

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

December 7, 2007

Volume IV, Number 16.



Mr. Daryl Clark is firing up the PHS music program. See Center Stage on Page 11.



PHS Varsity cheerleaders won their 2007 divisional competition. See Youth Sports on Page 24.



PHS midfielder and team co-captain Karl Mihm in action. See Youth Sports on Page 23.



Coach Duvall led the Falcons to the finals. Read all about it on Page 6.

Father Walter Lawrence of St. Mary's Church Passes Away

By Rande Davis and Dominique Agnew

Father Walter Lawrence of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Barnesville passed away on November 28, just a few weeks after being first diagnosed with leukemia.

Father Lawrence, who was raised in Rockville, was born in Washington, D.C. on August 30, 1947. He voiced great pleasure in being a native son of this region and served it exclusively for nearly thirty-five years. The only time he was really away from home for any length of time was when he spent three years at seminary in Albany, New York. Even during those years, he still kept his family residence here and came home for the summers.

He was the son of Betty Jean Lawrence and the late Duane G. Lawrence and the brother of Jeannine Ann Willis of Walkersville. Father Lawrence was the uncle of Marnie Marie O'Donnell (husband Edward) and Paul Michael Willis, Jr., and great uncle to Michael, Patrick, and Thomas O'Donnell.

Father Lawrence's call to the priesthood came very early in life. Even at four years old, he built altars from blocks with his father assuming the role of acolyte. Friends recall a tale of the time that upon coming home after his first experience assisting on the altar, he had told them he had decided that "he wanted to bring Jesus to the people."

For an article in the December 2006 issue of the *Monocle*, he told us "before he knew himself, he knew where he was going early on." From the earliest age, "as long as I can remember," Father Lawrence reminisced how he was always interested in things about the Church, mass, and priests. While it is common for people to agonize over a career path, he told the *Monocle*, "It's always been clear to me."

He attended St. Mary's Catholic

Church in Rockville, went to Catholic schools, and chose to go to the seminary right after graduating from Gonzaga High School. He began by attending seminary in Baltimore to be sure the priesthood was the correct path. Following this, he was sent to Albany by the archdiocese, then returned to Baltimore to finish his studies. He held a Bachelor's in philosophy and a Master's of Divinity.

He also had a strong personal passion and abiding interest in architecture and had he not pursued the priesthood, he may have selected that profession. As a self-taught scholar of architecture, he was often quite impressive with his knowledge of architecture. When he helped lead a group

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Father Walter Lawrence

Holiday Season Season Begins In Monocacy Area

For many in America, the lighting of the tree in Rockefeller Plaza marks the beginning of the holiday season. We in upper Montgomery County have four traditions that serve the same purpose: the lighting of the Christmas tree in Boyds, the Odd Fellows holiday luncheon for widows and orphans, the holiday street-lights in Poolesville, and Santa Claus riding a fire truck.

The first, the tree lighting ceremony in Boyds, was held on Friday evening, November 30, on the lawn



in front of the town's post office. This community tradition has been held for over a quarter century. Over one hundred residents encircled the town's Christmas tree, a living memorial to longtime Boyds resident, Charles Melvin Harner, Sr. On hand to enjoy the event was Chip Harner, Charles Harner's son. "This is a wonderful event. I remember the lighting of the tree from when I was a very little boy." For Chip Harner, the festivity has double meaning since his mother, Una, was the postmaster in Boyds for many years.

The Reverend Merritt Ednie of Boyds Presbyterian Church presided over the Boyds festival of song and prayer. He reminded the attendees of the importance of such events in the life of families, and that when families gather together in celebration, they create community. After the singing of some carols, "My Country Tis of Thee," and prayer, the children took a short hayride to the Presbyterian Church for sweet refreshments and a chance to see Santa Claus.

On Saturday afternoon, the Odd Fellows Post 97 in Poolesville hosted one of the oldest events in the area,

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The Reverend Merritt Ednie of the Boyds Presbyterian Church greets Andrea McAvoy and her children Leah and Mason as well as Jacob and Brady Gross as the tree lighting ceremony in Boyds begins.



Santa Claus made his first visit to the area at the Boyds Presbyterian Church after the town's tree lighting ceremony.



Dale Nestor (left) and Jack Shawver of the Odd Fellows selling the seasonal fruit as a fundraiser for the organization.



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Jane Poole sits among nearly two hundred stuffed toys and animals that she and Shirley Sporey (not pictured) prepared on behalf of the Odd Fellows to be given to needy children.



Widows enjoyed the warm hospitality of the Odd Fellows. Left to right: Dorothy Fowler, Mary Woods, Betty Watkins, Pat Ferris, and Shirley Smith

In the Garden

Holiday Gifts for a Gardener

By Maureen O'Connell

It is that time of year again—what to get for gifts for family and friends? You can narrow your choices down a bit by selecting something that would be useful and appreciated in one of their hobbies. There is a vast range of gifts that many gardeners would love to receive. To help you out, I visited several stores and websites in the last couple of weeks and drew up a list of gifts—some practical, some whimsical, some for the gardener's soul, and some for no reason at all. I also looked around my garden and potting sheds to see what tools or gadgets I can't garden without.

On the most basic level, we need the 'tools of the trade, from a simple pair of pruners to a finely-crafted English trowel. I never seem to have enough tools. That might be because I often leave them in the garden in the grass, and my husband runs over them with the tractor. I have lost many a fine weeder that way. I believe the Swiss-made Felco #2 Classic Pruner, originally available only to professional horticulturists, is the best all-purpose pruner—whether you tend

a full-scale nursery or a single rosebush. At \$44.00, it is pricier than many others, but it is worth it. It is well made, feels good in your hand, and the blades do not stick together like the cheaper models. Add to this a hedge shears with Teflon-coated blades, a small folding saw, and a lopper for trimming thick branches. They should take care of your basic pruning jobs.

Next you will need weeding tools. Buy those that are heavy duty and rust resistant. My favorite is a Japanese weeder. It has a small, sharp blade at an angle that easily cuts through the toughest weeds. A dandelion weeder is good for penetrating deep into the soil and pulling out weeds by their roots. A cultivator is handy for incorporating compost or fertilizer into small beds or containers. You will also need a hand fork, a wide trowel, a narrow transplanting trowel, and a number of gadgets: plant markers, deadheading scissors, green garden twine, and foam kneeling pads. You can never have enough garden gloves. There are the all-purpose cotton, rubber, or leather gloves, the flex lightweight gloves for handling delicate transplants, thorn-resistant gloves, and a good pair of goatskin gloves that come almost to the elbow—very necessary for pruning thorny rose bushes. Now that you have assembled all the 'tools of the trade, find a nice roomy garden tote to

everything. It helps to keep everything in one place. Oh, lastly, we need some garden shoes. It is very uncomfortable to have wet, cold feet while doing early spring chores. I have three favorites. For chilly weather and very muddy ground, I love my tall, Hunter green Wellington boots. They used to be available only in dark hunter green, but now fashion has stepped in, and you can buy wellies in light blue, bright pink, orange, red, aubergine, yellow, chocolate, black, and navy. When the weather gets a little warmer, I like low mud flats. In the summer, nothing beats my bright red Crocs.

Don't forget the birds. In our area, there are many stores that carry gifts for bird lovers. There are stately, whimsical, and artistic homes for bluebirds, wrens, finches, woodpeckers, and titmice. There is every imaginable kind of feeder, from ones that are guaranteed to be squirrel proof to the lovely ones that hold nectar for hummingbirds.

I recently saw a beautiful, artistic book that was published in the United States for the first time last year: *Between the Wings—The Secret Life of Birds*. Award-winning Swedish photographer Brutus Östling invites us to understand birds by seeing them in their natural state. He traveled the world over, from the Arctic to the Antarctic, and takes us

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Youth Sports

Coyote Spirit All Year Long

By Jeff Stuart

You will not find them mentioned in any game stat sheet or recap, but they are there at most Clarksburg sporting events, rallying the students and fans and adding considerably to the atmosphere. Like the athletes on the teams they support, they train during the off-season and practice during the year, mastering basic skills and perfecting new routines. They perform at football, girls' and boys' soccer, and boys' and girls' basketball games. They support the rest of the sports schedule and other school functions as well.

The 2007-2008 Pompon squad members are: Kioyona Adams, Ashley Alexander (co-captain), Kaleigh Ayton, Kelli Bosland, Chloé Brown, Tyler Chaney, Samantha Dean (co-captain), Madison DeFrank, Jennifer Gatling, Jade Gonzalez, Malanie Killian, Erica Lim, Allyson Mason, Katerina Panagiotopoulos, Sabra Parwani, Serina Parwani, Alicia Paterno, Caitlin Purkey, Bitia Rizazi, Caitlin Snow, Yena Suh (co-captain), and Lindsay Viqueira.

