

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

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Kim Poulos tamed the bull at Springfest 2015. See more in Family Album on page 2.



Local girl scouts got some lessons in self defense. Read more about it in Tidbits on page 6.



PHS baseball standout Jordan Cissel signed to play for the Montgomery College raptors as MC Coach Andrew Hoy and PHS Coach Stephen Orsini look on. For more information, see page 6.



Maria Shkeda hosted a Russian culture display at PES's first International Night. See more pictures on page 10.

Ninety-Five New Homes Proposed Next to Town Hall

By Rande Davis

A stormwater management concept plan submitted by CMS Associates, LLC on behalf of Fish Pool, LLC presents a house development plan of up to ninety-five homes on the west side of the Poolesville Town Hall. The 13.9-acre site, commonly referred to as the Willard property, would develop the land with a blend of single family homes, duplexes, and up to forty townhouses. In the plan, the large white family home of the late Helen Pumphrey, directly across from the U. S. Post Office, will remain, but the building across from the Post Office/Norris Avenue and another white single family home on Fisher Avenue will not remain.

A certified letter along with the proposed stormwater and development plan were sent to residents whose properties are adjacent/downstream of the Willard site. The letter is a requirement of the permitting process by the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services (DPS). Those homeowners were notified that they could provide written information pertinent to the permitting process to the county to Mark C. Etheridge, manager, Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services Water Resources section. Those residents had three weeks to reply to the letter.

The new development, to be called Willshire, would face Fisher Avenue with a western border abutting the John Poole House property then running east to Fyfe Road, which is also the western parking lot for the Poolesville Town Hall. As submitted, the plan would have four entrances/exits, one on Fisher Avenue (approximately where the entrance to Discovery Early Learning Center is) and one on Fyfe Road.

Continued on page 16.



New home development proposed for downtown Poolesville. Fisher Avenue is at the bottom; Town Hall and Whalen Commons would be at the right side of this architectural rendering.

Pool Opening Heralds Arrival of Summer

By Rande Davis

After a May that will be long remembered for being rainy and cold, the forecast for summer-like temperatures for Memorial Day weekend come none too soon and just in time for the grand opening of the newly-renovated Western County Outdoor Pool (WCOP) complex. The official ribbon-cutting grand opening will be on May 28 at 10:00 a.m., and those attending the ceremony will get to swim free for the day.

First opened in 1991, WCOP is one of seven outdoor pool facilities operated and maintained by the Montgomery County Department of Recreation, and, although it is in one of the more sparsely-populated parts of the county, it consistently ranks in the middle, or fourth, for total facility visits. As such, it provides a much-needed and well-utilized amenity for the citizens in the western portion of Montgomery County.

Renovations to the pool began in September 2015 and included the construction of a new 3,160-square-foot spray ground and renovations of the bathhouse, snack bar, and

Continued on page 11.



After undergoing winter renovations, the Western County Outdoor Pool in Poolesville is scheduled for its grand reopening on May 28.

Family Album

Springfest 2016...



Library goes share a picnic in the park.



Customers and friends of the Pike's enjoy the day's hospitality.



The Pike family takes a well-deserved breather at the end of the annual Patient Appreciation day.



Dr. Pike welcomes friends



Doug Bailey (center) of Poolesville was the last player standing at St. Peter's Charity Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament. Dan Savino (left) was second, and Joel Tjornehoj was third. All monies collected went to charity.

The local Leo Clubs, a youth service organization sponsored by the Lions, spoke at a recent meeting of the Monocacy Lions. King Lion Josh Maisel, Daniel Butler, James Maisel, Aidin Dacanag, JPMS Leo Club coordinator Kari Auel, and PHS coordinator Beth Fayard Jones.



Town Government Report

Light Agenda Includes Final Passage of 2017 Town Budget By Link Hoewing

With a light agenda, the commissioners of Poolesville unanimously passed the proposed budget and tax rate for 2017. There was only minimal discussion regarding the budget before the vote. The budget has been under development for several months and was also the subject of a public hearing earlier this year.

In addition to the budget, the commissioners discussed several other items. First, they talked about the results of a meeting held recently with representatives of Jay Donogan whose company owns the commercial property where Tractor Supply, Cugini's, CVS, M&T Bank, and several other businesses are located.

The meeting took place in part because the town has made clear that the water allocation for the Donovan property, covering the undeveloped portions of the site, will not be extended beyond the end of this year. As a result, Donovan's company, if it wishes to develop all or a portion of the property that remains unused, must submit a site plan to the town indicating what new construction, if any, is projected in the near future. The meeting was really just an initial get-to-know-you session, according to commission president Jim Brown, and the representatives for Donovan offered no specific proposals or concepts at the session.

A meeting with several commissioners also took place recently with the new commander of the Montgomery County Police who is responsible for Poolesville and surrounding areas. The new commander, Dave Anderson, discussed a number of concerns relating to police coverage in our area. The commander, according to the commissioners present at the meeting, said he and his officers want to be more immersed in the life of the town and appeared to stress "community policing" as a priority.

On another topic, Commissioner Brown pointed out that the town's public relations firm had recently been able to place a blog post under Brown's byline in one of the major websites focused on owners and developers of grocery store properties. Brown remarked that he had received three inquiries as a result of the blog; one in particular involved a series of communications, but the upshot of the comments he got in this exchange suggested that the town had attractive demographics, but its population remained too low to

be of interest to most grocery chains. This point has been raised on numerous occasions, but it was clear from the discussion that the commissioners remain focused on trying to attract a grocery store to Poolesville.

An issue that was discussed at a previous town meeting—the possible location of an electric vehicle (EV) charger in Poolesville—was mentioned by Wade Yost, the town manager, in his comments. The town had been contacted by the Electric Vehicle Institute which would be interested in installing an EV charger at Whalen Commons without charge to the town. In exchange, the town would need to agree to provide the electricity to run the EV for free for three years. Yost noted that the proposal is preliminary and more work needs to be done in order to nail down details.

In a previous article, I reported on a discussion about the town budget that included several citizens commenting about the town's snow clearing operations. In doing so, I wrote that one citizen, Ms. Ragazinsky, had said that the snow banks left at the ends of driveways after snow plows passed hardened into large, icy masses that are very hard to remove. Several other citizens made similar comments and offered suggestions about how to deal with this problem; however, in noting Ragazinsky comments, I suggested that she had said she had contacted town hall about her concerns and that the town had come to clear her driveway. During the discussion, town officials did make it clear that when called by citizens who indicate they need help, the town has responded and helped clear snow blocks from the end of driveways.

In checking my notes, Ragazinsky was referring not to the clearing of her driveway but rather to her concern that the town had piled large amounts of snow on the corners of roads, blocking access for pedestrians. Her call to town hall was to focus the attention of town staff to this problem, and she did praise them for eventually clearing these areas of the masses of snow. She did not ask the town to come and clear her driveway.

As the reporter covering the town commission, I take careful notes and try to accurately reflect the discussion that occurs. I failed in this case, and I apologize for misconstruing Ragazinsky's comments.



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Commentary

Paying for Stuff

By John Clayton

Taxes, taxes, taxes; death and taxes; if it moves, tax it. Montgomery County continues to be comfortable with this concept, and no, my friends, I am not just figuring that out. We all agree that we dislike taxes—that's nothing new, but it's a matter of degree. We also agree that we want schools, infrastructure, police and fire protection, health-care, snow removal, and all those good things delivered in first-rate quality. If I may be a little cynical, and perhaps not for the last time in this article, I think it's also safe to say that when we agree taxes do have to be raised, we all pretty much agree that they should be raised on something or someone else that doesn't affect us. Extremely rich people are fair game, and maybe even slightly rich people. Just say it—people richer than us, preferably, or gamblers, drinkers, or smokers.

Here in Montgomery County, homeowners and homebuyers are going to feel the burn, and I'm not referring to a well-known presidential candidate's free college educations, although I couldn't resist the pun. The Montgomery County Council has unanimously decided to raise property taxes and the county recordation fees on home purchases and refinances. I am not going to belabor the numbers here, but they are not inconsiderable, and not hard to find if you're interested, and you should be. The recordation fees are on a scale based on the sale price of the home with some forgiveness on the lower end intended to assist lower-income and first-time buyers. An increase of \$1000 would occur somewhere between \$600,000 and \$700,000, as an illustration. It keeps going up from there.

