



Maybe this will be a good year after all. It may depend on whom you ask.



We've got Coyotes basketball in Youth Sports.



St. Peter's Episcopal Church Senior Warden Henry Nessul ignited the Epiphany Bonfire. See pictures of other events in Family Album on Page 2.



We've got Falcons basketball in Youth Sports.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

January 23, 2009

Volume V, Number 18.

Farm Equipment Burglaries and Thefts Hit the Upcounty

By John Clayton

Since early December there has been a rash of robberies of tools and farm equipment from area farms and businesses. The thefts began in early December and have continued into the New Year.

The thieves have clearly capitalized on the remote and unguarded storage of equipment in a rural area. While bolt cutters have been used to get through gates on some properties, the equipment has generally been stolen from

open fields and unlocked buildings. The equipment has ranged from tools taken from unlocked tool storage boxes to hay wagons, a hay bailer, a skid loader, tractors, and lawn mowing equipment. Victims of the crimes have included private farms as well as businesses.

The Montgomery County Department of Police is investigating the crimes and has discussed the issue with an Upcounty Citizens' Advisory Board. Mayor Pete Menke of Barnesville is member of that group and discussed the meeting with the Monocle, saying that "we had better be more watchful because this stuff is going on up here."

Mayor Menke credited Captain Thomas Didone, Commander

of the Fifth District (Germantown) for supporting the Citizens' Advisory Board and improving communication with the Upcounty areas such as Barnesville that are affected by this sort of sporadic criminal activity. Mr. Menke said that there has more recently been a "concerted effort to keep us informed" after many years, before Commander Didone took charge, of being ignored.

In the advisory group meeting, Mr. Menke said citizens were encouraged to "keep your eyes and ears open, be alert for strangers" and report any suspicious activity to the police. "It's important for all of us to be aware that these of things are going on."

Tell Me, Mr. President

By Rande Davis

Students at Poolesville Elementary School were asked by inquiring reporters from their newspaper, Tiger Tales, what they would like to ask the new president. They were also requested to draw a picture of themselves interviewing the president.

Kindergarten:
Anthony Curry: Why are

you so cool?

Ethan Rolls: Do you have a Wii?

First Grade:

Maxwell Fisher: I would say congratulations first. Then I would say, what will you do first? But first, since you're the president, how do you like the White House? How do you like your rooms? I hope you like it. When are you going to the White House? Why did you run for president?

Emma Parker: Have you been the president before? I want to know if he's been the president before.

Second Grade:

Emily Lewis: Do you think it will be hard to run in all fifty states?

Samantha Thomas: I would ask him if he likes to eat chili. I ask that because I like my dad's chili, and I want to know if he likes chili. So, that's my question.

Third Grade:

Tyler Roy wonders: How did you get all those commercials on TV?

Erik Eklof has several questions: What will you do for your country, and why? How much do you like your job? If so, why? Do you like video games or movies? If you were outside and couldn't get back in, what would you do? Do you like playing outside?

Grade Four:

Courtney Bourque: Will you get your scientists to create a car that runs on water? I'd ask this question because just one gallon of gas is a lot of money. Plus, gas kills trees. Trees give us oxygen, and we give off carbon dioxide.

Camden Wolin: I would ask what will he do to help this country, help the economy. I would ask this question because the economy is doing terrible. People are also losing their jobs.



Family Album



The Family Album is sponsored by
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The Bulls, championship team in the Junior NBA Under-13 fall basketball league.



For those of you that missed it, the Maryland Christmas tree at this year's Pagenat of Peace on the Ellipse, as decorated by students at Monocacy Elementary School.

For More Local Sports Updates
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Poolesville's Brandon Prather takes jump shot against rival Brunswick. Despite a valiant second half effort, the Falcons could not overcome Brunswick's first half advantage. Photograph courtesy of Tom Amiot. For more information visit www.pbahoops.com.



PBA Falcon varsity player Jocelyn Bodmer lays it up during a tough game against Ballenger Creek. Photograph courtesy of Tom Amiot. For more information visit www.pbahoops.com.



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In the Garden A New Year's Resolution for A Garden

By Maureen O'Connell

It might be a little late for setting lifestyle resolutions for the new year, but it is just about right for new ideas for your garden. Our holiday decorations, or at least most of them (I often find a lonely Santa in a corner of a book shelf in July), have been taken down and packed away for next year, and our holiday guests of family and friends have returned to their homes. I have talked to many people who say the same thing: as much as they enjoy the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, they are all happy to return to the quiet routine of their daily lives.

By now, we all probably have a good stack of garden

catalogs that started appearing in our mailboxes about the middle of December. It is too early, too cold, and too wet for outdoor garden chores, but it is the perfect time to plan our 2009 garden and landscape projects. At this time of the year the boys, Tom and Sam, and I still enjoy our early evening garden walks. Winter's chill has laid most of my gardens bare, but in this "bare bones state," it is easy to envision changes or additions to the existing gardens. So let's take a closer look. Frederick McCourty, who passed away in 2006, was one of my favorite nurserymen writers. He and his wife lived and gardened in Norfolk, Connecticut. He worked for many years for the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens and was the author of many gardening books. My favorite is *The Perennial Gardener*. In this book, he shares an anecdote about one of his clients for whom he did some consultation work. "My client, Mrs. Plum, had a dreamy, faraway

look in her eyes. ...I think the perennial border ought to go right here in front of the lake. That way we can come down and see it at sunrise and pick *incarvilleas* for the breakfast table.... I swatted a mosquito as my feet sank deeper in the mud. A loon could be heard in the distance. Consultations sometimes begin like this. Mrs. Plum had been traveling again.... Oh, I don't mean anything grand. Only a fair-sized border, perhaps a hundred feet long and twenty feet deep. I do have to take care of it myself. This is just a summer place, not our main residence. 'How did you get the idea for this border, Mrs. Plum?' 'We were in England a few weeks ago and visited Little Wimper. They have the most marvelous borders there, designed by Sackville-Repton, I think, and it would be great fun to recreate it here. You will include *crinums*, won't you?' ...Sometimes I feel like an air traffic controller in charge of landing

blimps on checkerboards."

Americans are never half-hearted about anything. We jump in with zest, whether it is politics, sports, or garden design. We strive for perfection. With this quest, we are unwittingly digging graves for our enthusiasm. We then end up, very often, with flower and vegetable gardens abandoned, and potential gardeners turned away from gardening. There is a simple solution: Think Small.

Everyone loves flowers. You admire your neighbor's flowerbeds, filled with waves of flowers in soft pastels, rich and bold reds, oranges, and gold. You wish you could decorate the indoors of your home with vases of sweet-smelling floral bouquets all summer. Don't tell me you have a brown thumb or that you don't have the time and energy to care for a garden. You could erase those negatives with a little planning. Don't plant high-maintenance plants.

-Continued on Page 14.



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Commentary

Time to Be Upbeat

By John Clayton

Welcome to 2009. As I write this, there is snow on the ground (which sank my global warming column), Barack Obama is still the president-elect, and George Bush is still president, but hope is in the air. By the time this issue is out on the streets, we will, God willing, have a new president to work with our new congress. There is a new optimism in the air. This was not the case four years ago. The stated sentiment of the incoming, or continuing, president was: "I have political capital and I intend to use it." This was not a particularly positive sentiment, at least not to all, and was expressed defiantly, as in: "It's my way or the highway." However one may feel about current political currents, I don't think any reasonable person would deny that a more positive and inclusive feeling is in the air.

