

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

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The motorcyclists had many tributes to armed forces personnel on their way to White's Ferry.



You've seen this before in your travels on Route 28. Read all about the man and his houses in Profiles on Page 16.



Emily Ware, with Tom Lee and daughter Lauren at the home of Gail and Tom Lee. Read all about the Historic Medley Kitchen Tour on Page 6.



What better place to be than at Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard's one year anniversary celebration? Local News, Page 21.

Large Crowd Embraces Visiting Soldiers

By Rande Davis



Staff Sergeant Jackson (center) from Rochester, New York, was overwhelmed by the greeting he and his fellow recovering soldiers from WRAMC received. Mark Cody is on the left.

As the bus bringing soldiers from Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) turned into the parking lot of Poolesville Elementary School, the quiet of Saturday morning momentarily began to sound like the start of the Indie 500. With just slightly less than eighty motorcycles simultaneously revving their engines at the sight of the bus, the roar was nearly deafening. On the bus were forty visiting soldiers and family members from WRAMC heading to White's Ferry for a day of fishing, fraternization, and good food. They were soon to be overwhelmed by the heartfelt expression of support and love shown by residents in the area.

Poolesville's Bubby Pollen, representing the Montgomery County Hogs Motorcycle Club, and John Regan, representing the Patriot Guard, an organization that attends funerals of military personnel throughout the country, led the motorcade. Mr. Regan is on a personal mission to attend and show support for the troops by attending at least one funeral in every state for persons who had served in Afghanistan or Iraq. Also in attendance were members of the Tribal Club, other area clubs, the Christian Motorcycle Association, whose membership worldwide exceeds 100,000,

and individuals coming from outside the county including Frederick and Hagerstown.

Every telephone pole in town had an American flag to honor the soldiers' visit. As they progressed toward White's Ferry, small groups of people, scattered along the way, were waving as the bus went by. Shopkeepers and other business people left their stores long enough to wave also.

The supporters greeting the WRAMC bus at White's Ferry was estimated to be at least four hundred (more when considering many came and went throughout the day). The crowd was so large it overflowed the White's Ferry pavilion and filled up auxiliary tents and the picnic tables.

Father George Reid – A Man of God and Country

By Rande Davis

This year is the bicentennial for St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Barnesville. As the festivities and celebrations begin, there is no better place for the Monocle to start its coverage of this momentous achievement than with a man who has meant so much to the parish and the community — Father George B. Reid.

As the pastor of St. Mary's since 1966, Father Reid has given his heart and soul for over forty years in service to his church as well as his community. As to the number of souls he helped save, we cannot be certain since God will decide that, but, as to the number of friends he has made, we have that answer, and it is legion.

As a boy growing up in Brooklyn in a family of eleven boys and one girl, we can only imagine that this is where he first learned one of the lessons in life that he so wonderfully manifests — an ability to befriend regardless of faith or differences, yet always holding to his own convictions. Growing up in Brooklyn during the Depression was the foundation for another trademark of the good Father,

The turnout filled the parking lot completely requiring many cars to park on the side of the road.

Staff Sergeant Jackson from Rochester, New York, leaning on his cane with a Liberty Eagle handle, spoke for the group when he said, "This is such an overwhelming thing to be greeted like this. You can't imagine what it means to talk and shake hands with everyone. Everyone here is so great and we appreciate what they have done so much."

Paul Kelly, Roger Stipperry, Richard McKnight, and Carl Hobbs are the originators of the "Support the Troops at White's Ferry" event which began with the goal of giving the guys and

-Continued on Page 13..



Fellow Lion Cliff Neal visited Father Reid earlier this month.

that of blending a sense of seriousness with a renowned quick wit and sense of humor.

Before he answered the Almighty's call, George Reid answered the call from Uncle Sam, and he proudly served for four years in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Officially, he was a Pharmacist Mate, 3rd Class, but it was not unusual for him to be in the position of being the only "medical" personnel at hand. In our recent visit earlier this month, we opined that it was a rather unique career transition from being a "drug dealer" to a priest. Smiling broadly, he leaned forward in his chair, laughed, and shook his head to show that he never quite saw it that way before.

Father attended Seton Hall University in South Orange, New

-Continued on Page 8.

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Dot Fowler, Lib Tolbert, Barnesville Commissioner Luke Fedders, Patty Menke and Jane Fowler on Barnesville election day May 7 in front of newly renovated Town Hall.



Kunzang Paylul Choling Buddhist Temple on River Road had its annual spring festival open house for families on May 12.



Checking them in at Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard's one year anniversary celebration.



Suzette and Angelo Bizzarro entering Town Hall to vote.



Event organizers (from the left) Roger Stripperry, Carl Hobbs, and Richard McKnight and 50/50 raffle winners Elaine Long and Dan Turner (center), along with DJ Val Dickerson (right). Dan and Elaine graciously donated part of their proceeds back to Fisher House.



The motorcycle procession going through Poolesville on the way to White's Ferry.



Scouts from Cub Scout Pack 694 weeded and mulched the front entrance to the Tama in the Woods neighborhood as a service project. Pictured from left to right are Brandon Kocur, Mason Dominici, Gabriel Reiziss, Stefan Gross, Bryce McKenney, Owen and Perry Dominici, John Sartschev, Derek Larson, and Andrew Kocur. Also helping but not in the picture were Jack and Alex O'Donnell, Mrs. O'Donnell, Mrs. Reiziss, Mr. Larson, and Mrs. Kocur.

The right two pictures are from the Town of Poolesville Fishing Day.

Focus on Business

Tom Kettler: Building More Than Homes

By Rande Davis

When Tom Kettler, vice president of Kettler Forlines Homes, had to decide where to live, he had more than a few choices to consider. Kettler Forlines Homes has built residential communities for thirty years and he had, literally, scores of places from which to choose. With four children, two dogs, and a cat, Tom and his wife, Debbie, knew that home meant more than bricks and mortar. The community they would choose was most important to them. With so many choices, decisions sometimes can be challenging, but for the Kettlers, selecting Poolesville was simple. When Tom first came to Poolesville on an errand, he was so attracted to the town he got side-tracked by just riding around intrigued by its charm. Tom fondly remembers taking White's Ferry as a child and enjoys taking the Ferry whenever he heads to Virginia.

Born in Washington, D.C. and raised in Bethesda, he is a graduate of Walt Whitman High School where he was the editor of the school newspaper. (If he weren't so busy maybe we could get him to help out with the *Monocle* once in a while.)

Growing up, Kettler acquired a strong work ethic from taking on tasks in the family's home-building business. He went on to graduate from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The political science major with an eye toward a law degree had a change of heart and decided to join his brother Dick and his cousin, Kip Forlines, in the third generation of family home builders: Kettler Forlines Homes

It was in Bethesda that he and Debbie, both single parents, met and eventually joined their two families. They are both active in their church, Prince of Peace Lutheran, and it isn't surprising that the church put Tom to work on—what else—the building committee.

For the Kettlers, being in a community is one thing, being part of it is another. Even though they have only been living in the Woods of Tama since 2000, both Tom and Debbie have immersed themselves in many community groups and causes.

Debbie has been busy helping the Historic Medley District with the fundraising goals by designing the recent brochure for its Kitchen Tour earlier this month. The Kettlers have opened up their home to host a reception for the

sponsors of the Sandy Cameron Music Benefit concerts to honor those major sponsors who have contributed to this important music program that benefits the Poolesville area cluster of schools. Debbie also stays busy as a student at Hood College in Frederick.

It's not unusual for any businessman to join the local chamber, but Tom has carried a heavy load in the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce in leadership by serving as its president for three years. He is currently the secretary of the organization. His work on the Chamber also included its very important high school graduate scholarship program funded by the annual Poolesville Day 5-K race. Tom has enjoyed his work on the Chamber and is passionate because local businesses help make Poolesville a special place to live.

In a town proud of its volunteer tradition, he has chaired the important Board of Supervisors of Elections for the Town of Poolesville. The Board did an outstanding job of putting together the recent special election even though they had very little time to pull it off.

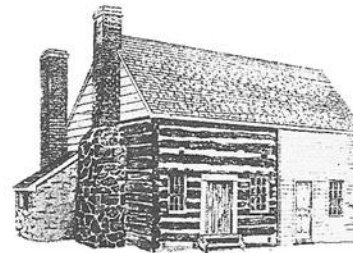
He also is a board member of Heritage Montgomery, affording him the opportunity to work on issues relating to history, which is one of his personal passions.

Some volunteer jobs are more enjoyable than others, and one of his favorite contributions has been helping to teach a third grade junior achievement class about city planning at Poolesville Elementary School and teaching about the needs of environmental protection to the students in the Poolesville High School Global Ecology Magnet Program.

His volunteer work goes beyond leadership roles to include the nitty-gritty tasks involved in the Rebuilding Together program, which helps senior homeowners in the area who cannot afford to maintain their property. This past month, you could have found Tom on top of a shed replacing a bad roof or helping to haul in a very needed new (albeit used) stove for the owners of the household.

