

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

July 20, 2007

Volume IV, Number 8.



Gone and soon forgotten. See our Monocacy Moment on Page 13.



The Jim Bowie Band let loose with their own special thunder prior to the Poolesville fireworks display. More pictures in Family Album on Page 2.



This historic bungalow could be yours for free. Get all the details in Tidbits on Page 21.



The modern day beat cop. Read At Your Service on Page 7.

Fisher Avenue Wreck Renews Call for Speed Enforcement

By Jack Toomey

On the afternoon of July 5, residents of the Wesmond community were startled to see a man climbing fences and running through their yards. In a few minutes, the wailing of emergency sirens directed attention towards Fisher Avenue, and it became apparent that the man was fleeing a car wreck that had just happened in the 19400 block of Fisher Avenue. Two residents reported that a young man had run across a meadow between Fisher and Hempstone Avenues, climbed a fence, run across Hempstone Avenue, and then disappeared in the neighborhood. A police canine unit tried to track the individual without success.

Officer Tae Yi and Corp. Peter Worden investigated the wreck and determined that a Pontiac was traveling south on Fisher Avenue at a high rate of speed when the driver failed to negotiate a curve at Westerly Avenue, skidded

tors, some attracted by news helicopters hovering overhead and others by the fire and police presence.

About two hours after the collision, Garrett A. Anderson, age 22 of the 19300 block of Hempstone Avenue, went to Shady Grove Adventist Hospital for treatment. At that time, police identified him as the driver of the car and charged him with three counts of hit and run, a speeding violation, and failure to keep to the right of center. A police spokesperson said that the passenger, Zachary Stowers, age 19 of the 19000 block of Fisher Avenue, was the passenger. The *Monocle* spoke with Charles Stowers, the father of Zachary, who said that his son had been treated for facial injuries, a concussion, and possible internal injuries. He added, "How many kids up here have been killed with the speed and drinking? What can a parent do?" His voice trailed off in frustration.

Poolesville Town Commissioner Jim Brown was at the scene as the wreck happened near his house.



The immediate aftermath of the one-car accident on Fisher Road.

After inspecting the wreckage and conferring with the police, Brown said, "This is absolute proof that we could use speed cameras in Poolesville. I don't know how much more data we can collect before we let these guys [the police] do their job." He later added, "I think the amount of speeding within Poolesville's town limits is directly related to the amount of known speed enforcement

taking place on our roads." Brown said that Poolesville has two areas where motorists tend to increase their speed when leaving an area of a lower speed limit. One location is where the July 5 wreck happened. He said that speed enforcement is needed in those areas whether it be "live radar, speed cameras, or even the mobile unit that indicates speed." Brown remarked that the speed limits surrounding Poolesville are reasonable

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County Planning Board Considers New Homes Proposal in Ag Reserve

By Kristen Milton

A decade-long saga of land, money, and family that is the Hilltop Farm development potentially came to a head as the *Monocle's* deadline passed. Hilltop representatives and opponents planned to meet July 19 as the Montgomery County Planning Board once again considered the partnership's request to develop an eight-home subdivision on 232 acres bounded by West Old Baltimore, Slidell, Barnesville, and Peach Tree roads. The property is under a conservation easement, for which the county paid \$895,000 in 1994, but Hilltop—made up of members of the Charles Faller, Jr. family—claims the right to construct the homes as tot lots while area conservationists call that an abuse of a system intended to benefit family farms.

When the Agricultural Reserve was created in 1980, owners of Reserve land were given both transfer development rights and the right to build homes for their children, commonly known as "tot lots." The lots are not bound by the Reserve's one-home-per-twenty-five-acres restriction. While building permits must be obtained in the names of the owner's children, there are few other limitations placed on the lots, and some say this has led to abuse as tot lots are sometimes built to be sold to buyers outside the family.

Hilltop's plan proposes that the seven tot lots be grouped on approximately twenty-five acres of the property and range in size from two to six acres. Driveways would be off West Old Baltimore and Slidell Roads. The remaining 207 acres, including an existing house, would continue to operate as an agricultural use such as a horse farm.

Ninety area residents signed a petition in opposition to the plan in June 2006, and Boyds Civic Association

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Martha, Martin, and Sarah Yates along with Sandy Eck (right) sold 3-D glasses to raise money for the fire department during the Fourth of July celebration.

POOLESVILLE
Timeless Charm

The new logo for Poolesville, Timeless Charm. What do you think? Some people love it, some don't. The Poolesville commissioners are interested in hearing your opinion.



Jane Lunsford and grandson, Zachary, did not let the prospects of rain dampen their enthusiasm for the Fourth of July.



Farmers cutting the hay in Dickerson.



Lena Stypeck volunteered at the John Poole House during the tenth annual Montgomery County Heritage Days.



The Ladies of the UMCVFD Auxiliary got some male support as everyone waited for the rain to pass. Dick Bauer, Kim Bailey, Terry Smith, Betty Jean Selby, Chief Earl Moore, Jack Shawver, Sue Dabbondaza, Cliff Williams, and Ann Bauer.

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Local News Neighbor Saves Family from House Fire

By Rande Davis

At 2:52 a.m., Sunday, July 1, 2007, a natural gas line burst into flames at the home of Cheryl Fernandez of 19613 Gott Road, Poolesville. Ms. Fernandez, Paul Dowd, daughter Alexis Maloney (fourteen years old),

son, Christopher Maloney (twenty-one years old) and guest Jessica Garcia were sound asleep on the second floor as the fire rapidly spread across the entire back of the house.

Their next door neighbor and

close friend of more than fifteen years, Mike Owen, was also sleeping lightly with the windows open to get the cool breeze. "Thankfully, I am a very light sleeper," Mr. Owen reported to the *Monocle*, "and I heard this loud 'pop' and got up to see what the cause was when I saw the fire already beginning to spread at the back of the home."

Racing out of the home in his nightclothes, not even taking the time to dress, he ran to the Fernandez house to alert the family. While no one responded to his first shouts to the family, their sixteen-year-old golden retriever, Sadie, heard him and immediately came out of the house. While calling 911 to report the fire, he continued to investigate the condition of the family as he returned to the home in a second attempt to wake them. With his second effort finding success, the family finally bounded out of the house in confusion and assembled out front as the fire quickly swept the back of house. The heat of the fire was strong enough to cause the siding on Mr. Owen's home next door to melt and, as he stood with the family, he regretted not having a chainsaw since a pine tree between the two homes

looked as if it might burst into flames at any moment. "If I had one [chainsaw], that tree would be [lying] on the ground right now."

As the fire department responded to the call, the flames were already rising well beyond the roofline putting off a glow visible from Routes 28 and 109. The fire team to first arrive onsite tried to move up the stairway to the second floor only to discover that their efforts were not going to be effective and that the situation was becoming exceptionally dangerous.

Fire Chief Earl Moore told the *Monocle* that a video of the event was recorded on a security camera at Total Automotive and Diesel. Chief Moore reported, "At 2:52 there was a small flash of light coming from the direction of the home, and within five minutes, the flames were already well above the house. I have not seen a more rapid fire in the last fifteen years."

At one point, the fire department was pumping two 500-gpm-water guns into the home and still the impact was negligible. From the moment of implosion to a point of total loss,

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Youth Sports

Piranhas in the Water

By Alicia Agnew

They're fast, they're cool, and a pack of them can skeletonize a cow in under a minute—and you can find them in our local Western County Pool. Luckily for pool goers, the piranhas at the pool aren't fish. Over two hundred swimmers aged five to eighteen participate on the Poolesville Swim Team. The team is ranked fourteenth in the county out of over ninety participating teams. Head Coach Tim Auer has been coaching swim teams for nine years and has been head coach of the Poolesville Swim Team for four years.

Practice starts before school is even out, and then swimmers practice every morning Monday through Friday in June and July. Older swimmers start their day swimming at 7:30 in the morning. The Piranhas are divided into two teams: the A Team and the B Team. Both teams practice together, yet the A Team has swim meets on Saturday mornings, and the B team has meets Wednesday evenings. The Pre-Team is for swimmers five through eight. They do not participate in meets until the coaches find them proficient in their strokes.

Meets are exciting events. Each child can participate in one relay, three strokes, and one IM (individual medley, alternating all four strokes in one race). With over two hundred kids on the team, there

are many more parents to cheer them on. The kids on the team are just here to have fun and to have a good time. In addition, this year there will be a Sarah E. Auer Mini-Meet for younger swimmers. A portion of the proceeds of that meet will be used for the Sarah E. Auer Memorial Scholarship. Every year several thousand-dollar scholarships are given to high school seniors who are competitive swimmers and exhibit hard work, teamwork, excellence, and dedication.

This year several team records have been broken. Two eight and under swimmers, Theodore Jagodits and Lauren James, broke the team record for 25-meter backstroke for both boy and girl records. Julia Smith also broke a backstroke record for girls eleven to twelve. Other record breakers include Joseph Pepper in butterfly, Elizabeth Pepper in both backstroke and butterfly, as well as Kirk Jackson, also in backstroke and butterfly. Along with these outstanding individuals, both boys and girls 200-meter medley relays beat previous time records.

