

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

November 6, 2009

Volume VI, Number 17.



The Clarksburg Homecoming brought out the beautiful people. More pictures inside. (Photograph by Emily Gollner-Hoponick)



The Poolesville Homecoming did too. More pictures inside. (Photograph by Hilary Schwab Photography)



Merritt Edne and Dale Smith at a celebration of a significant milestone for Mr. Edne. Details on Page 3.



Aspiring John Poole Middle School TV and webcast reporters Mitchell Pie, Sarah Kenneweg, and Carly Stoliker. Read all about them in School News on Page 8.

Community Mobilizes to Stop the Closure Of Monocacy Elementary School

By Rande Davis

With the announcement on October 23 that Montgomery County Public Schools plans to close Monocacy Elementary School (MES) in August of 2010, concerned parents, residents, and area leaders gathered at Poolesville's town hall on October 27 to organize an effort in hopes of reversing the MCPS decision. (The full MCPS Recommendation Statement on Closing of Monocacy Elementary School is available at www.monocoleonline.com.)

The town conference room overflowed into the foyer with some having to sit on the floor as residents joined the leadership from the various Poolesville Cluster PTA groups. Sarah Defnet, Poolesville Cluster Coordinator, presented the purpose and goals of the meeting which were to review the MCPS recommendation, answer questions, and organize a response through a task force, which will lead to testimony before the BOE on November 12.

Jerry Klobukowski, the Poolesville commissioner representative to the Poolesville School Cluster, opened the



meeting with a call to "band together to make sure we get our points across as to why we need to keep Monocacy open, not on an emotional standpoint but from a hard fact, economic standpoint."

The area leadership, in addition to Defnet and Klobukowski, were Dawn Albert (MES PTA president), Lynne Rolls (PES PTSA president), Rob Rocco (JPMS PTA vice president), Stephanie Egly (PHS PTA president), Pete Menke (mayor of Barnesville), and Eddie Kuhlman (president of Poolesville town commissioners).

After much discussion, the cluster leadership decided to focus on opposing the established review process on the grounds that there is not a proper amount of time to consider a recommendation of this magnitude—a recommendation that is akin to a boundary change as it changes the boundaries for Poolesville Elementary School. If the closure proposal were treated as a boundary change, it is believed that county regulations would require up to a full year to allow for complete community input and involvement, not the

Gifts for Gardeners

By Maureen O'Connell

The holidays will soon be here. If you are like me, you put a lot of thought into your gift selections, but sometimes, you struggle to pick out just the right present. Every year, I often resort to the good old standbys: ties, books, sweaters, and pajamas—boring. For your gardening friends, be they novice, master gardeners, or green thumb wannabees, a gift certificate from a local nursery or garden catalog would be an appreciated and useful gift. You can either select a specific item or leave the selection up to the recipient. The store sends a holiday greeting with the certificate and then ships the garden item at the right time for planting or at the beginning the garden season. Gardeners are always looking for new

ideas or plant groupings, so I often put together plants with tools, pots, or garden accessories. My favorite catalog nurseries are White Flower Farm (WFF) in Litchfield, Connecticut, Wayside Gardens in Hodges, South Carolina, and a new one to me this year, The Lily Garden in Vancouver, Washington (it celebrated its thirtieth anniversary this year). I try to buy locally, but I order from catalogs unusual plants or items I can't find elsewhere. Here are some garden gift ideas that I think any gardener would love to receive.

White Flower Farm considers the Tree Wisteria the crown jewel of its nursery. Many people know wisteria as a very rampant vine, but they rarely see it as a tree. These vines are difficult to manage; their sheer weight can overwhelm trellises, fences, and any other plant

-Continued on Page 20..

-Continued on Page 22.

Family Album



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A season-ending photograph of the coed adult kickball league teams that play at the Beallsville firehouse. The red jerseyed "Ballers & Maulers" won the tournament and the green jerseyed "Farmers" won the regular season.



As part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the PHS girls' volleyball team raised over \$5,000 announced at their "Dig Pink" pre-game event.

Scott Hollander, president of the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce (left) hands King Lion Peter Gallo of the Monocacy Lions a donation for the community service organization's assistance during the annual Poolesville Day 5K race and walk. Kathy Mihm, 5k race co-chair, joins in the presentation.



Personal Ponies held their Fourth Annual Open House, "Halloween with the Ponies," at Chasin Dreams Farm in Barnesville. Pictured with the flying pony are Emily Wess, Branningan Crawley, and Eden Laug.



The ladies at Shear Elegance hair stylists, pictured here cutting Michelle Ramos's hair, got into Breast Cancer Awareness Month by donating all October 26 proceeds to the Poolesville Relay for Life.



Another satisfied customer picks up ham and turkey dinners with all the sides at St. Mary's Church and Shrine in Barnesville.

Pulpit

Pastor Merritt Ednie Celebrates 40 Years in the Pulpit

By Doug Fiedler

Forty years ago this October, Boyds Presbyterian Church called Pastor Merritt Ednie to serve as its fourth pastor in ninety-three years. Now the church is 133 years old, and Pastor Ednie remains its fourth pastor. The church recently honored his service in a celebration event attended by over 200 parishioners and community members.

During a roast and toast, Mr. Dale Smith recalled being on the Pastoral Search Committee over forty years ago. "One question we forgot to ask Merritt was, 'How long do you think you will be here?' If we had the answer, 'Forty years,' we might have reconsidered!" Smith and his wife flew in from Santa Fe, New Mexico, to attend the event.

Ms. Betsy Christie roasted Pastor Ednie by giving him a toupée "to compensate for all of the times the church caused him to tear his hair out." She also honored Pastor Ednie for his community work in starting a Head Start program in the 1960s to serve the Boyds and surrounding community.

