



Read all about the Clarksburg cheerleading squad in Youth Sports on Page 4.



This dog might look familiar—and especially if you're from Dickerson. See Local News on Page 8.



It may not look green, but it is, and it's in Clarksburg Village. See Local News on Page 7.



A local author and a friend. See Center Stage on Page 3.

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

March 6, 2009

Volume V, Number 21.

## 2008 PHS Graduate Fatally Injured in Car Accident

By Rande Davis

Dale Michael Carnahan, an eighteen-year-old 2008 graduate of Poolesville High School, was fatally injured in a car accident early Saturday morning, February 28, 2009. He was the son of Brian and Cathy Carnahan and the brother of Kelsey Carnahan of Soper Road in Poolesville.

At approximately 2:37 a.m. on Saturday morning, 5th District officers and fire and rescue responded to the report of a traffic collision in the 15500 block of Darnestown Road. The preliminary investigation

revealed that a black 2000 Volkswagen Jetta had been traveling westbound on Darnestown Road approaching Bellingham Drive. For reasons still under investigation, the Jetta left the roadway and struck an electrical utility pole which caused the pole to break into two pieces. The vehicle continued off the roadway, striking a tree before coming to rest.

Dale Michael Carnahan, the passenger in the car, was flown to Baltimore Shock Trauma in grave condition. Montgomery County police reports he had not been wearing his seatbelt. The driver of the vehicle was nineteen-year-old Christopher Michael Florczyk of Dowden Way in Poolesville. He was transported to Shady Grove Hospital, was treated for his



Dale Michael Carnahan

injuries, and was released. He had been wearing his seatbelt.

Dale Carnahan had attended Frostburg University and had recently accepted an opportunity to train to become

-Continued on Page 18.

## Spates Farm Fire Dislodges Large Family

By Rande Davis

It was around 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 24 when Bruce and Taunya Norton were just getting themselves and their family ready for the day that smoke began to fill their home on the Spates Farm located on Westerly Avenue in Poolesville. Their daughter Nicole, whose bedroom is on the second floor, also became alarmed as smoke began to fill her room.

After making sure the entire family was out of the home, Mrs. Norton called 911, and the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department first arrived on the scene within about ten minutes.

As the firefighters arrived, the fire had not yet broken

out into a full blown blaze and was still mostly confined to within the walls and upper level floor boards. With one of the coldest mornings of the winter, Mr. Norton started the woodstove located on the first floor and went about his normal routine of getting ready for work. Within thirty to forty-five minutes, the fire broke out within the walls and ballooned vertically as well as horizontally under the floor boards.

The woodstove had an exterior pipe that entered the chimney just above it and a bracing board within the walls became overheated and ultimately broke out into a fire.



The Norton family sorts through some of their salvaged possessions after the fire at their home.

Chief Earl Moore told the Monocle that the family was fortunate since it had not yet broken out into a full-blown blaze by the time the fire department arrived. While firefighters had to immediately begin opening up walls to find the location and extent of the fire, they did not assess any need to overwhelm

-Continued on Page 18.

**Family Album**



*The Family Album is sponsored by  
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*Commander William Poole (American Legion Post #247) reads a plaque honoring the Town of Poolesville for its support of the wounded warriors picnic which is hosted by the Poolesville Military Support Group. Others in the picture are Commissioner Eddie Kuhlman, Roger Strippey (Poolesville Military Support Group), and Commissioners Jerry Klobukowski and Jim Brown.*



*The entertainment at Blue Ribbon Week at John Poole Middle School rose above the ordinary.*



*Poolesville High School students and town residents at the vigil for Dale Michael Carnahan.*



*Eleanor Bateman and Lauren Reid serve up tasty pancakes, sausages, and other goodies at Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church's Shrove Tuesday dinner for the community.*



*Clarksburg High School honored its Hispanic Honor Society.*

## PHS ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB ANNUAL SPRING MULCH FUNDRAISER

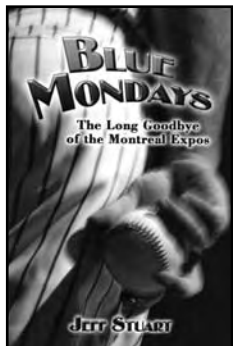
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## Center Stage

### Monocle Writer Publishes New Book



Jeff Stuart's newest book

Monocacy Monocle sports reporter, Jeff Stuart, has just published his second baseball book, *Blue Mondays—The Long Goodbye of the Montreal Expos*.

His first book, *Twilight Teams*, was published in 2000 and chronicles the final season for former baseball teams which moved on to other cities. Area baseball fans would especially enjoy his chapter on the 1971 Washington Senators. *Twilight Teams*, nostalgic and entertaining, presents the final chapter on the 1952 Boston Braves, 1953 St. Louis Browns, 1954 Philadelphia Athletics, 1957 New York Giants, and 1957 Brooklyn Dodgers.

For baseball fans, the book chronicles these teams which were all in the last days of a long history and for many, their departure represented a loss of innocence in major league baseball. Steroids and birth certificates were not controversial words for the players and fans of these teams. The reader will find a refreshing take on the history of baseball from 1900 until the early 1950s. Filled with stats and pictures, it is a veritable goldmine for the true baseball trivia nut.

*Blue Mondays* is a straightforward, entertaining, sometimes bittersweet and sometimes sad account of the Montreal Expos in their final season prior to moving to the District. With insight into events leading up to their departure, it is also a pocket history of the thirty-three-year

run of the franchise in Canada. The Expos were the first major league team to relocate since 1971.

The title of the new book is based on an event involving Rick Monday of the Los Angeles Dodgers. By 1981, Rick Monday was mostly a utility player, but in the deciding Game 5 of the National League Championship Series at Olympic Stadium in Montreal, he smashed a ninth-inning home run off the Expos' Steve Rogers that proved to be the difference in a 2-1 Dodgers victory. Monday's home run dashed what turned out to be the Expos' only chance at a pennant in their thirty-six-year history in the National League. Even today, heart-broken Expos fans refer to the fifth game of the NLCS as "Blue Monday." Los Angeles went on to win the 1981 World Series, defeating the New York Yankees, four games to two.

For Jeff, his love affair with baseball and the Senators crystallized when he was ten years old. It was then that his father took him to his first major league game. Knowing that third baseman Eddie Yost was Jeff's hero, his father planned just how he wanted his son to have his first glimpse of the big league ball field. Father and son walked from the noisy, crowded concession area through the slightly-darkened entrance tunnel. As they came through to the field, Jeff found himself standing near the third base line, and only yards from him, taking infield practice, was his hero, Eddie Yost.

