

Dining Out to Help WUMCO

Bassett's and Cugini's restaurants want you to eat out on Tuesday, February 6 and participate with them in

-Continued on Page 6.



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Humble Chef

Try Slow, Not Fast, Food

By Maureen O'Connell

Daniel Boulud is the chef and owner of some of the country's finest restaurants. In 1993, he opened his much-heralded restaurant in New York City, Daniel, and it continues to receive rave reviews year after year. He has also been awarded the "Chef of the Year" award several times by Bon Appétit magazine. A noted cookbook author, his newest book, *Braise – A Journey through International Cuisine*, was published in November 2006.

"Big Board" Continued From Page 5.

helping WUMCO through the special "Thanksgiving in February." The purpose of the day is to raise funds for non-profit organizations that help needy individuals and families meet their needs for food, clothing, and shelter. Both restaurants will donate a minimum of ten percent of their February 6 receipts (for all meals) to the Thanksgiving in February organization. The proceeds are then distributed to qualifying non-profits in Montgomery County, such as WUMCO-Help. WUMCO-Help is, of course, the long-time social service organization that provides emergency assistance to hundreds of individuals and families in the Western Up-county year round and manages the Christmas and Thanksgiving baskets and Toys for Tots programs.

WUMCO executive director Jane Stearns points out that the funds raised from the program are important to the organization. For example, WUMCO received almost \$2400 from the 2006 Thanksgiving in February program, representing around three percent of the organization's cash

Although he is considered a master of haute cuisine, many of his cooking methods and recipes are reminiscent of his early years growing up on his family's farm near Lyon, France. His new cookbook combines a simple method with sophisticated flavors.

Braise is defined as to cook (meat) by searing in fat, and then slowly simmering in a covered dish with scant moisture. Mr. Boulud says, "Braising is to cooking what blues is to music." I have adapted the recipe below from his new cookbook. It is easy to make, and does not take too much time. This dish is ideal for a dinner party. The best part is that it can be made a day or two in advance, and reheated gen-

budget for the year. Questions or further information? Call Jane Stearns at WUMCO 301-972-8481.

Silent Sex Appeal, *The Son of the Sheik* (1926)

Rudolph Valentino's last film features swash-buckling romance at its silent finest. Decidedly better than its prequel five years earlier, *The Sheik*, this blockbuster would have reestablished Valentino's career, had he lived (he died just before its release). Accompanied by the live Wurlitzer organ, the film will be shown at the Weinberg Center for the Arts on February 9 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. For more details, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-228-2828.

The American Spiritual Ensemble

The American Spiritual Ensemble was founded by Everett McCorvey in 1995. Its members have sung in theaters and opera houses around the world, including the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, Houston Grand Opera, and abroad in Italy, Germany, Britain, Scotland, Spain, and Japan. The repertoire ranges from opera to spirituals to Broadway. The

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tly in a 275° to 300° oven. It actually tastes better the next day. Round out the meal with mashed potatoes and a salad of winter greens. Add a medium-bodied red wine. Bon appétit.

Tender Beef with Horseradish

1 beef bottom round, about three pounds
Salt
Freshly-ground black pepper
1 tablespoon flour
¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
1 large onion, cut into large dice
20 juniper berries (if you can't find them, substitute ½ teaspoon allspice)
1 tablespoon tomato paste
¼ cup red wine vinegar
¾ cup vodka
¾ cup red wine
2 large parsnips, peeled, trimmed, and cut into large dice
1 large turnip, peeled, trimmed, and cut into large dice
1 small celery root, peeled, trimmed, and cut into quarters (if you can't find it, substitute 2 stalks coarsely chopped celery)
3 bay leaves
2 tablespoons chopped dill (fresh), or 1 tablespoon of dried dill
5 ounces finely-grated fresh horseradish or ¼ cup prepared horseradish, drained
½ cup heavy cream - to reduce fat content, I omitted the cream and served the horseradish on the side.
Center a rack in the oven and

preheat to 300° F.

Pat the beef dry and season with salt and pepper. Dust the beef with the flour. Warm the olive oil in a cast-iron pot over high heat. Tip: I used my Calphalon 5-quart Dutch oven. Add the beef and sear until golden brown on all sides, about twelve minutes.

Remove the beef from the pot. Add the onions, juniper berries, and 1 teaspoon ground black pepper, and cook for 6 minutes, without browning the onion. Add the tomato paste and red wine vinegar, and cook until almost all of the liquid has evaporated. Add the vodka and red wine, and bring to a boil. Add the parsnips, turnip, celery root, bay leaves, dill, 4 ounces fresh horseradish or ¼ cup prepared horseradish, and 2 cups water. Return the beef to the pot, and bring to a simmer. Cover, transfer to the oven, and bake for 2 ½ hours. Tip: Instead of covering the pot with a lid, cut a circle of parchment paper, and press it down on the meat and liquid. Unlike an iron lid, the paper allows for some evaporation, which thickens the simmering liquid.

Whip the heavy cream into peaks and gently fold in the horseradish; season with salt and pepper. I omitted this step, and put the horseradish in a separate bowl.

Cut the beef into ½-inch thick slices, and serve in a deep serving dish covered with the braising liquid and the cooked vegetables.

Tools of the Trade

By Maureen O'Connell

Do you hate to chop onions? I do. No matter what trick I used, I always ended up crying. I also know the proper way to cut an onion, but, very often, the resultant pieces were of irregular size and shape. There are many chopping devices on the market, and I have tried several of them. Most of them made a mess out of whatever you were supposedly dicing or chopping, and they were a pain to clean. They are now in the out-of-the-way cabinet above the fridge, along with the seldom- or never-used peanut butter maker and the yogurt machine. Recently, I was browsing in the Williams-Sonoma store in Mazza Galleria in Chevy Chase. I noticed a sturdy, heavy plastic device that promised to easily slice and dice small vegetables such as onions, garlic, shallots, and mushrooms. You could also chop soft and hard fruits, like straw-

berries, mangoes, and apples. It was \$29.95. I had not bought anything for myself that day, so I forked over my money for it. When I got home, I was anxious to see how well it worked, or, did not work. I tried chopping an onion. By golly, it worked! No, it worked wonderfully! There are two interchangeable cutting surfaces that provide four different grids that allow you to cut food into slices or three sizes of dice. The food drops into a 2½ cup measuring container below. You lay the food on the cutting grid, and with one hard press of the hinged frame, you have perfectly chopped, diced, or sliced food. I actually look forward now to chopping onions. I am not a total kitchen tool freak, but when I find one that works, and is not a piece of junk, I highly recommend it. Make your cooking chores a little easier, and buy this nifty tool.

