



Read about the dedication of a new Torah at the Kehilat Shalom synagogue, in Tidbits on page 19.



Read about Clarksburg High School tennis on page 9.



Carol McFall, Catherine Beliveau, and Emma Riddick were part of the crew helping at WUMCO headquarters. See Local News on page 8.



Meet the King and Queen: Tyler Holston and Sasha Trope. Read about them on page 10.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

October 22, 2010

Volume VII, Number 16.

Monocacy Elementary to Remain Open For Now

By John Clayton

Montgomery County Superintendent of Schools Jerry Weast has released new recommendations for Monocacy Elementary and Poolesville Elementary Schools, highlighted by the statement, "I am recommending that Monocacy Elementary School remain an operating school for the foreseeable future." The recommendations follow Mr. Weast's 2009 recommendation that Monocacy Elementary School (MES) be closed and its students transferred to Poolesville Elementary School (PES). The proposal triggered an organized resistance from parents and other interested parties representing the interests of both schools.

A roundtable discussion group was formed in November 2009 to review low

enrollment levels at MES and PES and to develop approaches to resolve the situation. The roundtable group, composed of community representatives from the Poolesville, Clarksburg, and Northwest school clusters, met from March to May 2010. Mr. Weast's current statement addresses the recommendations from those roundtable proceedings.

Mr. Weast's decision to keep MES open was based on growth projections from new residential developments in Poolesville, which, combined with the influx of students from MES, would necessitate the eventual expansion of Poolesville Elementary School, or the addition of temporary or "relocatable" classrooms, within the next six years, thereby increasing "the cost of consolidation of the two elementary schools." Mr. Weast also said in his report that PES would be assessed for modernization in 2011, and any



Barnesville shows its support for Monocacy Elementary School.

decision to expand the facility should be made in concert with that study.

While the new recommendations keep MES open for the time being, they do not embrace all of the roundtable's suggestions for encouraging student body growth at MES. One suggestion that Mr. Weast rejected was for the Montgomery County School Board to establish lower recommended

-Continued on Page 18.

Public Forum Of Commission Candidates Covers Many Key Issues

In a public forum at Poolesville Town Hall on October 17, the three people running for Poolesville commissioner presented their credentials, priorities, and positions on various questions submitted by those in attendance.

The forum, which is sponsored by the Poolesville Area

Chamber of Commerce, lasted nearly ninety minutes and was moderated by PACC board member, Rande Davis. The three candidates vying for two openings are: Jim Brown, current commissioner who is seeking re-election, Jennifer Kasten and Chuck Stump.

Regarding the upcoming referendum scheduled for November 2 on the recent revisions to the town charter, both Brown and Stump, while voicing some misgivings on specific aspects of the revision, urged the voters to approve



Candidates for Poolesville commissioner: incumbent Jim Brown (left), Jennifer Kasten, and Chuck Stump.

the charter change. Kasten preferred not to make a recommendation, leaving that up to the individual voters to decide for themselves, but voiced con-

-Continued on Page 14.

Family
Album



The Family Album is sponsored by
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Pat Ferris (right) welcomes shoppers at the recent Craft Fair at St. Peter's Church.

Almost men, almost in black, almost at homecoming. From left: Stephan Weir, Cory Thomas, Josh Ballard, and Eric Holmstead. Photo credit: Emily Moore.



PHS students came to Whalen Commons for an outdoor classroom on the subject of Native American history. After a short play on the band shell, the group participated in an Indian version of lacrosse.

Things to Do

Remember, this is the time of year to order your Holiday Fruit from the Odd Fellows. See their ad this issue.

Every weekend, enjoy the frightening but thrilling Markoff's Haunted Forest. The Markoff's Enchanted Forest for youngsters is also open on weekends.

October 22
Falcon Volleyball: Digging for a Cure
The Poolesville High School Varsity and Junior Varsity Volleyball Teams have teamed up with the Side-Out Foundation to offer "Digging for a Cure" to benefit breast cancer research. Join in the fun as the mighty Falcons host their county rivals from Blake High School for two exciting volleyball games and a fundraiser to help fight cancer. The JV game starts at 5:30 p.m. and varsity at 6:30 p.m. There will be raffles, door prizes, great food, and a rocking and enthusiastic full house in the gym! The best part is one hundred percent of all money raised will go directly to Dig Pink Breast Cancer Charities!

To learn more about Dig Pink's role in raising money for breast cancer charities, please visit www.side-out.org. To donate through the Poolesville Falcon fundraiser webpage, please go to www.side-out.org/application/teams/team_page/1771.

UMCVFD Auxiliary Basket Bingo
Longaberger baskets, Vera Bradley bags filled with extras
Refreshments available
Beallsville Fire Station
Doors open: 5:30 p.m. Games: 7:00 p.m.
Cost: \$20

October 23
81st Annual Ham and Turkey Dinner
St. Mary's Church Pavilion in Barnesville
Baked ham, turkey with all the trimmings, baked goods, crafts/gifts, candied apples, pumpkins, and free hay rides
\$12.00 for adults and carry outs
Dining room guests under twelve eat for free
Noon to 7:00 p.m.