Full disclosure: I'm a homeowner and a licensed real estate agent, so I will feel both actions pretty directly. The former is pretty straightforward—my monthly escrow requirement and payment will increase. The latter will affect many of us, including some who are less able to handle an increase such as first time homebuyers, retirees, and others on fixed and limited incomes. As far as real estate agents, it's not our money that's being grabbed, it's your money. My (our) parochial concern may be that, as one of the fixed non-negotiable costs goes up, it will put more pressure on the negotiable items, such as the sale price, and the agents' commissions. Many agents make a lot of money, but many don't. This will hurt. I don't know if this will necessarily dampen the market, as in closing costs making people less likely to buy or sell, but there are those that think it will.

Is this just about my ox being gored? Not entirely. Is this fee onerous or just another flash in that unpleasant blizzard of fees from the government, insurance companies, lenders, and agents that numb the mind at closing? I really don't know. I do find it ironic that in this issue of the *Monocle*, our front page story is on a new residential development in Poolesville, and our Focus on Business is on a residential builder. Poolesville is a thriving community, and it is fostering the development that it wants to see, but I can't imagine either concern will welcome this news. I also don't know where else the council could have or should have gone for what was needed; a county council only has so many places to go for funds. I would personally support \$1000 fines for using your cellphone while driving, but that's just me, and maybe not in their purview.

The money raised, of course, goes heavily towards school construction which we all agree is a wonderful thing and essential. The county took a hit on school funds with a recent Supreme Court decision on taxation of out-of-state income, so they are pressed to keep up with growth and the high quality of schooling we demand. I would hate to see us backtrack on those commitments as much as one step. My sympathy for the demand side of this equation is bolstered by our appalling inability, perhaps more at the federal level, to pay for things like a functioning subway system, highways and bridges and other infrastructure repair, new mass transit initiatives, and other investments in building an economy for the future. I really don't know what the answer is. Taxing property ownership to pay for schools is nothing new, and perhaps increasing real estate transaction fees is a low-risk way to raise revenue. No one will really complain about that except some real estate types worried about their own mortgages. Some real estate professionals at the public hearing (which I missed) told me that the council's attitude towards them was that they obviously didn't care about the schools, a point that some felt compelled to contest publicly afterwards.

It's not possible to exit this without some comment on the bigger political picture. Last issue I spoke about how this ludicrous presidential race made it hard to debate with friends, but I also find agreement with friends of a different persuasion that both parties, or at least their electorates, have lost their minds, and there's really no one who speaks for either of us across the board. I feel very much that way. National trends are pushing my chosen party in places I don't want to go, and that other party has some initiatives

Continued on page 8.

Rande(m) Thoughts

The Urbanization Of Poolesville?

By Rande Davis

Did you know that the current Poolesville Master Plan establishes a cap on the town population growth at 6,500? This figure was decided upon as representing the most responsible level of growth to benefit the town's needs educationally and commercially and an amount suitable within our current water/wastewater treatment plant capacities. Interestingly, the town has nearly triple the water supply redundancy for the current population (the town water supply is nearly 600 gallons per day per household, with 200 GPD closer to its actual usage).

Using the metrics Montgomery County Public Schools determined for the appropriate population per school as a guideline, Poolesville Elementary School, Monocacy Elementary School, and John Poole Middle School are under-populated. In a public fight to keep Monocacy Elementary's doors open, Poolesville residents are allowed to select MES as the elementary school of their choice in order to increase its student enrollment to a more suitable

level. Our citizens asked for this right so that our schools' population would remain strong and supported by the county officials. Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski, a longtime and strong advocate for the needs of the Poolesville School Cluster, recently reminded parents that the county's decision to support MES at that time was made on a "foreseeable future basis, not an indefinite timeframe" and as long as MES remains underutilized, there is an unspoken but very real threat to the school's existence. Furthermore, he stated, "In order to maintain JPMS at its currently-rated 468 students, we need MES and PES promoting approximately 156 new students to sixth grade every year. This year MES and PES will only send 127 students to JPMS, and this number is projected to decrease in the near future." Ironically, the decrease in overall population can also result in an increase in class size since the shortfall in student population reduces the number of teachers allowed on staff, creating overcrowding in some classes because we do not have enough student body to hire more teacher staff.

Mr. Klobukowski also pointed out that the decreased school population also results in fewer teaching support-staff. A shortfall in support staff

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Things To Do

Plan Ahead! The Poolesville Area Senior Center is offering a trip to see Cirque du Soleil's *Kurios* on July 31 at Tyson's Corner. Bus leaves Poolesville at 3:00 p.m. and returns at 9:00 p.m. Limited tickets available, must be purchased by June 15. \$75 per person. Contact: Reneta Funk at 301-875-7701 or pvilleseiors@comcast.net.

May 31

Book Discussion Group

The Cellist of Sarajavo by Steven Galloway. Poolesville Library. 7:00 p.m.

June 1

Poolesville Area Senior Center (PASC) Events

T'ai chi. 10:30 a.m. **Zumba Gold.** 1:30 p.m. 17750 W. Willard Road.

Community Dinner

Breakfast for Dinner. Free. *Memorial United Methodist Church.* 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

June 2

PASC Event

Croquet on the Commons. *Whalen Commons.* 1:00 p.m.

June 3, 4, and 5

Market Weekend at the Blue Hearth
Refreshed inventory to get you ready for all your summer decorating goals. 19964 Fisher Avenue. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

June 4

Special Guest Event at Blue

Book signing by author Tim Kurkjian of *I'm Fascinated by Sacrifice Flies*, a terrific gift for Dad this Father's Day. 19964 Fisher Avenue. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

June 4

Aladdin and His Magic Lamp
Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre presents a ballet adaption of the literary classic by artistic director Fran Ichijo. *Poolesville High School auditorium.* 1:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

June 6

PASC Event

T'ai chi. 17750 West Willard Road. 10:30 a.m.

Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

June 8

PASC Events

T'ai chi. 10:30 a.m. **Zumba Gold.** 1:00 p.m. 17750 W. Willard Road.

June 9

PASC Event

Bingo and lunch, bring salad. 17750 West Willard Road. 1:00 p.m.

Let's Make Music!

Storytime and picnic: Enjoy a musical storytime with rhymes, fingerplays, songs, books, and a craft. After storytime, a short walk to the Whalen Commons to have a picnic! Bring your own lunch. *Poolesville Library.* 10:30 a.m.

June 15

Planning Commission Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

June 17

Fridays on the Commons

Summer Carnival co-sponsored by PES PTA. Includes inflatables, food, vendors, farmers' market, and kids' activities, featuring a fun lip-sync contest. *Whalen Commons.* 3:00 p.m.

Have an event you'd like to list here?
Email: editor@monocacymonocle.com



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Tidbits

2016 Annual Ecology Awards: For the Beauty of the Earth

The evening of May 16 saw awards given to twenty-one graduating seniors from the Poolesville High School (PHS) Global Ecology Studies Program. The ceremony, hosted by the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America (BCC-IWLA), brought together a number of Upcounty ecology-based organizations to honor those students whose senior projects best meshed with their groups' values.



The PHS 2016 annual Global Ecology Award winners.

Joining the BCC-IWLA was the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association, the Montgomery County Forestry Board, the Monocacy Garden Club, and the Maryland Bluebird Society. One project that was chosen for multiple awards,

and of interest to many Upcounty residents, can be seen on YouTube, a video titled: "The Next Generation of Farmers: The Call of The Land." Award Recipients:

The Art of Invasives—Aissatou Thiaw
It's Your Park, Explore It—Jennifer Dunn

Recycled Aquaponics—Oliver Lock, Nathan Wade, and Oscar Martinez
Victory Gardens—Carissa Caruso-DiPaolo and Kelly Van Meter

Hydroponics at Gaithersburg MS—Ava Chrisler

A Bright Idea—LEDs in Poolesville—Joshua Flitter and Daniel Foster
Film—"The Call of the Land"—Alexandra Goldman and Danielle Roche

History of Rustic Allnut Road—Anelia Slavoff

Crushing the Summer—PV System Storage—Rohit Mandavia and Jennifer Strong

Bluebird Monitoring—Olivia Ambuehl, Chloe Kim, and Emily Benedict

Monitoring and Saving Bluebirds—Nicholas Evans, Alex Hsu, and Robert Wilbur



George Coakley (BCC-IWLA), Beth Poss (Monocacy Garden Club), Linda Pepe (Montgomery County Forestry Board), Beth Daly (Sugarloaf Citizens' Association), Scott Harmon (BCC-IWLA, president), Stan Fisher (Maryland Bluebird Society), and Frank Parker (BCC-IWLA).

C-SPAN Honors PHS Sophomores

C-SPAN's award-winning, forty-five-foot customized promotional bus came to PHS on May 24 as one of six Maryland schools having winners in its 2016 StudentCam video documentary competition. C-SPAN's Chellie and Sara Zou hosted the ceremony where the PHS sophomore students were awarded honorable mention certificates in the national documentary competition, which had over 6,000 entrants.