As well as swimming together, the swim team also does many other fun activities. Each year there is a pizza party, an ice cream social, a spaghetti dinner, and a movie. This year, the Poolesville Piranhas will see *Harry Potter: The Order of the Phoenix*. The Piranhas will also go blackberry picking at Homestead Farm—hope there aren't any cows there.

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Commentary

Community and Economic Development Committee Brings It all Together

By Rande Davis

This is an exciting time for Poolesville's Community and Economic Development Committee (CEDC) since many of its projects and goals are coming to fruition. The CEDC is tasked by the town commissioners to coordinate the mutual interests, concerns, and goals of the whole community in a mission of enhancing the social and economic needs required for the vitality of the town. Organized in 2007, the committee is made up of representatives from the business sector, general population, and government—a formulation created to bring unity of effort from the various segments of the community.

An understandable question would be why the town felt that such a committee was necessary in the first place. The answer is more simply understood by comparing the town to other organizations. CEDC is to Poolesville what outreach committees are to churches and temples, what sales, marketing, and promotional departments are to business, and what cheerleaders are to sports team. Another way to look at it is that CEDC plays the role of shepherding the interests of various groups working jointly in the same direction. It's the difference between a crowd milling around and the precision of those marching in a parade.

To understand its work, one's focus should be on the two key descriptions of the committee. As to the community part, their efforts are to foster the close-knit spirit of Poolesville. This past winter's Holiday Lighting Ceremony brought residents together to share the holiday spirit in decorating Whalen Commons with lights. This summer, CEDC launches a grand old tradition of outdoor movies. Families and friends join together to watch family-friendly movies in the open air through a shared experience sure to result in fond memories for a lifetime.

Through the CEDC, the full vision of Whalen Commons will be developed. Though panned as a million-dollar boondoggle by some, the visionary benefit of this central park is now becoming a reality. For newcomers to the area unaware of

how the town commons was established, it started when the town was offered the donation of the property (then valued at \$300,000—much more today) for the sole purpose of becoming a "family room" or "backyard" for all. Though severely criticized by some as a monumental waste of Poolesville taxpayer money, the park is emerging instead as a monument to the small town spirit and character of Poolesville. (For the record, the town expenditure was \$248,000; the balance coming from state park grants that would have been spent somewhere else had Poolesville rejected the money). Ironically, many of the most vocal critics of the decision to build the park are often visible at the many festivals and events now held there.

Just as social events will help bring the community together, the CEDC's newly-operational website, www.poolesville.com, will bridge communication gaps between the various sectors of the town. While the four media outlets plus the town website play an essential role of keeping people informed, this website has the advantage of providing the full story of Poolesville to those outside of the town. It can also become a valuable communication tool to announce last minute changes, schedules, or even cancellations.

The website will provide a window to the community for entrepreneurs, new homebuyers, and casual visitors wanting information about the town. Such outside participation helps to develop the economic base necessary to secure both the town's well being as well as to ensure its small-town goals. The concept is really quite simple: a growing economy without uncontrollable growth in the population.

Through the economic development part of the equation, CEDC seeks to find ways to improve the economic, employment, and business opportunities so vital to a dynamic community. Just as the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce (PACC) seeks to help the business community, the CEDC connects the work of the chamber with the population at large and governmental committees. The CEDC sets the stage for an effective common effort rather than everyone working only through their individual organizations.

Another question about the CEDC would be regarding its cost to the taxpayers. It could be questioned as to whether the town should expend

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Wearing a Badge Of Honor

By Rande Davis

I obtained a very special honor last week, and, while it is a bit unseemly to brag, I really cannot contain myself.

The singular honor came from having my integrity questioned by Stan Janet of the *Western Montgomery Bulletin* (WMB). The Poolesville Sign Review Board (SRB), of which I am chairman, has presented modifications to the town ordinance that would grant businesses limited use of temporary signs. For this, the WMB said, "Davis may be involved in a direct conflict of interest since he is part-owner of a newspaper that benefits directly from the sign increases."

As to the conflict of interest charge, I point out that neither I, nor the *Monocle*, would benefit from businesses being given expanded and additional ways to advertise. In fact, restricting signage would be the more effective way to benefit us. As to those who wonder what he means by "directly," I can only point out

that this represents his reckless and irresponsible way of presenting his "news." This is the level of accuracy his readers get and for which his advertisers pay.

The issue at hand has to do with the recommendation by the SRB to grant businesses limited use of temporary signage. While the use of temporary signs is provided to every other group in town—the government, political leaders, churches, school groups, youth sports, scouts, realtors, and the many charitable organizations—businesses have not been so allowed. The ordinance proposal would grant them limited, weekend use of temporary signs. (Two days per week for businesses not open on weekends.)

The ordinance proposal is explained in more detail in this issue and will be the subject of a public hearing on August 6.

In the same article, Mr. Janet accused Commissioner Tom Yeatts of "pushing the sign increases." The fact is that all recent changes to the sign ordinance were approved long before Mr. Yeatts was elected. As to the current proposal on temporary

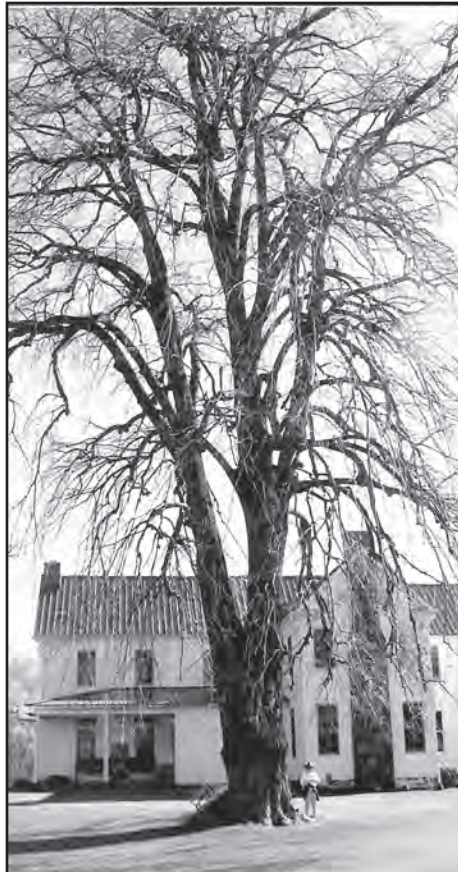
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Garden

Trees: Giants of The Earth

By Maureen O'Connell

Very often in life, we take for granted people and other species that are the cornerstones of our existence on this planet Earth. Trees, the largest plants on our planet, give us oxygen, and continue to provide habitat and climate for all species to live on this planet. When Europeans first came to North America, primeval forests cov-



"Mary," a Champion Tree on Wilbur Farm in Dickerson, the home of Missy Lankler and her daughter Celeste.

ered much of the area. In 1634, when Lord Calvert first landed on Maryland's shores, the state was nearly ninety-five percent forested. There was a balance between rain and earth, and a symbiotic relationship evolved. The forests protected the fragile soil. Tree crowns broke the force of the falling rain water. The trees' roots anchored themselves to the earth and created an erosion-resistant surface. The fallen leaves and branches acted like a sponge, absorbing the rain, and slowly releasing it back into the ground. Water was clean, and marine life and forest wildlife flourished.

As colonists settled in Maryland

and neighboring areas, trees were cut down for houses, lumber, and firewood. Gradually, entire forests disappeared. As time went on, there were other demands for forest land: housing developments, strip malls, strip mines, and highways. Today, Maryland is about forty-two percent forested, with areas in central Maryland at less than thirty percent. In the early 1900s, an awareness of land conservation and forest management began in the state. People began to see the forest through the trees, and they recognized trees' fragility and our need to ensure that these giants of the Earth would be around for future generations.

The state of Maryland was in the forefront of this effort. Fred W. Besley was Maryland's first State Forester, and he served in this position from 1906 to 1942. He recognized that the state's forests were rich in different kinds of trees—probably more than 250 native tree species. By 1925, there was an increased interest in large and notable trees. Working with the Maryland Forestry Association, Besley sponsored a state-wide Big Tree Champion Contest. At this time, there was no standard method of measuring trees, so Besley devised a universal method, which was adopted by the American Forestry Association. It took three important measurements involving the trunk circumference, crown spread, and height of the tree. This contest recorded 155 species, among them the Wye Oak, the largest white oak tree ever recorded. In addition to the contest, Besley compiled a "Noted Tree List" for Maryland in 1925. This list is updated annually, as this search for large and historic trees continues to the present time.