The 2007-2008 Clarksburg Cheerleaders Captains are Shayna Wrublik, Cayla Hunter, and Brianna Sanders.

Rounding out the squad are Dioyona Adams, Kelli Blue, Alexa Christ, Briani Claggett, Frania Climaco, Ally Emmet, Sarah Fitzsimmons, Ashley Galway, Makayla Hanington, Avonte Jackson, Lynnlee Jewell, Erika Kirkman, Sarah Leaman, Shanecia Riley, Rachel Rosa, Courtney Sanders, and Taylor Williams.

Both squads get a chance to earn cheers of their own at county and local competitions.

In January 2007, the CHS poms came in third at the Northwest Competition at Northwest High School, and second at the Green and Gold Competition at Damascus High School. Yena Suh placed first among the captains at the Green and Gold. Samantha Dean finished third among the captains at Northwest.

In February 2007, the Coyotes took home first place honors at the county championship at Blair High School. Squads from twenty-three high schools were split into three different divisions. A panel of six judges rated teams' best five- to seven-minute dance routines based on choreography, technical ability, group execution, and overall presentation. Awards were presented for the first-, second-, and third-place finishers. A Spirit Award was given to the school in each division which best represented the overall essence

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Published and Edited by
John Clayton and Rande Davis

John Clayton
Production
Financial
301-349-0071

yclayton@monocacymonocle.com

Rande Davis
Advertising
Circulation
301-349-0070

rdavis@monocacymonocle.com

Dominique Agnew
Copyediting
dagneu@intairnet.com

Departments
editor@monocacymonocle.com
advertising@monocacymonocle.com

Monocacy Press, LLC
John Clayton, President
Rande Davis, Vice President
P.O. Box 175
Poolesville, MD 20837
301 349-0071 • FAX 301 349-5646

Contributing Writers
Dominique Agnew
dagneu@intairnet.com

Debby Lynn
debbylynn@comcast.net
Maureen O'Connell
mafocconnell@msn.com

Curtis Osborne
cptoz@aol.com

Jack Toomey
jackt21262@aol.com

Contributing Photographer

Hilary Schwab
hilary@hschwabphotography.com
Graphics

WhipSmart Graphics

Karie@WhipSmartGraphics.com

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Humble Chef

Books for Cooks

By Maureen O'Connell

A kitchen library serves many purposes. Besides being a place to peruse cookbooks for ideas for an evening meal, it is a place to let your imagination dream of far-off places with new and exciting customs and foods. You can visit China, Japan, Italy, France, Spain, England, Africa, and any other place in the world where people eat foods that we may never have seen or even heard of. I understand that many families and single people have very hectic schedules, and I know that there are many people who do not even like to cook, and the thought of spending hours reading a cookbook and preparing foods is out of the question. I'm addressing those in search of a new hobby, those who are tired of cooking the same meals night after night, and those who occasionally would like some inspiration for a casual dinner party for friends and family. A kitchen library should be both an inspiration and a resource.

Over the next year, the Humble Chef wants to introduce you to

some cookbooks—some new, some old—that will change the way you think about a cookbook and cooking. We'll look at new lands, new chefs, new foods, and hopefully find new inspirations. We'll be looking for recipes that are clearly written, easy to follow, and have delicious results.

In keeping with the holiday season, allow me to recommend three cookbooks for holiday gifts.

I rate a cookbook by the number of times that I refer to it. In my kitchen library of over seventy-five books, two of my favorites are *The Silver Palate Cookbook* (1982) by Julee Rosso and Sheila Lukins and *The Silver Palate Good Times Cookbook* (1984) by the same two authors. I return to them for ideas and inspiration over and over again. April 30, 2007 marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of *The Silver Palate Cookbook*, and Julee Rosso brought out *The 25th Anniversary Edition* in hardcover on that date. It is the same book as the original.

Julee and Sheila are the talented and innovating two women who in 1980 opened the tiny gem of a shop in Manhattan as an answer to the many men and women who led hectic lives and didn't have time to prepare good simple food. The shop



offered carryout prepared cheeses, sausages, cocktail fare, salads, soups, main courses, vegetables, bread, cookies, and cakes. Most of all, they wanted their shop to offer a pleasant ambiance, and to be an enjoyable place for people to discover the joys and excitement of good food. Their cookbooks evolved as a continuation of their work at their shop. *The Silver Palate Cookbook* revolutionized home cooking in America, with its emphasis on fresh ingredients and basic cooking techniques. This cookbook is fun to read. There are drawings and quotes which add a whimsical and creative touch. The index runs from To Begin a Great Evening with Fancy Finger Food, Fresh from the Sea, Soup's On, Pasta Perfect, Main Course, Chicken Every Way, Sweet and Savory Meat, The Stew Pot, Vegetables, and Desserts to Rave About. Along the way, they give you helpful notes and suggestions for menus. The recipe descriptions and ingredients are not out of Julia Child's books. They use ingredients that one can find in the average pantry. There are menu ideas for a family weeknight dinner, a summer graduation barbecue, and an elegant winter dinner party.

In 1984, *The Silver Palate Good*

Times Cookbook was published. I liked this book as much as their first. The idea behind this new book was that every season of the year provides inspiration and an excuse for a celebration. They said, "Go ahead and experiment. You are the ringmaster...get into the spirit, pull out all the stops, and have a good time." The covers: The Splurge of Spring, Easy Living, Autumn Hues, and Winter Wonderland. It is a very helpful cookbook. Each page is crammed with menu ideas for casual gatherings to formal dinners and tips on planning and techniques.

With the popularity of British chef Gordon Ramsey's television show *Hell's Kitchen* last year to this year's *Kitchen Nightmares*, Ramsey is getting to be almost a household word. He now has two restaurants in the United States, one in New York City and one in Las Vegas. Two of his fellow colleagues in London, Nigella Lawson and Jamie Oliver, are also gathering a lot of attention in the United States lately. Last March, I bought in London the newly-published book of Jamie Oliver, *Cook with Jamie: My Guide to Making You a Better Cook*. I immediately read the

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Police Blotter

By Jack Toomey

Present

November 11 Attempted burglary, Little Bennett Court, Clarksburg. Attempted entry to a residence, nothing taken.

November 16 Residential burglary, 12950 block of Clarksburg Square Road, Clarksburg. Entry to a residence, property taken.

November 26 A nineteen-year-old Adamstown man was killed while riding a dirt bike near the 7900 block of Peters Road at Sugarloaf Mountain Park. Frederick County police said that Nickolas Protos was riding without a helmet when he went down a hill, lost control, crashed, and was pronounced dead at the scene.

Past

December 11, 1953 A fire caused extensive damage to the All-States Inn on Route 240 near Gaithersburg. Fire officials said that the fire was swept by high winds and was difficult to extinguish.

December 12, 1926 Montgomery County police arrested the owner of the Tollgate Tavern on the Colesville Pike near Silver Spring and charged him with allowing dancing on Sunday. Officers said that an orchestra was playing and many couples were dancing when they arrived. The proprietor protested that the tavern had been taken over by a club of young people from Washington, and he did not know what they were doing.

December 13, 1953 Two Washington police officers, on their way home after working the midnight shift, spotted a car on the Rockville Pike that was sought in the robbery of a Peoples Drug Store in Washington. The of-

ficers, in their own car, chased the robbery car up the Pike into Rockville where it crashed on Perry Street. One robber got away, but the officers were able to capture the other culprit.

December 14, 1941 Over a thousand volunteers were sworn in as auxiliary police officers a week after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The new officers were being trained to participate in a practice blackout in the Washington area that was scheduled in the near future.

December 15, 1905 The afternoon trolley car of the Frederick and Middletown Railroad ran into a horse-drawn wagon on West Patrick Street in Frederick. The wagon, belonging to Mr. Young, was heavily damaged.

December 19, 1927 Five men from Washington were arrested by police from Silver Spring and charged with cutting down Christmas trees on the farm of Mrs. Elizabeth Riley of Norbeck. When Sergeant Jones arrived, he found a truck loaded down with trees.

Local Sports

A True Team Effort

By Dominique Agnew

Teamwork: This is what sports are all about. Superstars are interesting, but they don't win the game. A team that plays together, wins together—and the Poolesville High School girls' volleyball team could have given lessons on playing as a team this year. "What makes this team so special," says Coach Fran Duvall, "is that they really are a team." She adds that they were really a cool group of kids, and they "made it a priority" to make a team. Together, they were undefeated in the regular season and won their second county title—the last being won in 2005.

The season began with tough matches against, first, the 4A defending state champions, then against the 4A defending state finalists. When asked how the Falcons managed this feat, Coach Duvall says, "We just played well." They continued to play well throughout the season ending with a 15-1 record. Coach Duvall added that she can't complain about that. "Our team had a nice chemistry," she says, but she never expected to be undefeated. "It was a great season."