The theme of C-SPAN's competition this year was "Road to the White House: What's the issue you most want candidates to discuss during the 2016



C-SPAN award winners: Kelly Simmons, Rebecca Ruvinsky, Michael Hendricks, Megan Tatum, and Yogi Bhut, accompanied by Jerry Klobukowski.

campaign?" The two teams from PHS created their five-to-seven-minute video with one team focusing on Tax Policy and the other on Prison Reform.

Teacher Dan McKenna noted that the process of selecting a topic, formulating a position, interviewing individuals, and the editing and creating of a video was very challenging, but he hopes the incoming sophomore students will want to follow their lead.

The two teams and winning students were:

Team 1—Promoting Prison Reform: Michael Hendricks, Rebecca Ruvinsky, and Megan Tatum.

Team 2—The Tax System: Kelly Simmons and Yogi Bhut

Poolesville Girl Scout Earns Sterling Ambassador Award

On April 24, Anne Hundertmark was awarded the Sterling Ambassador Award at the Girl Scout Association 32 Adult Recognitions ceremony. This award recognizes and honors outstanding graduating Ambassador Girl Scouts whose service to northern Montgomery County embodies the highest ideals and standards of Girl Scouting. Anne has been an active Girl Scout since she was four. She received the award in recognition of her contributions as an Association Teen Delegate, Bronze and Silver award recipient, extra-curricular activities, and is currently completing her Gold Award project. Currently a senior at PHS in the Humanities magnet program, she was a national finalist in the 2016 MIT Inspire competition for her senior independent project, is a member of the National, Spanish, and Math Honor Societies, plays the violin in the school's orchestra and pit orchestra, serves as a Montgomery County's Future Vote student election volunteer, and works as a student intern/reporter and delivery person for the *Monocacy Monocle*. Anne was presented the award by her troop leader and mother, Laurie Hundertmark.



Laurie Hundertmark, scout leader, presented her daughter, Anne, with the prestigious Girl Scout Sterling Ambassador Award.

Cissel to Play Baseball for Montgomery College

Jordan Cissel, a four-year varsity baseball player for PHS, has signed a letter of intent to play ball for Montgomery College (MC). Cissel, who was recruited primarily for his hitting skills, has been an outstanding pitcher for the Falcons as well as playing centerfield and shortstop.

Montgomery College's Coach Andrew Hoy has led the MC Raptors to six of the last College World Series and, although his team is in a retooling mode, he has expectations that Jordan's bat will go a long way to helping his 2017 team continue its winning ways.

Jordan will start in a fall baseball program that is designed primarily as a training season and, based on his progress during that endeavor, Coach Hoy will make a final decision on Cissel's position in the spring. Cissel said he just wants to play wherever the coach determines he is best needed. Mother Lauren Cissel and grandfather Bob Cissel could not be more proud of the young man that Jordan has become.

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Continued from page 6.

Tidbits

Local Girl Scout Teens Learn about Self-Defense

On April 29 and May 6, local Girl Scout teens and troop adult volunteers participated in a two-hour self-defense educational awareness, crime-victim prevention program at Poolesville Town Hall. Led by MC instructors, the program provided the twenty-four girls, young women, and troop adult



Self-defense was on the agenda at recent girl scout meeting.

volunteers with information about strategies, techniques, options, and prevention tips that may reduce their risk of exposure to violence, and, through limited practice, introduced the participants to the physical aspects of self-defense.

Would you like to announce a meeting, club, or upcoming event in **Things To Do**?

Have something you'd like to share in **Tidbits**?

Then let us know!

Send it along to editor@monocacymonocle.com

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Focus on Business Churchill Group, LLC

By Susan Petro

Poolesville has welcomed Churchill Classics, LLC at Russell Branch Estates to our community. Eric Tovar, president, acquired the land beside Our Lady of the Presentation Catholic Church in early 2015. Since then, he has been working with the Town of Poolesville, Montgomery County, and the State of Maryland to get plans and permits approved for twelve beautiful, single-family homes. They broke ground in 2016 and have built a model home (Cascade) and a built-for-quick-turnaround home (Brooke). Not only do you get a beautiful home with Churchill Classics, LLC, but you are also within walking distance of the number-one high school in the State of Maryland, Poolesville High.

Eric is a native of the Washington area and a graduate of the University of Baltimore, School of Business. He worked his way through college running a remodeling company. In the years following college, Eric gained a wealth of experience learning all the aspects of homebuilding and remodeling while working for some of the leading homebuilders and developers in the region. Eric founded Churchill Group in 1991. His company, which now has six full-time employees, has built numerous developments in Montgomery, Howard, Frederick, and Prince George's Counties, with the main emphasis in Montgomery County. Communities that have Churchill homes are Quince Orchard Park, the Kentlands, King Farm, Catawba Manor, Churchill's Reserve, Hidden Creek, the Vistas, Palmer Estates, and Maxwell Square, to name a few.

Along with building homes in communities like Russell Branch Estates, Churchill Classics is becoming well known for tear-down custom homes and home renovations. They were honored with the Montgomery County Builders' Association 2015 "Award of Excellence for Outstanding New Home." They also received the "Outstanding Outdoor Living Project Award" at the same time. Awards are always welcome and appreciated, but their most coveted award is the



Eric Tovar of Churchill Classics.

"Award for Customer Service." All members of the Churchill family share the same commitment to excellence and customer care.

Eric stays personally involved in all his communities and can frequently be found at the various home sites overseeing each project. Eric says that his company differs from others because each home is unique and is able to be customized to the clients' specific needs. The homes are designed for each individual community; no two communities are alike. The customer has options with Churchill Classics. They are quick to respond to inquiries regarding floor plan changes and anxious to make those changes if it is structurally feasible.

There are two models at Russell Branch Estates, as mentioned earlier, the Brooke and the Cascade. The Brooke is 2,959 to 4,056 square feet while the Cascade is 3,161 to 4,388 square feet. Each offers a front porch, gourmet eat-in kitchens, four to six bedrooms, three to five full baths, two- to three-car garages, and are positioned on one-half-plus-acre lots. The Cascade model is ready for immediate delivery while the Brooke model is available to buyers who may want to customize finishes. Both models offer a choice of brick, stone, or vinyl siding facades. Prices start in the high \$600s. These models are open Friday through Monday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Their expert sales agent, Colette LaForest, is there to assist with all your questions. Stop by or call her at 240-406-7057. The model is located at 19426 Fisher Avenue.

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Paying for Stuff

and goals that make my blood boil. All those Bernie and Donald voters are angry and feel used. Something like a property tax can only be raised so high before a lot more people feel that way. If Jayson Werth of the Washington Nationals weren't finally starting to hit, I would be seriously depressed.

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Business Briefs

MainSpring's Sneed Writes Blog to Help Interviewees

Brenda Sneed, chief financial officer of Poolesville's MainSpring, Inc., a high-technology consultant firm, has recently put together a blog to help many graduates prepare for the often-difficult challenge of college and employment interviews. "For these grads (and their parents), the stress associated with finding meaningful employment can be overwhelming. Likewise, many business owners become frustrated as they try to look past a mediocre interview with a bright, eager, recent grad to get to the talent they know lies beneath the surface," writes Sneed.

She started the program to not only alleviate her own interview frustrations as a business executive, but also to help the students in her



*Brenda Sneed,
CFO of MainSpring, Inc.*

community get a jumpstart on a promising career. Her exceptional insight and suggestions can be seen by visiting gomainspring.com/make-it-count. For anyone with a pending interview on the horizon, reading her blog is a very worthwhile use of your time.

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Poolesville

Reaching for the Stars

Aladdin and His Magic Lamp

By Dominique Agnew

Be forewarned, this ain't Disney's *Aladdin*. Thank goodness, right?

As she did with *Noah's Ark* last spring, *A Little Mermaid* before that, and Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* every December, Fran Ichijo, artistic director of Poolesville's Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre, has created an entirely new ballet with nods to the past classics. "I always try to come up with an idea that, from my point of view, has never been done as a ballet but that is popular enough that people know it," she explained.

For the story of Aladdin, Ichijo studied some different versions of *One Thousand and One Nights* (also known as *Arabian Nights*) and Scheherazade's storytelling—"I love literature!" The basic premise is that a Persian king Shahryar has discovered the infidelity of his brother's wife and then of his own. After he had his wife beheaded, he married a virgin each night only to have her beheaded in the morning so that she wouldn't have the chance to betray him. Finally, Scheherazade, the king's vizier's daughter, volunteers to wed Shahryar. On their wedding night, she begins to recount a tale to her groom—but she doesn't finish. Shahryar decides to let Scheherazade live until the next night so she can finish the story. She finishes the story the next night, only to begin another without finishing, and so it continues until finally Shahryar realizes that not all women are unfaithful and that Scheherazade would be true. "It's a great story of true love," said Ichijo. Naturally, one of these stories is the tale of Aladdin (although it would seem that the tale of Aladdin was added later by a Frenchman, Antoine Galland—ah, those French!).