Fire Station Open House
Carroll Manor Fire Co. Station 28
1809 Ballenger Creek Pike - Point of Rocks
Demonstrations, Fire Prevention Info, and games
Open: 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

October 29
Halloween Bake Sale
Benefit for Poolesville Children's Charities
BB&T in Poolesville
9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

October 30
Fall Walk-in-the-Park Festival
Special fun-raiser for WUMCO in Whalen Commons

-Continued on Page 12.

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Commentary

Stinkbugs, Tea Parties, and Socialists

By John Clayton

I'm sick and tired of all of them. They seem to be everywhere, and clearly no good can come of them. Perhaps with the cold weather and the November 2 elections, we won't hear from any of them for a while. Let's hope.

Of course, the biggest fear for all of us is that they only seem bad this year, and they will be worse next year, and the year after that. In all fairness to the Tea Parties and the Socialists, who from all indications now rule American politics, the stinkbugs might actually be growing faster.

I think as adults we can be frank and get this out into the open: the Chinese are behind all of this. It is a documented fact that the stinkbugs are from China and arrived in Pennsylvania (never been too sure about them, either) around 2001 (another pattern emerges) in shipping containers, probably through a porous, unsecured port controlled by foreign nationals and staffed by illegal immigrants. I think we can rule out both evolution and intelligent design on this one. Clearly, stinkbugs are Satan's spawn. (If evolution is afoot here, I have no desire to see a rendering of their five-hundred-pound ancestors.)

I think the backing of the Tea Party People by the Chinese is pretty obvious. Where do all those costumes come from? The Uncle Sam outfits, the beards, the three-cornered hats, the powdered wigs, the toy muskets, the George Washington plastic wooden teeth? The Obama masks and the paint for all those misspelled signs? China, my friends—in stinkbug-infested shipping containers.

If you can't see a connection between Chinese Communists and all those Democratic Party Socialists, then I just don't know what to say.

Returning to the stinkbug sit-

uation, I read that, also in China, there is a wasp that is a natural enemy of and preys upon Chinese stinkbugs. Top minds are working on whether these wasps might be a solution here in the USA. That's just wonderful. Many times, while battling swarms of stinkbugs trying to get into my house, or corraling and dispatching the ones that did, I have thought, "Boy, I sure wish we had more wasps around." I say, let's move on to Plan B.

Congress is already on the job. I see that Congressman Roscoe Bartlett, our neighbor from Frederick County, the stepping stone to Middle America, is mobilizing the government to combat the horde. Just to be bipartisan about it, Democrat Steny Hoyer of Prince Georges County, home of the Redskins, stands firmly behind him. Clearly, government occasionally serves a positive role or is willing to spend some money trying to do so.

I'm extremely relieved the mid-term elections are upon us. I'm not sure it really matters to me which party wins at this point, in the grand scheme of things. There is a pretty solid list of Republicans that I can't abide; however, I suspect that even if the Republicans retake our federal government, and they probably will, the adults among them will ultimately prevail. When the dust settles, someone other than raving powder-wigged tea partiers and lily-livered European-style socialists will control the agenda.

Perhaps it doesn't pay to study the tea leaves too closely in any one election. Our country is, politically, in an oscillation between extremes that is hopefully leading to some sort of synthesis. The 2006 and 2008 elections were clearly a vigorous reaction to a presidency and a political party that had lost its way and no longer had the confidence of the American people. Now, a scant two years later, we have a presidency and a political party that has lost its way and no longer has the confidence of the American people. I can't wait to see what's next. I'm still an optimist.

Rand(e)m Thoughts

By Rande Davis

I was thinking about the Queen of England lately. Why? Because it's reported that she has canceled this year's Christmas bash at Buckingham's Palace. Seems the Brits, through necessity, have themselves caught up in a radical movement, a bit of a reality show, if you will, where the objective is to find ways to cut government costs. Everyone needs to do his part and even Her Majesty wants in on the game. This unexpected fiscal fever is spreading through parts of the Celtic islands like nothing else since the barbarians crossed the frozen Rhine in A.D. 406.

We could stand to catch a bit of the fever. It seems like just yesterday that our state delegation came to Poolesville and proudly reported how use of the federal stimulus money helped Maryland stay on a "path of fiscal responsibility." Their concept of fiscal responsibility was simple.

Use the fed bucks to close gaps in the budget now, and in just two years, when the economy comes roaring back and everyone is making money again, tax revenue will jump up and we won't need Washington's dough anymore. Why does that have the ring of a Ponzi scheme to me?

I realize there are few states whose financial dependency on Washington is greater than Maryland's. Here, one either works for the government, provides service to the government, or makes a living providing products or services to one or the other. To many of the people working in the county, cutting government expenditures sounds more like a threat than promise.

It doesn't have to be that way, though. If environmental responsibility starts with one light bulb at a time, why shouldn't cost savings start with one simple idea after another? You can call the notion a game, if you want. I call it revolutionary. Maybe, just maybe, the Brits are onto something. If so, all I can say is: The redcoats are coming!—thank goodness.

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New Plans for Two Sugarloaf Friends

As you are reading this, two good friends of the Agricultural Reserve are on their way to a new life in the Midwest. The Sugarloaf Board was saddened when receiving the news that **Betsy Lyman and Gary Valen** had sold their beautiful home and were off to the Arkansas Ozarks.