Their last game came as a loss (the only way to have a completely undefeated season is to win the state championship) to Boonsboro High School during the region semifinals. When asked if the loss was a disappointment, Coach Duvall replied, "Normally, I would say yes," but it was a really good match. It was disappointing since after such a successful season they were hoping to go farther, but Coach Duvall adds, "It was not disappointing in the way that we played."

Coach Duvall is expecting good things for next year with twelve returning players, and the junior varsity posted its best record ever, ending the season 11-2, so there's talent moving up, as well, "a nice mix of ninth and tenth graders."

Two seniors will graduate from the team this year, captains, Annie Sekerak and Stephanie Vliet. With Stephanie's ability to not be too serious and worried on the court and Annie's vocal encouragement, they ably led the team. Coach Duvall adds, "They were great leaders."

Local News

Historic Medley District Awards Its Two Co-Founders

By Maureen O'Connell

On November 11, 2007, the Historic Medley District held its annual meeting at the Poolesville Museum, formerly the Poolesville Town Hall. President Steve Goldberg welcomed everyone and thanked them for their work in 2007 on the Town Hall, the Seneca School House, the Warfel Store, and the Parsonage. The District is entering 2008 with a healthy budget, thanks to federal grants and successful fundraising efforts in 2007. Steve looks forward to another successful

Kitchen Tour next year and the restoration of the Stock Arboretum at the John Poole House. Two students from the Global Ecology Program at Poolesville High School will be working on an outreach program this spring to bring the gardens at the John Poole House back to their former glory. The assembled District members voted and accepted the slate of officer for 2008: President, Steve Goldberg; Vice President, Libby Lawbaugh; Secretary, Amy Hussong; Treasurer, Ronnie Hay.

The high point of the meeting was the awarding of the Founders' Award to co-founders Mary Ann Kephart and Winsome Brown. Through their hard work, perseverance, and little money, they were instrumental in setting up the Montgomery County Historic Plan,

specifically in the town of Poolesville. Mary Ann and Winsome looked around the Poolesville area and saw several old buildings that had historical value, and they felt that they were worth saving. Mary Ann said that you go to Europe to see old historical buildings, why not save the buildings in our area. There is history all around us. Winsome and Mary Anne nostalgically reminisced about the many people in the Monocacy area who believed in their vision and generously contributed time and money to this effort. The members thanked them for all their work. Hopefully, many more local residents will follow in their footsteps to continue this valuable work.

Local News

Route 28 Bridge Reopens

By Jack Toomey

In July, commuters and weekend travelers were forced to begin taking a circuitous route through southwestern Frederick County because of the closure of the Route 28 bridge over Tuscarora Creek. The bridge on Route 28, which is the only direct road to Point of Rocks and Loudoun County from the *Monocle* area, was built in 1930 and was determined to be unsafe. Demolition of the bridge and construction of the new span began in July, and the Maryland State Highway Administration opened the new bridge to traffic on November 9, one month ahead of schedule.



Mary Ann Kephart and Winsome Brown receive their awards from Steve Goldberg.

Local News

The End of an Era

By Jack Toomey

One hundred years ago, Commerce Street in Point of Rocks was a bustling street where people lived, came to shop, and went to church. Since Commerce Street ran parallel with the railroad tracks, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad had several structures there. As railroad business declined in the later part of the twentieth century and flood waters from the nearby Potomac River occasionally inundated the homes, people moved away and businesses closed. Until a few months ago, only three houses remained. The Frederick County government purchased the houses, and the occupants moved elsewhere. The federal government, which had assisted people in repairing their houses, has instituted a program where people are discouraged from rebuilding homes located in flood plains.

On November 9, a small crowd gathered to watch the demolition of the last house, standing as if in defiance to progress at the very end of Commerce Street. The house had been built in 1891, and owners had recorded flood levels by drawing lines on the side of the house—a sort of tourist attraction. Vernon Shores, the last owner of the house, stood at the edge



The end of an era in Point of Rocks.

of crowd with his companion, Georgia Myers. Eighty-year-old Shores was born in Virginia but moved to Frederick County as a child. He asked the demolition crew for a last look at the house, and his adult children took photos. The large wrecking machine moved in, and with a few swipes had torn away the back portion of the house. Within an hour, the brick structure was a pile of bricks, and onlookers moved in to take a brick as a souvenir. Shores was asked how he felt to see his house torn down and replied, "It don't bother me a bit." Ms. Myers added that Shores had fallen off the roof three years ago while

putting up Christmas decorations and had been bothered by the sound of the trains ever since. Frederick County will eventually build a park on the site where the last several houses were demolished. Earl Eyler, of the Frederick County Parks and Recreation Office, said the park will be named Point of Rocks Commons Park and will be a place where people can walk and picnic. The park is projected to be finished by 2011.

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Big Board

Christmas Toys for Area Kids

WUMCO Help (see Pulse article this issue) needs new, unwrapped toys for children who are in need and living in our area. As you plan your Christmas gifts for children, be sure to keep the children of WUMCO in your plans. Your toy gifts may be dropped off at 19713 Beall Street in Poolesville (the white house facing Whalen Commons in Poolesville) and financial gifts (made out to WUMCO Help, Inc.) may be sent to P.O. Box 247, Poolesville, MD 20837.

Toys for Tots at UMCVFD

Jeffery Eck notes the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program is in full swing at the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department. Kindly request contribute a new and unwrapped toy. The U.S. Marines Corps Reserve distributes all toys locally through the Toys for Tots program.

Toys for Tots collection boxes located at Selby's Market, Poolesville Hardware, Healthworks Fitness Center, Cugini's Pizza, Kristophers Pizza, Harris Teeter, and the UMCVFD in Beallsville are ready to receive your contribution of a new and unwrapped toy. Your contribution will put smiles on the faces of our firefighters and most importantly on the faces of the children who receive the gifts. "The Toys for Tots program is one of the many ways

that our volunteer and career firefighters, paramedics, and EMTs have served our community over the last sixty-plus years," says Chief Earl Moore. "Service is what we are all about."

The U.S. Marine Corp will pick up the toys to prepare for distribution. For questions, please contact volunteer firefighter/EMT Jeffery Eck at 240-529-3438

Santa Breakfast at UMCVFD Fire Station in Beallsville

Enjoy traditional Santa Breakfast on Saturday, December 8 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Come warm your tummy and your heart as you view the electric toy train layout and enjoy a delicious, all-you-can-eat breakfast of scrambled eggs, pancakes, bacon, sausage, juice, fruit salad, and coffee. Savor the warmth of the engine room while viewing the Christmas classic, *Santa Is Coming to Town*. The video will repeat so you can sit, relax, and enjoy the Christmas spirit—and, of course, Santa himself will be there to hear the wishes of all the good little boys and girls. The cost for children twelve and up is \$5.00, ages three through eleven is \$4.00, and under three is free.

Clarksburg Holiday Boutique and Wine Tasting

There will be a very special Holiday Boutique and Wine Tasting event at the Clarksburg Ombudsman Building and Mayorga Coffee shop in Clarksburg on December 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be plenty of wine tasting and

over twenty vendors selling chocolates, jewelry, handmade purses, candles, and much more. The location is especially decorated for the holiday with gift boxes, wreaths, ribbons, and large ornaments.

All We Need Is Snow!

The Frederick Children's Chorus will be performing its winter concert, "All We Need Is Snow!" on Saturday, December 8, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at Clarksburg High School at 22500 Wims Road in Clarksburg, Maryland. In this concert, the Chorus will perform several songs chosen to inspire the vision of snow. The Russian tune, "The Sleigh," will have you speeding across the Russian tundra. The song setting of American poet Robert Frost's masterwork, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," will remind you to stop and reflect on all for which you have to be grateful. This concert is jam packed from beginning to end with many more traditional holiday and winter songs. Ticket prices are \$10.00 for adults, and \$5.00 for seniors (65+) and students (18 and under). Tickets sold at the door. For more details, visit www.fredcc.org or call 301-845-2451.

The Nutcracker

The Maryland Regional Ballet, under the direction of Joyce Morrison, will present its twenty-eighth annual production of *The Nutcracker* on Friday, December 7 at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, December 8 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 9 at 2:00 p.m. at the Weinberg Center for the Arts in Frederick. Guest artists

from the Pacific Northwest Ballet and New York City Ballet will join students from the Frederick School of Classical Ballet. Four girls from Poolesville will take part in this performance: Madeleine Thompson (lead role as the Baby Doll and Soldier), Veronica Contreras (former pupil of Hope Garden Ballet as a Party Child and Ice Maiden), Stephanie Kasner (Party Child, Ice Maiden, and Candy Cane), and Kimberly Thompson (Mouse, Snowflake, Flower, Spanish Chocolate, and Lead Role as Chinese Tea). For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-600-2828.