The country and the entire world, as usual, face many challenges. Much of this begins with economics. As explained in Bill Clinton's theory of economic determinism, economics pretty much drives everything else. Or, as Karl Marx observed, "It's the economy, stupid," (maybe it's the other way around). But speaking of the economy, everyone is broke. Montgomery County is broke. The state of Maryland is broke. The country is technically broke, but is allowed to print and borrow money, so it's serious, but not quite the same thing. Financially, most people are about forty percent the person they used to be, if they were lucky to have something that could go down. We remain embroiled in two wars, or one big one, de-

pending on whom you ask. Our country has over 200,000 men and women stationed overseas, shouldering significant burdens and making constant personal sacrifices for our way of life, and it would behoove all of us to remember that at least once a day, if not more often. One war is supposed to get smaller, and one is suppose to get bigger. We have challenges before us.

I know we all hope that government as a problem-solver can make things better. The nation and the world at large are cumbersome organisms that are difficult to manage. Certainly the Great Depression of the 1930s was worse and more damaging, and the rise of Nazi Germany, European fascism, and Japanese imperialism leading to World War II more catastrophic, but the complexities of our new age are daunting enough. The number of people on our planet, the number of throbbing if not thriving modern economies around the globe, and the virulence of various religious, tribal, and territorial hatreds will present sufficient opportunity for strife and cataclysm. It will take all of us. I am encouraged that, while Obama reaches back into the eight years of Clinton administration experience for people to man his administration, he is also valuing the eight years of experience in the Bush administration. It will take all of them and more to work through the problems we face.

I received two upbeat messages recently. The first was a newsletter from Jamison Real Estate with an essay titled "Better Days are Coming" by Frank Jamison. He discusses some of our nation's historic economic strife, contrasts it with our current situation, and observes, "Everyone I talk to wants the

-Continued on Page 15.

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Keeping An Eye On Local News

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Local News

Service Cuts Hit MARC Train

By Kristen Milton

Neither philosophical appeals nor offers to pay higher fares were able to save the Upcounty's midday MARC train from joining the list of service cuts going into effect in January. The Maryland Transit Administration, which receives funding in part from motor fuel tax, vehicle titling tax, and other fees, was hard hit by the effects of the 2008 fuel crisis and will cope with its estimated \$115 million revenue loss largely by cutting MARC Train and Commuter Bus services effective January 12.

Local impacts include the elimination of the train that left Union Station at 1:45 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays as well as the loss of the ten-day ticket and service on federal holidays. The loss of the 1:45 p.m. may be

partially mitigated by the fact that a 3:35 p.m. train from Union Station will now stop at the Dickerson and Boyds stations rather than passing through. It was one of the compromises suggested by the Upcounty group, Save Maryland Area Rail Transit (SMART).

Nonetheless, the changes are disappointing for Upcounty mass transit riders who successfully rallied in 2006 to prevent the closure of the Boyds and Dickerson stations. Ridership on the Brunswick line, serving those stations, increased about ten percent in 2008 over the year before.

"It's a shame," Carol Oberdorfer of Dickerson, who serves on the MARC Riders Advisory Council as well as SMART, said in a January 6 phone interview. "I think the state really had to tighten its belt, and MARC was the casualty."

At hearings held November 17 in Rockville and Washington, D.C., Brunswick riders from as far away as Leesburg, Virginia spoke about the potential impact of the cutbacks, according

to MTA transcripts. "I'd like to remind you—and I'm sorry that I have to remind you—that the MARC line is also a lifeline for many, many people," said Jane Stunkel of Boyds.

The elimination of the midday train was of particular concern to most speakers. "That early train is the only one that gets us home when we have to meet a school bus," said Ellen Gordon of Dickerson. Others said the train allowed commuters to use mass transit in spite of doctor's appointments, parent/teacher conferences, and weather-related early closures. "Keep the 1:45 [train], and if you have to raise fares, so be it," said Kevin Cecco of Barnesville.

Most speakers at the hearings voiced a willingness to see fares, last raised in 2004, increase if it meant preserving service. "Without the option of the midday train, more people will drive," said Miriam Schoenbaum of Boyds, speaking for SMART. "That is good for MARC funding, but it's not good for MARC's

purpose." Schoenbaum was not the only one who noted the irony that fewer people driving cars had led to cuts in mass transit.

In his testimony, state Sen. Robert J. Garagiola (D-Dist. 15) of Germantown said he planned to look at other options for MTA funding in the next General Assembly session.

Oberdorfer said a Garagiola aide has since been in contact with SMART to begin discussion of the issue, but Oberdorfer said that even if the financial situation improves, services and riders lost to the cutbacks may not return. "If you're going to make the commitment to commuter rail, it has to be feasible for various options," she said. "It may be for some people [that] this will be the straw that breaks the camel's back, and they won't commit anymore."

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Local News

State of the Town of Poolesville

By Rande Davis

The New Year is off to a quick start as the commissioners begin the task of preparing a new FY2010 budget. On January 5, the town held a "State of the Town" meeting which afforded attendees the opportunity to hear from town committee chairpersons, the town auditor, and various department heads.

The nearly three-and-half-hour meeting had a sizeable attendance of over thirty people with just over half being residents.

The first presentation was from the town auditor, Mrs. Donna Leo of Rager, Lehman & Houck, P.C., the firm tasked with auditing town financial records and processes. Mrs. Leo first praised the town financial management of the \$3.8 million investment portfolio which is handled by Montgomery County, noting that assets were moved quickly to liquid funds (physical hard assets) when the economy began its rapid downturn. She reported that the town has not experienced many of the economic hardships such as foreclosures that have happened in other communities. She recommended that the town work more closely with the county assets manager by obtaining asset reports more frequently, ideally this would be

done quarterly.

On the matter of internal controls, she commended the town manager and staff saying that the administrative "product is good and has been consistently good." She further commended the town management for "excellent follow-up on past recommendations." While the audit "experienced no improprieties, she recommended that more cross-training of staff" would be helpful should any turnover occur. She also recommended that records for the water/sewer system get "backed up nightly and that they should strengthen the town policies on payment of water bills." Wade Yost, town manager, noted that delinquent water bill payments center on "only around a dozen households," but that they are constructing stricter enforcement policies for the coming year.

Preston King, director of Parks and Streets, noted priorities of snow removal, lawn maintenance, ball park maintenance, tree planting and care, leaf removal, pond maintenance, park aeration, road patching, and trash removal as standard activities under his supervision. Mr. Preston pressed for consideration for a new dump truck, a large lawn mower, and the potential addition to the town staff as items of priority in the coming year(s). He noted that with the two new developments will come 4.5 more miles of road maintenance as well as additional park maintenance. He gave special praise to his staff of thirteen employees for their dedication, willingness to literally work at

times around the clock, and their personal interest and care for the town.

Devon Boyd, director of the Water and Sewer operations, noted extensive work in replacing pumps, flow meters, recording wellhead protection information, water main breaks, and water testing as just some of the standard responsibilities of his staff. Mr. Boyd was commended for recently obtaining Class 1 and Class 5 water management licenses.

Chris Williams, superintendent of the Waste Water Treatment Plant, obtained state supervisory certification this past fall and represented the two-man staff that manages the treatment plant on a regular basis. He was especially commended by town manager Wade Yost for his personal dedication in working a thirty-eight-hour shift to run the treatment plant during an emergency weather event last year.

Many individuals commented that the town employees' presentations were remarkable in highlighting the obvious dedication and enthusiasm of their town employees for their responsibilities as department heads.

The Planning Commission, chaired by George Coakley, consists of Bob Bachman, Cal Sneed, Chuck Stump, and Town Commissioner liaison, Link Hoewing. The mandate is review and revision of the master plan, water/sewer allocation (taps) process, wellhead protection, subdivision plans and zoning, and handling special exception requests.

The Parks, Streets, and Recreation Board, chaired by George



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Deyo, reviews and handles recommendations on matters pertaining to streetscape (infrastructure changes), parks, park permitting, recreational programs, and permitting.