Recently, Tom ran across a historic wooden covered bridge that was for sale. Recognizing its scenic contribution, he bought it to be placed in Kettler Forlines Homes's newest project, Brightwell Crossing. "I knew that it fit perfectly with the character and image of Poolesville and wanted it to be placed in the new community."

Tom Kettler is a builder of new homes, but it is his devotion to family and community that drives his personal commitment to Poolesville.



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Commentary

The Babies

By John Clayton

Spring is upon us, Mother's Day just passed, and the gardening season is running amok.

I purchased a variety of heirloom tomatoes (Mr. Stripey is my favorite) and other organically grown vegetables for my annual attempt at a vegetable garden. I have had good moments and bad moments over the years, with commensurate results. Weeds and insects have almost always won in the end, although the former have been somewhat rebuffed with landscape fabric, or whatever they call that stuff. It is extremely expensive, by the way. If cheap, exploited third world labor can keep the price of designer clothing down, why can't they do the same for landscape fabric?

While considering the cost-of-goods grown, I observed that when growing vegetables, as with many things in life, one must value the trip, not the destination. If one adds up the cost of the plants, landscape fabric, mulch, fertilizer (our very organic donkeys have been of some help here), cages, stakes, sunscreen, band-aids, ibuprofen, and my own hapless labor to put all this together, water it, and otherwise maintain it throughout the growing season, the total expenditure, measured against my inconsistent results, is probably laughable. I am not alone on this. While perusing Amazon.com (keyword: tomato) I noted that there is a humorous book in a similar vein entitled *The \$64.00 Tomato*. I may buy it just to discover the author's secret to holding down his unit cost.

In addition to my fiscal irresponsibility, I feel somewhat guilty when I adopt young vegetable plants. I am responsible for their care and feeding, and always feel bad and more than a little embarrassed when things go south. While I enjoy the association of my neighbor and colleague, our Garden writer and Humble Chef Maureen O'Connell, I have always avoided letting her see my vegetable garden. Maybe this is the year it will all come together. After all, with global warming and all that carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, these plants have got to

be happier than ever. In fact, many of the "global warming is bunk" articles that are so kindly sent to me mention that many plants are indeed thriving in all this coal and oil-fired carbon dioxide that permeates our atmosphere. I hope this is some comfort to the plants in my garden.

I bought the vegetables at Green Earth Goods in Clarksburg. Green Earthling Scott Richards, while helping me load my car, mentioned that proprietor Niki Lewis would expect pictures of my results "because she



considers them all her babies." This is very similar to what I heard some time ago while working on an article about Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard, and specifically Mike McGarry, who made reference to caring for his babies (this refers to the wine grapes he grows, in case you are wondering). Others at SMV also said that Mike spends much time "checking on his babies." This will make me feel even worse when my plants turn south. A man who can neglect to feed or water his garden for a week or two does not want to imagine they are his babies. It's bad enough to be a bad gardner without being a deadbeat dad as well. I suppose I can sneak over and take a few pictures of Maureen's garden if that picture thing comes up again. All tomato plants pretty much look alike, right?

The successful vegetable gardener's reward, of course, is an abundance of excellent produce at the exact time that similar excellent local produce appears in the grocery stores and at roadside stands. Maybe your homegrown produce is that much better than theirs. Bully for you. Mr. Stripey and I really don't care. At least the rabbits and ground-hogs love us, and we are striking a blow against climate change.

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Center Stage

Making Tracks

By Dominique Agnew

So, you are contemplating marriage, are you? Well, gentlemen, have you been practicing? Practicing? you say. Of course, do you really think your wife will appreciate your guzzling milk straight from the carton, wiping your mouth on your sleeve, then burping—loudly? Why not fix all these obnoxious little Single Man things now? If you wait until after you're married, then you may come to resent your wife's so-called nagging. Does this seem biased against men? Well, women are perfect, aren't they?

One day, Paul Stregevsky, of Poolesville, had a similar conversation with his then-roommate, who was soon to be married. He may not have said the women-are-perfect bit, but he must have been thinking it. This chat turned into a tiny seed that germinated into his first musical, *Marriage At Work*. It's an oft-repeated phrase that marriage is hard work, but what if a class in marriage skills were offered, sort of a night class? Over eight weeks, the class would cover eight different skills that the students would have to practice each week—while at work. This is the basic premise of *Marriage At Work*. Needless to say, by the end of the musical, a couple finds true love at work, but it wasn't easy.

Paul didn't just dive into writing musicals blindly. He had already been writing parodies for years, cleverly replacing the lyrics of familiar songs with humorous ones on life or people. The Who's "My Generation" became "PlayStation Generation;" and "When I Was a Lad" from Gilbert and Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore* became "Sovereign of S & T" about then Under Secretary Jay M. Cohen of Homeland Security. It hadn't taken long for Paul's colleagues at the Science and Technology Department of Homeland Security, where he has worked as a technical writer since 2006, to enlist him and his special talent. Also, in his case at least, it would appear that the Musical Writing talent is genetic. Paul's mother is still writing original musicals even now in her eighties, many of which were produced for the Jewish Center Seniors of Cincinnati.

When Paul decided he was ready to write a musical, after much prompting by colleagues and friends, he bought a book, *Writing the Broadway Musical* by Aaron Frankel, in 1993.



Paul Stregevsky

Marriage At Work took five years to write from beginning to end. "Some things just can't be rushed," he says. He hired David Snow, then of Gaithersburg, to create the orchestrations that were trapped in his head and to help him create a CD with full orchestration and the parts sung. He wrote it in part because friends and colleagues were telling him he had to write a musical, and he wrote it in the hopes that it would lead to more marriages, having noticed the decline in marriages and that people were marrying later and later in life.

While there was some interest in getting *Marriage At Work* produced, just as Paul was going to go all out to push it, he got sidetracked...by sudden interest in his second musical, *Tracks*, a romantic musical in two acts. Between 1998 and 2004, Paul wrote thirty-seven essays, twenty of them were about meeting people and the links that are usually formed between strangers even for just a few moments. Sometimes these chance encounters are forgotten; sometimes they remain in our memories; sometimes they become an integral part of our lives. In the case of regular commuters, a distinct community may form wherein the commuters become parts of each other's lives.

In 2004, Paul decided he wanted to write another musical. "I closed the book on essays," he says. "I put down the essayist's pen." To better understand his subject matter, in 2005, he changed jobs so he could commute on the MARC train. He then changed jobs again in 2006, the Homeland Security gig, but continued to commute by train, although he recently switched to the bus and the metro. He wrote parts of the musical while on the train using his laptop. At least two of the songs come directly from his train observations, MARC moments, he called them. "Watching women put on their makeup," he says, inspired

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Humble Chef

What's Cooking in the Kitchen

By Maureen O'Connell

The Historic Medley District hosted its First Annual Kitchen Tour on Saturday, May 12. It was generously sponsored by Toni Koerber and Gail Lee. The weather cooperated and gave the tour a beautiful spring day to showcase nine kitchens in the Seneca, Poolesville, and Barnesville areas. It was the kind of day that made you reflect for a moment on how lucky we are to live within the beauty of the Agricultural Reserve. Four of my friends joined me on the tour, with a noon-time detour for lunch at the Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard's First Anniversary Celebration.

The route of the kitchen tour was well laid out. As you could come and go at your own pace between houses not too far apart geographically, no one in our group felt exhausted at the end of the day. We began our tour at 10:00 a.m., and finished at 4:00 p.m. Along the route, we met other people that we knew, so our day included a lot of chit chat.

The first house we visited was Ithaca Farm, the home of Rob and Mary Truland. Only one word can describe their mid-nineteenth century farm — fantastic! The owners graciously allowed us to view the other rooms on the first floor, which were decorated with many works of art and furniture from their travels around the world. The kitchen was done in granite, stone, and high tech stainless steel appliances. A large granite island and a wall-high grey stone fireplace anchored the bright room. The fireplace had interesting, small protruding shelves that held whimsical ceramic sculptures. I was particularly intrigued by the ceiling lighting — a narrow track of metal with small lights and cascading, whimsical pieces of art. This one-hundred-acre farm is home to many horses, miniature donkeys, burros, llamas, goats, and other exotic animals, which are part of the Lost and Found Horse Rescue program which Mary Truland conducts.

Further down the road, we came to The Homestead, the circa-1900 farmhouse of Ben and Maureen Allnut. Most of us know the farm for "Pick Your Own" fruit and vegetables. The Allnut family has been farming in Montgomery County since 1763. You enter into the kitchen through a de-

lightful garden of irises, roses, clematis, and other flowering plants. Much of the kitchen is done in white corian, stone, and tile. Glass-fronted cabinets



Co-hosts Francie Johnson and Lorenz and at Ben and Maureen Allnut's Homestead Farm kitchen.

display a collection of colorful pieces of china and ceramic.

Almost across the rural lane from The Homestead is the eighteenth century The Springs Farm, the home of Sue Ewald and family. Sue is a noted antiques dealer and appraiser. Her kitchen abounds in wonderful, homey pieces—a long farmhouse table, dark colored Windsor chairs, black and white floor cloths, animal paintings, country crockery, and fine Canton ware. Her beautiful antique-filled home is a feast for the eyes.