To be considered for this list, a tree has to be nominated with the following information: species, location, circumference (girth of the trunk at 4 ½ feet above the ground, in inches), height, crown spread, and the general condition and health of the tree. To qualify as a champion, the tree must have a single stem or trunk for at least 4½ feet above the ground level and total height of at least fifteen feet. To evaluate the relative size of a tree, the girth in inches and the height and crown spread in feet are added together to arrive at a number of points for each tree. This number is then used for comparison of tree sizes in each species. This system of measuring gives the trunk, the most impor-

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Poolesville - Westerly - This lovely 3

BR, 2.5 BA colonial boasts numerous upgrades including: new windows throughout, updated BAs, custom kitchen w/ Pergo flr., Corian counters, maple cabinets & French doors leading to screened porch. Add'l features include a spacious entry foyer, cozy fam. rm w/ FP & office. Beautiful lot w/ mature trees & fenced backyard, one-car garage. Convenient to all Town amenities & within minutes to Poolesville Golf Course and Western Montgomery County Community Pool. MLS#MC6259658. **Offered at \$459,000**



Poolesville-Summerhill - Lovely, like new townhome w/ 3 BRs & 2.5 BAs. Main lvl entry foyer, LR w/ FP, dining area, kitchen w/ maple cabinets, tile flr., newer appliances & closet w/ stackable washer & dryer. Upper lvl MBR w/ full BA, 2 more BRs, hallway BA. Amenities include new carpet, fresh paint, updated kitchen & BAs, new windows throughout. Great location w/in minutes of schools, parks, community pool & shopping facilities. MLS#MC6410033. **Offered at \$279,000**



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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Daytripper

Brunswick Railroad Museum: Railroads, History, and Baseball

By Frederic J. Rohner

The Brunswick Railroad Museum is a bit of a misnomer because the three-story museum in the heart of downtown Brunswick is not just a railroad museum, but rather a museum dedicated to the history of this small Frederick County town. Originally named Berlin and founded in 1780, Brunswick has been linked to the railroad that runs through it since the B&O Railroad relocated its yard there from Martinsburg, West Virginia in 1890 (the name Brunswick was even given by a B&O Railroad official). Upon touring the railroad museum, it becomes evident that there is far more to this town (and to the museum), than just a railroad.

That's not to say that the Brunswick Railroad Museum is a case of bait and switch. There are still plenty of railroad memorabilia and history to be seen inside the museum, including the museum's crown jewel: a 1:87 scale model of the railroad line that connects Brunswick with our nation's capitol and all the stops along the way occupying

the entire third floor of the building. According to Senior Engineer Tony Hopko, twenty people have spent four thousand hours working on the model, and they're still not quite finished. He estimated that by the time they complete all of the scenery and animation scenes, that number will be more like fifty-five hundred hours. Any model railroad aficionado would truly be impressed with this exhibit, it's filled with detail, and all of the towns along the rail line are painstakingly created to be perfect replicas in miniature.

In an area known mainly for its Civil War history, the Brunswick Railroad Museum chooses to focus not on the soldiers and battalions that originated or passed through this unique area, but rather on the everyday people of the town, the high schools, the baseball teams, and the citizens who helped to build up the town and the railroad that is its center. Cathy Tynan, president of the Brunswick Railroad Museum, said that she hopes when people leave after a tour they will take with them "a greater

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Local History

One Heck of a Storm

By Jack Toomey

Every summer, probably since the beginning of recorded time, people who have lived in the immediate area have looked to the northwest sky for the sign of threatening thunderstorms. The storms were welcomed by the Native Americans and early settlers who inhabited our area for the same reason that people today pray for rain when their farm fields and lawns need the water. They are also cursed by others when the storms bring damaging winds, hail, and flooding rains. Almost everyone has a favorite story about a thunderstorm, and some tales are passed down from generation to generation. During the summer of 1931, a thunderstorm of such magnitude and ferocity hit the Washington metropolitan area. Somewhere, there are probably a few people that recall the storm.

In 1931, late June saw records broken for high temperatures. In those days, there were no official weather reporting stations outside of downtown Washington although farmers were known to keep diaries of rainfall amounts and temperature readings. On the afternoon of July 1, the temperature reached 97° F. in the center of the city. The Washington Post had a large but unofficial thermometer in front of its building. All day crowds flocked to the building and were shocked when a high of 105° F. was reached. With no air conditioning, the circumstances made it impossible to work, so office workers poured out into the streets to dip their feet in fountains or to sit in the parks.

There were accounts of people collapsing on the sidewalk after being overcome by the heat. An apparently healthy man was driving a truck in lower Montgomery County when he passed out at the wheel. An older woman, on her first trip to Washington, was found unconscious, prostrated by the heat in a storefront. A taxi driver, waiting for fares in front of a hotel, was found unconscious behind the wheel of his taxi. Those living in the upper portion of Montgomery County and Frederick County sought relief on their lawns and porches, and young people went to the Potomac

River and farm ponds for a cooling swim. While Montgomery and Frederick residents may have it a bit easier because of the higher elevations and breezes, they were also the first to see the towering black clouds that loomed on the horizon. With no weather radar, the only warning that people had of an approaching storm was the dark sky and the rumble of thunder.

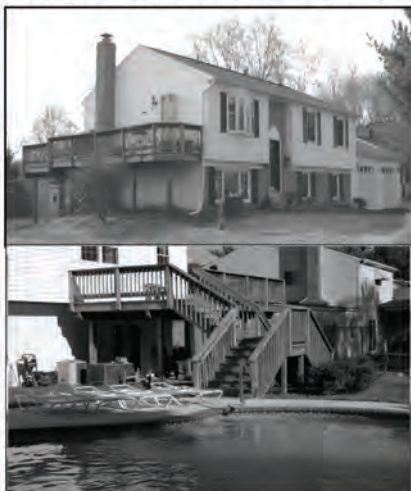
Clayton Marcum, who was originally from Kentucky, had come to Barnesville to marry his fiancée, Miss Mary Biser. Marcum, a soldier stationed in the area, went to Barnesville to pick up Mary, and they drove to the courthouse in Rockville where they were married in a civil ceremony. Marcum, who was on crutches because of a broken leg, escorted his bride to his car parked nearby. They heard the rumble of thunder and saw the darkening skies. Mrs. Marcum took the wheel and headed out the Darnestown Road in the direction of Barnesville just as the storm broke. At the curve in front of Darnestown Presbyterian Church, she lost control of the car and crashed into a telephone pole bringing it down on top of the car. Passersby helped them out of the car and drove them to Walter Reed Hospital where Marcum was told that he had broken his other leg. On the other side of the county, Christopher Sangmeyer, a farmhand on the farm of Walter Gates of Ednor, was bringing horses out of the pasture ahead of the storm. As he and Mr. Gates neared the barn, lightning struck killing Sangmeyer and a horse. Meanwhile the storm had swept through Clarksburg. A bolt of lightning struck the doorway of a barn on a farm and broke the door to pieces. The lightning bolt then did a peculiar thing. It passed a horse standing by the door without injuring the horse, struck and killed a cow standing next to the horse, but did not injure a calf standing next to the cow. Trees toppled over telephone wires, and telephone service from Washington to Rockville and Gaithersburg was cut off. It was days before people living in the upper county could make calls. Those who looked forward to listening to their favorite music and comedy shows on radio station WJSV were disappointed when they received static on their radios. The station had been knocked off the air by the ferocious storm. Trains were stopped at Silver Spring when flood-

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At Your Service

Mike Bupp

By Jack Toomey

Perhaps your grandparents told you about the police officer who walked the beat in the old city neighborhood. The officer knew every foot of his territory, spent time chatting with shopkeepers, knew the troublemakers, and looked in after the elderly. While the days of the police officer who patrols on foot may be gone, we have the twenty-first century version in the upper county.



Mike Bupp

Mike Bupp moved to Poolesville with his family when he was in the third grade. He attended the Poolesville schools, played varsity football and baseball at Poolesville High School, and tried his hand participating with the Mock Trial Team. He then attended the University of Maryland, and in 1986, he became a Maryland State Police cadet. In 1988, he was hired by the Montgomery County Police and graduated from the police academy six months later. Bupp was assigned to the Germantown police district and has patrolled that area ever since. It just may be that Mike was destined for police work. His grandfather was the deputy chief of the Washington, D.C. police department. Mike remarked, "My grandfather [was the deputy chief], and I suspect that he had an effect on my future plans."

For the last five years, Mike has been patrolling the northwest part of the county which includes the communities of Poolesville, Barnesville, Beallsville, and Dickerson. While at times, he must feel like the old beat officer of earlier days, he also sees an advantage. Bupp said, "It's not bad, more of a help than a hindrance. You

know more people than if you didn't grow up here." While a Monocle reporter was talking to Officer Bupp, a middle-aged lady happened by and remarked, "Mike is a wonderful person, I've known him [at least] twenty years." Gina Orr, a Poolesville resident, was fortunate to have Bupp respond to her neighborhood when some young people were committing vandalism. She said, "He is fair, very quick, calming, and very nice."

Working a rural beat is obviously different than working in a city. Officer Bupp said that his average shift involves calls for disputes between parents and their children and minor cases of vandalism. He added that he is working on some cases where property has been destroyed in Poolesville area parks. He said, "We have some good suspects." Some other calls that are not uncommon are when cows escape from their pastures and block the road. Almost always, he knows who owns the cows before he even arrives at the scene. Once, he was called to the C&O Canal area where an owl was trapped in a length of fishing line. Bupp added that people who live in his patrol area are much more likely to get involved and help the police. On occasion, a tree might be blown over in a storm, and when the police are called, he often finds citizens pitching in and sawing up the tree with a chainsaw when he arrives. He doubted if that would ever happen in the lower county area. Occasionally, he must respond to serious or even fatal traffic accidents. Having lived here most of his life, he often knows the people who are involved in the wrecks. He said, "Accidents and fatalities are hard to handle, but being from up here, I have found that people find it comforting to see a familiar face."

