



These two Bettys—Watkins and Alnutt—had a good time somewhere. Find out where in Family Album on page 2.



Peggy and Arthur Johnson—farmers of distinction. Find out why in Tidbits on page 3.



This lad remembers when Poolesville was really small. Read more in Mystery History on page 8.



We've got PACC Business Fair pictures on page 10.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

March 18, 2011

Volume VIII, Number 2

Poolesville Pastors Announced Departure

By Rande Davis



Rev. Ken Fell



Rev. Ruth Everhart

The pastors of Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church (PMUMC) and the Poolesville Presbyterian Church (PPC) have both announced this week plans for their departures from their churches this June.

After nine years as the minister at Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church, Rev. Ken Fell has been appointed to Glenelg United Methodist

Church in Glenelg, Maryland (Howard County). Pastor Fell will continue to serve in Poolesville until July 1. He told his congregation in the monthly newsletter, "I've been blessed to serve at Memorial Church for almost nine years, and I've enjoyed growing together with this church family in this wonderful community. We will all be working together to make this a smooth transition."

Bishop John Schol of the United Methodist Church's Baltimore/Washington Conference notified Pastor Fell of his new appointment in mid-February, and deliberations have already begun on the appointment of a new pastor for Poolesville.

It is anticipated that the new pastor will be identified in the next several weeks and ready to assume the pulpit the first Sunday in July. "While changing pastors is never easy, we also recognize that these types of moves are part of the Methodist tradition," PMUMC Church Council Chairman Dan Stout explained. "We feel fortunate to have had Ken here for as long as we have. Glenelg's church family is blessed to have Ken on the way, and we're certain that our new pastor will be an equally good fit here."

Since Fell's arrival as pastor in 2002, Memorial has developed many advancements within the church, including: an annual intergenerational mission project, created and funded Memorial Cares to help community residents in crisis due to illness, unemployment, or underemployment, paved the parking lot, established an endowment fund that today tops \$100,000, helped Rev. Bob Snyder answer God's call to

-Continued on Page 14.

PHS Postseason Highlights

By Jeff Stuart

Swim and Diving Team
Poolesville's Dana Hanson won the 100 meter breast stroke (1:06.72) at the Montgomery County Swimming and Diving championships at Martin Luther King, Jr. Swim Center in Silver Spring of February 19. She finished third in the 200 individual medley (2:10:57).

Wrestling

In Wrestling, Robert Win-

ning defeated Luke Stocky of Northwood, 5-4, to win the 145-pound championship Montgomery County Public School Championship at Blair High School on February 19. Corey Savage of Poolesville made it to the finals of the 103-pound class losing to Eddie Kennedy of Clarksburg by fall in 3:25. Will Korzeniewski placed fourth at 119 pounds, losing by fall to Andrew Connine of Magruder in the consolation finals. As a team, Poolesville finished eighth.

Indoor Track

In the 2A West Region Indoor Track championships

at Hagerstown on February 12, Katie Duncan placed first in the girls' 500 meter run (1:22.89). Eric Holmstead placed second in the boys' 1600 meter run (4:39.38). The boys' 4x400 meter relay team, all seniors: Robert Fetchko, Kevin Conner, Dillon Reio, and Holmstead, placed fourth (3:40.39). Junior Jonique Lyles finished fourth in the girls' 55 meter dash (7.72), and the girls' 4x400 meter relay, seniors, Chantal Agnew and Caryn Thompson, Lyles, and Duncan, finished fourth (4:26.08). Junior Brittani Mason finished fifth in the girls' 55

-Continued on Page 18.

Family Album



*The Family Album is sponsored by
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Community Shrove Tuesday Dinner helps WUMCO



Fred and Priscilla Lyon, and Father Rigdon.



Local pastors (front) Vincent Rigdon, Tom Purdy, (back) Ken Fell, and Jace Broadhurst.



Jane Stearns, Rick Ballou, Michael Ballou, Rachel Behrend, Amelia Hall, and Eva Purdy.



Boo Davis, Cherry Barr, Tom Purdy holding Calleigh Purdy, and Donna Purdy.



The Collar family – Robert, David, Carol, Kevin, and Andrew.



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Tidbits

New Music Instruction Program Comes to Beallsville

Sanctuary Retreat Center is hosting Music Studios 28, a place providing music instruction to the residents of Western Montgomery County.

Five experienced music teachers will offer classes starting the week of March 28. Individuals and families will contract privately with the teacher for lessons to be provided at Sanctuary Retreat Center, an ecumenical retreat center sponsored by Am Kolel, a Jewish Renewal community, located at 19520 Darnestown Road.

The five teachers include: Christopher Rounds, who teaches a variety of styles of drums from rock to jazz, he also teaches hand drumming; Elle Dimond teaches guitar and voice, specializing in pop, rock, and folk; Ron Isaacson instructs in brass instruments, trumpet, baritone, and trombone; Lauren Morra teaches voice, piano, and clarinet, classical as well as contemporary music; and Joel Periera, a former band instructor, teaches winds. All Music Studios 28 teachers are experienced and have received college, conservatory, or advanced training in their fields.

American Legion Post 247 Donate to Scouting

The American Legion has long understood that if you expect quality leadership for tomorrow, then you must teach quality leadership to the youth of today.

Poolesville American Legion Post 247 has been an active partner

with many Boy Scout programs in the national capital area. This partnership was further strengthened recently when the Boy Scouts asked for financial assistance with proven leadership programs.

The Montgomery District Friends of Scouting Campaign teaches leadership courses that turn boys into tomorrow's movers and shakers. It is from this program that many Eagle Scouts are incentivized. Post 247 was proud to donate to this Boy Scout program and encourages everyone to look into supporting this and other advanced Scouting programs. The Post was presented a streamer to add to their Post flag staff in recognition of their generosity.