Our next stop was in Poolesville at the home of local restaurateur Leo Bassett and his wife Betty. The house is circa 1860, with the oldest part in the front. There are two kitchens: the one in the front is the original one. It is delightfully bright and cozy with warm-colored stone and tile, and a long row of windows above the sink that holds a shelf of African violets, one of which is twenty-five years old. The kitchen in the rear is efficiently laid out with space and appliances for even a professional cook.

Winding your way through the subdivision Elizabeth's Delight, you happen upon the Dr. White House, the circa-1907 home of Tom and Gail Lee. Their daughter Lauren co-hosted the tour with her mother and father. The house is the original farmhouse of the former twenty-five acre farmstead. Previous owners renovated parts of the house. The Lees expanded the kitchen area to increase the work space, and let in light from a side deck and porch. A floral mural, by noted faux painter Betsy Koepenick, trails along the tiled wall above the cooking counter. In one corner is a weathered cabinet from the original kitchen. The front of the house is surrounded by a wide, breezy porch, decorated with comfy, white wicker furniture. Coming down the

broad steps of the porch, I commented to one of my friends that it seemed as if we were descending onto Main Street, U.S.A.

Off Jerusalem Road, you find a new home—the 1998 residence of Debbie and Tom Kettler and family. Nestled at the end of a cul-de-sac, it sits on a beautifully-wooded lot. The efficient kitchen is to the rear of the house, with access from several art- and curio-filled rooms. There is a professional stove, stone counters, and a middle island. The room combines the warmth of a family kitchen, with the high tech touch that any cook would love.

We leave Poolesville and travel down route 109 towards Barnesville. Before the MARC train station, your eyes meet the wide, flat fields of Glen Ellen Farm, the home of Marguerite and the late Clark Poole. The original farmhouse burned to the ground in 1930, and was replaced by the current structure. Maggie, as her friends call her, was born in Marseilles, France, and her country-French kitchen reflects her Provençal roots. Maggie is a great cook, and her daughter Mimi Schultze is a professional cook, who often hosts cooking classes in her mother's kitchen. A large, dark-colored granite island anchors the room. A professional stove lines one wall. It conveniently has a water faucet on its rear wall, making it easy for the cook to fill large pots. The granite island is ideal for rolling pastry. A long line of windows above the deep, double sink lets in light and views of the surrounding farm fields and gardens. Open shelves display a collection of colorful country French ceramics. It would certainly be a waste to have this efficient and well-planned kitchen if you did not love to cook.

My friends and I were getting hungry by this time, so we detoured to the Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard for lunch. Look for a piece about the winery in another part of the *Monocle*.

Back on tour, we approach the circa-1980 Maryland farmhouse of Potomac Hunt Masters Skip and Vicki Crawford. Coming up their driveway, you can admire their many, fine hunt horses grazing in the rolling fields. Canada geese enjoy a large pond in the middle of one hay field. Vicki's friends kid her about her tendency to collect much "stuff." Her kitchen delightfully reflects her wide array of interests, travels, and friends. I have spent many enjoyable evenings eating, drinking, and enjoying friends in her inviting, and cozy kitchen. You might also meet a dog, or two, or three while there. The kitchen is efficiently laid out. There is a

large, blue island that houses the glass-topped cook top and food preparation area. A stainless steel refrigerator is on



Emily Ware and Wicki Seamans in the kitchen of Rob and Mary Truland - Historic Medley Kitchen Tour.

one end of the island, and the other end opens up to a comfortable seating and eating area. A large, stone fireplace warms the room on cold winter nights. It is surrounded by comfy, blue upholstered cushions on the window seats. The large, blue toile-covered sofa invites you for an afternoon nap. The Crawfords' love of horses and the Potomac Hunt is evident everywhere. Vicki's kitchen says: Come in, friends, and relax.

The last house on the tour has the distinct honor of having, undeniably, the best view of Sugarloaf Mountain. The timber peg house was built in 1980 by Doug Stein. It is now the home of Sharon and Hap Bauer. Their large kitchen is done in bright white—appliances, cabinets, and countertops. A very large center island is the center of the room. Glass-fronted cabinets line one wall, and display a beautiful collection of china and cookware. At the end of the room is a seating area, warmed by a stone fireplace. Here, again, you find the beautiful, floral murals of artist Betsy Koepenick meandering around the walls and tile backsplashes. In this kitchen, you might not mind washing the dishes, as you can do so while looking upon the finest view of Sugarloaf Mountain in all of Montgomery County.

The Kitchen Tour was a delightful success. My friends and I look forward next year to another array of wonderful houses with wonderful kitchens.

Business Briefs

Wondering What to Do about Your Floors?

Mir Mozzafari, the former owner of Caudasian Rug Gallery in Poolesville, has relocated to Frederick and invites all his good friends and past customers to visit him. He has taken over a location at 317 South Jefferson Street that was a Burger Barn, so it will be easy to spot when you go by. He still has an excellent selection of hand-made Persian rugs in a wide variety of sizes and has expanded his selection of standard carpeting and wood flooring. He also has collectible items, antiques, and semi-antiques. He's open every day of the week, but if you want to make sure he is there when you visit, his phone number is 301-228-3388.

Something New at Our Oldest Store

Poole General Store in Seneca has brought in a full line of Adirondack lawn furniture, which includes the usual leisure chair and love seat but also has a selection of tables. What makes this line so special is that they are all made by a relative of the store's

owner, Raymond Poole. Of course, they have the full line of everyday landscaping needs, but what makes this store so special is the store itself. You don't just shop there, you get to experience the quaint charm and ambience found only in general stores at the turn of the century.

Gone But Never Forgotten

Our very own Debby Lynn has decided to close the Poolesville Tack & Supply Store, and she has terrific closeout sales in place right now. As you know, Debby has been our very popular writer for our equestrian column and will continue to help us in that regard. She hasn't reported any new plans, so if you are looking for an exceptional employee, here is your chance.

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This lovely stone home sits on a prominent knoll surrounded by mature trees, pasture and a stream. With more than 3,700sq.ft. of living area, the home features 4 BRs, 2 full BAs & 2 half BAs. Main level LR, DR, kitchen, sunroom, mudroom/ laundry rm & powder rm. The upper level houses 3 BRs, 2 full BAs. The 3rd level includes a large BR & half BA. Amenities include wood floors, 3 FPs, patio and gazebo. Additionally, the property boasts a 2-story bank barn, in-ground swimming pool, & stone guest cottage w/ LR, kitchen, BR & full BA. MLS#MC6046269. **Offered at \$2,250,000**

Poolesville-Westerly

Beautiful 3 BR, 2.5 BA home on large level lot w/ mature trees & fenced backyard. Numerous amenities & upgrades incl. FR w/ stone FP, totally renovated kitchen w/ silestone countertops, cherry cabinets, 20'x10' breakfast room addition, renovated BAs, oak HWFs. Additional features include a spacious Trex deck, replacement windows throughout, newer siding, gutters & doors. MLS#MC6121047. **Offered at \$489,000**



Poolesville-Wesmond

Poolesville-Wesmond: Charming 3 BR, 2 BAs split foyer w/ detached oversized 2-car garage. Main lvl LR., kitchen/dining area w/ gleaming wood flrs., spacious sunroom w/ vaulted ceiling, wall-to-wall carpet & exit door to deck, 2 BRs & full BA. Lower lvl boasts a large BR, full BA, cozy fam. rm. w/ stone FP, utility rm. & storage area. Great backyard w/ privacy fencing & 2 storage sheds. Convenient to schools, parks, walking trails & shopping area. MLS#MC6318033. **Offered at \$419,000**



Poolesville-Summerhill - Spacious 4 BR, 2.5 BA townhome close to schools, parks & stores. Entry foyer w/ wood flrs., eat-in kitchen w/ maple cabinets & new stove w/ ceramic cooktop, new Kenmore W/D, LR/DR combo w/ FP & French doors to Trex deck. Upper lvl Master BR & BA, 3 more BRs, full BA. Freshly painted w/ new carpet. MLS #MC6235384. **Offered at \$271,500**

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**"George Reid" Continued From
Page 1.**

Jersey before going to Catholic University of America where he was certified as a counselor. After graduation, he went to St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore and was subsequently ordained in 1953 for the Archdiocese of Washington by Archbishop Patrick O'Doyle.

His early days as a priest were spent at Assumption, Blessed Sacrament, and St. Ann's Parishes in Washington, D.C. As associate pastor in the former, he worked primarily with city youth, an experience, while not necessarily one that "trained" him for rural Barnesville, is still one he cherishes to this day.

In coming to Barnesville, his outreach to all in the area was evidenced by his many close personal friendships of so many non-Catholics. Many of these friends came from his being the chaplain of the Monocacy Lions Club and the Upper Montgomery Volunteer Fire Department. Of all the hundreds of graces he pronounced at Lions meetings, it might be said that he never gave the



Father George Reid in earlier times.

same one twice. Always spontaneous, serious, yet laden with humor, a grace by Father Reid could be counted on to bring a smile just before dinner. His style for grace would call forth our need to be grateful for the food just before making his special plea "hoping that the meal tasted good, too." The only time I saw him balk a bit in giving grace was the night we had pizza. Maybe being a youth leader for so long turned off his pleasure for pizza, but he begrudgingly led us in grace anyway ending it with "even though we

have to eat pizza tonight." Needless to say, the Lions never served pizza again.

