



USPS Man of the Year? No, it's Dr. Timothy Pike with candy for the troops, in Tidbits, inside this issue.



There's been a lot of activity to keep Monocacy Elementary School open. More in Local News on Page 5.



A local artist and muralist is profiled on Page 3.



We have a national champion in our area. Read about Chris Wells in Tidbits on Page 12.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

November 20, 2009

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BOE Hears From Concerned Community

By Rande Davis

An estimated crowd of over two hundred residents, parents, students, and seniors came to the Montgomery County Board of Education (BOE) meeting in Rockville on November 12 to protest the announced recommendation to close Monocacy Elementary School (MES). Most of the nearly three-hour meeting was dominated by speakers about the closing, making their case to keep the school open, or at the very least, requesting a delay in the decision until the opinions and concerns of the Poolesville Cluster community could be adequately addressed.

Poolesville Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski was the first to address the BOE stating that the superintendent's recommendation "lacks adequate community input and fails to consider other viable options." He further stated, "The proposed timeline is unrealistic, unreasonable, and insufficient to allow for a thorough examination of the closure rationale and other alternatives that would permit the school to remain open." He also raised the specter that closing MES would result in having long-term negative effects on John Poole Middle School's population, its ability to offer a wide variety of programs, and could possibly threaten JPMS's survival.

MES PTA President Dawn Albert stated that the recommendation was short-sighted and short-term. "Yes, we are in



A big crowd of concerned Upcounty citizens went downcounty to build support for keeping Monocacy Elementary School open.

a time of financial uncertainty, but this will not last forever. A government should not sell off or abandon its treasures and assets for short-term financial gain. It is not fiscally responsible and lacks the openness to creativity and free thinking that we strive to instill in the very children we serve to educate."

MOOseum Set To Open in 2010

By Kristen Milton

After more than five years of circling the building, Upcounty students and other visitors to the MOOseum at the Boyds soccerplex will finally be able to go inside next year if all goes as planned. Work to



Workers put the final touches on the MOOseum

Sarah Defnet, coordinator for the Poolesville School Cluster, also emphasized the constricted timeline for the decision and protested that the budgeting process for the Capitol Improvement Project (CIP) "should not be a vehicle for proposing a school closure. Conversations with the community should have been started in June at the start of the planning and not at its conclusion." She iterated that the abbreviated five-week process is inconsistent with how MCPS has treated school closures in the past and "had this been given the same treatment as other consolidations and boundary considerations, we wouldn't

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make the former dairy barn appropriate for public use began last month. "The opening of the MOOseum dairy barn marks the realization of a ten-year goal," said Barbara McGraw, president of the MOOseum board and granddaughter of the barn's former owners. "We anticipate operating seasonally from April to October [beginning in 2010]."


The 10,000-square-foot barn was the only element of the James and Macie King farm preserved when construction of South Germantown Recreational Park began on its Schaeffer Road location. Supporters said the structure was an important remnant of what was once a thriving county industry. "It stands in the midst of all this activity, and it serves to remind everyone of the agricultural-based heritage of Mont-

-Continued on Page 22.

Family Album



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Jim McKenna of the Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard addresses the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce at a recent wine tasting event.

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Center Stage

Written in the Walls

By Dominique Agnew

Her writing's on the wall—and on posters, cards, menus, ceramics, illustrations, you name it—and that's just the calligraphy. Kitty McNaughton creates so much more besides beautiful script, but she is quick to remind that ever since she learned calligraphy from a well-known calligrapher in 1978, it has been a staple of many of her works—even her murals and trompe l'oeils.

It took Kitty a long time to come to grips with the fact that she was, in fact, an artist. Before the realization struck her, she would always say, "I want to be an artist." With her background, how could she not be one? Kitty's mother was a technical illustrator and medical draftsman for NIH and worked at home at her draft table in the dining room. As a hobby, her mother did oil painting. There were art supplies always at hand. "I didn't know it wasn't normal to have art supplies all around," Kitty says. While Kitty was not drawn to the mathematical and technical side of her mother's work, she loved the creative side, and grew up with the ability and resources to indulge her art.

Many of her first works as an adult involved ceramics, which were extremely popular in the early seventies. Unlike many of her contemporary craft friends, she was only drawn to the ceramic pieces that were plain, so she could work in her own curves and flourishes—to "work out [her] own designs"—with paint. Very early on, she was drawn to the Dutch folk art style of ceramics, especially the blue of the Delftware. With her first husband, they honeymooned in Williamsburg which had many Delft pieces on display. "I loved Delft," recalls Kitty, "but it was pretty pricey."

Then, her husband was stationed in Brussels, Belgium, and Kitty took many photos of windmills. Using plain, unfinished ceramic pieces and her photos, Kitty created her own Delft pieces: lamps and vases. When they were back in the U.S. and living in nearby Damascus, neighbors knew that if they needed a quick gift for someone, Kitty always had some beautiful piece on her shelves for sale.

In the years that have passed, Kitty has transformed herself from neighbor-artist to muralist-in-demand. "Along the way," she says, "I've worked through many media." She has done all sorts of crafts, including flower-arranging and wood burning. She has had the full range of fine arts and graphic arts training: classes in photography and drawing at Montgomery College, as well as, two levels of trompe l'oeil from nationally-renowned trompe l'oeil artist William Cochran who painted the Community Bridge in Frederick. After she divorced, she tried a real job, but disliked

leaving her children in the afternoons, and she preferred her art. She became involved in themed parties that needed elaborate decorations, sometimes requiring the likenesses of the guests of honor. After a few years, her boss had become tired of the business and offered Kitty her customers. She was given a "fully-developed business with customers, orders, and deadlines." There was not much thinking-about-it on Kitty's part. "I picked up that ball and ran with it," she says. It was 1984 and the beginnings of Spirit Designs—as she named her business, keeping her faith in mind—and a very busy time as the decade was one of lavish parties.

In 1988, an interior designer came to her home and saw her murals and faux finishing in her house and asked, "Why aren't you doing this for a living?" Slowly, but surely, she segued into eventually doing more murals than parties.

Although she still does a few parties a year, Kitty is now decid-



One of Kitty McNaughton's murals.

edly a muralist/trompe l'oeil artist. "I'm always on the lookout for mural work," adds Kitty. She'll paint on walls, ceilings, floors—"I really enjoy doing murals." She has painted for children's rooms and for adults, in local restaurants and in churches (locally, the baptistery in the Barnesville Baptist Church). She enjoys painting in situ, in restaurants, for example—"it's free entertainment while people are eat-

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Commentary

The Little School That Could – A Children's Story

By Rande Davis

You really ought to have been there. It was a night of eloquence, passion, and thoughtful speeches—respectful, I might add. There, in this case, was the Board of Education meeting on November 12 which received testimony about needs from school cluster representatives. The Poolesville Cluster mustered its troops in response to the superintendent's recommendation to close Monocacy Elementary School in 2010. They came, more than two hundred strong, to try to save a little school that lies in the shadow of a mountain—a little school whose uniqueness in a big, diverse world was not wanted anymore. Sounds just like a great children's story, don't you think? Perhaps this one can still have a happy ending, too.

The proposal came as a surprise to the community even though the fate of the school has been subject to closing rumors for many years. It was only this past summer that a new \$500,000 roof was put on the school. Surely this was a sign for the parents and students that the county would keep this school open for the foreseeable future, right? Wrong.

On the one hand, the county should be applauded for looking for ways to cut costs, and, on paper, it can even look like an appropriate decision. But, as we all know, looking good on paper doesn't always make it good.