Post 247 thinks it is time to get involved, and if you have the means, to put your money towards the future of our country. Support the Boy Scouts of America.

Dickerson's Artie Jay Farm Receives Award

Artie Jay Farm, operated by Arthur and Peggy Johnson of Dickerson, was awarded a Dairy of Distinction award by the Maryland Dairy Industry Association during the Maryland Dairy Convention Saturday, February 26, in Frederick. The award recognizes farms across the state for beautifying the rural countryside and providing a quality product to consumers.

The Johnsons farm 250 acres they own or rent. They milk fifty registered Holsteins and raise fifty replacement heifers on the farm. The rolling herd average is 20,800 pounds of milk, 700 pounds of fat, and 650 pounds of protein. This past year, son Robert Johnson exhibited the grand champion Hol-

stein at the Montgomery County Fair. The Johnsons are always moving forward, working to improve their cattle, crops, and the farm.

Moore Up for Teacher of the Year

Sharon Moore of Poolesville High School was recently one of four Montgomery County teachers to win the Marian Greenblatt Excellence in Teaching Award. Now in her eleventh year of teaching math, she is a candidate for Montgomery County Teacher of the Year. The winner will be announced on April 27.

Tyler Lee Graduates from Parris Island



Tyler Logan Lee, Poolesville High School Class of 2008, graduated from U.S. Marine

Corps boot camp on March 4 at the Parris Island Recruit Depot, South Carolina. A member of the 2nd Bat-

alion "G" Company platoon, 2020, Tyler started Marine Corps combat training at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina, March 14. Once this next round of training is completed, Tyler will receive his next orders. Tyler is the son of Chris and Sally Lee of Poolesville.

Local Student Named to Scripps College Dean's List

Xingyao Hong, a resident of Boyds was named to the dean's list for the fall 2010 semester at Scripps College in Claremont, California. The dean's list recognizes students who have achieved an "A-" grade point average in four, letter-graded courses in one semester.

Local Student Makes Dean's List at Lafayette College

Clarksburg resident Annalaura Linder, Class of 2014, was named to the 2010 fall semester Dean's List at Lafayette College. The Dean's list requires that a student achieve at least a 3.60 semester grade point average out of a possible 4.0.


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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

It is encouraging to see the churches of Poolesville cooperating on important community projects. For example, Poolesville churches provided the bulk of the funding for the Rebuilding Together project scheduled for Saturday, April 30 (the renovation of a deteriorating house owned by a low-income family), and the leadership for planning the work and many of the volunteers the day of the event will come from the same local congregations. More funding for WUMCO-Help, Inc. than previously comes from the churches, and volunteers for a workday at the WUMCO headquarters last fall consisted largely of people from local churches. The interaction of the pastors at what is now regular monthly meetings results in greater coordination and improved communication on their collective programs involving community outreach.

Of course, some of their united efforts have a more spiritual focus. The Shrove Tuesday pancake supper at Memorial Methodist on Tuesday, March 8, drew almost 300 people—mostly, but certainly not all, from the churches. All five churches furnished the folks necessary for planning, logistics, and food preparation. Even at that event, however, their community responsibility was demonstrated: Net proceeds of about \$1300 were donated to WUMCO.

Whether affiliated with a local church or not, Poolesville-area residents would probably agree with the writer that ours is a better community for these ecumenical efforts.

Sincerely,
Ray Hoewing

Commentary

Don't Mess with The Ag Reserve

By John Clayton

Earlier this month, the Montgomery County Board of Appeals appeared to be close to approving a special zoning exception to allow a grass airstrip in Boyds along Peach Tree Road, which would have allowed the property owner to take off and land for recreational, that is, non-farming use. The zoning regulations have allowed and continue to allow airstrips for agricultural uses, such as crop dusting. The Board of Appeals spoke of approving the recreational airstrip for use no more than twice a week, in clear weather. The board said, "The noise generated at takeoff and landing is an inherent characteristic of the use and is no higher than the noise made by leaf blowers, weed whackers, lawn mowers, and other machinery

routinely used on farms and residential properties. It should be noted that the proposed airstrip is used only two times per week, during the daylight hours and in clear weather conditions."

The Montgomery County Council demurred, and has passed an amendment offered by Marc Elrich and Craig Rice that effectively wipes out recreational airstrips in the Agricultural Reserve. The vote was not unanimous, and a dissenting concern was that the council was changing the rules midstream on a citizen who had tried to follow the rules and establish his airstrip.

I admit this bothered me a little as well. The gentleman in question purchased his property in Boyds and seemed to follow the rules to the extent he understood them, which is perhaps no small feat out here. If the intent of the rules was to allow farmers to use airplanes for agricultural purposes, but not for residential

-Continued on page 15.

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Local News

County Promotes Park Sites for Weddings

By Kristen Milton

With spring only weeks away, thoughts turn to wedding plans and the county hopes its inaugural "Brides on the Bus" event brings more of these weddings to local park venues.

Riders on the "Brides" buses were ferried to all five Montgomery Parks event centers ranging from Derwood's Agricultural History Farm Park to Wheaton's Brookside Gardens, where they had thirty to forty minutes to look around before re-boarding. The ride included games and prizes. Brides were also allowed to drive themselves to individual sites after bus seats filled up.

As one of two starting-off points for the March 13 tour, Seneca Lodge in Boyds displayed all the basic wedding necessities. Music from a tuxedoed DJ drifted from the decorated log cabin to a white tent set up below. Guests wandered around with plates of buffet food and wedding cake while picking up various favors along the way.

