



The Poolesville Falcons swimming and diving team finished up their season. See Youth Sports on Page 8. (Picture by Dave Wade.)



The steady dedication of Ken Fitzwater, as demonstrated by his twenty-five years of service at Poolesville Baptist Church, will be missed by many.



The time-honored game of darts is alive and well at Cugini's. Read all about it on Page 17.



Bad news for an old house in Barnesville. See Local News on Page 7. (Photograph by Kimberly Kempa.)

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

February 20, 2009

Volume V, Number 20.

## Youth Create New Worship Service

By Rande Davis

In September of 2007, the youth of St. Peter's Church, along with guidance from congregant Joel Tjornehoj, accepted a unique challenge to take ownership of their religious experience. In doing so, they were encouraged to be creative but free to develop their own service while keeping the fundamentals of the church's Book of Common Prayer still intact. Even the name of the program—CRE8—comes from the teens. They have created a worship service—music, setting, message (homily) and prayers—while reserving the sanctification of the communal elements to the priest—not that the adults have totally “left the building.” They are still there for guidance and support, but the youth have been left free to

## Police Arrest Suspect after CVS Robbery

By Jack Toomey

On Monday, January 26, during the late afternoon, a young man entered the CVS store located at 19594 Fisher Avenue in Poolesville. He went to the pharmacy counter situated in the rear of the store and presented a note to the pharmacist. The note indicated that the man had a gun and a bomb and demanded a certain prescription drug that is used to combat severe pain. The pharmacist complied with the demand and gave the suspect an unspecified amount of the drug, and the

man ran out of the store.

A witness in the store was observing the robbery in progress and called the police emergency line. Several police cruisers were dispatched to the scene, and Officer Gabriel Stone arrived just as the suspect ran out the front door of the store. Officer Stone chased him into a nearby field where he was apprehended. Officers soon arrived and assisted in the arrest. Police charged Andrew Cubley, age 21, of the 19100 block of Dowden Circle, Poolesville, with armed robbery.

Manager Ray Valente, citing company policy, refused to discuss the robbery and did not make other employees available for comment.

develop a service that is especially meaningful to them.

For an adult, first-time observer of the worship service, the experience can be quite startling, especially for an Episcopalian, like myself. We are talking big screens, flash-

ing light show, contemporary music with a strong beat that can even include elements of rap, all wrapped around the familiar communion service.

The Monocle sat in during the group's preparatory meetings. The meetings are casual with the youths sitting on couches and on the floor in a family room setting. Joel Tjornehoj guides the discussions with questions and assists by keeping everything focused and on task, but it is the youths who get the job done.

The process begins with a Bible study conducted by Father Tom (which was actually requested by the youth), so they have more understanding and background of the lessons to be read.

Their enthusiasm is contagious as they banter back and



The CRE8 kids. (Back Row) Anna Clayton, Abigail Tjornehoj, Hannah Recknor, Brittany Gammell, Adam Wallace (Front Row) Amy Stamm, Hannah Dowdy, and Krystal Stevens.

-Continued on Page 3.



Family Album



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Teacher Kevin Lee (front left) has a large crew that brings the daily news to PHS students on their television program Falcon Media.



The WUMCO Board of Directors at their first meeting of the new year: Tracy Forfa (vice president), Angela Drum (secretary/treasurer), Ray Hoewing, Jane Stearns (executive director), Cherise Pranievski, Nancy Allnut (president), and Mike Plumber. Not pictured: Renee Brooks and photographer Rande Davis.



Former PHS female students (now at UMBC in the graduate social work program) attended a Poolesville town meeting to research a project. With them are their fiancés, left to right: Roger Cochran (PHS 2005), Kimberly Farr (PHS 2005), Commissioner Jim Brown, Holly Simmons (PHS 2003), and Tim Gaydos, (PHS 2004).

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*“CRE8” Continued From Page 1.*

forth about the message in the lessons and gospel, focusing first on the story itself and then on key words within the readings. As they focus on the accumulated list of key words, they are encouraged to relate the story to their personal lives or current times. Once the group settles on a theme, they select one person to write up the first draft of the homily.

For this service, members of the message team consisted of Krystal Stevens (who this time wrote the first draft and delivered the homily), Hannah Dowdy who also assists in communion, Abigail Tjornehoj, Anna Clayton, and Hannah Recknor. To be clear, Father Tom provides additional review and comments so as to ensure theological understanding and acceptance of the homily. While one team works on the homily, other teams take on their tasks.

The production team begins to plan the lighting and the big screen, power point presentation. Adam Roberson was tasked to find possible scenes from a movie that could be downloaded and incorporated in the slide show. He will handle the light show during the service and is advised by the others to pick up the pace. It seems Father Tom, who handled the lighting the month before, was too conservative.

Still another team begins the process of writing the prayers of the people to be used in the service. During the week we visited, this task was led by Hannah Recknor.

Hannah, while only in middle school, recently gained recognition in the Washington Post for the Christmas Pageant that she authored which was used by St. Peter’s this past Christmas season. Hannah was overjoyed by that article, especially since it was on the front page above the fold, and said, “A family member said they had worked their whole lives to get a story in the A section.” Although a bit younger than the rest, she is a passionate writer, especially in “writing poems about topics dear to my heart,” she says. Helping to write some parts of the CRE8 service is especially pleasing to her. “I think that religious writing is a great way to express myself as well as spreading the Lord’s word.”

The music team is headed by lead singers Krystal Stevens and Amy Stamm. In typical teenage fashion, the group really gets into the selection of the music. Huddled on the floor around their I-pod player, the group runs through various songs commenting excitedly and seemingly all at the same time. They just as well could have been talking about the top ten pop hits.

The power point, big screen slide show is handled by Brittany Gammell who has become very accomplished in putting it all together. She also manages the power point program during the service.

The final critical element in CRE8 is the band team. Other than Father Tom, youth leaders Tony Walker (keyboard) and Kevin Collar (sax) are the only adult participants in the

service. Drummers and guitarist can change from week to week. Past and current members of the youth band include Karl Mihm (now off to college), James Siegrist, Jack Seeger, and Zack Reizess.

About CRE8, Father Tom observes a delightful role reversal. “The teenagers at St. Peter’s are some of the finest I’ve ever spent time with. At this last CRE: 8 service, they were ministering to me, which is the beauty of their ministry. We aren’t used to letting our young people ‘do’ for us, and these teens have put together a wonderful ministry for this community. I am honored to work alongside them. From the liturgy to the message to the music, they have understood worship at its best and made it accessible for a diverse group.”

Intriguingly, the sermon for February 8 was from 2 Kings, Chapter 5, the story of the healing from leprosy of Naaman, a commander in King Aram’s army. Naaman possesses much power with

a strong sense of self-importance, yet he is humbled by the simplicity of God’s help. The theme they select is centered on “from the haughty to the humble and from the humble to the Almighty.” Yet there is another part of the story a little less obvious that blends so well with the concept of CRE8. In the story, a young slave girl of abiding faith who is handmaiden to Namaan’s wife implores her “to have her husband go to the prophet in Samaria. He would heal him of leprosy.” We do not even know this teenager’s name, but it is this girl’s faith which moves the adults. Seems to us, this scenario is played out with CRE8.

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# Commentary

## Horses Can't Catch a Break

By John Clayton

The road to the successful slot machine parlor is fraught with danger and hardship. The state of Maryland, particularly our governor and legislative barons, is discovering this in rapid fashion. When the much-anticipated slot machine sites went out for bid, they attracted much less interest than expected. Very few qualified firms bid on the sites, and the number of sites and machines proposed was less compelling than originally anticipated. The era of slot machines, or, to be precise, video lottery terminals, began not with a bang, but with a whimper. From a budgetary standpoint, where the state was anticipating big revenues from expanded gambling to help close projected revenue shortfalls, it appears we have counted many chickens before they hatched.

