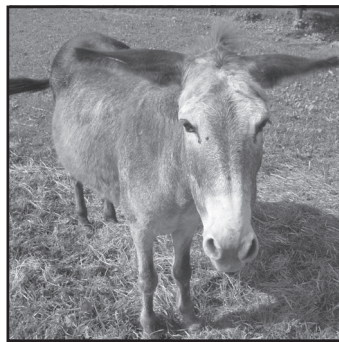


Mystery History
see page 5



**Does This Donkey Know
Something You Don't?**
see Profiles page 3



Recognize This Location?
see LOCAL QUIZ page 9

Return Address:
The Monocacy Monocle
P.O. Box 175
Poolesville, MD 20837

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

Premiere Issue

March 5, 2004 through March 31, 2004

Volume 1, Number 1

Ten Biggest Changes

As The Monocle goes to press for the first time, we see a number of significant new developments that may occur in the coming months. We all take pride in the pastoral beauty and peacefulness of our region, and we can occasionally enjoy a slower pace of life, but we are nevertheless a vibrant and ever-changing community.

From our vantage point, we see the following changes that may be in the not too distant future. Whether they are good, bad or ugly — we'll leave that decision up to you.

We will provide more detailed reports on each one of them in future editions to help keep you ahead of the information curve.

1 Poolesville is considering a new Town Hall. A search committee has been formed, and a number of locations are on the hunt list. Right now, it looks like the committee is targeting the west side of Whalen Park. The discussion and debate is really just beginning.

2 The new Woodstock Equestrian Park is located on Route 28 between Beallsville Road (Route 109) and Martinsburg Road. This site is on both sides of the Rte. 28 and you have probably seen the stone gateway entrances, fencing, tilling and new driveways being put in place.

see CHANGES page 2



The Gazebo at Whalen Park.

The Boatman of Beallsville

A whole new demonstration of the "can-do spirit" has come to Beallsville in the startling endeavor of Daniel Roussin, a European artisan, cabinet and furniture maker. This remarkable and outgoing individual is single-handedly building his own boat in a clearing off Route 109 in Beallsville. Now this is not your standard rowboat or sport motorboat. Dan has much bigger dreams.

Where exactly the notion to build a boat first emerged is hard to say, but in another time and place it probably would have sounded like: "Dan, DAN, build me a boat 40 cubits by 40 cubits." For those not quite up on the cubit measuring system, this boat is going to be 65 feet long. That's right, half the size of an ark — right in our backyard.

After just spending five minutes talking to Dan a natural skepticism evaporates. He's a man with a plan, and it looks like he is just the man to do it. Upon sharing his portfolio of cabinetry, furniture, and complete libraries that he has built over the years, the impression one gathers is that his clients must have included Buckingham Palace or Versailles.

He speaks with a warm smile, unwavering certainty and clear vision, as he describes the dream that is up to four years away from completion. In the mind's eye and with shared imagination, the vision of a four bedroom, three level ship powered by two 300 hp engines begins to take shape. With sleeping berths for twelve and two staircases, this Wave Runner will be ready for horizons unknown. Judging from his portfolio, the wood-

working and craftsmanship will be suited for a king.

The Monocle is excited about reporting on Dan as he advances toward his dream and we will periodically give you progress reports that you will not want to miss. His positive attitude and energy are infectious, so expect to be wildly cheering him on from the dock or, in this case, the woods. Will his dream come true? Let's find out together.



Daniel Roussin works on the hull of his 65 ft. boat.

The Park will be maintained and operated by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC).

3 The Town of Barnesville is considering the restoration of a 78 year-old building located at the corner of Old Hundred and Barnesville Roads to be their new town hall. Plans, costs, and a schedule for the project have not yet been determined.

4 St Peter's Parish, an Episcopal Church in Poolesville, has obtained Diocesan approval to proceed with their building expansion. Construction is expected to begin this spring. The plans will leave the historic sanctuary intact and essentially unchanged. The church parish hall and educational facilities will increase by over 50 percent, with many other additions and improvements throughout the building.