Jenna Hogan of Hagerstown visited the Boyds site once before while scouting potential locations for her spring 2012 wedding but was getting a stronger impression this time.

"I really liked it then and seeing it all with the chairs and the lights, I love it," she said. "You really get the feeling that an event is going on."

Hogan was accompanied by her mother as she said her fiancée was turned off by the tour name — "He didn't want to hang out with a bunch of brides" — but other women were joined by their future grooms, friends and wedding planners.

"We do everything together so it would be a shame to plan a party and not have him involved," Elisabeth Ploran of Arlington said of fiancé Jay Anderson as they juggled s'mores and soup samples. The couple chose to drive to just three sites



Bride-to-be Jenna Hogan of Hagerstown (center) and mother Carol Axberg discuss cakes with Judee of Custom Cakes at Seneca Lodge during the county's first "Brides on the Bus" event.

rather than spend time on the bus visiting locations too small for their planned one hundred plus guests.

Drivers kept vendors at the tour sites from having too much down time, although there were slow moments between buses. Christy Turnbull, a parks operations manager, said if the event is held again next year, as seems likely, a third starting-off point may be chosen.

"It seems to be a hit so far," Turnbull said. Thirty-four riders departed from Boyds and another ninety-one from Wheaton with approximately twenty driving visitors stopping in as well.

"It's not the optimum way to spend six hours on a Sunday but few things are," Peter Anderson of Arlington said with a mock grimace as he walked through the lodge with fiancée Andrea Popp.

The couple, already stuffed with samples after their first stop, was drawn to the tour because they want an outdoor site for their Cinco de Mayo wedding.

"There's not a whole lot of outdoor space in Arlington," Popp said.

"That's not a gazillion dollars," Anderson clarified.

Seneca Lodge struck them as affordable and "cute" while also being drivable for their anticipated seventy guests.

Events center manager Shelley Fisher said most of the park system's venues are in good demand for events ranging from bar mitzvahs to retirement parties

-Continued on Page 9.

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Business Briefs

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A sister company to Corporate Network Services, Anvil Dataworks, is offering a free technology training webinar on March 25 at 11:30 a.m. entitled: "You're using a Spreadsheet for THAT? When It's Best To Use a Database." During the one-hour presentation, the certified trainer will explain the differences between spreadsheets and databases, and when a database can be the better tool for managing projects. Attendees will receive a free thirty-day trial of FileMaker Pro database and a certificate for further free training. To sign up, visit: www1.gotomeeting.com/register/122233920.

One Year Anniversary Already

Can you believe that the Organic Market and Holistic Center of Poolesville is celebrating its one-year anniversary? If you stop in on March 20, they plan to have

special discounts, prizes, and even cake.

They now have a weekly Holistic Happy Hour, too. This is a new event that takes place each Friday from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. throughout March, April, and May. Come to the market to sample complimentary hors d'oeuvres, chat with friends and colleagues, and hear about what is offered at the Organic Market and Holistic Center of Poolesville. The weekly gathering features samples of the new de-alcoholized wines for your sipping enjoyment.

Time Flies at Shear Elegance, Too

This spring marks the second anniversary of the opening of Shear Elegance. The ladies are thrilled and are grateful to all their loyal patrons.

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Police Blotter

By Jack Toomey

Current Crime

Montgomery County fire investigators are seeking information from the community regarding the large brush fire that impacted the Darnestown and Germantown areas on February 19. Anyone with information is asked to call 240-777-2263.

Detectives from the Montgomery County Police 5th/6th District Investigative Section are asking the public's assistance in identifying the suspect(s) responsible for several thefts from vehicles at two Germantown daycare centers. From December 3, 2010 through February 24, 2011, there were four incidents of theft from vehicles parked outside of two daycare centers. All of the incidents occurred from vehicles which were left unlocked as parents/guardians picked up their children. All four of these incidents occurred between 6:00 p.m. and 6:50 p.m. The property that was stolen includes electronics, credit cards, and cash.

Assaults: Poolesville High School, 17400 block of Hoskinson Road, 14700 block of Sugarland Road.

Burglary: 21000 block of Sugar Ride Terrace, Boyds, 2400 block of Slidell Road.

Drug Use complaint: 17000 block of Tom Fox Avenue.

Past Crime

March 18, 1945 Elizabeth Myers was in the backyard of her home at Braddock, Frederick County when an artillery shell whizzed over her

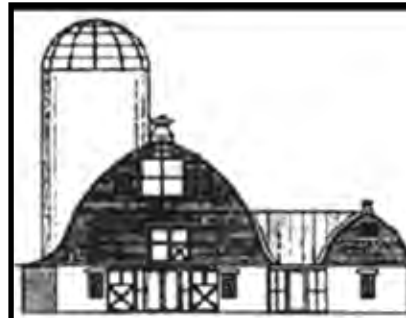
house. Investigation revealed that an army unit was test-firing captured German shells at a site about a mile away. Mrs. Myers reported that dishes were knocked off her cupboards.

March 18, 1931 An explosion rocked Poolesville causing the death of Lawrence Claggett and critically injuring another man. Merrill Morningstar and Charles Fritz, who were the first on the scene, carried the men out of the burning house. Claggett's wife of six weeks returned from a visit to her mother's house to find the home destroyed.

March 18, 1922 Sheriff Alvie Moxley carried out the sentences imposed by Magistrate Will Vielt at the Rockville jail yard. Moxley applied a cowhide to the bare backs of George Kemp of Barnesville and Frank Terry of Cloppers. Both had been convicted of wife beating.