This occurrence is yet another consequence of the cascading meltdown of our financial system. It might be easy to accept such an eventuality as the rightful fruits of a sinful activity, but let's look at what is at stake. First of all, slot machine revenue was supposed to fund education in the state. The initiative was even described as such on the ballot. The exact wording escapes me now, and it was the subject of much debate and litigation. Upon considering the vote, we innocent voters were to weigh, on the one hand, video lottery terminals and

deserving school kids, and on the other hand, failing schools and rampant illiteracy. This is a crock, of course. Lottery revenue probably wasn't ever going to increase school funding, but it might have allowed the diversion of existing school funds to other worthy purposes, and there are many of those. Racetracks and an important component of racetracks—horses—were also going to benefit from this legislation. Since horses thrive best on open land on large farms, slot machines would, ipso facto, also benefit the preservation of open land and sustainable agriculture. What was not to like? It worked for me.

I admit it. I liked it. Twice, I believe, I came out in print for slot machines. Fortunately or not, I had a lot of company. Over sixty percent of the vote was in favor of video lottery terminals for education. Even Montgomery County, a hotbed of slots resistance, voted for slot machines (to be placed elsewhere, of course), although with a lower percentage than the rest of the state. So, due to a lagging economy, the steak is badly trailing the sizzle, as the marketers like to say. At this time, it does not look like increased gambling is going to close any budgetary holes anytime soon. This really won't be good for anyone. It doesn't look like this was a good way to fund our future, but before we rend our garments, consider the words of the iconic military leader, General Buck Turgidson, in the movie Dr. Strangelove: "Maybe it's not quite fair to condemn a whole program because of a single slip-up."

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Keeping An Eye On Local News

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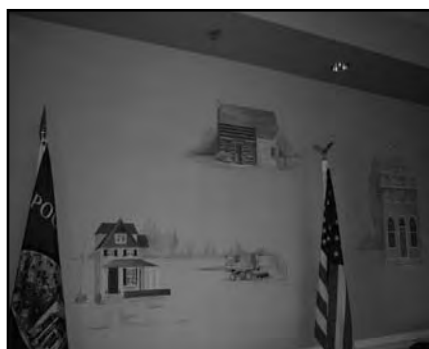
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# Center Stage Painting on Walls—Still

By Dominique Agnew

Careers can have the strangest of beginnings. Sometimes it's just a matter of being in the right place at the right time. At other times, it's all about Show and Tell.

When Karen Kouneski's oldest son (now in his twenties) was in the first grade at Poolesville Elementary School, he decided that for Show and Tell, he would bring in as an exhibit a photograph of one of Karen's murals. At the time, she was running a daycare program out of her home, and she had painted murals on her walls for the children. The class may have been impressed, but the teacher even more so—she hired Karen to paint a mural in her home. Soon after, another teacher commissioned a mural. Since then, nearly fifteen years ago, Karen has been a highly-sought artist and muralist, relying primarily on



*Muralist Karen Kouneski's renderings of historical sites in Poolesville grace the wall behind the commissioners' dais in the town hall.*

word-of-mouth, and, of course, the brilliance of her work speaks for her, as well.

Show and Tell may have marked the beginning of a career, but it had nothing to do with a lifelong passion. Before embarking on transforming clients' homes with art, Karen had been a graphic artist and illustrator for a few years, and before that, well, "I've been painting on walls since I was little," she says. "I've always done art." If you've seen the truck in and around town with the logo, "Still Painting on Walls," that's Karen.

Despite calling herself a muralist, Karen's work goes beyond murals to faux finishes, fine art, trompe l'oeil, tapestries, and gilding in gold leaf. If a piece of wall-paper is torn, she can paint the bare spot to match the paper. She loves to do marbling on columns, "I think that's one of my favorite things," she says. She paints on furniture, and she's even been commissioned to paint on a trash can. Big Steelers fans wanted the Steelers logo painted on the trash can. "I'll paint on anything," Karen says. One of her first jobs after the teachers' murals was painting the mural background behind a carnival ride.

Karen's oil paintings are also in demand. She has shown and sold them at some of the Historic Medley District's art shows in the old Town Hall (she has even painted in the old Town Hall). One of her paintings hangs in Poolesville Elementary School of some of the teachers. Another of her paintings was hung at the Pentagon Memorial in remembrance of those who died during the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon. That particular work

had not been commissioned. She had painted after 9/11, and somehow word got to those creating the memorial, and she was asked to allow her painting to be a part of the memorial.

Most recently, Karen has painted in the new Town Hall. She has lived in Poolesville since the early 1990s, and she really wanted to contribute something to the new structure, so she contacted Wade Yost, town manager. Behind the desks where the commissioners sit during town meetings are beautiful renderings of historic buildings of Poolesville. "It was fun [painting the murals]," she says. "In the middle of doing it, I learned about the history of Poolesville." Painted in early December 2008, the depictions blend in with the existing color and style of the room, as if to say, ghost-like, We may be part of the past, but the present and the future rest on our foundations.

Karen Kouneski can be reached at 240-426-6484.

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# Local News

## Poolesville Town Meeting Takes a Look at Streetscape Plans

By Rande Davis

Prior to the start of the February 9, 2009 town meeting, Roger Strippey, representing the Poolesville Military Support Group (organizers of the picnics for wounded soldiers), and William Poole, commander of the American Legion Post #247, presented the town with a commemorative plaque holding an American flag. The flag was flown by soldiers of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Forward Operation Base Tombstone in Lashkar Gah, Hellmond Province in Afghanistan on December 4, 2008 to honor the town of Poolesville for its support of the annual picnic for wounded soldiers. Other members of the group attending were Carl Hobbs, Mr. and Mrs.

Don Hoffacker, Ralph McKnight, and Bubba Polland.

The town meeting began with a report by town engineer John Strong on a survey of proposed plans for the town's main business area on Fisher Avenue extending from Wootton Avenue to Willard Road. Referred to as Streetscape, the plan is to establish a uniform infrastructure design within the town that ensures an upgrade that meets both practical and beautification objectives in line with what planners hope will maintain the small town atmosphere of the area. Practical concerns in Streetscape address the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) issues, speed control objectives, along with improved merging of both vehicle and bicycle traffic, as well as enhancing the safety and convenience of those walking in the town. Mr. Strong presented his twenty-one-page report showing specifically what the changes in curbing, roadway, and sidewalks would entail.

In high traffic areas of Wootton and Fisher Avenues and at

Fisher and Elgin Avenues, the proposal has a red brick-like paved section of recycled material that serves to diminish speed and improve pedestrian safety in crossing the streets. There are proposed four-foot lane areas and signage for cyclists who traffic the town, especially on weekends, which is designed to better handle vehicle and bicycle traffic. The walking area near Wootton and Fisher next to Poolesville Elementary School has changes that better provide for the safety of students walking to school.

With part of the objective of improving the landscape appearance of the town, the proposal includes replacing existing light poles with thirty decorative lampposts like those that now surround the parking lot of the town hall. Along the route, the proposal calls for thirty-eight cherry trees (the same that surround the Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C.) and benches similar to what are now in Whalen Commons in areas where pedestrians would have a pattern to congregate.

Commissioner Jim Brown requested that Strong provide a cost estimate to bury electrical wires along the route similar to what was done in the front of Whalen Commons on Fisher Avenue. Mr. Kuhlman suggested that Mr. Strong first determine what Verizon, Allegheny Power, and PEPSCO (who have lines within the town) have to say since that might determine whether or not the town even needs to go to the expense of the estimate.