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In the Garden

Gardening by the Map

By Maureen O'Connell



Camellia blooming in January at the Pavilion at St. Mary's Church in Barnesville.

As we head into the second month of 2007, the question of global climate change — is it a liberal fantasy, Al Gore's Inconvenient Truth, or is there incontrovertible evidence that the Earth is changing? — is again a topic of serious discussion. At the 2007 World Economic Forum, held in Davos, Switzerland, January 24 to 28, one of the main topics for discussion was climate change. Top business leaders and policy makers from all over the world agreed that this issue is one of the most significant emerging risks facing the world today. It is also one of the most difficult to manage. In our country, many of the government agencies — the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) — who research climate changes, and develop and implement changes in this area, have been around the block with this subject for many years. It has become one hot political potato. Politicos often end up with weasel words and ambivalent, meaningless declarations that have led us nowhere. Global climate change has an enormous impact on the world agricultural and horticultural industry. This has, in turn, brought us to a contentious intersection of gardening and politics.

Closer to home, our weather, since my last column in mid-January, has taken on a wintrier feel. The early days of this winter have definitely been one for the meteorological books. They have not set a record, but there have been some freakishly warm days in December and January.

One of the tools used by horticulturalists and gardeners to determine which trees, flowers, and plant crops will survive winters in all areas of the world is the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map. It was created in 1960 by Henry Skin-

ner (then director of the United States National Arboretum in Washington, D.C.). It coded the country into eleven regions, determined by the duration of cold weather and lowest winter temperatures in each zone. Since 1960, the map has been adjusted, first in 1965, and again in 1990. With the growing concern about global warming, in 2003, the USDA sponsored a revised map, created by the American Horticultural Society (AHS). This new map indicated a creep of warmer winter zones. After the AHS published its findings and the map in its own in-house magazine, *The American Gardener*, the USDA rejected the map, saying that it was based on too few years of data. The government promised to study the data further and issue a new map. So far, there has been no word as to when.

I don't need a map to tell me that our winters have been milder. Meteorologists have described the Washington, D.C. area as the new North Carolina, climate wise. I grew up in Scranton, Pennsylvania, where the winters could be long, cold, and snowy. Several of my relatives lived in Washington, D.C.; I thought that was the South. I was wrong then, but we might be getting closer now to that geographical designation. All I have to do is look at my garden and other gardens in the area. I took the attached photograph of a flowering camellia, a southern plant, on January 13 in front of the Pavilion at St. Mary's Church in Barnesville. As further evidence, the buds on my pussy willow trees are fat, bushy, and open.

In mid-December, the National Arbor Day Foundation (NADF) published its updated plant hardiness map, which separates the country into ten different temperature zones. Its findings are based on fifteen years of data from government weather-monitoring stations, and reflect the theory that many areas have become warmer since 1990. Many states, such as Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, have shifted from zone five to a warmer zone six. This change means that your Aunt Sally, who lives in Vermont's zone four, can now try growing the stunning, new, dark-purple climbing rose, 'Night Owl,' which graces the cover of *The Wayside Gardens* spring catalog. Your brother Bill's garden in northern Wisconsin may be warm enough for White Flower Farm's beautiful Baptisia 'Starlite Prairieblues.' There are some advantages to global warming.

While using the Plant Hardiness Zone Map, let us not forget that the cold is not the only factor determining a plant's ability to survive and thrive. While extreme cold can instantly kill a tender plant, damage from heat can be more subtle. During our notoriously hot

and humid summers, you can watch the flower buds in your garden wither, the leaves droop, the chlorophyll disappear so that leaves appear white or brown, and the roots cease to grow. Plant death from heat is slow, so it is a favorable event that you can grow tender perennials in northern Iowa. But, the converse is that it is now too hot to grow the delicate, airy astilbe plants in my garden. Each year, I'm noticing that more plants in my garden — which used to flourish — are now struggling. The majestic Colorado Blue Spruce and the Canadian Hemlock, home in the cold, might now have harder times in our Monocacy neighborhoods, but the crape myrtles and camelias might have easier times.

The Plant Hardiness Zone Map is not the only tool we have in determining plant selections. The AHS has a Heat Zone Map. You can use it in the same way as the hardiness map. Cold and heat are not the only factors that can cause stress to plants and trees. Oxygen, light, day length, air movement, surrounding structures, and soil pH all go into the equation. Most gardeners can easily see how global warming can affect their plants, shrubs, and trees, but there are other elements that affect plant diversity. One of the biggest factors has been the

destruction, in the name of development and progress, of plant habitats — the cutting of forests, draining of wetlands, and pollution. These changing conditions open the door to new, highly adaptive plants, which quickly become invasive. "Bad" plants seem to have a better ability to adapt. This problem goes in another direction, as the animals that distribute seeds change the location of their territories. Southern bird species, for instance, may migrate further north as temperatures grow warmer. So, the domino effect continues on.

This quarrelsome confrontation between the USDA and horticultural groups is just the tip of the iceberg regarding the question of global warming. Many plant-industry experts caution about pushing climate zones. Some argue that anyone who has studied historical climate change understands that it is cyclical, and that we swing back and forth from cold to warm. The USDA insists that there is a distinction between what it calls "weather" changes, which are happening currently, and "climate" changes, which they say must be measured over a period of no less than fifty years. Is this distinction semantics, or is our Earth experiencing profound and irreversible change? Only time will tell.

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Local History

The Quarry

By Jack Toomey

If you grew up in the Washington metropolitan area from the 1950s through the 1980s, it is likely that you know where the quarry is. If you moved to this area after the mid-80s or are younger, then you probably don't know where it is.

During the time when there were fewer diversions like video games, computers, DVDs, and I-pods, young people from all over the metropolitan area flocked to the quarry during the summer for a day of swimming, lounging, and partying. It was a place of seclusion, excitement, and danger. There was a rope swing and two cliffs, one called Suicide and one named Beetle Rock. Only the most adventurous would jump off the highest point into the water that was believed to be two hundred feet deep. Urban legends per-

sist that machinery—a steam shovel, a locomotive—and even a serpent are at the bottom of the quarry.