Highlights for the coming year include reviewing plans to build a new band shell for Whalen Commons and improved lighting for the park, construction of a new softball field, use of a newly-acquired property behind

-Continued on Page 8.

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Local News

Concerns about Water Supply Get Review

By Kristen Milton

Upcounty residents may be a step closer to answering a question that has long lingered in some minds as Montgomery County looks into cancer incidences in the Poolesville area—although officials say it is far from the “cancer cluster study” that has received local and national media attention. “We are way, way far away from calling anything a cancer cluster,” said Mary Anderson, a spokeswoman for the county’s Department of Health and Human Services. “This is the first step in this process; I don’t even want to use the word study because we are responding to one person’s concerns.”

That person is Poolesville resident Fred Kelly, who was shocked when his then-pregnant wife became the fifth known person on their block to be diagnosed with cancer when she was told she had renal cancer in October. Kelly is concerned about possible carcinogenic effects from the Poolesville water supply which is provided by wells. Specifically, he is concerned about radon, which is not currently regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency in drinking water, and other radionuclides found in recent years during test-

ing by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

The water supply “meets and/or exceeds federal and state requirements,” according to the town’s most recent water quality report, but Kelly said that is not enough. “I think they can do better with the water and they should do better for us,” he said.

Anderson said the department receives one to three calls a year from residents who fear their cancers may have an environmental cause. As of January 15, she said, the county was awaiting a zip code breakdown from the Maryland Cancer Registry so that numbers from the Poolesville area could be compared to other areas to identify any potential problems. Anderson called it a reactive step rather than proactive research. “We can only go on what is reported to us,” Anderson said, citing medical privacy concerns. “This is not active surveillance at this point. We won’t be going door to door in Poolesville... We won’t even be sending out a survey to everyone.”

News of a cancer study has made its way from local media to the national level, appearing on msnbc.com and cancer support group websites. The perception that the Upcounty has more than its share of cancer has circulated for years with various potential culprits including well water, the trash incinerator, Mirant Power Plant or Neutron Products, which has been considered as a Superfund site. The three facilities are all located in Dickerson. According to the state registry, Montgomery County had 4,234 new

cancer cases reported in 2003, the most recent year of available data. That made its cancer rate the sixth lowest among state jurisdictions.

However, the perception of problems in one’s neighborhood is common enough that the state website includes a response under its Frequently Asked Questions which notes that in a typical community of 1,000 people, “one can expect that about one to ten new cases of some type of cancer will be diagnosed every year.” Some believe that in Upcounty comm

unities, where people feel a connection to their neighbors, the impact feels greater.

Many Upcounty residents have personal experience with various types of cancer. The Kuhn family of Poolesville has been dealing with cancer since 1994 when Becky Kuhn was diagnosed with breast cancer. For years they have raised money for research through the Poolesville Day Bike Ride and sales of sports memorabilia. Mark Kuhn said

they are interested in the study as more and more friends have been diagnosed with various types of cancer. “I’m curious,” he said. “I think a lot of people are... You keep hearing ‘oh, wow, they have cancer’ and a lot of times you’re surprised.”

Years ago, Kuhn’s wife was part of an informal group of approximately fifteen cancer survivors from the Poolesville and Damascus areas who called themselves “breast friends,” but Kuhn said about three-quarters of the group has since passed away.

Kuhn said he used a radon kit to test his home’s water in the 1980s and found acceptable levels but is considering doing it again. “Becky and I did read that [about the cluster study] and wonder, ‘Maybe there is something in the water,’” Kuhn said. “I really don’t know who to believe.”

Kelly said his family has switched to bottled water since his wife’s diagnosis. In addition to higher water quality stan-

-Continued on Page 18.

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Local News

Local Officer Promoted

By Jack Toomey



Poolesville's Officer Wayne Jerman of the Montgomery County Police Department.

When eighteen-year-old Wayne Jerman, just a year out of high school, joined the Montgomery County cadet program, the last thing that he envisioned was that some day he would be the Assistant Chief of Police. In the mid-1970s, Jerman was content to assist officers in answering the telephone, filing reports, and occasionally directing traffic at fires and traffic collisions. Thirty-two years later, the Poolesville resident is able to look back at his long career, which encompassed almost every division of the department, with a sense of satisfaction.

In 1976, Wayne Jerman graduated from Northwood High School in Silver Spring and shortly afterwards joined the now-defunct cadet program. In 1979, he graduated from the Montgomery County police academy and was assigned to the patrol division and served in the Bethesda, Wheaton, and Germantown districts. He also served in the Training and Education Division and is credited with developing the Police Community Action Team. Jerman also headed the Media Services Division, Animal Services Division, and the Records Section. In 2005, he was promoted to the rank of Captain and appointed to head the Bethesda police district. In 2007, Chief Thomas Manger ap-

pointed him as Acting Assistant Chief of Police to fill a vacancy created when an officer was temporarily transferred.

In November 2008, Chief Manger suggested to County Executive Leggett and the county council that Jerman be permanently promoted, and his promotion was quickly approved. Jerman told a Monocle reporter, "I am very honored that [Chief Manger] had that level of confidence to put me in the position. I am very honored and humbled." As Assistant Chief of Police, Jerman will head the Investigative Services Division. He will oversee units such as the Homicide Unit, the Family Crimes Division, Gang Unit, the Crime Lab, Financial Crimes Unit, and the Auto Theft Squad. Chief Manger was quoted as saying, "Assistant Chief Jerman is well deserving of this appointment. His thirty-two years with the Montgomery County Police Department bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the job."

Jerman is a graduate of the University of Maryland, earned his Master's degree in Business Administration from Frostburg State University, and has been selected to attend the FBI National Academy in 2009. He and his wife Terry, who is also an employee of the police department, moved to Poolesville in 1991. He was active in several community activities at the Barnesville School and coached soccer at the school.

"Obama Letters" Continued From Page 1.

Grade Five:

Kelly Van Meter told Tiger Tales: If I could interview Barack Obama, I would ask him what he will do as president. I would ask him this because maybe he will do something that no president has done before.

Alesya Sarakham wants to know: What would you do to help America get green? I would ask him this because I care about the environment and want to know if he does.

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Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 4:00 – 4:45 p.m.

"Town Meeting" Continued From Page 6.

Selby's Market, and continued overseeing of a subdivision committee considering a potentially new town skateboarding facility. It would also include consideration of building a walking trail in the Toms Run subdivision and the new parks at Stoney Spring and Brightwell Crossing. For FY2010, the band shell, park lighting, construction of a softball field, and the new subdivision parks will likely have their recommendations in going forward.

Helen Gunther, chairperson for the Community and Economic Development Committee (CEDC), highlighted activities such as the town concerts, movies, holiday lighting, participating in Poolesville Day, and development of a new resident/business owner welcome package as important programs the committee has managed in the previous year. They also noted the CEDC's participation and cooperation with the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce's

new town historical map, HMD's First Friday shopping event that coincided with the Holiday Lighting Festival, and Maryland Municipal League's Geocache Trail as other items that the committee has worked on.

Town engineering projects presented by John Strong of Huron Engineering included projects such as the new town hall, sidewalks on Spurrier Avenue, Kohlhoss Road, and Elgin Road, design, review, and inspection of construction of lagoon pump near Stevens Park, I&I evaluation by video date and smoke tests, design and construction plans for Brightwell Crossing and Stoney Spring, and road repaving and speed bumps projects. For the upcoming year, Strong noted continued work with the developers, overseeing a Waste Water Treatment Plant Enhanced Nutrient Removal study and design, continued Inflow and Infiltration analyses and improvements,

-Continued on Page 19.

