

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

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There was something for almost everyone at the holiday lighting ceremony on Whalen Commons last week.



If it's Christmas this must be Jim Sporey, celebrating hirsuteness with the big guy. More holiday pictures are all over this issue, starting with the Family Album on Page 2.



Lots of sports in this issue, including Clarksburg volleyball (pictured here), Clarksburg soccer (state champs), and Poolesville volleyball.



If anyone at the Odd Fellows Widows and Orphans Dinner needed to cross a street, these guys were ready.

Historic Church Will Sing Again

By Kristen Milton

Gwen Reese hopes raising the roof will help paint the walls of St. Paul's Community Church in Sugarland as a holiday musical fundraiser is planned for the historic site just south of Poolesville. Reese, president of the nonprofit Sugarland Ethno-History Project, looks forward to hearing music in the building since there has not been an event like this since the church lost its congregation several years ago. "The acoustics in the church are just awesome," Reese said. "The sound carries really well."

Melvin Caldwell & Company, a Rockville gospel group, and their audience will test those acoustics later this month with a performance that will

include sing-along portions and holiday carols as well as spirituals. The event is co-sponsored by the Montgomery Countryside Alliance.

"I've watched that building go empty, and the notion of them not hosting song and celebration is kind of sad to me," said Alliance executive director Caroline Taylor. "My goal is to fill every single space in there."

Taylor, who started at the Alliance in May, said the planned December 13 event complements the group's preservation goals. "I think what happens is people hear 'Agricultural Reserve' [and] they think big tracts of farmland,



Melvin Caldwell, Gwen Reese and Caroline Taylor at the church

and they forget that people have been here," Taylor said. "I have seen you can't turn your back on the history as you're moving forward...fortunately the MCA board believes this too."

Reese, a Gaithersburg resident and descendant of early Sugarland families, said her niece sang with Caldwell, who

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The White House Crashers Have Connection to Poolesville

By Rande Davis

The public and the media are aghast at the prospect that the White House state dinner could be crashed. It might surprise area residents that Tareq Salahi is not unfamiliar to our region. The *Monocle* has posted a commentary by Poolesville attorney William Roberts which sheds some intriguing light on the national scandal and its connection to

Poolesville.

Last May, a highly-promoted event, the America's Polo Cup, with the polo grounds on Hughes Road as the venue, caused quite a stir with many expectations of a major sporting event in our own backyard. The U.S. Polo team was to play Australia, and proceeds from the competition were to go to the Journey for the Cure Foundation. For a while, the promoters "leaked" the notion that Michelle Obama would be attending. Even though the site was promoted as being in Potomac, we all knew it was right here in our backyard. Mr. Roberts reports to us that the captain of the U.S. Polo team was none other than Tareq Salahi, that he and Michael

won the corporation "America's Cup," and that they are also the founders and directors of Journey for the Cure Foundation.

With expectations raised high in the community, especially the business community, there was great disappointment in how low-key the event turned out to be. Prior to the event, most of the controversy centered on the potential negative impact the event would have in the Ag Reserve and questioning as to how the event promoters were able to obtain the necessary county permitting.

With the prospects of a major sporting event, the *Monocle* made its coming to the area

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Family Album



The Family Album is sponsored by Selby's Market Your IGA Hometown Food Store



St. Nicholas visited St. Peter's to tell the story of the first Santa Claus.



The Clergy of Poolesville led the community in a combined Thanksgiving worship service held this year at St. Peter's. Father Rigdon, right, gave a sermon telling the history of the great American event.

Local poet Bernie Jankowski read from his new book The Shamokin Monologues at The Quill and Brush in Dickerson. He was assisted by poet Anne Sheldon, who also read some of her poetry, and accompanied by Jazz pianist Bruce Bears.



The Odd Fellows hosted their wonderful holiday dinner for widows, widowers, and seniors at Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church.



Once again, Santa made his visit to the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department breakfast.

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Center Stage Beauty and the Brush

By Dominique Agnew



Painter, Claire Howard, in her studio.

Enter the stately Poolesville Victorian farmhouse of painter Claire Howard and be amazed. The first thought is—an eloquent one, of course—Wow. Is it incredibly beautiful because Claire is an artist? Is it perfectly well-appointed because the Howards hired an interior designer? Do the answers lie in both possibilities?

Claire Howard has always painted, but it's only recently that she has become a painter. "I've painted all my life," she says, "ever since I was a little girl." The path to full-time painter did not preclude painting. Claire graduated from Villanova with a degree in nursing, but after she had her first child, she became an interior designer—and used her painting in her designs with murals, custom paintings, and coordinating fabrics. "I loved incorporating the art into my work," she explains.

Claire retired from interior design work five years ago to become a full-time painter. "It was something in my life that I always thought I would get to," she says. The children were gone, and she was approaching fifty and thought to herself, "If I don't do now what I wanted to, when am I [going to] do it?" She has a strong appreciation and gratitude for everything around her which makes her want to paint even more. "I

truly love what I'm doing now," she says. "I can't wait to get into my art studio."

Painting primarily in oils, Claire's work reflects her love of nature, her gardens, her animals, and her town. When she talks about her art, she invariably enthuses about the "beauty of the area," and then will quickly segue into how much she loves Poolesville, the friendliness of the residents, the Ag Reserve, and everything about her life here. "A lot of paintings are local [scenes]," she says. She keeps her camera in her truck. "When the light is special—there is so much special here to see—I stop and photograph it," she explains.

Her works are effusions of color and light. Beautiful renditions of her flower and vegetable gardens adorn the walls of her studio, a converted chicken coop/machine shed. As part of the Countryside Artisans Studio Tours, she opens her studio to the public for the spring and the fall and winter tours. She has also explored and offers, besides her original works, clever reproductions like Plexiglas (stunning when backlit), fabric to make cute cushions, or even wallpaper. "I try to make it fun," she says. Besides the oil paintings, she also creates humorous whimsical watercolors of her farm animals—the sheep sunbathing at the beach. She usually creates at least five new original works per show, but also tries to have creative gifts for her visitors. "I try to create variety to interest the wide variety of people who come." After five years of being on the tour, "I look forward to seeing the same faces. I so appreciate them coming back." She also has other artists join her: Damion Hunter of Pretty Shiny Things in Barnesville and her jewelry, her daughter Jenny who sells children's clothing as Little Red Wagon, and her daughter-in-law Becca who creates beautiful stationery and invitations as Taylor Street Paper.

Claire and husband—"we were college sweet-

hearts"—Frank, whom she met on a blind date, moved to Poolesville nine years ago. They didn't have the usual milieus of meeting others through children's activities since they moved out after the children were grown. "Connecting without raising children is different," she says, but she can't get over how nice everyone is. "Mary Bernardo [at the post office] has that little twinkle in her eyes." She mentions the Selbys: "Where can you go to the grocery store and have such nice people?" And there are more. "I'm surprised at how nice the people are," she says, "I love the people." It was an early experience with the people of Poolesville that probably brought her here. While still an interior designer, she was rushing to a jobsite when she realized she had forgotten her hammer. She stopped into Poolesville Hardware with the intention of buying one. Steve Pratt said, "Here," as he handed her one from under the counter, "take this ham-

mer. Bring it back when you're done."