Mr. Strong reported that the project, which would be developed over many years, is estimated at \$700,000 with approximately \$200,000 to be paid by future developers of specific areas. Commissioner Eddie Kuhlman stated that although reported publicly in error, the proposal is not final and is still awaiting final approval and that whatever the costs of the project, such expenditures would be budgeted over many years and held within the constraints of the commissioners' requirement

- Continued on Page 16.

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# Local News

## Fire Consumes Home in Barnesville

By John Clayton

A two-and-a-half story farmhouse on a wooded lot off Beallsville Road in Barnesville burned on Sunday, February 8, despite the owner's attempts to control the flames. Damage was estimated to be in the neighborhood of \$250,000.

Over fifty firefighters from Montgomery and Frederick Counties, led by the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department (UMCVFD) responded when the owner of the home, Scott Meissner, called 911. The firefighters battled the fire and the wind, but were unable to save the structure from being consumed by the fire. The firefighters remained on site until

10:00 p.m. that evening, and elements of the UMCVFD returned the next morning to attend the still-smoldering structure.

Mr. Meissner said that the fire started when cardboard boxes of clothing and other items, which were stacked against one side of the house, ignited from an unknown cause. The boxes contained the possessions of a friend's late father, and Mr. Meissner had agreed to store them temporarily, although he had chosen not to store them inside the house.

Mr. Meissner said he and two other men were splitting firewood on the property when they noticed flames beginning to climb up the side of the house, opposite from where the men were working. They tried to douse the flames with water, and failing that, called 911. It was extremely windy, which served to fan the flames and defeat their attempts, according to Mr. Meissner.

Mr. Meissner's emergency call came into the UMCVFD around 11:50 a.m., continuing a busy day for Station 14, which had just completed responding to a trauma event, an automobile accident on Beallsville road earlier that morning, and reported elsewhere in this issue of the Monocle. Captain Mario Reda led the first response to the Meissner residence, and told the Monocle that when they arrived, the fire had engulfed three sides of the structure, with heavy flames on the front of the structure and on the right

and left sides. They were met by Mr. Meissner, who advised them that no one was inside the building. Given the degree to which the fire had consumed the house prior to their arrival, the firefighters pursued an "exterior, defensive attack," and did not attempt to enter the structure. Captain Reda said that the structure was simply no longer safe for the firefighters to enter. The fire companies contained brush fires started by the blaze and poured water on the house fire to keep it under control. There are no fire

hydrants near the property, so the fire companies had to draw water from tankers out on Beallsville Road, several hundred yards away from the house.

The ground around the house was quite wet following recent rain and melted snow, and a number of the rescue vehicles that entered the property were stuck in the mud trying to leave and had to be pulled out by tow trucks summoned to the scene. (Jack Toomey also contributed to this article.)



The remains of the Barnesville house that burned.

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## Tidbits

### Coming and Goings at Poolesville Baptist Church

After twenty-five years of service to the Poolesville Baptist Church, Ken Fitzwater has left his position to move on to other opportunities. Ken most recently has been responsible for the facility, but as a pastor he has served in many capacities throughout his long service to the church, especially in areas relating to youth ministries. At a time of transition, he was the interim pastor for the church and held it in his loving and caring hands during a period that is always challenging for a church.

Pastor Jace Broadhurst reflected on this change, "This is a time to be sad and say goodbye, of course, but it is also a time to look forward; it is a time to anticipate what God is doing next. Let us never forget that God has a plan for Ken and a plan for Poolesville Baptist Church. While we may not be ministering under

the same roof, we are still ministering together for the kingdom of God in Poolesville."

Many congregants expressed their appreciation to Ken in open letters to him on their website. Dennis Stillman spoke for many when he wrote, "Not many men have had the heart and compassion of Ken. Sacrificing his time to do the work of the Lord was something that came naturally to him." The good news for all, especially all those in the community aware of his extensive community work: Ken is not moving from Poolesville, just on to a new horizon. We can still look forward to his warm and smiling self looking around to see where he can do a few more good things.

Other news from Poolesville Baptist is that Pastor Kyle Broady has found a home in the area, and his family will be joining him soon.

### WUMCO Comes through Another Challenging Year

The Board of Directors of WUMCO held its quarterly

meeting in preparation for what will most likely be one of the more challenging years in recent memory. While concern loomed great just a little more than a year ago, the loving community of friends and supporters came through so that 2008 ended on a positive note. While there are so many people who help in so many ways, WUMCO welcomed the opportunity to especially thank the area churches for the strong support and especially were grateful to Covanta and Mirant for the most generous help in the year. The Board also was pleased to elect and welcome Mike Plumber of Poolesville as its most recent member.

### Sermons Posted as Podcasts

Poolesville Presbyterian

Church is recording all sermons during its worship service and posting them as podcasts on the church website—www.poolpres.com. The podcasts can be downloaded by anyone and listened to at anytime. Pam Mattes of Poolesville Presbyterian noted that this is handy if you missed church or if you simply want to hear the sermon again. The hundredth podcast was recorded on January 25, 2009. The church's "balcony guy" (or chief audio/visual specialist, capturing the sermons from up above) is member Jon Kasner, who is responsible for podcasting, among other technical and electronic tasks. Ms. Mattes also observed that "If those soldiers who worshipped in our sanctuary during the Civil War ever knew..."

## Local News

### PHS 2005 Graduate Fatally Shot in Standoff with Police

A horrific incident involving Joseph Briggs, a 2005 Poolesville High School graduate, occurred at his residence in Greensburg, Pennsylvania on Sunday morning, February 15.

According to a report by P. J. Panion and Liz Zemba of the Pittsburg Tribune-Review, Joseph Frederick Briggs, 22, of Concord Avenue, Greensburg, was pronounced dead at 9:17 a.m. Sunday, about five hours after his roommates called city police to report that he had threatened to harm them and himself.

A senior at Seton Hill, Briggs was shot and killed at about 7:00 a.m. in his off-campus apartment by an unidentified state trooper, police said. The officer fired once after Briggs pointed a long-barreled weapon out a window of his residence and shot at a police officer, state police at Greensburg said.

Trooper Jeanne Martin, state police spokeswoman, said Briggs had fired "numerous rounds from a variety of guns" out of the windows of his residence during the standoff, striking parked cars and

at least one house.

City police were summoned to the house at 4:00 a.m. after three men and a woman, who fled the residence, reported that Briggs had threatened them and himself with guns. Briggs fired out of the residence toward the officers when they arrived, Martin said.

Briggs, whom police said was "heavily intoxicated," began firing a weapon from a car as it traveled along Interstate 70 earlier in the evening, Martin said. A passenger in the car, Briggs was acting irrationally and firing randomly out the car window as the vehicle traveled toward Greensburg, Martin said.

"Attempts to talk to Briggs proved fruitless," Martin said. "It all really became a dangerous situation, especially when you have people in their own homes nearby unaware of what's happening because they are sleeping."

About 7:00 a.m., Briggs went to a window in a second-floor bedroom and fired a long-barreled weapon toward a police officer, Martin said. Police fired one time, striking Briggs while he was at the window, she said.

Joel Dolinski, head coach of the Seton Hill Griffins football team, said Briggs was one of 187 recruits to try out for the team before its 2005 inaugural season. He was a defensive lineman on that year's


-Continued on Page 14.