5 Most of you have passed by the Comus Inn and have watched the renovation and expansion in progress over the past few months. The rebirth of this restaurant will restore one of our historic sites, and hopefully provide a much appreciated dining experience.

6 The Montgomery County Heritage Area Advisory Committee is hoping to make

Poolesville a center for historical tourism in the upper Montgomery County. There is some talk they might want to lease the old Town Hall.

7 An old fashioned farmers' market may come to Poolesville. The Poolesville Parks and Planning Committee has been looking for community uses of the centrally located Whalen Park and at this time is giving serious consideration for a farmers' market on Saturday mornings.

8 A luxury home development may be built on the old polo ground property. Building and zoning permits have been requested for up to 20 luxury homes on the site.

9 With significant pride and prejudice and a total lack of humility, we believe the most profound change is the publishing of The Monocacy Monocle. A community and regional newspaper focusing on news, lives, events and people living from Buckeystown through Poolesville, from Adamstown through Hyattstown.

You might have expected the list to be "a top ten" list. We have only nine so that we can hear from our readers as to what you think the tenth one should be. And, remember look to our Horizons Section in future issues to provide the details.

The Big Board

Carroll Manor Lions Club of Buckeystown

The Carroll Manor Lions Club of Buckeystown will join the Lions Clubs of Urbana and Jefferson in holding a Basket Bingo on March 27th at the Carroll Manor Fire Department in Adamstown. The doors will open at 5:30 pm, and President Scott Cherry encourages all those Basket Bingo enthusiasts to come on out! For more information or advanced ticket sales call Robert Shry at 301 874 2414.

The Carroll Manor Lions Club is in its 53rd year of service to the community with projects for those in need.

Pennies for Patients Kicks Off at JPMS

A penny for your thoughts can become a penny for a miracle.

The students at John Poole Middle School are looking to be part of a miracle by participating in the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients Program. This program raises funds for leukemia, lymphoma and

myeloma research, and for patient services. This important mission not only helps patients, it allows participating students to experience the inspirational value of helping others.

When the students come to you for your loose change be sure to take the time to check between the cushions, scrounge around in that top drawer, and look under the car floor mat. Your generosity can be just the ticket the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society is looking for.

For more information you can call JPMS at 301-972-7979. After March 5th you can call the society directly at 703-960-1100.

Spring Mulch Sale

The Poolesville High School Booster Club has a Spring Mulch Fundraiser. Mulch is selling for \$3.50 per bag, with delivery available. For details and to order call 301-349-2539.

Honey Notes

Now that winter is over, the soda won't stay cold in the garage. You might want to make room in the fridge by throwing out all those half empty bottles of salad dressing.

hop over to

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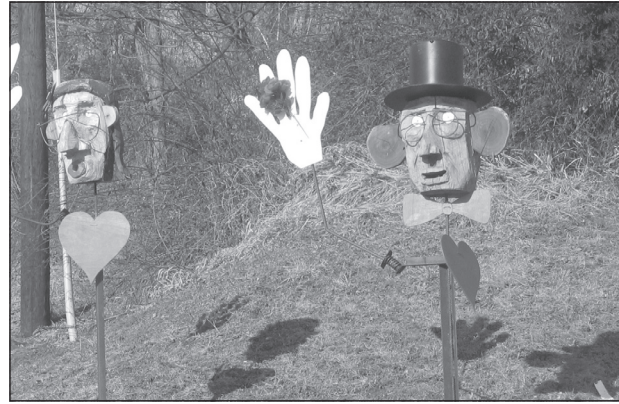
Family Album

Relax and Visit Friends In Town



Locals Lisa Patterson, Diana Bateman, and Sheri Bowe share coffee and conversation at *The Corner*.