March 23, 1966 Montgomery County Police warned residents about a series of obscene telephone calls that had been placed to women where the caller threatened harm to their daughters. Typically, the caller would say that he had abducted the daughter and, in the background, a female voice could be heard crying. Investigation revealed that no one had been abducted. Police in Fairfax and Prince George's Counties reported similar incidents.

March 25, 1933 State Senator Emory Coblenz was indicted by the Montgomery County grand jury on charges that he accepted deposits at the Central Trust Bank at Poolesville knowing that the bank was insolvent.



SUGARLOAF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER March 2011

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Anne Sturm, President

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Sugarloaf Citizens' Association Annual Meeting

We invite you to attend our Annual Meeting on **Saturday, April 2, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Barn at **Linden Farm, 20900 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson, Maryland.** Our featured speaker is Francoise Carrier, recently appointed Chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board.

The Annual Meeting provides the SCA Board the opportunity to share information about projects and issues on our agenda throughout the past year. We also provide time for you to share your concerns and experiences to help us set goals for the current year. The Piedmont Environmental Council has invited one of the 2010 Grant Recipients to present a project to the membership.

We will hold the annual election of Board members and officers at this meeting. All members are entitled to vote. Our members are those who contributed to SCA for 2011 either by responding to our December/January membership letter or by sending a donation since then. We will also have a table at the meeting where you can join SCA that morning and vote in the election.

Nominations for May 1, 2011 – April 30, 2012

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Chris Kendrick

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Jay Cinque

Eleanor Kottler

Eric Cronquist

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Carol Oberdorfer

Jaime Field

Gil Rocha

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The third annual **Seed and Plant Swap** will be held **Saturday, May 7 from 2 to 4 p.m.** at Linden Farm. We invite local residents to swap or sell seedlings or plants from their gardens. We will offer bags of Leafgro for a small donation. Sharing plants from our gardens builds friendships AND our community. *Paid Advertisement*

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Mystery History

A Brief Trip Down Memory Lane

By Rande Davis

A few weekends ago, a group of volunteers tackled the significant amount of limbs and brush that were scattered throughout Monocacy Cemetery from the heavy snows and winds of this past winter. The people of the cemetery (the administrators, not the residents) were very appreciative of the dedication and hard work of the laborers: Tad Bodmer, Butch Fitzwater, Ken Fitzwater, Muddy Burdette, John Repass, Howard Bodmer, and Ernie Smith. The group undertakes this loving act of remembrance a couple of times each year.

There would be wondrous stories to be told if only the voices of the grave could speak. The next best thing is the memories from those still alive that can recall tales of bygone years.

Recently, Rob Wells of Absolute Auto in Dickerson shared a captivating four-page record of the memories from his grandfather on life in Poolesville in the first half of the twentieth century. They were the recollections of Clyde Grayson Grubb as he told them to his daughter Linda Kovacs as she drove him around the area during a visit in 1994. Mr. Grubb, now ninety-six years old, resides in Frederick, Maryland. As a boy residing in Washington, D.C., he often visited relatives on their family farm here in Poolesville, which was on the property now occupied by the town's water tower and high school football field. The family home still stands at the corner of Norris Road and Wootton Avenue.

His glimpses into the past are fascinating recollections that revive life in Poolesville as it was back then.

As he and Linda drove to Poolesville, he recalled how traveling from D.C. to Poolesville in those earlier days could be an adventure in its own right. These are some of his observations as part of the Grubb family history.

"We would set out in a Ford 1925 Model T early in the day. By Rockville, we would get our first flat tire." (They carried material to patch the tires on the running board of the car). After stopping to scrap the glue and patch the tire, the trip to Poolesville continued on a very rough rural road, and they could only drive fifteen to twenty miles per hour. Stopping for a picnic was part of the trip.

Mr. Grubb recalls that his mother went to school on Berryville Road, which, at the time, was a dirt road, and his cousin Edgar was a successful homebuilder in Poolesville. Clyde remembers making straw mattresses for his cousin. He and his cousins used to sell fresh eggs for one cent apiece traveling on horseback. They would sell the eggs in town and then race back to the farm. Better to race after selling out, for sure. His cousins always won the race.

He would join his cousins on the farm in Poolesville for the summer as soon as school let out. They hunted squirrel and trapped muskrats. The muskrat pelts were sold to Sears, Roebuck, and Co.

At the time, Charles Elgin was

the druggist in Poolesville, and Elgin's Drug store was The place to hang out.

In 1933, Clyde worked for Raleigh Haberdashery in Washington as a stock person. He made \$12.00 per week working six days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. His lunch cost twenty-five cents, the streetcar was ten cents, and a pair of shoes went for \$3.00.

He is proud of his father-in-law who was a lieutenant during the Spanish-American War.

While the farm in Poolesville is long gone, his Uncle Harry's farm and barn on Hollow Club Road are still there. As youths, they slept on the farmhouse porch summer and winter. Col. John B. Gordon camped there during the Civil War.

Clyde's Uncle Lloyd had a greenhouse, a hatchery, and was also a justice of the peace.

The Monocle appreciates being able to share these brief reflections from the past and welcomes stories from others. We want to thank the Wells family for allowing us to share these intriguing recollections from when Poolesville was truly very small.




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"Brides on Bus" Continued from Page 5.

to weddings but some are more popular than others. The tour concept, inspired by the response to last year's Not-So-Big Wedding Boutique, was intended to expose more brides to the park possibilities.

"All of them are very pretty and unique in their own ways," Fisher said. "The Ag Park is, you know, a farm so we have a lot of people asking about getting married in the barn for that

rustic feel. Other people want the [Rockwood] Manor."

Once a location is chosen, a bridal couple still have many choices to make and an array of vendors were on hand March 13 to help them – offering discounts and displays on catering, invitations, photography and styling among other services.