One of the more intriguing stories about Father Reid was shared by one of his close friends, Cliff Neal. Mr. Neal tells about a one-of-a-kind Christmas caroling team in Barnesville. This group, largely made up of fellow Monocacy Lions, heralded carols riding horseback from house to house to greet homeowners in song. His description of the image

of Father Reid, mounted high in the saddle, dressed in black, and draped by a long scarlet cape-like scarf is a sight sure to be the envy of any superhero.

Carole Johnson tells the Monocle that Father Reid is known for his kind heart and quick wit, and that his humor came through one time at a community picnic at St. Mary's in the late '70s. He asked all non-Catholics to stand, and when the unsuspecting people stood, he promptly baptized them.

Christine Drescher reported to us that what she and her husband saw in Father Reid when they first arrived at St. Mary's in 1978 reflects what many others in the parish always knew. "We were greeted by an Irishman from Brooklyn with a warm heart and a twinkle in his eyes."

Father Reid's great friendship with Barnesville's Lib Tolbert was nourished on many mornings over cups of coffee at her home. Although not sharing the same religion or political preferences, they rose above such things and together came up with the idea to hold an unofficial Barnesville Inaugural Ball to celebrate the occasion no matter which party's candidate was elected.

In 1982, in celebrating their 175th anniversary of continuous faith, St. Mary's dedicated a special

book commemorating the event to Father Reid. In the book it is written: "St. Mary's parishioners have a great deal to be thankful for, not the least of which is the dedication of Father Reid to the traditions of the parish."

While not currently residing in the rectory, Father Reid is now at Arden Courts, 10718 Potomac Tennis Lane, Potomac, Maryland 20854. He likes sitting in a sunroom, which is filled by the sound of six chirping parakeets resting in a cage nearby. He also likes receiving visitors and friends there as well as reading cards and letters from friends.

As to why he answered the call for priestly service, we haven't quite cracked the secret of that holy confidence which he shares only with his Lord. When asked during our visit why he chose the priesthood, he smiled and, in perfect Father Reid dry-wit, said that he "thought I might give it a try." To others we have learned the answer has been a bit more serious. To Carole Johnson he replied, "I just wanted to do good with my life." As to the "try it out" part, the community in and out of St. Mary's is sure glad he did. As to the "doing good" part, we'll just quote someone who really knows what they are talking about – "well done, good and faithful servant."

Local History

Captain Burdine's Horse



Not exactly the right horse nor Captain Burdine but this is what he would have looked like riding back to his farm.

By Jack Toomey

Earl Burdine grew up in the Takoma Park area of Montgomery County. His father was the town's first mailman. In 1922, Montgomery County formed its own police

department and hired six men from the various election districts. Burdine, possibly lured to the position by promised excitement, talked to an influential political leader around town and, on July 4, 1922, was sworn in as one of the first six Montgomery County officers. In those days, officers rode motorcycles and worked twelve-hour shifts, seven days a week. They were alerted to calls from citizens by a series of lights placed on telephone poles or other high-standing structures throughout the county. When an officer saw one of the lights, he went to any phone that was accessible and called headquarters and was told where he was needed. Burdine was a man of high integrity and one day he was testifying in Police Court when a man accused Burdine of lying. The judge stopped the trial, jumped to his feet, and threatened the man with contempt of court explaining that he knew the officer and that anything he said was the truth.

In 1928, Burdine had finished one of his twelve-hour shifts and

was walking on the streets of Silver Spring when he was robbed and shot in the shoulder by a hold-up man. He survived his injury and returned to duty within a month.

By 1945, Burdine was the captain of the Rockville station which in those days was located in the basement of the courthouse in Rockville. The police district stretched from near Halpine, south of Rockville, northwest to Dickerson, north to Damascus, and northeast to Laytonsville. One day, a citizen called the station and reported that a horse was blocking the Laytonsville Road. An officer was dispatched to the scene and could not find the owner. As was the custom of the day, the horse was brought to the police station and quartered for the night. When no one had claimed the horse by the next day, Burdine ordered that the horse be tied to a post in the rear of the courthouse, be exercised by officers in their spare time, and be fed regularly. Six weeks went by and no one came forward to claim the horse. By law, Burdine ordered that

an auction be held on the courthouse steps. Corporal Day was appointed as auctioneer, and a crowd assembled to watch the spectacle. The horse was led around front and Day started the bidding at three dollars. When the bidding reached four dollars and seventy-five cents, Burdine stepped forward and upped the bid by twenty-five cents. When no one else spoke up, the auctioneer proclaimed that the horse belonged to Captain Burdine. Excusing himself from duty, Burdine handed his gun belt to an officer, mounted the horse, and rode the horse from Rockville to his farm in Colesville. He then sent the horse into the pasture and hitched a ride back to Rockville to resume his duties.

After retiring from the police department, Earl Burdine worked for twenty years at the Naval Ordnance Laboratory at White Oak. He died in 1982 at the age of eighty-four.

Local News

Exception Denial Provides Breathing Room But Not Relief

By Kristen Milton

The application that could have brought a sixty-employee landscaping business and its portable toilets to Dickerson's Wasche Road may be on hold for the moment, but opponents are not ready to let down their guard. "When they take it off the [Montgomery County Planning Board] agenda, it gives you a little breathing room, but it's just as urgent of a matter," Boyds Civic Association president Melissa Foster said. "It just gives time to plan a strategy."

Zelkova Landscaping withdrew its special exception application shortly before an April 26 hearing before the planning board, said zoning analyst Sandra Youla. She did not know if or when the application would be resubmitted. "The applicant wants to come in and discuss things," she said. "He will decide his strategy based on our chat."

A June 15 hearing before the county hearing examiner was also postponed. The Board of Appeals makes the final decision on special exception applications. The Zelkova application had detailed plans for twenty business trucks and six trailers as well as portable toilets for use in operations on the approximately five-acre Dickerson site. The property "cannot have any permanent sanitary facilities," Youla said, due to its geography.

The application was recommended for denial by planning staff. Youla said reasons for that recommendation ranged from fears about the proximity to a nearby home to the increased traffic on rural roads to the potential impact of the sewage solution.

"We found it not to be compatible

[with the area]," she said. "We found it, as proposed, a nuisance."

Area residents had similar fears, which have not been entirely allayed by the proposal's withdrawal from official consideration. "It makes me suspicious [of] whatever they come up with," said Jane Hunter of the Sugarloaf Citizens Association. "You know where they want to go, and they're just doing whatever they can to get their foot in the door." Any new submittal will need to be carefully considered, she said. Others were planning a proactive approach.

Cathy Hulley, president of the Clarksburg Civic Association, said the group would discuss a resolution expressing opposition to all special exceptions where septic service cannot be provided. The matter would be discussed at a May 21 planning meeting. Foster, who was asked to advance a similar resolution, said the issue would likely be discussed at the next meeting of her association as well.

If Zelkova is allowed to use portable toilet facilities as a primary sewage arrangement, Foster said, "What's to keep anyone from doing that?...They're setting a precedent for something that could be really problematic in the future."

Things to Do

Relay for Life
Fundraisers at various restaurants
See Big Board this issue

May 18

Mr. Clarksburg Contest
CHS Auditorium
Entrance fee: \$7.00
7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

May 20

Afternoon Luncheon and Live Music
Relay for Life Fundraiser
St. Mary's Pavilion in Barnesville
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
\$20.00 per person
Call Chantal Agnew 301-407-0001

Open House Celebration
Am Kotel Sanctuary Retreat Center
Beallsville
Music, drum circle, picnic
3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

May 21

Poolesville Library
Storytime - Ages three to Six
Stories, fingerplays, and music
10:30 a.m.

May 24

"My Hero" Poster Contest Awards
Poolesville Library
Senator Garagiola to speak
7:00 p.m.

May 25

Jake Perkins Falcon Golf Classic
PHS Boosters Fundraiser
Bretton Woods Golf Course
See Big Board this issue

May 26 and May 27

Swan Lake
Maryland Regional Ballet
Weinberg Center for the Arts
2:00 p.m.

May 29

Family Storytime
Poolesville Library
7:00 p.m.

May 30

Deadline for Purchasing
Bricks for Monocacy Elementary
School
See tidbits this issue

June 1

The Big One! Annual Yard Sale
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Across from Kentlands on Route 28
7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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Local News

Poolesville Town Meeting

The first order of business of the May 7, 2007 town meeting was the swearing-in of the newly-elected commissioner, Jim Brown. Mr. Brown won the special election with a vote of 370 to 96. Fifteen percent of the 3098 registered voters cast ballots. After the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Elections Tom Kettler reporting the official results of last month's election, Jim Brown was sworn into office by commission president Eddie Kuhlman.