Mr. Arthur Virts, long-time Boyds resident and former postmaster for Boyds, related his lengthy association with Pastor Ednie. Virts recalled organizing the community with Pastor Ednie to fight the proposed Boyds quarry. The multi-year battle against giant corporations and government agencies was victorious, and Boyds remains in the heart of the Agricultural Reserve as a result. Virts also reminded everyone that the Christmas lights on the Boyds Post Office tree have been the result of Pastor Ednie's efforts for the past

twenty years.

Pastor Ednie had the opportunity to reflect on his time in the church and community. In his closing remarks, he reminded the congregation that it's the people of the church that make up the church, not the buildings and not the grounds. He also recalled the time when "a family called the Church for a burial plot which was prepared for the service, but the body and family were 'no shows' – several months later, an urn of ashes was delivered to the Church with a note requesting burial!"

The event concluded with the congregation presenting a thankful gift of travel to Pastor Ednie and his wife, SueAnn, for a trip to a destination of their choice at a time of their choosing. Ms. Jane Dassen, a church member and the church organist, then presented Pastor Ednie with a beautiful handmade, three-tiered ceremonial cake that was enjoyed by everyone.



Merritt Edne celebrating forty years at Boyds Presbyterian Church with Betty and Paul Hawkins

NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY!

You may qualify for the National Homebuyers Credit up to \$8,000 if you are a first time homebuyer or if you have not owned a principal residence in the last 3 years

Boys: Lovely, meticulously maintained brick split foyer on 1.39+/- acs. This home features 4 BRs, 2.5 BAs, walk-out lower level w/ fam. rm. & fireplace, sunroom, patio & 2-car side-load garage. Located within walking distance of Black Hills Regional Park and one mile from MARC train station. MLS#MC7150026. Offered at \$464,600.

Mt. Airy: Rock Hill Orchard: Take advantage of this rare opportunity to own a 137+/- ac. ongoing business concern complete with a farmer's market, greenhouse, irrigation system, bank barn and machine shed. A beautiful renovated Victorian farmhouse completes this unique working farm (or Equestrian facility). MLS#MC7173728. Offered at \$1,770,000.

Damascus- 1.34 acs.: Charming 4 BR 3 BA brick Cape Cod home in the center of town. Mixed town center zoning (MXTC). Ideal property for law office, doctor's office or private residence. Amenities include: office w/FP and built-in bookcases, kitchen with breakfast area, recreation room w/ FP, side porch and 2-car garage. MLS#MC7120833. Offered at \$999,000.

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Southern Frederick Co.:178 +/- acs. near the C & O Canal: This property fronts on Catoctin Creek and is located within walking distance of the Potomac River and the C & O Canal. Approximately 38.64 acres of cropland and the remainder wooded. Trails abound on the property and create an ideal investment for the equestrian or the naturalist. MLS#FR6991601. Offered at \$1,650,000.

Poolesville-25.11 ac. bldg. lot: Bring your horses! This beautiful lot is partially wooded and adjoins an equestrian easement on the north side. Great location in an area of fine estate type properties on large acreage. An 18-hole private golf club is located less than a mile away and the Woodstock Equestrian Center is approx. 2 miles from the property. MLS#MC6772866. Offered at \$475,000.

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Commentary

Did They Think It Would Be Easy?

By John Clayton

When the decisions roll into the Upcounty from Annapolis or Rockville—or whatever—do you get the feeling that they thought we would just go along for the ride? I'm sure our elected officials and other public servants, especially those in our own county, know that nothing will be easy—and perhaps it's not easy to push an unpopular measure through elsewhere as well, but it is definitely difficult to ram something through out here.

We were reminded of this a little while ago when the state Department of Transportation decided to close some MARC train stations. No sweat—after all, no one was riding them anyway, right? Not. There was a great uproar, and our local elected officials leaped into action, and that was that, at least for now. I truly got the feeling, both from what I read, and from people I talked to who were close to the decision process, that there was some surprise. I don't think there should be.

I don't know how far back such activism goes, but it certainly goes back at least to battles over incinerators and landfills in Dickerson and Boyds. After the fight is over, the fighters don't disappear. They are vigilant and ready for the next battle.

The recent furor over the mega-church near Hyattstown is a case in point. This was primarily a Frederick County decision, but at least for now, the church has been stopped, but I understand that it won't be over until the appeal process is completed.

The representatives of the Barnesville Oaks development (which isn't in Barnesville, by the way, and which the Town of Barnesville opposes) have also stirred up a hornets' nest, or a sign painters' nest, but it remains to be

seen whether the people who oppose this development can actually do anything about it.

The case in question is of course our front-page story, the proposed closing of Monocacy Elementary School in Dickerson, which is also about a chip shot away from the Barnesville town limits. I would do the school board a disservice if I suggested they did not anticipate outrage and resistance. No school closing is ever without resistance, and to his credit, Mr. Weast lists the lamentable impacts of closing any school, and in particular a school in a relatively-remote rural area. (The proposal is available for review on our weblog at www.monocleonline.com.) Having said that, though, those who want to close Monocacy Elementary School may yet find out how energetic and entrenched the resistance to their plan will be. Saving a million dollars is great, but they will have to squarely face some other issues and impacts before it's over, and just acknowledging that they exist isn't going to be enough.

Monocacy Elementary Closing is a Poolesville Concern

By Dawn Albert, President, MES PTA

Hopefully, you have all heard that Superintendent Weast seeks to close Monocacy Elementary School. Many may think this is a Monocacy issue, not a Poolesville one. That couldn't be farther from the truth.