When one takes the time to do a little research as Fran did, one learns that there's more to Aladdin than just a magic lamp and a genie—there's also a magic ring and its genie. At any rate, we've got magic, genies, sorcerers, a sabre dance, a magic carpet, floating flames, and more, but let's get to the more.

Something that's truly unique about this production is that Ichijo, in her creative brilliance, has managed to incorporate the original choreography of *Giselle* (she calls this a "Fran Ichijo tradition"—and it is), a very-well-known ballet that dates back to the mid-nineteenth century, and use it to propel the story of Jasmine—and there are some uncanny parallels. "People who know ballet will be stunned by *Giselle*—it's a very famous, coveted role," said Ichijo, and she has ten-to-nineteen-year-olds dancing it. "It's very difficult choreography, they're doing very well."

The first act opens with a market scene and is set in an undefined land, Turkestan, that no longer exists—a place influenced by a mix of Slavic and Arabian influences. By the end of the first scene, Aladdin has been given a Magic Ring for protection as he goes down into the Cave of Wonders in the second scene. It is in the cave that Aladdin accidentally releases the Genie of the Ring. In the third scene, Aladdin is reunited with his mother and presents her with a beautiful Magic Lamp that he found in the cave from which



Photo by Paolo Gulli

Aladdin (danced by John Foster) flanked by the Genie of the Ring (Ellie Creedon) and the Genie of the Lamp (Lilia Gestson).

Continued on page 13.

PEs Hosts International Night to Celebrate School Diversity



Afua Ofori hosted a presentation on Ghana.



Momodou Bojang hosted Gambia.



Aleksei Brizhik along with children Sava, Milla, and Yana offered information on Russia.



Eliora Kim and children Sanghyeon, Lydia, and Eliana hosted a display on Korea.



Michelle Reyazuddin presented India.

School News

Advocacy and Achievement Wraps Up School Year for Poolesville Cluster Schools

By Heidi Rosvold-Brenholtz

Poolesville Cluster Schools Host MCPS Board of Education

Poolesville Cluster Schools welcomed Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Board of Education (BOE) members at a barbecue dinner meeting hosted by PHS on Thursday, May 12. This meeting occurs every three years and provides the opportunity for local school leaders and our community to discuss issues affecting schools, students, and families in the Poolesville cluster with MCPS BOE members. More than one hundred parents and community members attended. Topics addressed in small and large groups included: PHS modernization delay; large class sizes; staffing cuts; middle and high school assessments; special education; increasing use of Poolesville cluster schools.

"The meeting was a great success for the community and provided more proof that although our cluster is small in size, we have one of the largest and most active voices in the county," commented Kevin Schramm, Poolesville cluster coordinator. Six BOE members attended.

Four individuals with unique ties to Poolesville shared their education experiences with the audience in welcoming remarks: Jim Brown, president of the Town of Poolesville Commission, reflected on the town's unique characteristics; Momodou Bojang, president of the Poolesville Diversity Council, described his work to raise awareness about all types of diversity within our community; Jane Lehrman described her experiences as a family joining the PHS community from Gaithersburg enrolled in the Humanities program, as well as her role as an advocate for the cluster at BOE and County Council hearings; Lynn Schaeber shared her compelling story of working with PES administration, the BOE, and finally with Governor Hogan, to ensure that all MCPS students have access to technology essential for unique learning needs, similar to the remote learning needs her daughter Peyton had while undergoing cancer treatment.

The evening encouraged robust dialogue with BOE members and an opportunity for parents with similar interests, such as special education support within the cluster, to connect and plan for future conversations and advocacy. For more information, contact Kevin Schramm: kevin_schramm@comcast.net.

John Poole Middle School

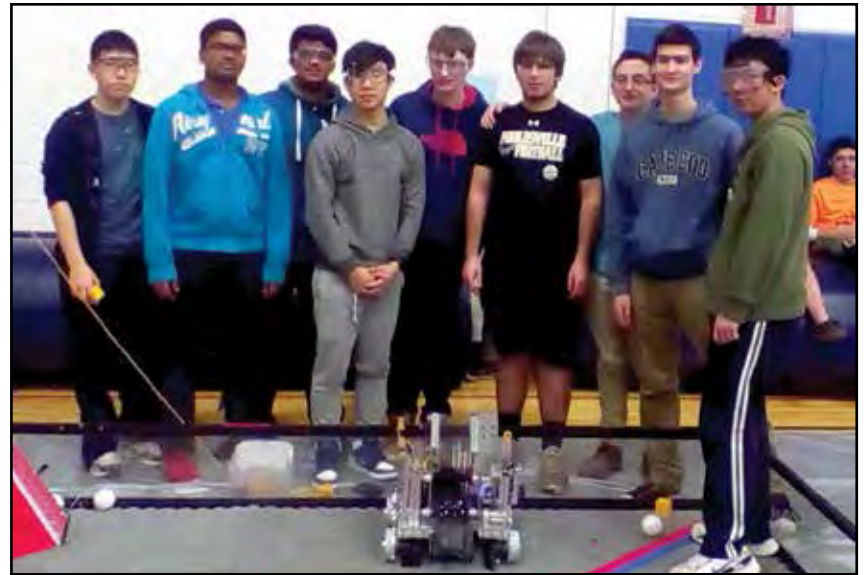
JPMS was named a Sustainable Green School after successfully certifying as a green school three times in fourteen years. It is the first MCPS secondary school to qualify. JPMS students are now repainting JPMS storm drains with Chesapeake Bay-inspired designs. Science teacher Shari Yesnick led much of the work for this recognition.

Poolesville Elementary School

Three students won awards at the county and state PTA Arts in Education Reflections Program competition. Jackson Isenberger received the Maryland Award of Excellence for his visual arts submission. Maddie Munster (dance choreography) and Kara Beyer (literature) received the Maryland Outstanding Interpretation of Theme Awards and advanced to the national competition.

Poolesville High School

- CSPAN StudentCam contest winners: Two student groups won honorable mentions for their documentaries: Tax Reform and Prison Reform.
- First Tech Challenge Robotics Competition: The Falcons' First team of thirteen juniors advanced to the semifinals and won a third place Connect Award, which recognizes teams that best connect with their local STEM community.
- Visualize Your Water Contest Chesapeake Bay Regional: First place award and two honorable mentions.
- Model UN International Competition: PHS students won twenty of thirty-seven individual awards, culminating with winning the overall Best Delegation.
- BioGENEius Challenge state winner.
- Ronald Reagan Great Communicator Series National Competition: second place.
- Junior Science and Humanities Symposium state competition winner.
- Chesapeake Bay Watershed Competition: Chesapeake Bay and Global information systems winner.
- PHS Debate Team: Seventeen debate team pairs were sent to the



PHS Falcons First Robotics Team: Kevin Zong, Kevin Manakkunnel, Kevin Boby, Glenn Ren, Winston Grenier, Anthony Mahshigian, Riley Wilburn, Cole Schneider, and Wally Niu. Not Pictured: Ishan Mundra, Sahil Mayenkar, Devin, Smedira, and Kartik Krishnan. Alas, the robot seems to be nameless, a kind of "Rob Doe."

playoffs, the largest number to date, and placed second in the school competition.

- Maryland Regional High School Competition National Science Bowl third place winners.
- *Washington Post* Peep Diorama Competition semifinalists.
- Scholastic National Art & Writing Awards: Silver medalists. Science Montgomery Awards: Three PHS students were chosen to represent Montgomery County at the International Science and Engineering Fair. Three students qualify for international competition at International Sustainable World (Engineering, Energy, Environment) Science Olympiad. PHS students also claimed awards from Science Montgomery.
- National Center for Women & IT Winners.
- Folger Secondary Festival with Excellence in Acting Awards and

Commitment to Character Awards.

- Air Force CyberPatriot competition national finals (top twelve in the nation): Four PHS teams competed against 1,638 other teams in their division.
- American Computing Machinery/Computer Science Teachers' Association Award winner.
- President's Volunteer Service Award honors awarded to two PHS students.
- Student Art Work in Youth Art for Healing Program.
- Intel Competition: three semifinalists.
- MIT INSPIRE finalists
- Siemens competition semi-finalists.
- PHS maintains first-place ranking in *Washington Post* challenge: Using challenge index scores for more than 180 Washington-area high schools, PHS was once again ranked first in Maryland and fifth in the Washington area. PHS was ranked ninetieth in the United States out of 2,391 high schools listed.