Sen. Rob Garagiola and Assemblyman Brian Feldman opened the meeting with a presentation recapping the results of this past legislative session. They reported that state funds allocated for Montgomery County are slated to increase from \$471,027,234.00 to \$527,104,331.00 with the greatest increases for education (16.2%) and community college (21.9%). Senator Garagiola discussed the concern of the costs and quality of health care and problems faced like the potential closing of Prince George's Hospital. Both legislators indicated that the state of Maryland is considering the use of California as a model in addressing energy and environmental concerns. Some of the solutions they see include finding ways

to improve incentives to use alternative energy sources such as solar, bio-diesel and other alternative renewable fuels to help produce a cleaner environment.

With a \$30 billion dollar budget, the legislature will now have to face a \$1.5 billion shortfall. He stated that, along with expenditure reductions, new sources of revenue are being considered including increased fees, taxes, and slots are "on the table."

Brian Feldman congratulated Senator Garagiola in becoming deputy majority leader and spoke about his work on banking, science, and technology issues. In talking about election reform, he said that an early voting referendum allowing voters to cast ballots prior to election day will be on the ballot in the next year's election.

Both legislators then opened the presentation up for questions and the meeting extended into a forty-minute impromptu town meeting. Commissioner Tom Yeatts questioned both on concern over reported abuse of the legislative scholarship program. This program that assigns scholarships to be awarded through elected officials has had reports of such scholarships going to individuals closely aligned with the awarding legislator. Senator Garagiola and Assemblyman Feldman reported that they turn their scheduled scholar-



*Commissioner Kuhlman congratulates
Commissioner Brown.*

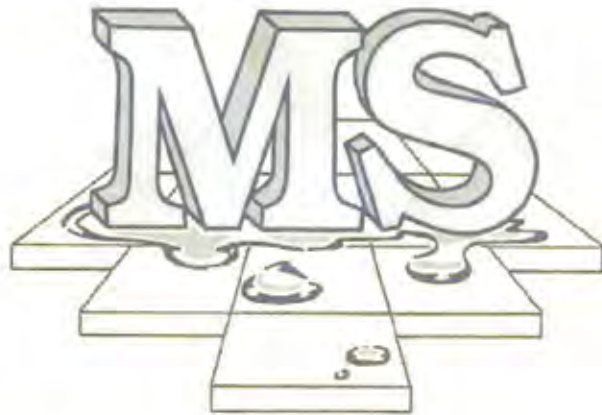
ship funds back to the Maryland High Education Commission so as to prevent a concern or even appearance of impropriety

Issues brought by those in the audience included concern over the negative impact of tax increases on small businesses, and another voiced concern over problems of unintended consequences resulting from legislative action. The capping of electricity costs in the past was used as an example. The new rapid increase in electricity rates is an unintended consequence of the past action of the legislature.

The general meeting followed, and after some discussion, the commission-

ers voted 3-0 to accept the public improvements agreement with Winchester Homes for their new development of Stoney Springs. This ninety-eight-home development is to be located across from Poolesville High School. The agreement (available online on the town website www.ci.poolesville.md.us) presents the details of the develop-

er's commitment regarding infrastructure which includes sidewalks, curbing, street trees, paving, storm drains, water, sanitary sewer, landscaping, etc. A commitment by Winchester Homes of \$1,150,000.00 is to be used by the town toward construction of a planned expansion of the sewer treatment facility or sewer infiltration and inflow repairs that could result in permitting the development. Another \$350,000.00 are allocated toward the cost of construction of the well site that results in permitting the development. Additionally,



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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present

April 18. 21000 block of Big Woods Road, Beallsville. Forced entry to a residence, property taken.

May 3. Montgomery County police detectives arrested Kenneth Lee Claggett, 48, of Frederick for the 1993 murder of Nelson Minter whose body was found in a burning house in the 18800 block of Bucklodge Road. Claggett had been charged with murder in 1993; however, charges were later dropped. More advanced DNA testing led to the new murder charge against Claggett who is being held without bond at the Montgomery County Detention Center.

On April 17 two female students at Clarksburg High School reported to school officials and police that they had been raped in a school bathroom by a fifteen year old male student. Montgomery County Police have concluded that the alleged rape was unfounded.

Past

May 18, 1938. Montgomery County Police were searching for two thugs who robbed an ailing Silver Spring woman as she lay in bed at her daughter's home. The woman, a Treasury Department employee, had been sick for some time and gave up the family's savings of more than four hundred dollars.

"Local News" Continued From Page 10.

\$50,000 are to be used toward funding the recommendations of the Planning Commission's Streetscape Committee.

Winchester Homes also has agreed to pay the cost of drilling new wells that may impact five nearby privately-owned properties that draw water from a well. This part of the agreement extends for three years after the new well is in operation.

Titus Trash has presented a new contract for trash service to the commission. Reported to be of significant increase due to fuel and topping fees, the exact amount cannot be reported since the commission voted to submit a request for bids (RFP). All commissioners voiced their approval of the quality of work performed by Titus Trash.

May 18, 1974. More than a dozen policemen were sent to Richard Montgomery High School to break up a fight between two groups of angry students who had begun fighting at lunch. Ten students were arrested and put on a bus and taken to the police station. Classes were dismissed for the day after the fighting broke out.

May 21, 1971. Aurin Little, the leader of the Pagan motorcycle gang, was missing and presumed drowned in the Potomac River. A woman told police that Little had jumped into the river and tried to swim to an island near Great Falls when he disappeared.

May 23, 1927. An unidentified man burned to death in his wrecked automobile on the state road near Dickerson. Maryland police had been pursuing a car when they found it wrecked and aflame. Police and passersby worked frantically to save the man who police believed was from Richmond.

May 23, 1944. Police said that the family dog of a Quince Orchard man bit a sixteen-year-old girl on her right hand. The same dog, a cocker spaniel, made a similar attack on her uncle two days before. The dog was placed in quarantine.

May 24, 1932. After weeks of undercover work and surveillance, Montgomery police raided a still near Layhill, Maryland and found a twenty horsepower steam boiler, a still, and two barrels of mash. They took the owner of the property before Judge Charles Woodward who sentenced the man to eighteen months in the House of Corrections after a guilty plea. The officers left the courthouse with the prisoner only thirty minutes after his arrest.

Town manager, Wade Yost, raised the concern over increased vandalism particular as it involves damage at Stevens Park. Adjoining residences have been given flyers asking for their help in notifying the town or police should they witness any problematic situations. Some solutions discussed included requesting greater vigilance by the Montgomery County Police, possible hiring off-duty security, and even creating a citizen watch committee. As regards the latter, George Coakley stepped forward to volunteer to be part of such a group.

Big Board

Good Times Can Help Good Causes

Relay for Life, a community-led group of residents raising money to benefit cancer research, wants you to know that when you decide to dine out, there are also good causes you can help. The following is a list of restaurants donating a percentage of their proceeds for the day to Relay for Life. Now if you overeat, you can always say it was for a good cause. If you have questions, email Chrissie.Harney@verizon.net.

May 18: The Frederick Keys game is Relay for Life Night and there will be a Popcorn and Movies night at Poolesville Elementary School from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (\$5.00).

May 18: Popcorn and Movie Night at Poolesville Elementary School from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Entrance fee of \$5.00.

May 19: Tower Oaks in Rockville – Crab Feast & Pork Roast (\$35.00 advance/\$40.00 at door)

May 27: Special Kickball Tournament to benefit RFL at UMCVFD starting at noon. For more information call 240-388-1170

On Sunday, May 20, a John Poole Middle School team will be offering an afternoon luncheon to benefit Relay for Life at St. Mary's in Barnesville from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Enjoy a repast of exquisite culinary delights to the accompaniment of live musical selections featuring Dominique Agnew on violin and Rick Normoyle on piano. Cost is \$20.00 per person. For more information, contact Chantal Agnew at 301-407-0001.

Shavuot Fest and Anniversary Celebration at Sanctuary Retreat Center

The public is invited to the Am Kolel Sanctuary Retreat Center in Beallsville, Maryland, Sunday, May 20, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for Shavuot Fest. Shavuot Fest celebrates the first biblical harvest festival and the event at Mt. Sinai when the Ten Commandments and Torah were revealed to the Israelites. Participants will have an opportunity to choose from a number of activities such as harvesting from the one acre garden (the vegetables donated to soup kitchens), listening to the folk music of the Country Klezmer, walking in the meditation gardens, joining a drumming circle, and studying the Book of Ruth. The public is free to picnic on the grounds. Shavuot Fest is free.

It's Not Too Late: Jake Perkins Falcon Golf Classic

The annual Poolesville Booster Club's golf tournament will be held on May 25 and has been renamed this year in honor of past Booster Club president, the late Jake Perkins. The PHS Boosters help the athletic department at the high school by raising funds for uniforms, transportation, field upkeep, along with filling in on many other needs that come up. The entry fee is \$125.00 per golfer (\$500.00 for a foursome). There are hole-in-one sponsorships available for \$100.00, lunch sponsorships for \$250.00, and dinner sponsorships for \$500.00. You can obtain more information by calling 301-916-3196 or emailing faejme@msn.com.

Clarksburg Celebrates 255th Anniversary

Come and enjoy Clarksburg Day on Saturday, June 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., in the "heart of old town." The town of Clarksburg will be celebrating its 255th anniversary with a fun-filled community event. Enjoy a day with family and neighbors. Live entertainment, mini parade, vendors, pet show, variety show, free trolley rides, historical displays and more.