Years later, when his first book came out, Jeff sent a copy to Eddie Yost with a short note about his first big league baseball game. Eddie Yost wrote a long, wonderful letter of appreciation and sent an autographed picture. The picture and the autograph are mounted on Jeff's wall in his home.

One of seven siblings, Jeff was targeting a career in teaching when he graduated

from the University of Maryland with a degree in math and education. Circumstances redirected his goals, and he became a cartographer with the National Ocean Service, a position from which he retired after thirty-two years in 2000. His specialty was electronic aids to navigation.

Today, one might say he is a walking GPS and Google for baseball trivia. As an athlete, Jeff was a wrestler at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High school and spent over ten years coaching wrestling with the Gaithersburg

Sports Association. A man of many hats, so to speak, Jeff is also an avid collector of hats and, shall we say, headwear. Among his more than five hundred hats is a prized Cherokee Indian headdress and a German helmet from World War I.

For those interested in either of the baseball books, they can be ordered from Jeff directly at Sark10@juno.com or online at AmericaPublish.com or Amazon.com.

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## Business Briefs

### Local Vineyard Wins Three Awards in California

Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard, the only vineyard and winery located in Montgomery County, won three medals at the prestigious Grand Harvest Awards Competition held in California recently. The award-winning wines were produced at Sugarloaf from grapes grown on its property:

- Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard's 2006 Maryland Chardonnay Reserve: Silver**
- Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard's 2007 Maryland Cabernet Franc: Silver**
- Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard's 2007 Comus (a blend of Bordeaux grapes): Bronze**

The Grand Harvest Awards Competition judged over 1600 entries from North America, Europe, South America, and the Pacific Rim. Each contest is judged by a panel of three judges from wine professions, and the judges must agree on awarding a medal. The competition judged each wine based on its terroir, which includes soil, climate, elevation, and other factors associated with a specific appellation or region.

Established in 2004, Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard wines have won numerous awards in competitions in Maryland, the Atlantic Seaboard, the International Eastern Wine Competition, and last year's Grand Harvest Awards Competition.

Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard, located in Dickerson at the base of Sugarloaf Mountain, is family owned and operated.

Located in the Montgom-

ery County Agricultural Reserve, the vineyard includes over 20,000 hand-planted and pruned vines. The five Bordeaux grapes: Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petite Verdot, and Malbec, as well as two white varietals, Pinot Grigio and Chardonnay, are grown in the vineyard. The red grapes and Chardonnay grapes are aged in French oak barrels, and the Pinot Grigio is aged in steel tanks. Sugarloaf now produces 4,800 cases of wine annually.

Sugarloaf's winemaker, Carl DiManno, received his degree in Oenology from the University of California, Davis, worked in the Napa Valley, and began work at Sugarloaf before the first vines were planted and the winery was built.

### Local Landscaper Wins Three Awards

Fine Earth Landscape is the proud winner of three National PLANET Awards for outstanding garden, deck, and patio design and installation. PLANET is the Professional Landscape Network, an association that represents landscape professionals across the United States.

The awards were for three different residential landscapes designed and built by Fine Earth. The first was an older home in a shaded neighborhood. It involved a paver patio, ornamental retaining walls, and a beautiful combination of plantings for year-round color and interest. The second was for a home in Virginia which featured a stone fireplace/outdoor kitchen combination. The third was for a home in a new neighborhood featuring a stone patio built by Fine Earth.

**The Monocacy MONOCLE**  
*Keeping An Eye On Local News*  
 Published and Edited by  
**John Clayton and Rande Davis**

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**John Clayton**  
 Production  
 Financial  
 301-349-0071  
 jclayton@monocacymonocle.com

**Rande Davis**  
 Advertising  
 Circulation  
 301-349-0070  
 rdavis@monocacymonocle.com

**Dominique Agnew**  
 Copyediting  
 dagnew@intairnet.com

---

editor@monocacymonocle.com  
 advertising@monocacymonocle.com  
 www.monocacymonocle.com

---

**Monocacy Press, LLC**  
 John Clayton, President  
 Rande Davis, Vice President  
 P.O. Box 372  
 Barnesville, MD 20838-0372  
 301 349-0071 • FAX 301 349-5646

*Contributing Writers*  
 Dominique Agnew  
 dagnew@intairnet.com  
 Carol Rae Hansen, Ph.D.  
 Director@EquineTherapyAssociates.com  
 Kristen Milton  
 kmilton1998@yahoo.com  
 Maureen O'Connell  
 mafoconnell@usna.com  
 Curtis Osborne  
 cpo@usna.com  
 Frederic J. Rohner  
 fredr@vegasradio.net  
 Jeffrey S. Stuart  
 sark100@juno.com  
 Jack Toomey  
 jackt21262@aol.com

*Contributing Photographer*  
 Hilary Schwab  
 hilary@hschwabphotography.com

*Graphics*  
 Karie Legambi  
 WhipSmart Graphics  
 Karie@WhipSmartGraphics.com

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## Youth Sports

### Where the Cheering Starts at Clarksburg

By Jeff Stuart

The following is an interview with Clarksburg Head Cheerleading Coach Shannon Grigsby.

MM: Where do cheerleading routines get their start?

Grigsby: The girls learn routines at summer camp, but typically do not perform them for the school. The captains make up all pep-rally routines and also create and choreograph the competition routine. The routine is three minutes long. This year's captains are: Cayla Hunter, Brieanna Sanders, Shanecia Riley. The entire squad consists of twenty-three girls. My seniors include: Shanecia Riley, Frania Clamico, Rachel Rosa, Shauna McLennan, Cayla Hunter, and Shayna Wrublik.

MM: What did the cheerleaders do in the off-season?



Grigsby: The Coyote cheerleaders attended summer camp at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, July 23 to July 29, winning trophies and ribbons. Cayla Hunter won the captain's award, was nominated as best-jumper finalist, and received an invitation to the All-American team.

MM: What are the fall and winter schedules like?

Grigsby: During football season, practices are every day from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturdays during competition season. All football games, usually on Friday nights, are covered.

- Continued on Page 12.

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# In the Garden

## What's New in The Garden for 2009

By Maureen O'Connell

About this time every year, horticulturists and plant hunters bring to the marketplace new plants and trends that address themselves to specific criteria. They look for plants that are bred for specific regions and specific growing conditions. Gardeners want products that are more heat, drought, and humidity tolerant. As people's lives become busier, they want vegetables, flowering plants, and shrubs that are also more pest and disease resistant. They want to stop spraying their plants with environment-unfriendly chemicals. With the unstable state of the economy, they are reevaluating gardening costs and ways to save money.