Phantoms in December

John Poole Middle School is very happy to have a drama sponsor, Donald Turner. On Friday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the middle school, there will be the *Phantom Players* showcase featuring monologues, one-act plays, and improv. JPMS is hoping to raise money for its upcoming spring performance of *The Jungle Book*. Tickets for the showcase will go on sale December 11, 12, and 13 from 2:30 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. in the all-purpose room. Tickets will also be available at the door. For further information, email DTurner-3222aol.com or call 386-453-9007.

Barrel Tasting at Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard

On Saturday, December 15 at 1:00 p.m., tastings will be provided of the

-Continued on Page 21.



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Daytripper

Christmas in Frederick

By Frederic J. Rohner

Like most cities and towns across America at this time of year, Frederick is filled with the spirit of the holiday season. If you are like many, then you already have your wish list written and, more importantly, your holiday-to-do list, but before you get caught up in the shopping, decorating, and merry making that dominates most of the month of

December, don't forget about all of the other events happening in downtown Frederick that truly capture the meaning of Christmas spirit. From the Children's Weekend to the candlelit tours of local museums and houses of worship to the traditional Festival of Lights, Frederick has many events to inspire the Christmas spirit in even the most scrooge-like of people.

The weekend of December 8 has many wonderful events going on to kickstart the holiday season, many of which fall under the umbrella of Children's Weekend. Saturday, December 8 is the first day of Children's Weekend, an annual event that includes many family activities such as ornament

painting, breakfast with Santa, storytelling, a holiday children's market, and a traditional German mask-making activity called belsnickeling. Most activities are free; however, breakfast with Santa costs \$6.00 for each child and \$10.00 for each parent.

Also taking place on December 8, Museums by Candlelight is a very unique event where local museums in Frederick City as well as the surrounding county will open their doors and turn off their lights to welcome visitors free of charge. In addition to the self-guided tours of the participating establishments, there will also be educational demonstrations, food, music, and more. Museums within Frederick City will be open from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., and throughout the rest of the county, the hours will be 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

On December 14, Frederick will hold its annual Festival of Lights, a traditional event which focuses on community togetherness and the spirit of the Christmas season. The Festival of Lights is truly an inspirational event, beginning with carolers singing their way through the streets of Frederick until they converge on City Hall. Once the carolers have reached City Hall, there will be more carols to be sung as well as addresses from local public figures. The event ends with the lights of City

Hall going dark as candles are passed through the crowd, concluding with a community rendition of Silent Night.

Continuing a tradition that was begun over ten years ago, the Frederick Chamber Singers, an offshoot of the Frederick Children's Chorus, will perform Handel's *Messiah* at the Weinberg Center for the Arts on December 18 at 8:00 p.m. The audience is invited, even expected, to sing along. Songbooks are available for purchase. The chorus and a live orchestra will be conducted by Judith DuBose, founder and artistic director of the Frederick Children's Chorus. Tickets are \$12.00 for adults and \$10.00 for seniors and children.

The final holiday event in Frederick is the Tour of Historical Houses of Worship which takes place on December 26. It's very easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the holiday season complete with all the food preparation, gift giving, and visits to family that make up most of the holiday. So on the day after Christmas, take the time to be reminded of the true "reason for the season" with a tour of the historical houses of worship in downtown Frederick. There are twelve participating congregations that run the gamut from Lutheran to Catholic, Jewish to Christian Scientist, and Episcopalian to Methodist. Each

-Continued on Page 18.



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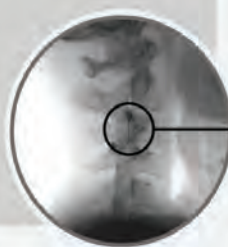
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Things to Do

December 8

Breakfast with Santa Claus

UMCVFD Fire Hall – Beallsville
Breakfast, movie, and visit Santa
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Holiday Breakfast and Santa Visit

Carroll Manor Fire Hall
Adamstown
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Holiday Wine Tasting and Gift Boutique

Mayorga Coffee Shop – Clarksburg
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Frederick Children's Chorus Concert

Clarksburg High School
Songs of the Season and More
7:30 p.m.

Nutcracker

Maryland Regional Ballet
Weinberg Center for the Arts
December 7 at 8:00 p.m.
December 8 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
December 9 at 2:00 p.m.

December 11

PHS Winter Concert

Auditorium
7:00 p.m.

December 12

Financial Aid Seminar

Poolesville High School
7:00 p.m.

December 13

Clarksburg High School

Winter Concert
Auditorium
7:30 p.m.

December 14

Phantom Players

Monologues, one-act plays,
and improv

John Poole Middle School
2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Carol

Weinberg Center for the Arts
December 14, 15, and 16

December 15

Wine Tasting

Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard
1:00 p.m.

December 16

Santa's Ride through Poolesville

Hosted by UMCVFD
Listen for the Christmas Music
Starts at 5:30 p.m.

December 17

Poolesville Elementary

Winter Concert
All Purpose Room
7:30 p.m.

December 18

PYSO Debut

JPMS All-Purpose Room

Handel's Messiah Sing-Along

Frederick Chamber Singers
Weinberg Center for the Arts
8:00 p.m.

December 20

Christmas around the World

Hope Garden Ballet
PHS Auditorium
7:00 p.m.

JPMS Winter Concert

All Purpose Room
7:00 p.m.

December 21

Parent/Grandparent Holiday Sing-along

Monocacy Elementary School
2:15 p.m.

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Center Stage

Introducing Mr. Daryl Clark: PHS Music Program Blossoms under New Leadership

By Heidi Rosvold-Brenholtz

If you've recognized a different sound in Poolesville recently, you're right in tune.

In September, Poolesville High School (PHS) welcomed Miami native Daryl Clark as its new music director, and he hasn't missed a beat since his arrival. With years of experience developing and directing one of the largest music programs in the Miami public school system—in fact, one of the largest in the state of Florida—Mr. Clark has set big goals for PHS's music program.

"We're starting here in Poolesville from a different perspective. We're starting from scratch," says Mr. Clark, "but music is music. Just because we're from a small area doesn't mean we have to think small," he adds. "As with any group of young people," he notes, "if you apply yourself, you can be awesome"—and with an advanced degree in conducting instrumental wind band literature—"concert band" for short—he's just the musician for the job. "Concert band music is where my heart is," he says.

Mr. Clark's passion is easy to spot, according to Deena Levine, PHS principal. "When I was interviewing several potential music teachers this summer, I knew Mr. Clark was the one for us. He shared a DVD of his marching band as well as his spring concert when he was a teacher in Florida. After viewing it, I knew he had prodigious talents and would work so well with students." Mr. Clark was also honored as Teacher of the Year for his district in Florida, adds Ms. Levine.

In addition to the concert band, Mr. Clark directs the jazz band, a guitar class, and chorus at PHS. This fall, the Pep Band was a treat for all those who attended home football games. He's impressed so far by what he's seen and heard.

"I'm very happy here. It takes a whole village to build a music program, and I appreciate all the hard work on the part of the administration and especially from some of the parents who are working very hard to make this happen."

Mr. Clark organized a field trip to the Peabody Institute in Baltimore for a performance in November and hopes to head to New York City this spring with PHS's musicians for a competition and

exposure to Broadway and other performance art.

Goals for the music program's future include a robust marching band and a strong relationship with area middle schools to help grow the program. With a number of seniors in the music program graduating this spring, the pressure to keep the momentum going is even stronger.

For an earful of what Mr. Clark has in mind for PHS's musical future, plan on attending this year's Winter Concert at the PHS auditorium, Tuesday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. All ensembles—chorus, concert band, jazz band, guitarists, and selections from individual students—will perform to provide sixty minutes of "solid music," according to Mr. Clark. It will be a hodgepodge of musical selections, including holiday tunes and serious concert literature.

"I'm very proud of the level of music that all the ensembles are playing in such a short time. I've been working them pretty hard. We're building this program from the ground up, so we need everyone in the community involved. I want them to come and see what we have and become a part of it," Mr. Clark explains, "and I want to celebrate these kids and their accomplishments in this span of time. It's been incredible."

Don't miss this year's Winter Concert—and a glimpse of a small program (for now) thinking (and playing) big.

For more information about the music program or the Winter Concert, contact Mr. Clark at 301-972-7944 or Lisa Nubgaard, PHS Music Booster Club president, at lnubgaard@aol.com.

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Reach for the Stars Holiday Dance!

By Dominique Agnew

'Tis the season to kick up your heels—or watch others kick up theirs. Of course, the ubiquitous *Nutcracker* can be found in many locations across the region, but why not support the hard work and beautiful artistry of local dancers.