Judee of Custom Cake Design in Gaithersburg stood behind a rose-topped wedding cake equipped with cellophane-wrapped cupcakes for those who didn't have time to try the

sample squares also available.

"They're a little rushed but...I think the brides are kind of liking it," Judee said. "The younger people, they have a shorter attention span; they're used to getting quick information."

Michelle Bradley of Fairfax collected cards of all kinds from vendors as she and friends Alyssa Kessler and Christine Picarelli sucked from 7-11 Big Gulp straws and speculated about her groom's reaction to their plans for the yet-to-be-scheduled wedding.

"He wanted me to scope everything out first," Bradley said. "I'm doing the legwork."



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www.monocacymonocle.com

See current updates to Things to Do

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Dedication Concert

Guest Organist:
Marc Cheban

On Saturday, April 2, 2011 at 7 PM, Memorial Church will welcome Marc Cheban for a dedication concert on our new sanctuary organ. Cheban is the director of music at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Newark, DE; a frequent recitalist on the Ballroom Organ at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA; and the staff artist for Daffier Church Organs.

With installation begun in November and completed in early January, Memorial's new sanctuary organ is complete! The console integrates a new Rodgers digital organ with the existing Moller pipe organ. The original Moller Organ, circa 1916 has six ranks (approximately 350 pipes.) The Rodgers digital organ adds the equivalent of more than 2,500 pipes and a MIDI interface that provides another 1,100 sounds. The resulting combination of the Moller pipe organ and the Rodgers digital organ is truly amazing.

Memorial is indeed fortunate to have Marc Cheban for this demonstration concert. Cheban's programs are marked by a delightful combination of serious organ works, orchestral transcriptions and colorful novelty works. The talented Mr. Cheban will demonstrate the range of Memorial's new instrument.

DATE: Saturday, April 2, 2011
TIME: 7:00 P.M.

A freewill offering will be received with a suggested donation of \$15 per person.

A reception following the concert will provide opportunities to both meet Mr. Cheban and enjoy refreshments. Please join us at Memorial Church on April 2 as we celebrate this new instrument!

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Things to Do

March 18
 Cugini's Entertainment Night
 Featuring: Jay Summerour, Mike Wescott, and Eric Selby
 8:00 p.m.

March 19
 Rummage Sale
 Poolesville Presbyterian Church
 Benefit to raise funds for the annual youth mission trip.
 Furniture, clothing, toys, household items, and more
 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Wine Tasting at Sugarloaf Mt. Vineyards
 Live Music: Freddie Long
 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Cruising Bonanza – Benefit for Carroll Manor Fire Company
 Fire Station #14 – Adamstown, Maryland
 Buffet Dinner and drinks festivity
 Prizes awarded every fifteen minutes (do not have to be present to win)
 Grand Prize: Win a Cruise for two -

\$1500.00 voucher awarded
 2nd Prize: Win a set of luggage
 \$20.00 per person
 Doors open: 4:30 p.m.- Prize drawings begin at 5:00 p.m.
 Information: Call 301-662-7809 or 301-401-0618

Cugini's Entertainment Night
 Featuring: Ron Kemp Project
 9:00 p.m.

Bassett's Special Event
 Pinot on the Patio
 Sample a great selection of Pinot Noir and Pinot Grigio guided by Gordon Taylor of Upcounty Fine Wine and Beer.
 Seating limited – Tickets available at Bassett's or Upcounty Fine Wine and Beer
 7:30 p.m.

Bassett's Entertainment Night
 Featuring: Mindy Miller
 10:00 p.m.

An Irish Night
 Silent and Live Auction and Gala
 The St. Thomas More Academy PTO will hold its ninth annual celebration event at the school in

Buckeystown with an Irish festival theme. There will be appetizers, dinner, and dancing with live Irish music provided by Sligo Creek. There will be over 120 auction items, and, during dinner, the Broesler School of Irish Dance will treat guests to a step-dancing performance.
 Admission: \$65.00 (tickets available at www.stmamd.org)
 5:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Cugini's Entertainment Night
 Featuring: Ron Kemp Project
 8:00 p.m.

March 20
 Open House Reception
 Poolesville Vision Service
 20005 Fisher Avenue
 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Wine Tasting at Sugarloaf Mt. Vineyards
 Live Music: Shane Gamble
 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

All You Can Eat – Spaghetti Dinner
 Memorial United Methodist Church – Poolesville
 Adults: \$8.00

Children under 12: \$4.00
 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

March 26
 Wine Tasting at Sugarloaf Mt. Vineyards
 Live Music: Ted Garber
 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Basket Bingo - Benefit for the Poolesville Community Pre-School. Featuring Longaberger products. St. Mary's Pavilion – Barnesville
 Doors Open: 5:30 p.m.
 Games: 7:30 p.m. \$20.00 - Special games, raffle, and door prizes

Cugini's Entertainment Night
 Featuring: Snakebit
 9:00 p.m.

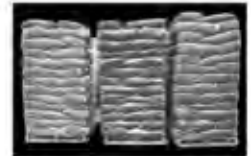
March 27
 Wine Tasting at Sugarloaf Mt. Vineyards
 Live Music: Denny Grizzle
 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

March 28
 Poolesville Library
 Book Club: *The Prosecution of George W. Bush for Murder* by Vincent Bugliosi, 7:00 p.m.

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Local News

Town Government Report Proposed New 2012 Budget Presented

By Rande Davis

Town Manager Wade Yost presented an overview of the proposed 2012 Fiscal Budget for Poolesville at the March 7 town meeting.