The Poolesville cluster consists of Poolesville and Monocacy Elementary Schools feeding into John Poole Middle School which, in turn, feeds into Poolesville High School. Mr. Weast cites declining enrollment at Monocacy as his reason for closing the school, but John Poole Middle faces similar statistics and may face a similar fate if action is not taken against this now.

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Monocacy has declining enrollment for a number of reasons, but both its short- and long-term predictions show this to be temporary. Living in the county's only Agricultural Reserve, the population cannot and should not grow at a pace comparable to down county. The new developments currently under construction will certainly add children to the area. Rather than building school after school in Clarksburg, options include extending the boundary for Monocacy, increasing open enrollment, and reinstating programs to increase our cluster size.

Adding two hundred students to Poolesville Elementary will not provide an improved environment for those students already there. This can only cause the need for portables and, within a few years, an expensive addition which the school board cannot afford.

Make no mistake, Mr. Weast's actions are an attack on the Ag Reserve and on the entire greater Poolesville area. This is a community issue and requires the community to come together as we know we can.

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Tidbits

Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County Announces FY 2010 Mini-Grant Awards

The Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County, a non-profit organization created to bring the county's rich history to the attention of its residents and visitors, has recently announced the awarding of mini-grants— funds to area groups or projects within the Upcounty. The awards were granted to: King Barn Dairy MOOseum, Boyds – \$1270 to revise and reprint their Introductory Brochure on the history of dairy farming; Sugarloaf Regional Trails, Barnesville – \$2,500 to research, design, and produce a new Farm Trail guide for the Sugarloaf Regional Trails website; and Sugarland Ethno-History Project, Poolesville – \$500 for a bronze plaque marking the earliest known grave in the original Historic St. Paul Community Church cemetery.

The goal of Heritage Montgomery is to encourage economic development through resources, preservation, and heritage tourism. Peggy Erickson, Executive Director of the Alliance, said she was "very pleased to be able to fund both large and small projects in the county. We will continue to work to bring additional state dollars to the county." Davis Family Has Milestone Week

Poolesville's Rande and Laura Davis have had a milestone week starting with the birth of their fifth grandchild, Femke Helena Frishman on October 23, 2009. Femke is the daughter of Craig and Mieke Frishman. Mieke is a 1991 graduate of Poolesville High School.

Then they traveled to Ft. Hood, Texas on November 2 to be with Camille Hartz Davis and children Alexandra and Joshua to witness the promotion of son, Sean Davis, to Lieutenant Colonel. The promotion was on live video feed as Lt. Col. Davis is currently in Baghdad on his fifth tour to the Afghanistan-Iraq war theater.

Mary Bernardo Retires from



Mary Bernardo will retire from the Poolesville Post Office this month.

Poolesville Post Office

After thirty-five years of service, Mary Bernardo is retiring from the Poolesville post office this November. In 1974, Mary obtained a position with the Postal Service as a part-time rural mail carrier at the Dickerson office.

In a 2005 article on Mary in the Monocle, she recalled that some of her fondest days were spent delivering mail on those winding and narrow roads in her Volkswagen Beetle. She reminisced that some people look forward to the arrival of the mail carrier. There was a family that would often greet her with fresh-baked pie, a man who would present her with flowers from his garden, and a lady who, upon seeing Mary's car approach, would hurry down the farm lane and continue the conversation that had ended the day before without missing a sentence. Local residents will all miss her contributions to the community. Poolesville's Teresa Kraegel remembers that Mary provided special assistance to Santa Claus, to make sure each letter to him received a reply.

She has no definite plans upon her retirement but expects to find work at some point in the future. In acknowledging her service to the community, we find it hard to top this statement from our 2005 story: We are (were) fortunate to have a very accommodating lady like Mary Bernardo behind the desk at the post office. She has served the community for over thirty years and she makes a visit to the post office an agreeable experience.

PHS Class of 1959 Reunion

The Gloucester, Virginia home of David and Sarah Willard King was the setting for the fiftieth reunion of the Poolesville High School Class of 1959. The group came together from California, South Carolina, Georgia, Maryland, and Virginia. Of the twenty-one remaining classmates, ten classmates and several spouses were present. Festivities included dinner at a local restaurant followed by a visit to the King's porch to start reliving old and good times. The next day, the group gathered again at Sarah and Dave's home and spent the day walking the dock, watching the river, eating wonderful home cooking, and picking those great Virginia steamed crabs. The group resolved not to wait another five years before getting together.



The family of Sean Davis viewed his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel on November 1 via video feed from Baghdad. Pictured watching from Ft. Hood, Texas are Rande and Laura Davis, Alexandra, Camille, and Joshua Davis.



*Front row - Mary Meehan, Lenwood Poole, Ron Kline
Second row - Frances Wynne Noffsinger, Nancy Ginn Poole, Faith Weller Lewis, Sarah Willard King, Peggy Dayhoff Johnson and Bill Kinna.
Missing from picture is Harry Meem who had left early.*

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

The Montgomery County Police Department has instituted an On-Line Citizen Reporting System (CRS) where citizens can report minor crimes online. Visit the Montgomery County Police website at www.montgomery-countymd.gov, click on Departments, then Police, to access this feature.

The CRS is designed to make it easier and more convenient for you to file a police report without leaving home; however, not every crime can be reported using the CRS. You may report theft, vandalism, identity theft, and lost property using the CRS. Please confirm the following to find out if the CRS is right for you:

- This is not an emergency
- This incident occurred within Montgomery County; however, the incident does not qualify for the CRS if it occurred in Takoma Park or on NIH, MNPPC, or Metro property.
- This is not a motor vehicle

accident

- The value of property stolen is less than \$10,000
- There are no known suspects
- This incident did not happen on the interstate
- Email is required to file a report.