We cannot stress enough what Gary and Betsy have done for our community. They came here in 1996 - Gary working with The Humane Society of the U.S. and Betsy with the P. Allen Smith Company. Their interest in sustainable farming, preservation of open space, gardening, as well as writing led them to join groups such as SCA, SRT, the Monocacy Garden Club, two book clubs, and the Boyds Writers Group. There is not room here to list all of the wonderful ways that Betsy and Gary have contributed to this community. As President of SCA for the past two years, Gary quietly attended countless meetings of the PATH Transmission Line task force and because of his participation, Alleghany Power Company decided to withdraw consideration of a route through the Agricultural Reserve. Betsy's lasting gift to SCA is our new web site, which will be a source of information for years to come.

As one Board member summarized:
"... we thought you were embedded forever, so we took advantage of your energy, intelligence, integrity, and friendship. But all of us realize ... that other challenges may call us to rethink what seems like home. It will be tough at first to make do without you ... but the heritage that you have built over the past few years will carry us along as we move ahead."

We would like to share the following message of Gary and Betsy to the SCA Board:
"What we leave behind are cherished friendships and associations with each of you. Our efforts together to protect ... our rural community had many twists and turns that may have led to some challenging moments at the time but will always be a source of pride and accomplishment in our memories. We leave knowing that legacy will continue with all of you and the new recruits who will take our places."

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Local News

Public Hearing on Home Business Ordinance Dominates Meeting

By Rande Davis

The October 18 town meeting was dominated by public testimony, at times quite passionate, about special exception use in homes with shared driveways and resident comments on the proposed

townhouse development by Habitat for Humanity in Poolesville.

The public hearing on two of the ordinances did not have any resident testimony offered. Those ordinances were Ordinance 181 concerning exemption of certain commercial signs during weekends and Ordinance 182 that states that private property covenants and agreements shall not be construed to be enforceable by the town and shall not be considered in assessing zoning requirements, uses, special exceptions, and other variances.

However, Ordinance 183, which would not permit special exception requests for home

businesses in residences having a shared driveway, attracted thirteen speakers, twelve against the ordinance with one in favor.

The town zoning previously allowed for such permit requests providing that the home business did not "materially increase" traffic on the shared driveway. Poolesville Vision and Contact Lens Service, owned by Dr. Robin Mevissen and Dr. Thomas McInnes, had applied and received permission by the town Board of Zoning Appeal (BZA) for a permit to operate their medical service at the residence at Selby Court. A neighbor appealed that decision within thirty days, placing a stay on the approval by the town. The change in the ordinance removes the ability of the BZA to grant such special exception use in the future.

Don Barnes, the neighbor sharing the driveway with Mevissen and McInnes, provided testimony in favor of the proposed ordinance. He stated that to allow such use of the home lowers the value of the home, increases insurance costs, is counter to existing private cove-

nants, and places an undue burden on neighbors.

Dr. Mevissen, in her testimony, stated that through agreements reached with the BZA, restrictions on patient visitation through appointment scheduling and installation of a separate parking area met the criteria established by the town. She stated that if a neighbor is not burdened by another having a business, then to restrict homeowners from home-based business is too great a limitation on our freedoms. She said, "In this age of recession and poor job opportunity, radical traffic congestion, and the desire for more and more to work from home so as to be more actively present in raising children, to simply cut off the option is unwarranted. Clearly, home-based businesses that can demonstrate little or no undue burden on their neighbors should be allowed. If the zoning board determines that no additional or unreasonable burden of a home business exists,

-Continued on Page 7.

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Correction

There was an error in the article, "From Courtroom to Classroom: Mike Shannon Makes His Case," in the October 8 issue of the Monocle concerning Mr. Shannon's association with Hockey North America. He did not start the league, as the article suggested, but participated in the league.

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**"Town Government" Continued
From Page 6.**

and it meets all other criteria of a town's ordinance, then it should be allowed."

The eleven other speakers, who are patients or neighbors of Dr. Mevissen, voiced support stating their appreciation for the service and convenience of having the practice in town. Rudy Gole stated his family's support for the medical practice, and, in asking the commissioners not to approve the restriction, also called on them to allow Dr. Mevissen's practice "at least by a grandfathering clause as the only fair and right thing to do."

One twenty-year resident, who also says she has six children, valued the local service and appreciated not having to drive out of town for care. She indicated that her large family probably places a greater traffic burden on neighbors than does an eye-care business.

Chuck Stump, member of the planning commission and candidate for commissioner, told

the commission that, as someone who has or might want to start a home business and who also lives on a shared driveway, he opposes the inflexibility of the proposed ordinance. Jennifer Kasten, also a candidate for commissioner, voiced the opinion that the "town needs to support local business, and they should also consider a grandfather clause regarding Mevissen's practice."

Hilary Schwab Shapiro advised the commissioners on the fact that the majority of members of the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce are home-based businesses and, while not speaking officially for the organization, opined that the restrictions could prove to be bad for the local economy.

Regarding the proposed new townhouse development in Poolesville, the executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, Inc., John Paukstis, was on hand to resubmit his original proposal which now allows for the \$10,000 to \$11,000 per unit impact fee and \$26,000 park impact fee. He will be meeting

with his Board of Directors within a week to ten days to review the changes in the proposal. He noted that his organization does not have a revenue stream and must rely on contributions from participating associates on projects, and he stated that any adjustment in the impact fee charges would be appreciated. While various ideas were floated as ways to assist the project, in the final analysis, the commissioners did not come to a consensus and, therefore, advised Mr. Paukstis that

he should present his proposal to his board without any waiver of impact fees from the town.