Bupp works the 3:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. shift, and his patrol area is the largest beat in the county. It stretches from the Potomac River on the west, Frederick County to the north, Route 270 on the east, and south to Darnestown. A few times a week, he is called down to Germantown to handle calls in the busier areas of the county. Most people know that Montgomery County has a take-home car program where officers bring their cars home after hours and are allowed to use them while off-duty. The county gets thousands of hours of free patrol, and in the upper county alone, hundreds of calls are answered by off-duty officers. Bupp, who lives on a main road, said that it is not unusual for people to knock on his door at 2:00 a.m. asking

for directions but also occasionally reporting accidents and struck deer. Often, when he is off-duty, he is the first officer on the scene of serious calls.

Commander Thomas Didone is the new captain of the Germantown station. When asked about Mike he said, "Officer Bupp is an outstanding officer who genuinely understands the importance in working with the community to solve problems while at the same time demonstrating traditional police practices to arrest criminals and

keep the community safe. Bupp is an experienced officer, and I am proud that I have an officer of his caliber working in the Poolesville community."

Mike Bupp lives in the Poolesville area with his wife, Cathy, and their twelve-year-old son. As in the old neighborhoods of the big cities which had beat officers, Poolesville has the nearest thing to its own personal beat officer. Those of us who live in the Poolesville area are fortunate to have Mike Bupp as our neighbor and patrol officer.

Local News

Milk Truck Overturns At Route 28 and Martinsburg Road

At about 1:30 p.m. on July 11, 2007, a milk tanker truck overturned at the sharp corner of Route 28 and Martinsburg Road in Dickerson. The vehicle with Pennsylvania license plates was coming from the Frederick direction heading toward Poolesville when the driver failed to make the elbow turn on Route 28. As the truck

passed through the intersection, it tipped completely over onto its side.

According to Montgomery County Police Sergeant Brown, the driver, whose name was not available, was transported by air to Suburban Hospital with non-life threatening injuries. The truck had no visible signage to indicate the milk company owning the truck.

The intersection was blocked for through traffic until just after 5:00 p.m. at a time when traffic moving north toward Frederick was nearing its peak. No other persons or vehicles were involved in the accident.



Rte 28 north was closed for nearly four hours due to this milk tanker truck losing control at Martinsburg Road in Dickerson.

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"Fisher Avenue Accident" Continued From Page 1.

and that town residents are the people who can control the problem by making an extra effort to obey speed limits. Recently, Commander Thomas Didone of the Germantown District of the county police cited a study that showed that eighty percent of speeders in the town limits were Poolesville residents. Brown stressed that parents need to communicate with other parents about how fast their teenagers are driving.

Town Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski told the *Monocle*, "There is always a need for speed enforcement, but there is always the person who doesn't

care and drives like a maniac. I think that people have to realize that there are limitations on what we can do." Klobukowski added that the town had been told that Montgomery County has been thinking about putting speed cameras in Poolesville and if that happens, "Hopefully, it will have a positive effect."

Commander Thomas Didone, who is in charge of the Germantown police district, told the *Monocle* that photo speed enforcement will be in place in Poolesville in the near future. Didone said that the Citizens Advisory Board for Traffic Issues has recommended approval for speed cameras that will be placed in two locations.



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Big Board

Music and Movie Two Nights Per Weekend

Every weekend brings a combo of family entertainment enjoyment at Whalen Commons in Poolesville. On Friday, July 20 at 8:30 p.m. the classic E.T. is the movie selection presented by the Community and Economic Development Committee with refreshments being promised. Then on Sunday, July 22, jazz enthusiasts will enjoy Project Natale starting at 7:00 p.m.

The following weekend movie night is on Saturday, July 28 featuring Charlotte's Web starting at 8:30 p.m. with Sunday's music on July 29 at 7:00 p.m. being the Hometown String Band with a mixture of bluegrass and folk music. Everyone is encouraged to bring a picnic, drinks, snacks, and to remember that there is pizza, sandwiches, ice cream, and other delights offered by the restaurants all in walking distance from the park.

The Maryland Horse Trials Summer Event

The USEA (United States Eventing Association) recognized horse trials continue on July 21 to 22 at Loch May Farm at 1235 Parks Mills Road in Adamstown. This is a great time for equestrians and equestrian fans alike. Competing at various levels, competition will be in three categories. The dressage

competition demonstrates relaxation and suppleness using a series of pre-determined movements. The cross-country course includes jumps as well as more natural terrain in testing both horse and rider. The stadium jumping shows fitness, boldness, and obedience of the horse.

Four Selected Silent Shorts

Catch four classic silent films on July 24 at 8:00 p.m. featuring Ray Brubacher on the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ: Buster Keaton short films *Cops* and *One Week* will be shown along with Laurel and Hardy's *Two Tars* plus Harold Lloyd's *Get Out and Get Under*. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-228-2828.

In Stitches at Poolesville Library

In Stitches is a knitting/crochet group that meets monthly at the Poolesville library. The group sometimes has structured programs but most often they just meet to knit/crochet and talk about their projects. Membership is open and there are no dues or fees to join. Members receive monthly reminders of meetings via email only. The next meeting is Thursday, July 26 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Poolesville library meeting room in the back of the library.

St. Mary's Annual Chicken Dinner and Fair: 132 Years of Perfection

One of the area's most popular food and fun festivals returns to St. Mary's Catholic Church on Sunday, July

28. This is their 132nd Annual Chicken Dinner and Fair, and with that amount of tasting, we can attest that it is one of the best barbeque chickens you can get anywhere. The menu and events open at noon and continue through 7:00 p.m. Games, crafts, jarred specialties, fresh vegetables and a rummage sale will entice you as they prepare for their most unique sporting event: jousting. Jousting, believe it or not, is Maryland's official sport. The jousters must gallop a path to the point where they can spear a small ring. The event held at the pavilion also offers carryout chicken dinners, so even if you have other plans, remember, you still have to eat.

Area Churches Join Together in Ecumenical Cookout and Vesper Service

Coordinated by Poolesville's Memorial Methodist Church, an ecumenical evening of fellowship, fun, food, and worship is offered at Stevens Park in Poolesville on Sunday, July 29. All area churches have been invited to participate with a special time for youth from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to play ultimate Frisbee. This looks a little like soccer without the ball. There will be basketball playing and the park also has a ball field and children's playground, a nature walking trail, and a fishing pond.

The cookout of hot dogs, drinks, baked goods, and chips and dip will run from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. To close out the day of activities and food, there

will be an ecumenical vesper service at 7:00 p.m.

Huge Yard Sale

Star Gazing Farm, a farm animal sanctuary at White Store Road at Bucklodge Road, is having a huge yard sale on Saturday, July 28, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the animals. Donations are welcome, and charitable donation receipts are available. Star Gazing Farm is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and all contributions are tax deductible. Volunteers are welcome before and after the event. For details, go to www.stargazingfarm.org, or email farmeranne@stargazingfarm.org.

Australia Comes to Gaithersburg

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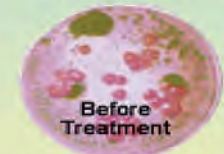
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The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

Local News

More Progress against Vandalism

With vandalism (graffiti, destruction of property, etc) as the single highest crime category in the Up-County region, the Montgomery County Police Department has made reducing that statistic a major goal. Vandals destroying an historical road sign on Hughes Road in late spring were apprehended within minutes. Then on July 2, 2007, Officer Jeff Onley investigated a series of mailbox vandalism incidents in the Poolesville area. This resulted in two juvenile suspects (ages sixteen and seventeen residing in Poolesville) being identified. With parental cooperation, the juveniles were interviewed, admitted to their involvement, and made arrangements for restitution.

MCPD Commander Thomas Didone reporting to the *Monocle* stated, "Although youth are traditionally charged with these crimes, I applaud Officer Onley for the way that he handled the incident. This is an excellent example of the community and police working in a partnership to resolve a problem. Clearly, the support of the residents and parents enabled Officer Onley to pursue the 'old-fashioned' resolution."

The key ingredient to both successful conclusions to these acts of vandalism share the important element of concerned and responsible citizens immediately reporting incidents of this nature to the authorities. With this partnership of residents as watchdogs, coupled with swift response by the police, the objective of reducing vandalism has its best opportunity for success.

A Monocacy Moment

The Fisher Farm barn as it once appeared at the corner of Fisher and Wooton Avenues.



Photograph by Jack Toomey

Business Briefs

By Rande Davis

Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard Wins Gold Medals

Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard, a new vineyard/winery located in Montgomery and Frederick Counties, Maryland, recently was awarded a double gold medal by one of the oldest and largest competitions in the United States: The International Eastern Wine Competition. The award winner, a 2005 Cabernet Franc, was crafted with second year grapes grown onsite. Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard also received silver medals for its 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve, its 2005 Comus Reserve (an aged red Bordeaux blend), and its 2006 Circe (another younger red Bordeaux blend). Bronze medals went to the Vineyard's 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon and its 2005 Merlot. Few wineries in the competition received as many medals.

The competition consisted of over 2,100 entries from sixteen countries (including Australia, Chile, and Argentina) and thirty-four states (including California, Oregon, and Washington). Judges were wine-knowledgeable

professionals, media specialists, and winemakers who represent major East Coast markets from Miami to Toronto.

Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard is a family-run venture located at the base of Sugarloaf Mountain in Comus, Maryland, and four and one-half miles off Interstate 270 at exit 22. For information about the competition, see VWM-online.com/iewc; for information about Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard, see www.smvwinery.com.

Poolesville Hardware Expands Selection to Include Equestrian Needs

John Speelman of Poolesville Hardware has added a new category to the store's already wide selection of products. He now has set aside an area stocking equestrian products through an in-store Tack Shop. Area equestrians who routinely shopped at Debby Lynn's Poolesville Tack and Supply will find the location very convenient since it's next door to her past location in Poolesville. With weekends an important time to shop for equestrians, the long weekend hours at the hardware store will also be very attractive to those customers.

Ice Cream Lovers Rejoice

A quick trip to the ice cream shop

is a very traditional American summer pastime. It wasn't that long ago that people would take short, Sunday afternoon rides through the country, making a stop at a local, soft ice cream stand the highlight of the brief excursion. Our area doesn't have a DQ or Rita's Ice Cream, and the parking lot at the old Staub's restaurant no longer has the lines in front of the side window catering to soft ice cream lovers ordering their favorite cone or sundae. Still, for those getting that special summer craving for ice cream, there are a number of places ready to help you out.

The Corner Café in Poolesville has its soft ice cream machine humming and ready to fill the cravings for that double-sized, soft ice cream with sprinkles, sundaes, and even sno-balls. For those having more specialized taste buds, Cugini's has a large selection of exotic Italian soft ice cream that is hand-dipped. This sweet delight, called gelato, is very rich and doesn't require a big, over-sized cup to satisfy your sweet tooth. Subway, on Fisher Avenue in Poolesville, also offers Breyer's hand-scooped, hard ice cream in the usual selection of flavors. Don't forget that McDonald's has its thick shakes, McFrosty's, and low-fat sundaes and cones.

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7/05

"One Heck of a Storm" Continued From Page 6.

ing rains covered the tracks.

In Kensington, the annual firemen's carnival was about to begin. People from all over had gathered at the carnival grounds when the rumble of thunder was heard. The wind picked up, driving rain started, people ran for their lives, and the carnival tents and amusements were blown away. At about the same time, trolley service from Washington to Kensington was halted when electric service to the cars was interrupted. Passengers huddled in the trolley cars as the storm rolled over them. An

unfortunate woman, Mrs. Coneyman of Washington, had taken her grandson on a motor trip to the Maryland suburbs to escape the heat of the city. As they arrived home in northwest Washington, Mrs. Coneyman parked in front of her house only to have the winds blow a tree onto her car.

As the storm passed the city and swept towards the Eastern Shore, people came out of their homes to assess the damage. Trees and telephone and power lines were down everywhere. Roads were impassible, and volunteer firefighters spent the night pumping out flooded basements, cutting down trees, and helping where they could. The temperature had fallen

over thirty degrees. In Annapolis, the historic Liberty Tree, that at the time was 350 years old, was damaged by the winds. In 1999, when it was 400 years old, the tree was so badly damaged by Hurricane Floyd that it had to be cut down.

The next day, people from outlying areas made their way around downed trees and telephone poles and came into Poolesville, Adamstown, Gaithersburg, and other centers of commerce. They mingled with the townsfolk, did their shopping, and the one thing that was heard over and over was, "That was a heck of a storm."

Local News

Maryland State Route 28 will be closed between Route 85 and Point of Rocks for a period of about six months. The closing is necessary for the construction of the Tuscorora Creek bridge which dates to 1930. Motorists wishing to reach the area of Point of Rocks will be directed by signs north on New Design Road and then west towards Route 15.

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"Hilltop" Continued From Page 1.

President Melissa Foster says little has changed a year later.

There are concerns about the development's impact on thoroughfares that have been designated rustic roads as well as the sewage plans, Foster said, but the tot lot element is what make people "furious." Foster and others point to a December 2002 letter written by Charles Faller III to developer Mike Rubin in which Faller wrote, "I am continuing with the subdivision and should be in a position to sell the lots this summer [2003]."

"This is not what tot lots were for," Foster said. "Everyone is afraid of the precedent it sets."

In a report recommending approval for the Hilltop project, county planning staff recommended a covenant that would require the seven new lots be owned by the Hilltop partners or their children for at least five years after the issuance of building permits.

The report said Hilltop partners were willing to enter such an agreement, although in June 2004, Charles Faller III rejected a similar request from the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board by calling the idea "unrealistic, imprudent,

and overly restrictive."

In any case, the idea does little to appease critics who note that without a residency requirement, the homes could still be sold as a lease purchase. Andrea Arnold of Solutions Not Sprawl noted that the Hilltop development is returning to the planning board just as both planners and the County Council are considering zoning text amendments that would add clarifying language about tot lots. In some cases, hearings were planned on both topics on the same day. "This [case] I think could be the perfect case study for why the legislation needs to be tightened up," Arnold said.

The Hilltop project has a long history beginning with initial approval of a plan by the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board in 1999; however, that approval was rescinded in January 2005 when the board became aware of contract purchasers for more than 215 acres of the property as well as various changes in the plans. The Faller family declined the opportunity to make a comment for this article.

"Wearing A Badge of Honor" Continued From Page 4.

signs, Mr. Yeatts actually argued against the new proposal as presented at the recent town meeting, forcing adjustments before he and other commissioners would support going to public hearing. The final decision is pending and is unknown even to the SRB until after the public hearing.

There are good reasons to support the proposed change in the sign ordinance and there are reasonable arguments against it. Personal attacks and conspiracy theories are sorrowful and pitiful attempts to

persuade others without having to deal with facts. It seems to us, giving limited use of temporary signs to the very businesses that support all the fundraising efforts in the town is the least we can do in return. If it turns out to be a mistake, we can always change the ordinance once again.

As to Mr. Janet's charges, I treat the tirade as a badge of honor, and I am proud to join so many others who have come before me. If only my Mom and Dad were here to share this with me now.

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Things to Do

July 20

Movies in the Park; E.T.
Whalen Commons – Poolesville; Free
8:30 p.m.

July 21 to 22

Maryland Summer Horse Trials
Loch May Farm – Adamstown
1235 Parks Mill Rd.

July 22

Music in the Park
Whalen Commons – Poolesville
Project Natale – All styles of jazz
Free; 7:00 p.m.

July 23

Author Book Signing
Mary Ann Powell – Emerson
Poolesville Library
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

July 24

Four Silent Films
Weinberg Center for the Arts
8:00 p.m.

July 26

Maryland Science Center
Special Science Presentation by Brian
Benders
Poolesville Library; 2:00 p.m.

In Stitches Knitting/Crochet Group
7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Poolesville Public Library meeting
room.

July 28

Annual Chicken Dinner and Fair
St. Mary's Catholic Church – Barnes-
ville Pavilion

Games, rummage sale, fruits/veggies,
& jousting
Noon to 7:00 p.m.

Movies in the Park

Whalen Commons – Poolesville
Charlotte's Web; Free, 8:30 p.m.

Huge Yard Sale

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Star Gazing Farm, White Store Road
at Bucklodge Road.
Charitable benefit for the Star Gazing
Farm animal sanctuary.

July 29

Ecumenical Celebration
Fellowship, fun, food, and worship
Ultimate Frisbee for Youth:
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Family Picnic for All
Hot Dogs, drinks, etc – free
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Ecumenical Vesper Service; 7:00 p.m.

July 30

Book Discussion Group
Poolesville Library
The #1 Ladies Detective Agency – Alex-
andra McCall Smith
7:30 p.m.

Journey to Land Down Under
Monday Morning Children's Series
City Hall Concert Pavilion
31 S. Summit – Gaithersburg; 10:30 p.m.

"Neighbor Saves Family" Continued From Page 3.

of implosion to a point of total loss,
only about fifteen minutes transpired.

For the family, it was a complete
and total loss. As we talked to Ms.
Fernandez, her children were sifting
through some rubble in the back and
brought out just a few of some per-
sonal items they had recovered which
included family photographs and a
few pieces of jewelry. "If it hadn't been
for Mike [Owen] I definitely would not
be talking to you right now," she told
us on the Monday afternoon following
the blaze.

The home, located at the front of a
cul-de-sac, is part of a close-knit neigh-
borhood. Mike Owen, who is referred
to as "Uncle Mike" by Chris and Alexis
Maloney, was grateful that he was able
to help. "I have known the family for
over fifteen years and have watched
these kids grow up."

Another neighbor and former fire-
fighter, Robert Hunter, who also has
been a close friend for the past fifteen
years was awakened by the sound of
the fire and commotion beginning to
spread outside. "I heard a roar which
reminded me of a low-flying airplane,
but the sound never stopped as would
have happened if it was a plane." He
looked outside and joined the fam-
ily. He had been involved in another
family emergency when Alexis was
just a baby and had trouble breathing.
"It was so great when I got outside to
see that everyone was safely out of the
home."

Ironically, the day before the fire
was a day of celebration for the family.
Cheryl Fernandez told us that they
had just finished topping off the roof
of a new addition which would have
been their new master bedroom suite.
"We had a barbeque party and were
celebrating the progress of the new
addition never having a thought of
something like this happening."