When Claire first went to look at the property on West-erly Road where she now lives, Lindenwood, the owner threw a piece of gravel into the original well that was just outside the kitchen door and told her to make a wish. Her wish? "I wish I could live here"—now she does.

"I always wanted to live in the country," Claire says, "and it took me a lifetime to get here."



One of Claire Howard's beautiful landscape paintings transferred to Plexiglas and mounted in a window.



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Commentary

It Seemed Like A Good Idea at The Time

By John Clayton

We all (or most of us) remain relieved at the stay of execution for the plan to close Monocacy Elementary School. We further salute all those who will continue to work to mollify down county or school board concerns over school populations in the Upcounty. I am sure the battle is far from over, as with the battles over mega-churches and other threats to the tranquility of life in the Monocacy region that oc-

cupy the attention of a number of individuals and groups in our area. There is no reason to think 2010 will offer fewer threats than 2009 either.

The national uproar over the couple that is accused of crashing a White House dinner has reminded us of the controversies over last spring's polo match outside of Poolesville. (Please note our story on page one and comments by local attorney William J. Roberts on the Poolesville Blog, which can be reached from the *Monocle* Blog at www.monocle-online.com). Mr. Roberts had the event's organizers pegged from the start. Our equestrian writer, Dr. Carol Rae Hansen, who contributed to our front page story on the then-upcoming event in our May 8, 2009 issue, also questioned the bona fides of

the Journey for the Cure charity that was the foundation of the event's permit with Montgomery County.

That particular permitting process, which involves Montgomery County's eager issuance of a "Special Performance Benefit Permit," remains of interest. Here is an excerpt from a commentary in that issue:

The Special Benefit Performance Permit was established to "allow non-profit organizations to conduct a performance for the benefit of a charitable organization." Examples given include "outdoor or indoor carnivals, fairs, picnics, dances..., [and] similar activities to which the public may be invited..." Once the permit is granted, the organization is exempt from whatever "land use restrictions" may otherwise apply to that particular property. Poolesville attorney Bill Roberts generously provided some history and perspective on the Special Benefit Performance Permit as it now stands. Originally, the permit required that the members of the organization conduct the benefit performance themselves, without paid professional assistance.

Subsequently, then-county councilman Steve Silverman (now director of the county's Department of Economic Development) successfully introduced a text amendment that removed the requirement that the members of the charitable organization perform the labor. Obviously, this opened the paddock doors to all sorts of applications of this particular permit, and forms the crux of objection here in the Upcounty.

This particular circus has come and gone, but Montgomery County can still easily permit a similar event without so much as a by your leave here in the Upcounty. Even those of us who were for the polo match before we were against it don't want to see this particular fiasco repeated.

I guess it looked like good business until they decided not to pay their bills. I know that feeling.

On a more important note, we at the *Monocle* wish all our readers, advertisers, friends, and foes (if any) a very merry Christmas, joyous holiday season, and a most Happy New Year.

For more news, pictures and commentary visit the *Monocle* at www.MonocleOnline.com.

From Your Friends at Poolesville Hardware

Happy Holidays & Happy New Year



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Local News

CHS Teacher Arrested

By Kristen Milton

A Clarksburg High School science teacher has resigned in the face of two robbery charges as his attorney, Barry Helfand, hopes for a plea deal for a man wrestling with drug addiction.

"It's a personal tragedy," Helfand said of Brendon Friedman's fall from respected educator to suspect. "The damn drugs will do it to you every time."

Friedman, 41, of Rockville was arrested November 13 in connection with robberies at a Safeway pharmacy in Bethesda and M&T Bank in Rockville

earlier in the day. At the time, he was a science teacher at Clarksburg High School. Friedman was released on \$20,000 bail and placed on paid administrative leave from the school system, according to MCPS spokesman Dana Tofig. He later submitted his resignation.

According to police, the Safeway robbery occurred at about 3:25 p.m. November 13 when a white man wearing a blue surgical mask and a black knit hat displayed a handgun at the pharmacy counter and demanded Xanax and Oxycontin, widely-abused prescription drugs. After receiving drugs from the pharmacist, the suspect fled on foot from the store, police said. About ninety minutes later, a similar suspect,

without a mask, robbed the bank at 5910 Executive Boulevard.

According to a police press release, "Police received confidential information that led them to Friedman," who was arrested at 7:45 p.m. in Silver Spring.

Charging documents state that Friedman was found with more than \$2,250, three bottles of Xanax, a fake handgun, and a note matching the one used in the pharmacy robbery in his car.

"It is only a horrible addiction that would lead a relatively good man to commit these crimes in the manner he did," Helfand said in a December 3 phone interview. "In my opinion, this was a person crying out for help."

Helfand said Friedman took drugs in between the two robberies, which is why he entered the bank with his face exposed. The amount of evidence recovered from the car "makes it virtually impossible to try the case to anybody," said Helfand, who hoped to reach a plea agreement with the state before December 11, the date originally set for a preliminary hearing.

Helfand said Friedman was introduced to marijuana at age ten and moved on to crack cocaine and the prescription drugs. At the time of the interview, Helfand said Friedman was living with his parents and receiving treatment for his addiction.

News of Friedman's arrest surprised the school community. At www.myfoxdc.com, a story on the incident drew more than seventy comments from posters claiming to be students, former students, police officers, and

friends. Some were supportive of Friedman, calling him their favorite teacher, while others were critical of both Friedman and the treatment he received from the school system and courts.

"I had Mr. Friedman last school year," wrote a poster identified as "student3." "He was a good teacher; he helped me when I needed it and stopped my ex-boyfriend from bothering me in class. He doesn't seem like that type of person to do something [like] this."

"WOW!" wrote "CHS Parent." "My son had him as a teacher. And he is a very good teacher and very understanding. What a shame this has happened to him."

"I don't understand why people are being easy on him," wrote another poster. "He is a criminal and a drug addict... All criminals need help, but people don't care when it happens in P.G. County or D.C."

Some said Friedman should have been fired immediately rather than placed on paid leave. Friedman had worked for the school system since 2005. In May, he was recognized in the MCPS newsletter as one of eight county teachers selected for a program involving study in Howard Hughes Medical Institute research laboratories.

In the Garden

More Gifts for Gardeners

By Maureen O'Connell

Last month, I wrote an article about ideas for gifts for gardeners. I mentioned several garden catalogs, garden centers, and other businesses that offer good quality and interesting gifts for all budgets. Well, if you are like me and hate to deal with traffic, too few parking spaces, and long lines at the checkouts, look no further than Monocacy Country for your shopping. Our local businesses and artisans offer a wide selection of useful, whimsical, and unusual gifts for everyone on your gift list. Many of these are loyal *Monocle* advertisers. The Agricultural Reserve is home not only to farms that provide us our food; it has a rich history of local entrepreneurs and artists whom we should try to support.