In just the few short weeks from the time of the announcement, the creative juices of the concerned parents started to flow. Rather than simply offer up "an angry, barrier mentality" as a blockade to protect the school, the residents, instead, seem to be simply asking for a chance to show they can help the

county board develop uses for Monocacy Elementary that will uniquely serve the county, help preserve a "true educational jewel," and possibly even cut costs for the school system in a meaningful way.

The truncated process that developed this recommendation, no matter what its merits, is wrong. Nowadays, it seems that rushing things through without a chance for reasonable review is the wave of the future in governing. No one ever said democracy is the most efficient form of governance—only the most just.

If through new boundary adjustments, introduction of new programs, or other as-of-yet unknown ideas, the residents can offer up solutions to save MES and also save the county money, postponing a decision seems like a small price to pay.

The Montgomery County Board of Education should slow down and give the citizens a fair chance to respond. The final decision due in March, on paper, sounds to many like enough time. Since final proposals will need to be presented to the BOE in February, the citizens will only have through January to fully develop new ideas. With the holidays consuming much of that time, they will only have in reality a few weeks to develop an alternative proposal.

What we heard the other night was a group of very thoughtful people, obviously well-educated and deep in talent, who only want a chance to make their case. We hope the BOE gives them just that: a proper amount of time to make their case.

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Keeping An Eye On Local News

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In the Garden

November

By Maureen O'Connell

November to me has always been an odd month, a bittersweet month. I would not like to live in an area that did not witness a definite difference in the changing seasons. People wince when I say that I love winter; I love the cold, crisp air, the dramatic and menacing slate-blue sky, and the possibility of a magical snowfall. I suppose I choose to forget the frozen toes and fingers, the heavy, frozen water buckets in the horses' stalls, and my forever icy driveway.

November is a month of contradictions. The calendar says that winter and the holiday season are near, but many times November gets stuck in the warm days of September and October. As I write this on November 8, I still have roses, gaillardia, phlox, cyclamen, and lavender hanging on with a few determined blooms. The foliage of the coral bells and hosta still look like it is August. Winter's change of weather usually sneaks in overnight and dismisses all traces of autumn glory.

Every season offers its own particular sights, feelings, and acoustics. For centuries, poets have reminded us in verse of the idiosyncrasies of winter, spring, summer, and fall. Sir Walter Scott lamented, "November's sky is chill and drear, November's leaf is red and sear." In 1829, British poet Thomas Hood said in his poem, "No," what he thought of November: "...No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees, No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds - November!" Emily Dickinson wrote, "November always seemed to me the Norway of the year." While that verse is quite inscrutable to me, her poem, "The morns are meeker than they were," clearly shows the bittersweet side of November: "...The nuts are getting brown; The berry's cheek is plumper, The rose is out of town. The maple wears a gayer scarf, The field a scarlet gown. Lest I should be old-fash-

ioned, I'll put a trinket on."

The other day, as Tom, Sam, and I took our daily late afternoon garden walk, we were treated to the crunch and rustle of the now-tarnished red and gold leaves under our feet. The fallen leaves of the maple and pin oak trees covered the grassy areas, and they were slowly piling up in the nooks and crannies of the perennial gardens. The plumb, silvery-white catkins of the pussy willow tree were sitting smartly on each limb waiting for their turn to open up in mid-to-late winter when nothing else is blooming. The cotoneaster shrubs are decked out with bright crimson berries that will feed the birds of winter, and the American holly trees are covered with scarlet berries which will be dessert for the blue jays and cardinals all winter. In my middle garden, if you poke very carefully the area under the white dogwood trees, you will see the Christmas Rose (*Helleborus niger*) buried under the summer leaves, its young, palm-like evergreen leaves pushing out of the soil on their way to putting out white to dusty-pink flowers that can open as early as Christmas and continue for two to three months if the winter is semi-mild.

November is indeed anything but dull, though it is a bit confusing.



A November rose

Local News

Councilman Mike Knapp Meets with School Group to Discuss Proposed MES Closing

By John Clayton

Parent Teacher Association leaders, concerned parents, and local politicians gathered at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Poolesville to discuss strategies with District 2 County Councilman Mike Knapp to prevent the proposed closing of Monocacy Elementary School in Dickerson. Mr. Knapp pledged his support to the cause, but warned the meeting that in his seven years of experience seeing people try to do battle with the council or the school board, that wouldn't be enough.

The meeting was organized by PTA leaders within the Poolesville School Cluster and

included Dawn Albert, president of the Monocacy Elementary PTA, Lynne Rolls, president of the Poolesville Elementary School PTA, and Sarah Defnet, the Poolesville Cluster Coordinator. Local elected officials who attended the meeting included Barnesville Mayor Pete Menke, Poolesville Town Commissioners Jerry Klobukowski and Jim Brown, and Poolesville Town Commission president Eddie Kuhlman

Councilman Knapp addressed the crowd of about sixty people and described ways that they could attack the problem to bring it to the attention of other school groups in the area, so that their message would be more likely to "resonate" and bring pressure to bear on the elected officials of the school board. Mention was made of the stated support of the district's state senator and delegates, and of Mr. Knapp's own support, but the councilman reminded the audience that the Montgomery

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Youth Sports

Poolesville Football: The Cycle Is Changing

By Jeff Stuart

Despite a disappointing 2008 season, there was a positive energy among the Poolesville football players during this past summer practice. "Even when we were handing out gear, the parents could feel that," says Head Coach Steve Orsini. "We had the largest number of players since I have been coaching, thirty-six to thirty-seven players on our team." Poolesville remains the smallest high school in the county despite the move from 1A to 2A, and its small football roster reflects this. "Everything runs through cycles," says the coach. "Poolesville had some great teams some years ago. Then for many years they were down. We are heading into an upswing. We have kids that are competing. Our young kids individually are being successful. The JV (6-2) and little leagues are being successful. It is going to take a while to filter into the high school team, but it's coming."

Although the season did not go their way in the win-loss column, Coach Orsini saw progress and signs of a stronger future.

"When we started the season, I thought we could be 6-4, and if we got lucky, we could be 7-3, but you gotta have all the pieces of the puzzle. Losing our first and second string quarterbacks and some valuable linemen early in the season hurt us. Senior quarterback Cody Kenly went down in the second quarter of the third game. Cody is the kind of kid who, when you are losing, says, 'It's my fault,' and when you are winning, gives every body else credit. He is a natural leader, exactly what you want to have as your quarterback. The kids looked up to Cody. Kenly put the Falcons on top, 6-0, against Williamsport with a seven-yard pass to Eric Gochenour before being injured. Tyler Holston came

in at quarterback and did a good job against Rockville and Walter Johnson before hurting his shoulder against the Maryland School for the Deaf. He wanted to play, but I had to pull him. I am fortunate to have three capable quarterbacks. Darryl got his first start against Watkins Mill and made some mistakes. It was [his] first time in charge, but he didn't lose us the game—and it was a learning experience for him."

On October 2, Poolesville ended a long losing streak extending over two seasons with a 21-19 victory over Walter Johnson. The Falcons' offense was dominating in the first half, scoring three times; however, thirteen fourth-quarter points put the Wildcats in position to tie the game. The Falcons stopped Michael Pitsenberger's two-point conversion run at the line of scrimmage with 1:30 to play to cut Walter Johnson's fourth-quarter comeback attempt short. "You have to keep going, you can't be happy because you are up fourteen or twenty-one points," says the coach, "but look what we are capable of doing. In his second game at quarterback, Holston did a great job. RJ King came out of his shell. He had 188 yards rushing."

Coach Orsini sees the Rockville game as probably the one in which they played the best overall. "Cody Kenley and Ben Hessels were running the ball well, and our defense did a great job against their running back, Crusoe Gongbay. They kicked off to us, and we drove the ball down and scored. We were leading almost until halftime. We missed three third down and short opportunities inside their territory. That cost us the game."