One week after losing all of their
material goods, the family reflected on
their situation. "These have been diffi-
cult times as we work our way through
this, but we are so grateful that every-
one is alive and well." The loss of the
home was total with a value around
\$500,000. Even the in-ground pool,
which is located about twenty-five
feet from the house in the back, had
its lining melt away in spots. With the
family now having to start over from
scratch, friends and neighbors have
come forward with some financial help
as well as some gift cards so they might
begin to replace their wardrobe. Others
also wishing to provide assistance may
make donations as a Fernandez Relief
Fund is being set up with Bank of
America in Rockville.

Ms. Fernandez, who is a bilingual
officer at a Bethesda construction com-
pany, and Paul Dowd, owner of Dowd
Construction, plan to rebuild on the
site. Finding housing in Poolesville for
the interim is a high priority, and they
would be very grateful to learn of any
rental properties available in the area.

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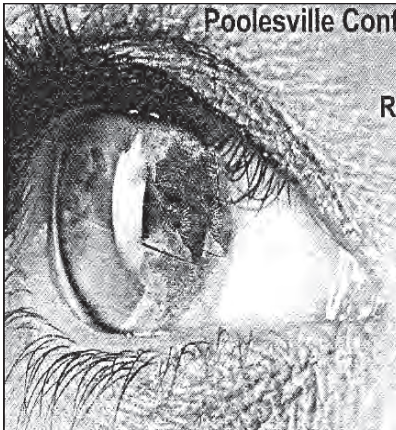
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Local News

Poolesville Town Commission Meeting

By Rande Davis

Commissioners Select New Town Engineer at Recent Meeting

After a twenty-five year relationship with View Engineering, the Poolesville Town Commissioners recently made the decision to put out a bid to fill this important consultant position. Although recognizing many years of satisfactory personal service by View, the town had become increasingly dissatisfied with the level of service and the degree of responsiveness on the part of that firm.

With View Engineering having been recently purchased by a French firm changing it from small business to one employing more than 4,000 and with its key employees also leaving the company, the benefits gained by the close, long-term personal relationships were gone.

In response to the bid, four firms supplied information requesting to be considered for the engineering consulting, there were three other companies competing for the bid. One company deemed insufficiently able to provide full services was not publicly identified. The competition boiled down to two companies: CSLI and Huron Consulting. According to comments made at the meeting, both companies provided comparative offers for their fees. In the end, it was Huron's stated commitment to service and the firm's project manager being John Strong, a former employee of View who is very familiar with the town's requirements, which swayed the majority of the commissioners. The commissioners voted 4-1 to approve the bid by Huron. Commissioner Klobukowski was the sole opposing vote.

Commission President Eddie Kuhlman told the Monocle that he was very

pleased with the outcome, expressing his opinion that the new company is positioned to provide the personal attention the town management needs. The president of Huron Consulting, Dick Hurney, made a public statement of appreciation for the decision of the commissioners and promised to "strive to meet the expectations, particularly in follow-up, of the town."

None of the other competing firms were present at the awarding of the bid.

Changes to Sign Ordinances Approved for Public Hearing

The town Sign Review Board presented proposed changes to the sign ordinance relating to the use of temporary signs by commercial establishments. (Note: This writer serves as the voluntary chairman of this board) Commercial establishments have not been allowed the use of temporary signs similar to those used by the town, candidates, realtors, civic groups, churches, and school organizations. Changes to the sign ordinance designed to improve the marketing opportunity for businesses in town were, for the most part, approved last year, but one aspect relating to the use of temporary signs by commercial groups did not meet the approval of the commissioners since it lacked adequate enforcement processes.

The new proposal before the commissioners simplified the issue by giving all commercial establishments weekend use of temporary signs similar to privileges now enjoyed by real estate companies. The new proposal would allow temporary signs from Saturday morning through Sunday evening. The enforcement ability comes from the town's authority to confiscate any such signs still in place on Monday morning. Additionally, the new ordinance places limitations on the size, requires commercially or professionally produced signs only, and restricts the "clustering"

of such signs in areas having more than one business. It also allows businesses not opened on weekends to apply for permission for specified use of temporary signs on two other days of the week. The final decision on approval by the commission will await an August 6, 2007 public hearing on the proposal.

Authorizing the Use of the CEDC Timeless Charm Logo

With the prospect of replacing the existing road signs welcoming people to the Poolesville with a proposed new sign that incorporates the Timeless Charm logo produced by the Community and Economic Development Committee, the commissioners discussed the pros and cons of replacing the Old Town Hall logo. Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski, at a previous meeting, objected to such change without full discussion by the commissioners. Town attorney, Alan Wright, seemed to ameliorate the discussion by assuring the commissioners they did not have to make an either/or decision and that the town could have more than one logo using either the Old Town Hall logo at times and the new Timeless Charm logo on other occasions. While no decision was made, the commissioners declined to move to a public hearing on the issues as too cumbersome and non-productive but welcomed resident opinions on preferences regarding the two logos. Residents are encouraged to write to the town expressing their viewpoint. Which do you prefer as a town logo? You have three choices: The Old Town Hall, Timeless Charm, or you may choose both to be used at different

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times and various ways. You can even see a demonstration combining both logos into one on www.poolesville.com.

Commissioners Hear Concern of Growing Problem of Displaced Youths

Vivian Warren and Dale Nestor of Beallsville requested time to speak to the commissioners at the opening of the meeting to present their concerns regarding some troubled teens in the community. Mrs. Warren, a former counselor at the Red House, a home (now closed) for boys who were identified as radically troubled having parents whom the courts determined to be unsuitable, came to report her concern regarding a group of troubled teens she is currently mentoring. Without specifying how many youths, she reported on a group that comes to her for food and advice. Describing them as directionless, using alcohol and drugs, and coming from homes that lack support even to the point of not providing enough food, she wanted to raise a discussion as to what the town might do to help these individuals.

Mr. Nestor, a well-respected former Ag teacher at Poolesville High School and community volunteer who is active with the Monocacy Lions and Odd Fellows, served to introduce her and to express support for her concerns. Neither offered specific requests but only wanted to raise the awareness of the problem to the commissioners. Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski, who represents the commission on education matters, and Commissioner Link Hoewing, a long-time past school cluster coordinator, both agreed to meet with Mr. Nestor and Mrs. Warren to better understand their concerns and to try to determine if there are ways for the town to assist them in their quest to help the troubled teens.

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present

The police in Montgomery County's Fifth District have launched the Graffiti Eradication Team whose goal is to stop and eradicate the spread of graffiti in the district that ranges from Germantown to Poolesville. The ten-officer team tries to eliminate graffiti when they see it on public property while not on calls for service. To report graffiti, call 301-840-2650 or the graffiti hotline at 301-607-4722. The Frederick County Sheriff's Department has started a unique program named the Lethality Assessment Project. The program trains first responders, police officers, and rescue personnel on what to do when someone in a domestic violence situation is judged to be in high danger. The goal of the program is to prevent homicides and domestic violence. Heartley House, a refuge for victims, has also been established in Frederick County. Frederick County residents seeking more information can call Jan Wheatley or Dave Sargent at 301-927-2714.

June 6 19400 block of Martinsburg Road. Two Poolesville men, both eighteen years old, were beaten by a

group of other men during a field party. Montgomery County Police said that a graduation party had been in progress for several hours when a group of men, wearing dark clothing and hoods, attacked the men. During the assault, three shots were fired into the air. The host was treated for facial injuries. Anyone with information about the assailants is requested to call the Germantown detectives at 301-840-2347. Police reported no other significant criminal activity in the patrol area that includes Poolesville, Barnesville, Dickerson, and Boyds.

Past

July 21, 1956 Two Maryland state roads employees were in the process of setting up barricades on Route 28 at Seneca Creek because it had flooded across the roadway. A large log was swept downstream and struck their truck knocking both the men and the truck into the water. Firemen from the Beallsville station rescued the men using a lifeline.

July 24, 1896 Miss Windsor and Miss McAtee were returning from the Sunday School Convention at Rockville when their buggy came upon a bicyclist on the

Darnestown Road. Their horse became frightened and overturned their carriage throwing them to the ground. Both ladies were carried to the home of Doctor Linthicum where they were treated for cuts.

July 25, 1948 A young man, who was only identified as "Adams," saw a car stuck on the railroad tracks at the Halpine crossing south of Rockville. The boy saw a train approaching, so he took off his undershirt and flagged down the train which stopped before it hit the car. The boy left before he could be identified.

July 28, 1930 Llewelyn Davis, of Barnesville, was swimming in the Potomac River at Seneca when he slipped out of the automobile inner tube that he was using to stay afloat. Bruce Carr of Rockville, who was one of hundreds of bathers who had come seeking relief from the heat, dove into the river and swam to the aid of Davis and towed him to shore.

July 30, 1976 Nine people, including a sixty-year-old chemist from HEW, were arrested in a police raid in the 19500 block of Wootton Avenue in Poolesville. Police later said that the house was being used as a laboratory to manufacture a hallucinogenic drug. Four of those arrested gave their address as the Wootton

Avenue home.

July 30, 1902 William Bobinger, the owner and proprietor of the Cabin John Hotel, was arrested by Montgomery County authorities and charged with alleged violations of the local liquor laws and also for maintaining a gambling house.

"Daytripper" Continued From Page 6.

understanding of the role the railroad played in the development of communities [like Brunswick] all along their cross-country routes, and the strides our nation took in its communication and transportation at the turn of the last century."