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Tidbits



Charles S. De Bree and Cassie Ann Peckham.



Allison Leigh De Bree and Rodney Wayne Rivera, Jr.

Busy Summer of Weddings for the De Brees

Terry and Charlie De Bree of Poolesville will have a very busy summer this year with the June wedding of their son and the July wedding of their daughter.

A June 9, 2007 wedding in the hometown of the bride is set for Charles Schuyler De Bree and Cassie Ann Peckham, daughter of Pat and Tom Peckham of Erie, Pennsylvania. The bride-to-be earned a degree in supply chain management from Pennsylvania State University in May 2006. She is a product analyst with JDA Software in Rockville. The prospective groom is a 2002 graduate of the International Baccalaureate program at Richard Montgomery High School. He graduates from Pennsylvania State University this month with dual degrees in computer and electrical engineering and will be commissioned into the U.S. Air Force as a second lieutenant. Their website is CharlesandKathy.weddings.com.

The De Brees' daughter, Alison Leigh De Bree, will wed Rodney Wayne Rivera, Jr., son of Patty and Rodney Rivera of Bear, Delaware. The bride-to-be is a 1997 graduate of the Global Ecology Studies Program at Poolesville High School. In 2001, she graduated from Penn State University with a degree in chemical engineering and received an MBA degree from Rosemont College in Philadelphia in 2004. She is employed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Rockville. The prospective groom received a Bachelor's degree in education and a Master's degree in information systems and technology management from the University of Delaware. He is employed as a supervisor of infrastructure support by the Christina School District in Wilmington, Delaware. The wedding on July 7, 2007 will be at St. Rose of Lima in Gaithersburg, Maryland, the same church in which her parents were married. The couple's website can be found on Theknot.com.

MES Announces Extended Deadline for their Engraved Brick Fundraiser

If you now have or have had a child in Monocacy Elementary School—or attended MES yourself—this is your chance to help equip a new children's playground at the school. For \$35.00, you can purchase a brick engraved with the name of your child or other MES student (or your own name). You may have read on

this page last week about a much earlier deadline. However, that deadline has now been extended. The deadline is now May 30. For more information, call Dreama Hemingway at 301-349-5634.

Schoenbaum and Oberdorfer Lauded

As the *Monocle* went to press, Miriam Schoenbaum of Save Maryland Area Rail Transit and Carol Oberdorfer, president of the Dickerson Community Association, were slated to receive awards May 14 at the county's

Transportation Awards Ceremony held each spring in conjunction with National Transportation Week. The two women were to be recognized for their efforts in keeping the Boyds and Dickerson MARC stations open. The ceremony, hosted by the county executive, honors businesses and individuals for their promotion and use of alternative commuting options.

Fundamental Skills Lacrosse Camp with Coach Curtiss Belcher

Clarksburg High School and former Poolesville High School boys' lacrosse coach, Curtiss Belcher, will again be providing a lacrosse skills camp for boys and girls entering third through ninth grades. There will be two sessions: June 4 to 7 at Clarksburg High School, and June 11 to 14 at Willard Road field in Poolesville. The camp cost is \$95 per player. All players are required to bring their own sticks; boys entering grades seven to nine must also have all necessary protective equipment. Coach Belcher will be assisted by numerous recognized lacrosse players. For more information, call Coach Belcher at 301-788-8515 or email him at butkus5197@aol.com or curtiss_belcherjr@mcpsmd.org.

"Large Crowd" Continued From Page 1.

gals a day away from the care center. From that mission, the day has also become a very successful fundraising event to benefit Fisher House™, temporary visiting homes for out-of-town military family visiting an injured soldier convalescing at a military medical facility. There is at least one Fisher House at every major military medical center to assist families in need and to ensure that they are provided with the comforts of home in a supportive environment. Annually, the Fisher House™ program serves more than 8,500 families, and have made available more than two million days of lodging to family members since the program originated in 1990. Based on a comparison of fees at a Fisher House™ (the average charge is less than \$10 per family per day, with many locations offering rooms at no cost) with commercial lodging facilities in the same area, it is estimated that families have saved more than \$60 million by staying at a Fisher House™ since the program began.

A 50/50 raffle raised another \$700 for Fisher House with the winning ticket held by Karen Long, girlfriend of Dan Turner who returned from Iraq six months ago.

The food, beverages, and entertainment (Val Dickerson provided her DJ services at no cost) were offered to all visiting at no charge. Donations to Fisher House were accepted. Financial support came from major sponsors Edwin and Neil Brown, Frank Jamison, and Don Hoffacker. The long list also includes Selby's, Bassett's, Jon's Video, J.D. Beer and Wine, BB&T, M&T Bank, *Poolesville Online*, Dr. Eeg, Dr. Pike, Total Automotive & Diesel, the Getty Station, the Town of Poolesville, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue personnel, Sports Authority, and the *Monocacy Monocle*.

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The motorcycles were all lined up for the trip to White's Ferry.

Daytripper

Historic London Town and Gardens

By Maureen O'Connell

I recently had the pleasure of accompanying members of the Monocacy Garden Club to visit the historic London Town in Edgewater, Maryland. It is an easy one and a half hour drive down Route 50, making it an ideal day trip, especially for families with school age children. London Town is both important and interest-



Members of the Monocacy Garden Club at London Town.

ing from a historical, archaeological, and horticultural perspective.

Historic London Town and Gardens is a twenty-three-acre park located on the South River. It is owned by Anne Arundel County, and managed by the London Town Foundation. London Town encompasses part of the late seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century town of London. Currently, it is being excavated by archaeologists from the Lost Towns Project. Of special interest are the William Brown House, a National Historic Landmark house museum; an eight-acre woodland garden; and the Richard Hill Garden of native and imported medicinal plants.

London Town is not as large, grand, and financially endowed as historic Williamsburg, but it offers a small window into everyday colonial life in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. A visit is an educational experience for both adults and children.

The William Brown house, one of two surviving buildings from colonial London Town, is an imposing Georgian structure built between 1758 and 1764 on a site overlooking the South River. The river was an important link between Washington

and Annapolis, with travelers crossing the South River on the London Town ferry. George Washington would probably have passed through the town on his way to the colonial capital of Annapolis. The ferry was also used in the transportation of tobacco. Brown was an aspiring entrepreneur. He operated a ferry on the river, and there is archeological evidence that his house was operated as a tavern and inn. Today, the house, which you may tour, is furnished with linens, china, furniture, and kitchen utensils of the period. In 1828, the Brown house and ten acres were acquired by Anne Arundel County for use as an almshouse. It continued operation as the "poor house" until passage of the Welfare Act in 1965. It became part of the Anne Arundel County parks system in the 1970s.

London Town was a bustling port town and center for local trade and transatlantic trade. Its residents were merchants, tradesmen, craftsmen, and innkeepers. Archaeological digs are now finding hundreds of glass and ceramic shards, bone fragments, nails, bricks, and other architectural debris that give us a good picture of the colonists' daily lives. One interesting artifact found is a cufflink made during the French and Indian War (1755 to 1762). The inscription on the link reads, "Success to the British Fleet" — times and loyalties were soon to change.

I visited London Town on a beautiful spring day — the ideal time to view the magnificent gardens. They were developed in the late 1960s by professional and amateur horticulturists, area garden clubs, individual volunteers, and the Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks staff, and designed as a naturalized shade garden. There was no attempt to recreate a garden that would have been found in the seventeenth or eighteenth century. They chose plants that could be set into a landscape that is similar to their native habitats. The gardens were designed to be of interest and beauty in all four seasons. With this in mind, we find gardens within gardens. The overall garden scheme is divided into two areas: the Richard Hill Garden and the Woodland Garden.

Richard Hill was born in Anne Arundel County in 1698. Like many local London Town people, he was a ship owner and a merchant. He was also a trained physician, and therefore, he had a natural interest in

plants for medicinal purposes. At this time, many botanists in England and Europe were interested in plants of the New World. Hill was a frequent correspondent with Peter Collinson, a member of the Royal Society of London. Through him, he met John Bartram, a Pennsylvania farmer of English Quaker descent who became America's first native botanist and, in Carolus Linnaeus's opinion, the greatest natural botanist of his day. In Hill's garden, there is a living collection of plants that would have been known to the medical practitioners and housewives of the day. Some of these were probably brought to the colonies by the English settlers — horehound, fennel, tansy, balm, feverfew, horseradish, and mint. Near Hill's Garden is a kitchen garden, where all the vegetables and herbs were grown for a family's needs. It is said that a housewife in colonial times spent forty hours a week maintaining her kitchen garden. (I hope that she didn't have to take care of roses also.) The plants grow in neatly-arranged, symmetrical raised beds. Sapling tree branches and limbs are artfully formed into natural tuteurs and plant supports for beans, squash, and other trailing plants.

At the entrance to the Woodland Gardens, there is a spectacular collection of peonies of all colors and forms — both herbaceous and tree forms. Under planted amongst the peonies are thousands of daffodils and other spring bulbs. Next to this area is the Cook Memorial Garden, which houses a collection of flowering cherries, along with daffodils and peonies.