On December 11, 12, and 13, the Countryside Artisans will host a Holiday Studio Tour at fourteen local locations. They include: Kidera Designs, Something Earthy, Art of Fire, Iron Antler Forge, 2 Griffins, Dusty Road Pottery, Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard and Winery, Morningstar Studio, Dancing Leaf Farm, Sugarloaf Studio, Tiewyan

Artisans, Alden Farms, Claire Howard Studio, and Kiparoo Farm. You can see from the names that this group offers a very wide and diverse selection of gifts. For the art lovers, there are several artists who specialize in oil and watercolor who have some wonderful landscape depictions of our Monocacy countryside. As Alden Farms' ads say, "We're a little different." They are not kidding; they are delightfully different. They specialize in "garden things," but you can find many gifts for non-gardeners. They have unusual hand-crafted stone birdbaths, garden sculptures which are truly one-of-a-kind, jewelry, and plants. For the wine enthusiast, stop by Sugarloaf Mountain Winery, where you can sample and purchase their award-winning wines. Do you have a friend who likes to knit? There are studios that offer beautiful yarns from their own sheep. Other artisans offer metal sculpture, pottery, hand-blown glass, fine furniture, textile fashions, and woodenware. For directions and studio hours, consult their website at www.countrysideartisans.com.

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Local News

Clarksburg Chamber of Commerce Spearheads Discovery Process for Town Incorporation



Clarksburg Chamber of Commerce representatives meet with Poolesville leaders to explore the process of incorporating their town.

By Rande Davis

The Clarksburg Chamber of Commerce has embarked on an ambitious investigation as to the benefit of Clarksburg becoming incorporated. The group's goal is to initiate a discovery process to evaluate the potential benefits and pitfalls for incorporating the town of Clarksburg. The role of the chamber is to bring together Clarksburg businesses and residents in a series of public meetings with various governmental organizations with experience in the process of incorporation and of managing a township.

Patrick Darby, president of the chamber and owner of Novel Places Bookstore, Gordon Taylor, chamber member and owner of Upcounty Beer and Wine, along with Berry Fantle, from the Clarksburg Civic Association, are spearheading the project. They were joined by Catherine E. Matthews, director of Upcounty Regional Service Center at the first exploratory meeting at the Poolesville Town Hall on November 17 where town commission president, Eddie Kuhlman, and town manager, Wade Yost, hosted a discussion on town incorporation.

In an open, unstructured two-hour dialogue on the pros and cons of incorporation, the Poolesville leaders, while emphatically supportive of incorporation for Poolesville, also were clear that it might not be right for every

town and laid out the need to establish the clear benefits to the residents of incorporating should Clarksburg residents decide to move in that direction.

From Mr. Kuhlman's perspective, the autonomy of incorporation for Poolesville has provided a better model of controlling town needs and goals while building a strong, positive sense of community. He further emphasized that the town does not provide every service possible, exemplifying police and fire protection, but its small size has facilitated working with the Montgomery County Police Department. The key to its success is having planning and zoning authority, having its own water and wastewater treatment facilities, and also maintaining the roads and sidewalks not owned by the county or state.

Using \$750 a year as a typical property tax payment, he explained that the bottom line was to be able to itemize clearly the benefit to the homeowners of paying the tax. Of course, Poolesville, a town of 5500 is smaller than the current population of 12,000 for Clarksburg. There is also expectation that Clarksburg could grow to as many as 40,000 residents in the future.

Ms. Matthews, while observing the meeting and providing input from the county perspective, emphasized that the county stays neutral on such matters.

From a recommendation of Mr. Kuhlman to meet with representatives of the Maryland Municipal League (MML), a December 3 meeting at the Upcounty Ombudsman building was held. Tom Reynolds, a researcher for the Maryland Municipal League (MML) addressed and answered questions.

In addressing a question of how the town size and its potential for growth could affect incorporation efforts, Mr. Reynolds said, "Our sense is that a smaller incorporation effort is more likely to be

successful for two reasons: (1) It's typically easier to build consensus among a smaller group, and (2) a county legislative body is less likely to object when a smaller percentage of its tax base proposes to establish an independent government within its borders." With only five exceptions, no incorporation effort since 1954 has succeeded. When asked if Clarksburg's past incorporated status up to the 1920s would help in current efforts to incorporate, Mr. Reynolds did not expect that it would have much impact.

With planning and zoning authority suggested as essential to incorporation during the previous meeting in Poolesville, Mr. Reynolds pointed out that since 1957, "Montgomery County municipalities that incorporate cannot exercise planning and zoning authority unless the authority is specifically granted by state law." However, he went on to state that "even municipalities without full planning and zoning authority routinely have greater influence over planning and zoning activities by virtue of their organizational capacity and status as municipalities."

Also attending the December meeting was Mayor Jeffrey Z. Slavin of the Town of Somerset. Mayor Slavin advised that the timing is fortuitous with the pending 2010 elections and having five County Council seats on the ballot, including that of Clarksburg Councilman Mike Knapp. He said it is a particularly good opportunity to make the incorporation desires and/or concerns of residents known.

With the Clarksburg Chamber's second of two meetings now completed, Gordon Taylor told the Monocle, "We recognize that growing Clarksburg from its current population to more than 40,000 is by its nature complex. Incorporation provides one alternative for the town to consider for making the best town possible." Moving ahead, the chamber is also developing plans to speak with other town organizations and to possibly form a town advisory council as an interim step or alternative to incorporation. The goal is to give Clarksburg a

stronger and more cohesive voice for matters related to planning, services, and others.

Additionally, Chamber President Darby will initiate a candidates' forum in the spring. The chamber also is planning to conduct an electronic survey to determine the most pressing concerns and needs of residents and to help formulate questions at the candidates' forum.

Taylor was positive about the meetings so far and the actions being planned. "Overall, the incorporation discovery process has been fruitful. Our findings reveal that incorporation is a very viable alternative—not as onerous as it initially appeared. The key is to establish an industrious and committed volunteer group early on that is willing to sustain what could take two to three years to accomplish. Key success factors include marketing to the citizenry, complex budget analysis and negotiation, and fundraising." Taylor said. "Now we leave it to town residents to determine the best path. As business people, we will continue to support the town in whatever manner possible to move forward."



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Youth Sports

PHS Girls

Volleyball 2009: Carry On the Proud Tradition

By Jeff Stuart

The Poolesville High School girls' volleyball team, after winning the state championship last year, had a huge challenge in 2009. "New season, new approach," PHS Head Volleyball Coach Fran Duvall told her girls before the season. "This is our season, and we have to decide what we want to make of it." The girls and coaches worked hard on and off the court to make 2009 a great year even though they ended up short of the ultimate goal.

On the court, the girls rolled to a 13-1 record. A motivational poster that hung in the gym during last year's championship season read, "Get back to Ritchie Coliseum and take care of business." The 1A state champs last fall moved up to 2A this year. Duvall looked back at the regional play against Francis Scott Key High School, "This was a great match," said Duvall. "Our team played very hard and left what they had out on the court. A little more experience, and the match was ours. I could not be more proud of my team. FSK is a very good team."

The game was at FSK even though both teams finished 13-1. Poolesville lost a coin flip to determine the top seed. The Falcons earned a spot in the region final by beating Century at home. "Century was our best overall effort," said the coach. "All the work we put into becoming a team paid off. We went into the playoffs playing our best volleyball together, and it showed. While it is disappointing to lose, it is never disappointing to give your best effort."

The season began with

some familiar players. Seniors Kelly Rosenberg and Laura Graham with juniors Paige Sekerak and Lauren Rocco were captains. Sekerak was named to the Washington Post All-Met Second Team in 2008. Some players were new. Juniors Alayna Hendrix, Christine Antenson, and Abbe Guertin were starters for the first time in 2009. Senior Lena Stypeck and sophomore Lucy Tan also saw a lot of action. "Lena plays back row for Ayalna and really is our utility player," says the coach. "She can play anywhere." New does not necessarily mean inexperienced as most played club volleyball last winter. Antonsen, a steady hitter and a solid blocker, has returned to Poolesville after spending last season in Paris where she played with a club team. Who surprised Coach Duvall? "Christine and Alayana the most, but really most of my team surprises me at times."