Coach Orsini cites credit for the good effort being there even in the face of adversity. He reviewed some of the outstanding effort by players. "Senior Jack Gochenour has done a tremendous job for us at guard and linebacker. Center Ryan Horan has been flawless. Pukar Shrestha has done a great job on the offense and defensive line. He had been injured, but

came back. Nikolay Michalowski has done a good job on the line as well. Ben Hessels at wing back has been our play maker. He can make things happen, and Sam Weber has done an awesome job at split end."

Despite the challenging season, the attitude has been very, very positive. "They want to play. They want to be out there. We have a good mixture of seniors and young players."

When the Falcons missed six starters for the Potomac game due to injuries and the flu, things got tougher, but this gave freshmen an opportunity to start.

The game against Wheaton was one of the most exciting for the Falcons. Poolesville trailed 14-0 early on, but Tyler Holston tossed a fifty-six-yard TD pass to Ben Hessels and scored another touchdown on a sneak to tie the game, but by halftime the Falcons trailed 22-14. A twenty-nine-yard field goal by freshman Josh Womack was the only scoring in the third quarter. Then the fourth quarter,

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Youth Sports

Clarksburg Football 2009: Looking Back at A Season of New Rivals

By Jeff Stuart

Clarksburg's football team moved up to the more intense 3A Division this year. The other Montgomery County football powers looked forward to welcoming the Coyotes to the neighborhood. From the opponents' perspective, the Coyotes, although having a pedigree of two undefeated seasons in the 2A Division, were the new kids on the block and needed to be taken down a peg, but the Coyotes were up to the challenge.

The Monocle talked to some of the seniors who represent the very first four-year graduating class of the school to gain some insight as to their personal highlights of the season and what they will be doing next year:

"It was nice to get to play some of the big-name schools in the county," said linebacker Kyle Shafer, among Clarksburg's first class of seniors who helped establish the football program. So what was his favorite moment of his career? "Winning the division championship in 2007." And for this season? "Watching Andy Veith run that interception back against Seneca. It would have been nice to have [had] that one against Quince Orchard (an overtime loss) though."

"It was real exciting," said running back Mike Dixon, another senior, "especially when we played Damascus because I actually live in the neighborhood of Damascus. It was just a rivalry game and a real good game too." His favorite moment of the season? "The very first game here against Seneca when Veith ran that interception back and we won the game." His favorite moment in his career? "In my sophomore year, I had three rushing touchdowns and 250-plus yards against Walter Johnson. I feel very good about coming to this school and playing with this team. Everybody is real connected. It's a great family. It's a good community. I am really glad I came to Clarksburg to play."

Senior Tyler Stevens told us, "I definitely felt the excitement. I like stepping up to 3A to prove that we could play with the best in the state. We shouldn't be underestimated just because we have only been around for just four years. We can play with anybody. My favorite moment would have to be beating Seneca. It was the first game of the season. We were the underdogs, no one expected us to win, and we got the W. It was nice, and playing a team like Seneca and getting a win was incredible."

Clarksburg more than held its own this year from the thrill of an opening home victory over Seneca Valley, through an agonizing overtime home loss to Quince Orchard to another overtime loss at Damascus. Every home game seemed like a bowl game.

In the opener, Seneca Valley led 8-0 at halftime, but then in the fourth quarter, Moses Anoh blocked a Seneca Valley punt

giving the Coyotes the ball at the Eagles' twenty-four-yard line. Senior Andy Veith, a somewhat surprise choice to be the Coyotes' starting quarterback, snuck it in from one yard out, and Sam Collins ran in the game-tying two-point conversion.

Seneca Valley later intercepted Veith with just thirty-nine seconds left giving the Eagles the ball at their own thirty-six. Two plays later, the game seemed fated to go to overtime, but Veith, a receiver in past seasons, picked off a sideline pass by Seneca's Max Nicholson and raced fifty yards for the winning score.

Five weeks later, with their record at 5-0 and coming off convincing shut out wins over Watkins Mill and Einstein, the Coyotes hosted the undefeated Quince Orchard Cougars. Clarksburg led 28-14 with just seven minutes to play after Andy Veith scored on a thirty-eight-yard run, his third running TD of the night. He opened the scoring with a ten-yard touchdown pass to Sam Collins in the first quarter, but a three-yard touchdown by QO's Ben Sasu

closed the gap to 28-21. The Cougars proved to be the team of destiny, recovering a squib kick on the ensuing kickoff and scoring again to force overtime. Sasu scored the only touchdown in overtime to salvage the win for QO.

Three weeks later, the Coyotes, now 6-2, after a 14-8 loss at Paint Branch (8-2) met rival Damascus for the first time. Clarksburg led 7-0 at the half on a touchdown pass from Veith to senior Ace Clark, but Damascus tied the game in the third quarter. In overtime, both teams scored, Clarksburg on a three-yard pass from Veith to Collins. The Coyotes were unable to convert the extra point, and the Hornets were. Damascus prevailed 14-13.

With a season-ending 22-9 win over visiting Wootton, the Coyotes finished 7-3, yielding the 3A west playoff spots to QO and Damascus. As for getting taken down a peg, it didn't happen. The new kids on the block grew to meet the challenge and are a force to be reckoned with

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Local News

Commissioners Review Town Charter

By Rande Davis

The commissioners of Poolesville had planned for their November 16 town agenda to be clear of new business so as to begin a work session to review the town charter which has not been reviewed within the approximately seventeen years that the town has employed a town manager. The work session, however, was delayed for ninety minutes for open forum statements and questions on the status of the Alternative Energy Ordinance, and to allow discussion on allowing wind turbine usage in the commercial business district.

John Speelman and a half dozen supporters of his petition to allow Poolesville Hardware to install a wind energy turbine on its property were there to make statements and to query the status of a final decision on that request. Currently, the Planning Commission is studying all aspects of the proposed ordinance, and until the next report comes forward from the planning committee, the commissioners will not be making any final decisions.

Mr. Speelman pleaded that there should be a way for the town to provide a binding document to allow him a one-year test so as to more fairly determine true public opinion on the sight and sound concerns of the wind turbine and to establish what, if any, benefits to the town exist.

The stumbling block for a possible test continues to be the potential for legal action if, at the end of the test, agreed-upon actions are not followed by either party.

Commissioner Jim Brown presented his opinion that he has been unsatisfied in obtaining information as to the benefits of wind energy use within the town, especially in a region that ranks low in the potential for energy production from wind.

Mr. Brown strongly defended his credentials in support of alternative energy but explained that, so far, no one has come forward with concise information as to how it would benefit the town so as to overrule the public concern over the change in character of the commercial business district, and ameliorate concern over sound, sight, and safety. While he acknowledged that Mr. Speelman has demonstrated support for his proposal through petitions and attendance at meetings, Brown also reported that an informal poll from email responses to his newsletter demonstrated that public opinion is evenly divided, so much so, that he believes there should be a clear energy benefit to override the public concern in allowing installation. For him, that evidence has not been forthcoming.

Mr. Speelman countered that the only effective way to address Mr. Brown's concerns and those of opponents to the installation would be to allow the test, and that anything else would be pure conjecture. He maintained that such a test would have the benefits of serving as an educational laboratory-like model for the Global Ecology program at the high school, would address more accurately any public concern over sound, sight, and safety issues, and would result in recorded data accurately giving whatever energy savings could be obtained through its use. "All I know is that when the sun goes down, solar energy stops working, but the wind turbine keeps spinning, causing my energy use to be reversed."

The saga of the wind turbine decision will continue until at least the next commissioners' meeting.