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## Local History

### Take Me Home, Clopper Road

#### Excerpted from *Boys: A Character Study*

by Arthur Virts

Thomas Warren Fisher (Uncle of Stanley Fisher, former President of the Boyds Civic Association) told me that the song "Take Me Home, Country Roads" was actually inspired and written about Clopper Road. Tom lived on Clopper Road, starting in the early fifties. He was a member of the Boyds Community Men's Club in 1954, and when he began the Boyds Civic Association in 1965, he was one of the first members. I will always remember how he bought many hundreds of dollars in postage stamps at our post office and took them to the David Taylor Model Basin cafeteria where the cashier resold them (along with the food) to help our post office survive in 1965. He was president of the Izaak Walton League and spent most of his life volunteering in conservation and wildlife issues.

Tom told me that he hosted a family reunion gathering at his home. The party started at his house, and, after drinking everything he had, they continued on to the Izaak Walton League clubhouse on Clopper Road for the reunion. On the way home, to pass the time enroute, Bill Danoff and his wife Taffy Nivert, who were a duo called Fat City, made up a ballad about the little winding roads they were taking. Later, Bill changed the story to fit that of an artist friend who used to write to him about the splendors of the West Virginia countryside.

Bill and Taffy performed at a nightclub called the Cellar Door in Georgetown where John Denver was also performing. They told John about a song they had been working on for about a month. They sang it for John, and he later recalled that "he flipped." After changing the words and moving lines around, they performed it at the Cellar Door. It was an instant hit and was demanded at every

### Arthur Virts: Telling the Tales about Boyds

By Rande Davis

The newly-published book, *Boys: A Character Study* by Arthur Virts and friends, is a delightful collection of short tales about many of the people from the town who represented the character of rural life in Montgomery County for the better part of the twentieth century.

Boys and Virts might just as well be considered synonymous. Arthur Virts is truly Boyds's boy. The eighty-year-old Boyds resident has lived his entire life in the town only moving once from his birthplace to his current home just about 200 yards up Barnesville Road. On top of that, except for his time in the army, he has always worked within the town.

At seventeen, Arthur joined the army and spent twelve weeks in Wyoming and was trained as a telegraph operator just at the time that Morse code was in its last days. In the military, he was based in Virginia, Wyoming, and

Louisiana before being sent to the Panama Canal Zone. Even during this short time away, he always carried a picture of the Ten Mile Creek Valley in Boyds (now under water) which he passionately describes as "my favorite secret place" and even put the picture on the cover of the book.

After leaving the army, he went to work at Selby's Store in Boyds (relatives of the Poolesville Selbys) where he spent eight years working over seventy hours a week with two of those years having the duty of meeting the train six times a day. The train would be moving just slow enough to throw the mail to the platform, and he would hang the outgoing mail to be grabbed as the train went by.

In 1957, he went to work for the post office in Boyds and became postmaster for a short stint. He accepted the position on the condition that he could leave it if he preferred, and after just a few months' time, he knew that being cooped up in the small, cramped office was not for him. He went

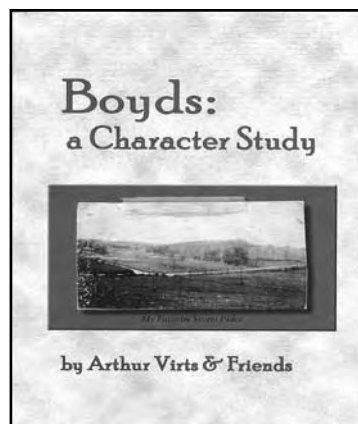
back to his route carrier position with over 500 stops in Boyds, Clarksburg, and Hyattstown. If you lived in the area, you knew Arthur and, as a postal carrier, he probably knew more about you than you would care to know.

The tales can now be told. Stories about card games in back rooms, strangers lurking and following him mysteriously, people in need, people with problems, people causing problems, and more importantly, all real people mostly of strong character with loving and caring hearts.

Arthur has been married to the love of his life and best friend, Mary, for fifty-seven years. Together they have been integral to the life of the town through decades of service in the community, Boyds Presbyterian Church, the American Legion Post #247, and many other causes throughout the years.

Arthur dedicates the book to Hal Baker of Susanna Farms, publisher of the book, who

*-Continued on Page 14.*



*Short stories on the history of Boyds*

show. It was John Denver's first record to hit the charts. Dan and Taffy joined with another couple, Jon Carroll and Margot Chapman, to form the Starland Vocal Band and were the opening act for John Denver at places like Madison Square Garden in New York City and cities all over the United States. "Afternoon Delight" was one of their hit songs. The band broke up about 1981. John Denver later died when his

small experimental-type plane fell into the ocean while flying along the coast of California.

John Denver's music will always live on, and even though "Take Me Home, Country Roads"

praises West Virginia, we really know that the country road he sings about is our own Clopper Road.

## Youth Sports

### PHS and CHS Swim and Diving Team Season Recap

The Poolesville High School swim and diving teams completed their season with both the boys' and the girls' teams finishing with a record of three wins and two losses. The girls finished second at the Division II meet, and the boys finished fourth. Overall, the team finished as a combined team in second place by one point as they look forward to next season in Division II. Some of the highlights of the swims and dives were: Cara Chuang going undefeated the entire

season in every event she swam, Alex Contreras placing second at the Division II championship meet in Diving, and a whole number of Metro qualifying swimmers: Cara Chuang, Devan Maneely, Cameron Mackail, Tyler Mumford, Cody Kenly, Joseph Pepper, Huy Lam, Alex Contreras, Siobhan Kibbey, Sam Weber, and Zach Greenwald.

At Clarksburg, the girls won Division IV for the second year in a row while the boys improved their record to 3 and 3. Qualifying for the Metros at CHS this year were: Lily Amberg, Sam Amberg, Linda Le, and Kelsey Smith in the 200 and 400 free relays. Congratulations to all.

## Local News

### Clarksburg Village Water Issues Subject Of Planning Meeting

By Kristen Milton

The water quality plan for the next phase of Clarksburg Village received an unusual amount of attention at the Montgomery County Planning Board this month in the wake of a report that revealed development as a major threat to nearby Ten Mile Creek. Commissioner Amy Presley, a founding member of the Clarksburg Town Center Advisory Committee, said environmental concerns were her main reason for being the only board member to vote against the Clarksburg Village plans February 5. The plans themselves were good, she said. "I don't know if this is the final straw that kills the stream," Presley said. "I think it's my responsibility to at least know we're not doing any more damage."

The County Council's environmental committee had begun discussions on the 2007 annual water quality report issued by county scientists just days before the planners' February 5 hearing. The report included information on Ten Mile Creek's deteriorating ecosystem and the threats posed by sediment and other runoff produced by development. In spite of concerns about the report, board members passed the water quality plan and site plan for the second phase of Clarks-

burg Village, which has been in planning stages for years. Commissioner John Robinson noted that while he still had some concerns, such as traffic, they would have been best dealt with at earlier stages that were long past.

The first phase of the development is approximately half complete, David Flanagan, president of Elm Street Development, said at the February 5 hearing. Phase two will include approximately 413 acres on Ridge Road, which will eventually host an elementary school, several park sites, and nearly 1,700 residences ranging from single-family homes and townhouses to apartment buildings. A third planned phase will include four acres of retail, once approved.

Representatives for Elm Street stated at the hearing that the results of the annual report should not impact their proposal but also reassured planners they had better storm water management facilities in the works than those producing such worrying results. The county's water quality report aimed in part at addressing ways that county officials could coordinate the final Stage Four phase of development for the Clarksburg Master Plan. Clarksburg Village was not a part of Stage Four plans. "I think we are well past the point where there can really be any discussion on what water quality measures you might impose on applicants in the future," Elm Street attorney Bob Harris said. "I don't want to throw them under the bus, but we're already on the bus if you will."

In addition, Flanagan said that most of the storm water management facilities incorporated into work already done at the Clarksburg Village site were not yet operational because certain construction milestones had not yet been met to allow them. "It's not fair to say it's not working because it's not on yet," he said.