The schedule was front loaded with strong early opponents. The girls opened their season at Northwest and came away with a hard-fought match victory in five games. Strong play from several players made the win possible. Rosenberg dished out forty assists. Their only loss of regular play came at Gaithersburg (15-2) on September 11. "It was a good match well played by both sides," said Duvall afterward. "It was our best match of the season up to that point."

The Falcons rebounded at home against Clarksburg in a three-game sweep. Stypeck scored thirteen points and had seven aces on service. Hendrix chipped in nine kills and Antonsen added seven more, but Poolesville at times struggled with service-receive.

The Falcons began October with another three-match sweep at B-CC, but all games were competitive. At times it was a struggle, but the girls did not falter.

As the season continued, the team was making sig-

nificant progress. "But not as much as I would have liked. Our improvement has been mostly individual skill levels, and we need to improve on playing together."

Off the court, the girls sponsored a "Dig Pink" event at their home match against Wootton High School Patriots

at the end of October, raising money to find a cure for Breast Cancer. They raised over \$5,500. On the court, the girls took care of business, sweeping the Patriots. "They are strong

-Continued on Page 14.

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Local News

BOE Sets Up Advisory Committee to Explore How to Increase MES Enrollment

By Rande Davis

The citizen-led campaign against Montgomery County Public School's superintendent Dr. Weast's recommendation to close Monocacy Elementary School was successful when the Board of Education voted against implementing the proposal and, instead, established an advisory board to consider ways to increase the enrollment of the school

The KeepMonocacyOpen.com group heralded the proposed round-table discussion to explore and propose solutions to the problem of the cluster's declining

enrollment. They have one year to develop the plan.

In thanking the members of the group, Commissioner Jim Brown said, "The direction taken by the BOE was a clear result of the tenacity, hard work, and quality presentation assembled by the following cluster leaders and Monocacy/due process supporters: Dawn Albert (Monocacy PTA President), her husband Doug Gross, Barbara Davidson, Tiffany Ayres, Rob Rocco, Denise Collier, Wendy Roldan, Ryan Hemingway, Andrea Johnson, Christine Chalk, and Lynne Rolls (PES PTA President). My thanks also go out to my fellow commissioner, Jerry Klobukowski, for his strong support and testimony as well as the support for due process from the rest of the commissioners (especially Eddie Kuhlman representing the interests of the Ag Reserve) and our local politicians who stepped up quite nicely (Montgomery County Council member Mike Knapp, Senator Rob Garagiola, and our delegates Brian Feldman, Craig Rice, and Kathleen Dumais)."

Local News

Arson at Christmas Tree Lot in Poolesville

A fire broke out around 2:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 6 on the property of the former Getty Station in Poolesville. David MacKenzie had recently begun selling Christmas trees from the property. It is reported that an accelerant was used in setting fire to some of the trees, causing some damage to the canopy that overlooks the gas pumps no longer in use. Anyone observing activity on the property at the times previously mentioned is encouraged to call the Montgomery County Police.

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Local News

Planning Board Actions in November

By Kristen Milton

Tennis Facility May be Approved for Boyds Sports Complex

Another sport may eventually join those already enjoyed near the Maryland SoccerPlex complex in Boyds if a proposed tennis facility is approved. A public meeting was held November 30 to vet plans for the Jack Schore Tennis Facility at South Germantown Recreational Park, a potential public/private partnership for the county. The approximately nine-acre facility would be located in a corner of the intersection of Central Park Circle and Germantown Park Drive.

According to the proposal, the facility would offer tennis leagues, classes, individual play, camps, and events for area residents from toddlers to senior citizens. The affordability of the facility was emphasized with an assistance program for lower-income players and no membership fee to be required.

The facility would include eight indoor tennis courts under a permanent "bubble" structure as well as four lighted outdoor courts to be added to the two existing courts at the site. A clubhouse and forty-two parking spaces were also part of the plans. A later phase included four more indoor and two more outdoor courts with another twenty-one parking spaces.

Organizers, which include Schore, owner of Potomac's Bullis Tennis Center, anticipate the location would host three or four tournaments annually.

South Germantown Recreational Park, in Boyds, already hosts the Germantown Indoor Swim Center as well as the King Barn Dairy Mooseum, miniature golf, and other offerings.

Hospital Site Decision Deferred

In an effort to remain above the fray as two locations compete to be chosen as the next long-anticipated Upcounty hospital, the Planning Board declined last month to add hospitals to the list of permitted uses in a zone being considered for Germantown's Montgomery College area.

The board discussed the possibility November 5 of adding hospitals to the list of uses permitted in the I-3 zone, one of the zones under discussion for the Montgomery College district in the latest Germantown Master Plan. Planners voted unanimously to advise the County Council to defer its decision on a zoning text amendment. The Council held a November 10 public hearing on the amendment and will make the final decision.

Before the board's November 5 vote, members heard from attorneys of both Holy Cross, which hopes to build a hundred-bed hospital to anchor the college's planned biotechnology business park, and Adventist HealthCare, which hopes to build a hospital campus in developing Clarksburg.

Bob Dalrymple, speaking for Holy Cross, urged the board to support the zoning change. "It is not premature; in fact, it would be a mistake not to entertain it at this time," Dalrymple said, arguing that a later change would be perceived as solely for the benefit of the college rather than a wider application.

However, Bob Harris, speaking for Adventist, said approving the change could negate earlier efforts of the county government to remain neutral in the showdown between the two healthcare companies. He said the comparative certificate of need review process being conducted by the Maryland Health Care Commission was "at a critical juncture."

Harris further argued that the special exception process, which would currently be needed to place a hospital in the I-3 zone was "not unnecessarily burdensome."

Adventist purchased its proposed hospital site in Clarksburg's Cabin Branch develop-

ment in 2002. Holy Cross announced its plan at the college campus in Germantown in 2008. The Maryland Health Care Commission is expected to make its recommendation in the spring.

Changes to Little Bennett Park

The Montgomery County Planning Board added more than seventy-seven acres to Little Bennett Creek Stream Valley Park last month by okaying the purchase of land south of Kingstead Road.

In its November 5 meeting,

the board approved purchasing the 77.5 Damascus acres for \$387,755 under the Legacy Open Space program, which aims to protect area natural or historical resources. The seller of the property was identified as Luy Huyn



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Local News

Town Government Postpones Decision On Alternative Energy Ordinance—Again

By Rande Davis

The December 7 town government meeting discussed a proposed ordinance (#122-Forest Conservation) which would amend requirements and penalties for forest conservation to conform to State of Maryland regulations.

Forestation requirements regulate construction activities such as grading, the amount of trees and size required, sediment control, timber harvesting, etc. The proposed amendment would lower the size of property under regulation from minimally 40,000 to 20,000 square feet or approximately from one acre to half an acre.