Current Crimes

- Commercial burglary: Upcounty Beer and Wine, 23229 Stringtown Road in Clarksburg, between 1:32 a.m. and 1:36 a.m. October 11. Forced entry, property taken.
- Pizza 500, 23221 Stringtown Road in Clarksburg, between 1:32 a.m. and 1:35 a.m. October 11. Forced entry, property taken.

Past Crimes

November 9, 1930 Charles Creager and Gaither Ward of Boyds and Elmer Ward of Comus were all seriously injured when their automobile crashed into a truck on the Harper's Ferry Road near Jefferson. They were headed

towards Frederick when the collision happened, and all three were thrown into a ditch near the road.

November 9, 1943 A tornado touched down at Washington Grove causing damage to homes, barns, and outbuildings. Police reported that electrical wires were down and many trees had been uprooted.

November 11, 1949 A Barnesville man was sentenced to 120 days in the county jail after he stood trial in the Rockville Police Court. Police had stopped him for drunken driving and found untaxed whiskey in his car. He had been charged with a variety of liquor offenses but he denied making any sales.

November 13, 1904 Two Baltimore & Ohio trains collided at Boyds causing a sleeper car to careen over an

embankment. Officials said that a westbound express train bound for Chicago was pulling into a siding when it was sideswiped by the eastbound train from Pittsburgh. Twelve passengers were trapped in the overturned car and were taken to the hospital in Washington.

November 17, 1937 The body of James Allen was found alongside the Gaithersburg-Laytonsville turnpike. Police, blaming warring factions of the Washington numbers trade, said that Allen had been shot to death and then dumped next to the road.

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Youth Sports

Poolesville Boys, Clarksburg Girls Claim Division III XC Titles

By Jeff Stuart

On October 6 at Clarksburg High School, the Einstein, Poolesville, and Clarksburg cross country teams met to decide the Division III Championship. They were each tied with perfect 3-0 records. Poolesville was coming off a victory in the small school race at the Bull Run Invitational in Hereford on September 26, but they had not competed since. Nonetheless, led by a first place finish by junior Eric Holmstead (16.36), a fourth place finish by junior Sam Haque, a fifth place finish by Dave Wilson, an eighth place finish by senior Sam Widmayer, and a thirteenth place finish by senior Ken Shimomoto, the Falcons defeated Clarksburg 22-33 and Einstein 24-31. Jatin Narang of Clarksburg finished second in 16.39. Junior Russ Daley placed sixth, sophomore Brian O'Connor twelfth, senior Joel Hackett fourteenth, and senior Kelvin Wong fifteenth. Jatin had finished first in the tri meet against Magruder and Rockville on September 30 and was the top runner in every Clarksburg boys' meet this year.

Though not as compelling as the boys' matchup, the girls' side of the Einstein, Poolesville at Clarksburg meet featured the Clarksburg girls (5-0) winning their third division title in the four years the school has been in existence. Poolesville (2-3) defeated Einstein (0-5), 26-44, but were dominated by Clarksburg, 47-17. Clarksburg's freshman Abbey Daley, senior Lauren Sumner, and sophomore Young, finished first, second, and third with times of 19:28, 21:07, and 22:01, respectively. Sophomore Megan Gerdes was the first to finish for the Falcons, finishing sixth overall. Senior Ellie Lalonde,

freshman Anya Kabbes, junior Amy Keita, and sophomore Nicole Huffert also figured in the scoring for the Falcons.

Clarksburg freshman Abbey Daley won her first major invitational race with a time of 20:21 in the medium school girls' race at the Bull Run Invitational at Hereford High School on September 26. Over one hundred schools were represented at this event. Poolesville's Holmstead finished third in 17:15 leading his boys' team to victory. Dave Wilson of PHS finished sixteenth, Sam Widmayer seventeenth, and Shimomoto thirty-third. Clarksburg's Narang finished fifth against the top competition in the 3A division. He was named Clarksburg's Athlete of the Week.

At the Don Stoner Invitational at Smithsburg High School on October 10, the Poolesville boys' team finished first again in the small school division. Holmstead again led the way with a second place finish. Widmayer was fourth, senior Adam Altamirano thirteenth, freshman Joseph Werble fifteenth, and junior William Moffat thirty-sixth. The Poolesville girls finished seventh with Gerdes placing ninth, Keita seventeenth, Kabbes twenty-seventh, Huffert forty-second, and sophomore Anna Howard fifty-seventh.

"The boys' team had not run at full strength until the Bull Run Invitational," said Poolesville Head Coach James Vollmer. "I was expecting to do well and was not surprised that we won.

At the Don Stoner Invitational, the boys were without three of our top runners. I did not expect to win and was surprised and very proud that they pulled out a



victory. Megan Gerdes has been running very well this season and had outstanding performances at the Bull Run and the Stoner Invite." The team is looking forward to the region meet in

November.

At Monocle press time, the results for the November 5 region meet were not available.

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Remembrance



Mark A. Smith, 30, of Poolesville, died on Thursday, October 22, 2009. Born on March 17, 1979, he was the son of Edward and Terry Bennett. Mark enjoyed watching the Washington Redskins and Baltimore Orioles. Surviving besides his parents are two sisters and one brother, Kristen Bishop and husband Timothy of Dickerson, Carrie Bennett, and Jonathan Bennett both of Poolesville; grandma, Shirley Smith of Dickerson; grandmothers, Patti Orndorff and Sallie Rappold both of Florida; aunts and uncles, Lee Smith, Jr. of Poolesville, Brenda Testerman and husband Scotty of Dickerson,

son, Wendy Smith of Dickerson, Bobby Bennett and wife Tanya of Catonsville, Nathan Bennett and wife Claudia of Catonsville, Jeff Hahn and wife Lynn of Stevensville, Stephanie Baxter and husband Ken of Bowie; cousins, Amy, Brittney, Lee, Travis, Todd, Lucas, and Jenna. He will also be remembered by special friends, Erik Butler, Alisa Odgen, and Mrs. Laura Engler. Mark was preceded in death by a grandfather, Lee Smith.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Mark's name to the Neuromuscular Disease Clinic, Georgetown University Hospital, PHC Building, 7th Floor, 3800 Reservoir Road, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007