There are actually two quarries. One, which was traditionally called the Little Quarry, opened in 1898 and was owned by the District of Columbia government. It supplied stone for the streets of the city and for the filtration plant. The larger quarry was opened by William H. Dickerson in 1900 and later sold to the Standard Lime and Stone Company. Workers mined crushed rock that was used for railroad beds. There was a railroad siding that ran off of the Baltimore and Ohio mainline to the quarry. In old railroad timetables, this siding is called Government Stone Siding. Several dozen men were employed at the site, and some lived in small shanties in the woods. The work was dangerous, and several men were maimed or killed at work. In 1901, Charles Jackson, who lived near Sugarland, was struck in the eye by a flying rock flung out by one of the machines. He was taken to the hospital in Washington and lost the sight in one of his eyes. John Jacobs, a

timekeeper at the quarries, was killed in May of 1903 when dynamite exploded. In 1905, a disastrous explosion killed a laborer at the site, and in another episode, a man was crushed by a bucket of stone, and fellow workers threatened to kill the operator of the machine. Local folklore suggests that during the 1920s, a worker, un-

-Continued on Page 11.



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At Your Service

Tuscarora Elementary's Steve Lockard: A Distinguished Leader

By Curtis A. Osborne



Steve Lockard

One of the most noble professions in the world is that of an educator. To mold young minds, to impress upon them the importance of education, and to open a young child's mind to learning and all the world's infinite possibilities, this is what great teachers do.

Good educators demand and expect academic excellence from the teachers and the pupils, but to be able

to do that, as well as to give a school a sense of family, of community, of a kinship between the PTA, the parents, the teachers, and the community at large, is a tremendous feat. One person who has managed to do all of this and gain a great deal of respect from his peers, students, and parents alike is Steve Lockard, principal of Tuscarora Elementary School in Frederick. Steve is also the recipient of the 2006 Distinguished Educational Leadership Award given out annually by the Washington Post. This is an award that the newspaper gives out annually to principals "who go beyond the day-to-day demands of their position to make an exceptional environment." The principals that have won this award have come from the D.C.-metro area, including the surrounding counties.

Steve received his undergraduate degree from Frostburg and his master's degree from Western Maryland College, now known as McDaniel College. He is currently working on his doctorate degree in Education Policy and Organizational Leadership at the University of Maryland.

He has been at Tuscarora for four years, one of those years as acting planning principal before the school officially opened; however, he has

been in education since 1992, all at the elementary school level. "I was a fourth grade teacher at Green Valley for three years and then transferred to Glade Valley in Walkersville the year it opened up," says Steve, where he taught second grade. With the encouragement of his then principal, he applied for the assistant principal position in New Market at Deer Crossing Elementary School. Not only did he work at Deer Crossing, but he also spent time at Spring Ridge and Brunswick. All of his experiences have helped shape him and his philosophies on education. "What's really important is the culture of a school. You can get a feel for the school by walking into the building." Culture is a theme that he brought up frequently and about which he feels strongly. Steve believes that a good culture creates pride in the school. "I want teachers who want to come to work. We are all partners in education."

That philosophy certainly has served him well. To top it off, he makes a great impression with the kids, too, in many ways. When you go to the fourth and fifth grade concerts, you will often find Steve sitting in with the band playing the drums. He has played the drums since the fourth grade starting with the snare, and he

got his first full set in the sixth grade. Growing up, he played in various garage bands. Not often do you have the principal playing in the school band. "They think it is pretty neat," Steve stated modestly. "They have a good time."

On being nominated for the award, he was indeed flattered and "pleasantly surprised." Several of the parents at the school, including Jennifer Kinsey, as well as the staff at Tuscarora and others in the Tuscarora community, nominated him for the award. When you walk around the halls of the school or talk to any parent, you see why. His positive impression is noticed everywhere. He has developed a partnership with the PTA Executive Board as well as his staff, including the assistant principal Tracy Hilliard, but Steve defers credit for it. In fact, he points out other factors. "It is a reflection of the school," he says. "It is a collective effort." He misses teaching, but he is a great visionary and will continue to do wonders for the school in his role as principal.



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**"Dawsonville Mennonite"
Continued From Page 1.**

he makes his mind up on something, he doesn't waver.

Dawsonville Mennonite Church was established in 1953 after the congregation took over the abandoned former Baptist Church (built in 1879) near the corner of Route 107 and Route 28. Wayne is only the third pastor of this church. Wilmer Hunsecker served until 1983, then Wilson Blake replaced him until 1996. "They were wonderful



Pastor Wayne Roberson of the Dawsonville Mennonite Church.

pastors, I learned and grew from both of them. They instilled in me a desire to read scriptures."

As a pastor, Wayne prefers being referred to by his first name. When he became the pastor, they asked him how he wanted to be addressed. "What have you always called me?" he queried, and with the answer, "Wayne," he told them, "then you will call me Wayne, just as you always have." However, many congregants prefer Pastor Wayne, but that is about as formal as he is going to accept.

Pastor Wayne is aware that there is much public confusion about being a Mennonite. "Many think they have to be born a Mennonite to be a member. There was a time...that was true. At Dawsonville, we are about fifty-fifty life members versus new Mennonites. We are an open church not a closed church." Many confuse them with the Amish, but actually, the Amish broke from the Mennonite church, not the other way around. "While we share principles of peace (non-resistance, turn the other cheek) and faith in scripture, they want to live separate from the world. We choose to live in the world to make a difference in the world." Modern technology is a full part of their everyday lives. "We believe in helping one another and

serving one another, we are very family oriented, very community involved. The church currently supports over a dozen missionaries in Africa, Russia, South America—all of the world."

Services are very worship-oriented, prayerful for needs of the church, the people, and the world, reading of scripture, praise and song, and a sermon based on scripture (usually done by the pastor but sometimes done by an elder). "We don't have a structured service, but a typical service lasts from an hour and fifteen minutes to an hour and half."

They have communion (grape juice not wine) four times a year, and twice a year join in a special worship service focusing on servant-hood by the washing of feet. "This usually is not part of a regular Sunday service but rather held in the afternoon. This avoids possible concerns of visitors." Members find the washing of feet a particularly moving spiritual moment, which allows them to personally experience Christ's own example at the Last Supper."

Sunday services are at 10:45 a.m. with Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 a.m., and there is a full nursery. Currently, the adult Sunday school is following a program called the Truth Project which is offered by Dr. James Dobson's Focus on Family organization. They have a youth group, an additional Bible study on Wednesday evenings, and fellowship at the church and in smaller groups in homes. The groups are determined by geography to make it easier for people to attend.

As for Wayne's journey to ordination, he, at first, became more and more involved in Sunday school as a teacher for both youth and adults, and in Bible study. He began to assist in communion and occasionally filling in with sermons. When the pastor position came open in 1996, he agreed to serve as an interim pastor while the search committee sought a permanent replacement.