On other matters, one parent came forward to voice concern about further use of bikes at the skate park and that older teens are not cooperating properly with the younger youth wishing to use the facility. The Parks Board will be advised to review this concern.

Jan Schultz, of Finders Keepers, has been appointed to the Community Economic Development Committee.

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Local News

A Helping Hand for WUMCO

By Ralph Hitchens

When our neighbors here in the Upcounty are in need, one organization has always stepped up to the plate: WUMCO Help, Inc. Starting with a small food pantry forty-two years ago, Jane Stearns and her late husband Fred built WUMCO into a multi-service charity, run by Jane out of their home north of Beallsville. If you've been there, you know that Jane's house is old, long in need of repair and grounds maintenance.


Enter the Poolesville "Helping Hands" coalition—originally formed as an umbrella organization to coordinate participation in Christmas in April (now Rebuilding Together). Helping Hands had lately shrunk to a few people, including longtime community activist Ray Hoewing, plus a much-depleted bank account. Ray wanted to resur-

rect an ecumenical service organization involving Memorial United Methodist Church, and thinking along similar lines was Catherine Beliveau from the Poolesville Presbyterian Church. In May of this year, Helping Hands was reborn. Since WUMCO was already doing so much for the needy, everyone agreed that Jane Stearns's home/office/warehouse would be the first major project.

There was plenty to be done: the forest was closing in on her house, which itself was in need of painting, electrical and plumbing repair, and a new kitchen floor. Some work was done in advance of the scheduled workday. Thanks go out to Joe Ryba of Ryba Roofing for installing forty feet of gutter and downspouts, also to Bernie Mihm of Fine Earth Landscaping for regrading the driveway and building a retaining wall around the patio—both of these well-known Poolesville contractors cheerfully donated their labor and materials. Two other short workdays involving about a half dozen volunteers had already removed approximately twenty trees

and one thousand square feet of underbrush from around WUMCO headquarters; it really was a jungle out there when Helping Hands got started. On Saturday, October 9, the major effort got underway with thirty-six volunteers, both skilled and unskilled, working through the morning and well into the afternoon. More encroaching trees and bushes were removed to restore what had been flourishing side and back yards, two ventilator doors were repaired, staining applied to the exterior wooden walls, new subflooring installed in the kitchen, and some electrical repairs and upgrades were accomplished that will give WUMCO headquarters a new lease on life. Perhaps the crowning touch was the creation of a ten-by-twenty-foot flower garden, with plants and bulbs donated by the Methodist Church. The materials outlay for this project (apart from that donated by Joe and Bernie) probably came to about \$1,000.




The Helping Hands committee now looks ahead to see what the future holds, if other deserving projects surface and some seed money can be found to continue the good work begun this year.



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Youth Sports

PHS Girls' Tennis Steps Up, CHS Girls Finish Strong

By Jeff Stuart

The Poolesville High School girls' tennis team started off the season strong under new Head Coach Holly Dacek. After a tough away loss to a top Division I Whitman on September 3, the Falcon girls quickly bounced back at home two days later, sweeping Division III Northwood, 7-0. On September 10, they opened play in their own Division II, sweeping all matches at Rockville. Poolesville played five more division matches in a row, cruising through most of them, beating Damascus, one of their toughest division rivals, 5-2, in an away match. In their last division match at Northwest on September 28, PHS was missing its number one player, Lauren Rost, but won a tough match, 4-3, clinching the Division II title and finishing a perfect 6-0 in the division. The last four matches on the PHS schedule were all against Division I opponents (Richard Montgomery, Magruder, Wootton, and Walter Johnson).

"Number one singles Lauren Rost had a good season," said Dacek, "putting up a fight against every other school's number one player. Number two singles Vy Do is only a junior but matched up evenly with Lauren. Vy cruised through most of her matches easily and is expected to have a great season as a senior next year.

Freshman Ashley Chang proved herself by playing number four singles in the two toughest division matches, Damascus and Northwest. Ashley kept her poise and won both matches without dropping a set." Siobhan Kibbey was number three singles. Cindy Zhou and Julia Snoy were first doubles, Jocelyne Mackie and

Tiffany Le, second doubles, and Eki Olumese and Afoso Olumese third doubles. The Poolesville girls earned the right to move up to Division I next season.

The young and learning Clarksburg girls' tennis team struggled a bit, opening the season with Division I Blair at home. They lost seven straight before winning back-to-back matches at home against Seneca Valley on September 25 and away against Watkins Mill on September 28. "Although the overall record may not reflect it, our team has had a very good season," said Head Coach Scott Mathias. "The degree to which the girls have improved has been tremendous. Eleven of the sixteen girls on the team are first-time players, and we have recorded at least one match win in every slot (first singles to third doubles). We have a great mix of players and have had excellent competition for playing spots in the matches." The CHS girls played many very competitive teams in their regular schedule and performed admirably. Senior Abre Coaxum had three wins in division play and four overall. "Abre, along with our other returning seniors, Julia Xu and Ericka Espinoza, have performed well and provided excellent team leadership," continued Coach Mathias. "A great surprise this season was the arrival of stand-out freshman Maura Bennet who has taken on the daunting task of being our first singles player in every match." The girls look forward to improving on their record in the coming years as they gain more experience on the courts. "We had great spirit, worked hard, and had fun at the same time."