In addition to the railroad, one can't help but notice the role that baseball played in the history of Brunswick. At the turn of the century, this town was a baseball town, and this passion for the national pastime is on display complete with uniforms, memorabilia, and pictures of the various championship teams that called Brunswick home. Just as model railroaders will be impressed and perhaps awed by the third floor's exhibit, any baseball lover will thoroughly enjoy the old leather mitts, baggy uniforms, and gnarled bats on display on the second floor.

The fun doesn't have to stop after the tour of the Brunswick Railroad Museum is concluded, the gift shop is filled with unique souvenirs like coffee mugs with pictures of the old steam locomotives, beautiful paintings of the natural beauty that dominates this corner of Maryland, as well as railroad puzzles and games that kids of all ages are sure to enjoy. Within an easy walk of the building are a few other businesses that call Brunswick home, the Book Crossing, located at the corner of Maple and Potomac, is a quaint bookstore that is the perfect place to stop and browse when you don't want to go home just yet, and to satisfy the hunger worked up by touring Brunswick, stop by the Emerald

Garden for some delicious authentic Chinese food cooked up by Chef Bobby Cheng.

Wherever your passions lie, whether it's railroads, baseball, or just plain history, the Brunswick Railroad Museum is a great place to visit and has plenty of attractions to occupy the imagination and time of any weekend daytripper (the museum is closed Monday through Thursday). Admission is \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children.



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Tidbits

Maybe Your Only Chance for A Free House

If you have property, there is a historic home waiting for you. The good news: it's free. The bad news, it needs to be relocated from its present location.

Poolesville Presbyterian Church has decided it will no longer maintain the vacant Seymour House on the southern side of church property and they are planning to demolish the building by the end of this summer.

The historic home is perfect for a boutique or small office, and through more extensive renovation could still be a nice home for a small family. Maybe you have plans for a mother-in-law apartment and prefer something with more character than the upstairs of a garage.

While the church does not have any immediate plans for the property, in the long run, the building does not fit into its plans. For the time being, the property will provide extra parking and provide opportunity for the church that has seen membership growth in recent years.

If you have interest, you may contact Pam Mattes at 301-349-2372 or writ-

edoc2003@yahoo.com, or Ross Kooser 301-349-2191 or rkooser@verizon.net

Final Results on Funds Raised for Fisher House

Roger Strippey, representing the group of organizers and sponsors of the "Welcome the Troops" fishing and picnic outing to White's Ferry, presented a check for \$15,000 for Fisher House to Katie Deyermond, Business Manager of Fisher House. The Walter Reed Army Medical Center Fisher House provides facilities for visiting relatives of recovering soldiers. The other organizers of the event are Paul Kelly, Richard McKnight, and Carl Hobbs. Primary financial support came from major sponsors Edwin and Neal Brown, Frank Jamison, and Don and Mary Lou Hoffacker. The long list of supporters 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, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue personnel, the Getty Station, the Town of Poolesville, Sports Authority, and the *Monocacy Monocle*.

Dillingham Inducted into Maryland Municipal League's Hall of Fame.

Dr. Thomas Dillingham, former Poolesville commissioner, received the high honor of being inducted into the Maryland Municipal League's (MML) Hall of Fame at their June 26, 2007 convention in Ocean City. Started in 1936, the MML represents 157 municipal governments throughout the state. Created to strengthen and support municipal government through advocacy and the development of effective leadership, the organization also seeks to provide assistance in research, training, and legislation. To be so honored, an inductee must serve in an elected capacity for twenty or more years. Dr. Dillingham joins George Hillard as the only local MML Hall of Famers. Congratulations to Tom along with an expression of appreciation for his outstanding service to the town.

Former Poolesville High School Teacher Publishes Her First Book

Mary Ann Powell of Poolesville has published her first book entitled *Emerson*. This is the story of a girl and a new love of her life—a colt that simply stumbles onto her farm which she names *Emerson*. It is the story of the "trials, tribulations, and surprises" of raising this horse to become a show horse despite

the opposition from her father. The novel is in the great time-honored genre featuring a girl and her horse. Mary Ann Powell will be at the Poolesville Public Library on Monday, July 23 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for a book signing. Be sure to read the book now before it hits the big screen.



Roger Strippey hands a \$15,000 check to Katie Deyermond, Business Manager of Fisher House. They are accompanied by other organizers and sponsors of the "Welcome the Troops" fishing and picnic outing to White's Ferry: Rich McKnight, Commissioner Eddie Kuhlman, F. Paul Kelly, Don and Mary Lou Hoffacker, Carl Hobbs, and Bobby Pollen, who organized the eighty-motorcycle escort for the troops to White's Ferry.

Pulse

The Odd Fellows of Lodge #97: What Makes Them So Odd?

By Rande Davis

There are two times a year that the Odd Fellows of Lodge #97 are most visible to the community at large. You can't miss them hawking a chance to win their raffle of a multitude of prizes during Poolesville Day. The other time is during the fall as they sit in front of Selby's and in other areas around town selling their selection of fresh, juicy fruits.

The rest of the year, they quietly meet once a month in the building next to Poolesville United Memorial Methodist Church running their meetings, making plans for projects, and renewing friendships. This group of twenty-eight men is anything but odd (okay, so there are a couple of exceptions). What they are and what they do is part of a mission that began in the mid-1700s.

The Independent Order of the Odd Fellows started with the Patriotic Order in England, but Baltimore is the recognized site of its origin in America. It was founded by a gentleman named Thomas Wildey. Its purpose is to exalt the virtues of friendship, love, and truth. Its original mission was for members to honor their

duty to visit the sick, bury the dead, and educate orphans.

Lodge #97 is getting ready to celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2008. It hasn't always been easy. At times, membership slipped to just five or six men. They had to overcome a fire that destroyed their I.O.O.F. building at the corner of Fisher and Elgin Roads (Poolesville Barber Shop and Brenda's Salon occupy the first floor of the new building). It is a testament to the value of their service to the community that the organization has such a long history.

The Odd Fellow mission today is similar but more expansive from its origins. The support of widows and orphans remains a keystone part of their service. Until just a few years ago, the Maryland Odd Fellows provided retirement facilities in Frederick.

Bill Hossler, Jim Sporey, Ralph Cooley, and Foster Hough are four of the longest participating members, to name just a few. Many, like William Poole and Dale Nestor, expand their community service beyond the Odd Fellows to be active in other groups like the American Legion (Poole) and the Monocacy Lions (Nestor).

Through their work, the organization provides not only very important financial and material help to people in the area, but it also extends expressions of love and caring to widows (and now, widowers) and orphans in the commu-

nity.

Through their raffle and fruit sale, the amount of good they perform is remarkable. Every year they provide two \$1,000 scholarships to deserving graduates of PHS. At Christmas and Thanksgiving, they provide meals for families in need.

One of their pet projects is Hands of Love. Useful items that some no longer need, but others find essential, are made available to those with little or nothing. Ever wonder what happens to all those leftover items from rummage sales. They're not thrown away. The Odd Fellows pack them and drive them to distribution locations in West Virginia.

Every year they quietly give funds to Alzheimer Research groups, the Red Cross, organizations working on heart problems, and diabetes. They also unceremoniously find ways to help when emergencies arise. After the house fire at the Fernandez home on Gott Street, one of the first to stop by was a representative of the Odd Fellows wanting to know how to help. Working with school administrations, they provide many \$50 savings bonds as recognition for the community service by our young people.

Thomas Dillingham is just now starting his second term of leadership in the club as its Noble Grand. Why they joined the Odd Fellows is summed up by Herb White, a longtime member, in

saying, "We have fun and enjoy each other's company, but if that is all we did, the club would not exist. It really is the pleasure of giving community service."

How the organization came upon its name is a matter of some debate, but one explanation seems to satisfy most. The original members came from the working class in areas of trade labor that sometimes were not fully identifiable (think odd jobs). Somehow the odd name has weathered nearly four hundred years of bad jokes. The reason is simple: Fostering love, truth, and friendship is no joke.

Through all the material assistance, perhaps the most meaningful gift they provide is more important than even clothes or money. Twice a year at a holiday party and a spring picnic, the Odd Fellows host a dinner for the widows, widowers, and any others who may be alone to break bread and share friendship. Their special gift is letting people know a simple truth: They are cared for.

The best way for the community to help the Odd Fellows help the community is to donate raffle items for Poolesville Day, buy those raffle tickets, and stock up as much as you can on your holiday fruit when you see them huddled in their overcoats, braced against the cold air selling their holiday fruit and extending their holiday cheer.

"Trees: Giants of the Earth"
Continued From Page 5.

tant part of the tree, more weight by giving the girth in inches. The formula is: Total Points equals Circumference (Inches) plus Height (feet) plus twenty-five percent of the average Crown Spread (feet). There is a National Champion, the largest specimen of its species in the United States, and a State Champion, the largest of its species in a particular state. Only native and naturalized trees are eligible.