Continued from page 1.

Pool Opening Heralds Arrival of Summer

filter room. In addition, upgrades to the site and buildings, including the parking and pool grounds, improved accessibility. Accessible upgrades at the site include drinking fountains, pool deck showers, restrooms and shower facilities, and an accessible route to a shade structure. Other system upgrades include new light fixtures and in-pool lighting, a new dive board, and a new leisure-pool slide. Renovation costs were approximately \$3.85 million.

The county has assessed the pool, with its high seasonal traffic, as an excellent candidate for year-round operations that could conceivably cover its direct operating costs while at the same time providing a significant recreation service to the residents of the western portion of the county where no publicly-operated facilities now exist. A covered, year-round pool? Let's keep our fingers crossed.

School News

PHS Symphony Orchestra

By Anne Hundertmark

On Thursday, April 28, the Poolersville High School auditorium was alive with the sound of music. The PHS Symphonic Orchestra performed its second and final official concert of the school year.

A symphonic orchestra is different from a regular orchestra and a band in that it consists of four groups of instruments: brass, woodwinds, strings, and percussion; however, PHS's symphonic orchestra is unique in that the sections aren't balanced, which leads to some sections having to play more loudly or more quietly to accommodate other sections.

The PHS Symphonic Orchestra performed a concert last December and went on to compete at Festival at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School earlier this year. They will be traveling to Hershey Park in May to compete against other high schools and to perform in front of the amusement-park attendees and a panel of judges.

At the performance, the symphonic orchestra performed a variety of selections ranging from "Variations on a Korean Folk Song" to "Jurassic Park." Some of these selections, like "Variations on a Korean Folk Song," are rated at a Level 5, which is fairly advanced for a high school orchestra. The PHS Symphonic Orchestra performed that selection at the festival competition and earned a high score for its performance.

The students even had a surprise for the audience and their conductor,

Mr. David Rogoza. Before each performance, the student musicians get together to come up with a funny gift for their conductor to wear while conducting a piece. Last year, he was presented with a light saber baton and Mickey Mouse sorcerer's apprentice hat for their performances of "Star Wars" and "The Sorcerer's Apprentice." In December of this school year, he was gifted a crown and cape for their performance of "Game of Thrones." This year, for "Jurassic Park," the students brought out a plush head of a dinosaur.

"We give him super-silly gifts to show our appreciation and keep our relationship light and funny. Nothing can do that better than making a grown man perform in front of other adults wearing a velvet cape and a crown!" shared Jen Dunn, a senior in the Global Ecology Program and flute player.

The student musicians and their conductor are excited for next year because, for the first time in many years, the music teacher at PHS will have a full time position at the school. This means that there will be a chorus class, along with guitar and symphonic orchestra classes.

"I've been a part of the music program for the last three years and part of the pep band for the past four," recounted Nathan Wade, a senior in the Global Ecology Program and the French horn player. "Both have been incredible experiences in themselves, and I have a wonderful time in each. I think it's really important to have a strong music program since it's another creative outlet for students. Plus, it's amazing to be able to create something as complex as music with others and the way it all comes together is incredible."

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June 10: DJ

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Youth Sports

The Road to Fargo

By Emma Whitehouse

Okay, it's time to warm up, I thought to myself, eyeing my opponent across the mat. She was big—really big—or was that in my head? Was I that big? The thoughts pounded through my head, matching the tempo of my feet hitting the ground as I altered between high jumps and high knees, stretching and twisting to ready myself for the match; mentally planning as well, running over possible setups and take-downs, mentally readying myself. The match before mine ended. I checked into the front table and took my place on the mat, ready to wrestle. "Shake hands," the ref said, and as I reached out to shake her hand I noticed it: a giant thigh tattoo. Wha-? I thought, and the whistle blew. After that there was no time to think.

Pushing and pulling, grappling with one another to get an upper hand, to get in a throw, to open up room for a shot, exerting as much force as I could—wait, what? No, she got in a shot, putting me flat on the mat. Defense, defense, don't let her turn me, or, God forbid, pin me. Stay flat, stay flat on my stomach until the ref signals we can reset, and then we got up, pulling, grabbing each other trying to get a grip, maybe if I—not again. I'm down. Stay flat. I'm flat. She can't turn me—and up again. Okay, I can do this I just need to—she shot, I tried to sprawl, not quick enough. The match ended, with the girl from Chicago winning and me losing.

I started wrestling on a whim. I've always done sports from soccer to swimming and had recently gotten serious about field hockey. As a junior I had done track the year before but was looking for something different, a new skill to learn. While working at Markoff's Haunted Forest in the fall, I met Dmitri Agnew, the son of wrestling Coach Mark Agnew, who mentioned wrestling in passing. I had never considered wrestling before that, not as a sport, not as

anything to do with me, not even as something I could potentially do, but the more I considered the reasons why I shouldn't wrestle, shouldn't try something so utterly new and unknown, the more I realized I had nothing to lose by trying.

Poolesville High School is renowned for its academics and athleticism, but another thing that makes this school so remarkable is its inclusivity. Walking into the wrestling room the first time was admittedly awkward—scanning the faces looking back at me I saw only one other girl, Olivia Rondeau, a freshman—but the awkwardness faded as time passed, and practices passed, with everyone giving their all. Coaches Tim Tao, Kevin Dorsey, and Mark Agnew were remarkably welcoming to all new wrestlers, pushing and molding everyone to become the best they could be in the short span of a season. After the season ended, I didn't want to stop, I only had one year left to do my best. Enter Jani Palmer, the Maryland State Team, and Fargo.

Fargo Nationals is the premiere National Wrestling Championships, held in Fargo, North Dakota, with both male and female divisions. Olivia had mentioned Bowerhouse Academy, a training female wrestling camp held on Sundays in Frederick. Coach Jani Palmer ran the practice, with girls working hard to improve in the off-season. That's all I thought it would be, but upon further conversation with Coach Palmer, I discovered that I could also be a part of the Maryland Girls' National Wrestling Team and compete at Fargo. To qualify for Fargo, I had to participate in camps, tournaments, and place in the top three in my weight class in the Maryland State Freestyle Wrestling Championship. Women's wrestling at this point is significantly less popular than male wrestling, so there is less competition for those coveted top three spots. There was only one other wrestler in my division, the extremely-talented Clarisse Palmer, who took first place.

In the six months I've wrestled, I've learned a lot, but the most important thing I've learned, by far, is that I have a lot more to learn.

Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Robbery: 19500 block of Wootton Avenue.

Assault: 20800 block of Peach Tree Road.

Past Crime

May 31, 1896 One of the most notorious crimes in the history of Montgomery County occurred in the early morning hours. A man wielding an ax entered the Buxton family home in Gaithersburg and attacked three people. Sadie Buxton, aged 10, died from her injuries. Sheriff Thompson threw his entire force into the investigation. A few days later, Sydney Randolph was arrested for the crime and lodged at the Rockville jail. A few days after that, a mob attacked the jail, took Randolph to a wooded area, and hanged him.

June 1, 1893 Shock and surprise greeted the news from Olney that an aged man, 105 years old, had died. His name was Charlie Drayton but most called him Uncle Charlie. He had come to the county to live after the war and, until a few weeks before his death, had possessed all his faculties. It was said that just a few years before, he had defeated a series of young men in arm wrestling.

June 3, 1892 There were rumblings of protest on the streets as the summer term of the Circuit Court got

underway. In the first matter of business, Judge Morgan sentenced Thomas Jackson to ninety days in the House of Correction for a previous assault. Then came the main event: The judge was presented with a motion for a new trial for William Bond who had been convicted of killing Mary Cephas.

June 4, 1892 The sheriff announced to the public that there was a "freak" living in the area of Potomac. He was said to be only a boy of about ten but weighed 150 pounds, had long flowing hair, and had the strength of a man of about thirty. He had not been accused of any crime, but it was feared that he would commit assault or some other crime.

June 5, 1892 A number of city people traveled to Rockville to open their summer cottages. Several were disappointed to find that their summer places had been burglarized during the winter. Sheriff Fairall said that he had a number of suspects in mind.

June 9, 1893 Edward Johnson and Joseph Wheeler were horsing around at a residence in Darnestown when a gun in the hand of Wheeler discharged and shot Johnson in the eye. Johnson was taken to the Emergency Hospital in Washington. It was said that he would survive but lose the use of his eye. Sheriff Fairall determined that the incident was accidental and that no charges would be placed.

Some of the material in this column was obtained from the archives of the Washington Post.