This annual parade of new plants can be overwhelming for the average gardener. Hundreds of plants are introduced with great fanfare, all hoping to attract the attention and dollars of consumers. Actually, very few become "hot" plants. Most go unnoticed in garden catalogs, and not many make it to the shelves of local garden centers. The tomato takes the prize for the largest number of varieties. Burpee's 2009 catalog included seventeen pages of different types of tomatoes. White Flower Farm (WFF) offers 145 tomato varieties on its website. The tomato owes its popularity to the fact that it is an easy plant to grow, and it is very versatile in the kitchen. Above all, the tomato is the prime example of the difference between one bought from a store, even a farm stand, and a sun-ripened tomato, fresh and warm from a vine in your backyard.

There are national awards for new plants. Two of the most recognizable are the All-American Selection Winners (AASW) and the All-American Rose Selec-

tions (AARS). These two particular awards carry a lot of weight in the industry. The winners become must-have plants for many gardeners. For the AASW, annual plants are evaluated at sites all over the country. The 2009 winners are: Viola comuta F1, Rain Blue and Purple; Eggplant F1, Gretel; Melon F1, Lambkin; and Squash F1, Honey Bear. These selections show us a different focus from the past in that three of the four plants are vegetables. The economy is even having an impact in the garden. Gardeners are looking to grow more of their own fruits and vegetables to save money on the escalating cost of food. Let's look at some of these 2009 new plant stars.

The best way to save money in your garden is to grow herbaceous perennials. This class of leafy plants dies back during the winter, and then reappears the following spring with no effort on the part of the gardener. As an added bonus, they multiply over the years. I will admit, though, that some perennials, such as

tradescantia and physostegia, can get a little carried away with multiplying themselves like little rabbits. I have in my garden a cast of old favorites: daylilies, hosta, phlox, Shasta daisies, Lamb's Ear, lavender, Echinacea, coreopsis, and many others. Perennials act as stable building blocks in a garden. Around them we can weave beautiful combinations with spring-flowering bulbs, annuals for the dog days of summer, and oriental lilies, asters, sedum, and dahlias for a late summer and fall display.

The purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) and the other species in this genus have been workhorses of the garden for years. Gardeners have come to rely on this drought-tolerant prairie native for hot, dry spots, but, for many years, most of their varieties were quite the plain Janes. They came in a drab magenta color with petals facing downwards. Their growth habit forced you

-Continued on Page 17.

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## Things to Do

For continual updates visit:  
www.monocacymonocle.com

### March 6

Movie Night – Drop-off Event  
Poolesville Relay for Life Fundraiser  
Drop your kids off and go out to dinner. Signed parental permission slip required at time of drop off.  
\$5.00 includes popcorn, drink, and candy (extra candy \$1.00)  
Poolesville Elementary School  
7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Clarksburg Sports Association  
Spring Baseball Registration  
Join CSA baseball in another great season serving the greater Clarksburg Community. All experience levels are welcome. Registration is currently open for boys and girls, and teams are filling quickly. Late baseball registration will continue until March 15. Registration for Coyote Baseball Camp with Bethesda Big Train pitching coach Bill Sizemore is now open; the discount for early registration ends on March 31.  
For more information or to register, visit [www.CSAsports.org](http://www.CSAsports.org).

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

### March 6 and 7

W.I.N.O.s Night (Women In Need of Shopping)  
Fundraiser for Poolesville Relay for Life  
Kitchen Bath Express  
19710 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville  
Vendors: Creative Memories, Southern Living at Home, May Kay Cosmetics, Premier Jewelry, Pampered Chef, and Tastefully Simple  
Friday: 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.  
Saturday: 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### March 7

Meet the Senator  
Sen. Rob Garagiola, District 15

Selby's Market  
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### March 9

Poolesville Commissioners Meeting  
Poolesville Town Hall  
7:30 p.m.

### March 11

MOPS (Mothers of Pre-schoolers)  
Poolesville Baptist Church  
[www.poolesvillebaptist.com](http://www.poolesvillebaptist.com)  
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Parks Board Meeting  
Poolesville Town Hall  
7:00 p.m.

### March 13

Clarksburg High School Talent Show  
Auditorium  
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Basket Bingo  
Carroll Manor Fire Department, Adamstown  
20 games, extra cards available, 3 specials, 2 raffles, King Tut \$15.00  
Doors Open: 5:30 p.m.  
Games: 7:30 p.m.

AARP Tax Assistance for seniors  
Poolesville Library  
10:30 a.m.

### March 14 and 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.

### March 14

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

### March 15

The Poolesville Adult Reverse Coed softball league will be holding its annual League Organizational meeting at 1:00 p.m. at the firehouse in Beallsville. The league currently has six teams and would like to expand. Teams are also looking to add players to their rosters. This meeting is open to players, looking to join a team and/or form a new team. Games are played at the firehouse on Friday nights with games at 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, and 9:30. Teams must have both male and female players, ages sixteen and up. A concession stand is available as well as a pavilion with tables. League fees of approximately \$660 pay for the lights, softballs, official umpires, eighteen to twenty games, plus an end-of-season tournament. Teams can also win \$100 for winning the regular season championship and another \$100 for winning the tournament. This is a fun league and an excellent opportunity to socialize on a Friday night. For more information, call Mark at 301-349-2027.

The Commitments (1991)  
An unlikely group of musicians pours plenty of soul into Dublin, Ireland. The Commitments will be showing at the Weinberg Center for the Arts at 2:00 p.m. Tickets will be \$6.00 for adult, and \$4.00 for students/seniors. Visit [www.weinbergcenter.org](http://www.weinbergcenter.org) or call 301-600-2828.

### March 18

Planning Commission Meeting  
Poolesville Town Hall

7:30 p.m.

### March 19

Storytime for Two-year-olds  
Poolesville Library  
Stories, music, and fingerplays  
10:30 a.m.

### March 20

AARP Tax Assistance for seniors  
Poolesville Library  
10:30 a.m.

### March 20 and 21

Used Books and Media Sale  
St. Peter's Parish, at 20100 Fisher Ave. in Poolesville, is having their used book and media sale, scheduled for Friday, March 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Come browse from a wide selection of inexpensive used adult and children's books, videos, DVDs, CDs, audio tapes, records, and computer software. Enjoy a cookie from the bake sale while stocking up on some excellent reading material. Why pay bookstore prices when you can shop at St. Peter's? Donations are welcome and can be dropped off at St. Peter's at any time. For more information, call 301-349-2073.