Once again, the town is facing a nearly \$300,000 shortfall in revenue from state and county revenue sharing and state highway funds. The commissioners hope to have their \$2.4 million budget in the black by \$5,000. The approved budget also maintains an unrestricted, rainy-day fund of \$892,192 and projects cash-on-hand of over \$2.2 million, which is ten percent below the last budget. To achieve these budgetary goals, the commissioners are schedul-

ing no change in the tax rate of \$0.1594 per \$100 of assessment. No new or increases in existing fees are projected. Additionally, the budget projects \$644,500 reserved for capital projects.

Some of the other highlights of the budget include expectations in cutbacks from the state and county, reduction in revenue sharing, and a drop in state highway user funds. Currently, the town pays its debt service through impact and developer fees.

The town generates its revenue from property tax (45%), income tax (36%), wireless rental (6%), interest income (4%), and highway user income (1%). Additionally, the eight percent from revenue sharing is projected to be down this year by twenty percent. Income from development in the form of proffers and impact fees are restricted for specific use (i.e., sidewalks) and are not part of the income for general operations.

General operations take up sixty-six percent of the town's

expenditures, including: salaries, administrative costs, legal fees, engineering consultation, trash pickup, and maintenance of parks, streets, drains, etc.

They have reduced their expenditure plans slightly for capital projects. Capital projects planned and previously funded included Seneca Chase subdivision paving, Steven's Park, and playground equipment replacement. New projects for the upcoming budget year are improvements at Dr. Dillingham Park (pave parking lot, install tot lot [funded by a grant], and install a pavilion). They will also begin setting aside funds for repair of Tom Fox sidewalks in the future.

On the water and wastewater side of the ledger, the current rate schedule for water is projected to stay the same as last year. Last year, the town installed variable drive blower motors (paid by grant) in the water treatment plant which has resulted in lower cost for electricity for the plant. At this time, there is an estimated shortfall

in the water and wastewater budget of \$100,000 that will be covered by a grant from the town's general funds. Previous funding of \$850,000 will be used for the well 7, 8, and 9 alpha treatment systems.

There will be a public hearing to take comments from residents at the March 21 meeting. The budget proposal is now available online at www.ci.poolesville.md.us.

In other matters, there were no public comments offered at the meeting regarding the proposed changes in the Ordinance #122 – Forestation. There are three openings for volunteers on the ethics commission, planning commission, and the resident volunteer for the CEDC.



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In the Garden Celebrate Arbor Day – Plant a Tree

By Maureen O'Connell

April 6 is Arbor Day in Maryland, and the national observance day is the last Friday in April. The actual date varies from state to state, according to the best time to plant trees. Where did the idea for this day come from? Julius Sterling Morton, born in upstate New York on April 22, 1832, is the founder of Arbor Day. He moved to Michigan for his education, and he later settled in Nebraska on a 160-acre tract of grassland in a treeless area of the prairies. Every day, he watched the gusty winds blowing away the black, fertile topsoil in clouds of dust, and with it went all his dreams for a farm. There were no trees to prevent the loss of his soil. Working as a reporter for the *Nebraska City News* and as a member of the Nebraska Board of

Agriculture, he worked tirelessly to convince people of the value of trees to prevent the loss of valuable soil. In 1875, April 22, in honor of Morton's birthday, was designated Arbor Day. Today, Nebraska is still known as "The Tree Planters State."

What better way to honor Arbor Day than planting a tree? What criteria do we use in selecting a tree? There are several characteristics that we can consider. Does it have distinctive foliage? Is it fast growing? Is it flowering? Does it provide a privacy hedge? Does it provide fruit for birds? Is it a specimen tree? Does it provide shade? There is a right tree for all of those needs. Choose those that have a tolerance for drought, heat, and humidity and are resistant to pests and diseases that are prevalent in our Monocacy country.

For the past several years, the trees in our area have been beaten by high winds, ice, and heavy snow. Last week, I noticed in local neighborhoods many damaged trees; they were bent over and had lost a significant number of large limbs. You can't prevent all dam-

age, but you can plant trees that can better handle these conditions.

Trees that have an excurrent form (the trunk is uninterrupted from the ground to the top and has a number of smaller limbs extending horizontally; it is pyramidal in shape and is a common shape with most conifer trees) are better able to shed ice and snow than trees with a decurrent form (the trunk of the tree divides into large limbs which create an umbrella-shaped form; they are spherical in shape and are the common shape of most hardwood trees). Trees with branches that are pliable can more easily shed ice or pass the force to other parts of the tree, the ground, or neighboring trees. If a tree has root and stem rots, cankers, insect infestation, or any prior injury, it is less able to sustain wind and ice damage, regardless of the type of tree it is. Yearly care of your trees is the best prevention of serious damage from nature's elements.

What are some good tough trees for our area? The award for the toughest evergreen on the block goes to the arborvitae Thuja 'Green Giant.' This introduction from the U.S. National Arboretum will grow to sixty feet at up to three feet a year. Planted together, they will become a fast-growing, year-round hedge or screen. Its new sport Thuja 'Steeplechase' has a denser, full habit with all the good points of the 'Green Giant.'

Thirty-one years ago, Jim and I planted twenty-four small Norway Spruce up our long, hilly driveway. Today, they are all very healthy and very tall; they have weathered

every storm all those years with no damage. These trees are the most widespread, fastest growing, and most disease-resistant spruces. I forget what variety we planted those many years ago, but this year look for *Picea abies* 'Acrocona.' This slow-growing Norway Spruce is a Swedish introduction and has excellent drought tolerance and is hardy to at least -35° F. The Colorado Blue Spruce is another very hardy conifer. A new one this year is 'Baby Blue.' This very blue handsome specimen is an excellent windbreak.