Things To Do

For continual updates visit
www.monocacymonocle.com

January 23

1964 – The Tribute
Best of the Beatles tour
Weinberg Center – Frederick
8:00 p.m.

January 24

Saturday Night at the Cinema
PHS auditorium
Features: The Dark Knight
Refreshments Available
Admission: Free
Canned Food Donations for
WUMCO, Showtime: 7:30 p.m.

Relay for Life Basket Bingo
St. Mary's Pavilion – Barnesville
Doors Open: 5:30 p.m.
Games: 7:00 p.m.
20 games, prizes
Refreshments sold
Advance: \$15.00, Day of: \$20.00
Contact: 301-349-5870
Or 301-349-2050

January 26

Book Discussion Group

Poolesville Library
Adored by Tilly Bagshaw,
7:30 p.m.

Poolesville Youth Symphony
Orchestra
Ensemble Presentation
Town Commissioners Meeting
Poolesville Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

January 31

Free Throw Championship
Knights of Columbus held at
Poolesville Baptist Church
Ages: six to fourteen
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

February 5

Weinberg Center
Movie Night
The Exiles (1961), 7:00 p.m.

February 6

Valentine Family Fun Night
Gaithersburg Activity Center
506 S. Frederick Avenue
Valentine Creative Arts
\$5.00 per person or \$12.00 per
family, 7:00 p.m.

Beyond the Rocks
Weinberg Center
Classic silent movie
8:00 p.m.

-Continued on Page 12.

Remembrances

By Rande Davis

Linda J. Cates



Ms.

Linda J. Cates, 61, of Beallsville, Maryland died on Friday January 9, 2009 of septic shock.

Linda was

a longtime employee of Montgomery County Public Schools as a special education teacher in the Preschool Education Program (PEP). The family held a Celebration of Life memorial for Ms. Cates on January 17 at the Comus Inn in Dickerson. Remembered for her love of family and devotion to education, Ms. Cates was memorialized through the phrase: "A hundred years from now, it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the car I drove, but the world may be dif-

ferent because I was important in the life of a child."

Linda, who was a graduate from the University of Wisconsin, majoring in Psychology, was celebrated in the ceremony program through three symbols best representing her life: a soccer ball, the peace symbol, and the recycling symbol. She initiated a recycling program at Monocacy Elementary School that eventually proved to be the prototype for Montgomery County's recycling program. The memorial service held at the Comus Inn was particularly appropriate as it overlooks Sugarloaf Mountain, the site of her first date with husband, Lee Bristol.

In remembrance of her unwavering love of nature, appreciation of the beauty of our area, and special reverence for Sugarloaf Mountain, the family led gatherers on a memorial walk to the memorial garden at Sugarloaf Mountain where much of her spirit shall always be found.

She is survived by her husband, Lee Bristol of Beallsville,

-Continued on Page 13.



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Youth Sports

Coyote Girls Have the Right Stuff

By Jeff Stuart

In an entertaining and highly competitive basketball game on Friday, January 9 at Damascus (7-3), the Swarming Hornets defeated the Lady Coyotes (7-3), 50-48. With less than a minute to go, Clarksburg's Tiara Ward, a transfer from Rockville, hit a jumper to give Clarksburg a 46-42 point lead with 2:48 left—but in three blinks of an eye, that lead vanished. Two Damascus three-pointers by Christie Huse and Michelle Mahon sandwiched around a foul call on Ward on an inbounds play under the Damascus basket gave Damascus the lead and the victory. For most of the game, the Coyotes maintained the lead and the ball. They beat Damascus to loose balls and out-rebounded the Hornets. In the end, it was four Damascus three-pointers that made the difference.

The Clarksburg girls opened

the New Year on Monday, January 5 at home against Watkins Mill (3-5). Paige Harris led the Coyotes to a 49-38 victory with thirteen points and four steals. Ward had eleven points and six rebounds. Anna Hackett scored ten points and contributed five assists. It was their first home win of the season.

The Coyotes were rebounding from a non-league 68-46 loss at home to the North Hagerstown Hubs (6-1) on December 30, in their final appearance of the old year. That ended a string of four straight wins, all on the road, but they did finish second in the Clarksburg Sabelhaus Holiday Basketball Tournament. Harris was selected to the All Tournament team.

After opening the season with a thrilling 55-54 win at Walkersville on December 5, the Coyotes picked up their first county win, trouncing Walter Johnson (0-8), 60-34, on December 9. Clarksburg's early season momentum was interrupted by a 56-43 loss to the visiting Northwest Jaguars in their first home appearance of the year on December 12. The Coyotes

bounced back with a decisive 71-41 win at Northwood on December 16. That set the stage for a more competitive game at Poolesville on December 19.

Poolesville held Clarksburg to two points in the first quarter; however, the inside play of the Coyotes, who denied ball entry to the low post all game and had a handful of blocked shots, resulted in a 34-27 Clarksburg win. The Coyotes were led by Tia Johnson, who notched eleven points, and Paige Harris, who had nine. A 53-43 win at Rockville on December 22 and a 68-35 win at Walter Johnson followed.

With a record of 13-12 last year, when the Coyotes played brilliantly at times, Head Coach Sissy Natoli was looking for more consistency this year, both on offense and defense. So far she is seeing that. Nicole Cunningham, Turquoia Johnson, Tia Johnson, Courtney Clark, and Harris are in their third season together as varsity players. Turquoia, out with an illness since the beginning of the season, should be back. So the Coyotes are deep and experienced. This is not a building year. The Coyotes look forward to the second half of the season and the playoffs.

Youth Sports

PHS Girls Looking Ahead

By Jeff Stuart

Looking more like last year's region finalist team than the one that finished the month of December, the Poolesville High School girls' basketball team (5-6) began 2009 with a 60-16 thumping of the Rockville Rams on Monday, January 5 at Rockville. The win snapped a four-game losing string. Freshman point guard, Lindsay Poss, starting for the third straight game, led the Falcons with a career high nineteen points and three three-point field goals. Holly Chittenden had eight points. Sister Jessica Chittenden played strong in the post. Christy Lowe also added eight points. Finding their scoring touch, the Falcons were up 18-4 after the first quarter, and up 31-6 at halftime.

At Watkins Mill on January 9, the girls had a dreadful second half, losing at Watkins Mill (4-6), 42-31, despite holding a 17-7 advantage at the half, but on Tuesday, January 13, the Falcons redeemed themselves by defeating visiting Damascus (7-4), 37-31. Ninety percent free throw shooting was huge for Poolesville.

The Falcons struggled in the early season. After winning their opener at Northwood, 49-38, the Falcons lost a heartbreaker in their home opener against Tuscarora, 35-33, before routing St. John's Catholic Prep of Frederick away,

54-22, and Brunswick at home, 47-36, running their record to 3-1, but then the Falcons found returning to Montgomery County play tough. They lost in a tight contest at Clarksburg (7-2) on December 19.

There was no relief at Seneca Valley on December 22. Seneca methodically built a 30-13 half time lead and cruised to a 53-37 win. The Poolesville girls had a slow start and were not able to recover. The Lady Falcons closed out the old year with losses to Quince Orchard and Northwest in the fourth annual Sugarloaf Shootout Holiday Tournament hosted by Poolesville. The Cougars (5-4) out raced Poolesville, 53-35 in the semi-finals. In her first start, Poss led the Falcons in scoring with nine points.

Northwest (7-1), coming off its first loss of the season in the semi-finals (60-57 to tournament winner Seneca Valley), defeated Poolesville, 58-46, in the consolation game, taking an early lead and holding off the Falcons in the second half.