School News

JPMS Students Selected as Broadcast Reporters

By Rande Davis

Three students from John Poole Middle School, Sarah Kenneweg, Mitchell Poe, and Carly Stoliker, were recently selected to participate in the inaugural broadcast production of the Student Broadcast News network (SBN). The SBN is providing news coverage of the Solar Decathlon in Washington, D.C. and is webcast through both the National Education Association (NEA) and Department of Energy (DoE) websites.

For three weeks this past October, the U.S. Department of Energy hosted the Solar Decathlon—a competition in which twenty teams of college and university students compete to design, build, and operate the most attractive, effective, and energy-efficient solar-powered house. The Solar Neighborhood was constructed on the National Mall where the JPMS

students provided their newscast coverage as reporters.

The Solar Decathlon brings attention to the ever-increasing need for energy. As an internationally-recognized event, it offers powerful solutions for using energy more efficiently and for using energy from renewable sources.

The Solar Decathlon has several goals: to educate the student participants, referred to as "Decathletes," about the benefits of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and green building technologies; to raise public awareness about renewable energy; to help solar energy technologies enter the marketplace faster; and to demonstrate to the public the potential of Zero Energy Homes, which produce as much energy from renewable sources, such as the sun and wind as they consume.



Sarah Kenneweg, Carly Stoliker, and Mitchell Poe of John Poole Middle School and the Student Broadcast Network.



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School News

PHS Students Undertake True-to-Life Design Project

By Rande Davis

Poolesville High School math teacher Jan Maloney has challenged the students in her Civil Engineering and Architecture class with a true-to-life project that has fired-up their creative juices while giving them a very practical education in the full process of construction development from beginning to end.

By using the empty town-owned lot behind Selby's Market as a model property, the class seeks to come up with a concept for use of the property to benefit the town which will then be able to fully pass through the maze of town, county, and state zoning and permitting ordinances. Once they have done that, they will then design the facility based on the real-life restrictions faced.

The class has not decided what they will "build" on the lot yet, although initial ideas focused on a teen center. Prior to finalizing their ideas, they visited the town hall where town manager, Wade Yost, and the town consulting engineer, John Strong, gave them instruction in the zoning, planning, and ordinance

restrictions they will need to pass in order to develop their plan.

As with any civil engineer, the students will have to wade their way through a host of documents including the town master plan, subdivision regulations, zoning codes, Montgomery County storm water regulations and building design standards before deciding what they want to build.

The class plans to follow the process as much as possible to completion and, once they have developed their plan, will present it to the town planning commission for final "approval" knowing the town has twenty-five separate items to consider in reviewing their plan. The Monocle will periodically report on the project and its progress and will even cover the "public hearing" on their proposal.



The Civil Engineering and Architecture class at PHS is undertaking the rigors of real life in a project exercise to educate them on the process of land development.

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School News

Barnesville School's Zach Conneen Recognized for Roles in Two Musicals

By Doug Fiedler

Ten-year-old Zachary Conneen recently received "favorite performance" status from noted local theater critic, Joel Markowitz. He received the recognition for his role as the Cowardly Lion in *The Wizard of Oz* and Lumière in *Beauty and the Beast*, both performed at the Musical Theater Center in Rockville.

Zach, a fifth grader at the Barnesville School, has been singing and acting from early childhood. He has appeared in many Barnesville productions in the past few years, but Zach considers the Musical Theater Center to be his home theater. When he learned of the recog-

nition, Zach told Markowitz, "I really enjoyed playing both of these roles, especially because I could make them funny! I love being on the stage, feeling the audience's reaction, and making them laugh."

About the role as the Cowardly Lion, Zach told Markowitz, "Playing the Cowardly Lion was a lot of fun. Being a big cry baby and fainting hard onto the stage floor a few times were my favorite things." Zach thanked Markowitz for the recognition with, "What an honor!"

Zach's next appearance will be at the Olney Theater Center in a production of *The Pajama Game*, scheduled for January 8 to 10, 2010. He will play the role of Hasler, the strict head of a pajama factory who keeps a secret.

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The Pulse

**St. Mary's
Second Mission
Successful**

By Dominique Agnew

In mid-October, parishioners of St. Mary's Catholic Church of Barnesville, as well as other community members, spent a week at the Parish of St. Joseph in Carcasse, Haiti. This was the second medical mission trip for the twinned parishes, but much more was accomplished than just the medical aid—which in itself is huge considering most of the villagers had never had even seen a doctor before October 2008—but this was not only a medical mission, it was also a solar power mission. Lee Bristol, Chief Technology Officer at Standard Solar, also voyaged to Haiti with three solar panels in tow.

For Jack Reid, who has been at the forefront of the missions between the two parishes since they twinned in early 2008, this trip “was especially gratifying because so much was accomplished.” As in 2008, over one thousand parishioners were treated or referred for surgery by the visiting medical team. Dr. Frank Nice, an NIH pharmacist who has been generous in funding medications and a pharmacy in Carcasse, joined the medical team this year and saw the fruit of his generosity: the Kathy Nice Dispensary, as the clinic has been named, in memory of his recently-deceased sister, whose estate helps fund the clinic.