The meeting then adjourned to undertake a work session review of the town charter for suggested revisions.

As the page-by-page review began of the thirty-three page document, town attorney Alan Wright opened the discussion with a suggestion that the legal name of the town, Commission-

Local News

Calling All Veterans

William Poole, Commander of the American Legion Daniel-Jeffers Post 247, has issued an invitation to area veterans who might be interested in joining the local post to a special meeting on December 3 in the Poolesville Town Hall conference room at 7:30 p.m.

Post 247 has traditionally met in the Boyds Presbyterian Church, but this is an effort to reach out to those who might be more inclined to join and participate should meetings occur periodically in Poolesville.

Although Post 247 is one of the smallest in the American Legion Department of Maryland, it has a strong history of public service to veterans and the community. Annually, members sponsor and participate in many activities including: placing American flags at the graves of deceased Veterans on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, assisting the Poolesville Military Support Group's picnic and fishing event at White's Ferry, Special Olympics spring picnic, fall Halloween dance, High School Oratorical Contest, support of Boy's State, recognition of local Eagle Scouts,

ers of Poolesville, be changed to the Town of Poolesville. After discussion, it was further determined that a public referendum might be required to do so, and that the commissioners could not make that change independently. Mr. Wright is looking into the legal process required to allow the change of name.

Most of the suggestions for change were mundane: officially designating the committee overseeing elections to the Supervisors of the Board of Elections, removing outdated terminology, etc. However, there were two potentially-controversial considerations which took up the primary time of the work session. The first covered a discussion on how to

recognition of local fire and law enforcement personnel, and supporting American Legion Epilepsy, Baseball, and Rifle Team programs.

This past June, Post 247 was recognized at the American Legion Department of Maryland convention with the Charles A. St. Clair Special Olympics Memorial trophy, as a southern Maryland 3-Star Post, and recipient of the Arthur L. McGee Memorial trophy for excelling in child welfare work. Additionally, they were awarded the Boy Scout trophy for providing the most help and support to the Boy Scout program.

In looking forward to more local veterans joining their ranks, Commander Poole pointed out that the organization is a "small yet effective group of proud veterans." Persons interested in attending the meeting and joining Post 247 should call 301-972-8007 to allow for the proper planning of the meeting.

Post #247 has also announced the winners of its 2009 Raffle Fundraiser. They are: A. Barnhouse (42-inch television), Carole Harmon (Commemorative Coin Set), Stan Janet (\$50.00 Savings Bond), David Scott (Military Service Teddy Bear Set), Dennis Conni (five McDonald's value meals), and Junior Luhn (Cal Ripken collectible picture).

Congratulations to all the winners.

provide additional time within the budgeting process to obtain final, not estimated, information about revenues from state and county sources. The second was whether to allow potential compensation to commissioners.

As regards extending time in the budget process, the charter allows citizens to petition and obtain a referendum whenever tax increases exceed a seven percent increase in revenue from one year to the next. In the work session, the commissioners are exploring possible procedures that would maintain the spirit of that part of

-Continued on Page 14.

Local News

Appeal Hearing Looms for Global Mission Church

By Kristen Milton

Upcounty residents are gearing up for a second trek across county lines to oppose a large church on Sugarloaf Mountain as the Frederick County Board of Zoning Appeals revisits a controversial proposal. "We're going to keep working it just as hard as the first time because we don't think it's over yet," said Gary Valen, president of the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association.

This summer, Global Mission Church of Greater Washington, an English/Korean Southern Baptist congregation based in Silver Spring, sought permission to build an 85-foot-tall, 138,027-square-foot church on land straddling the Montgomery/Frederick County line. Parts of the project needed approval from both governments and initially received support from area officials; however, after community outcry and a three-month delay for further investigation, the Frederick County Planning Commission voted 6-1 October 14 to reject the proposal, citing concerns over water consumption and access to the nearly eighty-acre site. The church appealed the decision, and a hearing is scheduled for December 17. Messages to both the church's lawyer and spokesman were not immediately returned.

In response to concerns by the Frederick Office of Life Safety

that a single access road was inadequate for a proposed complex that would eventually accommodate 6,400 people in sixty-seven meeting rooms, a dining hall and gymnasium, the church is now offering a road through a property on Dr. Perry Road. Previously, the sole access to the site was proposed to be by Old One Hundred Road (Route 109).

Valen said fundamental concerns with the church project remain. "To us, the key issue is still they have too big a facility for the septic system," Valen said. The church plans estimated water and sewer needs at 4,999 gallons per day, one gallon short of needing an amendment to Frederick's water and sewer plan. The church had sought such an amendment in 2008 but was denied. That decision was also appealed. "This thing doesn't belong here in the country," Valen said, "[but] I think there's still a sense of urgency and fear that this is a powerful church, and they'll find a way to slip it in."

Caroline Taylor, executive director of Montgomery Countryside Alliance, another opposing group, was more sanguine. "I am cautiously optimistic [that the denial will be upheld]," Taylor said. "To me, I see that Global Mission has a very hard case to prove... Having said that, nothing works like have people and voices resonate at the [same] time."

Taylor and Valen are encouraging their members to write letters and to attend the appeals hearing. Both say they are willing, meanwhile, to work with the church to find a location elsewhere in the county. An offer to purchase the land in hopes of eventually putting it under easement has also been floated.

"There are many creative ways in which they can be made whole," Taylor said.

At an August 20, community meeting, the church's project director Man Bae Kim said the church turned down a proposal for an animal hospital at the site but had no response as to what would be done with the land should attempts to build the new sanctuary fail.

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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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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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The Global Mission Church project is scheduled to be heard at the meeting of the Frederick County Board of Zoning Appeals beginning at 7:00 p.m. on December 17 at Winchester Hall, 12 East Church St, Frederick.

Local News

2009 Royce Hanson Award

By Maureen O'Connell

On Sunday, November 8, several hundred people gathered at the Strong Mansion on Sugarloaf Mountain to honor the recipient of the Montgomery Countryside Alliance's (MCA) 2009 Royce Hanson Award. This annual award is named after its first recipient, Royce Hanson, in recognition of his tireless commitment toward the protection of the Agriculture Reserve. Mr. Hanson was the original architect of the Ag Reserve, and he is currently Chairman of the Montgomery County Planning Commission. This year, the award went to Woody Woodroof. From a part-time job working with adults with developmental disabilities, he saw a need for a solution to the employment opportunities of this often-over-

looked population. In 1996, Mr. Woodroof founded the Red Wiggler Community Farm, which provides jobs for these adults through the business of growing and selling organic vegetables.

The name of the farm is a reference to Red Wiggler worms, which are the most common type of composting worm. They help create the fertile soil that healthy plants need to grow. In turn, these plants will nourish a healthy community. Mr. Woodroof's vision brought him to five acres of land on Carolyn Morgan's 224-acre farm in the Ag Reserve. Mrs. Morgan and her husband owned and operated the Comus Inn before the current owners. Woody ran his program out of a small "remodeled" granary attached to Mrs. Morgan's dairy barn.

In 2005, Mr. Woodroof moved his farm to Ovid Hazen Wells Park. From a small operation involving six people with Developmental Disabilities (DD), twenty youth participants, volunteers, and a modest staff,

Woody's farm grew. Today Red Wiggler Farm feeds over 120 households and impacts over 150 people with DD living throughout Montgomery County.