"To finish 19-6 and to reach a regional championship leaves you just one win away from a twenty-win season and a berth in the states. We were that close," said head coach Rander Berger of last year's playoff run. "We have a lot of positives to build on." With the heart of that team gone, the Falcons have struggled a bit in the early season, but they are learning, improving, finding their way on defense and beginning to find an offensive groove. Coach Berger is finding out which of the newcomers can be successful at the varsity level. The coach and the players are looking forward.

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Local News

Planning Board Acts on Clarksburg Issues

By Kristen Milton

Clarksburg Town Center

In spite of concerns about the cost, the Montgomery County Planning Board approved plans that increased the size of a multi-level parking garage to serve the retail area of Clarksburg Town Center. The parking decision was one of several that had remained to be decided after a marathon November 6 hearing on the controversial project. As currently envisioned, the project, occupying approximately 270 acres at Clarksburg Road and Snowden Farm Parkway, will contain more than 1,200 homes as well as restaurants, stores, a library, and a community sports center. A December 18 hearing was held to settle outstanding issues.

No oral testimony was accepted at the December hearing although emails and letters submitted showed residents and experts alike were divided over whether the proposed plan needed more or less parking. Planning commissioners echoed that split. The developer, Newland, showed 914 parking spaces in its submitted plans while the planning staff initially requested more than 1,200 spots. The final plan allows for just over 1,000 parking spaces spread over the garage, lots, and curbs.

Other topics visited in the hearing included landscaping, the size and design of the sports facility, and the grand staircase that will connect the town center with nearby Clarksburg

United Methodist Church.

Work on the development largely stopped four years ago when area residents objected to construction that did not meet approved plans. After hearings, court challenges, and policy changes, it was decided that

building violations would be addressed with a Plan of Compliance negotiated through mediation in 2006 and committing the developer, Newland, to various concessions and amenities.

New neighbors for the fire station

The board also approved a site plan amendment for Clarksburg's Gateway 270 Corporation Park adding a daycare and health club.

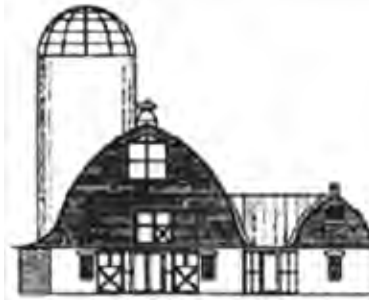
The complex, located on Gateway Center Drive, includes several buildings. Building Four, the subject of the change, was a commercial building divided into six spaces. The changes approved by the board at its December 18 meeting will convert some of those spaces into a health club and daycare. A fenced outdoor play area for the daycare will be added at the cost of ten parking spaces.

An attorney for the adjacent property holder, COMSTAR Federal Credit Union, expressed concern that the new uses would increase traffic at the site, but staff found the updated traffic study acceptable.

The complex has hosted Clarksburg's interim fire station in Building Two since 2005.

Upcoming

The Montgomery County Planning Board was slated to discuss developments at Woodstock Equestrian Center in Dickerson at its January 15 meeting as well as the possible addition of the Germantown-area Little Seneca Viaduct and B&O Culverts and Railroad Bed to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.



SUGARLOAF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER January 2009

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A Happy New Year to our readers from
Gary Valen, President of the SCA

Transmission Lines

One of the biggest issues facing the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association in 2008 was the potential routing of two sets of power transmission lines through the Agriculture Reserve. The routes involved the additional lines required by Allegheny Power to provide adequate power to the development of the Urbana community in Frederick County and the PATH lines to bring power to the entire region. As of this writing, both transmission lines are now proposed for sites outside the Agriculture Reserve.

Opposition to major power lines through our rural area came from those who want to protect the views of Sugarloaf Mountain and the open fields and forests in the Reserve. While the routing issues will no doubt reemerge in the future, we have some time to think about how we will respond to the growing power needs of our region.

All of us are upset when our power goes out for any reason. Allegheny officials understand this and want to build systems that avoid excessive power outages. With this fact in mind we all understand that power lines must go somewhere.

Various schemes to eliminate the aesthetic issues surrounding transmission towers and lines such as buried cable would significantly increase the price we pay for electricity. In addition power companies want to spread their lines over several routes to avoid a total blackout if a tornado or other natural event occurs in one location.

There are many steps individuals, organizations and governments can take to ease the future demand for power in our region. Energy savings in homes and businesses can make a major contribution to these efforts. Governments are already taking conservation measures and making investments in alternative energy sources.

SCA is taking a longer view of the power transmission issue than just opposing new lines in the Agriculture Reserve. The Association will take part in local and regional dialogues about an energy future that meets our needs without detracting from the Reserve. We will also pledge to do what we can to conserve energy on our Linden Farm property and in our own homes. We urge our readers to join us.

Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Montgomery County detectives are asking for the public's help in the investigation of the theft of several ATM machines. In one of the cases, thieves broke into the Liberty Gas Station at 23300 Clarksburg Road, Clarksburg and stole an ATM machine. Detectives believe that the incident is related to similar crimes in Silver Spring, Howard County, and Prince George's County. The suspects, described only as white or Hispanic males, are using a 1990s dark-colored Ford Explorer. Anyone with information should call detectives at 301-565-5835.

January 4 Commercial burglary. 19700 block of Fisher Avenue.

January 6 Theft from a vehicle. 19600 block of Bealsville Road.

Police responded to the following locations in Poolesville for the report of disorderly persons: The

19100, 19600, and 20100 blocks of Fisher Avenue, 17000 block of Hilliard Street, 20000 block of Wootton Avenue, 17300 block of Seneca Chase Park Road, and the 17600 block of Cattail Road.

Police responded to these locations in Poolesville for the report of drug use: 17600 block of Collier Circle and 17500 block of Christer Street.

Past

Jan 6, 1964 The Montgomery County Police announced that they would begin making unannounced checks of places that contained pinball machines. A recent law dictated that an establishment could have no more than two pinball machines on the premises.

January 7, 1955 A fourteen-room private clubhouse on Edwards Ferry Road near Poolesville was destroyed by fire. Officials estimated the damage at \$40,000. The fire was spotted by a farmhand who was plowing a field. He

had to drive two miles to find the nearest telephone to report the fire.

January 12, 1986 Six people were killed in a fire that swept a wooden farmhouse on Slidell Road in Boyds. Fire officials determined that the fire had started in a defective wood stove. It was one of the deadliest fires in Montgomery County history.

January 13, 1916 The police in Washington, D.C. relayed a warning to their counterparts in Montgomery County. The alert warned that a man, pretending to be an egg and butter man, would go door to door engaging homeowners in conversation. Once he had gained their trust, he would take money and promise to return the next day with fresh eggs and butter. Police said that he had defrauded a number of people.

January 16, 1964 A ninety-year-old Poolesville man was arrested and charged with killing his grandson. Police said that the murder happened at a home on Cattail Road after a domestic dispute. After a quarrel, the elderly man had picked up a shotgun and fired.

"Things To Do" Continued From Page 9.

506 S. Frederick Avenue
Valentine Creative Arts
\$5.00 per person or \$12.00 per family, 7:00 p.m.

Beyond the Rocks
Weinberg Center
Classic silent movie, 8:00 p.m.

February 7
Celebrity Celebrations Murder Mystery Dinner
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
20100 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville
Tickets \$15 per person
stpetersseniorityouth@gmail.com
6:30 p.m.

Esperanza Spalding
Weinberg Center
Jazz prodigy, 8:00 p.m.

February 11
Ladysmith Black Mambazo
Weinberg Center
Traditional South African music
8:00 p.m.

February 14
101 Years of Broadway
Weinberg Center
Broadway classics and hits
8:00 p.m.