Right beyond this area are semi-formal beds overlooking the South River. They are planted with sun-loving plants and small shrubs — roses, lavender, lamb's ear, and more

peonies. Continuing on the pathway, you come to the Spring Walk at the head of a man-made stream. It is bordered by ferns, primroses, Virginia bluebells, violets, and other woodland wildflowers. Walking up a slight incline, you can admire the hundreds of azaleas, rhododendrons, dogwoods, bloodroot, epimedium, and other perennials, trees and shrubs that flower through spring. Beyond the summer months, the area is alive with stunning pink, apricot, and red camellias, mahonias, Stewartias, and other plants that bloom year-round.

Following a grassy path, you come to the Winter Garden, another example of a garden within a garden. Here, we find many deciduous trees and shrubs that hold our interest in the lackluster winter months. There are bright red berries, branches, and bark with distinct colors and patterns, and evergreens with unusual forms and all shades of the color green. Looking down the length of the garden, your eye comes to rest on the wonderful vista of the South River.

Below the Winter Garden and the Azalea Glade, you stumble upon the winding Wildflower Walk. There are plantings of bloodroot, woodruff, and hardy orchids. You must get down on your hands and knees to see and appreciate the trillium and lady's slippers that shyly hug the ground. Winding your way down the wooden steps past flowering camellias, you find a glade and a splendid view of the dell and the South River. The surrounding slopes are covered with azaleas and rhododendrons. Nearby is a meandering stream, where water lilies, lotus, and irises thrive in the pond and on its banks.

-Continued on Page 15.



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**"Historic London" Continued
From Page 14.**

Finishing your walk, you come upon a wonderful collection of hollies. The slow-growing, long-lived evergreen was abundant in the woods of tidewater Maryland and Virginia. In colonial times, holly was an ideal wood for inlay work, approaching ivory in color. It was used, along with boxwood, for the inlay in the staircase of the rebuilt Governor's Palace in Williamsburg.

Arriving back at the starting point of the garden tour, one thought struck my mind. All of these beauti-

ful plants, trees, and shrubs grow and thrive in a very naturalistic setting. It does not have the look of the formal garden beds of the Hampton Court Palace in England or the gardens of Versailles in France. The gardens of London Town were part of the make-up and look of the gardens of the New World. They were distinctly American.

When you read this article, it will still be spring, and London Town's garden will be in its glory. Pick a beautiful day, and spent it in this interesting, educational, and beautiful historical park.

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Profile

The Birdhouse Man

By Jack Toomey

There are birdhouses on poles, some on pitchforks, birdhouses on shovels, some on barn doors, others on old gates, a few on chairs, and others waiting to be mounted. By now, you might have guessed that this is a description of the residence of the man whom many people call the Birdhouse Man.

Rick Keeney has lived in the small white house at the intersection of Routes 28 and 85, just into Frederick County, for over ten years. The house, believed to date from the late 1800s, was once a tavern, a store, and until the mid-1970s, was a gas station. Keeney, who grew up in Frederick and has worked in retail and the restaurant business, decided about ten years ago to build a birdhouse for himself—and then built another, and another, and now there are at least five hundred of them for sale in his yard. Keeney told a visitor, "It is a gift from God that I can do this, I have always had a yearning to work with my hands." Keeney uses barn wood for his projects and scours the countryside for barns being torn down. He also has a friend in Loudoun County who alerts him whenever a barn is about to be demolished. Keeney hauls off fencing, barn doors, tools, and almost anything that people are willing to give away. Some are used to mount birdhouses while others are for sale. He even has Abe Lincoln's chair for sale. Keeney explained that he found a gigantic white chair somewhere and a young girl, visiting the backyard with her parents, sat in it and exclaimed, "I feel like Lincoln." The front of the house has only the smaller boxes that are designed for finches, wrens, and blue jays. The backyard is a maze of larger products too numerous to describe. Prices range from ten dollars for a simple box to over forty dollars for the larger, more ornate birdhouses that would typically be mounted on a farm artifact. Keeney can build a simple birdhouse in a half an hour where a more complicated structure might take a few hours.

Rick sleeps during the day because of a night job and doesn't get to meet many of his customers. He maintains an "honesty box" out front where customers simply select an item, deposit money, and go on their way without disturbing him. The customers that he



has met come from a wide spectrum of the community. There is a lady who regularly comes from Alexandria, someone who lives in California who always comes when she is in town, and tourists from France, Germany, and Great Britain who have dropped in and made purchases. Once a famous artist from Moscow stopped by and shopped. One of his birdhouses, mounted on a log, was even shown at the Corcoran Gallery of Art. Keeney said, half-jokingly, "I was hoping to get rich and retire [doing this], but I'll do it as long as I can." When he mentioned that he has shipped some of his birdhouses to Europe, a visitor asked why he hadn't gotten into the internet retail business. Keeney explained that he isn't computer literate, but if he met the right person, he would consider selling his products online. Now that word of mouth has increased his fame, Keeney sometimes travels to craft shows, flea markets, and even state fairs to sell his birdhouses. Many readers have probably passed Keeney's house and have seen the birdhouses out front and made it a point to stop one day. Now that the warmer months are here, try exploring the backyard! It is filled with Rick's creations and all are for sale at very reasonable prices.

Rick Keeney shows off some of his creations.

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School News

John Poole Middle School Selected as HP Technology Grant Recipient

John Poole Middle School was selected as one of 130 K-12 public schools nationwide to receive the 2007 Hewlett-Packard Technology for Teaching grant, which is designed to transform and improve learning in the classroom through innovative uses of technology.

During the 2007-2008 academic year, HP Technology for Teaching grant projects will impact more than 36,000 K-12 students. John Poole MS will receive an award package of HP products and a cash stipend for each teacher with a total value of more than \$31,000.

Each of the HP Technology for Teaching grant recipients will use HP wireless Tablet PC technology to enhance learning in engineering, math, science, computer science, or business courses. Nori Thorne, the school's grant contact, said, "From the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to a Far Distant Galaxy weaves together science, arts and humanities, and computer applications to expand study of the solar system, create a naturalist's guide and a multi-media field guide to an imaginary planetary system. We're going to have fun!"

In 2007, HP is awarding 172 K-12 public schools and two- and four-year colleges and universities in the United States and Puerto Rico more than \$7 million in mobile technology, cash, and professional development as part of its 2007 HP Technology for Teaching grant program. Since 2004, HP has contributed a total of \$36 million in HP Technology for Teaching grants to more than 650 schools worldwide.



The Silver Medal winning artwork, "Many Me," by Loran Harney of John Poole Middle School.

During the past twenty years, HP has contributed more than \$1 billion in cash and equipment to schools, universities, community organizations, and other non-profit organizations around the world.

"HP empowers students and teachers to succeed through innovative uses of technology and training," said Sidney Espinosa, director, Philanthropy Program, HP. "We invest in schools to increase educational attainment and contribute to the develop-

ment of a skilled, diverse workforce in the future."

More information about the 2007 HP Technology for Teaching program and grant recipients is available at www.hp.com/go/hpteach. More information about John Poole Middle School is available at <http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/poolems/>.

Outstanding Students at JPMS John Poole Middle School had two national award winners in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Congratulations to Zane Bassett, National Gold Medal Winner for Digital Imagery and Loran Harney, Silver Medal Winner for Ceramics and Glass. The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards is a highly-competitive national competition recognizing excellence in the visual arts and in writing. Our two national medalists plan to attend the awards ceremony and workshop sessions in New York's Carnegie Hall this summer.

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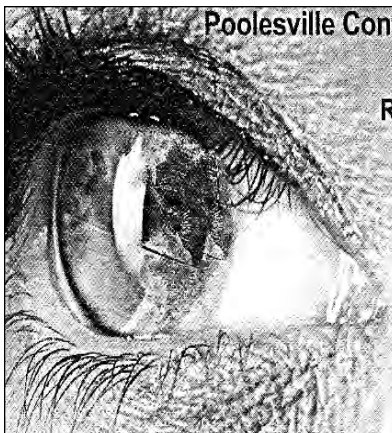
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Youth Sports

Poolesville High Lacrosse

By Jack Toomey

Like two travelers taking a different trail at a fork in the road, the two lacrosse teams from Poolesville High have taken two different paths to the state playoff tournament. The girls' team was undefeated during regular season play and begins the divisional playoffs after winning the Montgomery County 2A-1A league. The boys' team, beset by injuries and hard luck, ended their regular season with a 4-8 record.

The girls' team defeated such perennial powerhouses as Damascus, Bethesda-Chevy Chase, and Quince Orchard while amassing a 12-0 regular season record. The Falcons hope to use some of the experience that they gained by playing these much larger schools to advance deep into the state playoffs. Coach May Shlash, who is also a biology teacher at the school, spoke proudly of her group of girls. Shlash said, "This team is a little different than last year, we have some experience, but some of the freshmen have never played the game before. Our starters are amazing, the team is very athletic, the chemistry is great, and they mesh very well." A national lacrosse website that ranks teams by strength of schedule and wins and losses over ranked opponents recently ranked the Poolesville girls as the best team in Montgomery County and only a few points behind some of the traditional Baltimore-area teams that are nationally ranked.