Present at this award ceremony was Mr. Royce Hanson. He congratulated Mr. Woodroof and thanked the many people who so actively work to keep and protect the Ag Reserve, which he called "the emerald in the crown" of Montgomery County. Today, with so many incidents regarding the safety of our food, he said that farm programs like Red Wiggler are enabling communities to become more involved in localizing our food sources. He said we need to get our food from Montgomery County, and that thanks to the creation of the Ag Reserve, we have the land, we have the demand, and with visionary advocates like Woody Woodroof, we can make it happen. State Senator Rob Garagiola was also on hand to offer his congratulations to Mr. Woodroof. He thanked the Montgomery Countryside Alliance for its continuing

efforts in "keeping a watchful eye" on issues impacting the Ag Reserve. He said that the MCA is a force to be reckoned with. He also praised Royce Hanson for his tireless, infectious passion for what he does.

Incoming MCA President Diana Conway thanked the audience for its support. The evening was made possible by Whole Foods which donated the catering for the event, Butler's Orchard for the seasonal decorations and apple cider, and the Stronghold Foundation for the use of the mansion.



Incoming President Diana Conway, Executive Director Caroline Taylor, honoree Woody Woodroof, and Montgomery Park and Planning Chairman Royce Hanson

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School News

Monet Comes to Poolesville

By Dominique Agnew

Surely, if Impressionist painter, Claude Monet, had ever visited Poolesville during his lifetime, he would have left his beloved Giverny for the verdant valleys of Poolesville. Obviously, this didn't happen, but the students of Poolesville High School had the next best thing.

To celebrate National French Week, November 9 to 13, PHS French teacher Mme Kornrich arranged to have the works of Monet travel to Poolesville as a celebration of French culture and art. Large reproductions of Monet's works on fabric were on display for



Admiring the Monet reproduction are Siqi Yuan, Jeremy Hollis, Angel Jiao, Madame Kornrich, and Andrew Jones.

numerous in-school field trips for students of art and French. Mme Kornrich and art teacher, Nori Thorne, hope to continue the tradition next year.

Tidbits of the Past

By Jack Toomey

November 1, 1934 Montgomery County Democrats made a dramatic bid on the eve of the election with a radio broadcast over station WJSV. In addition, rallies were held at Barnesville where James Pugh spoke, at Germantown that featured Captain Cissel as the speaker, and at Hyattstown where Robert Peter rallied voters.

November 2, 1934 A Bethesda boy won first prize in the Captain Stubbs coloring contest. Martin Wise, Jr., of Poolesville was awarded second prize and was given fifteen boxes of crayons. It was announced that winners need not call for their prizes because the postman would deliver them.

November 4, 1934 A Halloween party was given in the auditorium of the Poolesville School. Prizes were given to Ann Shears for the prettiest costume, to Erwin Brown for the most unusual costume, and to Francis Hughes for the ugliest.

November 5, 1934 The Fusionist Party announced that they would bombard seven Montgomery County towns with leaflets on the eve of the election. Planes were scheduled to circle the towns of Barnesville, Boyds, Poolesville, Gaithersburg, Rockville, Potomac, and Damascus.

November 7, 1932 Montgomery County school officials announced that banners would be awarded to several schools because of their excellent attendance records. Poolesville, High, Gaithersburg High, the Damascus 7th and 8th grade school, and the one teacher school at Claggettville received awards.

November 9, 1944 Poolesville opened its annual community fair in the school auditorium under the direction of Charles Tipton, president of the Future Farmers of America. Exhibits included fruits, vegetables, small grain, and poultry. The highlight of the fair was the awarding of a turkey and a fruit cake.

November 13, 1934 Judge

Charles Woodward swore in the members of the new grand jury at the Rockville Court House. He warned the jurors to make examinations of witnesses to ascertain if gamblers had made inroads into Montgomery County. He said that he had no information about Washington gamblers coming into the county but said that it was bound to happen since the crackdown in Washington. Edward Darby, a farmer from the Poolesville district, was sworn in as foreman.

November 15, 1930 Divorce proceedings were initiated at Rockville court by Mrs. Bertha Minor, the wife of the Rev. George Clifton Minor, headmaster of the Briarley Academy at Poolesville. Mrs. Minor alleged marital difficulties including cursing, mistreatment, abuse, and threats to have her committed to an insane asylum.

Remembrance

Robert Ladd

On November 7, members of the Potomac Hunt Club gathered together at the hunt club to honor and reminisce about longtime member Robert Ladd, 87, who died October 1 at his home in Poolesville of a pulmonary embolism. Mr. Ladd was the founder and president of Haverhill International, a marketing and business development company from 1979 until his retirement in 2007. From 1972 to 1977, he was a marketing executive with defense contractor Vitro in Silver Spring. Before that time, he was president of Research Management Corporation and president of Georgetown Instruments, a group of Georgetown University science professors conducting research on communication equipment.

Mr. Ladd was a native of Ithaca, New York. He received a bachelor's degree in agriculture in 1943 from Cornell University

and a master's degree in business administration from Harvard University in 1947. He served in the U.S. Army in France during World War II; he was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Mr. Ladd was very involved in the Upper Montgomery County community. He moved to Poolesville in 1967, and he was a member and supporter of the Potomac Hunt Club, the Seneca Valley Pony Club, and St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Poolesville.

He is survived by his wife of sixty-six years, Carol Bowman Ladd, five children, fourteen grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

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Tidbits

Worth Your Weight in...

We have all heard the saying "worth your weight in gold," but now we have a new twist—"worth your weight in candy." Drs. Pike and Valega put a shout out to the community to bring Halloween candy to their dental office so they could send it to our military personnel overseas as a way to show gratitude this holiday season. Well, the community really responded with over 187 pounds of wrapped candy that has been sent to Operation Gratitude. Operation Gratitude seeks to lift morale and put smiles on faces by sending care packages addressed to individual soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines deployed overseas. Operation Gratitude care packages contain food, hygiene products, entertainment items, and personal letters of appreciation, all wrapped with good wishes of love and support.

It's not too late for you to help if you want, just visit www.OperationGratitude.com.

www.OperationGratitude.com.

Chris Wells Takes National Championship in Go-Karting

Chris Wells, the fifteen-year-old son of Rob and Wendy Wells (owner of Absolute Auto in Dickerson) has won the national championship in go-kart racing for his age group. Racing in the World Karting Association's (WKA) Bully Clutches Gold Clutch Series, his national achievement comes in addition to previously winning twenty races and as a three-time mid-Atlantic winner in 2009.

Just to clear up any preconceived notions about WKA go-karts, Wells does not race in your "roller-skate wheeled," home-made soap box derby kind of car. These are completely functional miniature racecars that even in the youth range can reach speeds of ninety-seven miles per hour. In the Bully Clutches Gold Cup series, mini-cars can cost nearly \$4,000.00.

For the Wells family, this has been a passion and week-

end event since 1999. The WKA sponsors go-karting youth leagues from age six up to the age fifteen. Chris follows in his older brother Tony's footsteps. Much of the racing in Maryland is at Chestertown and Bel Air; however, the family travels throughout the east coast including North Carolina and Ohio and on occasion as far west as Indiana to compete.

As Tony and Chris get older, the Wells family won't be getting the weekends free any time soon

since they begin a new family legacy through younger sister, Summer, aged six, who has now taken up the sport as well.

Father O'Reilly Celebrates his 25th Anniversary of Ordination

Congratulations to Father Kevin O'Reilly as he and St. Mary's celebrate his twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination. Family, old friends, and the parishioners joined him in a party at St. Mary's on November 14. Father Kevin has been at St. Mary's for one and half years.

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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 out 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 20 and 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 door before each show. Tickets may also be reserved online by contacting Mrs. Lisa Templeton at jlh.temp@verizon.net. PHS Auditorium. Friday: 7:30 p.m., and Saturday: 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

November 20 and 21
St. Peter's Christmas Attic
Another great Christmas Attic Sale is here 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,

"Town Government" Continued From page 8.

the charter yet allow more time for the final revenue information to be obtained. On the matter of possible compensation for commissioners, the charter does not allow that to be done, and the discussion centered on whether the commissioners should empower future commissioners to do so.