Locally, Fran Ichijo's Hope Garden Ballet Studio, based out of Healthworks in Poolesville, will be presenting *Christmas around the World* at Poolesville High

School on December 20 at 7:00 p.m. This production will feature international, colorful dances reflecting the music and culture of many different countries.

Some former and present students of the Hope Garden Ballet Studio will be performing in various *Nutcracker* productions around the area. Sally Miller and Brooke O'Connell (Ballet VII at Hope Garden) are in the Olney Ballet Theater's *Nutcracker*, which is the Washington Ballet's *Nutcracker* by Mary Day. They will perform in several scenes (Party Girls, Mice, Soldiers, and Polichinelles) on the weekends of December 7 and 8, 14 and 15, and 21 and 22 at the Olney Theater.

The Maryland Regional Ballet, under the direction of Joyce Morrison, will present its twenty-eighth annual production of *The Nutcracker* on Friday, December 7 at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, December 8 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 9 at 2:00 p.m. at the Weinberg Center for the Arts in Frederick. Guest artists from the Pacific Northwest Ballet and New York City Ballet will join students from the Frederick School of Classical Ballet. Four girls from Poolesville will take part in this performance: Madeleine Thompson (lead role as the Baby Doll and Soldier), Veronica Contreras (former pupil of Hope Garden Ballet as a Party Child and Ice Maiden), Stephanie Kasner (Party Child, Ice Maiden, and Candy Cane), and Kimberly Thompson (Mouse, Snowflake, Flower, Spanish Chocolate, and Lead Role as Chinese Tea).

Another former Hope Garden Ballet student, now with the Maryland Youth Ballet, Joanna Grimes, will perform the exciting role of Clara in *The Nutcracker* at the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, Rockville Campus. Performances will take place between December 21 and 29.

Getting dressed up and going to see a performance of *The Nutcracker* is a great way to get in the spirit for the holidays!

School News

JPMS Teacher Inducted into Shepherd University Athletic Hall of Fame
By Dominique Agnew

Kim Gerrie, physical education teacher at John Poole Middle School, was recently inducted into the Shepherd University Athletic Hall of Fame. A 1990 graduate of Catoclin High School, Mrs. Gerrie was a standout pitcher and outfielder on the college softball team (Shepherd University was Shepherd College then) from 1991 to 1994. Mrs. Gerrie was a three-time first-team All-Conference selection and earned WVIAC Tournament MVP honors. She also earned All-WVIAC honors and WVIAC All-Tournament all four years. Among the numerous records she set during her years at Shepherd, she still holds the record for most career wins, most career relief appearances, most relief appearances in a season, most career saves, and most saves in a season.

This is Mrs. Gerrie's third year teaching PE at JPMS and her eleventh year teaching in the Montgomery County Public Schools. In a way, this prestigious honor fulfills a dream. When she first toured the campus and saw the Athletic Hall of Fame, she said to herself, "Hey, that's where I want to be." Now, she's there.

"To get honored like this was like a dream come true," Ms. Gerrie says. "I'll remember it forever."

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School News

John Poole Middle School Students Create Tribute to Sean Taylor

JPMS art students from Nori Thorne's seventh grade, second period class display an andinkra (also adinkra) created in honor of deceased Redskin Sean Taylor. This class originated the idea for the artwork, and all of Ms. Thorne's

art classes contributed to the final work.

An andinkra is a traditional robe from Ghana worn for special occasions like funerals and weddings. It has pictures created from stamps symbolizing the life of the honoree. Here, the class included a portrait of Sean Taylor and symbols representing his life: persistence (spider), his daughter (wooden comb), family love (an x), and a warrior (eagle claw). Television station ABC Channel 7 reported on the project. The students hope to find a way to present the andinkra to the Washington Redskins and to the Taylor family.



John Poole Middle School students with their project to honor the memory of Sean Taylor.

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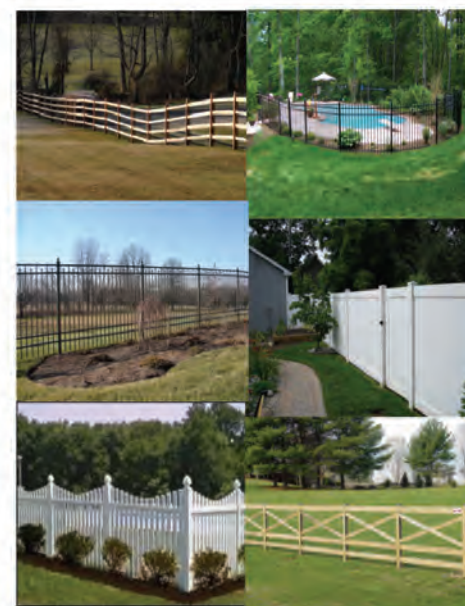
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"Coyote Spirit" Continued from Page 4.

were presented for the first-, second-, and third-place finishers. A Spirit Award was given to the school in each division which best represented the overall essence of the competition. The team captains were scored separately by a captain's judge while the entire team performed and were awarded placements based on their scores. In their debut appearance at the County Championships, the Coyotes captured both first place honors and the Spirit Award in Division II, winning the first championship banner ever for the school. "Quite an honor," said Coach Carolina Kindel. "That banner will be displayed in the gym." Samantha Dean came in second among the captains.

Last summer, at the *Universal Dance Association (UDA)* camp, July 12 to 15 at the University of Maryland Baltimore Campus (UMBC), the girls earned a Superior Trophy, the Spirit Award, and several blue ribbons. They were invited to perform at the FedEx Orange Bowl.

"These are huge accomplishments for such a young squad!" said Coach Kindel. "Our team motto is,

"One team, one motion, one goal." Leslie Yost also coaches the Coyote Poms. The squad made its first appearance of the 2007-2008 school year at the pep rally prior to the Walter Johnson football game on September 9. It has performed at halftime during all home games.

"We are very excited for this year's competition, since we [did so well] last year," sophomore Ashley Alexander told reporter Amber Ratliff of the student paper, *The Howl*. "Now that we have had the experience of winning first place last year, I think we have more confidence and will do well."

The Poms will return to the Northwest competition and the Green and Gold competition in January 2008. The county competition is in February 2008. They will also host an exhibition at Clarksburg on January 5.

The Coyote Cheerleaders attended the National Cheerleaders Association camp at UMBC from July 23 to July 29, winning trophies and ribbons. The varsity squad earned the Spirit Award — voted on by the entire camp, and the entire squad was nominated for the National Cheerleader Association's All American Cheerleader Award. Briani Claggett

won the All American Cheerleader Award, the camp's top individual honor. That earned her the opportunity to perform on National TV at the FedEx Orange Bowl in Miami. "It was very exciting. We had so much fun!" says cheerleading coach, Edy Pratt. Though Clarksburg is just in its second year of existence, the cheerleading squad is uniquely Clarksburg. None of the girls was a member of the varsity squad at her previous school. Shayna Wrublik was on the JV squad at Damascus High for one year.

This year's squad is mostly the same as last year's. Newcomers are Marlinda Riley, Kassandra White, Alexandra Rodtang, and Caroline McCarty. They practice five days a week during the fall. During the winter season, practice is limited because of the number of game days. "This year we are getting closer as a squad, and everyone is working hard," Wrublik told the *Howl*. "The team spends hours together during and after practice, talking about everything, acting like a 'cheer family.'"

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"No Job Is Too Large or Too Small"

"Fr. Lawrence Passes Away" Continued From Page 1.

of parishioners to Fatima in Portugal, they reported that he was a wealth of information about the buildings and churches visited during the tour.

Ordained in 1973, his first assignment was at St. Gabriel's in Washington, D.C.

His next assignment was at St. Patrick's at Norbeck, which he described it as a "great assignment." At the time, Flower Valley was a new development. There were many younger families and lots of children. It was a vibrant community, and the people were very hospitable. "There was a good spirit there," he reminisced.

Previous to St. Mary's, he served for nine years at Holy Redeemer in Kensington, a large parish with a large congregation and a school. After nearly a decade at such a large, busy parish, he welcomed his assignment to St. Mary's. Father Lawrence was coming up on the end of his sixth year at the parish.

Father Lawrence spoke to the *Monocle* of how impressed he was by the volunteerism of St. Mary's. He said, "Not only is there a great group of volunteers to help now, but St. Mary's has a remarkable history of volunteers. Because the parish is so small, we do a

lot of things for ourselves." He fondly stated, "People step up and do what needs to be done." Father Lawrence reflected that St. Mary's was a wonderful parish in a beautiful setting with great people.

Throughout his over three decades as a priest, of course, Father Lawrence had many memorable experiences such as a sabbatical in the Holy Land and two private masses with Pope John Paul II. In the spring of 1985, he took a three-month sabbatical with three priest classmates, and they traveled to Egypt, Israel, Greece, and Turkey. While visiting the various holy places, he found that things in the scriptures really "came alive. One could really visualize the

events of the Bible." Of his two exceptional opportunities to attend a private morning mass with Pope John Paul II, he was deeply moved; Pope John Paul II was such an intensely prayerful man. He says, "Both times were extremely impressive experiences."