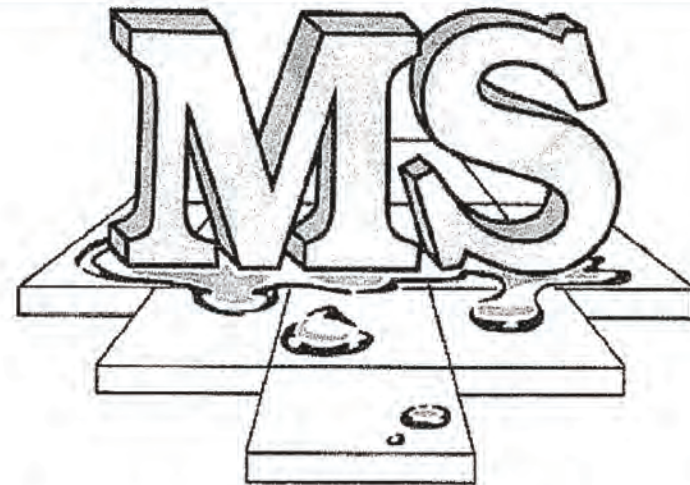
Champion trees, both national and state, exist in all of our states. Some are well known, and others grow silently and unnoticed in people's backyards, farmlands, and forgotten forests. Because America's forests have been cut so many times, most national champions are found in urban areas. In Maryland, the Wye Oak was the living symbol of the state tree, the White Oak. It was destroyed in a wind storm on January 6, 2002. Our country's tallest tree (369 feet) is the Coast Redwood, growing in Redwood National Park in northern California. Its massive trunk rises fifty-nine feet before a branch appears. This specimen is a remnant of an ancient, temperate rain forest, and it is believed to be over two thousand years old.

Our Monocacy area has its share of Champion Trees. I recently enjoyed a coffee under the cool shade of one of these notable trees. It grows majestically at Wilbur Farm in Dickerson, the home of Missy Lankler and her daughter Celeste. It is a Silver Pendent Linden (*Tilia petiolaris*), 172 inches in circumference, eighty-five feet in height, with a seventy-seven foot crown spread. For a tree of its size and age, it is in very good health. This is unusual, since the tree has a girdle mark encircling it at about five feet above the ground. This usually weakens a tree and makes it more susceptible to diseases. Every spring its small

white blossoms perfume the air for weeks. This tree, which is fondly called Mary by the family, was selected as a Champion Tree in April 1999.

Other Champion Trees in our area include: Hackberry (87-foot height), John Windolph, Boyds; Southern Red Oak (91 feet), Richard and Barbara Wilkinson, Boyds; White Oak (88 feet), Victor and Linda Pepe, Barnesville; White Pine (107 feet), Darnestown Presbyterian Church, Darnestown; Serviceberry (51 feet), Jim and Peg Coleman, Boyds; Sycamore (132 feet), State of Maryland, McKee Beshers Wildlife Management Area; Tree-of-Heaven (36 feet), Poolesville High School, Poolesville.

In earlier centuries, what we now consider Champion Trees were only ordinary trees. It was common to find trees that six large men could join hands around. In the last twenty years, we have seen the loss of many of our Champion Trees. Our environment offers less than favorable conditions for the growth of healthy trees—even for the genetically superior Champions. Decades of deforestation, soil depletion, and air pollution poison and threaten their survival. Wind, disease, insects, and chainsaws add more fuel to the fire. We have insects and animals on an Endangered or Protected Species list, but there are no laws for the protection of trees. This is not an example of a tree hugger's sentimentality. When a tree dies, especially a Champion, we lose a part of our ecological legacy. Fortunately, voices are being heard in the forest. The Champion Tree Project International, a non-profit, tax exempt charity, was founded in Michigan to preserve the biggest, best, tallest, strongest, and eldest representatives of Earth's largest living plants. The project exists to protect these magnificent giants and make sure their genetic wisdom and beauty are available in the next millennium.



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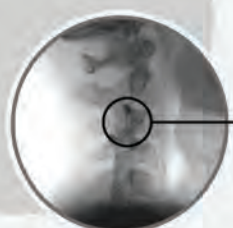
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"No Job Is Too Large or Too Small"

"Community and Economic Development" Continued
From Page 4.

money for its purpose. The \$3,000 provided by the town out of a \$1.25 million budget certainly is not excessive. This limited amount is expended on behalf of all residents while, at the same time, not competing with the needs for fundraising by the valuable charitable groups in the community. As the goals of the CEDC come to fruition, the benefits to all will become more apparent: new businesses will come to Poolesville, existing businesses will see sales increase, which in turn can provide more revenue to the town from sales success. Of course, further benefits coming from a sound and growing economy will be the continuation of the outstanding record by our businesses in supporting our schools, churches, and civic groups that ask them for help nearly on a daily basis.

The CEDC is made up of volunteers who devote significant personal time which adds to the efficiency and effectiveness of the committee. The public's participation in the various festivals and events supports the overwhelming appreciation and support for such activities.

While not specifically part of the CEDC, the committee has been tasked to establish a job description for a town staff position for Recreation Specialist/Events Coordinator. The recreational staff position will help diminish the often heard cry from our youth that "there is just nothing to do in Poolesville." This position will not only be of assistance to the various independent groups using our parks throughout the town, but it is a position designed to strengthen the full use of all the town's recreational facilities.

As recently as the last commissioners' meeting, the issue of creating more "things to do" for all our youth was once more raised by concerned citizens. While past teen centers have had less than bounding success, the change in focus from being facility-oriented to activities-oriented will not only better use all the facilities at our disposal but will allow for more creative activities.

The CEDC created a new logo for the town that expounds the theme of "timeless charm." In its design, the logo supports the overwhelming popular notion to maintain the rural, small town charm of

Poolesville. This logo is not so much to displace the "old town hall" icon but to add to it. The commissioners voted to add this logo as a more stylish symbol of the town. While the town maintains full use of the old town hall logo, the fact that the building is no longer owned by the town also played a role in recognizing that an additional icon can prove helpful in marketing or branding the town.

What more is planned by the CEDC? They are now putting together welcome bags for new neighbors that will include the PACC phone directories, maps, annual event calendars, and brochures from various civic organizations as a traditional (timeless charm) way of making sure our new friends feel welcomed as a part of the community at the start.

The CEDC also initiated a survey and research document on the town so as to more comprehensively present the town, its people, and its mutual interests to prospective businesses, tourists, and governmental agencies that might be a source of grants. Part of the research document comes from surveys taken last Poolesville Day. In the same way that a portfolio attracts investors, such a research paper helps "sell" interest from new businesses.

Poolesville commissioners understand the public's demand to control growth so that the town does not make the same mistakes that uncontrolled-growth municipalities have made. Fostering economic growth prevents boarded up storefronts that can lead to many social problems. At a time when small towns all across America struggle to survive and many turn into ghost towns, one last way to look at the CEDC is taken from a popular movie. Consider the CEDC as "economic ghostbusters" with a mission designed to keep the ghosts of a declining and stagnant economy away. The CEDC is made up of dedicated volunteers from the business community (Mary Beth Dewey, Karen Micheals, and Lynn Bodmer), from the residential population (Brian Hundtermark, Chris Marett, and Tom Kettler), and town council/government members (George Coakley, Commissioner Tom Yeatts, Commissioner Link Hoewing, and town manager, Wade Yost—ghostbusters all.)



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Gail Lee's Poolesville MARKET WATCH May/June 2007 Update



I am so happy to provide my second **POOLESVILLE MARKET WATCH** edition for 2007 bringing information on all **SOLD & Under Contract Properties** for **MAY/JUNE** of this year. 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. In every issue I will also include my featured listings and any 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, with heartfelt appreciation! GAIL

UNDER CONTRACT POOLESVILLE

Address	Subdivision	List Price	Days on Market
16021 Partnership Rd	Poolesville	\$895,000	93
18900 Beallsville Rd	Poolesville	\$1,600,000	56
19824 Beatriz Ave	Wooton Heights	\$261,000	79
17614 Kohlhoss Rd	Wesmond	\$299,900	114
17659 Kohlhoss Rd	Wesmond	\$307,900	14
19174 Dowden Cr	Hunters Run	\$459,900	235
17232 Gen Custer Way	Elizabeth's Delight	\$624,500	37
17913 Hickman St	Elizabeth's Delight	\$719,500	33
18308 McKernon Way	Woods at Tama	\$800,000	13

SOLD POOLESVILLE

Address	Subdivision	List Price	SOLD Price	Closing Help	Days on Market
19730 Wooton Ave	Summerhill	\$289,900	\$289,900	\$0	101
17523 Kohlhoss Rd	Wesmond	\$290,000	\$290,000	\$0	0
19813 Spurrier Ave	Westerly	\$459,900	\$458,900	\$13,767	372
20009 Westerly Ave	Westerly	\$469,900	\$460,000	\$0	48
19208 Wooton Ave	Wesmond	\$469,900	\$469,900	\$0	248
17413 Soper St	Wesmond	\$490,000	\$490,000	\$9,000	128
17601 Collier Cr	Wesmond	\$498,000	\$488,000	\$0	271
19917 Westerly Ave	Westerly	\$529,900	\$519,900	\$0	144
19037 Tom Fox Ave	Hunters Run	\$664,900	\$635,000	\$0	295
17018 Hillard St	Hunters Run	\$669,900	\$669,900	\$0	13
17917 Hickman St	Elizabeth's Delight	\$749,000	\$712,500	\$0	316

All information deemed reliable but not guaranteed
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