Hi' Ya From Hyattstown



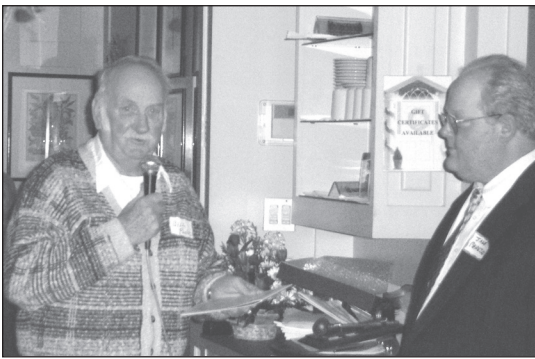
Noticed the road sculptures along Rt. 355 in Hyattstown? We'll fill you in on their Arts Festival in a later issue.

"I Haven't Missed a Dinner Meeting in 37 Years."



Edwin Brown, A Monocacy Lion since 1942, discusses the origins of this service organization.

And, the winner is...



Bill Poole receives the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Community Service Award from Jacob Perkins.

Spaghetti Dinner Brings Smiles and Raises Funds for a Good Cause



The "Crafty Ladies" of the United Methodist Memorial Church at their spaghetti dinner. Look carefully, that's Commissioner Tom Dillingham helping out.

Calendar

March 5

Violin Concert Evening of Magic
Sandra Wolf-Meei-Cameron
PHS Fundraiser
Poolesville HS Auditorium 7:00pm
Adult: \$10/Student \$5.00

March 9

Monocacy Elementary School PTA
7:00pm
John Poole Middle School PTA
6:30 — 9:00pm

March 12

Basket Bingo
Carroll Manor Volunteer Fire Dept
5:30pm Call 301.874.2414

March 13

5K Run/Walk
to Benefit Habitat for Humanity
Seneca State Park
Call 301.990.2014

March 15

John Poole Middle School
PTA Family Night
7:00 — 9:00pm

Poolesville Commissioner Meeting
Town Hall — Poolesville Village
Shopping Center
19710-C Fisher Ave. — 7:30pm

March 16

PHS PTSA
6:30 — 8:30pm

March 20

Monocacy Lions Basket Bingo
St. Mary's Pavilion, Barnesville
5:30pm Call 301.972.8763

March 22

Lacrosse
Blair at Poolesville High School
Girls 5:15pm
Boys 7:00pm

March 26

Lacrosse
Wooton at PHS
Girls: 5:00pm
Boys: 7:00pm
Baseball
Rockville at PHS
3:30pm
Softball
Rockville at PHS
3:30pm

March 27

Basket Bingo
Carroll Manor Lions
Carroll Manor VFD Adamstown 5:30pm
Call 301.874.2414

March 29

Baseball Home
Seneca Valley at PHS
3:30pm
Softball
Seneca Valley at PHS
3:30pm

March 30

Outdoor Track Home Meet
Blair at PHS
3:30 pm

Profiles



Agra enjoys tuning into NPR radio.

Agra resides with her son and sister (Saxa) on a farm in Barnesville (outside the town limits). She and Saxa were born in Death Valley, rescued and brought to Maryland in 1985. She is proud to be a symbol of the Democratic Party, but we suspect she has quietly supported Republican candidates in the past.

Do you have a great picture of a pet or other loved one? Perhaps he or she has a special talent or a tale to tell. Send your pictures and stories to editor@monocacymonocle.com. Include your name and phone number.

Editorial

We hope you will find us to be a vibrant bi-weekly publication for the dynamic and unique area of western upper Montgomery County and southern Frederick County. Our goal is to connect residents from Poolesville to Buckeystown and from Adamstown to Hyattstown with a sense of community. Regardless of how or where we find our employment, we share much in common by virtue of our choice of residency.

Our goal is to become an important part of your life. We encourage you to become involved with us in this new venture and to feel comfortable contacting us with your opinions, ideas for articles, and pictures that reflect the joys of living in this area. We hope to inform, entertain, and delight our readers with articles about you and your friends living throughout this region. With your input, we will be much more than a "town paper."

While we have the format of a newspaper, we hope to deliver an expansiveness found more in magazines. Will we have the news of the

day? You bet we will. Our bi-weekly schedule may not always allow us to be first with the news, but we are committed to a much more important proposition: a passion for accuracy.