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BASSETT SPECIAL EVENTS

IN FEBRUARY

- Jan. 23: Entertainment Night**
Chris Compton - starts at 10 p.m.
- Jan. 31: Super Bowl - Join us in the Bar**
- Feb. 07: Entertainment Night - Entertainer to be Announced**
- Feb. 10: Fundraiser for PHS Music Boosters**
10% of daily proceeds on food dine in or carry out
- Feb. 14: Valentines Day**
Don't forget your sweetheart! Valentine menu posted online. Reservations encouraged.
- Feb. 15: Nascar Special at the Bar**
From 3:00 p.m. until end of the race, enjoy our complimentary taco/naco bar, \$1 drafts on Coors Light, Miller Lite, and Yuengling, \$10 buckets of beer on Coors Light, Miller Lite, and Budweiser.
- Feb. 16: Presidents Day - Bassett's will open for Lunch at 11 a.m. on Monday.**
- Feb. 17 Fundraiser: Thanksgiving in February - Benefit for WUMCO**
10% of proceeds donated to Interfaith Works and directly to WUMCO



Coming In
FEBRUARY

Grilled Pork Chop
With apple chutney served with macaroni and cheese and vegetable

ENTERTAINMENT NIGHT
Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday
Check website or Watch Feb. 6 ad in Monocle

Local News

Woodstock Equestrian Park Update

By Maureen O'Connell

On January 15, 2009 the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (M-NCPPC) Montgomery County Department of Parks held a meeting at their regional office building in Silver Spring to discuss the Phase II Facility Plan and an amendment to The Forest Conservation Plan for Woodstock Equestrian Park (WEP). Linda Komes, Project Manager for the Park Development Division,

"Remembrances" Continued From Page 9.

her two children, Kris Cates-Bristol and Jessica Cates-Bristol, and brother, Bill Cates of Columbia, Maryland. She was the daughter of the late Joseph and Ruth Cates of Wheaton, Maryland.

In lieu of flowers, a fund has been set up to support the families of special education children. Please email LindaCatesFund@gmail.com to be added to the distribution list to receive detailed information.

Hugh S. McPhatter

Mr. Hugh S. McPhatter, 70, of Boyds, Maryland, died on Thursday January 15, 2009 at his residence. He was the husband of the late Renna K. McPhatter.

Born on January 27, 1938 in South Huntington Township, Pennsylvania, he was the son of the late Delray and Ruth McPhatter.

Hugh was a member of the Poolesville Chamber of Commerce, Izaak Walton League, and enjoyed playing pool and riding horses. Family suggests donations be made in Hugh's name to a hospice organization of your choice.

Surviving are his son and daughter, Bennett McPhatter, Dena Yeary; one brother, Donald McPhatter; and four grandchil-

gave an account of work currently completed at the park. Situated on 872 acres on both sides of Maryland Route 28 in Beallsville, improvements for FY 01-07 included: vehicular access along Route 28, including entrance roads and walls, landscape planting and signage, parking lots, multi-purpose natural surface trails and bridges, historic and archeological assessments of on-site historic resources and standing historic structures, and fencing.

A Staff Report requested an amendment to the currently approved Forest Conservation Plan. The construction of Phase II projects will necessitate more forest clearing. The Commission agreed that the applicant WEP was doing a good job in minimizing forest impact and protecting the environment. The amendment was approved.

dren, Bennett McPhatter, Jr., James McPhatter, Marina Yeary, and Sophia Yeary.

Dwight M. Hare

Mr. Dwight M. Hare, 76, of Poolesville, Maryland passed away on Tuesday, January 13, 2009.

He was the husband of the late Mary Hare; father of Diane Hare, Cindy Hecker (Gary); grandfather of Christopher Douglass (Heather), Rachel Crawford (Wayne), Allison Hecker, Nicholas Borek, Michelle Hecker; and great-grandfather of Ethan Hecker and Benjamin Crawford. He is also survived by numerous brothers, sisters, and extended family. Mr. Hare was preceded in death by one son, Dale Hare.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 11240 Waples Mill Road, Suite 402, Fairfax, VA 22030 (alz.org).

Ms. Komes described the Phase II Facility Plan, which is dependent upon approval of available funding of \$750,000 by the Commission and the Montgomery County Council. This monetary figure consists of: \$250,000, Capital Projects Grant; \$250,000, Community Parks and Playgrounds Grant; and a \$250,000 donation from the William Rickman family. Improvements will include: a 230 foot by 350 foot outdoor riding ring with terraced seating and protective berms, rough grading for future outdoor rings, expanding parking areas for cars and horse trailers, a beginner/novice cross country course, renovation of on-site buildings for offices and storage, and a working well. Phase II facilities have been prioritized with the help of local equestrian working groups. Future plans may include an eventing center, a training center, competition rings, polo fields, steeplechase courses, cross country courses, an indoor riding arena, and further site improvements. Ms. Komes emphasized that initial construction will be limited to the approval of the available

funding of \$750,000. As additional grants and/or donations are received, construction of the remaining projects may be completed. The first set of improvements could be completed by summer 2010.

Ms. Komes stated that the WEP preserves open space in the county and offers significant recreational opportunities in the Agricultural Reserve. It will also further expand the economic impact of the equestrian community on both the state and county level.

There were several speakers who asked to address the Commission. Among them were Betty Thorpe, Potomac Valley Dressage Association; Monica Breeland, Maryland Horse Council; Rex Reed, Washington Hiking and Trails Association; and Laura Van Etten, co-owner of a local tack shop. They all thanked the Commission for their work in making this dream become a reality for so many equestrians in the area.

The Commission voted and approved the Phase II Facility Plan. It will be sent to the County Council for further approval.

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*-"New Year's Resolutions"
Continued From Page 3.*

Forget anything that deer love to eat, and be very honest with the time you have to devote to this endeavor. A very small garden bed, or even a few containers on your patio or deck can give you a lot of pleasure and flowers all summer.

I became interested in gardening about thirty-five years ago. I was a young newlywed, and my husband and I had a small house with a fair-sized rectangular backyard where I envisioned flower beds. At that time, garden centers and plant catalogs were not the booming business they are today. Burpee was the king of plants, plant seeds, and plant supplies. There was not a huge variety of plants, as there is today. Zinnias, marigolds, cosmos, petunias, and geraniums were the popular bedding plants of the day. I was not yet into roses. Looking back now, I realize how boring and unimaginative my collections of plants were. Like little tin soldiers, zinnias, in all the colors of the rainbow, grew in neat, straight rows. Next to them were neat, straight rows of marigolds, then cosmos, petunias, and geraniums—all very neat, very straight, very symmetrical, and very predictable—but, to me, it was a wonderful flower garden, and it was the beginning of a lifelong love of gardening.

If you are thinking of planting a flower garden, start with a small bed. Choose easy plants to grow and maintain; zinnias, marigolds, and petunias are still good starter plants. In our area, there are many garden centers which will give you advice, and there are endless numbers of

catalogs that offer hundreds of plants, both exotic and ordinary. If you are short on time and want to see an immediate garden picture, buy medium-sized plants. Sowing seeds yourself, either in the house or outdoors, takes up space and involves more time. For a long time, my favorite garden catalog has been the White Flower Farm (WFF) Garden Book. This nursery is located in Litchfield, Connecticut. I eagerly look forward to my WFF catalog. It reads more like a friendly letter from a gardening friend. On the second page of the catalog, there is always a note from Amos Pettingill. He is a character invented by the nursery's founders, William Harris, a former Wall Street broker, and Jane Grant, a writer for Fortune magazine, when they started the nursery in 1950. An interesting aside is that Ms. Grant and her first husband Harold Ross founded The New Yorker magazine in 1925. Ms. Grant and Mr. Ross came to the Berkshires in the 1940s to escape the summer heat of New York City. They built a house out of a barn and planted a garden full of white flowering shrubs and plants and their home became WFF. To this day, WFF still has a white garden. In 1976, Eliot Wadsworth bought WFF and assumed the voice of Amos Pettingill. Mr. Pettingill's catalog notes have changed over the years, but there are always down-home words of advice for both the master gardener and the beginner. In this season's catalog, WFF has put together in text and pictures plant combinations that they believe will produce pleasing results without exceptional levels of skill and effort on your part. In my next article, we will talk about good plant choices and

what happens when your garden grows out of its boundaries.