At the end of a year, the committee turned to Wayne with a request that he accept the position. He had already gone through a long process of being licensed to serve as an assistant and knew that it would take another two years before being ordained. However, original apprehension gave way to prayerful consideration. He was concerned about lack of formal training, but the bishop told him, "When the Lord calls you to do something, it does not matter what you have done—it is what He does." He and Janice decided they needed to have a sense of peace about the decision. He understood that there really is no such thing as a part-time pastor. "Being a pastor is a 24/7 experience. As we

went through the interim period, I was concerned on the impact it could have on my family. After the year, I knew it wasn't going to be a major problem." In 1999, he was ordained by laying on of hands by the Bishop of the Lancaster Conference who was also joined by another half dozen bishops.

As a gift to Wayne upon his ordination, Janice gave him a pocket watch inscribed with Ecclesiastes 3. This is Solomon's famous general observation, which begins:

For everything there is a season,
a time for every activity under
heaven.

A time to be born and a time to
die,

A time to plant and a time to
harvest.

For Janice and Wayne, Solomon
might have added:

A time to teach, and a time to
preach.

A time to be a plumber, and a
time to be a pastor.



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"The Quarry" Continued from Page 8.

der the influence of alcohol, fell asleep one night and forgot to turn on the water pumps causing the quarry to flood. The quarry ceased operations in the 1930s. In the early 1940s, the property was purchased by O.W. Anderson, the county agricultural agent at the time.

As early as 1929, young people used the quarry for a recreation that sometimes ended in tragedy. On July 12, 1929, a Dickerson youth drowned in the quarry while swimming. The fire department used dynamite in an attempt to bring the body of the boy to the surface. In 1959, the Montgomery County Council brought up the matter of the quarry at one of its sessions. Neighbors testified that they had been bothered by nighttime swimming and disorderly youths. The owner of the property said that he would give the county police department permission to enter his property at any time to disperse trespassers. Despite the complaints, other young people drowned in the dangerously cold waters of the quarry in 1964, 1971, and 1978.

July of 1972 brought a horrible event there. A motorcycle gang, upset at a rival gang member, shot and killed the young man at the quarry and, after

weighting his body with cinderblocks, they threw the body into the water. Eventually, swimmers found the body, and the police were called to investigate. After an extensive investigation, members of the motorcycle gang were arrested and charged with murder.

Property owners again began to complain to the police about the trespassers in the 1970s. On at least two occasions, the police had to resort to using tear gas to clear the quarry of swimmers. On June 28, 1971, three Maryland State troopers were injured and thirty-two people were arrested in a confrontation at the quarry. One night, the Dickerson train station was set afire. Local people blamed teenagers visiting the quarry for the arson. During the 1980s, the county police had several confrontations with young people and tear gas was used to disperse the rowdy crowds. Eventually, cooperation between law enforcement and citizens working together ended the large-scale trespassing at the quarry.

Today, the quarry lies deep in the woods. Its rock walls bear the graffiti of earlier generations. No Trespassing signs forbid the young people of today from visiting, but the memory of the quarry is etched in the minds of the older generations who grew up in an earlier era.

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Youth Sports

The Future Is Now?

By Skip Etheridge

For those who were around when the Washington Redskins were coached by the legendary George Allen, you must remember the infamous quote that guided his team to the super bowl: "The future is now." At Poolesville High School, first-year boys' varsity basketball Coach Tom Lang has adopted that same philosophy as he begins the second half of the season.

"Everyone says we're young and that we will be a good team next year or the year after, but my intentions are to win now and let the future take care of itself." Lang, former guard for the Georgetown Hoyas, believes that there is a difference between having a young team and having an inexperienced team. "I have six seniors on my roster, but only one has had any quality varsity minutes." That would be co-captain Jay Lowe, the Falcons' leading scorer. Behind Lowe's leadership and classy play, Lang has been able to start two freshmen and one sophomore on most nights. Precocious guard Kevin Baker and burley power forward Brendan



Coach Tom Lang

McFall are fresh out of their eighth-grade classrooms but are not the least bit intimidated.

"Every game, I can see an improvement in these freshmen," Lang said recently. The sharp-shooting Baker should be a force to reckon with in the playoffs. While Lang is counting on the rapid development of his underclassmen, he clearly believes that Lowe has really risen to the occasion as a leader. Despite the early season stumbles (the Falcons started 0-5) Lowe stated that he has "enjoyed this season." He and fellow senior co-captain Jason Kramek have embraced their roles as leaders on and off the hardwood. The spirited practices make for a very close-knit team, and the competitive environment put in

Things to Do

February

Library Lovers Month

Month Long Special Events and Activities

Candy treats, raffles for local restaurant gift certificates

February 2

Glory (1989)

Weinberg Center for the Arts, 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: Adults \$6.00, children \$4.00

February 3

Dist. 15 Town Hall Meeting

Senator and Delegates will listen to concerns

Up-County Regional Services Building
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Potomac Community Library

1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Doc Watson - Legendary Guitarist

Weinberg Center for the Arts

8:00 p.m., Tickets: \$20.00 to \$30.00

February 3 and 4

Dance Theater of Harlem

Black Rock Center of the Arts

Saturday - 8:00 p.m.

Sunday - 1 p.m., Tickets: \$30

February 5

Public Hearing on Water Rates Changes

Poolesville Town Commission Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

February 7

Bedtime Preschool Story time

Quince Orchard Library

Two to six years old

Valentine fun, come in pajamas with stuffed animals, 7:00 p.m.

February 8

Cuddleups

Poolesville Library

Stories, fingerplays, and music

10:30 a.m.

Storytime for Babies & Toddlers

Quince Orchard Library

Up to 18 months, 10:15 and 11:15 a.m.

February 9

The Son of the Sheik

Weinberg Center for the Arts

8:00 p.m.

Tickets: Adults \$6.00, children \$4.00

February 10

Equinox Dance Co. - Children's Show

Cultural Arts Center - Frederick

Fourth Annual Children's Show

\$5.00 donation, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Chinese New Year Celebration for All

Ages

Performance, demonstration, and exhibits

By Gaithersburg Chinese School

Quince Orchard Library

11:30 a.m.

February 11

The American Spiritual Ensemble

Weinberg Center for the Arts

8:00 p.m., Tickets: \$18.00 to \$22.00

February 15

Free IT Seminar

Making Your IT Dreams Come True

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Mont. Co. Campus - Shady Grove

Sponsored by Corporate Network

8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Twosomes

Poolesville Library

Stories, fingerplays, and music

10:30 a.m.

Clean Energy Awards

Poolesville Public Library

Montgomery Co. Department of

Environmental Protection

representatives on hand to explain

how businesses and individuals can

switch to cleaner energy using alternatives sources, 7:30 p.m.

February 17

Gospel Concert for African American

History Month

Concert by Fairhaven Methodist

Church gospel choir

Quince Orchard Library, 2:00 p.m.