The Clarksburg High School 2010 tennis team.



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Police Blotter

By Jack Toomey

Current Crimes

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Burglary: 23000 block of White's Ferry Road.

Complaints of disorderly conduct: 19300 and 19500 block of Fisher Avenue, 19600 block of Wootton Avenue.

Past Crime

October 22, 1904 Undertaker Pumphrey of Rockville called at Garfield Hospital in Washington for the body of Earnest Peabody. The young man had died from gunshot wounds suffered earlier in the week on Selden Island near Seneca. State's Attorney Peters announced that he was taking charge of the investigation to determine who shot Peabody and what the motive might be. It was reported that Peabody had been working on the island with a man named Poole when the shots were fired.

October 22, 1906 The lifeless body of a young man was found lying on a pile of rocks in the Monocacy River near the B&O railroad bridge at Frederick Junction.

tion. When the body was recovered, the station agent recognized him as someone who had been intoxicated and causing trouble at the station the previous night.

October 23, 1906 Montgomery County authorities were searching for Howard Downs, a resident of the Darnestown district. Downs was wanted for attacking Alexander Broome, one of the most well-known residents of Darnestown. It was said that Downs had given Broome a terrible beating that left him senseless.

October 23, 1971 Two men robbed the Poolesville branch of the First National Bank of Maryland. Police said that the men entered the bank at about 12:40 p.m. and ordered four women employees to lie on the floor while they looted the cash drawers. The men then escaped in an automobile.

October 24, 1923 Thomas Robinson fired a .22 caliber revolver into a crowd attending the Frederick Fair. Bullets struck Mrs. Stauffer of Philadelphia and J. W. Ganley of Boyds. When Robinson was arrested, he said that he was shooting at a man who had attempted to "do him" out of some money. Robinson was reported to be a worker traveling with the circus.

School News Homecoming Crown Passed On

By Chantal Agnew

As per usual, the start of fall means the start of a new school year, but more importantly, it signifies the oncoming of the Homecoming game and dance at Poolesville High School. This year's homecoming game was highly anticipated with the preceding Sprit Week at the school and the Pep Rally on Thursday, the day before the game. The Poolesville Falcons fought a gallant battle against the Watkins Mill Wolverines, but, tragically, lost, 21-2. The setback, however, did not dampen the students' enthusiasm for the dance the next night.

After preparing themselves and getting excessive amounts of pictures taken by their parents ("just one more of these and then I can get some of just you two"), the students were ready to go out to dinner and then finally to the dance. At the dance, the Homecoming Court was announced. For the freshman court, the candidates were: Lacey Williams, Trevor Stottlemeyer, Annie Gillespie, Andy Baker, Leon Tsai, and Raven Matthews. For the sophomore class: Julie Boyland, Sophia Cortijo, Katherine Cedillos, Diego Torres, Alex Nguyen, and Josh Womack. Then the upperclassmen were announced.

For the juniors, the nominees were Dylan Bourque, Jonah Hessels, Nitsa Skenderis, Robert Winning, Joanna Grimes, and Yosmin Badie—and for the senior class, the nominees were: Dan Shorts, Hunter Hegmann, Josh Ballard, Kevin Connor, Paige Sekerak, Melanie Tran, Nikki Dahlen, and Kelly Hanscom.

The final coronation results? The 2010 Homecoming King and Queen were Tyler Holston and Sasha Trope.



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Remembrance

John H. Baumbaugh

Mr. John H. Baumbaugh, 82, of Dickerson, died peacefully on Friday, October 1, 2010 at the Glade Valley Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Walkersville. Mr. Baumbaugh was the loving husband of Olive Baumbaugh. Born on May 13, 1928 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, he was the owner of Bud's Lock and Key which served the Poolesville area for many years. A veteran, he proudly served in the United States Air Force from 1946 to 1948.

He was the beloved father of John W. Baumbaugh of Poolesville and Holly Leola Hammarlund and husband Leif of Frederick. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Barnesville Baptist Church.



John H. Baumbaugh



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Commissioner Statements

Jim Brown

Employment: Real Estate Agent—The Kittleman Group

Education: BS in Business, Salem College

Family: Married, Gabi Jacob; Six kids (five through Poolesville school system), Erick 25, Stephanie 23, Jess 20, Christian 19, Tucker 18, and Anna 17.

My current term has been an exciting one full of team accomplishments that were fostered by resident input and consensus building. It has been my pleasure to serve and communicate with all of you,

and I enjoy doing so through email, blogs, Facebook, and good old-fashioned face-to-face get-togethers at various volunteer activities. I hope you'll allow me to serve you again by re-electing me on November 2.

In just three short years, we have saved big money by reducing the size of our magnificent new town hall. We have fostered a spectacular summer youth program, worked through major water issues, and implemented a town staff pay scale. In addition to the new Town Hall, we built our new band shell and skate park, both of which were majority-funded by state and local

grants.