### March 25

Open House  
St. Thomas More Academy  
Buckeystown  
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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## Local News

# Green Showhome in Clarksburg

By Kristen Milton

At the latest model home in Clarksburg Village, visitors will find ways to not only “live well” but “do good” in their choice of homes through more than sixty ways to promote accessibility and help the environment.

The Universal Design Green Showhome, a Showhome of Ideas, was unveiled by Winchester Homes February 4 in an event attended by politicians and invited guests. The public received its own peek a few days later of the first new home to be certified through the county’s Design for Life Montgomery program as well as the Energy Star program.

At first glance, the glossy wood floors, recessed lighting and stainless steel appliances make the home appear like many other developer models, but the house at 23308 Bent Arrow Drive has features both obvious and hidden that make it unique. “This ‘Home of Ideas’ will give people in Montgomery County and throughout the Washington, D.C. area an exclusive opportunity to experience a new home designed from the ground up for people of all ages,” Winchester president Alan Shapiro said in a press release. Features include no-step entries and wide doorways promoted as appropriate for both wheelchairs and strollers, a main-floor bath and bedroom that could be a grandparents’ suite for visiting or move-in parents, recycled construction materials, and water-saving fixtures.

A checklist on Winchester’s website lists sixty-two options that fall under either the universal design or green designation, all of which are represented at the show home, according to Randy Melvin, Winchester’s director of research, standards, and design assurance. Many would likely pass unnoticed initially, such as lowered light switches and work surfaces.

People have responded positively to the house, according

to Winchester spokesman Edwin Prugh. “We had a tremendous response,” Prugh said of the foot traffic February 7 to 8, when the home was open to the public. “The multi-generational aspect appeals to a lot of people...[and] this is one of the first showhomes in Maryland that has combined the universal and the green.”

Melvin said forty-seven sets of visitors went through the home opening weekend. Everyone expressed some interest in the universal design elements and about ninety percent were also interested in the green options, he said, “There’s something there for everyone.”

Melvin said the home was years in the making as both he and Shapiro served on the county’s Design for Life Montgomery committee. The voluntary certification program was introduced in March 2007 to encourage home construction or modifications that accommodate residents and visitors with disabilities or mobility limitations, ultimately helping people age in place.

“Some light bulbs started going off,” Melvin said, as he learned more about the concept and saw ways construction changes could smooth the way for life changes big and small—such as an unexpected need for crutches, parents who move in, or furniture that needs to move out.

“It’s sort of a house that grows with you,” Melvin said. “No matter where you are at in life or what you’re doing, the house accommodates you, and a lot of these things sneak up on you, so it’s different to have a house that accommodates them.”

The Universal Design Green Showhome is currently available for tours by appointment only. Contact Sally Walters at Clarksburg.Village@WinchesterHomes.com or 240-686-0024. The showhome is separated from the subdivision’s other model homes by a two-minute drive.

More information can be found at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov) and [www.winchesterhomes.com/universal-design](http://www.winchesterhomes.com/universal-design).



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## Local News

### Local Dog Is a Big Winner at the Westminster Dog Show

By John Clayton

Dickerson's own Sunup's Copper Fox, a three-year-old English foxhound, won Best of Breed at the prestigious Westminster Dog Show held at Madison Square Garden in New York City on February 9. Daisy, as she is called when she isn't at a show, competed nationally throughout the year leading up to the Westminster show, and entered the show number one in the country for her breed, having defeated over one hundred other dogs in competition.

Daisy is very much a prod-

uct of Dickerson where she lives with her owner, local realtor Toni Koerber. Her handler and trainer, Kris Eckard, who showed Daisy at Westminster, also lives in Dickerson, as do her vet, Dr. Chet Anderson of Peachtree Veterinary Clinic, and her groomer, Liz Stoner of the Dirty Dog Wash. Daisy often walks out in the morning with the Potomac Hunt foxhounds, also located in Dickerson.

Ms. Koerber got Daisy from a friend in Brandywine who breeds basset hounds, where she admired Daisy among a litter of English foxhounds. The Brandywine friend showed Daisy for a while, but Ms. Koerber then moved Daisy to Kris Eckard, her Dickerson handler, in part so that she wouldn't have to get Daisy to Brandywine each time she was in a show.

English Foxhounds are not considered an easy breed to show, Ms. Koerber said. They are not bred specifically to show, which involves a lot of standing around and requires that the dog focus closely on his or her handler. They are bred to hunt, which requires a different temperament and energy level entirely. Daisy, however, loves to show, as exhibited by her considerable success.

Daisy was prominently featured on national television during the Westminster broadcast on the USA Network, and also on the local Channel 4 evening news. In 2008, Daisy was the number one AKC English foxhound in the country. Ms. Koerber said that for the foreseeable future, Daisy will continue to compete in shows.

## School News

### The Prudential Spirit of Community Award—President's Volunteer Service Award

Caitlin Amiot, a seventeen-year-old of Poolesville, Maryland, has been honored for her exemplary volunteer services with a President's Volunteer Service Award. Caitlin is a senior at Poolesville High School.

The award, which recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to serve their communities and their country, was presented by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program on behalf of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. Caitlin Amiot participated in the Spirit of Community program this year as a representative of Poolesville High School.

Over the past three years,

-Continued on Page 9.

## Local News

### It's All Happening at The Fair

By Rande Davis

In the words of Simon and Garfunkel, "I do believe it, I do believe it's true." Through the leadership of Berry Thompson of 20837BIZNET.com, there will be a business fair at St. Peter's Church on March 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This business fair is in the spirit of the spring-time home shows. This is a rare chance to visit with many of the businesses in the community that provide a variety of products and services in an entertaining, informative, and just plain fun atmosphere. The last such fair was more than a decade ago, and for those who remember it, it was a highly successful and engaging event. We think this fair will fit that bill as well.

In deciding to put together the event, Berry Thompson said, "It occurred to me that there was very little going on to promote businesses and organizations in February and March, so I

thought a business fair would fit right in."

The vendors are encouraged to provide door prizes and to raffle off gifts. One of the area's most popular musical performer, Doug Bell, will perform, and many of the vendors will be doing special demonstrations throughout the day.

The business community is so essential to the life of the community, not just for the products, services and employment opportunities they provide, but also as a foundation for so much of the charitable giving to our civic organizations.