In the end, he reflected to the *Monocle* that he was happy with his life as a priest since it was what he had always wanted to do. He stated, "There was no time when I regretted my choice, or thought, 'I'm in the wrong field.'"

Carol Breeden represented the congregation in citing the second chapter of 1 Corinthians, verse nine that speaks to Father Lawrence's special mission and message to his flock.

Remembrance

Robert D. Taylor

By John Clayton

Mr. Robert (Bob) D. Taylor, 65, of Poolesville, died on Tuesday November 13, 2007 after a long illness. He was the loving husband of Sandralee T. Taylor. Mr. Taylor was born on May 13, 1942 in Birmingham, Alabama to the late Learon and Marjorie Wolf Taylor. He proudly served his country



Bob Taylor on site during St. Peter's Church's renovation.

officer. Over the past two years, Mr. Taylor, volunteering as a parishioner, helped oversee St. Peter's Parish Episcopal Church's recent building expansion. People close to that project told the *Monocle* that he made a significant contribution and was greatly missed by all involved when health issues forced him to cut back his participation. Mr. Taylor attended the recent dedication of

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.

Father Walter Lawrence, a beloved shepherd to the congregation at St. Mary's, a person of warm humor, a model of caring, and, most of all, a man of faith, will be greatly missed.

Family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Dove House, Carroll Hospice, 292 Stoner Avenue, Westminster, MD 21757-5629.

the new building and was recognized for his efforts.

Mr. Taylor met his wife, Sandralee Taylor, on a blind date while he was still in the navy. They were married in 1969. They raised their family in Poolesville, and Mr. Taylor was active in many facets of his children's lives, including competitive swimming, where he officiated meets for many years. His other great love was University of Maryland football, and he and Mrs. Taylor went to many games over the years, including two of the Terps' recent bowl game appearances. One of Mr. Taylor's in-laws said that they should have all worn Maryland Terrapin colors to the funeral service, and that "Bob would have understood."

Mr. Taylor suffered a heart attack eight years before his death, and Mrs. Taylor said that they regarded the years following his recovery as a gift, and that he lived them accordingly.

Surviving besides his wife are his two children, Robin T. Magaha and husband Rinnie of Beallsville, Maryland, Brian C. Taylor and wife Tara of Aberdeen, Maryland; and four grandchildren, Tyler, Trevor, Maddison, and Mackenzie. Mr. Taylor was preceded in death by one brother, D. Richard Taylor.

"Christmas in Frederick" Continued From Page 9.

mas, take the time to be reminded of the true "reason for the season" with a tour of the historical houses of worship in downtown Frederick. There are twelve participating congregations that run the gamut from Lutheran to Catholic, Jewish to Christian Scientist, and Episcopalian to Methodist. Each place of worship will have events that are inspiring, educational, and entertaining. So come tour the local houses of worship, listen to the choirs, observe the

nativity scenes, learn a little bit about a different religious tradition, and be reminded of the true meaning of the holiday season.

Now that the turkey leftovers have been stored in the fridge and the holiday season has officially begun, make sure to take a break from the decorating and shopping mall traffic. Make a day trip or two in downtown Frederick and get a dose of holiday spirit. For more information on these or any other events happening in Frederick this holiday season, visit www.fredericktourism.org or call 301-600-2888.




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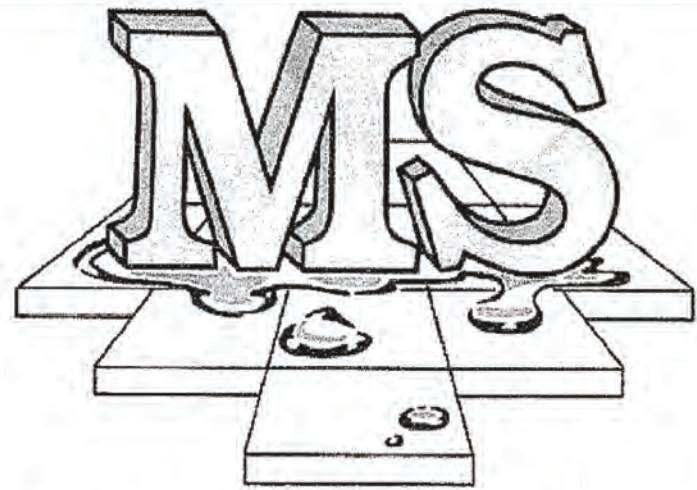


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I have twenty years experience and a degree in multimedia, UM 1980.

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"Big Board" Continued From Page 8.

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The Season of Winter Concerts Begins

This is the wonderful time of year when the schools present the talents of their students through the annual winter concerts. There are many opportunities to "get into the spirit" of the season and the first one up is the PHS Winter Concert on Tuesday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Then on Thursday, December 13, the Clarksburg High School music department presents its Winter Concert at 7:30 p.m. The Poolesville Elementary School has its concert in the all-purpose room at 7:00 p.m. on December 17 and John Poole Middle School performs on December 20 at 7:00 p.m. Monocacy Elementary School has a parents/grandparents "sing-along" at 2:15 p.m. on December 21.

Christmas Carol

A holiday treasure sure to warm everyone's hearts! Join the talented cast of the Maryland Ensemble Theatre/The Fun Company — along with Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim, Bob Cratchit, and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future—as they discover and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas on December 14, 15, and 16 at the Weinberg Center for the Arts. For more information, visit www.weinberg-center.org or call 301-600-2828.

Traditional Santa Ride through Poolesville

Santa has happily agreed to return on Sunday, December 16 to greet the children of Poolesville. Santa will be riding atop the fire engine of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Dept starting at 5:30 p.m. Santa has asked the volunteer firefighters to help him distribute candy canes to the children of Poolesville.

When you see the fire engine, please come out and welcome Santa. He will be glad to receive cookies, brownies, or other goodies. This will help sustain him and his firefighter elves. For safety, the fire engines cannot enter cul-de-sacs or narrow lanes. Additionally, parents, please take care that the children and pets stay on the sidewalk, and do not closely approach the apparatus. Santa sends his jolliest thanks. Questions? Please contact volunteer firefighter/EMT Jeffery Eck at 240-529-3438.

PYSO Debut

The debut of the Poolesville Youth Symphony Orchestra will take place Tuesday, December 18 at the John Poole Middle School all-purpose room. The musicians have been working hard and

are looking forward to performing before an audience.

Handel's Messiah Sing-Along

Continuing a tradition that was begun over ten years ago, the Frederick Chamber Singers, an offshoot of the Frederick Children's Chorus, will perform Handel's *Messiah* at the Weinberg Center for the Arts on December 18 at 8:00 p.m. The audience is invited, even expected, to sing along. Songbooks are available for purchase. The chorus and a live orchestra will be conducted by Judith DuBose, founder and artistic director of the Frederick Children's Chorus. Tickets are \$12.00 for adults and \$10.00 for seniors and children. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-600-2828.

Christmas around the World


The Hope Garden Ballet Studio will be presenting *Christmas around the World* at Poolesville High School on December 20 at 7:00 p.m. This production will feature international, colorful dances reflecting the music and culture of many different countries.

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Youth Sports

PHS Boys Soccer: An Incredible Journey

When the Poolesville boys' soccer team entered the playoffs, very few imagined that they would travel so far. However, travel far they did, not only winning five playoff games but literally traveling 1209 miles from Poolesville High School to do so—that's right!—over twelve hundred miles round trip from PHS to the six playoff game locations. For reference, that is just about exactly the distance one way from PHS

to Des Moines, Iowa.

This year, joining the boys in their travels for the first time was new coach, Christos Nicholas. Soccer has run through Coach Nicholas's blood since his youth. He played soccer at Kennedy High School in Silver Spring. His brother also played at Kennedy High and went on to play in college. His dad played in a men's league that played their games at the now-demolished Kensington Junior High. Coach Nicholas played both football and soccer in college—as the kicker on the football team. He had also played soccer for the U.S. Deaf National team for over twenty years. This was Coach Nicholas's first

season coaching varsity soccer and his first year in Poolesville, so there were naturally some adjustments to be made by the coach and the players over the season.

Although, they finished the regular season with an unspectacular 3-8-1 record, they could take some solace in that they were competitive playing against larger 2A, 3A, and even 4A schools. In fact, most of the losses were by just one goal. The most disappointing loss had to be the double overtime game to Clarksburg. In that game, Poolesville scored two goals in overtime and, twice, they thought they had won; however, both goals were disallowed by referee decisions.