February 20

Homemade Kinklings Sale

Benefit of Carroll Manor Fire Company

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-Continued on Page 19.

Remembrances

Mary Elizabeth Thompson

Mrs. Mary E. Thompson, 55, of Poolesville died peacefully at her home on December 24, 2006. She was the loving wife of Albert Lee Thompson. Born on February 11, 1951 in Martinsburg, West Virginia, she was the daughter of the late Harvey L. and Ethel Jordan Besaw. Surviving besides her husband are her children who loved her very much: Patricia, Brenda, David, and Carol Besaw all of Poolesville; her brothers: Roger, Paul, Allan, and Kenny Besaw all of West Virginia; and her sisters: Clara Hess and Evelyn Franklin both of West Virginia and Linda Walker of Virginia.

She was preceded in death by one sister, Beulah Hanna.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made in Mary's name to the American Cancer Society, 11331 Amherst Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20902 (www.cancer.org)

Bobby Joe Cross

Mr. Bobby Joe Cross, 44, of Bunker Hill, West Virginia, formerly of Poolesville and Boyds, died on December 30, 2006. He was the beloved son of Margaret and John Cross of Bunker Hill.

Mr. Cross was born on May 13, 1962 in Toughkenamon, Pennsylvania and attended Poolesville High School.

Surviving besides his parents are two brothers, Johnie Cross and Michael Cross, sister-in-law Brenda Cross, two nieces, Heather and Holly Cross, and one aunt, Debbie Roderick of Frederick, Maryland.

Elizabeth "Libby" Hough Van Winkle

Mrs. Elizabeth "Libby" Hough Van Winkle, 41, of Boyds, died on Tuesday January 9, 2007 at her residence. Born on August 8, 1965 in Washington, D.C., she was the daughter of Hammet and Jaralyn Hough of Boyds.

Libby wrote a children's book and owned her own graphics design business. She was also an active licensed foster care parent in the state of Iowa and a foster parent to many children. Surviving besides her parents are her children: Caroline Margaret Van Winkle and Theodore Carson Van Winkle; three brothers: Eric Hough and wife Lois of Gaithersburg, Stuart Hough and wife Patricia of Urbana, Philip Hough and wife Audra of Boyds.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Libby Hough Van Winkle Foster Children's Fund, c/o Travis Dickens, Mercantile Potomac Bank, 21111 Frederick Road, Germantown, MD 20876

Elizabeth White Nicholson

Mrs. Elizabeth White Nicholson, 96, of Rockville, Maryland died peacefully on Thursday January 11, 2007 at the Rockville Nursing Home in Rockville. She was the wife of the late James Brawner Nicholson. Born on October 1, 1910 in Poolesville, Maryland she was the daughter of the late Dr. Elijah Wootton and Florence Pyles White. Mrs. Nicholson was a registered nurse and did private duty care for a number of years. Surviving is one nephew, Richard Culp and wife Cindy, two nieces; Darnell Knight Eller and husband Tom, Helen Knight Miles and husband Pickett and numerous great-nieces and nephews and great, great nieces and nephews, cousins, and by a dear multigenerational family friend, Jack Oxley. She was preceded in death by two sisters: Florence Helen White, Mary Darnell Knight, and one brother, Elijah W. White, Jr.

The family wishes to publicly express its thanks to Elizabeth Nicholson for being such a positive life model. She lived, matured, aged, and died with great courage and dignity.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of your choice in Mrs. Nicholson's name.

Virginia Foster Shreve

Mrs. Virginia Foster Shreve, 90, of Dickerson, Maryland passed away on January 17, 2007 at the Golden Living Center (formerly Beverly Health Care) in Frederick.

She was the wife of the late Earl T. Shreve, Sr. who died in December of 1965.

She was a member of the Barnesville Baptist Church in Barnesville, Maryland, where she was a member of the choir for many years. She also taught Sunday school, Bible School, and G.A.s. She was an active member of the WMU group until her health began to decline.

She retired from the National Geographic in 1981. She is survived by her daughter Shirley S. Yates and husband Daniel of Dickerson, Maryland, daughter-in-law Carole O. Shreve of Gaithersburg, Maryland,

She was preceded in death by her son Earl T. Shreve, Jr., four brothers, and four sisters.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Barnesville Baptist Church, Golden Living Center of Frederick, American Cancer Society, or the American Diabetes Society.

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**"A Series of Concepts"
Continued From Page 3.**

make up part of the conceptualizations as expressed as videos."

Two of Mike's current series are the New Portrait Series and the Line Paintings Series. The portrait series takes a look at identity; he puts a twist on the idea of identity theft. In his case, he takes photographs, sometimes drawings and paintings, and makes changes to them inviting the viewer to think of portraits as more than faithful renderings of the subject. What if only the eye is in the portrait, or just the forehead? At times, Mike stretches the features, or adds and deletes colors—always prodding the concept of identity.

"Crossing Lines," works from the

Line Paintings Series is currently on exhibit at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in North Bethesda until April 5. Here is an opportunity to take in the energy Mike is able to convey through his art. In this series, there is always a grid of some sort, sometimes more visible than at other times. The addition of pieces of other objects gives some paintings a noticeable texture, and in others, swirls are added, reminiscent of cursive handwriting as if a message lies beneath. "I want my paintings to look like something you have never seen before but remind you of something you have."

Mike Shaffer is also on the board of the Hyattstown Mill Arts Project.

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Local News

Editor's Note: The following recap of the Poolesville Town Meeting on January 22 is condensed from a report provided courtesy of Poolesville Online.

Report on Town Meeting Agreement with T-Mobile

The negotiations between T-Mobile, the telecommunications company that wants to lease space on the town water tower for wireless equipment, finally came to a close. Both sides had to give a little, but in the end, the lease received a three to one vote of approval (Mr. Kuhlman opposed, Mr. Hoewing recusing because of his employment with a competitor of T-Mobile). Commission President Kuhlman's objections that the rental was too low (T-Mobile's final offer was for \$2,000 per month) was the issue on which most of the back-and-forth centered. He said he was concerned that the other lessees (all except one of which are paying more than \$2,000) would seek to have their payments lowered when their leases came up for renewal or extension. The three commissioners who voted to accept the agreement seemed persuaded that the rate was not that much out of line with the rates of the four other companies who have water tower leases—Verizon, Sprint Nextel, AT&T, and Southwestern Bell—and worried about finding another lessee. They also noted that T-Mobile would pay up front a \$5,000 signing bonus for the twenty-year lease (more accurately, a five-year lease with the option to renew for three five-year periods). Like the other companies, T-Mobile will also pay a rental increase of four percent each year. For the past fiscal year (ending last June 30), such leases resulted in \$132,522 in income to the town or five percent of the total revenues in its general fund (\$2,639,513).