The commissioners requested the town attorney to provide

proposed legal verbiage on both changes for their consideration. The commissioners will continue the charter review process at a future date. It should be noted that no decisions on change will be binding until each proposed change reflects a majority of the commissioners, public hearings are scheduled, and a final vote made after hearing from the public. There is no set timeframe to complete the review.

"CHS Football" Continued From page 7.

in the tough northwest section of Montgomery County. According to the Maryland High School Football State Poll, 3A Quince Orchard and Damascus are among the top ten programs in the state. The 3A division may be where the best football in the state is being played this year.

Other seniors on the team include Bryan Boyd, James Devore, Rodney Garrett, Jeff Gatling, Joe Golden, Donte Johnson, Desean Martinez, Damien Pride, Adrian Thorne, and Anthony Weston.

Some were recognized for their individual effort as Athlete of the Week at Clarksburg. Those winning this honor were: Senior Devon Moreno who rushed for over one hundred yards in an 18-0 win over Northwood. Andy Veith earned the honor following the opening win over Seneca, and again for his performance against QO. Kyle Shafer was also an Athlete of the Week for his offensive and defensive play during the opening game win versus Seneca. Sam Collins won the award for his performance in a 34-0 win over Watkins Mill. Sam had six catches for fifty-seven yards and ran once for ten yards.

"PHS Football" Continued From page 7.

Holston threw a short eleven-yard TD pass to senior Sam Weber. Ben and Hessels ran for the two-point conversion, giving Poolesville their first lead. The Wheaton Knights answered with a TD run of their own and a two-point conversion to take the lead, 30-25. Then, Poolesville's

Holston hit Weber again, this time for a nineteen-yard TD. That was the game winner. Womack kicked the extra point—final score, 32-30.

The 2009 season was marked by progress, positive attitude in the face of adversity, exciting and excellent individual efforts, and a general feeling going toward the future that Falcon football is about to take flight.

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., and Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

November 20
Poolesville Relay for Life
Movie Night – Poolesville
Elementary School
Tinker Bell and the Lost Treasure (G)
\$5.00. Includes: movie, popcorn, drinks, and one item of candy. Bring your own blankets/pillows. This is a drop off event. 7:00 p.m.

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-Continued on Page 18.

Police Blotter

By Jack Toomey

Current Crimes

Residential Burglary: 19600 block of Selby Avenue, Poolesville
 Commercial burglaries: Butlers Orchard, 22222 Davis Mill Road in Germantown; Robert Hawkins Sod Farm, 17600 White's Ferry Road in Poolesville; Boyds Market, 15110 Barnesville Road, Boyds.

Past Crimes

November 20, 1932 County police were preparing for possible disturbances in advance of hunger marchers that were advancing on Washington. Police were provided with radio cars so patrolmen could be dispatched to disturbances more quickly than in the past. They were also armed with tear gas.

November 20, 1958 A twenty-five-year-old Poolesville man was shot in an argument over a jacket. Police reported that two men had squabbled over the ownership of the clothing at a Boyds residence. A twenty-one-year-old man was arrested and charged with assault

with intent to murder.

November 25, 1930 A Dar-nestown farmer and his two sons were seriously injured when their car struck another car on the Beallsville Pike near Dawsonville. Police officer Roy Bodmer investigated the wreck and reported that the auto operated by Ernest Ricketts went out of control on a curve due to excessive speed and struck the other car.

November 25, 1928 Mont-gomery County [police] were investigating a mystery case near Glen Echo. A pile of bloody men's clothing had been found in a box on the Conduit Road near the District line. Washington police were assisting their counterparts in determining if anyone had been seriously assaulted.

November 27, 1907 Michael Higgins and Donald Rohn were arrested by Baltimore & Ohio police and charged with trespassing on the railroad. It was reported that the two men had hopped a ride on a freight train and were arrested near Frederick when the train stopped.

Remembrance

Frances S. Meem



Mrs. Frances "Fannie" S. Meem, 95, of Dickerson, passed away at Kline Hospice House, October 29, 2009. She was born March 7, 1914 in Weverton, Maryland to Harry P. and Ruth G. Spickler.

Frances attended school in Brunswick and graduated from Shepherd College in 1935. She taught elementary school in Montgomery County at Dickerson and Germantown. She was a life member of the Chevy Chase

Chapter of the DAR, a member of the Shepherd University Alumni Association, KKI Sorority, and the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association. Frances was a Charter Member and held several offices of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department.

For many years, she served as music director at the Dickerson Methodist Church and enjoyed flowers, playing the piano, and watching the trains pass her home in Dickerson.

She was preceded in death by her husband Harry C. Meem, Jr., a sister, Louise S. Kern, a brother, William P. Spickler, and recently by her daughter-in-law, Margaret R. Meem. Surviving are two sons, Harry C. Meem, III of Richmond, Virginia and Ross L. Meem and wife Teresa of Dickerson; a granddaughter, Lael M. Scott and husband Bert of New Windsor, a great-grandson, Thomas L. Scott, and step grandchildren, Rick, Jerry, and Rhonda. She was interred at Monocacy Cemetery.

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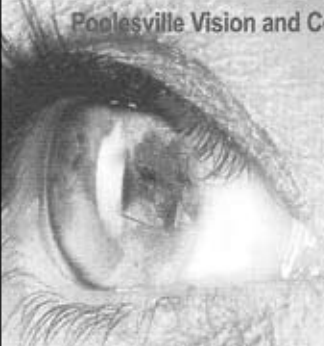
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When: Saturday, December 5, 2009, 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

- Sign up, Saturday, November 28, 9:00 a.m. to noon at Poolesville Baptist Church Family Life Center or by e-mail to sarah_broady@yahoo.com no later than noon 11/28.2008

For more information, contact:

- o Sarah Broadly, 816-447-2599
- o Jennifer Gularson, 301-407-0321
- o Jill Rabine, 207-831-2796

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"Things to Do" Continued From Page 14.

plays, formidable feats of daring and balance, explosive energy, brilliant costumes, with a touch of Chinese comedy.
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Tickets: \$12.00 to \$30.00. 8:00 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.

November 22
Community Thanksgiving Worship Service
Poolesville Churches sponsor this annual gathering of friends and neighbors to offer thanksgiving in a joint worship service. This year's service is hosted by St. Peter's Church.
Worship, song, fellowship, and refreshments. 7:00 p.m.

Sugarloaf Mountain Polocrosse Club
Potomac Pony Club Field, Boyds
Team selection at 9:00 a.m., matches at 10:00 a.m.
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Cherish the Ladies
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Weinberg Center for the Arts
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November 27
Basket Bingo
Carroll Manor Fire Co. Auxiliary, Adamstown
20 games for \$15.00, 3-specials, 2-affles, King Tuts, Refreshments. Call 301-831-8362 for info

Frosty Friday
Take a break from shopping and join us for an afternoon of animated Christmas classics featuring:

How the Grinch Stole Christmas! (1966)
Mr. Magoo's Christmas Carol (1962)
The Pink Panther in: A Pink Christmas (1978)
Tom & Jerry's - The Night Before Christmas (1941)
Weinberg Center for the Arts
Adults: \$6.00, Students/Seniors: \$4.00. 2:00 p.m.