We want to provide a publication that truly reflects the character of our different communities with articles on the people, the places, and the events of our lives. Starting a new publication is like starting a new relationship, and like any relationship the key to success is trust. When it comes to hot topics and the politics of the day, look for us to bring a more deliberate, "just the facts, ma'am" approach to presenting and discussing these issues. We think the slogan "we report, you decide" is a worthy goal.

When we choose to provide our opinion on a topic or issue, we will present our opinion clearly as such, and in the appropriate place—our editorial page. Furthermore, we will make our case with the same regard for accuracy in reporting the facts, and with complete respect and consideration for the people involved in or affected by the issue at hand. The Monocacy Monocle espouses no particular political affiliation or partisan political philosophy. While we

currently accept paid advertisements from candidates for public office, these acceptances do not reflect the Monocle's political preferences.

For what it's worth, the Monocle's Publishers and Editors are probably about as politically incompatible as two people can be. In no particular order (that avoided an argument right there) one is a lifelong Democrat, and one a lifelong Republican. In our discussions, we tend to find reasonably acceptable levels of agreement on most local issues, but as we climb the ladder through local and state elections, significant gaps appear. We have avoided further discussion of national issues in the interest of meeting our deadlines.

We'll save our passion for demonstrations of just how much we enjoy living in this area.

Whether you are a newcomer or life-long resident, we hope to bring fresh information about the region's heritage, and ideas on how to enjoy its richness. We will also present a respectful focus on people and events by sharing our milestones and transitions.

Our bi-weekly schedule will start in April. We will circulate the Monocle free of charge through scores of locations throughout the region and selected home delivery. If you have a favorite location for us to place the publication that you think we missed, just give us a call. Of course, if you do not want to chance missing any particular issue, we certainly want to encourage you to subscribe at a very low introductory cost of only \$10.00 per year pre-paid.

The Monocacy Monocle... keeping an eye on the news for you!

What to Look for from the Monocle

In future issues we will provide comments, observations, letters to the editor, and occasional Op-ed articles in this area of the newspaper. For now, we just want to give you a brief description of the various departments and features we plan to offer.

Calendar of Events: Listing of events of importance to groups within our area.

The Big Board: A bulletin board for announcements provided by groups serving our community. Be sure to keep us posted!

Mystery History: Fun and intriguing historic places and events that are not high on the radar screen, but are historical mysteries to most of us.

Profile: Humorous pictures from our lives. Got a cute or funny picture of your pet, friend, in-law, or neighbor? E-mail it in. Of course, we'll be checking to make sure, if it is a person, that he or she approves.

Horizons: In-depth stories about the many changes that continually come our way. These may only be on the horizon now, but they're coming. Know of something coming? Call or e-mail us.

The Arena: Governmental and political updates, from the county, town or village. We recognize our public servants as those "In the Arena" and we respect their willingness to step up to the plate.

Day Tripper: Suggestions for great one-day or weekend trips and outings close to home. Got an idea of a great local adventure? Let us know.

The Pulse: The lifeblood of any community is represented by its volunteer service groups, churches, synagogues, temples, and civic organizations. Have something you want the rest of the area to know about: educational, service, fundraiser, festival, etc.? Be sure to plug us in.

Photo Album: Pictures of the people and events of our area.

Youth Educational/Sports Updates: Stories on events from our schools and youth sports associations. We look to parents, teachers and coaches to help us on this one!

Business Profiles Up: An up close and personal focus on the local business people serving us.

Entrepreneurs: Focusing on the creative and entrepreneurial spirit.

Tribute: Tributes to our seniors, military heroes, and first-responders, who contribute so much to our community.

Editorial Comments: We will share our opinions and perspectives on topics that we feel are important.

Op-Ed and Letters to the Editor: Selected letters that you send to us. This one is up to you.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

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Mystery History

Today's busy traveler could easily go by this barn a hundred times and never give it much thought. Yet, had they come upon this building in early September of 1862, they most likely would have noticed a busy place. Had they been knowledgeable about Confederate officers, they would have recognized General Jubal A. Early and Colonel John Singleton Mosby collaborating with General Robert E. Lee in his effort to "bring the war to Washington." You see, this barn briefly served as a headquarters for these Confederate officers during the Civil War events around White's Ford.