Street-Naming Policy Approved

The commission approved, with some modifications, the process of selecting street names using the criteria presented by the committee of Parks Board and Planning Commission members headed by George Coakley.

That criteria is:

- An individual who has at least ten years of service within an appointed or elective office in the town and is not currently serving.
- An individual who has made a significant contribution to the town or the broader Poolesville "community."
- A name with local historical significance.
- A name of flora or fauna indigenous to the area.
- While the Planning Commission will select names to recommend, they must first be reviewed by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission to

avoid duplication elsewhere in the county.

Town Reviews Ways to Control Speeding

Parks Board chairman George Deyo was on hand Monday night to present recommendations from their commission-requested study of options for speed control on town streets. He began by saying, "There is constant speeding on town streets." Mr. Deyo reported on four options that have been researched, and outlined the advantages and disadvantages of each. They included the familiar speed bumps (though the commission favored a variation of this, the speed table); redesigned crosswalks, possibly of raised asphalt (false brick); mobile radar signs (that signal to drivers the speed at which they are traveling); and community involvement. The latter refers to encouraging residents to report speeders to police (taking down license plate numbers when possible) and even providing some system on the town website to keep a running record of speed offenses reported.

The Parks Board appears to lean toward a pilot program of twelve speed tables placed on the four internal streets where the worst violations seem to occur: Wootton Avenue, Tom Fox Avenue, Spurrier Avenue, and Spates Hill Road. Mr. Deyo reported that the cost of each speed table would be around \$2000.00, though funds would also be required for appropriate signage (such as: "Warning: Speed Table 500 feet ahead").

From the Town Manager

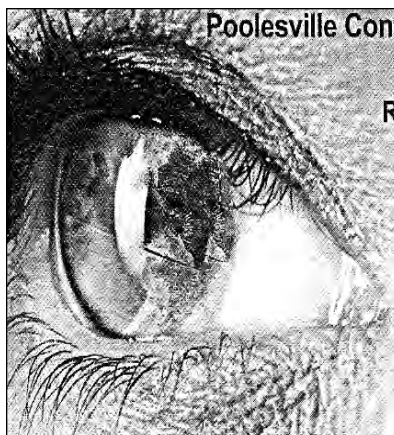
Town Manager Wade Yost in his report informed the commissioners that while the data are very encouraging that "I&I" work in Wesmond has substantially reduced leakage from the town's sewer pipes, final results will be provided after a period of heavy rains in the spring.

Mr. Yost reports that he is providing further information to Sen. Rob Garagiola in a joint effort to gain support for a possible \$175,000 bond (matching grant) from the state that could be used to help offset the costs of constructing the new town hall. Mr. Yost noted that the senator's office was "not too encouraging" about the prospects for approval in this year's Maryland General Assembly budget.

Skate Park in the Near Future?

The Parks Board has surveyed and ranked town-owned sites for possible use as a location for a skate park. Commissioner Klobukowski cautioned his colleagues that the board is far from having enough information before the town moves forward on the project. The town budget contains a line item for \$20,000 for fiscal year 2008 and the out years to accumulate funds for the building of a skate park in the event the project gets off the ground.

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The Pulse

Our First Responders

By Rande Davis

Possibly there is no greater tribute to the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department (UMCVFD) than the degree to which we take them for granted. Their quick response to handling up to one thousand emergency calls a year is something we count on and in which they take pride. Yet, it has not always been the case. Prior to 1947, those in an emergency situation in the Up-county area had to rely on firefighters from Rockville, Gaithersburg, or the city of Frederick.

Another community service organization, the Monocacy Lions, was the stimulus behind the creation of the UMCVFD. It is almost exactly sixty-two years ago that the notion of a local fire department began to take shape. The committee that formed to establish a fire department certainly had the heart of firemen since their fast-action approach created the chartered Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department in just four months. The signers represented the five communities of Barnesville, Beallsville, Dickerson, Dawsonville, and Poolesville.

A year after that initial committee meeting, the state of Maryland authorized a bond issue and approved a property tax of ten cents per \$100.00 assessment on property within its service jurisdiction. With a loan of \$30,000 and land donated by the families of Howard Griffith, T. Lloyd Grubb, and Carlton Van Emon, the new fire hall cost \$35,000 and a cornerstone ceremony was held on July 26, 1947. The building was completed and put into service in 1948. Charles Davis (president), Lloyd Jones (vice president), Erskine Hamilton (secretary), and Carlton Van Emon (treasurer) comprised the first group of officers. Bill Griffith was selected as the first acting fire chief since he had experience working with the Silver Spring volunteer fire department.

The organization started with a new Mack pumper-truck (costing \$8,300.00) and a chain-driven Cosmopolitan fire engine donated by the Chevy Chase fire department. The Monocacy Lions Club donated the company's first ambulance, a used 1948 Buick, costing \$2,500.00

UMCVFD has come a long way. Today they have two fire engines, one rescue fire engine, a tanker, two ambulances, two brushfire trucks, and two rescue boats. The sophisticated centralized dispatch system of today provides coded instructions to help firefighters

and rescue personnel prepare as they are en route, gives crucial information about the emergency, and even instructions as they arrive on the scene. In the beginning, fires were reported to members individually, and the signals were not much more than a plume of smoke and three sirens placed in Beallsville, Dickerson, and Poolesville.

An all-volunteer group until 1966, today's UMCVFD is made up of career as well as volunteer personnel. There are twenty active rescue and emergency volunteers today, with a minimum of five career personnel at the station during each twenty-four-hour shift. Fire and Rescue Chief, Earl Moore, has forty-three years of experience in fire fighting and emergency rescue operations. The other line officers, Deputy Chief Michael White, Fire Lieutenant Joe Brown, and shift captains Adam Pegler, Mario Reda, and Tim Thorne, join him.

Racing out to help people in need up to three times a day is not the only thing UMCVFD does for the community. Personnel play an important educational role by making presentations at schools and groups and their website always provides updated and seasonal safety tips. Every school child knows their fire safety mantra of stop, drop, and roll for those whose clothing may have caught fire. From chemical safety to electrical, gas, and generator safety concerns, they are looking out for you. They are also the coordinating organization for the spectacular Fourth of July fireworks held nearly every year, and they delight area children with their Santa Breakfast and a fire engine tour of Poolesville every Christmas. Every other year, near prom time, UMCVFD holds an impressive accident-rescue demonstration at the high school to drive home the dangers of drinking and driving.