Continued from page 10.

Aladdin and His Magic Lamp

emerges the Genie of the Lamp when Aladdin rubs the lamp to clean it. Act I ends with a sorcerer overpowering both genies and kidnapping Jasmine.

Fran saves *Giselle* for the second act wherein Albrecht (Aladdin's parallel character in *Giselle*) must dance a beautiful dance of love to break a spell that the Wilis (sorcerers in *Aladdin*) have cast on Jasmine (Giselle)—note the alluring alliteration between the parallels. Albrecht/Aladdin is danced by fifteen-year-old John Foster who is excelling at this difficult role from *Giselle*. Fran is thrilled to have the help of Runqiao Du, a principal dancer with the Washington Ballet for twenty years. "He's an amazing coach for John," enthused Fran. "He's been helping John and helping me."

Fran promises that attendees will enjoy this rendition of *Aladdin*. "There's a lot of great dancing to tell the story...beautiful pas de deux," she said. "There are magical things that happen on the stage...and a little bit of humor; I try to make them laugh and cry all at once."

Aladdin and His Magic Lamp will be staged in the Poolesville High School Auditorium on June 4 at 1:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Tickets are available at www.hgcbt.org.

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Youth Sports

A Few Regrets but Another Solid Season

By Jeff Stuart

Looking back, an 11-6 record, a 7-0 record in Division 3A, and a division title made for a pretty good season for the Falcons' baseball team, but an early exit in the playoffs was not the ending the Falcons sought. The defense, strong most of the year and often outstanding, failed them in the sixth inning of a home, 3-0 loss to Seneca Valley. Three unearned runs crossed the plate against Justin Souder, who allowed no earned runs.

"My personal best game and the team's best kind of went together," said senior Justin Souder. "When we played Rockville, we were both 6-0 at the time, so whoever won that game won the division. It was really close all the way through. I got a couple of hits. We had a 2-1 victory."

A season highlight was a dramatic walk off 3-2 win over Damascus on April 11 that touched off an enthusiastic celebration on the field. Senior Matt Grimes single scored two runs in the sixth to tie the game.

"It was 2-2, and sophomore Colin Metz was on third with two out," said junior Cole Carmack, setting the stage for his game-winning hit in the bottom of the seventh. "I hit a line drive to left field and it fell in. I also liked the Blake game because defensively I was very strong at second base." The Blake game ended when sophomore pitcher Brady Pearre picked off a runner at first.

"I think that Damascus game was our best win of the year," said senior Jordan Cissell, the winning pitcher. "We fought the entire game and Cole

really helped us out with that walk-off single."

"We have played pretty well as a team," said senior first baseman Ryan D'Amelio. "We left a few games out there that we should have won. We dealt with some injuries early. As a team we played really well against Magruder, I think everyone in the lineup had a hit. We won 13-1. I can't remember any errors. We threw strikes and hit strikes." Commenting on his uncanny ability to scoop up throws in the dirt, he said, "I think I get lucky most of the time, but it works."

"It was a good season," said junior Cooper Myers Mallinger. "We've played really well defensively, but we weren't able to string a couple of hits together. We are really close to each other, that helped us."

Cooper had a complete game shutout against Seneca. He allowed three hits and had four strikeouts. He batted .310 on the year.




"My best game was the very first game, the Blair game," said sophomore catcher Matthew Convers. "I hit pretty well in that game and was very solid defensively. We played a lot of great games. We should not have lost a couple of those. In the middle of the season, we played really well. Toward the end of the season we sort of let down a little bit. I wish we could have gotten back to the way we were in the middle of the season." Matt batted .300 on the year. He had three hits against a strong Walter Johnson team and four against Watkins Mill.

"We made some mistakes at the end of the season," said Coach Stephen Orsini. "For the most part we played good defense and had good pitching. When we did make a mistake, it cost us. We lost three games by one run. We couldn't seal those games. We couldn't

Continued on page 15.



Cooper Myers Mallinger, Jordan Cissell, Matt Convers, Ryan D'Amelio, Cole Carmack, and Justin Souder.

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- Jesus (Matt. 11:28)

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June 4th @ 9am - The Catechist Group topic will be: "Forgiveness" - for details please see the bulletin.

June 12th @ 7pm - Deacon Dave Calhoun speaks on Divine Mercy and St. Faustina in the Church

June 17th @ 7pm - Faith on Tap in the Rectory on Friday

June 26th from 2pm to 5pm - Parish R.O.M.P. (Picnic)

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→ "And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive your sins" - Mark 11:25 ←

Youth Sports

Falcons End Season with an Extra Inning Win

By Jeff Stuart

A win in an extra-inning thriller in the final regular season game at Bethesda-Chevy Chase gave the Poolsville Falcons something to smile about. It was a very nice way to end a difficult, 6-11 season. "It was the most exciting game of my life," said sophomore third baseman Kellie Dahlin. "I hit a homer to tie it up in the fifth, 4-4. I made a double play in the bottom of the fourth, too. I caught a line drive and tagged third. We didn't make any errors. We went ahead in the fifth. Then they came back to tie it in the sixth. We went to the international tiebreaker. Senior second baseman Lauren Lightcap was on second base to start the tiebreaker, and I was up first and got hit by a pitch."

"Katie Kavanagh attempted a bunt, but B-CC made an error," said Coach Laurie Wohnhas. "Lauren scored.

"This year was the start of a new two-year schedule, and I knew that we would be challenged by this difficult schedule. I felt like we had a good chance of competing in most of the games since I was returning ten seniors; however, two seniors decided not to come back—one is doing track and the other was injured. One player also transferred to QO, so we needed the newcomers to step up. Freshman Ali Ransom did. She was a huge surprise, playing catcher, second, first, and outfield. I look forward to working with her the next three years."

Senior Jolee Raines suffered all season with problems with her throwing arm and then, in the Magruder game, she hurt her knee. Jolee has been a three-year starter and she could only play in six games all season. The other injured player was senior left fielder



Ashley Hobbs, Katie Kavanagh, Liesl Green, Jolee Raines, Taylor Behrens, Lauren Lightcap, and Erin Sparrow.

Senior first baseman Liesl Green was up next, and B-CC made another error. Brooke Hamm then hit a single and brought in Kellie. After B-CC scored a run to make it 9-8, freshman Gwen Boe (JV pitcher) came in to relieve senior Taylor Behrens and shut down the B-CC team behind stellar defense. Kellie and junior shortstop Sam Goldsborough played exceptional defense as they did all year."

Actually, the Falcons won their final two games of the season, winning their last home game on May 4, defeating Walter Johnson, 13-11. Kavanagh had two hits and five RBI. Goldsborough had three hits and two RBI. Green had two RBI. Dahlin had two hits and a walk.

Ashley Hobbs who had a great tryout, but she dislocated her knee and was not available to play until after spring break.

Goldsborough led the team in most offensive categories: batting .521 with a homerun and thirteen RBI. She had a three-hit game against Walter Johnson among her eight three-hit games. She scored a team-high twenty-four runs on the season. Ransom batted .429 and scored sixteen runs with Dahlin batting twenty home runs and playing a solid third base. She batted .321. Green led the team with fourteen walks. Sophomore catcher/right fielder Hamm batted .345.

Senior centerfielder Katie Kavanagh, batting .372, led the team with seven doubles and fourteen RBI. She had

four hits, including a homerun and four RBI in an early-season 11-10 win at Whitman on March 23. Poolsville had fifteen hits that game. Lightcap batted .298. Raines batted .316 in half a season. Other freshmen were

outfielder, Cassandra Maier, who had hits against Rockville and Einstein, and extra hitter Maddie Bodmer.

"The season didn't go the way we wanted," said Dahlin, "but we worked hard, kept our heads up, and had fun."

Continued from page 14.

A Few Regrets but Another Solid Season

get the big hit when we needed it, but when we played the way we were able to play, we were tough.

"Ryan D'Amelio was the biggest surprise of the season. He did a super job at first base. He also had some key hits that helped us win games. Ryan Haddaway also was a surprise. He was moved up from the JV to play third base due to an injury to our starting third baseman. He just continued to play well. Colin Metz just covered the outfield like no other player. His read on the ball is great and he has good speed."

Metz made a highlight-reel over-the-shoulder catch running deep into center field in the fifth inning of the game against WJ.

Those one-run losses were to non-division 4A schools, Whitman, B-CC, and Walter Johnson. Poolsville won the regular season matchup with Seneca Valley, 5-0, scoring all five runs in the third inning.