November 28
An evening with the Poet, the Painter, and the Pianist
The Quill & Brush Hosts a Unique Event
An evening inspired by the poetry of Poolesville resident Bernie Jankowski. Bernie and poet Anne Sheldon will read from Bernie's new book, *The Shamokin Monologues*. Jazz pianist Bruce Bears, of New England's Duke Robillard Band, will accompany the reading with his bluesy interpretations. Abstract artist Calvin Edward Ramsburg's new work will also be on display, including drawings featured throughout *The Monologues*. Marty Galvin praises this new collection for its "deft portraits beautifully drawn of an America that loved and nurtured so many of us."

Quill & Brush, 1137 Sugarloaf Mountain Rd., Dickerson
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Free Admission
RSVPs appreciated: Kathy Jankowski, 301-349-0747, kjankowski@xecu.net
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Miracle on 34th Street (1947)
Weinberg Center for the Arts
Adults: \$6.00
Students/Seniors: \$4.00
7:00 p.m.

November 30
Poolesville Library Adult Book Discussion Group
Featuring review of *Rockville Pike: A Suburban Comedy of Errors* by Susan Coll. 7:30 p.m.

December 2
The Sicilian Tenors
Mario Lanza Tribute Concert
Recently performing a sellout performance at Carnegie Hall,

the Sicilian Tenors present a unique show that will mesmerize you with the power and beauty of operatic tenor voices singing marvelous songs and arias like they should be sung. Aaron Caruso, Elio Scaccio, and Sam Vitale have created a show which everyone will enjoy, taking the audience on a romantic journey from Hollywood, to Broadway, to Italy, with such favorites as "Be My Love," "O Sole Mio," and songs from the Phantom of the Opera.
Weinberg Center for the Arts
Tickets: \$12.00 to \$25.00
7:30 p.m.

December 4
Annual Town Holiday Street and Park Light Ceremony
The CEDC sponsors this annual family favorite festival when holiday street lights and seasonal displays at Whalen Commons are officially lit for the season. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. for children who wish to visit Santa Claus and share their holiday wishes, followed by caroling and performances by local church choirs. Refreshments will be available for purchase.
Once again, there will be a toy drive, so please bring a new, unwrapped toy to the event, collection boxes will be available and WUMCO will distribute the toys to local children in need.

Second Annual PACC First Night Holiday Event
In conjunction with the light ceremony, Poolesville retailers will be open until 9:00 p.m. for free refreshments and special discounts for shoppers.

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

Dickey Betts and Great Southern
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December 5
Santa's Breakfast
UMCVFD Fire Hall - Beallsville
Adults: \$6.00, Children 12 and

under: \$4.00. Children 3 and under: free
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

St. Nicholas's Breakfast Visit with Children
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Breakfast and treats. 8:30 a.m.

Academy of St. Cecilia Youth Orchestra
Weinberg Center for the Arts,
Free concert, 7:00 p.m.

December 4, 5, 6
Holiday Studio Tour, Country-side Artisans
14 Studios Open
Visit: www.countrysideartisans.com for more information
10:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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

December 10
Twos Storytime
Stories, fingerplays, and music. Pre-registration is not required. Two-year-olds may attend with parents or guardians. 10:30 a.m.

December 12
Princess Dreams and Other Wishes
We all wish for something, whether young or old, boy or girl. Young girls particularly long to be princesses of some sort, and young boys want to be king of the hill! This fall, in the magical time before Christmas, Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre dreams of youth and princess ways, of Mulan, and Jasmine, Belle and Cinderella, Sleeping Aurora, and the indomitable spirit of Pocahontas. The men have their part, too, supporting these mystical beauties, showing their skills as a cavalier, or as a genie, or simply as a princely guy. For those of us who grew up on these timeless animations, our concert, danced to beautiful musical scores, will conjure up warm and comfortable memories and delight the child in all of us.
Poolesville High School Auditorium.
Free/ \$5.00 donation greatly appreciated. 6:00 p.m.

"MCPS Meeting" Continued From Page 1.

be here today demanding due process."

Parent Pamela Boe admonished the BOE, emphasizing that the Monocacy and Poolesville communities are "legally entitled to the opportunity to respond to this proposal without an artificially-constrained schedule that short-circuits due process. Monocacy Elementary is an example of what MCPS should be striving to attain, not demolish."

Dr. Weast, in his recommendation, suggested that a small school such as MES could not provide the variety of services of a larger school. Wendy Roldan along with her two children, Megan and Tommy, both students at MES, defended the variety of educational opportunities available at the school despite its student population of 176 children. Additionally, Denise Collier expanded on this concern with a twelve-item list of special programs available at MES including six different reading assistance programs, Fast Math basic invention program, and other educational programs including

a substantial list of before- and after-school programs such as chess club, drama club, chorus, computer club, Spanish, Landscaping, green team, instrumental music, safety patrols, "just to name a few."

The parents, armed with "Keep Monocacy Open" signs and waving handmade posters extolling the virtues of MES, gave each of the speakers rousing and sustained applause of approval for each point addressed by the more than twenty residents who gave prepared remarks.

Only two board members chose to make comments or ask questions of the speakers. Student BOE member, Timothy Hwang, acknowledged and praised the involvement of so many students attending the meeting. BOE member Laura Betheriauma asked of the CIP administrators in attendance if Poolesville Elementary School would be moved to the top of the list for a new building addition should the merger result in that need. The administrator could not reassure that such a decision would be made, saying, "We cannot predict what other demands from other schools would be on

the system at that time."

This concern was one of the primary points raised by Lynne Rolls, president of the PES PTA. She questioned the wisdom of a boundary change with regard to the fact that PES is not currently scheduled to be on the Capital Improvement budget any time soon. If an addition or other building adjustments need to be made due to the merger, "the county is not preparing for that any time soon. PES is not on the Capital Improvement schedule. That bears repeating. PES is not on the Capital Improvement Schedule. There is simply not enough time to assess PES's requirements, and, if something is needed, it won't be in the CIP budget."

Barbara Davidson seemed to represent the resolve of the attending parents in stating that, "as an active member of my community, proud parent of a Monocacy alum, taxpayer, steward of the Agricultural Reserve, and concerned property owner, I want you to know that I will fight with all the tools at my disposal to keep Monocacy open."

Davidson, who is an educator and has worked with the U.S. Department of Education on a project to improve parental involvement with schools and recently completed a two-year term on the State Superintendent of Education's Family Involvement Council, recognized compelling arguments on both sides of the issue, but appealed to the Board to seize this opportunity to look for creative options. "As all of you know, innovation is the watchword in education

these days. Why don't you look upon Monocacy as an opportunity to embrace that mantra with a willing partner in the Monocacy community? We will work with you to shape a compromise that could, in fact, result in a real win-win for the county and our community. There are many ideas that could be explored. I think you will find that, while our community is close-knit, we are also flexible. In fact, I predict that we might surprise you with some of the creative and yet realistic solutions—both programmatic and administrative—that we would consider. I am asking that you give us time—time to work with you in the manner that all of the county parental involvement policies call for to craft a solution that works for you and the community."

Along with the scores of parents and students who drove or took a bus donated by Calleva Outdoors to the meeting, others who spoke were: Mackenzie Gross (president - MES SGA), Stephanie Egly (President, PHS PTSA), Shirley Prasada-Rao (and her children), Caitlin Beroza (PHS Class of 2004), Lynn Lipp, Mike McMorris, Tiffany Ayers, and Ryan Hemingway.

Readers who would like to review pictures of the meeting or respond to the commentary in this issue, may do so by visiting www.monocleonline.com.

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Poolesville Band Project
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Business Briefs

Listo Para Comida Mexicana

If your Hispanic skills are not up to snuff, our headline says, "Get ready for Mexican food." That was our headline for the opening of the Corner Mexican Grill last spring. Needless to say, things took a little longer than hoped for. It seems like forever for lovers of Mexican food, but, finally, the anticipated opening of the restaurant is scheduled for as early as November 22.