Only two area residents testified at the two-hour hearing, but Robert Kronenberg of the Development Review Division said they had received "a host of letters and some phone calls" from citizens. Some residents were in favor of the plan while others expressed concern about traffic, landscaping, and the location of apartment buildings. The Clarksburg Civic Association had asked for the project's hearing to be delayed based on water quality concerns.

Elm Street attorney Bob Har-

ris said most residents were eager to see the work progress. "They want the parks, the schools, the pools, and really just a complete community," Harris said.

Other Clarksburg news

The Planning Board voted unanimously February 5 to acquire a piece of property that will help make up the future Clarksburg Triangle Park. Land acquisition specialist Bill Gries said the approximately one-acre site at the intersection of Clarksburg Road and Spine Street would be purchased for \$385,000 from trustees of Clarksburg United Methodist Church. It is the third and final property that will make up the Master Plan-recommended park. The property will be considered Urban Open Space under the Legacy Open Space Plan, which aims to preserve the county's resources. Board approval was unanimous.

## Equestrian When the Economy Goes Sour—Make Lemonade

By Carol Rae Hansen,  
Director, Equine Therapy Associates

The economic forecast may seem bleak, but instead of looking to the future with foreboding, look within to the present to see how best to overhaul your business to meet the needs of a tighter budget. Make a goal of achieving at least half of the suggestions below within three months, and you should dramatically increase the likelihood that you will weather this economic storm.

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-Continued on Page 14.

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### Tidbits of the Past

By Jack Toomey

**February 4, 1920** The Montgomery County Board of Education voted to build a new school for Negro students at Dickerson. Money was also appropriated to complete the school building at Poolesville.

**February 6, 1927** A checkers league was formed in Montgomery County. Both Poolesville and Dickerson formed teams and had already played some matches against each other. In the last match, Poolesville defeated Dickerson by a score of 32 games to 20. The games were not just for the enjoyment of the players. Crowds gathered at Williams Store and watched the match, offering advice and observing each move. It was said they even whispered to each other behind cupped hands.

**February 7, 1924** A delegation of citizens from Poolesville appeared before the county commissioners and urged the completion of a road between the town and White's Ferry. A movement also was started to have a bridge constructed over the Potomac River at White's Ferry.

**February 8, 1914** A smallpox scare was reported in the town of Poolesville and outlying areas. It was reported that a case of smallpox happened on the farm of William Williams and the ill woman was a cook who had been brought from Washington. The Williams family was quarantined, and health officials were observing the residents of the town.

**February 11, 1926** Three hundred sportsmen attended the annual meeting and banquet of the Montgomery County Fish and Game Protective Association. The affair was held at St. Mary's Hall in Barnesville.

**February 21, 1915** Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Hoyle celebrated their sixtieth anniversary at their Barnesville home. In attendance were ten sons and daughters, forty-three grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren. They were presented with a large number of presents.

**February 24, 1927** Silver Spring High School defeated Poolesville, 29-5, in a basketball game held at Silver Spring. Poolesville was only able to score one field goal during the game. Poolesville's players were Darby, Beall, Ball, Cubitt, and Willard.

**February 27, 1925** Sheriff Clay Plummer appointed Roy Bodmer of Poolesville to the post of deputy sheriff.

**February 27, 1921** Twenty-five baseball lovers met at the county courthouse to discuss the possibility of forming a county baseball league. It was agreed that Rockville, Gaithersburg, Silver Spring, and Bethesda would be represented in the league. The sixth position would be filled by either Poolesville or Buck Lodge depending on which town could field a team. It was agreed that play would begin on May 30 and would last until Labor Day and that admission to games would be twenty-five cents.

### Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

#### Present

**January 23** Residential Burglary. 17000 block of Hughes Road, Poolesville. Forced entry, nothing taken.

**January 26** Robbery. CVS, 19500 block of Fisher Road, Poolesville. Suspect said that he had a gun and demanded drugs. The suspect was then apprehended by police while running from the store. See related article in this edition for more details.

**January 29** Theft. 19100 block of Peachtree Road, Dickerson.

**February 8** House fire. A farmhouse in the 21900 block of Beallsville Road, Barnesville was heavily damaged by fire. There were no reported injuries.

Police responded to the following locations in Poolesville for the report of disorderly persons: 17000 block of Hersperger Lane and the 17300 block of Hoskinson Lane.

Police investigated possible drug use at the following locations in Poolesville: 17600 block of Cattail Road and the 19600 block of Fisher Avenue.

#### Past

**February 24, 1958** A thirty-year-old Boyds man was charged with attempting to kill his common law wife at a Germantown tavern. Police said that the man was a bartender at Musser's Tavern when the woman brandished an ax handle and threatened to kill him. He then shot her once. The woman claimed that she had only gone behind the bar to talk

to her husband.

**February 26, 1925** Lawrence Burdette of Boyds was found guilty of manslaughter. Burdette and Clarence Griffith, a farmer living in the Boyds district, became involved in an argument on the railroad tracks in Boyds. Burdette pushed Griffith down a steep embankment and Griffith died of his injuries.

**February 27, 1913** James Hughey of Barre, Pennsylvania was arrested and charged with robbing Sergeant W. Rhodes of the marine corps on a Baltimore and Ohio train as it passed near Frederick Junction. When the train arrived in Washington, officers found \$1,300 in the pockets of Mr. Hughey which belonged to Sergeant Rhodes.

**February 28, 1916** The large home of David Hershey of Co-mus was destroyed by fire. It was said that the house was one of the most impressive in the county. It was determined that the fire started in an overheated stove. One of the heaviest wind storms of the year was blowing and led to the spread of the flames. Damage was estimated at \$15,000.

**February 29, 1932** Four persons were injured when an automobile operated by G. Walter of Doubs, Maryland went out of control and landed in a culvert near Poolesville. Mr. Walter, his wife, and two children were treated for their injuries by Doctor E. W. White at Poolesville.

## Business Briefs

### It's Showtime for Local Businesses

It's been a very long time, but through the initiative and organization of Berry Thompson of 20837BIZNET.com, area businesses will present their products and services at a Business Fair at St. Peter's Church on March 14, 2009. The public fair is open to any business or organization in the Poolesville area or those owned by persons residing in the area. It is hoped that a broad spectrum of businesses will present their products to offer for sale and will present information on their services to build interest. Businesses, civic organizations, and fundraising groups are all welcome to this event for the whole community. Already a number of businesses and groups have scheduled demonstrations like Yoga, championship karate demonstrations, getting a picture of yourself or family as leprechauns, and there will many other giveaway items, prizes, and fun. Want to make sure you are there? Contact Berry at 301-461-0554 or Berryt@20837BIZNET.com.

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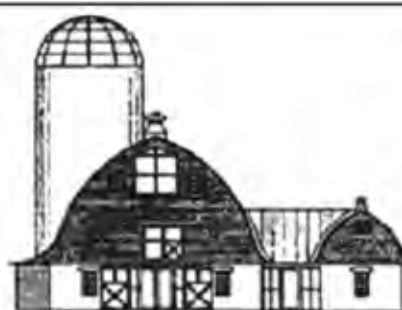
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### Power to the People?

John Speelman of Poolesville Hardware wants to become the first "green" retailer in town. He has applied for a permit to install a sixty-foot wind turbine to provide electricity for his business. More details will be available during a public hearing at the town hall on February 18 at 7:30 p.m. On another electric power item, there have been several newspaper articles regarding a fifty percent electrical rate hike of Allegheny Power customers. This increase only applies to the very small number of customers who chose to opt out of Allegheny's rate mitigation plan. For the vast majority of customers in the Poolesville area, the rate increase will be just over eleven percent.