Joining Lee in installing the solar panels and all the necessary components were his son, Kris, Kris's wife Kate, and Lee's cousin, Drew. The three panels provide enough power to supply light to the seven classrooms, outside lights at each of the doors, and electric plugs inside and outside each of

the rooms—but their installation was no picnic. According to Jack, there were many problems in the wiring already in place at the school. Francis Mackie, who had also joined the trip in 2008 as a translator, had to rewire much of the school. “The fact that a bag containing most of Lee's tools never made it to Carcasse made the installation all the more incredible,” says Jack. “Lee and Francis were working with kitchen knives for wire stripping, an old pair of pliers for cutting wire, two screwdrivers, two battery-operated drills, and a hack saw.” He adds, “I am sure the Holy Spirit had a hand in supplying the right combination of people with just enough tools to accomplish the task.”

Also new to the mission this year from St. Mary's was



Jack Reid, Lee Bristol, and Francis Mackie, all of Dickerson, traveled to St. Joseph's in Carcasse, Haiti with a medical mission to bring aid and to set up a solar system to power the new school.

Diana Snouffer, helping at the medical clinic and the school. “Diana enriched us all with the energy and passion she exhibited in support of the people of Carcasse and our mission,” says Jack. “Just one more voice out there talking about what we're doing is worthwhile.

-Continued on Page 17.



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Clarksburg High School Homecoming

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Local News

Middle Atlantic Educational Forum at PHS

By Rande Davis

The Poolesville High School Magnet programs hosted a student conference on October 28 for school members of the National Consortium of Specialized Secondary Schools of Mathematics, Science, and Technology. The conference, entitled "2009-Year of Science: Explore, Empower, Engage," attracted students within the mid-Atlantic conference. Forty-five PHS students were guides, hosts, and presenters, and another 220 PHS students participated in the all-day event.

Throughout the day, the students attended various workshops hosted by PHS students from the various magnet educational houses at Poolesville High School. The Global Ecology group had a workshop entitled "Can We

Save the American Chestnut Tree" while the Independent Studies house covered "Bio-Diesel: The Future is Now." The Science, Math, Computer Science program offered "Mathematica: Into the Third Dimension." The Humanities House filmed a movie of the events that they showed at the end of the conference entitled: I Came, I Saw, I-Movie.

The J. Craig Venter Institute (JCVI) in Rockville also presented a workshop on "H1N1: The Power to Detect." The institute, located in Rockville, Maryland and San Diego, California, is a world leader in genomic research with more than four hundred scientists and staff and more than 250,000 square feet of laboratory space.

The keynote speaker to lead off the conference was Robert W. Blakesley, PhD, Director of the NIH Intramural Sequencing Center (NISC). The NISC, established in 1997, is a multi-disciplinary genomics facility that emphasizes the generation and analysis of DNA sequence.



Students participate in a project instruction at the recent three state conference of specialty education hosted by Poolesville High School.

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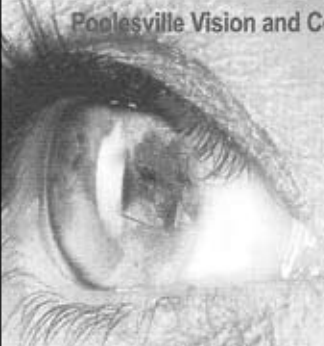
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"Haiti Results" Continued From Page 11.

"We have accomplished much, yet so much remains to be done," Jack wrote to parishioners and supporters. "I firmly believe that we are defined not by what we accumulate but by what we do with our talents and resources. Our parish twinning with St Joseph's is a tremendous opportunity for each of us to use our God-given abilities to effect a positive change in the lives of the people in one small village in Haiti...Through our monthly collections, fund-

raisers, and connections (the many people outside of our parish who have contributed), we are making a difference in the lives of students and parents alike in Carcasse. On behalf of Father Verdieu [of St. Joseph's], I want to thank all of you for your efforts."

If you would like to support the efforts of the school construction, please send your tax-deductible donation to St Mary's Church, P.O. Box 67, Barnesville, MD 20838; write "Haiti Fund" in the memo line of your check.

Business Briefs

Congratulations To Absolute Auto

Washington's Consumer's Checkbook, a publication that provides independent analysis on services offered by a wide

variety of businesses, recently added Dickerson's Absolute Auto to its list of top-ranked repair shops. Checkbook evaluated over 185 different body shops in the region for both quality and price. Absolute Auto was one of only seven in Maryland making the October 13 listing.

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Things to Do

November is the month to order your fruit from the OddFellows Post #97. Just as they have for many years, they offer navel oranges, red grapefruit, Hamlin juice oranges, Orlando Tangelos, and Tangerines. Additionally, they are selling four types of apples: red and yellow delicious, Fuji, and gala. If you miss them in front of Selby's Market, you can call Dale Nestor at 301-349-5450. Pickup of fruit orders will be November 21 at the old town hall in the center of Poolesville.

November 6, 7, 8
 ALOG Winter Glow 2009
 Art League of Germantown: art show and sale
 BlackRock Center for the Arts
 November 6 and 7 - 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 November 8 - 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

November 7
 Crop to Cure Fundraiser to benefit Poolesville's Relay for Life.
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Church Christmas Bazaar
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November 8
 Butler School Open House
 2:00 p.m.

Montgomery County Alliance Fall Fundraiser
 Join us for food, music, and a celebration of the land that sustains us at the Strong Mansion on Sugarloaf Mountain from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for our fall fundraiser and the 2009 Royce Hanson Award ceremony. This year's winner is Woody Woodruff of Red Wiggler Farm. Catering is donated by Whole Foods, and music is courtesy of Cypress Trio. Donations will be gratefully accepted at the event. Please RSVP to: kristina@mocoalliance.org. Directions to Strong Mansion are available at www.sugarloafmd.com.