The barn is located on Martinsburg Road in Dickerson, just west of Longview Creek, that empties into the Potomac River near White's Ford (upstream from White's Ferry). Just behind the barn, as the ground rises slowly toward a hill, a Civil War military encampment was discovered some time ago.

The barn was built in or around 1830, but this is a little uncertain because the "Date Stone" near the roof

Wobble Knob Farm



Jack Shawver in front of the historic barn.

on the south side, while put in place, never did get chiseled out. The builders were the same crew who worked on Lock 26 of the C&O Canal, and who also built some of the homes and buildings servicing the canal.

Jack Shawver bought the place in 1982. His family came here from Germany in 1780. "We were the West Virginia Shawvers. There was another part of the family that is known as the Ohio family...they were cabinet makers who became farmers," Mr. Shawver told us. His father bought the land that is now known as Snowden Gun Club. As a boy in the early 1920s, his father used to collect arrowheads

and Native American artifacts along the creek beds and in the areas they plowed. Mr. Shawver showed us an impressive Indian plowstone and a beautiful collection of arrowheads, all found on the property, as well as a tomahawk head (chipped at the tip) that was dug up on the property.

Was it a "bad luck farm?" Well, the original owners, the Trundle family, must have thought so since they deeded the property "Wilson's Bad Luck." In the final analysis, I am not sure the Confederates would have disagreed with them.

Maybe the farm was bad luck and maybe it wasn't. But, just to make sure, Mr. Shawver renamed the place

"Wobble Knob Farm" after the style of the stone that was used to construct the barn. Mr. Shawver assures us that his experience has been "nothing but good." Either way, the barn holds its place in history and now the mystery is solved.



Hand-hewn beams have held the barn secure for 165 years.



Native American plowstone.



Local arrowheads.

The Pulse

American Legion Post #295 You Can Help the Recently Wounded Veterans from Iraq

First Vice Commander Bob Ouellette has put out the call for YOU to help military personnel recently wounded in action in Iraq.

Here is the situation: Many of the wounded in action have their clothes literally torn off as they are evacuated out of theater within twelve hours. This fast departure does not allow for the wounded to gather up personal effects.

While wounded soldiers get great care here in the States, there are numerous personal items they need in order to be comfortable, especially when you consider long-term convalescence. These are items that the Government cannot purchase, nor can they solicit donations, so, it all comes down to the groups like the American Legion and individuals like you.

Here's what they need: Personal clothing from undergarments to sports or leisure clothing, socks, sweats, jeans,

jackets, toothpaste, brushes, and shaving materials. They could also use stationary, prepaid phone cards and stamps.

We know the people in the Monocacy region want to support our troops, and now you have a very simple way to do so. Gifts and cash donations can be sent to Commander Bob Ouelette at 17300 Chiswell Road, Poolesville, MD 20837. You can also drop off items in the collection container at Poolesville Beer & Wine. The store is located in Poolesville on Fisher Avenue, across from Whalen Park.



Veteran and business owner Jay Schwartzman invites you to drop off personal items for vets at his store, Poolesville Beer & Wine.



John Poole House General Store Museum Museum Gift Shop 19923 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville, MD

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All sales support the John Poole House Museum.



Day Tripper

South Mountain is an enjoyable one day trip that can provide some healthy outdoor back-to-nature time as well as historical appreciation. While our primary target was the hiking trail around South Mountain (Garthland State Park), we also enjoyed side trips to several of those attic-like antique and collectible shops. You may be surprised to learn just how much fun this kind of antiquing can be, even for the kids.

To get to South Mountain, head north to Frederick on I-270. Take US 15 to Alternate Route 40, and continue West to Middletown, Maryland. This is a really quaint town with an inviting antique store, so plan to make this your first stop. As you pull into the center of Middletown, take a quick detour off Route 40 by turning right at the "four corners" and you will spot the antique shop within 100 yards on the right.