Attendees will find ideas on home improvement, landscaping, crafts, art, equestrian, home décor, and more. This is also a wonderful chance to meet some of the people in our business community and, since the *Monocle* will be there, we hope to meet you as well. Bring the kids along as they will enjoy the fair, too.

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## Youth Sports

### Poolesville Girls Finish Third At 1A State Championships

The Poolesville Falcons Track and Field teams were in action February 23 at the 2009 1A State Championships. The Lady Falcons (53 points) fell short in defending their 2008 title, finishing third overall behind Williamsport (78.5 points) and Digital Harbor (73 points).

The girls were led by seniors Olivia Durr and Jenny Reid. Olivia was Poolesville's only State Champion of the day. Olivia continued her hurdling success with the 55-meter high hurdle crown. She ran the short sprint in 8.62 seconds. "Olivia has been pretty consistent all year in hurdles. We both knew that she was the favorite to win this year. She came out and got the job done like she has done all season. I couldn't be any happier

for her," states head coach Michael Trumbull.

Olivia also went on to garner a second place finish in the high jump (4'10"), fifth place in the 300-meter dash (43.91), and anchored the second place 4x400 meter relay (4:15.06, 1:02 split).

Jenny Reid also had a full day at the state championship. She placed in all four events she entered. In the 4x800, Jenny (2:27 split) helped anchor the team of freshman Caryn Thompson (2:39 split), senior Katherine Connor (2:31 split), and junior Ellie Lalonde (2:37 split) to a seasonal best 10:15.83 and a second place finish.

In the 800-meter run, Jenny finished in a seasonal best 2:29.26 for third place. She crossed the line in fifth place in the 1600 (5:41.54) and joined Olivia Durr, junior Karissa Harris (1:05 split), and sophomore Kati Duncan (1:03 split) on the runner-up 4x400 relay team with a 1:04 split.

"Jenny had one of the hardest days you can have at a track and field meet. She ran two outstand-

ing 800s and a gutsy 1600 and 400 with little rest before. It was a great performance that I knew would be challenging for her," added Coach Trumbull, "but she is a tough competitor."

Karissa Harris was the other main contributor to Poolesville's outstanding effort. As well as the 4x400, Karissa finished in second place in the 55-meter dash with a time of 7.60 seconds, a seasonal best. She also finished in sixth place in the 300-meter dash (44.02 seconds). "I was very surprised by how Karissa performed," says Coach Trumbull. "She was injured at the regional championships and basically sat out practice the last two weeks. She gritted out a great performance and did it without complaining. She is as tough as they come," he continues.

"These girls did an excellent job," praises Trumbull. "They scored the exact same amount of points as last year's championship team but fell a little short to two excellent teams. These girls knew they needed to have their best performances of the year, and they did just that in each event."

*"President's Award" Continued From Page 8.*

Caitlin has worked at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. during the summer. She worked with young children in the "How Do You Zoo" exhibit, a hands-on exhibit that teaches children about career possibilities at zoos. Caitlin helped oversee the exhibit, interacting with young visitors, and led the D.C. Department of Recreations groups throughout the zoo. She also worked one summer at the Cincinnati Zoo in Ohio. Caitlin played the role of a "volunteer" and was a teacher aide for a class of young children where she helped teach and watch the children while showing them around the zoo. By the end of her junior year, Caitlin had accumulated over 440 volunteer hours from these and other activities.

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*-Continued on Page 12.*

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# Local News Planning Board Actions

By Kristen Milton

## Gas Station Approved

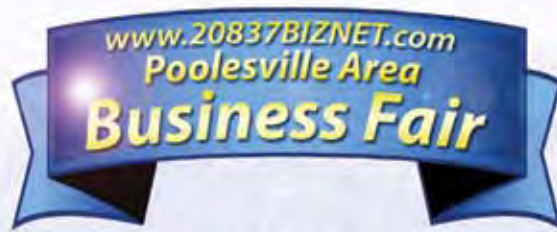
Germantown's Neelsville Village area moved a step closer to gaining another gas station with the Montgomery County Planning Board's recent support of a special exception request. The 1.2-acre site at the intersection of Ridge and Henderson Corner Roads was approved for a bank building in 2006, but Stan Abrams, an attorney for the property owner, said the bank backed out of the agreement.

Engineers told the board at its February 12 meeting that the bank's approved architectural plans were used as a foundation for designing the new 7-11 gas station and convenience store proposed for the site, which will include "a tower-like feature" on a 3,100-square-foot convenience store as well as twelve pumping stations. The board's unanimous support for the pre-preliminary plan will be considered when the case appears before the Hearing Examiner on February 27. It will then move on to the Board of Appeals for a final decision.

According to a memo from senior planner Krishna Akundi, there are already six gas stations within a mile of the proposed site; however, Abrams said there would be a market for the new station. "It will handle a considerable amount of commuter traffic coming down from Damascus," he said.

The proposed plans said the store and station would be open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Sixteen parking spaces, a lit monument sign, and a number of screening trees and shrubs were also included. Conditions recommended by the board included capping the number of employees on site at any one time at seven and limiting the

- Continued on Page 12.



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Fran Ichijo the Artistic Director of Hope Garden Ballet will talk about ballet and some of her talented students will dance

# School News

## Stuck in Time

By Chantal Agnew

Another Miss Poolesville has come and gone, and it remains as exciting and entertaining as ever. The ten contestants were: seniors



*Anxiously awaiting the judges' final decision for Miss Poolesville 2009 are, from left to right: Brooke Atwell, Chelsea Glowacki, Patricia Robinson, Christy Wyne, and Kelsey Montgomery.*

Brooke Atwell, Jessica Chittenden, Sarah Ferrari, Kiley Fisher, Chelsea Glowacki, Devin Hamberger, Megan Kenneweg, Kelsey Montgomery, Patricia Robinson, and Christy Wyne. This year's theme, "Stuck in Time," was introduced by a funny video of the girls that showed them traveling through time in an old car and eventually getting stuck in the seventies, with those crazy costumes and all. The girls then were introduced to the audience and danced on the stage before strutting across the stage in their casual wear and then flaunting their athletic wear before the crowd. Next came everyone's favorite part, the skits. This part of the show included comedy, song, and dance. After the ten

fabulous performances full of music and laughter, there was a brief intermission. When the girls reemerged from behind the curtains, they were in their stunning formalwear, each one with one or two escorts of her choosing. Soon it came time for the judges to decide the Final Five. After watching a slideshow of the girls' baby pictures, the judges somehow reached a decision. The lucky Final Five were: Brooke Atwell, Chelsea Glowacki, Kelsey Montgomery, Patricia Robinson, and Christy Wyne. They each had

to answer the competition's final question: "If you could be any animal you wanted [to be,] what would it be and why?" After each girl responded, the judges collaborated again to see who the winner of the show would be. After a long and decidedly difficult deliberation, Miss Poolesville 2009 was crowned. Brooke Atwell, a.k.a., Miss Poolesville 2009, congratulations.