Poolesville's Marcos Bonilla is the manager, and he and owner Nicolasa Delgado are just putting the finishing touches on the restaurant. They will be open for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and for those getting hungry up to 10:00 p.m. and midnight on Friday and Saturday nights. Many people got a taste of their fare on Poolesville Day when they offered many of their selections to festival goers. We heard from many who sampled the offerings, and they get high marks for authenticity. Along with the

Mexican food, they will also offer hamburgers and other cold sandwiches like BLTs, tuna, ham and cheese, turkey, and roast beef.

For breakfast, you can go beyond their Mexican specialties and still get a regular country breakfast, Belgian waffles, and a selection of breakfast Paninis. They have a full lineup of coffee drinks including espresso, latte, Cappuccino, mocha latte, and an assortment of syrups. For dessert, the Corner Mexican Grill will have soft ice cream cones, cups, sundaes, and shakes.

We wish the new owners success, or should we say: "nosotros deseamos que te superes?"

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*"Mooseum Celebration" Continued
From Page 1.*

gomery County," McGraw said in presenting the MOOseum's annual report to the Planning Board on October 22. The barn's collection now includes artifacts such as cans and churns, a map detailing 333 dairy farms that operated in the county between 1900 and the present, and a scale model of the original farmhouse as well as two model cows. Work began on October 20 to perform the renovations necessary to the bring visitors inside to enjoy those offerings.

Board member Bill Duvall said the construction goals concentrated on fire safety and accessibility, including the installation of a sprinkler system, a new hydrant, railings, and sidewalks. Cosmetic improvements will include power-washing and painting as well as track lighting. The approximately \$500,000 cost will be covered by a combination of funds from the county and state as well as by private donation. Earlier attempts to bid out the work were unsuccessful, and resubmitting the project contributed to the delay in opening the

*"Knapp Meets MES Task Force"
Continued From Page 5.*

County School Board, an elected body, is chartered by the State of Maryland independent of the county council, and generally behaves accordingly. He explained that the county council approves a pot of money for schools every year, but the school board has the authority on how to spend it.

Mr. Knapp said that one approach would be to question why the decision and the action are on such a fast track with a very short notice. He noted that the county hasn't closed a school since the mid-1980s, and that processes such as school boundary changes involve a much more deliberate procedure, resulting in a more well-informed decision.

The key to Mr. Knapp's comments was that unless the Poolesville cluster succeeds in

barn.

Even with the doors largely locked, the MOOseum has begun to fulfill its mission, supporters said October 22. An "Around the Barn Tour" brochure was created in 2004 to lead readers on a walking tour around the building, and first and second graders at Germantown's Spark Matsunaga Elementary School have visited the site several times a year since 2003.

"It was a match made in heaven," said Principal Judy Brubaker. "We have been so happy to be their test group." The outings have educated students and their families about the community's history as well as having served as a curriculum assist, she said. "I was shocked to find out how many [students] had no idea where milk came from," Brubaker said. "As far as they were concerned, they went through the lunch line, picked up a milk bottle, and that's where milk came from." Students wouldn't make that mistake after a trip to the barn.

Second grade teacher Phil Dagnese presented the planning board with information on the school's MOOseum field trips

making allies of other school clusters in the fight, it may be difficult to sway the school board. He suggested that opponents of the school closing impress upon the other school jurisdictions the quick and seemingly arbitrary nature of this closing, and that the process is flawed. The other school clusters should be made to understand that a flawed and capricious process could just as easily be brought to bear on one of the schools in their districts. He said that such an approach might indeed help the Monocacy message resonate more clearly throughout the county, and potentially bring more pressure to bear on school board officials facing an election in 2010. Ms. Defnet echoed this, saying that "a lot of schools out there are under the magic eight hundred (student body) and they should look at the process because it may be coming their way."

that he said could be adapted to other schools. Past outings have included petting live cows, "milk-ing" a life-size model, examining manure under microscopes, sampling dairy products, and reading, writing and art projects

"It's an amazing resource," said Dagnese. Opening the interior of the barn "will open a whole other realm...As a teacher, you can tell I am very excited about it; I love it."

McGraw said the MOOseum is currently totally volunteer but will consider hiring staff at some point. "We need to have an...inaugural year," she said, before such a step.

The board hopes to make the barn available to the public as well as schools after a grand opening in the spring, McGraw said. The specific days and hours of operation are yet to be determined.

Any one interested in assisting with tours or other needs at the MOOseum should email contact information to dairymooseum@aol.com.

*"McNaughton" Continued From
Page 3.*

ing"—but, most of all, she loves to help with home decorations. She does color consultations, then she listens to her clients and learns what they like. "Some people live with white walls by default," she says. With her arsenal of paints and brushes, Kitty can transform boring, drab living spaces into oases of wonder and beauty, or, if it's an athletics-loving teen, a room full of sports paraphernalia.

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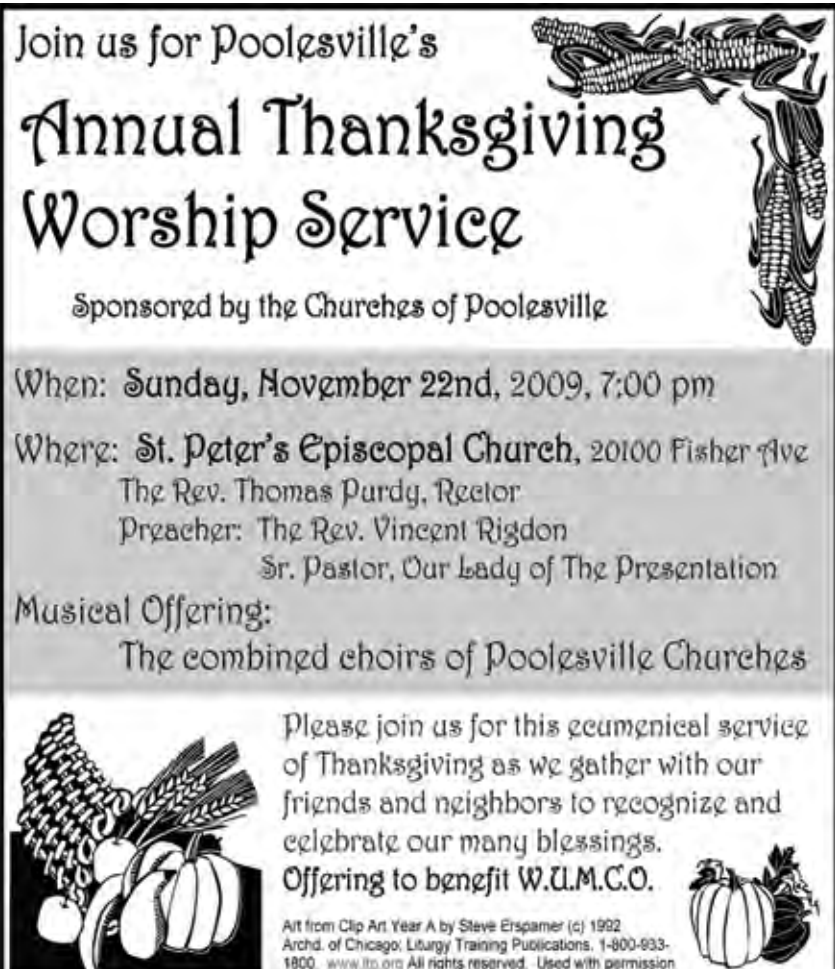
When: Sunday, November 22nd, 2009, 7:00 pm

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Preacher: The Rev. Vincent Rigdon
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