Returning to Route 40, head toward South Mountain, and you will come to the entrance of Garthland State Park (eight miles from Middletown on

the right, across from the Old South Mountain Inn).

South Mountain is a terrific place for one of those good old fashioned park picnics—it even has barbecue grills, so you might want to plan on grilling and picnicking on the spot. Once in the park we suggest you pass the lower parking lot and drive to the top parking area. (There will be a voluntary \$2.00 entrance fee, so make sure you have some singles with you.)

Along the path that leads to the top of South Mountain and to our nation's very first Washington Monument, you will find historical markers that highlight key milestones in the life of our first president. This is terrific for kids, and we promise you will learn new facts about President Washington.

Just before reaching the summit, you will come upon a small path that breaks away northbound. This is part of the famous Appalachian Trail, which spans more than 2,000 miles from Georgia to Maine. Serious hikers could spend an entire afternoon exploring this trail. We rank amateurs, however, walked on the path for a few hundred yards just for bragging rights.

The view from base of the monument at the summit of South Mountain is one of the best in the area—panoramic and warmly pastoral. As you take in the breathtaking view of the surrounding area, visible for nearly 360 degrees, look down over the slopes, the paths and the gullies. It is here, just below you and around the top, that 13,000 Confederates and 36,000 Federals fought in the Battle of South Mountain. It is here that Lee's hopes of a sustained campaign in the North were first stopped. It is here where two Presidents of the United States participated in the Civil War: Rutherford B. Hayes and William McKinley.

Most important of all, it was here that the "Federal army missed an opportunity, where, with better coordination and conviction, the southern army could have been divided and defeated, possibly bringing an early end to the war." (www.dnr.state.md.us/publications/southmtbattle.html)

We left South Mountain at lunchtime and the fresh air and hiking gave us a real appetite. There are several options for lunch. The Old South

Mountain Inn at the entrance to the park offers a formal, estate-like atmosphere. For a more casual lunch, we drove to Boonsboro, the small town we had viewed from the mountain. We stopped at the Old Pike Inn, just outside of town, a fun and relaxing grill that serves stacked sandwiches and delicious fries.

Attached to the Inn is the Boonsboro antique and collectible shop. This is our favorite kind of shop, where super deals can be found and some real treasures may be hidden. The attic atmosphere gets you thinking you can stumble on a one-of-a-kind find.

The scenic ride back home took less than 50 minutes. When we arrived back in Poolesville before 4 PM, having started out mid-morning, we were surprised at how much we had accomplished in only one afternoon.

This feature suggests ideas for spur of the moment family outings to be enjoyed nearby.

Service Directory

Send The Monocle your business card for our Service Directory.
Call Rande Davis (301) 349-0070 for pricing details.



DOOR PRIZES

Basket Bingo Night

Sponsored by the Monocacy Lions Club

Saturday, March 20 2004

St. Mary's Pavilion in Barnesville, MD

20 Games and 3 Special Games

Doors Open at 5:30pm

Games Start at 6:30pm

Advance Tickets \$15.00

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Youth Sports

The Falcons, Poolesville's girls' futsal team, traveled to a national tournament in Boston last month, won their first game, and eventually finished in fifth place in the Northwest Region 1. The Falcons have only been in futsal competition for three and one-half months, but they have accomplished a great deal at the state and regional championships.

So, what's a futsal team, anyway? Futsal is a Brazilian indoor soccer game. It is played on a basketball court and there are no wall boards. A smaller, heavier ball is used that allows for more control.

The Falcons are coached by Jerry Miller, and assistant coach, Patrick Stevens. A team of ten girls was organized from those Jerry had coached at various levels in the past. Right from the start the team's enthusiasm was charged-up. The Falcons players are tenth-grader Laura Wolford (Team Captain and goal keeper), ninth-graders Sarah Bell (winger), Natalie Miller (winger), Kirsten Schuster (striker), Maddie

Falcon Futsal Team: Champs at Heart!