In spite of the regular season, the boys and the coach still had their confidence, hoping that the good soccer they were playing would be rewarded in the playoffs and their seeming bad luck would turn around. The first playoff game set Poolesville up against defending regional champion Clear Spring High School near Hagerstown, Maryland. The Poolesville boys jumped out to a quick lead and yielded only a penalty kick goal to win handily 4 to 1. The starting forwards, Zach Hannon, Matt Capozzi, and Trey McHale proved to be almost impossible to stop. All three had started the season in other positions but had come together to form an imposing front line. Senior goalkeeper, Matt Robillard, thought that the playoff success was the result of "position changes, and it took time for the team to be comfortable with them and play at the highest capability."

This set up the most exciting victory of the season against number one seed Mountain Ridge High School at their home field at Frostburg State University. Mountain Ridge had eliminated Poolesville in the state semifinals three years ago. In front of over a thousand fans (of which 950 were from Mountain Ridge), Poolesville trailed 0-1 for most of the game, but the boys kept pushing harder. Poolesville came back to tie in regulation and then won a dramatic vic-

tory with Trey McHale's double overtime golden goal. The Mountain Ridge faithful, after accumulating fourteen wins during their season, were shocked that unseeded Poolesville had eliminated them from the playoffs. Midfielders, Karl Mihm in the center and Dane Hanscom and Christian Helwig on the outside, were outnumbered yet more than held their own against Mountains Ridge's four excellent midfielders. Senior Trey McHale said of his winning goal, "I had never done anything like that before." The celebration "was just ridiculous."

"It was only after that game that I thought we had a good chance to get to the finals," said senior captain Karl Mihm. Poolesville still had many more miles to travel.

After a 4 to 0 victory over Allegany High School in the Cumberland City Stadium, Poolesville faced another strong favorite at an unfamiliar field. The regional championship game was set against number two seed Northern Garrett, who had accumulated seventeen victories and just one loss. The game was played at Northern Garrett's narrow field over 145 miles from Poolesville High School. The temperature was thirty degrees, the winds were whipping up to twenty miles per hour, and a light snow fell during the entire game. Poolesville scored first with the wind, but Northern Garrett came back to tie the score 1 to 1 in the second half. The Poolesville boys proved themselves up to the challenge and won this regional championship game with two more goals, both scored in the face of the gusting northern wind. The defense of Mark Fales, Tim Dalton, Ryan Campbell, and Alex Pfister played spectacularly.

A relatively easy victory in the state semifinal was not reflected in the 2 to 1 score, but it put Poolesville in the state championship game against 1A soccer powerhouse Pocomoke High School.

-Continued on Page 27.

School News

PHS Alumni Day Set

Alumni from PHS will be welcomed back on Friday, December 21, 2007. Students should plan to arrive between 9:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. The Poolesville Baptist Church has graciously agreed to allow alumni to park in their lot. Light refreshments will be served in the career center. Once again, returning students will be asked to participate in an open discussion of life after PHS.

Alumni Day is always a wonderful opportunity for staff and students to catch up with our graduates. All returning alumni are welcome. Current juniors and seniors always enjoy hearing about life beyond Poolesville High School, whether that is college, the military, or the work force. At the conclusion of the panel discussion, the returning students will be able to informally visit with staff and students.

If alumni have any questions, they should Mrs. Adams in the career center at 301-972-7911.

PHS Schedules Date on Financial Aid Information for College-Bound Students

On Wednesday evening, December 12, Poolesville High School will have a financial aid seminar for

parents of college-bound students. The information is especially important for parents of seniors, but others are encouraged to attend to learn about grants, aid, loans, and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The meeting will be held in the high school's media center beginning at 7:00 p.m. For additional information, call Mrs. Cathy Adams in the career center at 301-972-7911. Ms. Susan Erb and Ms. Carol Schroyer from Hood College will be the presenters.

MES Fifth Graders Win Final Frontiers

On Saturday, November 17, Rachel Nieberding, Science teacher at Monocacy Elementary School, took a group of fifth graders to Wootton High School to participate in the Final Frontiers Science Competition. In this, their first year of competition (for the students and Ms. Nieberding), the students won their division. "We participated in one event but realized once we got there that we could have come up with some really good ideas for the other events as well," says Ms. Nieberding.

Congratulations to the students: Bryce McKenney, Lilly Nichols, AJ Gross, and Alexander Yaney.



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Youth Sports

Two in a Row: The PHS Cheerleaders Are Champs

By Rande Davis

The 2007-2008 Poolesville High School varsity cheerleaders are on a roll after winning their second County Division III championship in a row on November 17 at Blair High School. Of course, their season is just half over. While the other teams can now take their rest, these competitors have to forge ahead.

The squad approaches cheerleading as would any athletic team through intense physical training and dedicated practice. While they devote their efforts to supporting the other sports teams, they start practicing for their own competition in mid-September, between the soccer, field hockey, volleyball, and football games. Coach Katy Laughney tells us, "They practiced every day and worked extremely hard. There were many times they wanted to go home early or say they were too tired to continue, but they were driven by their first-place victory last year, eager to bring home another title."

The 2007-2008 team captains are seniors Morgan Fields and Kimberly Zisman. The complete roster includes: seniors Megan Guise, Kelly Dalrymple, Ashley Gunsteens, Nikki

Morton, and Mallory Potter; juniors Patty Robinson, Caitlin Amiot, Stephanie Dietz, Taylor Garber, and Christine Simmons; sophomores Jasmine Snowden and Abi Stefanelli; and freshman Amber Pruitt.

Coach Laughney is in her second year at Poolesville. She is a proud graduate of Penn State University where she majored in secondary education with a concentration in English. Her interest in cheerleading started in high school. "Football was and is huge in Northeastern Pennsylvania (she graduated high school from Dunmore High in Dunmore, Pennsylvania), so cheerleading was just something we all did. Cheerleading eventually became a passion because we cheered competitively when I was in elementary school, and then it continued through high school. I have always loved the challenge of cheerleading because it is so physical and difficult, but so much fun as well!"

She cites the leadership of captains Morgan Fields and Kim Zisman as being instrumental in their success. "They were true leaders by coming to practice every day and giving their absolute best. It set a tone for the rest of the girls and created an understood expectation that nothing less than hard work was acceptable."

From Coach Laughney's perspective, however, every cheerleader on her squad is a standout. "We have girls who never cheered before in their

lives to girls who have cheered since they were very young. Some of my girls even cheer twice a day between PHS and competitive squads. When you put them together on one squad, a squad as close as this one, it is hard to tell the difference among them, skill-wise. They are all so professional and hard-working."

Like any other team, they had their challenges and setbacks. Mallory Potter, a senior, suffered a severe neck injury in practice three days before competition, and it was questionable whether she could even perform at competition. "She was and is so dedicated to this squad and the sport that she insisted on competing. Physically, it was daunting for her, but she never gave up."

Then Abi Stefanelli, a sophomore and one of their main flyers, suffered a hip injury about a week before competition and had to miss a few days of practice. She came back a few days before competition and performed fearlessly. "Abi is a perfectionist when it comes to cheerleading, so she was not going to let the injury dictate her participation."

Laughney tips her hat to those around her who provide such critical help. "The PHS JV coach, Alicia Soudner (also in her second year coaching at PHS), has been an enormous help providing ideas for competition. She is also a huge support system for both

the girls and myself." The parents of the cheerleaders provide an essential support to the team. "These parents have done nothing but continue to advocate for the sport of cheerleading. They drive the girls to the away football games; they support our long competition practices; they attend competition wearing black and gold and yell more loudly than anyone else. The parents are the cheerleaders for the cheerleaders."

The experience of being a cheerleading coach clearly has impacted strongly on Laughney. "My experience as a coach is definitely a learning experience. I am learning that sometimes pushing the girls to what I feel is their best also pushes me to my best. I am learning that the cheerleaders, or any athlete for that matter, are very impressionable; everything we, as coaches, say or do will impact them in some way, so I try to keep that in mind when motivating them."

Coach Laughney believes that true success goes beyond the team and parents to include many others. "My administrators and colleagues have been so supportive during the season; many of them even came to competition to cheer on the girls. I feel so fortunate to be working with such an upstanding group of people."



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"Holiday Gifts" Continued From Page 3.

"behind the scenes" to capture these creatures at various times of the year, in natural settings. Anyone interested in birds and photography would enjoy this fascinating book.

Another gift for a bird watcher and gardener is a pair of binoculars. The Audubon Society has a good range of binoculars varying in power and field of vision. It has a small 7x yellow model that is strong enough to be useful, yet small enough to carry with you and still work in the garden. The yellow color helps you when you forget where you put it down—not that your husband would ever admit that.

Speaking of husbands—or men in general—many of my friends say that men are hard to shop for. Ties, books, and argyle socks get to be quite boring after so many years. If he likes to work outside in the yard, here are some gifts that he might like. Men like their toys, even garden toys.