All this good volunteer work doesn't come free. Much is paid for through property taxes, of course, but many other things are not. Not all maintenance and new equipment purchases are on budget, so the fire company relies on another public service group within its ranks: the Auxiliary, originally called the Ladies' Auxiliary until 1982. In 1946, the first Auxiliary president was Emma Kohlhoss, and the group had a robust membership of eighty-seven members. They help raise money through their many bingos, dinners, breakfasts, bazaars, and picnics. They are the engine that helps power the fire engine. Of course, it is the generosity of all in the community in supporting their efforts that is so important. They help us and there are many ways the com-

munity can help them. You don't have to be an emergency volunteer to help. Auxiliary membership and corporate membership are just two ways that an average citizen can help. Direct donations are always appreciated.

When the UMCVFD first responders show up at a fire or accident, their professionalism, even as volunteers, is something well regarded in the community. A big part of the success of their service is that they have an attitude and perspective that goes beyond wanting to help someone in need. Unlike other more congested areas, they know that that someone in need is most likely their neighbor and quite often a personal friend. We, in this area, count on them and may even take them for granted, but one thing we do know above all else, as the people who find themselves as the proverbial friend in need, it is the volunteers and career staff of UMCVFD who are the friends in deed.

"Youth Sports" Continued From Page 12.

place by Coach Lang is starting to reap benefits as the Falcons have won five of their last six games. "All the guys work hard out here, and when called upon in a game, they really step up," Lowe said.

With Lowe, Kramek, and Baker in the backcourt, junior guard Dan Camillo has been a pleasant surprise off the bench. "Camillo gives us instant energy and does so many of the intangibles," Lang said. Senior guard Kevin Dickerson has also logged quality minutes. If the backcourt is the Falcons' strength, the biggest question mark is the frontcourt where injury and a lack of experience have plagued the team all year. Junior Joe Miller, entering his second varsity season at 6'5", 230 pounds and the largest physical presence in the low post, is now out for the season. Lang has had to replace Miller with a rotation of undersized, inexperienced postmen. Sophomore Chris Soper has stepped up his play as a starter but is also coming off an injury. First year senior Rich Graham and junior Matt Robillard, like Camillo, provide hustle and energy off the bench and tenacity on the boards. On any given night, the talented young Falcons are capable of beating any team that they face; however, they are also capable of making critical mistakes, a sign of their inexperience. Under the guidance of Coach Lang, minimizing these mistakes is the key to having the future now at Poolesville High School.



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Mystery History

Mystery Remains Unsolved

By Rande Davis

In the December 8 issue of the *Monocle*, we ran a delightful picture of a gentleman sitting in a wheelbarrow being pushed by another person through the center of town. We reported that the gentleman in the wheelbarrow was Frank Davis, a former county sheriff for Montgomery County.

As described in that article, Mr. Davis won a political bet which had as its wager that the loser would provide the winner free ice cream, flowers, and push him through Poolesville in a wheelbarrow. We got a number of guesses to the questions we asked, but not many clarifications emerged. Dots Elgin informs us that the gentleman pushing the wheelbarrow and loser in the bet is Wallace Poole. A consensus did emerge that it was in the late 1940s, but a specific year could not be nailed down. Most people believe it was in the fall, but I remain a bit skeptical on that point due to the warm-weather clothes the gentlemen in the picture were wearing.

Everyone agrees they are facing the Poolesville National Bank (a.k.a former town hall and soon to be a Civil

War museum sponsored by the Historic Medley District, Inc.). No one in town has identified any of the other gentlemen witnessing the event. We went to some of our best sources, including Mary Chiswell, but still nothing to add. Frank Davis's son lives in California, and he was not able to add to our query either.

Mr. Jack Davis of Dickerson corrected one error in our story. We reported that Frank Davis had been elected county sheriff in the 1950s. Not so, says Jack Davis, "Frank Davis was a guest at my wedding [in the late forties], and I know he was sheriff because I joked that now that I was married, he could put the warrant for my arrest away." That recollection certainly satisfies me, and we stand corrected on the election date of Frank Davis.

The question as to the circular sign in front of the building to the rear of the picture, some believe it was an Esso gasoline sign, and no one has disputed that conjecture.

The biggest mystery as to the particulars of the political bet will have to go on as an intriguing mystery. I would like to think that maybe is was

Frank Davis's election to sheriff that was the focus of the wager. Maybe so, but it conjures up all kinds of funny thoughts should we do something like that in this day and age.

Perhaps some shy reader is sitting there with all the answers and just wanted to see how far we could go in unraveling the mysteries. We can only hope so, and we only hope they will come forward with all the answers. If they do, I will buy them an ice cream cone, some flowers, and push them down Fisher Avenue in a wheelbarrow. I promise.



Reveal mystery, get ride.

Police Blotter

Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

The Montgomery County Police Department will begin a reverse 911 phone system early this year. In this system, automated calls will be made to homes with published phone numbers with specific information such as crime alerts, dangerous weather, or other emergencies. Residents need not sign up for this service unless they have unpublished phone numbers or want the calls to go to their cell phones. As more information is received, it will be provided in this space.

Present

January 1. Commercial burglary. Dickerson Market, 22415 Dickerson Road. Attempted entry, nothing stolen.

January 3. Residential burglaries. 19500 block of Wootton Avenue, Poolesville. Forced entry to a home, property taken.

January 5. 2400 block of Bucklodge Road, Boyds. Forced entry to a

residence, property taken.

Past

February 2, 1903. Detective Howlett and Deputy Sheriff George Meade, of Rockville, returned to Washington to try to find an Italian who was seen repeatedly in the vicinity of Potomac, Maryland, and who may have known something about the murder of Mrs. Jordon on Christmas Eve. The trail was lost near Boyds after the officers had been in the saddle for forty-eight hours.

February 3, 1898. Deputy Sheriff Carlisle shot and slightly wounded Richard Thompson who was wanted in Frederick for the assault on a thirteen-year-old girl. Thompson was seen boarding the train at Gaithersburg, and when Deputy Carlisle tried to place him under arrest, he was assaulted by Thompson who then tried to escape. Carlisle fired one shot taking effect in the back of Thompson's head.

February 6, 1898. Sheriff Thompson arrested Collie and Lee Coe who were wanted for disturbing church services. It was said that the Coe brothers entered the Union Church

at Hunting Hill and began disturbing the meeting by jingling a tambourine and making other noises. When the preacher left the pulpit to quiet the boys, he was assaulted and a struggle ensued.

February 11, 1953. Four persons were killed at the grade crossing on Summit Avenue in Gaithersburg after their car was struck by an express train. Nine train passengers and employees were also injured when the train left the tracks and overturned.