November 10
 Fundraiser for Poolesville Community Pre-School
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10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

November 11
 Barnesville School Open House
 9:00 a.m.

Seneca Academy Open House
 K to 6th Grade, 11:30 a.m.

Poolesville Planning Commission
 Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

November 12
 MCPS Board of Education Meeting
 Review of Closing Monocacy Elementary School
 November 12 is the next date to mark on your calendar. Stand with us and support the schools of the Poolesville Cluster as our Cluster Coordinator, Sarah Defnet, presents the Poolesville Cluster's priorities and comments on the Capital Improvement Budget to the Board of Education. Bring your friends, neighbors, and children to fill the testimony room and make our community presence known. Testimony

-Continued on page 19.



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Koresh Dance Company presents *Theater of Public Secrets*
Take a peek into people's homes and examine life in all its complexity and beauty when internationally-known Philadelphia-based Koresh Dance Company

brings one of its newest works, *Theater of Public Secrets*, to the Weinberg Center at 8:00 p.m. In several dramatically-compelling scenes set in the privacy of the home, characters reveal their tormented souls and complex relationships through sensual and inventive dance choreography. This engaging performance is being brought to Frederick with support from the Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour, a program developed and funded by the Heinz Endowments. Don't miss your chance to see the skilled and engaging dancers of Koresh Dance Company! Tickets are on sale now and range from \$20.00 to \$30.00.

November 15
Seneca Academy Open House
Pre-School to 6th Grade, 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

November 16
Poolesville Commissioner Meeting
Town Hall 7:30 p.m.

November 18
CEDC Meeting
Poolesville Town Hall 7:30 p.m.

November 19, 20, 21
Midnight Players will present: *The Admirable Crichton*
Set in the late 1800s, the story by J.M. Barrie concerns Lord Loam, who believes that society should return to nature where everyone would be equal. He forces his three daughters to serve tea to the servants once a month in the drawing room, a practice which provides the audience much merriment as all the participants try to interact socially. The entire household dreads the monthly teas, but Crichton, the epitome of the English butler, most of all.

Lord Loam gets the opportunity to try out his desire for equality in nature when he and his daughters, two friends, and a servant girl go on a voyage and are wrecked on a tropical island. Tickets, \$5.00 for students and \$8.00 for adults, will be sold at the school box office beginning Thursday, November 12 from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 2:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. Tickets may be reserved online by contacting Mrs. Lisa Templeton at jlh.temp@verizon.net.
PHS Auditorium
Thursday – 7:00 p.m., Friday – 7:30 p.m., Saturday – 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

November 19
Poolesville Library
Threes to Sixes Storytime.

Stories, finger play, and music
Three years old to six years old with guardians. 10:30 a.m.

November 20 and 21
St. Peter's Christmas Attic
Another great Christmas Attic Sale is just around the corner at St. Peter's. Come shop for one-of-a-kind new and vintage Christmas decorations and ornaments. There is Christmas in every way you can think: cookie tins, candles, stuffies, linens, cards, ornaments, trees, wreaths, lights, ribbons, mugs, dishes, clothing, stockings, and every decoration imaginable! There will also be a Bake Sale (think Thanksgiving, too) and fresh-shelled pecans will be available in one-pound bags. Donations of new and used Christmas items are gladly accepted from November 6 to November 18. For more information, call the church office at 301-349-2073. HO, HO, HOpe to see you there.
Friday: noon to 6:00 p.m., Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

November 21
Carroll Manor Lions Club Coach Purse Bingo
Adamstown Fire Station, Doors open 5:30; Games at 7:00. 20 games, 3 specials, 2 raffles, Money King Tuts, Food/Drinks Available. \$25.00 per person. 301-831-8362 information.

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*"Gifts for Gardeners" Continued
From page 1.*

in its path. The outstanding beauty and vigor of wisteria plants are best employed by growing these highly-invasive vines as a small tree. Tree wisterias are pricey and not widely available because, as one of the horticulturists at WFF said, "They are devils to get started." Once they are established, subsequent culture could not be easier. They will thrive in full sun and average soil. WFF ships them as three-year-old four-foot standards; they will mature at six to eight feet tall by eight to ten feet wide. *Wisteria sinensis* 'Caroline' is one of the earliest to bloom with heavily-scented blue-violet flowers. 'Texas White' has long drooping panicles of pure white, beautifully-scented blooms which appear in May and June. Six years ago I gave my husband 'Texas White' as a Christmas present. It is now tall, fat, deliciously perfumed,

and thriving with little care other than a periodic heavy pruning.

Another good gift is a clematis with a cedar tuteur to climb up. I bought a tuteur from WFF a few years ago for my Morning Glories. This dramatic focal point is almost seven feet tall and two feet square; it has now weathered to a light silver-gray. I like the idea of pairing these two items together. It takes the guesswork out of where to put this climbing vine. You could also choose a rustic twig tower or a metal trellis. Four of my clematis favorites are: 'Arctic Queen,' 'Empress,' 'Josephine,' and 'Sugar Candy.' They all bloom during spring and summer at different intervals.

Hydrangeas thrive in our area and are low maintenance. Once they become established, they grow bigger and better each year. A good gift selection could include this trio of very hardy plants: 'Endless Summer,' with flowers that

form on the current year's growth as well as old wood, its white-flowered sibling 'Blushing Bride,' and 'Opal' which encompasses a world of color during the season, from pinks to greens to yellows.