In the future, I see even better communications with our residents. I see a more intertwined relationship with our schools, an increasingly vibrant business community, and our Streetscape plan creating a downtown area that is more pedestrian and shopper friendly. Do I see a community center in our future? I hope so, as long as we hear you want it and we get state and federal funding lined up (which is a must because Poolesville should grow when someone else pays for it). Finally, I have hope for longer-term "senior living" discussions and

solutions.

During my term, we have grown and modernized our town according to your input while building a rainy-day fund that is the envy of almost every small town in Maryland. While I remain deeply committed to maintaining our unique small-town charm, a vote for me keeps Poolesville moving forward. We've made this an even better place to live over the last three years. Let's keep it rolling!

Jennifer Kasten

Employment: JBS International, Public Health Research

Education: PhD in Public Administration, Master's in Social Work, BA Biology and Psychology

Family: Husband Mark, two children Ryan and Jacob

My name is Jennifer Kasten, and I would appreciate your vote for Poolesville Town Commissioner on November 2, 2010. Since moving to Poolesville just over two years ago, I have actively involved myself in volunteering at Poolesville Elementary School (PES) and through the Poolesville Athletic Association

(PAA). Over the past two years, I have served as a classroom volunteer for PES and am currently the Volunteer Coordinator. I also serve as the Student Government Association Co-Chair and the Montgomery County Council Parent-Teacher Association's representative for PES. In addition to my work with PES, I support PAA through my role as Board Secretary. I am committed to maintaining the town's heritage and will make preserving Poolesville's small-town atmosphere a top priority. I believe in responsible town government that can keep expenses in check while allowing reasonable

growth. While recognizing the value of work completed by the Town Commissioners, I do not support compensation for this position. My primary goals as Town Commissioner will be to address the issues of 1) open communication and 2) business development. I am committed to a transparent government that recognizes the need for communication, first and foremost, by focusing on clearly and simply explaining the impact of issues to town residents. I support examining multiple mediums for communicating with residents to ensure that information is not only publically posted but publi-

cally consumed. I am dedicated to supporting business growth and development to ensure the prosperity of Poolesville and will work closely with local businesses, the Planning Commission, and the Community Economic and Development Committee to actively address this issue. As a relative newcomer to Poolesville, I bring a fresh perspective to the commissioners, offering an approach that can both preserve and improve the community. For more information, please visit www.jenniferkasten.com.

Chuck Stump

Employment: Chief Information Officer for Fortigent, a financial services firm in Rockville

Education: MBA from University of Phoenix

Family: My wife, Andrea, and I moved to town about thirteen years ago; however, we were first introduced to Poolesville several years before that, and we fell in love with the area and the town. We saved for several years in order to move here.

The initial reason we fell in love with the town was the quiet rural nature of the area. Once we moved to town, we quickly discovered the real secret of Poolesville: the small-town char-

acter and sense of community.

I see three major components to that small-town character: residents, government, and business. All three need to work in harmony in order to get that small-town character to work.

The major issues that I see facing the town in the next several years deal with the business community and with the communications.

The town government needs to do more in order to get information out to the citizens and businesses. Not to say that the town is doing nothing in this area. The town has continued to improve in the area of communications over the years, but there is still significant room for

improvement. At the same time, the citizens and businesses need to get more involved with town government. There are plenty of examples of public hearings, working sessions, focus groups, and other meetings where attendance is minimal bordering on non-existent. I feel that effective communication is a two-way street that requires more work from all involved parties.

With regards to the business community, there has been quite a bit of discussion at the commissioner-level, the planning commission, CEDC, etc. about the health of the business community. Closely related to that is the current state of the central business district and parts of the commercial area in town. There

is growing concern that businesses in town are struggling and that some may fail. Even worse, a few critical failures could lead to a downward spiral that causes more and more business to fail. If that happens, we could lose one of those three key components that make Poolesville a small town and end up as just another bedroom community for D.C.

I believe that the town government needs to find new and creative ways to address these problems. Please visit my web site at www.cwsii.com or my page on Facebook for more information.

"Things to Do" Continued From Page 3.

Fall Walk-in-the-Park Festival
Special fun-raiser for WUMCO in Whalen Commons

Walking Donation: Adults: \$25.00 and Under 18: \$15.00

Canned good donations also appreciated

A \$5.00 donation to WUMCO buys a wristband, which gives you access to moon bounce, games, craft activities, including build-a-scarecrow, paint-a-pumpkin, and more.

Participate in the Halloween Costume Contest for three age groups: 1-12, 13-20, and 21 + Categories for scariest, cutest, most original, and Best Dog Costume

Walk in park: Sign up and Festival starts: 11:00 a.m.

Walk begins: 1:00 p.m. Festival ends: 4:00 p.m.

Good Ol' Fashioned Square Dance

Poolesville's Memorial United Methodist Church

Refreshments and door prizes

Cake and Pie Auction
Adults: \$12.00. 12 and under: \$6.00
7:30 p.m.

Annual Fall Fun Festival
Poolesville Baptist Church
Games, Prizes, Moon Bounce, and Candy (Lotsa Candy!)
Come in Costume
PreK through 5th grade
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

October 31
Monocacy Lions Club
Annual Halloween Community Costume Party
St. Mary's Pavilion in Barnesville
Candy, donuts, cider, and a whole lot of party games
Free . 7:30 p.m.