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### What Future for the Agricultural Reserve?

There appears to be a significant increase in housing permits before the Montgomery County Planning Board for new residential construction in the Agriculture Reserve. We can understand the desire of a fortunate few who own land in the Reserve to cash in on their investments, maybe in response to the present economic crisis.

Last fall Sugarloaf registered its concerns about the Barnesville Oak subdivision that would add 33 new homes along portions of Peach Tree road. Since then a number of people have contacted us about their concerns regarding the future development of the Reserve. Most of their comments focus on the **increase in traffic on rural roads and the drain on the precious water sources** in the region.

We notice that most new developments are carefully planned and that there is an increased sensibility on part of the land owners to fit the construction to the setting. However, we are not seeing an overall study or plan by the County addressing the carrying capacity of the roads and the question whether the ground water in the region will sustain all these new houses which will be dependent on well water.

The design for Montgomery County in the late 1970s and early 80s called for development along corridors on both sides of the major roadways such as Interstate 270. The 'wedge' land between the corridors was to be kept rural and therefore would not require high traffic roads, major utilities and urban water systems.

While new housing permits in the Agriculture Reserve are generally requested for only a few units at a time, they are starting to add up. At some point the County must step in to determine the carrying capacity of the Reserve before massive infrastructure investments are required to meet the demands of the increased number of residents. **It becomes critical for the survival of the Agricultural Reserve that the County urgently considers these issues so that it will be possible to reverse an unsustainable increase in the volume of housing before it is too late.**

## Local News

### Vandalism Causes \$5,000 Damage at McDonald's

By Rande Davis

Once again, a vandal threw a brick at the west side windows of McDonald's Restaurant in Poolesville. The windows specifically constructed for the restaurant included a golden arches design, and the estimated replacement cost is nearly \$5,000.

Due to the cost of the damages, felony charges have been placed against the individual who at the time of this report is not named. The *Monocle* has

been told that the incident was sparked by the individual having a disagreement with a girlfriend and was not due to any particular reason regarding the restaurant. The vandal did not attempt to flee the facility after the incident and reportedly waited for the police to arrive. The owners of the restaurant and the family of the perpetrator are currently attempting to work out an arrangement to rectify the damage.

Businesses in Poolesville have had many similar problems with vandals and attempted burglaries including an incident at Poolesville Beer and Wine in January that had a person or persons apparently using a crowbar-like device in an attempt to break into the building during the early morning hours.

*"PHS 2005 Graduate" Continued  
From Page 8.*

squad.  
"I was an offensive coach at that time, and Joe Briggs played on defense, so I can't really say I knew too much about him," Dolinski said. He was nevertheless disturbed by the shooting. "Just being a member of this community, my heart is broken over this event," Dolinski said. "I offer my condolences and deepest sympathies to his family, his friends . . . his mom. I also offer my sympathy to the law enforcement community because I know it wasn't an easy situation for them to have to make the decision they made." According to another report

in the Pittsburgh Gazette by Paula Reed Ward, Joe Briggs, 22, was shot after a three-hour standoff in Greensburg.

A friend yesterday described the criminal justice major as fun-loving and carefree. "He could make anybody's bad day turn out better just by smiling or asking how they were," said Cristina Tiano, a junior at Seton Hill.

A few weeks ago, she had hung out with Mr. Briggs, who told her he wanted to join the state police. She said she didn't know him to be depressed or upset about anything. "I don't think he would ever do anything to anybody," she said.

*"When the Economy Goes Sour"  
Continued From 10.*

**Facilities**

Focus on landscaping: plant perennial flowers and bushes, edge beds, put up mini-fences to redirect traffic, and plant grass seed.

Make your entrance a deal maker: repaint, repair, restore.

Design or refine your site plan. Ask for pro bono assistance from architects, engineers, or public community planners.

Design or refine your facilities for greater efficiency.

Get a free green energy audit through your supplier or your city, county, or state.

Reduce costs through greater efficiencies in electricity use, heating/cooling, and space allocation, and take advantage of rebates from producers, county, and state.

Reduce your unit costs by space-sharing strategies: coordinate animal use, arena use, classroom use, etc., with public stables, equine training firms or instructors, vet groups, rescues, schools, churches, other agencies.

Keep your herd as small as possible, but respect animal-use safeguards on permissible daily use time per animal (i.e. a maximum of three hours at a time, over a maximum of six hours per day), while saving space for charitable adop-

tions of worthy or neglected animals.

Consider reducing lesson program costs after reviewing efficiency: consider closing for the winter, or certain hours and days per week; only use daylight hours to reduce energy use.

Consider offering your equines for safe free boarding options when your program does not operate. Be careful about all board and use situations, have a concrete contract, and check up on those animals at least monthly for their safety.

**Programs**

Develop new games and activities.

Re-evaluate your programming, analyzing it for cost-effectiveness. Quantify your unit costs per type of programming, and expand where and when your unit costs are lowest.

Add new programs only when they are cost effective, easily achievable, and are likely to enhance the bottom line through cost/benefit analyses.

Consider reducing or eliminating programs that no longer benefit the bottom line, but only if their animal and human social and business cost is first evaluated.

Good luck. Enjoy your lemonade effort.

A former high school football coach agreed. Fred Swick, who was an assistant coach during Mr. Briggs's senior year at Poolesville High School in Maryland, said he was surprised by what happened yesterday. "I never would have thought that of him," Mr. Swick said.

Mr. Briggs was a defensive lineman at Poolesville his senior year and was named all-Montgomery County by the Washington Post for the 2004-2005 season.

"Joe was a fantastic young man and a hard worker," said his coach at Poolesville, Larry Hurd, Jr. He described Mr. Briggs as a pleasure to coach and said he always arrived at practice well-prepared. "He had good size, and he had great heart," Mr. Hurd said. "Nobody was going to beat Joe at heart."

Mr. Briggs transferred to Poolesville in his senior year from a Catholic high school, Mr. Swick said.

*"Arthur Virts" Continued From  
Page 9.*

passed away last year, too late to see the book completed. As a leader in the committee which was formed to help publish the book, Mr. Baker wrote, "It is our hope to have a book printed, with stories and pictures, which reflect the humor, history, and enduring quality of this small town." Mr. Baker would be pleased; Boyds: A Character Study meets all its objectives. Copies of the book can be obtained by calling 301-972-0161

or the John Poole General Store museum in Poolesville.

Note: The other "friends" contributing to the book are: Minnie Turner Tyler, Bernice Christine Turner Clipper, Edna Mae Luckett Prather, Ella Wims Smith, Mae Louise Hebron, Betty Hawkins, and Flora Crouse Gilliam. Other Members of the book organizing committee are Hal Baker, Ginger Gibson, Flora Gilliam, Betty Hawkins, Edna Reffit, and Keith Vail.

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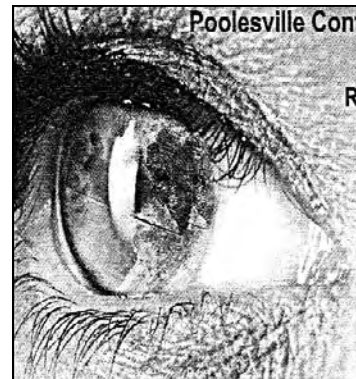
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*"Town Meeting" Continued From Page 6.*

to maintain balanced budgets. He also pointed out that the estimated cost of the project to the town given by Mr. Strong did not include outside grants that will be sought. The details of the plan are available for viewing at town hall.