Changes in penalties for failing to properly file a declaration of intent of proposed property changes would go from a non-compliance fee of thirty cents per square foot to forty cents per square foot. Additionally, a person found to be in noncompliance with the ordinance of the Conservation Plan would have the penalty raised from thirty cents to one dollar per square foot of the area found to be in noncompliance. It also raises the maximum penalty from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Copies of Ordinance #122 can be obtained from the town, and a public hearing on the proposed amendments will be held on January 4, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

The commissioners attempted to bring closure to the deliberative process in considering the proposed Alternative Energy Ordinance by reviewing proposals for regulating solar, geothermal, and wind energy sources. In taking straw votes (non-binding) on each category, it demonstrated support (5-0) for a geothermal

loop system; however, changes in the proposal on solar power and, in particular, regarding line-of-sight restrictions and allowing special exceptions in the Commercial and Commercial Business District (CBD) caused a discussion that resulted in further changes to be made. President Kuhlman argued that requiring a special exception for solar in the CBD, which includes a \$650.00 permitting fee, was not "green," was unfairly burdensome to homeowners and businesses in the CBD, and that the same requirements for solar elsewhere should apply to the business district. Changes in the solar regulations will be resubmitted.

The oft-contested request for wind turbine energy use on the property of Poolesville Hardware took a new twist when owner, John Speelman, trying to overcome objections of the modern wind turbine as not aesthetically meeting the master plan goals for the historical area of Poolesville, introduced a design that reflects the traditional farming windmill.

The discussion on the wind and solar energy requirement changes caused a further delay in a final vote, and the matter was tabled. Ironically, the only area seemingly having full support so far in the alternative energy ordinance development, geothermal, had a setback when Robert Pierce, an expert in forestation, opined that with the proposed amendment to the Forestation Ordinance which is scheduled for public hearing in January, those changes would most likely mitigate against the use of geothermal energy due to the additional cost factors from the ordinance. Mr. Pierce also offered his professional expertise in reviewing the proposed forestation amendments, and the commissioners accepted his offer.

In another town matter, the Circuit Court for Montgomery County ruled against the Poolesville Town Board of Zoning Appeals in a civil action brought by Donald Barnes for redress in the town approval of a special exception for establishment of a professional-use office in a home which shares a pipe-

stem driveway with the Barneses' home. Judge Joseph A. Dugan, Jr. ruled that the BZA did not adequately consider covenants in the Tama I development. The town will appeal the decision to the Court of Special Appeals.

A Public Hearing on ordinance #179 – Notice of Foreclosure Required was held prior to the start of the December 7 Poolesville Town Meeting. The State of Maryland has allowed townships to require notification to the town of foreclosure on homes within their townships. Resident Robert Pierce was the only person offering comment on the amendment in questioning how financial institutions outside of the state would necessarily be aware of the ordinance and how, in any event, effective such an ordinance could be. It was suggested that out-of-state mortgage companies would be using Maryland attorneys who are required to be aware of such ordinances. The commissioners will vote on the proposal ordinance at a future meeting.



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Police Blotter

By Jack Toomey

Montgomery County Police want this upcoming holiday season to be a safe one for shoppers, pedestrians, and drivers in the county. Beginning Friday, November 27, the day after Thanksgiving, the department kicked off its new "Shop with a Cop" initiative. It will run through Christmas Eve, December 24.

Officers in all six of the Montgomery County police districts will be detailed to shopping areas in their districts to provide high visibility, extra security, and to provide reminders about driving and pedestrian safety—especially in parking lots. Officers will be distributing approximately five thousand bright green reflective and recyclable shopping bags with a driver and pedestrian safety message printed on them.

Current Crimes

Police responded to the following locations for reports of disorderly conduct: McDonald's, 19630 Fisher Avenue, 19500 block of Fisher Avenue, 19500 block of Wootton Avenue, 17600 block of Kohlhoss Avenue, 17000 block of Hersperger Lane, 17300 block of Seneca Chase Road, 17800 block of Doctor Walling Road.

Reports of drug use: 16600 block of Sugarland Road, 18300 block of Cattail Road.

Thefts: 24500 block of River Road, 21800 block of Big Woods Road, Dickerson.

Theft from vehicle: 19600 block of Gott Street, 17200 block of Conoy Road.

Assaults: McDonald's, 19630 Fisher Avenue, Tom Fox Court.

Theft of vehicle: 20600 block of West Hunter Road.

Burglary: 18900 block of Beallsville Road, Beallsville; White's Ferry Store 24800 block of White's Ferry Road.

Past Crimes

December 14, 1905 Joe Dominic Romero, an Italian who supposedly shot and killed

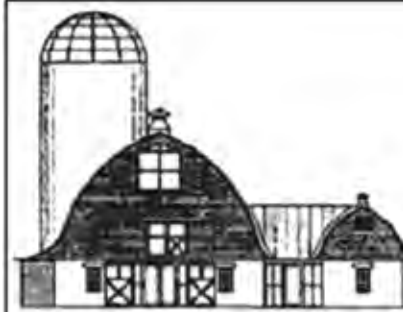
another Italian named Frank, was captured near Brunswick and returned to Frederick to await trial. On the way back to Frederick, Romero confessed to Sheriff Myers that he had committed the crime.

December 19, 1931 Convicted wife-beater, Joseph Carlton, who was to have suffered ten lashes in the Rockville jail courtyard on Christmas morning, received a reprieve on his sentence. Judge Peter agreed to hear arguments on whether the establishment of the Takoma Park Police Court was constitutional.

December 24, 1934 Montgomery County police officers were called to a farm a mile southwest of Barnesville for the report of a large man stuck in a chimney. When they arrived, the man was gone, but the officers found an accumulation of snow in the hearth and footprints on the roof of the house.

December 24, 1981 Five members of a Clarksburg family were killed in a two-car collision on a rural road near Mt. Airy. Richard and Martha Proctor, their children and grandchildren, were on the way to Christmas Eve services when their automobile was struck head on by a car that crossed the centerline. The driver of the other car was arrested for drunk driving.

December 27, 1887 Montgomery County Sheriff W. W. White was assaulted while he was riding on a train between Washington City and Rockville. White was struck in the face by Dink Neill and another man. Neill was then subdued and handcuffed by White and two of his friends. The other man ran from the train at Rockville, but his identity was known. Both assailants were said to have been under the influence of alcohol.



SUGARLOAF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER December 2009

"Protecting our rural legacy"

How to contact us:

Sugarloaf Citizens' Association

Gary L. Valen, President

Linden Farm

20900 Martinsburg Road

Dickerson, MD 20872

Visit our Web site: www.sugarloafcitizens.org

YOUR CHANCE TO JOIN!

The Board of Sugarloaf Citizens' Association voted at its November meeting to make it easier to join and participate in our efforts as a watchdog organization to protect the Agricultural Reserve in Montgomery County. Preserving the ability to produce food locally is one of the smartest legacies we can pass on to our children and grandchildren. At the same time we fight to preserve the vistas, open spaces and farm scenes close to our homes as well as the carbon sequestration benefits provided by our parks and forests.

The careful nurturing and guidance required to protect the AgReserve is the work of volunteers. We do not have paid staff but we hire legal expertise or other qualified experts when needed to help make our case for any cause we believe will make a change for the good of the AgReserve.