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**"President's Award" Continued**  
From Page 89

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program recognizes young people across America for outstanding community service

activities. More than 250,000 young people across America have been considered for these awards since the program began in 1995.

"The recipients of these

**"Planning" Continued From Page 10.**

canopy height to 18-feet, 6-inches. Both a bank and a gas station were mentioned as desirable uses for the currently wooded property in the 1989 Germantown Master Plan.

Big Lot Approved in Clarksburg

A larger-than-usual lot was unanimously approved for a proposed Clarksburg home at a recent planning meeting. The single home planned for the Hull Property on Comus Road, about seven hundred feet east of the Slidell Road intersection, required review because its 7.7-acre lot is larger than the five-acre maximum generally desired.

Planning staff said the larger lot was "reasonable," however,

because an onsite stream, slopes, and forest, all limited the property's farming potential. The land lies within the Rural Density Transfer (RDT) zone, which calls for a density of one home per twenty-five acres, but cannot be held to its standards because the lot pre-dates the creation of the zone in 1981.

Commissioner John Robinson asked whether the construction of the home would require cutting many trees, but the applicant's engineer said the house would be located in a section of the property that is already cleared. The applicant, Robert Hull, will also place an easement around environmentally-sensitive areas of the property, planner Patrick Butler told the board.

There were no citizen comments.

awards vividly demonstrate that young people across America are making remarkable contributions to the health and vitality of their communities," said John R. Strangfield, chairman and ECO of Prudential Financial. "They truly deserve all of the praise and encouragement we can give them."

"The young people recognized by the Spirit of Community Awards demonstrate an enormous capacity for giving and reaching out to those in

need," said Gerald N. Tirozzi, executive director of the National Association of Secondary School Principals. "NASSP is proud to honor them as they are wonderful examples of the high caliber of young people in our nation's schools today."



**"CHS Cheerleaders" Continued**  
From Page 4.

Other game coverages are determined by the number of games suggested in the athletics handbook. During basketball season, the squad covers both boys' and girls' home basketball games and usually a few away games for teams close by. Home wrestling matches are also covered. There is no set spring schedule. An awards banquet will be held at the end of the season for scholar athletes. Individual awards will be determined by the team.

MM: Who are your team leaders?

Grigsby: Caroline McCarty, a sophomore, has really stood out as a leader this season. She is always willing to attempt new stunts and really works hard towards perfection. Alexa Christ, a junior, has also stood out, continually encouraging the team to work together and leading by example. Alexa considers what is

best for the team and encourages others to work their hardest. She is one of the most flexible backs on the squad, allowing her to be moved to any stunt group.

And Natasha Knuckles, a junior, has proven herself throughout the season, always willing to attempt difficult stunts and able to make some of the most difficult stunts look effortless. Flyers [the girls at the top of the pyramid] include Caroline McCarty, Natasha Knuckles, Sarah Leaman, Shanecia Riley, Woori Bong, and Kasey White.

The county competitions this year were on November 22, 2008 at Blair High School. Clarksburg placed third this year in Division I. County divisions are determined by squad size, division I being the largest.

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## Local News

# Stimulus Dollars Sought by Poolesville Commissioners

By Rande Davis

The February 23, 2009 Poolesville town meeting had just a few items up for discussion so as to make room for a scheduled work session on the upcoming budget considerations. As it turned out, the work session was rescheduled for February 26.

There were three items discussed: water and sewer rates, radon testing program, and application for grants due to the federal stimulus program.

The commissioners are proposing to collapse the water rate schedule from a six-tiered grid to four tiers. The end result is that all water consumers will see an increase in their cost of water. For residential users, it is estimated to be an increase of \$18.00 to \$25.00 per quarter. Commission president Eddie Kuhlman pointed out that this is the first increase in nearly ten years. "The increase in water costs is strictly a business decision. The decision recognizes that water treatment costs have gone up over time, and the decision to increase rates should be made." The existing tiered system of quarterly billing for water usage has varying rates based on the volume of water used. The rates that follow are on a per-thousand-gallons-used basis: \$5.36 up to the first 10,000 gallons, \$6.20 for the next 10,001 to 20,000 gallons, \$7.05 for 20,001 to 30,000 gallons, \$7.90 for 30,001 to 40,000, \$8.73 on 40,001 to 50,000 gallons, and the rates are capped at \$9.58 for 50,000 gallons or more.

By collapsing the first three tiers to a \$7.05 per thousand gallons rate, all consumers will have an increase in the water costs including those at the higher tiers as their first 20,000 gallons will

be more expensive. There will be a public meeting on March 9 at the town hall regarding this proposal.

The commissioners discussed the introduction of a radon testing program. Through mass a purchase, home radon tests can be purchased by the town for \$5.00 per test. (This compares to a \$10.00 to \$15.00 cost when purchased individually.) Any Poolesville resident would qualify for a free kit providing he or she agrees to allow the results to be reported to the town. Remediation, if necessary, would remain the responsibility of the homeowner as would any subsequent test.

The desired objective is to obtain a thorough footprint of radon patterns within the town as they may exist and to assist the homeowners through this process of education in determining and remedying any problems that are uncovered.

Town engineer John Strong reported that state requests to apply for funds possibly available from the recently-passed federal economic stimulus program had to be submitted by February 27. The state does not expect the plans to be fully complete at this point, but does expect them to represent seventy percent of the cost of the project.. Among the projects being solicited for this financial support were: relining of sewer lines in the Westerly subdivision, Fisher Avenue, and Elgin Road, the costs of bringing wells on Cattail Road and the Rabinalis well on line, adjustment to drainage swales on Westerly Avenue, well treatment projects including a possible treatment for radionuclides, and curb and sidewalk upgrade assistance. Other projects may be included depending on the limited amount of time to respond. Job creation estimates were not required within the application process.

During the open forum session, Rudy Gole voiced objection to the town expending funds for the radon testing program as he believed such expenditure is the


-Continued on Page 18.