In other matters, Mr. Strong was tasked to estimate the costs of converting the private septic systems remaining in the town to public sewer. The purpose of the commissioners' request was to better understand the scope of the project and to determine when such conversion might better be done when other infrastructure changes are made so as to ultimately reduce the cost of the conversion to the town. Mr. Strong reported that there were twenty-two private wells and septic systems in the town and that the total cost would be \$190,000. Mr. Klobukowski voiced concern about the public health safety issues when septic systems are closed down, but Mr. Strong assured him that county health department inspectors witness each closing and that all contents in the septic systems are

## Local News

### Officer Injured in Car Accident

By Rande Davis

An automobile accident on Sunday morning, February 8, in Poolesville severely injured a Montgomery County police officer. Officer Steven Heitfield, assigned to the 1st District, had entered the police academy on July 14, 2008 and graduated from the academy this past January and is currently in field training.

pumped out prior to collapsing the tank to prevent leakage of sewage into the ground.

With Mr. Hoewing and Mr. Yeatts out of town on business, the three commissioners did vote unanimously for a St. Peter's bond reduction. The bond is held by the church until specific infrastructure requirements are made in conjunction with the building of the new community and educational facility at St. Peter's.



*Rescue personnel work to save the driver of the wrecked car.*

He was traveling south on Route 109 toward Poolesville when the car hit the raised curbing on the west side of the road causing the car to spin into a tree on the east side of the road. The driver was pinned in the car, conscious, but with severe lower body injuries as the emergency rescue team arrived. Using "jaws of life" equipment to cut open the vehicle, the extraction was lengthy and difficult both because of the damage to the car

and because of the extensive leg and pelvis injuries experienced by the driver.

After removal, Officer Heitfield was taken by helicopter to Suburban Hospital for emergency care and then flown to the Baltimore Shock Trauma Center (BSTC). He is reported to be in critical condition but recovering at the trauma center. The police department expressed its deep appreciation for the excellent response by the county's fire and rescue emergency responders as well as for the medical care given to Officer Heitfield at Suburban and BSTC.

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**Local News**

**Darts: Having Fun While Making Your Point**

By Rande Davis

Throwing the bull can be found in every place that serves beer. At Cugini's they have something else altogether: Darts. Poolesville's dart league competes in a twelve-week season in the party room every Wednesday evening. The team just ended its season with its annual tournament including a lot of darts and a lot more bull, so we heard.

League president, Steve Hawkins, recently gave the Monocle the lowdown on the group. The league started ten years ago at Potomac Valley Lodge with only one dart board and light-bantered play. Soon it grew to six dart boards and twenty-four throwers, formalizing into a competitive league. On



*Cugini's dart throwers: Back row: Ed Dorosa, Steve Hawkins Sr., Louis Brooks (Sub), Les Richey, Dorsett Hickey, Larry Neil, Jr., Steve Hawkins, Jr., Doug Baile. Front Row: Tim Flynn, Jack Broadwater, Kelly Nichlos (Sub), Bill Lynch (Hiding), Mary Lynch, Rodger Strippey. Not pictured: Larry Neal, Sr.*

occasion, they also compete at other venues like the Buckeystown Pub or Krug's in Frederick.

The Poolesville league plays four kinds of darts: Burma, Cricket, 301, and 501. In Burma, the winner must hit numbers combining to a score of forty-three. Cricket requires hitting the numbers 20 to 15 and bulls three times each. The third game, 301, gets its name from each player starting with a score of 301 and then reducing that number by the scores hit until doubling

out. For example, if the thrower has forty points left, he can win by hitting 20 twice or by throwing one dart into 20 and two into 10. To start play in 301, the thrower must first hit any double number. The last game, 501 is similar to 301 except the player does not have to "double in."

The perfect score for a three-dart score is 180 points by hitting the triple 20 (colored center ring) with all three darts, which is very rare. One of the most amazing feats Steve Hawkins observed was in a match against Mary Lynch when all he needed to win was one bull.

Poor Mary, she needed three. Well, poor Steve, Mary hit all three.

If you are at Cugini's during play and you hear someone letting out a yell you can hear all the way to Selby's, that would be newcomer Tim Flynn. We have been warned not to let Tim give you a high five when this happens unless you are looking for a broken arm.

This year's first place winner was Steve Hawkins, Sr., and three competitors tied for second: Mary Lynch, Steve Hawkins, Jr., and Larry Neal, Jr. Don't worry, Tim, there is always next year.

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## Things To Do

For continual updates, visit:  
www.monocacymonocle.com

The Poolesville Library offers AARP Tax Preparation Assistance for seniors each Friday through April 10, 2009. Call 240-277-2577 for an appointment.

### Clarksburg Sports Association Spring Baseball and Lacrosse Registrations

Join CSA baseball and lacrosse in celebrating another great season serving the greater Clarksburg community. All experience levels are welcome. The last day for discounted baseball registration is February 28. Late baseball registration will occur from March 1 until March 15. Late lacrosse registration will continue until February 28 with a \$30 late fee. For more information or to register, visit [www.CSAsports.org](http://www.CSAsports.org).

### February 13 to March 7

*8th Annual International Photography Competition*  
The Fraser Gallery is pleased to present a group exhibition by finalists of the 8th Annual International Photography Competition. The Fraser Gallery received over 350 entries from 116 local, national, and international photographers; twenty-six images by nineteen photographers were selected. Washington, D.C. area photographers include: Vincent Carney, Baltimore, Chris Dame, Rockville, Alain Debrabant, Silver Spring, Ed Kirkpatrick, Dickerson, and Huguetta Roe, Falls Church.

### February 21

*CEDC's Saturday Night at the Cinema*, PHS Auditorium  
Indiana Jones: Kingdom of the Crystal Skull  
Free- Canned Food Donation for WUMCO, Doors: 7:00 p.m.  
Showtime: 7:30 p.m.

*St. Mary's Basket Bingo*  
Featuring Longaberger Baskets and Vera Bradley Handbags. Sponsored by the St. Mary's Holy Name Society. Filled baskets, door prizes and raffles. Food and refreshments available. Doors open at 5:00 p.m.; bingo starts

at 7:00 p.m. St. Mary's Pavilion in Barnesville, 18230 Barnesville Road. Call Ron Magaha at 301-349-5092 for tickets—\$15 in advance and \$20 at Door.

*The Master Gardeners of Montgomery County*  
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Montgomery County Cooperative Extension  
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For registration information:  
<http://montgomery.umd.edu>  
click on Master Gardeners  
202-549-4942

*BlackRock Center for the Arts*  
Good Deale – Bluegrass Band  
Tickets: \$25.00 to \$30.00  
[www.blackrockcenter.org](http://www.blackrockcenter.org)  
8:00 p.m.

### February 22

*Quartet San Francisco*  
Grammy nominees for their last two releases and winners of the International Tango competition, these violinists, violist, and cellist are reshaping the world of chamber music. Don't miss this groundbreaking concert at the Weinberg Center for the Arts. Ticket prices are \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 at the door. For more information, visit [www.weinbergcenter.org](http://www.weinbergcenter.org) or call 301-600-2828.

### February 23

*Commissioners of Poolesville*  
Town Hall Meeting, 7:30 p.m.  
*Poolesville Library*  
Book Discussion Group  
7:00 p.m.

### February 25

CEDC Meeting  
Poolesville Town Hall  
7:30 p.m.  
*David Bromberg returns to the Weinberg Center*  
David Bromberg returns to the Weinberg Center stage with special guests the Angel Band for one night on February 28 at 8:00 p.m. The New York Times says that, "He has such control of his audience that he can, at one moment, hold it in his hand with a tender, touching yet funny anecdotal song and then set it romping and stomping with

a raucous bit of raunch. He is electrifying." Tickets range from \$20.00 to \$30.00.