The seniors, Cissel, Souder, D'Amelio, Matt Grimes, Joe Soltis, Nate Onderko, and Ben Weishaar, helped the Falcons to fifty-seven wins over their four years. Other juniors are Ryan Liam, Michael Morgan, and James Donovan. Souder led the team with a .382 batting average and one homer followed by Cole Carmack at 356 and Cooper Myers Mallinger at 333. Brady Pearre hit .325 with two homers and three triples. Ryan D'Amelio hit .290. Matthew Convers also homered and along with Pearre led the team in RBIs with ten. Pearre and Myers each had eight stolen bases and Jordan Cissell had seven. Grimes stole five. Carmack stole four, and Haddaway stole three.

Cissell led the pitching staff with four wins, twenty-one strikeouts, and a 2.53 ERA in thirty-six innings pitched. Pearre had three wins, nineteen strikeouts, and a 1.53 ERA.

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School News

APL Maritime and d'Vinci Educate Students about the Environment

For the second year in a row, shipping leader APL Maritime collaborated with eLearning company d'Vinci Interactive and high school science students to create a short, online game to show kids how their actions can affect sea animals. The PHS students displayed their game on Friday, May 13 in the school computer lab.

The game, entitled "Turtle Travels," is an interactive learning experience that teaches elementary school students about the dangers that sea turtles face from humans. Through three mini-games, students see how humans can impact sea turtles and marine life by playing the role of turtles and experiencing the challenges of trying to tell the difference between a jellyfish and a plastic bag, trying not to get tangled in fishing nets, and avoiding trash in the ocean. Fourth grade students at Poolesville Elementary were the first to play the game when it debuted this month.

Turtle Travels is a joint project between Poolesville High School, APL Maritime of Bethesda, and d'Vinci Interactive of Hagerstown. Seniors with Poolesville High School's nationally-recognized magnet program, the Global Ecology House, created the project's concept and story; d'Vinci designed and developed this project in collaboration with the students and APL Maritime, the sponsor of the educational content.

"APL Maritime is committed to protecting our environment and knows how important it is to educate future generations. As operators of large cargo ships all over the world, we want to preserve the environment from which we make our living," said Capt. Christian Volkle, APL Maritime, Ltd.

Turtle Travels will be available on APLKids.org along with last year's educational game, the Dolphin Game.



Matthew Cleary (APL); Chris Grahl, Mason Scuderi, and Annie Walker (d'Vinci); Jacob Soifert (APL); Raquel Powell, Sayaka Vaules, Ayana Arrington, Ally Yuan, and teacher Erin Binns (Poolesville High School)

Continued from page 1.

Ninety-Five New Homes Proposed Next to Town Hall

A third ingress/egress would be an extension of Glass Lane from Tama I with another yet-to-be-named street exiting at Fyfe Road.

The plan is considered conceptual and subject to refinement through the extensive permitting and planning process. As the plan now stands, single-family homes would have lot sizes of 4,000 square feet and townhomes would have 1,200 square feet. Main home structures would be restricted to thirty-five feet in height with garages limited to seventeen feet and accessory buildings no higher than twelve feet.

Of the 13.9 acres, approximately 9.2 would be home lots, 1.7 acres for roadways, .7 for alleys, and green areas of 2.3 acres.

The DPS stormwater management permitting process is but one step in a long process that is estimated to take at least between eighteen and twenty-four months. Fish Pool, LLC will have to bring the plan to the town's planning board, and presentations and public hearings will be scheduled. The planning commissioners will require that any design plan meet the specifications of the town's Village Overlay Design Manual (VODM) which presents the design standards for any new development. Any layout design will have to meet the new town character design requirements, and the planning board will require that any plan is compatible with the town's streetscape master plan. The VODM allows an up-to fifty percent townhome mix in housing developments. The manual has pedestrian sidewalk design requirements to blend with existing walkways, façade design restrictions that incorporate front porches, main street entrances, and, for homes abutting Fisher Avenue, garages that are rear-loaded only. Other amenity requirements for new developments under VODM are street trees, LED streetlights, landscaping, sidewalks, and curb and gutter.

For planning purposes, the town uses a 3.25 persons per household estimate for new housing. Townhomes, which are anticipated to be more financially attractive to a slightly younger resident, might have a slightly larger number of new residents per home. The Willshire development may bring the population of Poolesville up to the current maximum population of 6,500 residents based on the town master plan.

Both elementary schools and the John Poole Middle School are under-populated, and there has been a plan offered by school construction and renovation advocates to expand school boundaries in an effort to pique the county's interest in our schools' infrastructure needs.

Concerned citizens will want to follow the publicly-provided agendas for the town's planning board to be fully aware of developments on Willshire throughout the process.

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Youth Sports

Boys' Lacrosse Seniors And Fans Go Along For a Great Ride

By Jeff Stuart

"After beating Blake, 19-5, in our last regular season game, we have won ten games for three years in a row," said PHS boys' lacrosse Coach Stuart Orns. "We feel real good about this group as a team. They are leaving a legacy and setting a standard for players that come after them. There are eighty-four kids in the PAA junior program now, and that is the most they have ever had. Coach Josh Funk, Coach Matt Fields, and I, and the other coaches have been spending some time with the younger guys. They can see how we run our practices and become familiar with our drills, so the continuity and stability will be there for the high school program."

The team this year has seen great improvement. With four seniors already signed to play at the university level in Divisions I and II, the team is loaded with talent. "Junior Keegan Hemingway, our faceoff guy has been fantastic," added Orns. "He surprised us a lot. He had a great game at the face-off circle at Damascus going up

against a NCAA D1 committed opponent. We improved especially on the defensive end and in the goal. Goalie Stephen Fessenden, a sophomore, was a nice surprise for us as well. He improved and developed through the course of the season."

"I am absolutely happy with the way the season has gone this year," said Coach Funk. "Anytime you are going into a year with a lot of unknowns, and spots where people need to step up into new roles, you are happy with a ten-win season. We are happy with being one of the top-tier teams in the county. I think the Damascus game was great. I think the Quince Orchard game was great. We were the first Poolesville [boys'] lacrosse team ever to beat QO, so that was another landmark event...The first game against Magruder, which averaged fourteen goals a game, was sort of a trap game for us. We were expected to win, but we had a lot of new faces that were asked to step up—and they stepped up in a tight game. Magruder started off fast. We were down, 7-2, but we were able to rally and come back and win a game that we easily could have lost."

If the players, coaches, and fans had any doubts about the legitimacy of this team, they came in the early part of the Magruder game, but when the Falcons came on, they came like a freight train, scoring nine unanswered goals and posting a 16-13 win—and the game



Jonathan Hetrick, Jake Armstrong, Adam Branscome, Reid Patton, Trey Willis.

was not really that close as Magruder got three late goals at mop-up time.

At print time, Patton led the team in goals with 48, Hetrick had 38, Branscome had 29, and Armstrong had 28. "It was nice to see all the fans cheering for us at the QO game at home and at Damascus," said Branscome. "That was a special thing for all of us."

"Hopefully, our best moments are yet to come," said Patton. "We are going to do some good things in the play-offs. We are really working hard right now. We have had some people step up in key roles. One special moment this season was at half time of the QO game. There were fireworks. That was a real memorable moment."

The mystery fireworks guy strikes again.

"We started off slow this season," said senior defenseman Trey Willis. "We knew we were going to have some ups and downs, but we knew that if we kept working that we would get progressively better and come together."

"We have had memorable games this year," said Armstrong. "The QO game and the Damascus games were close finishes. The Magruder game was exciting because we had the comeback."

"This season has been really good," said senior Jonathan Hetrick. "We are building into a much better team than we have been. We hope to shock some people and beat some teams that people wouldn't expect us to beat and make a name for ourselves. We sort

of felt the pressure of high expectations, but not that much because we are a good team, and we have played together a lot. I sort of know how this team is. If it's a big time game like Damascus, we will show up. I always know we are going to do pretty well."

"We were down 12-8 to Damascus in the first minute of the fourth quarter, after they scored two goals off our illegal stick penalty," said Coach Orns. "We came all the way back with Jonathan scoring the tying goal with four seconds left on the clock."

You would never have known it was a home game for Damascus as the large Poolesville contingent drowned out the Hornet faithful. It was an extraordinary game, worthy of the rivalry.

After a convincing win at home against Seneca Valley in their first play-off game, the Falcons traveled to Oakdale for a Friday night tilt under the lights. Poolesville came in as an underdog but gave Oakdale everything they could handle, almost pulling off the upset. It was an epic seesaw battle with the Falcons coming up on the short end of an 11-10 score. It was an exciting lacrosse game yet a heartbreaking loss for the Poolesville boys who left it all out on the field—a great effort ending another successful season.

Other seniors are Robert Wilbur, Jake Johnson, Andrew Bacas, Louis Potts, and Sean Murphey.