Anyone who reads my columns knows that I love roses first, but my second favorite award goes to lilies. There are Oriental lilies, Orienpet lilies, Asiatic lilies, and Trumpet lilies. Varieties of these lilies will provide gorgeous, scented blooms from early summer to early fall. They are maintenance free, except that the deer seem to know when their buds are just about ready to open. Since I started spraying the lily buds with Liquid Fence, I have had no problems. Some plants are well worth any effort to protect them from diseases or pests; lilies fall into that category. This year I came across a new catalog, The Lily Garden in Vancouver, Washington. This nursery grows only lilies, and I have never seen such a

wide selection of varieties. The colors alone are spectacular.

If you have a garden friend who loves roses or would like to learn about growing roses, let me suggest to you David Austin Roses. Its home nursery is in England, but several years ago, they opened a United States location in Texas. Check out their website for extensive information about his English roses. A wonderful gift would be a gift certificate for one, or two, or several of their roses, and his book, David Austin's English Roses. If you have any questions regarding which roses would be good for our Monocacy area, you can call them (800-328-8893). They are very helpful.

There are many more gifts that I could suggest for gardeners; this is just a start to jog your brain about gift possibilities. Between now and Christmas, I shall tell you about some more of my favorites.

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"Parents Rally to Save MES"
Continued From Page 1.

sixty days allowed.

Defnet suggested that the decision in March is being forced to coincide with staffing decisions for the 2010 school year and without regard for whether or not it is enough time for the community to adequately consider the consequences and resolve all concerns of a permanent consolidation of our schools. "The abbreviated timeline also straddles the winter holiday season and will ask a lot of the volunteer participants and our community to give this the attention it deserves. MCPS is on the payroll—we are not—we have our own jobs, families, and responsibilities to juggle and so requiring a decision of this magnitude to be completed in sixty days is completely unreasonable."

While the county bases its decision on saving one million dollars a year, it has not offered clarification from where that estimate is derived. One attend-

ing MCPS employee questioned the county estimate noting: that almost all MES employees will be placed elsewhere, busing costs from MES to PES will not appreciably change, and that maintenance of the building, even when vacant, will be substantial. In considering that changes at PES will also be required, the million dollar net savings was treated dubiously by the audience.

Mayor Pete Menke viewed the issue from the perspective of a public official, teacher/coach of forty-two years, and as a parent of four children who graduated from Monocacy Elementary. He told the crowd, "Bigger is not better. I never heard anyone who has run for the Board of Education offering to increase class size."

The impact on Poolesville Elementary School of increasing enrollment to near capacity even before the over 400 new homes in Poolesville are built was also a large part of the evening's discussion. Assessing

if and when pod classrooms or additions to PES might need to be added was not thoroughly presented in the county announcement.

The decision on MES and how it might also impact the future of JPMS was brought up by Commissioner Klobukowski and others with far more questions raised than answers given, adding to the concern that the full impact of closing Monocacy Elementary has not adequately been addressed.

Mackenzie Gross, president of the Student Government Association at MES, in a heartfelt plea, exhorted her fellow students and the citizens at the meeting to write letters of support for the school.

Statements of support and concern were made by a cross section of the community for the better part of the two-hour meeting. Caroline Taylor of Montgomery County Alliance offered her organization's support as did other activist groups from down county who have had legal experience in addressing school closing issues elsewhere. One married couple who are lawyers offered pro bono assistance, and a parent who has a sign company offered to prepare flyers.

A signup sheet for volunteers preparing for upcoming testimony before the Board of Education and the County Council was filled by the end of the evening.

The Poolesville Cluster representatives are scheduled to speak before the Board of Education review of the upcoming BOE Capital Improvement budget on November 12 at 7:00 p.m. This would be the first opportunity for concerned community residents to demonstrate support for the Poolesville Cluster's objective to delay the proposal so that an adequate amount of time for research and response by the Cluster can be established. The meeting will be at the Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville.

Sarah Defnet, in wrapping

things up, said, "The time to be complacent has passed. We need everyone to show their support at the testimony for our cluster schools. Over the past three years, our community presence at the Board of Education has dwindled in numbers. I am sure they are counting on us to not be able to mobilize on a short notice. Let's prove them wrong once again. You can help the effort by loading your car with friends and neighbors for the November 12 meeting."

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**OPEN LETTER FROM JOHN SPEELMAN
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To the Community at Large**

Just about a year ago, I initiated the process to install a wind energy system at my business in Poolesville. My intention was to join the movement towards energy independence, and to look towards alternative energy sources to get away from dependence on foreign oil. I have seen my energy bill increase dramatically over the years, and I saw this as my humble effort to reduce my energy cost.

As you know, Poolesville is a very small town, and I thought this effort would be welcomed by the town commissioners, and that I would have my wind turbine up in a matter of weeks. I had overwhelming support from my neighbors, my customers, and my fellow townspeople. For this I am very grateful. Over 350 people (about 10% of the population) signed my petition showing support for these projects. People turned out in droves at various town meetings to show their support for my efforts, and were pleased that their small town was looking to be a leading example of how even the smallest of efforts can make an enormous difference. Our local high school boasts a Global Ecology magnet program, and the students there were excited about using this as a model for their studies. A story that should have had a happy ending has turned out to be a study of poor decision making and short sightedness. The anticipated result to deny me a wind energy system reflects a flawed process put in place by people whose only reason is they don't like the way it looks.

On Monday, November 16th at 7:30 p.m. the town commissioners of Poolesville will meet at town hall to cast their final vote. At that time they are expected to vote to disallow any wind energy system in the Central Business District of Poolesville simply for aesthetic reasons. Of all the reasons that wind energy should be disallowed, this is the most ludicrous.

I need your support to help bring focus to this important issue. With backwards thinking like this, our community will never move forward in this critical area. In these trying times, every person and every town needs to be thinking ahead to the future. Please help me in my efforts to stop this negative thinking. Please attend the town hall meeting and have your various voices heard.

Thank you in advance for your support.

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