There are many fine organizations that promote the Agricultural Reserve and SCA works closely with them often behind the scenes to prevent threatening encroachments to the rules and spirit protecting the fragile nature of this agricultural treasure. **Your personal membership in Sugarloaf makes an important contribution to our efforts** and places you side by side with neighbors who are already a part of SCA. Membership will also earn you an invitation to our annual meeting, the spring plant swap, and other events usually held at Linden Farm, the historic dairy farm operated by SCA on Martinsburg Road. You will also receive special alerts when we need to rally support for our work to protect the "rural legacy".

Obviously, we need more funding resources than the proceeds from a modest membership fee to ensure the financial viability of SCA. We therefore ask you to consider a substantial donation to Sugarloaf to make a difference in the way we fight the encroachment of the AgReserve. SCA is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization and all contributions over and above the membership fee may be deducted on your tax return. In order to satisfy current IRS guidelines we will provide a letter for donations to Sugarloaf of \$250 and above specifying any goods and services received in connection with your contribution. **Please send your membership dues of \$15 and all contributions to the Linden Farm address.**

2009 Holiday Lighting Festival

Photographs by Hilary Schwab Photography



More pictures can be seen at www.MonocleOnline.com, and in our pictorial Year in Review in our January 8, 2010 issue.

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See current updates to
Things to Do

*"PHS Volleyball " Continued From
Page 7.*

strong and quick," said Wootton coach Mary Malinauskas. "They schooled us in good volleyball. It wasn't fun, but it was educational."

In the region semifinal against third-seed Century, the Falcons really performed up to their full potential and showed their mettle. The Falcons won the first two games. Century avoided the sweep with a 25-21

win in game three and rallied to win game four after trailing the Falcons, 10-2 early. Century fended off five consecutive set points before falling in the final game. "It came down to who wanted it more," said Rosenberg. "

We came together as a team, and that was our most outstanding performance," said Duvall, referring to the season as a whole.

Tidbits of the Past

By Jack Toomey

December 5, 1933 The legislature approved a law that would allow the various dry election districts to vote for the right to sell liquor in their area. At the time, the dry districts were Poolesville, Laytonsville, Clarksburg, Darnestown, Olney, Barnesville, and Damascus.

December 8, 1935 Miss Rebecca Hall of Poolesville was given a surprise birthday party at her home. Forty-nine of her closest friends attended.

December 9, 1923 The young men of Poolesville announced that they would be holding their annual Christmas dance at the Town Hall on December 26.

December 10, 1949 Poolesville High School defeated Brunswick 33-29. Clark Poole and Larry Conrad scored baskets in the last fifteen seconds to win the game.

December 18, 1929 The Montgomery County Commissioners approved a study to estimate the cost of building a new road from the Poolesville-Dawsonville Pike to Sycamore Landing.

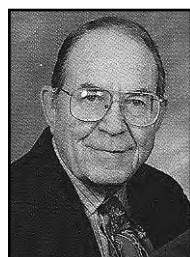
December 20, 1947 At the 4-H Club awards banquet held in Damascus, Frank Thompson of Poolesville won the prize for the best poultry.

December 22, 1948 Clarksburg High of Howard County defeated Poolesville 51-44. Tom Finnegan of Poolesville, whose brother Bob was the coach of the Poolesville team, led all scorers with seventeen points.

December 31, 1935 Six abandoned Montgomery County schools were sold at auction. The Burdette School sold for \$295, Clarksburg, \$136, and Woodfield, \$650.

Remembrance

**Herbert
J. "Jack"
Miller, Jr.
1924-2009**



Boyd's resident Herbert J. "Jack" Miller died November 14 at Shady Grove Hospital in Rockville. He was 85. Mr. Miller was one of Washington's top lawyers. He was chief of the Justice Department's criminal division under Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy from 1961 to 1965. He was well known for his part in directing the successful prosecution of Teamsters leader Jimmy Hoffa and members of organized crime families. He was in the legal forefront as he pioneered white-collar criminal defense. Over the length of his legal career, he was involved in many legal battles. He is probably most well known for his role as the key negotiator in arranging Richard Nixon's unconditional

pardon by his successor Gerald R. Ford in 1974.

Mr. Miller was born January 11, 1924, in Minneapolis. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He received his undergraduate and law education at George Washington University. In 1965, he founded the law firm of Miller, Cassidy, Larroca & Lewin. While he was an attorney by vocation, he was a farmer by avocation. He was quite at home on his two-hundred-acre farm in Boyds. You would find him chopping wood, repairing fences that his wife's thoroughbred horses would damage, making hay, and driving his tractor. He was well known and well respected as a man with a common touch. He will be missed in the community. He is survived by his wife of sixty-one years, Carey Kinsolving Miller, two sons, John K. Miller of Boyds and William G. "Bo" Miller of Nacogdoches, Texas, and five grandchildren.

Things to Do

Order your Poolesville PTA Ornament

The Poolesville High School PSTA is introducing a series of collectible ornaments featuring Poolesville area landmarks. The first ornament is of the Old Town Hall (now HMD Museum). Each ornament is a keepsake and comes with a card with the history of the site. Priced at \$15.00 each, you can send your order to Ornament Sales, PHS PTSA, 17501 West Willard Road, Poolesville, Maryland 20837. Pickup will be at Selby's Market on December 20 between noon and 5:00 p.m. If you want your order mailed to you, there is a \$3.00 charge for the first ornament and \$1.00 for each additional one. Visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/poolesvillehs to view the first ornament.

December 11, 12, 13

Countryside Artisans Holiday Tour
Visit www.countrysideartisans.com for map

December 11

Bassett's Entertainment Night
Todd Wright, 10:00 p.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 parts, 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 stories, 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

Arrive early to meet the princesses at 5:15 p.m.
Showtime: 6:00 p.m.

Cugini's Entertainment Night
Music, Madness, and an Englishman
Featuring: Poolesville Band Project with Winter Moon
With a surprise Master of Ceremonies. 8:00 p.m.

Holiday Bash Toys for Tots
Asian House of Poolesville, Benefit event
Featuring: So Far Gone. 9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

December 13

Christmas Musical
"Let There Be Joy"
Featuring: Poolesville Youth Symphony Orchestra, Poolesville Baptist Church. 7:00 p.m.

Gospel singers Melvin Caldwell & Company will perform at 3:30 p.m. at St. Paul Community Church in Sugarland, 14730 Sugarland Lane. Tickets are \$25 and are available by contacting Caroline Taylor at caroline@mocoalliance.org. Find out more about the church at www.sugarlandethnohistoryproject.org.

Hyattstown Mill Arts Project Holiday Event
Donovan Farm
7902 Timmons Mill Road
Union Bridge, MD
6:00 p.m. Call 301 874-2452 if you need directions

December 17

Poolesville Library
Storytime: Threes to Sixes
Pre-school to kindergarten
Stories, fingerplays, and music.
10:30 a.m.

Winter Concert for JPMS
Held at Poolesville High School Choral and Instrumental. 7:00 p.m.

Clarksburg High School
Winter Instrumental Concert. 7:00 p.m.