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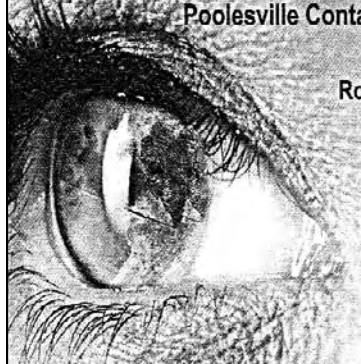
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*-Commentary Continued From
Page 4.*

new president to succeed—not for his sake but for ours.” He also says, “The recession ends when we start to buy and be optimistic and we start believing “Better days are coming!” There is more, and it’s available at www.jamisonrealestate.com. I also had a call from William Price of Barnesville, who observed that we shouldn’t be bashful about celebrating the fact that once again we have had a thoroughly peace-

ful change of government—typical for our country, not to be taken for granted, and something for which to be thankful—a good point, indeed. An advertiser I was talking to observed that our economic problems would abate when the media stops scaring everyone with horror stories, gloom, and doom. Hmm.

Then someone sent me an email showing a tombstone marking the end of the United States on November 4, 2008. I guess not everyone has as much faith in America as I do. What a shame.

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*See current updates to
Things to Do and the
Big Board*

Tidbits

Mieke Davis and Craig Frishman Wed

Rande and Laura Davis announce the January 2 marriage of their daughter, Mieke Johanna Davis, to Craig Adam Frishman, son of Marilyn Frishman and the late Aby Frishman of Potomac, Maryland. The couple married at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Poolesville, Maryland; Rev. Ken Howard officiated. The ceremony was an interfaith ceremony incorporating many Jewish traditions. The bride's son, Leif Johannes Euler, and the groom's son, Alexander Bruce Frishman, as part of the ceremony, received special blessings as they officially became brothers during the ceremony. The reception was held in Leesburg, Virginia at the Lightfoot Restaurant.

The bride graduated from Poolesville High School in 1992 and earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from George Mason University. She most recently worked in sales in the biotech and pharmaceutical industries.

The groom graduated from Churchill High School in 1991 and earned an Associate's of Arts Degree in General Studies from Montgomery College. The groom continued vocational computer education at Computer Learning Center (Programming) and University of Maryland University College (Information Systems Management). He works as a principal network engineer for



Mieke Davis and Craig Frishman married on January 2 at St. Peter's Church.

Qinetiq North America.

The couple and their two sons reside in South Riding, Virginia.

New Book on Boyds by Arthur Virts

Arthur Virts, a resident of Boyds for eighty years and the town's former postmaster, has just published a new book entitled Boyds: A Character Study. This delight compilation of history and folklore offers forty-five stories along with twenty-two historic pictures of the town and its people. The Monocle will report on Mr. Virts and the new

book in more detail in the upcoming February 6 issue and will also be excerpting a few of his wonderful tales in future issues. For those wanting to purchase the chronicle of Boyds, Arthur can be reached at: 301-972-1061. **Area Schools Seeking Donations of Supplies**

The Beading and Jewelry Club at John Poole Middle School is in need of donations of old jewelry and beads that can be recycled as well as jewelry-making tools. The Quilting Club is also looking for donations of cotton (or mostly cotton) woven fabrics. Any donations can be dropped off in the front office.

The Clarksburg High School Post Prom decorating committee has a wish list of the following items for donation from the community: rolls of duct tape, strands of clear Christmas lights, gold and silver paint, black wrought-iron bistro table and chair sets (will be returned after event), ten half-inch dowel rods, topiary trees (will be returned after event), silver and gold

cardboard. Please contact Dena at madsky5@verizon.net or Priscilla at priswb@verizon.net if you would like to make a donation.

Speed Cameras Increasing in Area

Speed cameras continue to pop up throughout the county with the installation of cameras in Darnestown completed at the start of winter. Now the county is just completing two more on Route 118 at the intersection of Route 28, one to catch drivers turning left off of Route 28 heading toward Germantown and another for those approaching Route 28 on Route 118. Consider yourself warned.

MCPD Seeking Applicants for Citizen Academy

The Montgomery County Police Department is currently accepting applications for future sessions of the Citizen Academy. The program is free, but participants must be eighteen years of age or older and either live or work in Montgomery County.

Participants who are selected

-Continued on Page 17.

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"Tidbits" Continued From Page 16.

for the program are required to attend fourteen of the eighteen classes to be eligible for graduation. Some of the topics covered include: Maryland Traffic Law, investigations of major crimes, drug identification, scams and fraud, firearm safety, a canine demonstration, DUI/underage drinking, and the procedures of the Emergency Response Team. Academy members have the option of touring the Montgomery County Correctional Facility in Clarksburg, participating in a ride-along with a police officer, and attending cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) classes.

The Citizen Academy began in 1994 and is an extension of the department's community policing efforts. Community members, who learn about how the police department works, gain a better understanding of what the department does and what is required for police officers to effectively perform their duties.

The spring session of the Citizen Academy is scheduled

to begin the first week of March 2009. Those interested in learning more about the Citizen Academy and applying for future sessions may contact Officer Michele Smith: Michele.Smith@montgomerycountymd.gov or 301-840-2771.

People Snooping around Town?

Perhaps you have noticed individuals or small groups of people snooping around Poolesville on weekends and were just a bit curious. Since the first of the year, over thirty people from outside Poolesville have made their way to town on a unique treasure hunt. The Maryland Municipal League and the Maryland Geocaching Society have come together to establish a seventy-eight community treasure hunt.

Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices. The basic idea is to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, outdoors and then share your experiences online. Geocaching is enjoyed by people from all age groups with a strong sense of

community and support for the environment.

A geocache trail is a series of geocaches tied together by a common theme. The theme of the Maryland Municipal League (MML) Geocache Trail is: Celebrating Maryland's Cities and Towns. The trail is comprised of seventy-eight city/town caches located in the eleven MML Districts (regions) throughout the state. A collectable, highly-coveted geocoin will be given to the first five hundred geocachers who locate a minimum of twenty-two city/town caches throughout the state. To be eligible for the coin, geocachers must pick up a passport at any participating visitor center, use the stamp in each cache on their

passports, and write in the cache code word. After at least two municipal caches in each district are discovered, geocachers may return to one of the county visitor centers and have their passports validated to receive a collectable coin.

Among the many interesting things you will find in the Poolesville geocache: Town pins, playing cards, matchbox toys, compasses, and rain gear. For more information, contact MML's website www.md-municipal.org.

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Fans, You May Begin Screaming Now

George, Paul, John, and Ringo have returned! Rolling Stone Magazine hails this show as the "best Beatles tribute on Earth." Showing at the Weinberg Center for the Arts on January 23 at 8:00 p.m., prices range from \$22.00 to \$32.00.

The Community Economic and Development Committee of Poolesville will host a winter series of indoor movies features as "Saturday Night at the Cinema." This extension of the summer parks program will have its opening night on Saturday, January 24 at Poolesville High School auditorium with doors opening at 7:00 p.m. and show time at 7:30 p.m., featuring the Batman movie, *The Dark Knight*. Refreshments will be sold, and admission is free although movie-goers are encouraged to bring canned foods as a donation to WUMCO.