Keese (winger), Marisa Shapiro (striker), Megan Rose (striker), and Jacqueline Orona (winger), and eighth-graders Stephanie Hilton (winger), and Faith Clauser (striker).

The Falcons ended their first group play (season) in first place and lost the championship game against the Potomac Riptide in sudden death overtime. They went all the way to the championship game in the 2003 Maryland Futsal State Cup Tournament where they remained tied after sudden death overtime to come down to one of the most intense moments in sports—a penalty kick. On the third and final penalty kick the Falcons lost an exhilarating game.

On the strength of this performance they were selected to represent Maryland in the national Region 1 tournament in Boston. Team manager Kathy Bell and Sue Wolford went to the community for support to make the trip possible. Through their hard work and dedication, and because of the ever-present generosity of area parents and other contributors, they raised enough money to make the trip.

The unknown Poolesville girls

stunned the tournament veterans by winning their first game 6-2 against the Brookline Beast, a Massachusetts team. Faith Clauser, the team's youngest player, scored four of the Falcon's six goals, one of them on the 2nd half kickoff. Who were these upstarts from Poolesville?

The Falcons then took on the Herndon Jaguars from Virginia and after falling behind 4-1, they kept their composure, and bounced back by scoring two unanswered goals, only to fall short in the end, 4-3.

But the real test came with their third game, which pitted the Falcons against the Shooting Stars from Massachusetts, the two-time National Champions. At half time it looked bleak, down 2-0, the girls once again reached down deep and came back to tie the game. But miracles had to wait for another day, as the final score was 4-2. The fighting girls from Poolesville finished fifth in the Northeast region and are eager to build on this for next year. Hooray for a great start and a great season all around for the girls of the Falcons Futsal team!

Carroll Manor Athletic Association Concludes Basketball Clinics

The CMAA is a non-profit organization dedicated to recreational sports for youth, ages 3 to 14, in and around Carroll Manor Elementary school in Adamstown. Their basketball clinic for first and second grade boys and girls ended in February, and they are now getting ready to start their baseball season.

The members of CMAA maintain the athletic fields and concession stand at Carroll Manor Elementary school, where there are three baseball fields, and five soccer fields. Parents who want to know more can call Dennis Bendorf at (301) 874-6164.



Coach Curtis Osborne with players: Chris Masser, Trevor Lecuano, and Vincent Osborne.



VOTE



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Focus On Business

There you are right in the middle of your latest home project and you're missing a key item. Or you are unsure of how to proceed with the next step and need a helping hand. As the owner of Poolesville Hardware, John Speelman has been the answer to this situation for nearly twenty years.

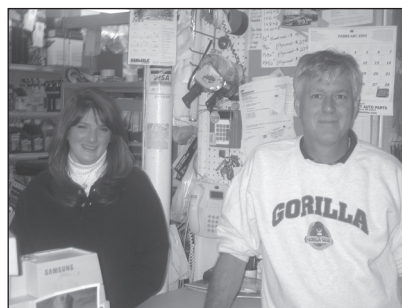
The store is stacked to the ceiling with inventory that satisfies that "gotta look at the gadgets" gene found mostly in males.

John has a friendly demeanor, and always greets the customer with "can I help you?" as a serious inquiry, not as another form of "hello." He is committed to memorizing his customers' first names. As an insight to his personal priorities, when we first broached the notion of doing an up close and personal interview, his first comment was, "Super, but you have to mention my employees."

On the personal side, he has resided with his wife, Zoellen, since 1983 on Mt. Nebo Road, where she has her own horse boarding business. A native Marylander who grew up in the

Rockville area, John had a chance encounter with George Hilliard in 1986. Asked about available retail space in Poolesville, George directed John to Bill Bliss, who owned Western Auto at the same location. It must have been great timing, because a verbal agreement was struck inside of an hour.

John, a former auto mechanic, became a retailer in a building that at one time or another was a movie theater and a church. With tongue in cheek, John refers to the business as "Holy Hardware."



John Speelman and Dina Mowell.