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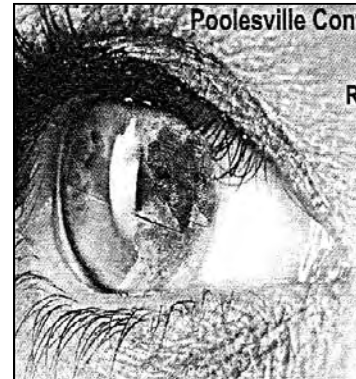
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*"Town Meeting" Continued From Page 15.*

sole responsibility of individual homeowners. He also questioned the viability of the low-cost testing kits. Commissioner Jim Brown offered that the testing program, if allowed by residents, will help the town establish areas with higher-than-normal rates. He also opined that it might provide some necessary peace of mind to residents.

Robert Roit expressed concern that the issues involved were being driven by "squeaky wheels" and also did not understand "why they are not buying their own kits." He considered the concept "nanny-state overreach." He also voiced concern that the discussion of a skateboard park had not, to his knowledge, adequately considered all the costs over and above the simple construction of such a park. Such costs were listed as operating costs, insurance premiums, vandalism, trash, and

the overall level of usage. Commissioner Link Hoewing tried to assure Mr. Roit that in the two-plus years of discussions at the park board level, all such concerns had been raised and would be part of any final proposal, if any, provided.

Fred Kelly commended the commissioners on the radon testing program as proposed.

Tom Kettler provided clarification on an earlier suggestion that radon remediation devices be included in the construction of new homes since such an action would appear to be cheaper at the development stage. While brought as a possible town ordinance, Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski expressed that such ordinances already exist in county regulations. Mr. Kettler described how current developers and builders are required by the county to put into new homes systems that would make radon remediation easier should the home it some day. When a new home is being constructed

and before the foundation is completed, venting ducts are put into the ground which connect to PVC piping which extends to the attic and out through the roof. Should remediation become recommended at some future point, having this system in place would reduce those costs.

Stan Janet expressed opinions on the radon and cancer issues within the town and also agreed to correct an error in his Western Montgomery Bulletin which stated that the planned streetscape project would cost seven billion dollars. He maintained he meant to report it at seven million. Commissioner Kuhlman challenged Mr. Janet to explain such a high estimate considering that the proposal as outlined by town engineering consultants has the cost at \$700,000. While not providing any documentation of the seven-million-dollar estimate, he called the town estimate false. At this point, town engineer John Strong of Huron Engineering strongly

objected to Mr. Janet's characterization of the firm's estimates. Mr. Strong objected to what he considered a slur on the firm's professionalism, basically saying Mr. Janet's assertions were entirely unfounded. When questioned by Mr. Strong as to whether or not Mr. Janet even understood his recent twenty-one-page report on streetscape which includes the details of the project, Mr. Janet responded by saying he could not follow the slide presentation and that Mr. Strong was hard for him to hear during his verbal presentation.

The entire report is available in hard copy to any resident for review, and the town website includes a link to the town for questions any resident cares to ask.

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*"What's New" Continued From Page 5.*

to see mainly the orange/brown center cone, but in the last five years, the new Echinacea hybrids have totally changed the coneflower's look. Gone is Miss Plain Jane; she is now quite a blowsy hussy. Plant breeders called this period of time their "cone craze." Looking back on this particular plant's development in the past five years, I think that the coneflower's new look started with the Big Sky series. Their colors now range from the original magenta to a kaleidoscopic array of vivid pinks, clear whites, dusty yellows, and oranges. I love these Big Sky colors. I like to describe them by saying that they give you the sun in the morning and the moon at night, and all the other colors of the sun during the day. Up until now, there was 'Sunrise,' 'Twilight,' 'Sunset,' and 'Sundown.' The newest member of this series is appealing called 'After Midnight.' It is short, upright, and bushy. Almost-black

stems hold flower heads of rich magenta-purple petals surrounding a blackish red cone. Some of the other coneflower varieties that I have had great success with are: 'Summer Sky,' 'Fragrant Angel,' 'Tiki Torch,' 'Merlot,' and 'Razzmatazz.' This year, the new coneflowers on the block are 'Coconut Lime,' 'Pink Poodle,' 'Tomato Soup,' and 'Mac n' Cheese.' This last variety is supposed to be heavily perfumed. I am curious as to the attraction of the perfume of macaroni and cheese in the garden.

Rose breeders have been very busy in recent years in giving us disease-resistant, no-fuss cultivars, but many people found them boring. In achieving these goals, the roses gave up their wonderful scents, bud shapes, and overall elegance. Most of them looked like landscape roses. The 2009 All American Rose selections include three roses that look quite exceptional: 'Care-free Spirit,' 'Cinco de Mayo,' and 'Pink Promise.' 'Carefree Spirit' is a landscape rose with

a mounding habit reaching five feet in height. It sports deep, cherry-red flowers with white eyes. It is called carefree because it has excellent disease resistance to black spot and is totally resistant to mildew and rust. 'Cinco de Mayo' is a floribunda with rounded bushy growth. Its prolific flowers have a fresh cut apple fragrance and excellent disease resistance. 'Pink Promise' is a hybrid tea with excellent disease resistance.

Bill Radler is well known for breeding the very popular Knock Out series of roses. His newest offering in this series is 'White Out.' It has all the disease-resistant, non-stop flowering of all its cousins, but it sports single pure white flowers that blanket a compact shrub continuously. It needs no deadheading, and, in fact, blooms better if spent flowers are not removed. This sounds like a winner; look for it at garden centers this spring. If you loved the other Knock Out roses, I think you'll find a new one to love.

The butterfly bush (*Buddleia*)

has a mixed reputation. It is beloved because it draws butterflies and other desirable pollinators, but it also can become a gardener's nightmare when it produces copious amounts of seeds that quickly sprout everywhere. Now Proven Winners has had a breeding breakthrough and has developed a butterfly bush that is not only sterile, but also petite, making it perfect for borders, pots, and rock gardens. 'Blue Chip' matures into a two-to-three-foot mound that flowers continuously. It doesn't require deadheading either.

In my next several articles, I'll talk about some other new 2009 plants that could be stars in your garden this year.

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**"Spates Farm Fire" Continued From Page 1**

the home with water. In fact, they were able to cover many of the furnishings and possessions with tarps which proved to be a blessing to the Norton family. "The fire department could not have been more helpful or thoughtful. We are so appreciative of the care they took in covering the furniture and piling things up in a safe area." Much of the furniture endured smoke damage and required cleanup, but, under the circumstances, the Nortons considered themselves quite fortunate.