School's Out Educational Program

The captivating YoJo! will be the featured performer during Gaithersburg's "School's Out for Arts" program on Monday, January 26, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the Arts Barn, 311 Kent Square Road in Gaithersburg. "School's Out" provides an opportunity for plenty of educational fun when Montgomery County Public Schools are closed. Tickets are \$5.00 for residents and \$6.00 for nonresidents. They may be purchased by using RecXpress online at www.gaithersburgmd.gov or call 301-258-6394.

Montgomery County Council to Host West Germantown/Darnestown/Boyd's Area Town Hall

The Montgomery County Council will continue its efforts to find out what issues most concern residents when it hosts a Town Hall Meeting for the West Germantown/Darnestown/Boyd's area on Wednesday, January 28. The meeting at Kingsview Middle School will start at 8:00

p.m. A pre-meeting reception will begin at 7:30 p.m. Kingsview Middle School is located at 18909 Kingsview Road in Germantown. For more information about the Town Hall Meeting or about the broadcast times, call 240-777-7931.

Free Throw Championship

Local youths, six to fourteen years of age, are invited to put their basketball best on the line in the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship scheduled from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 31, 2009 at the Poolesville Baptist Church, 17550 W. Willard Road in Poolesville. Both boys and girls will compete to join the district and Maryland state competitions based on age and gender, with the highest scoring competing for international championship honors based on state scores. All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation, while age group winners receive additional awards.

Participants are required to furnish their age and written parental consent at the time of competition. For entry forms or additional information, contact Donald Patti with the Knights of Columbus at 866-478-8080 or nash Rambler@yahoo.com.

The Exiles (1961)

On February 5 at 7:00 p.m., the Weinberg Center Movie night features a 1961 classic: *The Exiles*.

Now showing after a long-delayed commercial release. Set in 1950s Los Angeles, *Exiles* tells a classic American story of aspiration and tragedy.

Beyond the Rocks (1922)

Love and marriage (but not in that order) are the focus of the re-released version of this silent soap-opera romance, starring Rudolph Valentino and Gloria Swanson. Featuring the mighty Wurlitzer at the Weinberg Center for the Arts on February 6 at 8:00 p.m.

Murder Mystery Dinner

On February 7, from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. St. Peter's Church in Poolesville will hold a Celebrity Celebrations Murder Mystery Dinner to benefit the St. Peter's High School Youth Group.

Tickets are \$15 per person, for adults and children twelve years and older. A dinner featuring a Texas-style barbecue will be served. Choose your character when you purchase your ticket. Please dress up for your character—overdressing and going to extremes is highly recommended. For more details email stpeters-senioryouth@gmail.com.

Esperanza Spalding

"Esperanza" is the Spanish word for hope—and there could be no more fitting name for this amazing young prodigy-turned-pro who may well be the hope for the future of jazz and instrumental music. Blessed with uncanny instrumental chops, a siren voice that spans three languages, and composing and arranging skills that blend the old-school with progressive, this mesmerizing twenty-three-year-old artist is redefining jazz. Every so often a truly phenomenal artist comes along—and Esperanza is the one! She will be performing at the Weinberg on February 7 at 8:00 p.m.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo

Now in its fifth decade, this Grammy-winning a cappella group from South Africa is still singing strong. Ladysmith Black Mambazo thrills audiences with the heartfelt yet powerful harmonies of Isicathamiya, traditional music born in the mines of South Africa. From their groundbreaking work with Paul Simon on *Graceland* to *Ilembe*, their most recent release, founder Joseph Shabala and his ensemble remain committed to sharing their music and message of harmony and peace with audiences around the world. They will be performing at the Weinberg on February 11 at 8:00 p.m.

101 Years of Broadway

On February 14, at 8:00 p.m. at the Weinberg Center for the Arts, bring the one you love to the show everyone loves. Spend Valentine's Day with Broadway's top talents and an all-star band as they celebrate the best musicals of the past 101 years. Award-winning composer and lyricist Neil Berg presents this first-class tribute, featuring the actual stars

of Broadway shows such as *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables*, *Aida*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Jekyll & Hyde*. You'll hear the classics as well as the latest and greatest from Broadway's hit productions. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org.

"Concerns About Water Supply" Continued From Page 7.

dards, he said he'd like to see the creation of a "real time" cancer registry that is more targeted than the state website, which provides numbers by county. "It doesn't seem to be a health concern for the county or the town," he said. "They are fooling around with people's lives."

In two lengthy posts made to the wjla.com website January 8 to 9 after the news station reported the cluster study story, Wendy Murphey of Poolesville told the story of her 2006 diagnosis of renal cancer and its aftermath. "Knowing it wasn't hereditary (no one in my family has ever had kidney cancer)," Murphey wrote January 8, "I chose to go forward and avoid the agony of trying to figure out 'why?' I am completely overwhelmed by this idea that where I live is why I have cancer." The next day, Murphey wrote that she hoped all the attention being paid to the idea of a cancer cluster study could be used to educate people about cancer and the ways people react to a diagnosis.

"Cancer is not only prevalent in Poolesville," she wrote. "It is simply prevalent."

For more information on the state registry, see www.fha.state.md.us/cancer/registry/; a definition of "cancer cluster" from the American Cancer Society will be available at www.monocacymonocle.com.

"Town Meeting" Continued From Page 8.

installation of chimney sleeves for manholes, septic tank taps and removal, among the items to consider for the coming years.

In a January 13 work session meeting, the commissioners reviewed the list of comments from committee chairs and department heads as well as several comments made by citizens during the open forum section of the State of the Town meeting. In the work session, Town Manager Wade Yost reported that they have followed up on the auditor's recommendations by initiating additional cross training of town employees, especially regarding the work of the town clerk-treasurer and deputy clerk. Also, job descriptions of each position in the town are established, hard drive back up for the water/sewer records now have been made, quarterly reports from the county regarding the town's investment portfolio will be requested, and a new policy on payment of water bills will be posted in January on the town's website and in its upcoming newsletter.

For the upcoming budget preparation, the commissioners will include consideration of recommendations and requests made by presenters at the State of the Town meeting which includes the acquisition of an additional dump truck which will be purchased used rather than the more expensive costs for a new vehicle. They will also consider an additional part-time parks employee to assist with the increased demands during the summer months. The commissioners will also give priority to reviewing regulations for the new subdivisions and possible changes to utility ordinances particularly regulating how the cable company uses cable rather than conduits in making repairs to service, and adding Americans with Disabilities Act acceptable equipment to town parks.

They will move forward with new lighting for Whalen Commons looking at a proposal by the Parks Board for a thirty-eight 43-inch-high Bollard lighting sys-

tem which places each light thirty feet apart along the pathway or an alternate proposal by the CEDC recommending additional parking lot lights similar to the existing lights but shorter (twelve feet versus sixteen feet) which are less bright than the current lights.

In addressing concerns raised by residents in the January 5 meeting, the commissioners will direct the planning commission to make "green options" part of future planning and design and requested the town manager to inventory and make available a listing of past environmentally-sensitive actions already made by the town. They will work with consulting the town hydro geologist for the possible enhancement of water supply. They made no final decision regarding the \$600,000.00 in the alpha emitter remediation fund. They reported that the man-hour cost of labor (including salary benefits, equipment, etc.) is \$52.00 but will not be considering breaking out specific labor task (i.e., lawn mowing, snow removal, etc.) to open up a bidding process to independent contractors to provide those services. This decision was made for various reasons but was made primarily over concern of losing the quality of work and employee dedication currently provided by current town staff.

Work sessions will go forward in order to meet the March 3, 2009 deadline of presenting a town budget to the public. Work sessions are open to the public but do not allow public input during the meeting. Future work sessions are on Saturday, January 31 at 9:00 a.m. and on February 10 at 7:30 p.m.

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