Three years ago, I planted a river birch, *Betula nigra* 'Heritage.' Last month with the ice and snow accumulations, my river birch's limbs were so bent down, they looked like they were stretching to kiss the snow-covered ground. I was afraid that they would break off—but as soon as a little sun came out and the weather warmed up a bit, her beautiful, lengthy limbs popped right back up with no damage.

Many flowering trees handle wind, snow, and ice very well. The crabapple, redbud, crape myrtle, and the service berry trees do very well in our area under these stressful conditions.

Even the best of trees can be damaged by wind, drought, heat, snow, ice, pest, and diseases. Your best protection against these factors is to keep your trees healthy. Trees are an expensive item in your home's landscape. Mature trees add to the value of your home. Don't wait until they are too damaged to save.

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Local News

Mr. Poolesville 2011

By Chantal Agnew

On Thursday March 10, the cast of Glee came into Poolesville! Oh no, wait...it was just the Mr. Poolesville contestants pretending to be members of Glee for the opening video of their glee-themed show. The contestants of this year's competition were Raja Ayyagari, Joshua Ballard, Kevin Connor, Hunter Hegmann, Eric Holmstead, Tyler Holston, RJ King, Ben Patton, Dre Todd, and David Tia Zhou.

The contestants topped off their great acting skills with some awesome moves in their intro dance. The boys then had the opportunity to strut across the stage in their casual wear (also known as what they would be caught wearing on a regular

day if you were so lucky as to glean a sight of them). After the boys showed off their stunning day-to-day looks, the audience was in for a real treat as the boys flaunted their active wear. Active wear mostly consisted of the young men in their athletic gear depicting the various sports and extracurriculars in which they are involved. Next up was the talent portion. Unfortunately, it was rudely interrupted after the first act by a tornado warning! The entire show was postponed, and everyone had to seek shelter in windowless classrooms until the threat had passed. After a solid fifteen-minute stretch of cowering in classrooms, the show resumed.

All the contestants performed admirably with talents ranging from dances, live music, singing, videos, and even some standup comedy. The boys were then transformed into men as they emerged suited up and looking quite suave for the formalwear segment of the competition. While the judges discussed and

tallied up their scores, the audience laughed as a video of the teachers came up discussing the contestants' personalities and some of their antics in school. Next, everyone oohed and awed at some adorable baby shots of all the contestants.

Finally, the Young Men were called back on stage for the determination of the Final Five: Kevin Connor, Hunter Hegmann, Eric Holmstead, Tyler Holston, and RJ King. Then came the final hurdle, the lucky fellows had to answer the final question before the judges could determine the winner. The Question: "If you had to choose one historical person to be your roommate, who would it be and why?" After considering each gentleman's an-



Mr. Poolesville contestants ponder the Final Question: Kevin Connor, Hunter Hegmann, Eric Holmstead, Tyler Holston, RJ King.

swer to that stumping question, the judges found a winner. The second runner up was Hunter Hegmann, first runner up was Kevin Connor, and the winner was Eric Holmstead. Congratulations, Eric—or should we say Mr.

She expressed to the Monocle that "God has blessed our time together. There are many excellent candidates available in the area, and I am confident that God has plans for the future of this church."

Lisa Roberts, a member of PPCs Session which is a laity leadership committee for the church, expressed sentiments on behalf of the congregation. "Even though we are sad to see Ruth leave, we respect and support her decision. We have benefited from Ruth's guidance, vision, leadership, and friendship for more years than we ever anticipated when she first signed on as our Stated Supply Pastor over nine years ago. Ruth feels called to pursue her gifts as a writer, and we wish her Godspeed as she travels down that path. As Presbyterians, we have an orderly process for transition and have a committee already at work to find the pastor who will help lead us on the next leg of our journey as a congregation."

"Pastors Departing" Continued From Page 1.

ministry, and created a youth center, among other things. Rev. Ruth Everhart of Poolesville Presbyterian will also be leaving in June. She is planning to focus her energies on some writing projects. She came to Poolesville in January 2002 as a half-time supply pastor with a renewable one-year contract. Obviously, the congregation was pleased as she has been here nine years. Among some of the advancements she made during that time was bringing first stability and growth in numbers to the church, expanding worship to two services on Sunday, starting a vibrant youth group, and introducing innovative community service and fellowship opportunities like the church's Connection Café, a cybercafé where people can borrow a computer, use free Wi-Fi, or attend workshops on a wide range of topics, and simply get together and share interests.

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Remembrance



G. Robert Checkley of Comus

G. Robert "Bob" Checkley

Mr. G. Robert Checkley, 88, of Comus, died at his daughter's home in Fredericksburg, Virginia on Sunday, February 6, 2011.

Bob was preceded in death by his loving wife of sixty years, Norma June (Bagley) Checkley. He was born on September 2, 1922 in Le Mars, Iowa.

During World War II, Bob served his country by enlisting in the army shortly after Pearl Harbor. He began as an infantry soldier and quickly advanced in rank and position as a gunnery instructor. When volunteers were

"Commentary" Continued From Page 4.

purposes, then the Boyds fellow found a loophole that I suppose you could drive a plane through; however, out here, the Ag Reserve has the last word.

In the interest of full disclosure, I should mention that, as the crow flies, I probably live no more than a mile and a half away from the airstrip, if that. Depending on his flight path, perhaps I would never have been directly affected, but I really don't know. It's probably true, as the Board of Appeals suggested, that some of my neighbors have lawn and farm equipment as noisy or even noisier than the gentleman's small aircraft, but in all fairness, none of them have ever flown these machines over our property.