It hasn't always been easy over the nearly twenty years he has operated the business. In fact, if Bill Bliss hadn't extended him a few times when rent

didn't come in on time, John would have had to go back working under a car or behind the steering wheel. We say that because along with everything else, John is a former National Champion Dragster, having won the 1989 Pennsylvania Keystone National Drag Racing Championship.

So, the next time you stop in the hardware store, test John to see if he remembers your name. Also, just as he made us promise from the beginning, talk with the real backbones of the business: Steve Pratt—manager, Spencer Schmidt, Dina Mowell, Scott Lowe, Craig Earle, and the one and only, Dee Dee Diederick!

A Welcome to New Business Owners in the Area

Congratulations to J. D. Slagle on becoming the new owner of the Beer and Wine store located in the "Old CVS" shopping mall. The new store: *J.D. Beer and Wine*, replaces B&S Beer and Wine. J.D. has resided in Poolesville since 1975 where he and his wife, Pam, raised their two children, Eric and Ashley. After 32 years, J.D. recently retired from the Montgomery

County Fire Department where he was stationed primarily at Rockville and Upper Montgomery County. He has been an active JV Coach and assistant Varsity Coach for girls' lacrosse.

Café Latte, anyone? A cup of coffee, good conversation, and maybe some light reading are several of the attractions of *The Corner*, the recently opened convenience market and café in Poolesville. The store, owned by Dr. Phillip Pittman and managed by Carlos Oniroz, offers a relaxing sitting area equipped with computer ports for those who want to sip and search. The light menu offers breakfast, lunch and dinner. Their specialty is a Cuban Panni bread sandwich.

A mother and daughter team is setting up a new *CURVES*, a health and fitness franchise, in the old Poolesville CVS location. Mildred Beeman and her daughter, Lisa, have joined together to open this females only service. *CURVES* offers a 30 minute fitness program composed of twelve stations. The Beemans hail from Charles County, and have plans to open a second location in Kensington.



The Arena

Draft of Poolesville Budget Completed

For those expecting fireworks, tension and disgruntled behavior, the public work sessions for the preparation of the Town of Poolesville 2005 draft budget would have been a big disappointment. On the other hand, the public process is just now beginning.

For those who have never attended such a meeting, the process is not much different from what you do at your own kitchen table—it only takes longer. Town Manager Wade Yost prepared a preliminary budget that showed, category by category, item by item, the expenses for the Year 2003, expenses for the current 2004 to date, and an estimated expenditure for 2005. The same was done for the income data.

The commissioners reviewed, questioned, quizzed and challenged Mr. Yost on his estimates almost item for item and required more specific

explanations in detail on a wide range of topics listed within the document. Each commissioner seemed more intent at this point on making sure they understood the reasoning behind each entry rather than assuming a pro or con position. (However, sporadic comments and questions suggested future discussion and debate.) Mr. Yost answered all the questions that were fired at him, and based on the positive comments and reactions of the commissioners, came through the blitz unscathed. Of course, the primary purpose of these work sessions was to develop a working document that can be used to complete a final budget for the town.

Some of the most significant items on their upcoming agenda will be budget decisions regarding the Wesmond Sewer Rehabilitation Project (now in the pilot stage of an estimated 2.5 million dollar, possibly 10 year project), the proposed town hall project (1.5 million dollars), the Wastewater Plant progress, the Master Plan, and the tax rate.

Commissioner Tom Dillingham provided a list of new issues, proposals, and priorities: holding the line on

the current tax rate, consideration of the town handling some of its own policing responsibilities, augmented snow removal services (sidewalks), consideration of compensation or inclusion of benefits for commissioners, employing a full time code enforcement officer, restriction of the teen center to Poolesville kids only, and passing a resolution maintaining a \$750,000 budgetary cash reserve.

At this point, it seems safe to say the commissioners have a consensus to maintain the current tax rate. While many concerned citizens may plan to attend the public hearings and meetings to come, *The Monocle* will keep an eye on the details and the big picture for those not able to attend. The real discussions and debates are just beginning. Stay tuned.

The Monocacy
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Keeping An Eye On Local News

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