November 1
Halloween Candy Buy Back!
Each child who brings Halloween candy to the office of Drs. Pike and Valega from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. will receive \$1.00 per pound of wrapped candy. While supplies last, each child will also receive a Fire-fly flashing tooth-

brush. Donated candy will be shipped to our troops overseas. See www.OperationGratitude.com or call 301-972-7000. Their office is located in Poolesville at 19601 Fisher Avenue.

November 2
General Election – School Election Precincts
Poolesville Town Commissioner Race: Poolesville Town Hall
Open: 7:00 a.m.
Closed: 8:00 p.m.

November 3
Benefit for Poolesville Children's Charities
Bassett's Restaurant
Donation of 10% from sales

Community Breakfast for Dinner and Pumpkin Carving Contest
St. Peter's Parish Episcopal Church
20100 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
See ad for details

November 6
Basket Bingo Fundraiser

Benefit Poolesville Relay for Life St. Mary's Pavilion
Extra cards, specials, raffles available
Door prizes – homemade food for purchase
Tickets: \$20 for 20 games
Doors open: 5:30 p.m.
Games: 7:00 p.m.



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9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

PUMPKINS:

Giant, Large, Mini, Jack-o-Lantern, Jaradale, Cushaw, Red Warty Things

APPLES: Pick Your Own, too

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kale | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roma Italian Beans | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yellow Wax Beans | |
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"Public Forum" Continues From Page 1.

cern over the number of citizens expressing a desire for the town to find improved ways to communicate with voters on matters. Brown explained the process of revision that lasted over a five-month period, lauding the in-depth hard work by the commissioners and pointing to the many open sessions available for citizen involvement. Stump, who stated that he will vote yes to approve the revisions, nevertheless, stated that he did not support the aspects allowing a future commission to establish a stipend for commissioner service. Under the charter revision, should a future commission set a stipend for commissioners, no commissioner would be eligible to receive such compensation until they ran for re-election first.

When asked about the recent incident of radionuclides in town water and public concern, each candidate was asked to assess how well the town responded to and resolved the issue. All three

agreed that the town managed the issue well and that they consider town water safe for public use. All three agreed that the town should continue a progressive approach to alternative energy.

The question on additional public services for senior citizens found support from all three to explore various ways to bring senior facilities to the town. Brown, while noting that some discussion on senior housing has already come up, pointed out that there are already quite a few services for seniors within fifteen minutes of the town. There was unanimity in having the town advance ideas for housing and seeking a possible consortium of interested people in developing a plan to be considered.

Asked about recent reports of some misuse of the town's skateboard park, all candidates stated their support for the facility. Stump stated he had not been in favor of the idea originally, never expecting the park by itself

would put an end to skateboarders from skating on streets, parking lots, and sidewalks; however, on balance, he now supports the park. Brown pointed out that some issues of litter and other misuse of the park made a good learning experience for the youth and has found that the youth responded positively in taking responsibility when confronted with the issue. Kasten also supported the positive impact on many youth in town and pointed to two high school students opening a skateboard retail store in town as an excellent example of how the park can become a learning experience.

In discussing various ways the town could help foster a more vibrant commercial district, most of the discussion centered on ways to improve communication between the town and businesses. Stump uniquely raised the idea of finding a way to attract a non-retail commercial business to Poolesville which might offer a strong employment opportunity as well as bringing additional sales and support to town restaurants and retailers. All supported a proposed relaxation of weekend signage to help businesses better

promote to business.

On the matter of proposed pending resolutions of restriction of home business use for those living on shared driveways, Brown and Kasten deferred to a town meeting scheduled for October 18 where additional resident input on the proposal will be heard. Stump, who lives on a shared driveway, viewed use of homes for enterprise purposes more positively and questioned whether the new proposed resolution might be too stringent.

All three gave the commissioners good reviews on being an open and responsive entity but voiced opinions that improvement in communication should be an ongoing process.

All three candidates, in presenting their vision for the future of Poolesville, professed their support for keeping Poolesville's small-town character and feel.

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School News

MdBioLab Brings CSI to PHS

By Heidi Rosvold-Brenholtz

Poolesville High School biology students had a unique opportunity to go beyond their typical science studies when the MdBioLab made PHS its temporary home September 27 to October 1. The state-of-the-art research-grade laboratory housed in a forty-five-foot tractor-trailer contains equipment on par with lab settings typically found in bioscience companies throughout the state. This roving CSI is sponsored by the Tech Council of Maryland. Its mission is to help increase science literacy for Maryland's high school students and to encourage interest in careers in the region's technology and biotech industries. Maryland is a national leader in the number of biotechnology companies in the state.

This hands-on opportunity for students to see and use equipment

county high schools normally can't afford might just be the stepping stone for future careers in forensic and other similar sciences, according to Patricia Miller, PhD, a faculty member in PHS's science department. Competition for a visit by the mobile laboratory is tough. The MdBioLab visits approximately thirty-four schools each year in different Maryland counties, according to the Tech Council. This year is Montgomery County's turn for a tour. As a result of a summer science workshop Dr. Miller attended

at Towson University in conjunction with MdBioLab, PHS's application received priority consideration for a MdBioLab visit.