The Norton family has lived in the general area since 1984 and in the farmhouse for about fourteen years. They are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and have a strong community of support from the church. In fact, on Wednesday morning, nearly twenty people from the church and from the community were on hand to help the family move and sort out their possessions bringing com-

passion, fellowship, and food.

"Poolesville is a remarkably caring community and so supportive. We really intend to return to the home and stay in the town. Everyone has been so supportive. The pastor of St. Peter's was here offering help even as the firemen left the scene, and others have come forward to offer help as well."

The family is also grateful to Earl Marshall who has taken the parents and the youngest child, Guy, into the home. Sixteen-year-old Kaycee has been welcomed into the home of Ray and Corey Ogden. Jason, 20, has moved in with older brother Riley in Gaithersburg, while Nicole has joined the sister DeAnne and her family in Leesburg. For the short term, the family has shelter; nevertheless, they would like to find a temporary home in Poolesville so all can be together again while they await the renovation of the home.

Property owner Eric Spates had immediately hired local contractors to assist in securing

the home from further damage. He told the *Monocle* that he is already making the plans to upgrade the home and to hopefully get the job completed as soon as possible.

Mr. and Mrs. Norton are self-employed, owning a company that provides maintenance and cleaning services for Leisure World. Even though the Nortons have their own needs, they were still assisting residents of that community with their needs.

Persons wanting to assist the family may do so by contacting Bishop Stephen Spornborg at 301-349-0888.

**"2008 PHS Graduate" Continued From Page 1.**

a building engineer with Complete Building Services (CBS), a division of the Donohue Construction Company. Many readers would have known Dale as he had worked for Selby's Market, helping to bag groceries and carry them to cars.

As the news of the accident began to become known through the internet and Facebook, friends spontaneously determined to find ways to comfort one another. In a spontaneous reaction of sorrow and shock, nearly three hundred young people and parents came to Poolesville's Whalen Commons Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m. to mourn, reflect, and remember Dale Carnahan. Circling the park in total silence with candles lit, the group gathered at one end of the park to comfort one another and to share their mutual loss.

Jim Brown, past president of the Poolesville Basketball Association, thanked everyone for coming and, with Dale's devoted mother Cathy unable to speak at his side, he conveyed the grieving mom's thoughts by asking each participant to remember Dale and the wonderful times they had shared in the young man's life. Brown spoke to the gathering about Dale and what his friendship had meant to him, and he also spoke about the need to support and comfort Dale's family and encouraged them to support and comfort

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each other. "Remember all the great things Dale has done and has meant to you. Parents, be sure to love your children, and young people, you need to be careful. Always remember Dale and the memories you share. Now be sure to comfort and hug each other."

Mr. Brown spoke for the Carnahan family in stating that the family opted for "organ donation and that Dale, even in death, would be helping an untold number of people and saving lives."

Mr. Brown reported, "On the last day of his life, he gave life to others, including a ten-year old heart transplant recipient, through multiple organ donation. Dale gave to all throughout his life and his passing was no exception." Through Mr. Brown, Cathy and Brian Carnahan expressed gratitude to everyone "for their support over the last few days, including the organizers of the candlelight vigil held at Whalen Commons Park on Saturday night." They also asked for prayers for Dale as well as for Chris Florczyk and the Florczyk family, for they are suffering greatly, too.



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## Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

### Present

The Montgomery County Police Department is utilizing a new computer program to assist detectives in the identification of wanted suspects. The program, called "Facial Recognition," was funded by the Department of Homeland Security's Urban Area Security Initiative. The program is based on the ability to recognize a face and then measure the various features of the face. Each face has approximately eighty landmarks known as nodal points, including: the distance between the eyes, the width of the nose, depth of eye sockets, shape of cheekbones, and the length of the jaw line. Detectives, using the Facial Recognition program, were recently able to make seven arrests in a home invasion robbery.

Detectives from the Montgomery County Police Family

Crimes Division are searching for a juvenile who escaped from the Alfred D. Noyes Children's Center located at 9925 Blackwell Road in Rockville on February 16, 2009. On Monday, February 16, 2009 at approximately 2:15 p.m., a group of juvenile detainees was being transported to the Alfred D. Noyes Children's Center from an offender treatment program in Ohio. Upon entering the center, one detainee fled from the transport vehicle on foot in an unknown direction. The detainee has not yet been located. Detectives are searching for Daniel Floyd Lucas, a black male with a dark complexion, 16 years old, 5'07" tall, weighing 150 pounds, with brown eyes and short black hair. Lucas was being held for robbery and now has an additional charge for second-degree escape. Anyone with information about Daniel Floyd Lucas's whereabouts is asked to contact the Montgomery County Police Family Crimes Division at

240-773-5400.

February 14 17600 block of Kohlhoss Road, Assault. Police responded to this location to investigate a claim that someone had been assaulted.

Police responded to the following locations to investigate possible drug use: 19600 block of Jerusalem Road, 18500 block of Trundle Road.

### Past

March 9, 1931 A Montgomery County investigator was credited with the first fingerprint identification in the state's history. Officer Theodore Volten, who had been recently trained in fingerprint identification, traveled to Howard County where he matched the fingerprints at a crime scene with that of a Montgomery County man who was a known burglar.

March 9, 1956 A large barn on a farm at Lime Kiln, near Buckeystown, was destroyed by fire. Fire officials said that strong winds hindered firefighting efforts but that firemen prevented the spread of the fire to other buildings.

March 16, 1908 William Winchell of Boyds left for Frederick to make an investigation into the shooting death of Mrs. Rufus King. It was said that Mr.

King, who had been living with Winchell, was prostrated with grief at the home at Boyds. Mrs. King came from a prominent family in that section and she was the daughter of a pensioned school teacher.

March 18, 1925 The Rockville Volunteer Fire Department set some kind of record by responding to three fire alarms in a four-hour time period. They were first called to extinguish a fire at the mansion of Mr. Beach on the Rockville Pike. While there, they were notified of a fire at the farm of George Waters in Boyds. They rushed to Boyds to find straw burning in a barn and were credited with saving the building. The firemen were then called to the home of George Kephart, near Redland, and helped battle a blaze there. Despite the efforts of the Rockville, Kensington, Silver Spring, and Sandy Spring departments, the eighteen-room home was destroyed.

March 19, 1978 A six-year-old boy drowned after falling through the ice on a pond near Walters Lane in Poolesville. Two off-duty police officers pulled the boy from the water, but he was later pronounced dead at Suburban Hospital.

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