December 18

Poolesville Youth Symphony Orchestra Winter Concert
Orchestra and community combine to create an evening of classical and holiday music.
The orchestra will accompany the Poolesville Baptist Church Choir as part of an enjoyable and varied program. Reception

following performance.
John Poole Middle School
7:00 p.m.
Open to the public; donations appreciated
Poolesville Relay for Life Movie Night
Featuring: Santa Buddies
A wrapping station will also be set up to wrap presents for a donation. Volunteers wanted (students can earn service hours). Great time for parents to go out shopping.
Poolesville Elementary School
6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

December 18, 19, and 20

A Christmas Carol
Presented by the Maryland Ensemble Theater
Weinberg Center for the Arts
For ticket and more information:
www.weinbergcenter.org

December 19

Bassett's Entertainment Night
Bill Euler. 10:00 p.m.

December 20

Legacy of Love
A Kids' Christmas Musical
Dawsonville Mennonite Church
16500 White's Ferry Road

Admission: non-perishable food donation. 6:00 p.m.

December 22

Clarksburg High School Winter Choral Concert
7:00 p.m.

December 31

Bassett's New Year's Party
Little Black Dress Contest
Entertainment: Chris Compton and Friends

January 4

Commissioners Meeting
Public Hearing on Ordinance #122 - Forest Conservation. An ordinance to amend town requirements and penalties for forest conservation to conform with State of Maryland requirements.
7:30 p.m.

January 6

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

January 7

American Legion Post #247
Poolesville Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

January 8

Relay for Life Movie Night
Poolesville Elementary School,
7:00 p.m.

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"AME Church" Continued From Page 1.

was willing to do the concert when approached. Tickets will be limited to approximately eighty-five people, thus raising about \$2,000 for the church's paint job. A local company recently gave a \$20,000 estimate for the job, but Taylor and Reese are hoping further estimates will be lower. Another fundraising effort includes selling engraved bricks to make a memorial walkway around the church. "It's going very slowly but it's an ongoing process," Reese said.

The painting is just the latest step in Reese's fourteen-year effort to preserve the church where her great-grandfather, born a slave, was a Methodist minister. She has collected artifacts, photographs, newspaper clippings, and oral histories and hopes to someday see a second building on the church property to serve as a community museum.

Meanwhile, the church is open 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sundays April through September

for bike riders, family history research, or other visitors. Otherwise, it is open by appointment and hosts the occasional wedding or funeral.

St. Paul, built in 1893 to replace an earlier building, has a modest interior, without stained glass or hangings. According to a 1967 newspaper article, the church was the site of the state's first interracial marriage that year.

The Sugarland Community was established by freed slaves in the late 1800s but in recent years has dwindled in numbers. Reese partnered several years ago with Howard University to develop the Sugarland Ethno-History Project to preserve the area's history, including her own family history. Future projects at the church, she said, will include pew restoration, cemetery documentation, and installation of a bronze grave marker paid for by a \$500 mini-grant from Heritage Montgomery.

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Youth Sports Coyote Girls Volleyball: The Seniors Leave Their Footprints

By Jeff Stuart

Back in 2006, as the Clarksburg High Schools girls' volleyball team prepared to embark on its inaugural season, the players wore T-shirts reading: "History in the Making." With a roster at the time made up of mostly freshmen and sophomores, Head Coach Terri Tippett and Assistant Coach Dawn Dickinson knew there would be growing pains.

Three years later, Tippett had her first group of four-year seniors. "We are a team now. We rely on one another to do our jobs well. We have improved," says the coach. With a three-game sweep of Wheaton,

the Coyotes approached the end of October with five victories, the most in school history. The seniors, who have been there since the beginning, are: Taylor Randall, Alexa Walker, Cindy Alfaro, and Michelle Sloan. Senior Linda Le has played on the team for three seasons. As they look back at their final volleyball season, here are their thoughts.

"It's been a lot of fun," says Taylor Randall. "I think it is important for us that we were the first. We've worked hard and left our mark." Her favorite moment on the court? "I served thirteen straight times in the Kennedy game." About Randall, Coach Tippett said, "Taylor works hard every single day to improve her skills and lead her team. She put her teammates in position to make plays. She has been a positive role model." The highlight for Cindy Alfaro? "I got the most number of hits for the team last season (83 hits). As a team, the highlight was improving so much. It especially showed against Poolesville

this year. Even though we didn't win, we got higher scores than other schools did against them." The seniors agreed that the Poolesville game was their strongest of the year. In reflecting on her four years, Michelle Sloan said, "I play basketball and softball, too. Softball is my favorite, but volleyball is the most fun. All the girls and the coach have been great." Her favorite moment? "I had five blocks in a game." "Michelle was always working to improve her game as evidenced by her excellent blocking and play at the net," says Tippett. "She leads through hard work, hustle, and determination both on the court and in the classroom." What are the final thoughts about the 2009 season for Alexa Walker? "It has been fun. Taylor and I have been co-captains the past two years, so it has been a lot of work, too. We've worked really hard to get the team to where they are now. We think that when we leave, they'll be strong enough to take it far."

Her career highlight? "I hit a ball so hard it knocked a player over. Her glasses came off." Senior Linda Le, a defensive specialist—"She keeps us laughing with her wit and is an outstanding student. They are all going to be sorely missed," says Tippett. "Watching them grow to seniors has been an incredible honor for me. They have grown into fine young women who will be very successful adults. We will miss their humor, their talent, and their leadership."



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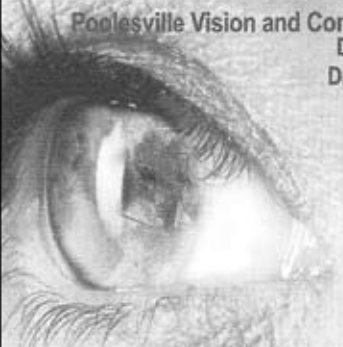
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"White House Gate Crashers"
Continued From Page 1.

our headline story in our May 8 issue. Jason Sickles, an event manager, told the newspaper to expect a crowd between 8,000 and 10,000. Others were warning of an out-of-control turnout of 20,000. In our report, it seems only Montgomery County Police Captain Luther Reynolds got it right in predicting between 2,000 and 5,000. The Monocle also noted that the promoters had to back off their claim that Robert Duvall and Huey Lewis were attending.

Additionally, the report cited Mr. Valen, president of the Sugarloaf Citizens Association, expressing to County Executive Leggett that he (Mr. Valen) was "extremely concerned about any effort to circumvent the rules that govern the Agricultural Reserve. We do not believe that we have the facilities, roads, or infrastructure in place to host massive public events. We understand that this event is going to happen, but

our members will be monitoring the problems, the challenges, and the impact on the Ag Reserve."

Of course, now we know that the crowds of 20,000 never came, and the best estimates put it at around 2,500. David Mortz, administrator for the U.S. polo team in a May 12 phone interview with the Monocle reporter blamed the muck for the smaller-than-expected crowd, which he estimated at 2,500 people. From our report, other things did not develop as planned including long pauses between entertainment, poor signage, and a lack of programs or assistance. The title match between the USA Land Rover team and the Qantas Australian team, scheduled to begin at 5:00 p.m., instead started at 6:45 p.m. The most positive news coming from the event was that the match between America and Australia was reported by attendees to be exciting with the U.S. winning, 4-2.

Now, with the reports of the Salahis embroiled in what might be called the Gate-crashergate,

Mr. Roberts sheds light and opinion on many other aspects and impacts of the polo event. His report is too lengthy for the newspaper, but it can be read in its entirety on our web blog at www.monocleonline.com. Readers are welcome to share their thoughts as well.