The basic fact is that the Agri-

needed for the Army Air Corps, he became a belly gunner on a B-24. He flew many dangerous missions from New Guinea to bomb mainland Japan as part of the 13th Air Force, 371st Bomber Group, 307th Squadron; he was honorably discharged in 1946. After the war, Bob attended and graduated from the University of Michigan where he earned his B.S. in Engineering and lettered in gymnastics. During his long career as a Chrysler Corporation automotive engineer, he specialized in the groundbreaking concept of fuel economy. He placed first in several cross-country mobile economy runs, always beating his boss. At the end of his engineering career, Bob returned to his childhood roots of a farmer. He succeeded his father-in-law, Marion Bagley, as the owner and farm manager of the Farr/Bagley Farm, a cow-calf operation in Comus, Maryland. His life's passion was farming, but when asked what he was most proud of, his answer was: "Being a father."

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Bob's charity of choice, the Fisher House, www.fisherhouse.org.

cultural Reserve, or Rural Density Transfer Zoning for you sticklers out there, is a fragile and increasingly threatened entity. It won't take very many small, seemingly inconsequential exceptions to begin opening up these areas to accelerating fragmentation by non-farming endeavors. None of them will, by themselves, appear evil, but they will add up. In the great movie, *The Maltese Falcon*, Sam Spade (Humphrey Bogart, of course) is detailing Bridgid O'Shaughnessy's transgressions (Mary Astor, but you knew that) and says, more or less, "Any one of these may not seem like much—but look at the number of them." I haven't thought about that line since the last time I thought about Richard Nixon, but I am concerned that five or ten or twenty years down the line, we will look at all the little things that have eroded the Ag

School News

Two PHS Students Possible U.S. Physics Olympians

Poolesville High School students Daniel Sun and Pranav Gokhale are on the Road to Gold with the U.S. Physics Team. Both have become semifinalists for the 2011 U.S. Physics Olympics Team.

The American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) has announced the top students chosen to advance to the semifinal round of U.S. Physics Team selection. Approximately three thousand students participated in this first phase of the selection process, the Fnet=ma exam, in January.

The International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) is a nine-day competition among pre-university students from more than eighty nations. The 2011 Olympiad will be held in Bangkok, Thailand from July 10 through July 18.

The semi-finalists will travel from schools all over the United States to the University of Maryland-College Park for the U.S. Physics Team Training Camp.

Reserve.

So when it looked like the airstrip would go in, a handful of formidable advocacy groups went to work, and a majority of the county council stood up for the Ag Reserve. I'm okay with that. I prefer unanimous votes, but I suppose 7 to 2 will have to suffice.

There, they engage in nine days of intense studying, mystery lab, daily exams, and problem solving. At the end of that training camp, five students and an alternate will be selected as the Traveling Team to represent the United States at the IPhO.

In July, the Traveling Team and their coaches will attend a three-day mini-camp of intense laboratory work before moving on to the IPhO.

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"PHS Post Season Highlights"
Continued From Page 1.

meter hurdles (10.06).

In the 2A State Championship in Landover on February 21, Duncan finished second in the girls' 500 (1:20.13). Holmstead finished fourth in the 1600 meter (4:33.38). The girls' 4x400 meter relay finished fifth (4:21.64). The boys' 4x400 finished seventh overall. Lyles was seventh in the 55 meter (7.69). Freshman Chelsie Pennello was ninth in the 3200 meter.

Girls' Basketball

The Poolesville girls' basketball team won eight of their last nine games earning the top seed in the 2A region tournament. The Falcon girls (18-4) had the best overall record of any of the county 2A or 3A teams. The girls finished Upcounty play with a thrilling win over visiting B-CC on February 18. With the game tied at 52 in overtime, junior Lindsay Poss drove to the basket and kicked it out to a wide-open Kelsey Carnahan, who knocked down a three-pointer with ten seconds left for the victory. Carnahan, who scored a team-high

fourteen points off the bench, said it was the first game-winning shot of her life.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase trailed by ten at the half, but a 15-2 run to close the third period gave the Barons a 42-38 lead to carry into the fourth. With three minutes left, Carnahan scored and was fouled on a layup. She made the free throw to cut the lead to two. Senior Holly Chittenden knocked down two free throws to tie the game with 40.3 seconds left in regulation. In the overtime, Poss had five points over a forty-five-second span to tie the game again.

The top seed is not a title, and the Falcons fell victim to eighth-seeded Walkersville in the region quarterfinals, 57-42. Senior forward Holly Chittenden (sixteen points, seven rebounds, and two blocks) led PHS. Carnahan hit three shots from behind the arc. Trailing much of the first half, Poolesville, finished on a 9-0 run, taking a 22-17 lead into the halftime. There were three lead changes in the third quarter, but the Lions' Shernise Disney hit a

three as time expired, giving WHS a six-point lead, and the Lions pulled away in the fourth for the stunning upset.

Boys' Basketball

The boys' basketball team, a fifth seed, started its postseason with a 40-32 win over visiting Century on February 25. Senior guard Derrick Miller (twenty-three points, eleven rebounds) led a very energized Falcons team to an 18-4 lead after one period. Poolesville led, 26-13, at the half, but Century made a determined run and cut the lead to five, holding the Falcon

boys to just two points in the third period and eventually cutting the lead to two in the middle of the fourth period. In an important scramble for possession under the PHS basket, DeAndre Parrott dove to the floor twice to secure the ball. The Falcons regained their focus. Key rebounding by Zach Zapata, two clutch free throws by Kirby Carmack sealed the win.

Leading by twenty-nine points by Miller, the Falcons took a seven-point lead in the third period of the quarterfinal game at Wheaton, but the fourth-seeded Knights rallied for a 56-54 win. Parrott and Zapata each had ten points for PHS.

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