February 13, 1955. A three-alarm blaze leveled an eight-room frame house at Martinsburg, Maryland causing an estimated thirty-eight thousand dollars in damage. Police said that a man was in the basement trying to thaw frozen pipes when straw caught fire and spread to the rest of the house.

February 14, 1911. Mystery surrounding the destruction of the Summit Heights Hotel at Gaithersburg was cleared up by the arrest and confession of Charles Saffel, a well-known young resident of Gaithersburg. He told the Baltimore detective who came to investigate that he "liked to see people run."



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"The Truth and Nothing But"
Continued From 4.

least a respectful and fair hearing. The movie's producer proclaims that there is no debate, "the facts are settled." Forgive me for being presumptuous, but that doesn't sound like the movie is determined to give a balanced report. For them, there is no debate. My problem is that for me, "no debate" means "no questions remain." Guess that makes me a denier. When it comes to calling me a name, though, I prefer "skeptical" as defined as questioner—not because I think I hold a different truth. I know global temperatures have risen. Unfortunately, that fact alone is of little value to me.

Part of my skepticism is due to the amount of money banking on global-warming perils. Is that unreasonable? If you were a global-warming researcher, would you feel threatened by a colleague who disagrees with your research? If a whole college research department at a university is dependent on government funds and grants for global-warming research, is there not some potential for conflict of interest in findings that might undermine their grants? Are conflicts of interest reserved only to the business world of cigarette and petroleum companies? I guess I am a denier because I question that journalists and researchers are always pure and noble and rise above their personal interests. I guess I am a denier because I wonder why the University of Delaware's Center for Climatic Research states the film pushes alarmist views and questionable information.

Beyond the money, I am also a skeptic because there is just too much political gold to be mined fostering disaster expectations from global climate change I question using a highly partisan politician seeking a political comeback as the point-man to carry the message. Why? Because in doing so the film sings to the choir; it serves as a warning flag to independent voters, and, for Republicans like me, it is a serious turnoff.

I have questions because reports that we may be moving toward a drastic cooling period are emerging. (Maybe this is why the term global-warming is being replaced more and more by the term climate change. Is someone hedging his or her bets?) Do I really believe that we may be entering a cooling period? I don't know, and I have questions about that, too. However, if I say no to global cooling, what do I do about Nigel Weiss? He may be one of those crackpot scientists who gets a thrill out of challenging the others. (By the way, one famous crackpot challenger was Albert Einstein).

Nigel Weiss is professor emeritus at

the department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics at the University of Cambridge and past president of the Royal Astronomical Society, and he holds many other honors. He agrees with Al Gore "that man-made greenhouse gases have recently played a role in warming the Earth." However, he expands on that in stating that climate change is driven by many factors other than man. "Variable behavior of the sun is an obvious one and there is growing evidence that the Earth's climate responds to the changing patterns of solar magnetic activity." He continues, "Right now, the world is experiencing the latter stages of hyperactive period that lasts perhaps fifty to one hundred years, then you get a crash. It's a boom-bust system, and I would expect a crash soon. When it crashes as it did for thirty years in the nineteenth century, the Earth cools dramatically. It got so cold during one winter that the New York harbor froze solid." Then he states, "The science is anything but settled except for one virtual certainty: The world is about to enter a cooling period."

I wondered if Dr. Weiss's comments apply to the end of the last warming period that resulted in record highs in the 1930s. Then, just as dramatically, we went into a radical cooling period that led scientists in the 1970s to predict with certainty we were entering a new ice age.

It's much more than just Nigel Weiss, though. A recent issue of *Science* magazine questioned three of Al Gore's warnings: more intense hurricanes, disruption of the Atlantic Ocean's climate-regulating currents, and a rapid rise of sea level. In its November 10 issue, *Science* magazine states that the best theory and modeling still indicate that ocean temperature has only a minimal direct effect on storms. Does taking *Science* magazine in consideration make me a denier?

What about one National Academy of *Science's* study which stated that "errors of doing too little; the error of trying to solve the wrong problem, is as likely an error as failing to act."

I have even more questions. I have read dozens and dozens of reports that challenge the conventional wisdom by groups or individuals with impeccable credentials. In reading criticisms of these scientists, most often I find the response is more of a personal attack on them than in disputing their conclusions. It seems only those who challenge the conventional wisdom are the ones bought off by special interests.

I could watch the movie, of course. I could filter out the reported scenes of Al Gore on the campaign trail and shots of adoring audiences giving him standing

ovations. I could disregard one-sided attacks on the Bush Administration and pretend that it is not politically motivated. I could list every specific scientific fact that he states and do research to see if there is any scientific studies that dispute those specifics.

I will do that just as soon as others agree to expand their knowledge of the issue beyond docudramas, evening news sound bites, and an emotional eagerness toward worst-disaster scenarios.

In the meantime, I will proceed knowing there is global climate change at all times, that it is important to reduce our use of fossil fuels, reduce our dependence on other nations for our energy, that it is always right to seek a cleaner environment, and diminish waste through recycling.

I thought John's citing of economist

Robert Samuelson's perspective brought an important point on the issue. His column quoted Mr. Samuelson on the need for massive and significant technological innovation in stating, "The trouble with the global warming debate is that it has become a moral crusade when it's really an engineering problem. The inconvenient truth is that if we don't solve the engineering problem, we're helpless."

I agree with John and Robert Samuelson on the importance of technological innovations. That technology may be our most valued tool in helping to secure our future in periods of warming or in times of cooling is not surprising. The technological breakthrough of being able to create fire upon demand served our adaptability needs. It is no different today.

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"Big Board" Continued From 6.

mission of the American Spiritual Ensemble is to keep the American Negro spiritual alive. These amazing singers will be performing at the Weinberg Center for the Arts on Sunday, February 11 at 2:00 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$18.00 to \$22.00. For more details, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-228-2828.

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Free IT Seminar at John Hopkins University – Shady Grove

Corporate Network Services of Poolesville, a Microsoft Gold Partner, is presenting a free seminar entitled "Making Your IT Dreams Come True" on February 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the John Hopkins University Montgomery County Campus. Representatives from Microsoft will present Microsoft Exchange 2007 and its new unified communications features. Unified communications provide convenient, quick access to email, fax, and voicemail—all through a single inbox. Following Microsoft, Hewlett-Packard will present ProtectTools, a new feature of select PCs that prevents unauthorized access using SmartCards, TPM Embedded security chips, USB tokens, and other security technologies. Finally, Corporate Network will discuss its all-you-can-use IT outsourcing and managed services solution called PROSuite. PROSuite addresses such important issues and problems such as lack of training, the need for continuous infrastructure upgrades, and limited budgets. PROSuite was referred to as a "Dream Come True" by one IT administrator. For more information, call 301-948-8977.

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