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Youth Sports

Clarksburg Boys Soccer Coach Looks Back on State Championship

Coach Jeremy Spoales can't believe the big win was just weeks ago. He led the Clarksburg High School team to victory on a fog-shrouded field on Thursday, November 19 at the UMBC campus. With fog so thick that spectators could barely see the other side of the field, the determined boys' soccer team pressed hard for the 3-0 win over Hereford, a suburb of Baltimore.

Spoales, a U.S. History teacher at Clarksburg, reflected on his favorite memory. "Beating Tuscarora—just being there and beating them—that was a favorite memory for me. They were the defending state champions with fifteen returning seniors. We had been there two times before the regional finals and lost both games. When the boys dumped the water on me at the end of that game, I knew we were a team. The group had finally bonded together."

When asked about the most frustrating moment, he stated, "The loss to Poolesville and the tie at Damascus were most frustrating. Damascus has become something of a rival for us, and we knew we were much better than Damascus's results were showing. That game was frustrating for all of us."

The Damascus soccer community knows Coach Spoales well. He also coaches the Damascus Inferno, part of the Damascus Soccer Club. Spoales is in his third year of coaching this under-16 club.

He credits the state championship to discipline, practice, and studying game video and opponents. The team watched hours of video of their games but also scouted opposition teams whenever possible. Junior

Goalkeeper Austin Fiedler stated, "Scouting was really important this year. It helped us develop a game plan before getting on the field."

The defense was run by Senior Henry Reyes who has played all four years. "I have a lot of respect for Henry," Spoales said. "He did all the hard work on his own in all four seasons. He put Clarksburg soccer first all the time and gave it his all."

Senior Julio Arjona was the deadly weapon on offense. "He does not ever, ever, ever give up. He is the most competitive person I have ever coached or been around." Arjona returned to Clarksburg after eighteen months at the National Soccer Team Camp in Bradenton, Florida.

The team wrapped the season with a 13-1-3 record with forty-five goals scored. Only five goals were scored against 6'5" goalkeeper Fiedler, making him the least-scored-upon goalie in Montgomery County.

To top off the state championship, ESPN just named Clarksburg one of the top fifty teams in the country. The Washington Post also ranked the team number one in Maryland and number in the metro area.

Looking forward to next year, Spoales forecasts more big wins. "We are in good shape. The rising seniors are our hardest working class. Our younger varsity guys did well this year and JV had the best season ever with a 5-3-2 record. We'll do well again."



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Tidbits

The Holiday Spirit Large and Small

Neighbor helping neighbor is a theme in our area in so many ways. Our churches, civic groups, like the Oddfellows and Monocacy Lions, and, of course, WUMCO are just a few of the most obvious ways that those in need around us get help. The *Monocle* has another story to tell of a different way a neighbor can help a neighbor. We got a call this week from a single mom with four children wanting us to help her. It seems that she wanted to find a way to express her appreciation to someone she does not know and, to her knowledge, never has met. The woman told us that each and every month she gets a \$100 gift card in the mail to help her family in meeting their everyday needs. This grateful woman so desperately wanted to find a way to simply thank the giver, but, without knowing who it is, she is unable to do so. We hope the giver will read this story and understand that the recipient feels blessed by the gift and, through this report, is thanking her for her generosity and kindness. In the words of the great philosopher, Tiny Tim, "and God bless us, every one."

Don't Forget WUMCO

'Tis the Season to be sure, and just in case you don't know of someone yourself, don't forget WUMCO, a donation to them of dollars and food goes a long way. In fact, the Poolesville churches will be adopting an "Others First Sundays" beginning in 2010. They will begin a monthly collection for WUMCO on the first Sunday of the month.

Young Outdoorsman Bags Record Deer

Jordan Cissel, aged twelve, has been spending time in the woods with his grandfather, Bob Cissel since he was four years old. He passed his Hunter Safety course and got his license when he was nine years old. He killed

three deer his first year with his compound bow. This 2009 season has already been a banner year for the young hunter when he bagged a twelve-pointer. For knowledgeable hunters, this deer had a nine-inch drop tine, a unique downward antler dropping from the main antler rack. The deer is anticipated to have a green score of 160 plus. For non-hunters, according to Walter Johnson of Tinker's Taxidermy, this is a deer of a lifetime for any hunter, let alone a twelve-year-old. There is expectation that it will make the record books of Pope and Young (a nationally-recognized bow hunting club) and the Maryland State Record books.

The Cissels keep some meat for their use and donate the rest to the feed-the-homeless program in Montgomery County.

PBA JV Team Wins Thanksgiving Tournament



*PBA Thanksgiving Tournament
2009 Champs*

The PBA JV Boys Basketball team went into the St. Michael's Thanksgiving Basketball Tip-Off Tournament hoping to continue to improve, as they have over the last six months, and play some



Jordan Cissel makes the record books

competitive basketball. What ended up happening was a five-game undefeated run to a championship.

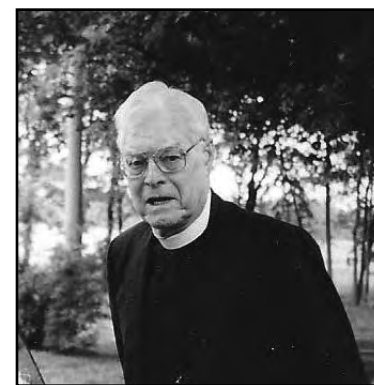
The team was led all weekend by the scoring, rebounding, and defensive dominance of Steven Morningstar, Zack Long, and Cody Mauri; however, the championship was won overall by a total team effort on both ends of the court.

As each game unfolded and the chance to win a championship got closer and closer, the intensity was incredible, each player on the team contributed to each win.

The Young Falcons again played, as Coach Steve said, "as aggressive of a defense as you could play without being arrested, literally." The boys from Poolesville held the high-scoring Cobras scoreless in the overtime period and once again finished off the game with some pressure free throws in the last minute of overtime and secured the championship.

Coach Morningstar told the *Monocle* after the Championship game, "It was a total team effort all weekend. Coach Bill and I just wanted to come into the tournament and help our players continue to get better, but once they got rolling, it really was an awesome experience to be part of. We couldn't be prouder of a group of young men then we are of this group. They accept every challenge we throw at them with enthusiasm and they really, really deserved to win it all, the way they played."

Remembrance



Reverend Benjamin Nevitt, Former Pastor of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Passes Away

The Rev. Benjamin Nevitt, who served as rector of St. Peter's Parish in Poolesville from 1951 to 1952, passed away on Sunday, November 1, 2009.

Born on September 18, 1918, he was a veteran of the United States Army serving during World War II. A 1947 graduate of Bowdoin College and a 1950 graduate of the Berkley Divinity School, he received his Clinical Pastoral Education from Connecticut Valley State Hospital. He became a commissioned chaplain with the United States Air Force and retired in 1978 as a lieutenant colonel.

From 1978 to 1981, he served as a Veteran Administration Hospital Chaplain in Bedford, Massachusetts. Retiring to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, he volunteered his services of pastoral care for the elderly and sick for many years.

He was the husband of Ann L. (Broadus) Nevitt of Gettysburg to whom he was married for sixty-three years. He was interned at Arlington National Cemetery, and his family suggests memorial contributions may be made to Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, 20 West High St., Gettysburg, PA 17325.

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