"We just wouldn't be able to do some of these things in the classroom," said Dr. Miller, commenting on some of the experiments accomplished during the week-long visit, such as performing DNA-evidence analysis and studying oil-eating microbes. "It's great to get the kids into a lab like this instead of just going on a field trip."



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"Monocacy Elementary" Continued
From Page 1.

student enrollment levels for schools located in the Agricultural Reserve. The minimum county standard for elementary schools is two classes per grade, or 300 students, which PES maintains, but MES appears unlikely to meet. Mr. Weast said that, in fact, MES is the only elementary school whose district or service area is entirely within the Ag Reserve (a number of schools are partially in the Ag Reserve) and he did not concur with creating a special Board of Education policy for just one school. He also noted that "exceptions to preferred enrollment levels already are evident in a number of schools that either are below these desired enrollment levels or above them. The minimum and maximum enrollments are described as 'preferred,' not mandatory."

Mr. Weast did accept the roundtable's suggestion that students from the PES service area be allowed to transfer into MES from any grade level. Currently, a PES area student must apply to MES

beginning in kindergarten. The school board provides transportation for these students, and under the new recommendation, students from all grade levels will be provided transportation to MES.

A number of the other recommendations from the roundtable were for establishing new programs, such as language immersion programs or magnet programs, either at MES, PES, or in the Poolesville Cluster which also includes John Poole Middle School and Poolesville High School. These suggestions were tabled based on the remote location of the Poolesville Cluster schools, which he observed make it both hard to attract students and expensive to transport students.

The superintendent's recommendations will be discussed in a Board of Education Work Session on November 4. Public hearings on the issue will be held on November 10 and November 11, and a Board of Education Action is planned for November 18.

VARSITY SPORTS HOME GAMES

Date	Sport	POOLESVILLE	Time
10/22	Volleyball - Girls*	Blake	6:30 p.m.
10/22	Soccer - Girls	Wheaton	7:00 p.m.
10/26	Soccer - Girls	Wootton	5:00 p.m.
10/26	Soccer - Boys	Wootton	7:00 p.m.
10/28	Volleyball - Girls	Damascus	6:30 p.m.
10/29	Football	Wheaton	6:30 p.m.
11/5	Football	Kent County	6:30 p.m.
Date	Sport	CLARKSBURG	Time
10/22	Football**	Paint Branch	6:30 p.m.
10/25	Soccer - Girls	Kennedy	7:00 p.m.
10/28	Volleyball - Girls	Northwood	3:30 p.m.
10/29	Football	Damascus	6:30 p.m.
11/3	Volleyball - Girls	Poolesville	6:00 p.m.

* Dig Pink Charities Fundraiser for cancer research - JV at 5:30 p.m.

** Homecoming game



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Tidbits

Cannon Fire Hits the Target for Charities

Linda Lewis reports that Pumpkin Chunkin' really paid off to the benefit of a few good causes. During the first two weekends of October, Lewis Orchards brought in a pumpkin cannon and, for a donation, fired pumpkins at a target floating in their pond at least 700 yards away. There were a lot of shots and a lot of laughs, and, in the end, they raised \$1,545.00 to be shared by Poolesville Relay for Life, Fisher House, and the Poolesville High School Post Prom committee.

National Achievement Semi-Finalists Named

Congratulations to Poolesville High School students Aminata Keita and Maeva S. Nyandjo for being named semifinalists for the National Achievement Scholarship, a program administered by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation in

recognition of promising African American students throughout the nation. Nationally, only 800 Achievement Scholarships are awarded, and to be named a semifinalist is something of which to be very proud.

Kehilat Shalom Synagogue Dedicates Torah

To a packed sanctuary, the Kehilat Shalom Synagogue in Montgomery Village dedicated its new Torah on September 26. The service celebrated the end of Kehilat Shalom's Mitzvah 613 Torah Program which culminated after months and months of work by a sofer (scribe) in Israel, participants by many congregants, and many educational programs along the way. Kehilat Shalom's Rabbi Mark Raphael wrote the last two letters of the last word, Yisrael, in the Torah as a representative for those who could not write in the Torah themselves, many of whom made other types of contributions to the new Torah. After the ink of those last letters dried, congregants Gail Lieberman and teen, Josh Forgosh, read

from the brand-new Torah.

Rabbi Raphael emphasized the importance of community in all aspects of religious life and pointed out that, as a result, the Torah is more than just the words that comprise it. Carrie Ettinger, who led the Mitzvah 613 Torah Program and who is Kehilat Shalom's new president, echoed the rabbi's sentiment when she said, "As I look back over the past year, I am so proud and grateful for what we have accomplished together as a community. I hope we find comfort knowing that, together, the congregation has participated in creating a Torah that will live on in our Kehilat Shalom community for many, many years to come. Our children will read from it, and their children will read from it, from generation to generation."

It's Number Twenty and Counting

The folks at

Poolesville Presbyterian Church recently threw a surprise celebration party for their pastor, the Rev. Ruth Everhart, in honor of her twentieth anniversary of her ordination. It's hard to imagine, but she's already been at PPC for nine years. Seems like just yesterday when she first came to town, or as one congregant said, "Time flies when you are having fun."



Hazzan (cantor) Kim Komrad carrying the new Torah as it is paraded around the Kehilat Shalom sanctuary.



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