The boys' team hasn't had the

success that the girls' team has enjoyed. After opening the season with impressive wins over Rockville, Clarksburg, Wheaton, and Kennedy, the team has fallen on hard times. Entering the state tournament they hope to regroup and surprise their fans with some playoff wins. The Falcons have been sparked by sophomore Dylan Hass, Patrick Moore, and Kyle Corfman. Leading scorer Mike O'Halloran, a top college prospect, was lost for the season after seven games with a torn knee ligament.

Girls' coach Shlash pointed out four girls who have performed very well this year. Senior captains Jacqueline Orona and Megan Rose, senior Gisèle Agnew, and junior Cori Rosenberg have done the bulk of the scoring, but Shlash commented that the entire team had contributed to the team's impressive record.

Orona, who is headed to Ohio State on a lacrosse scholarship, said that she hopes to play for the Buckeyes as a freshman, but "it depends on how hard I work at it." Of her experience at Poolesville, she said, "It definitely went fast with three (different) coaches. We are doing amazing, we are at a good peak, and I love playing with everyone on the team." Rose, who will be playing lacrosse on scholarship at Vanderbilt in the fall, said, "It was so much fun. In my freshman year, I got to play with my sister, and that was a blast. Our freshmen have impressed us so much, we have done really well."

Playoff action was scheduled to begin later in May after the paper went to press. Both teams have high hopes and are hoping for the support of the community at the games.



Poolesville Falcon's lacrosse senior captains Jacqueline Orona and Meghan Rose.

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**"Making Tracks" Continued
From Page 5.**

"Morning Rush," and "Newsprints Roulette" describes four different people reading four different papers.

Tracks is all about the people who commute together, and the friendships they form, and relationships they establish. The setting for *Tracks* is a fictitious metro station at the end of a fictitious spur on the proposed Purple Line. Interest for the musical came from the Action Committee for Transit. In researching the Purple Line, Paul learned of a group called Purple Line Now. In January, he contacted them to receive a newsletter, and he learned that they were interested in creative works supporting the Purple Line. By February, Paul had found another arranger, Marshall White, director of music at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, through the help of Bill Harris, the music teacher at Poolesville Elementary School, and with the beautiful voice and talents of PHS senior Gracie Jones and students of B-CC, the committee was wowed. "They were just delighted and stunned," Paul says. In early April, an anonymous donor offered a \$10,000 grant to see the work finished. "I just can't believe how lucky I was," adds Paul. "Marshall and I kept working on faith that the money would come through." On that fateful day in February, Paul also met his new orchestrator, Jared Denhard (David Snow having moved out of the area). Paul simply raves about the collaborative creative process, "These are the happiest years of my life," he says.

When asked if he has any musical training, Paul replies that he doesn't, he just has songs in his head.

Something strange is playing in me,
Welling up and swelling like a lyrical score;

Quietly asserting its key,
Telling me I'm not as alone as before.
"Something Strange" from *Marriage*

At Work

Paul is a firm believer in there being lots of song and dance in musicals. In *Marriage At Work*, there are eleven dances out of eighteen songs, and *Tracks* has seventeen dances out of its twenty-four songs.

Tracks is being prepared as a high school production, possibly as soon as December of 2008. It will be performed at B-CC High School, and Paul is trying to arrange for it to be simultaneously performed at a Prince George's County high school. The production of the musical will be a boost to the Purple Line, a boost for Prince George's County, and a boost for mass transit in the area, says Paul.

Local News

Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard Celebrates First Anniversary

By Maureen O'Connell

Bacchus, the god of wine, smiled favorably on Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard's First Anniversary celebration on Saturday, May 12. The weather reports for the day called for cloudy skies and thunderstorms—a bit of a wet blanket for a day of picnicking. Several hundred people, many with small children, came for a beautiful, festive day in the country, and they were not disappointed. By midday, the sun broke through the menacing clouds, and Sugarloaf Mountain was in its glory. Under two large white tents, people enjoyed the music of The Yard Slippers and ate pulled pork barbecue sandwiches, hot dogs, and hamburgers. There were free wine tastings, and the sale of wine by the glass and bottle. On the adjoining, grassy lawn area, craft vendors offered works of art and handmade baskets.

Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard is located in the hills of beautiful Comus near the base of Sugarloaf Mountain. This ninety-two-acre farm was bought in 1966 by Polly and Dan O'Donoghue and . The winery, the only one in Montgomery County, is now owned and operated by O'Donoghue sons, Phil, and wife Kathy; Dan and Randy O'Donoghue; and O'Donoghue daughters, Carol McGarry and husband Mike; and Lois McKenna and husband Jim. In 1995, while visiting the Napa, California wine district, they discussed the possibility of operating a vineyard on their family farm in Comus. After many studies of the land, Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard was born. They brought from the Napa region Carl DiManno, and he became their winemaker. They planted their first vines in 2004, certified French clones of the five Bordeaux grapes: Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Malbec, and Petit Verdot; and two white varieties Chardonnay, and Pinot Grigio. They found that the soil and microclimate of their farmland created ideal growing conditions for their vines.

In May 2006, the wines were ready to be bottled and sold. The vineyard opened the door to a tasting room, and they offered tours of



Frequent customers Robert and Sheri Ausura of Gaithersburg, and Vineyard owner Phil O'Donoghue.

the vineyard and winery. This year they produced 4800 cases of wine; they soon hope to produce 6000 cases.

In the fall of 2006, the vineyard was ready to bring its wine down the mountain and into the community. Phil O'Donoghue told me that the Montgomery County Government was, and continues to be, very supportive of their winery, from the initial permits to the distribution and sales to local retailers. They view it as an ideal and welcome addition to the Agricultural Reserve.

Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard can be justifiably proud of its young vineyard. It takes seven years to reach production. Already their wines are available in more than twenty-five locations in Frederick and Montgomery Counties, and are being received with rave reviews. In 2006, the vineyard participated in the Maryland Governor's Cup competition of statewide wines. They placed three award winners: 2005 Comus, 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon,

and 2005 Chardonnay—a stunning success for their debut vintages. They entered their 2005 Comus into the prestigious American Vinifera Association's East Coast Competition, wherein their wine was compared to three hundred wines from Maine to Florida. They captured a silver medal. This was particularly impressive for a wine made from second year grapes and aged four months. Things can only get better.

While speaking to several of the vineyard's owners at the anniversary celebration, it was obvious that their family vineyard

was a labor of love. They admitted that it demanded many up-front costs, much hard work, and a little bit of luck. They are also fortunate to be part of a very close family. Harvesting of the grapes, from late September to mid October, is a joint effort of employees, family, and friends. There are now 19,000 vines located in two fields. A third area, the Barn Field, will soon be planted with 15,000 more vines.

It is exciting to see a new industry take wing in our beautiful Sugarloaf Mountain area. The vineyard is open Wednesday through Sunday, 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. You can check their web site, www.smvwinery.com for information about tastings, special events, winery tours, and other activities. Driving up Comus Road towards the base of Sugarloaf Mountain, you can't miss their signature red barn, silo, and windmill.



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Gail Lee's Poolesville MARKET WATCH 2007



NEW for 2007!

I am so happy to provide my first **POOLESVILLE MARKET WATCH** edition for 2007. With the dramatic changes in the current real estate market, I hope this information will keep you updated on the recent sales in our area. **Here are the sales for the first 4 months of 2007.** In every issue I will also include my featured listings and pertinent information affecting the current market. Please feel free to call or email me any questions you may have, I would love to hear from you. **Thank you for your support. Blessings, Gail**

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17601 Collier Circle	Westmond	\$498,000	17500 Soper St	Westmond	\$460,000	\$450,000	\$10,000
19917 Westerly Ave	Westerly	\$529,900	17216 Chiswell Rd	Westerly	\$475,000	\$470,000	\$0
17037 Tom Fox Ave	Hunters Run	\$664,900	20109 Westerly	Westerly	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0
17018 Hillard St	Hunters Run	\$669,900	17204 Spates Hill Rd	Seneca Chase	\$579,000	\$535,000	\$0
17913 Hickman St	Elizabeth's Delight	\$719,500	17027 Hersperger Ln	Summer Ridge	\$610,000	\$599,999	\$600
17917 Hickman St	Elizabeth's Delight	\$749,900	17208 Spates Hill Rd	Seneca Chase	\$615,000	\$590,000	\$0
			19747 Selby Ave	TAMA	\$675,000	\$637,500	\$0
			16922 Hillard St	Hunters Run	\$739,000	\$739,000	\$0
			18216 McKernon Way	Woods at TAMA	\$850,000	\$850,000	\$0

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Steady Climb Seen for Existing-Home Sales in 2007
Consumers are beginning to respond to more favorable housing market conditions, with existing homes sales expected to steadily increase into 2008, according to the latest forecast by the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS.
"After reaching what appears to be the bottom in the fourth quarter of 2006, we expect existing-home sales to gradually rise all this year and well into 2008." says David Lereah, NAR's chief economist.
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