Juniors are Cole McKenney, Baharu Harris, Dylan Frenlich, Conner Dunathan, Tim McIntyre, Michael Chilla, and Dakota Grimsby.



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Continued from page 4.

The Urbanization of Poolesville?

“makes it challenging to provide students who might be struggling academically with early intervention support.”

When I first moved to Poolesville in 1976, the single greatest concern centered on whether or not the county would allow us to keep the high school in town open. Pressure from down county weighed heavily in favor of closing our high school and busing our students down county. Public school support advocates back then had an even greater concern and challenge to overcome. As our population grew, pressure to close the high school decreased.

There is much public support for growth to the 6,500 level. Our local retail and commercial businesses are made up of people who work very hard every day just to keep their doors open and their employees paid. Additionally, in varying degrees, every church in town struggles to keep its doors open. New neighbors are important to them as well. We all know of the struggle we face to gain a food store in town based on our low population status, but 6,500 won't do the trick either.

The goal of the master plan has very real objectives tied to that figure. The

number is not arbitrary. It is a combination of the maximum population within the limits of the sewage system along with a goal of building a more robust commercial zone. It was determined through a long and arduous process of inquiry, many public hearings, public debate, and dialogue among concerned citizens that, if done gradually over time in a controlled manner, the increase could serve the town's best interests educationally, commercially, and culturally. While not all agreed, a consensus emerged that it was a level of growth that could still maintain the small-town character of Poolesville. Does this plan do that? Does this plan keep Poolesville, Poolesville?

Each person in Poolesville will decide for himself or herself how he/she feels about the 6,500 population cap, about the new Willshire development planned for the center of Poolesville, and whether or not that plan is acceptable. To see the plan on paper surely widens one's eyes. The fact is, though, if the stated goals are to be gained from the additional population, then homes will have to be built either there or somewhere else. The *Monocle* will add planning commission meetings to our Things to Do column going forward so that residents can more readily keep tabs on the public meetings and discussions on this topic.



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Garden

The Need For Pesticides

By Maureen O'Connell

On April 6, the Maryland House and Senate, with solid bipartisan support, approved a final version of the Maryland Pollinator Protection Act (PPA). This bill would, beginning in 2018, restrict consumer use of neonicotinoids (neonics), a systemic insecticide that has been shown to negatively impact the environment, especially honeybees. This would only be a partial ban; farmers and licensed applicators could still use this product. The bill was sent to Gov. Larry Hogan on May 19 for approval; he did not sign it. This was very disappointing news for many concerned people; however, the PPA will become law as of May 28, unless Governor Hogan vetoes it before that date.

The issue involved in this bill is fraught with ambiguity. The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) has opposed this bill, stating that it has no documented cases of neonics-related honeybee deaths and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) says that neonics have not been found in Maryland pollen, but the USDA reports that from April 2015 to March 2016, forty-four percent of American honeybee colonies died, the highest annual loss on record. Even with statistics such as these, there is still much debate about the causes of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). There is much well-founded evidence that this insecticide plays a very probable role in this condition. Bees pollinate dozens of crops: onions, peaches, almonds, avocados, apples, melons, blueberries, oranges, and many more fruits and vegetables. Without the pollinating help of bees, these foods would not exist or would be very expensive.

Neonicotinoids are a class of euro-active insecticides chemically similar to nicotine. In the 1980s and 1990s, Shell and Bayer starting working on developing them for the open agricultural market. They were heralded as a boon to farmers and agricultural businesses as they were cheaper, easier to use, and less toxic to many insects, animals, and humans than what was currently on the market. Unfortunately, all too often, chemicals are

allowed into the marketplace before their impacts are fully understood, and harms to our health and the environment are discovered years later.

The neonicotinoid family includes clothianidin and imidacloprid, the latter the most widely-used insecticide in the world. They have been registered in more than 120 countries with a global turnover of over \$1.9 billion. By 2008, they represented twenty-four percent of the global market for insecticides. They also make up eighty percent of all seed treatment sales. The companies making these products said that they were safe.

In the later 1990s, many conservation organizations started to take a closer look at this family of insecticides and their impact on the environment. In 2013, the American Bird Conservancy published a report of two hundred studies on neonicotinoids, calling for a ban on their use as seed treatments because of their toxicity to birds, aquatic invertebrates, and other wildlife. The European Union in 2013 restricted their use.

There is much ambiguity about how restricting home gardeners' use of this insecticide will help. How much does the chemicals that they use in their small flower or vegetable gardens matter? A whole lot. Very often they are careless about reading the guidelines printed on the labels of insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides. Do they accurately measure or measure at all? Do they follow the guidelines as to when and how to spray to lessen the impact on the environment? The answer is often no.

To bring this issue down to a local level, we should ask ourselves this question: Why do we need these chemical cocktails to have beautiful flower gardens or productive vegetable gardens? We don't. I am speaking as a gardener who used to have hundreds of perennial flowers, including rosebushes that I believed could not look the way I wanted them to look unless I saturated them with deadly chemicals every Saturday morning. I do not spray with poison anymore. If the plants can't thrive on their own, I do not grow them. There are many plants on the market—many native ones—that can do very well without your help. Do some research; the bees, the birds, the butterflies, the frogs, the fish, and other wonders of nature deserve a break. Don't fight nature; work with it.

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Remembrances

Jane Mary Beaulieu

Jane M. Beaulieu, 73, of Poolesville, formerly of Gaithersburg, and Indianapolis, Indiana, passed away suddenly on May 11, 2016.

Born on May 16, 1942, in Rogers City, Michigan, she was the only child of the late Julian and Evangeline A. (Smigelski) Yarch. She was married to the love of her life, the late Thomas J. Beaulieu, Sr. for forty-five years, and they traveled the world together including many vacations to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Europe. She enjoyed her grandchildren, gardening, and was an excellent chef.

Jane attended Marygrove College, graduated from Central Michigan University, and earned her Master's degree from Butler University. She raised her family in Indianapolis, where they resided for nearly forty years. She was a passionate and dedicated teacher in the Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township, Indianapolis for twenty years, serving primarily as a middle school English teacher beloved by her students and colleagues. After she retired, she and her husband moved to Gaithersburg to be closer to family. Jane was thrilled with the Town of Poolesville's warm welcome when she moved here last summer.

Her memory lives through her children: Jennifer Beaulieu of Poolesville, and Thomas J. Beaulieu, Jr. of Mequon, Wisconsin; daughter-in-law, Carrie; and three grandchildren; A.J. (Alexander Joseph), David, and Emma. In addition to her family, she will be dearly missed by countless friends and colleagues, as well as her grandpuppies, Polly Jane and Cooper.

Donations may be made in Jane's memory to the Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary (www.animalsanctuary.org) or St. Mary's Catholic Church.



Jane M. Beaulieu

Virginia "Ginny" B. Chisholm

Virginia "Ginny" B. Chisholm died on May 12, 2016. Born to Orin and Hazel Baker in Rochester, New York on April 25 1929, Ginny Chisholm was a force in this world. Richard Chisholm, her husband for sixty years, preceded her in death.

She is survived by her three sons, Colin (Becky), Jon (Sandy), and Richard; grandchildren, Kelli, Jennifer (Andrew), Vince, Markus (Joy), and Amanda; great-grandchildren, Aiden and Addison.

The themes of her life were family, church, music, political activism, intellectual growth, sports, and bridge. Poolesville Memorial United Methodist was her church family. Ginny was a choir member and active member of the church. She was a spiritual, God-loving Christian. In addition to church choir, she sang tenor in the Boston Symphony Orchestra Choir in the 1960s. Ginny's last choir was the Edenaires at the Edenton Retirement Community. Her piano was in continuous use until arthritis made playing too challenging in the 2000s. She was a strong activist for racial equality in the 1960s. Later in her life, she was a hospice volunteer for Frederick County Hospice from 1989 to 1993. Ginny was a voracious reader who always had a stack of books underway. She loved English literature, politics, and sports. She graduated from the College of Wooster with a BA in English in 1946.

Ginny played bridge every chance she got with her husband and friends. She played competitive tournaments earning master points and ended her bridge career as the founder of the Edenton Bridge Club where she played with three ninety-year-olds whose fellowship outweighed their bridge-playing acumen.

In lieu of flowers, please send contributions in her memory to Hospice of Frederick County, 516 Trail Ave, Frederick, MD 21701.



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Peter H. Eeg, DVM
 Poolesville Veterinary Clinic
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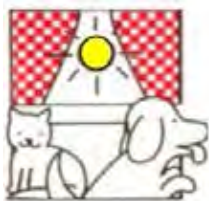
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