### February 26

*Poolesville Baptist Church*  
Guest Speaker: Conrad Mbewe  
Hailed as Spurgeon of South Africa, 6:30

*Poolesville Library*  
Three to Sixes  
Stories, fingerplay, and music  
10:30 a.m.

### March 1

*Nurture Your Marriage – See a Movie Together*  
Fireproof  
Poolesville Presbyterian Church  
6:45 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.  
RSVP for childcare by e-mailing:  
[ppc\\_care@verizon.net](mailto:ppc_care@verizon.net)

### March 4 to 7

*The Who's Tommy*  
The Who's classic rock opera comes to the stage in a high-energy, one-of-a-kind spectacular experience.  
Montgomery Performing Arts Center  
51 Mannakee St. – Rockville

Tickets: \$10.00 – Seniors/students: \$8.00  
8:00 p.m. (Sunday: 2:00 p.m.)

### March 4

*Art League Meeting*  
The Art League of Germantown will meet at 7:15 p.m. in the Gallery at the BlackRock Center for the Arts, 12901 Town Commons Drive, Germantown. After ALOG has a brief business meeting, a guest speaker will make a presentation. Meetings are free and open to the public. For updates please visit [www.alog.org](http://www.alog.org).

### March 5

*Hairspray Weinberg Center*  
Students \$4.00/Adults \$6.00  
7:00 p.m.

### March 6

*Poolesville Elementary School*  
Movie Night, 7:30 p.m.

### March 7

*Project Wild Workshop*  
The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America announces Project

-Continued on Page 19.

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## Youth Sports

### Poolesville Girls, Clarksburg Boys Finish 2nd in Regional Track Meets

By Jeff Stuart

An impressive streak of seven consecutive 1A West Region titles came to end for the Poolesville Indoor Track girls' squad on January 31 at Hagerstown Community College. The Falcons, with 104 points, finished second to last season's runner up, Williamsport (139). The Poolesville Boys, with forty points, finished fifth in an eight-team field, behind champion Smithsburg, who had ninety-nine points. "The boys doubled their point total from last year," said head coach Michael Trumbull, "and were in the top five in the region, one of our team goals. I also wouldn't doubt if this is the most athletes we

have sent to a state championship in a very long time. Every guy who qualified for states (finished in the top four) has a very good shot at placing in the top eight overall in their respective events." Poolesville qualified two boys in three events plus two relays and seven girls in eight events plus three relays.

Improving on a third place finish a year ago, the Clarksburg Indoor Track boys' squad, placed second in the 2A West Regional in Hagerstown Community College on February 7 with 60 points. Winters Mill finished first with 106. The Coyote girls' team also improved, finishing seventh a year ago and fifth this year with 36 points. Middletown finished first with 106 points.

**High School Varsity Home Games**  
February 20 through February 24

**Poolesville High School Varsity Home Games**  
For PH5 scores, pictures and updates visit [www.phsboostersclub.org](http://www.phsboostersclub.org)

<b>Girls' Basketball</b>			
2/20	Einstein	7:00 p.m.	
2/24	Northwood	7:00 p.m.	
<b>Clarksburg High School Varsity Home Games</b>			
<b>Boys' Basketball:</b>		<b>Girls' Basketball</b>	
2/24	Einstein	7:00 p.m.	2/20 Wheaton 7:00 p.m.

For more local sports visit these sites:  
[www.pbsthoops.com](http://www.pbsthoops.com); [www.djgtaisports.com](http://www.djgtaisports.com); [www.phsboostersclub.com](http://www.phsboostersclub.com);  
[www.monlgomeynschoolsmd.org/schools/clarksburgs/](http://www.monlgomeynschoolsmd.org/schools/clarksburgs/) then Athletics to "Boosters"

"Things to Do" Continued From  
Page 18.

Wild Program, sponsored by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources at the chapter's clubhouse, 20601 West Willard Road, Poolesville, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Project Wild was established in 1983 and is the nation's longest-standing wildlife education program, emphasizing wildlife for grades K-12. It has been given throughout Maryland in a variety of settings, including schools, nature centers, zoos, museums and scout facilities. The program is free and lunch will be provided at no charge. Everyone must pre-register by calling Rogers Sears at 301-972-8942 or emailing him at [rogercsears@aol.com](mailto:rogercsears@aol.com). For more information about the B-CC Chapter, visit [www.bcciwa.org](http://www.bcciwa.org).

**March 14**  
*Poolesville Business Fair*  
*St. Peter's Church*  
Vendors/Prizes/Entertainment  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**March 14 and March 15**  
*St. Patrick's Day Weekend at Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard*  
On Saturday, March 14 and Sunday, March 15, from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cead Mile Failte! Get an early start to the "wearing" of the green." While we will not have green beer, we will have Irish cheese, Irish brown soda bread, and the sweet Celtic tones of singer and musician Betsy O'Malley, who will serenade with some of your favorite Irish and American tunes. Come join us. Slainte.

## School News

### Whatever It Takes

By Kristen Milton

As the school system deals with challenging economic times, a program to help struggling students at Poolesville High School may face cuts—a prospect that concerns some local officials and members of the school community. "They've got to deal with the economic reality of the existing budget...without neglecting the needs and aspirations of cluster students who are not in the [magnet] program," said Poolesville commissioner Jerry Klobukowski, long a liaison to area schools.

Thirty-three students at Poolesville High School currently participate in the Whatever it Takes (WIT) alternative program, in which students spend a class period with a program coordinator who provides tutoring, organizational help, and help with administrative tasks such as scheduling changes among other things. In the past, each school has received one person to support such programs; but the new operating budget will allocate staffing based on school enrollment. For a small school like Poolesville, that will mean changes.

"Whenever you have a change in staffing, you look at what you're currently doing to make sure you are benefiting the most students," cluster coordinator Sarah Defnet said. "That honest look at what is going on is a good thing...I think it's healthy." However, Defnet said, it is also natural that change would concern those who appreciate the current program.

In a January 16 letter in support of WIT, school counselors said Poolesville's full-time coordinator was kept busy, and students were able to stay in their local school rather than traveling to schools where more intensive support programs are available. "Without this program," the four-member counseling department wrote, "we fear that we would be faced with a failure to help some of our neediest students who are not afforded the support of students who have Individualized Education Plans."

The letter also provided quotes from enrolled students, who said things like, "I wouldn't graduate without this class;" and "Some people really need the extra help and extra push, and it's not fair for us to get it taken away when we really need it."

Principal Deena Levine said in a February 2 email that she remains dedicated to providing support for students who need it. While this year's WIT students have benefited from a small, six-to-one student/teacher ratio in its four classes, for next year, Levine wrote, "The same model may be in place with larger numbers, i.e., twelve students per teacher or...we may move in another direction." Levine did not respond to requests for comment for this article.

Klobukowski pointed out that the students enrolled in the WIT program are all local residents, not those who have transferred to Poolesville High for its magnet programs or other unique offerings. "This is not to be an elitist school," he said. "[The school system] has assured us they would not neglect the non-magnet students." Unless teachers are willing and able to provide extra support for those who would have benefited from WIT, Klobukowski said, "To me this may be a neglect." Klobukowski hopes to see the community express support for the program and fellow commissioner Jim Brown, whose son has participated in WIT, has suggested the commissioners weigh in as well with a letter to the school board.

Defnet said typical high school teachers teach five of the day's seven periods. That would allow for some teachers to be employed helping WIT students. "Does that dilute the program? It could," she said. "You could also take the approach that having more people involved will be good for the program." The teachers may be able to bring more enthusiasm and a variety of skills to the students, Defnet said.

The school system's operating budget is still going through the approval process, Defnet said. In addition, Poolesville will not know its enrollment numbers, and thus its exact alternative program staffing, until the registration period ends in early spring, she said.





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