There are always things that have to be moved around the garden, from mulch to flowerpots. On the high-end budget, you can surprise your garden man with a bright green John Deer Gator, or on a smaller budget, a bright green wheelbarrow. John Spellman's Poolesville Hardware has a great selec-

tion, and if John doesn't have it, I bet he can find it for you.

For the weatherman in your house, a weather station will let him put some authority behind his predictions. Smith & Hawken has an attractive copper and glass one for \$119.00. It predicts general weather patterns and changes in barometric pressure and humidity. Wondering how much it rained last night? A rain gauge will keep you up-to-date. Spoil your favorite someone and let him or her be the first in the neighborhood with an atomic clock and thermometer. This outdoor clock uses its built-in radio technology to sync with the United States Atomic Clock for incredibly reliable timekeeping. It never needs to be reset, even for Daylight Savings Time, and it is powered by one AA battery.

With all the work your gardener can now do with his or her new tools, let them rest and enjoy the fruits of their labor in a Pawleys Island Hammock. You could also consider some attractive, long-lasting teak benches, chairs, and tables for your garden or patio. They can be expensive, but they will last a lifetime. I have several benches and chairs that are over thirty years old, and they still look great.

Books are always a welcome gift, and there are hundreds of good

gardening books in local bookstores. I have selected three which would be interesting to a variety of gardening friends. First-time Gardener. Gardening expert, Kim Wilde, lends advice to the budding gardener on how to start and build the perfect outdoor space with confidence. It is a good beginner's guide to basic elements of the garden, including soil, climate, ambiance, and light. The New York Times 1000 Gardening Questions & Answers. All the garden news that is fit to print. Based on the popular "Gardeners Q&A" column in The New York Times, this comprehensive and very readable book has an answer for just about every problem a gardener might face, from how to keep honeysuckle under control to getting rid of earwigs. Botanica by Howard Schatz. Whether you are a lover of flowers or you just enjoy great photography, you will love this exquisite book and will be awed by this artistic kaleidoscope of color and beauty. Schatz's flowers are dramatic and wonderfully detailed and present an artistic view of flowers that is challenging and new. Botanica is a feast for the eyes.

There are many more gifts that I could suggest, but this list should get you started.

Tidbits

Civil War Artifacts Found at New Town Hall Site

With excavators removing brush and trees to clear the area for the new town hall, the time was perfect to find any newly unearthed artifacts from the Civil War. Greg Shores of Poolesville, who has one of the most extensive collections from that era, combed through the area, with metal detector in hand, on Sunday morning, November 25.

With commitments in Gettysburg later in the day, he didn't have much time to spend looking for items, but the time he had proved successful. He found three bullets, while a friend, Jim Kirby found a trigger guard for either a pistol or rifle. As he handed the bullets for us to look at, he commented, "You are the first person (now second actually) who has touched this in the last 140 years." Later in the week, he uncovered a uniform belt buckle from the Union army. Mr. Shores said he had been recently reworking the area near Poolesville High School now that the lot is having its surface excavated for the new home development, and he discovered scores of Civil War artifacts.

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"Holiday Season" Continued From Page 1.

the Holiday Widows and Orphans luncheon. It is hard to establish the actual beginning this party, especially since the organization will celebrate its 150th anniversary in the coming year. The choir from Monocacy Elementary School and the youth choir of Poolesville Memorial Methodist Church entertained the crowd. Jim Sporey, an award-winning wood-craftsman, made delightful reindeer Christmas tree ornaments as a gift for the guests. Jane Poole and Shirley Sporey, after gathering nearly 170 toy stuffed animals to be given to children for Christmas, put together the gift packages that were given to the widows and widowers. Odd Fellow William Poole, who is known to be a particularly close personal friend of Santa Claus, was once again able to arrange for Santa's appearance near the end of the festivities.

The third grand holiday tradition in the area is the lighting of the street-lights in Poolesville. This year was the second time for a newer tradition that has already become highly popular: the lighting of the Whalen Commons Christmas tree, gazebo, and other trees in the park.

Despite the very chilly evening, a

large crowd of nearly three hundred came together as town commission president Eddie Kulhman ordered the switch to be turned on right after a brief moment of silence in honor of the military personnel not able to be home with their families.

The kids (and adults) expressed delight with oohs and ahs at the Christmas tree, gazebo, and other lights bursting with seasonal splendor. The choir from Memorial Methodist Church, under the direction of Janet Hartz, led the crowd in Christmas carols. Henry Nessel from St. Peter's Episcopal Church was the master of ceremonies, and the youth orchestra from St. Peter's also performed for the evening.

About halfway through the festivities, an unannounced surprise caught the attention of everyone. Santa Claus, riding the UMCVFD fire truck, drove through town waving to the festival-goers in the park. He stopped only briefly due to excessive demands on his time, waving with both hands as if to say, "See you next Saturday for breakfast at the fire hall."

After the ceremonies in the park, many of the families adjourned to St. Peter's Church for the showing of the seasonal movie, Polar Express, hot chocolate, and other refreshments.

"Books for Cooks" Continued From Page 5.

book and all of its recipes in one afternoon. It was that interesting and fun to read. Now, I must admit that I love to read good cookbooks, and at 447 pages, this is obviously a serious, while very readable, book. I hesitated to recommend it in my cooking column, since it was not available at that time in the United States. It was just released here on October 2, 2007.

This is Jamie's seventh book, but he says this almost seems like it should be his first. He goes on to say that he hopes he has created a timeless, modern-day classic. "Whether you are a student, a young couple, an established cook, or a novice, I'll take you through a whole load of simple and accessible recipes that will blow the socks off your family and any guest that you might have round for dinner. There's information on the equipment that I think you should have in your kitchen, advice on how to recognize and cook loads of different cuts of meat, as well as how to get the best value and quality when you are out shopping."

When I started to read the recipes, I kept coming back to the fact that, yes, I could seriously think of making most of these recipes. Jamie

uses ingredients available in our supermarkets, and the recipes are not complicated. Here are samples of some of his recipes: Simple Crunchy Side Salad, Crab Linguine, Tomato, Basil, and Ricotta Risotto, Ultimate Rib of Beef, Fabulous Fish Stew, and Sweet and Sour Squash.

This is an excellent cookbook to improve your skills, even if they are limited. The great-tasting recipes are practical to make because the techniques are doable and the ingredients are findable.

Several years ago, Jamie Oliver founded the Fifteen Foundation, which trains young kids from tough backgrounds from all over the world to become professional chefs. All of the students attend catering college before working in one of Jamie's restaurants, where they learn what it takes to cook in a high-pressure environment. One of his restaurants in the east end of London, Fifteen, is staffed by his students and has received rave reviews. So another reason to buy this wonderful cookbook is that one hundred percent of the book's profits go back to the foundation.

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**"PHS Soccer" Continued From
Page 23.**

Pocomoke was a formidable opponent. They were undefeated defending state champions and had been to the championship game ten times, winning six state championships. The Pocomoke coach, Alan Byrd, has coached soccer there for twenty-eight years. Poolesville had never won the state championship and was making its second appearance at the state finals (the last in 1994) with a coach who had been at PHS twenty-seven years less than Pocomoke's. Senior Defender Mark Fales put in a penalty kick, and Poolesville went up 1 to 0 in the first half. Poolesville nearly doubled the lead on several occasions but the Pocomoke goalkeeper made several nice saves. His stellar performance was matched by the efforts of Poolesville goalkeeper Matt Robillard who made some spectacular saves.

As the second half wore on, it appeared that Poolesville would be celebrating its first boys' soccer state championship; however, Pocomoke had other ideas. Pocomoke's senior all-star, Kyle Daugherty, set up a very nice goal with thirteen minutes left, and the match ended regulation in a 1 to 1 tie. The match went back and forth in overtime, and many on the Poolesville side thought it was only a matter of time before Poolesville would score another golden goal and win it. In soccer, just a couple seconds of play over the course of ninety minutes can decide the championship and, unfortunately for Poolesville, those couple seconds decided it in favor of Pocomoke. Kyle Daugherty struck again His superb goal from a long cross put an end to Poolesville's hopes as the game ended on his sudden death overtime goal. The final score was Pocomoke 2 and Poolesville 1.

Senior Zach Hannon, who started the season as a defender but finished it brilliantly as a forward, summed it up nicely, "We had fun during the season. We worked hard but just came up a couple minutes short."

As they say, there is always next year. The team is returning six starters, including 6 foot 4 inch junior goalkeeper Chris Soper who played outstanding soccer in a shutout at Einstein and, had it not been for senior Matt Robillard's super play, Chris would surely have been up to the task this year.

Captain Mark Fales, a four-year varsity starter, noted that "next year's team will be very good. They have great returning players to continue with."



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