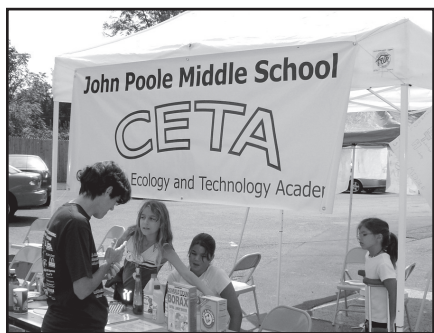


Inside the Monocle



Is this Poolesville's first mobile home?

See *Mystery History* page 14.



Chantal Agnew and Kelley Johnson of JPMS present the new CETA program at Poolesville Day while Annie Gillespie observes.

Frontpage story.



Poolesville Day Photo Extravaganza!

See pages 8 and 9.



One food booth down, eight more to go.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

September 24, 2004

Volume 1, Number 12

John Poole Middle School Inaugurates New Program

By Dominique Agnew
Contributing Writer

There's something new in Poolesville. Hopefully, you saw the booth during Poolesville Day – John Poole Middle School has started a groundbreaking program, the Community Ecology and Technology Academy (CETA).

Like the Global Ecology program at the high school, one of the main reasons for creating a new program at the middle school is because enrollment is dropping and it is hoped CETA will become a magnet to pull students from other parts of the county. However, now that the program has begun, Joe Sacco, principal at JPMS, has vowed that

whether CETA becomes a magnet or not, it will remain an option for incoming students.

This year, the first year of the program, CETA is available to qualifying sixth graders only. Mark Agnew, director of the Community Ecology and Technology Academy, says he "hopes it'll be an exciting alternative that will be challenging and fun - an opportunity for students to learn about their local ecology issues." To do this, there will be two main focuses toward which the sixth graders will combine their energies and talents: a wetlands project and a science fair.

We did mention "ground-breaking" didn't we? Exactly – the students will be doing research about wetlands to determine all the details necessary

to ... you got it – build a wetland on or near the middle school property. In October, they will visit wetlands built at the Smith Center to study the optimal plants and conditions of a wetlands and to learn about the benefits to the ecology of a wetlands. They are also participating in the Jason Project through the National Geographic Society and Foundation. Through this project, which will be part of their curriculum, the students will learn exactly what scientists are learning about wetlands in Louisiana. This will culminate in a trip to Washington, D.C. where the students will be able to interact directly with these scientists to discuss their explorations.

- See JPMS on page 2

Violin Prodigy in Poolesville

What's in a name? Sometimes names reflect our origins or special ancestors. Of course, usually our parents name us, but what if it's not quite enough? Sandra Meei Cameron was born in North Carolina to an American father, who was in the military, and a Korean mother. Meei means beautiful in Korean – definitely fitting in Sandra's case. Like many children growing up, Sandra loved animals and went through a succession of favorite animals. Finally, about four years ago, she settled on her permanent favorite animal – the wolf. She decided that the best way she could go about showing her love for the wolf (a misunderstood animal in her eyes) would be to incorporate wolf into her name.

Sandra Wolf-Meei Cameron, this is how she likes for her name to appear on billings and posters. Although she is a senior at Poolesville High School, she is also a virtuoso violinist, commuting every weekend during the school year to study at Juilliard in New York.

There are a few preconceived notions out there as to the childhood

of a prodigy or virtuoso. There's Mozart who was composing at the age of four, he probably didn't remember when he couldn't play an instrument. How about Paganini? His father locked him in his room to practice the violin hours and hours per day – ah, the good old days.

Well, for Sandra, it wasn't quite like that. To begin with, Sandra's mother loves music, and Sandra always went to bed listening to music, but as for the violin, Sandra's mother, Sammeei, tells it best. "When Sandra was about seven years old, we were living in Germany, and my husband asked me, 'Don't you think Sandra should be learning an instrument? All the other kids are.' I replied, 'No, there are too many other things to do.'"

At any rate, one day, Sandra, about seven or eight, came home from school and her mother said, "Sandy, I have a toy for you." It was a one-eighth size violin. Sandra was thrilled, but had no idea how to play it. She didn't get lessons for a year because they couldn't find anyone to give her lessons who would also speak a little



English. After a year, they did find a teacher and her lessons commenced. "Some days, in the beginning, I couldn't figure out what I was doing, but I remember being excited," Sandra recalls.

In the middle of her fourth grade year, when she was almost ten, the Camerons moved back to the States. "We were homeless," Sandra says laughingly. Not really, they lived with

- See Prodigy on page 2

Tributes

PHS Grad Gets Commission

Michael A. Fox, a PHS graduate in the class of 2000, recently received his commission as 2nd lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. Mr. Fox graduated this past May from Texas A&M with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology. He was enrolled in the college's ROTC program and participated in its Cavalry Corp.

His commissioning ceremony on August 20, 2004 had the highlight of having his Oath of Office being handled by his brother, Lt. Commander Jeffery Fox (USN). His parents, Charles and Kathleen Fox pinned on his Officer Insignia.

2nd Lieutenant Fox will report to Quantico for Basic Officer Training prior to being assigned to pilot flight school in Pensacola, FL in 2005.



Charles and Kathleen Fox pin Officer Insignia on newly commissioned 2nd Lieutenant Michael A. Fox.

Prodigy continued from page 1—

her aunt in New York. The aunt had heard about a program at Juilliard for young musicians and they tried to find a contact. Finally, they found a professor at Juilliard who listened to Sandra play. He gave her lessons for two months until she auditioned for the program at Juilliard and was accepted. On her first day, she cried. She was to play in an orchestra that was sight-reading a new work. She thought everyone had rehearsed without her because they were all so good. When she realized they were all also sight-reading, she thought, "Boy, am I lucky." She was able to "meet people the same age with the same interests who had accomplished so much. It was inspiring for me."

Her typical Saturday at Juilliard usually lasts about twelve hours and covers such topics as composition, conducting, orchestra, music theory, and more.

She went to Poolesville Elementary for fifth grade, Eastern Middle School for a humanities magnet program, then she was back in Poolesville for high school. The school and teachers at Poolesville have been so supportive and helpful that last March, Sandra held a concert at the high school as a way to thank them. All funds raised went to the high school. Sandra said, "It was the first time I was able to share what I'm doing with friends and teachers. It

was fun for me, and I was able to help the school that's been helping me." She's hoping to do another concert at the high school this year, as well.

Actually, she has played all over. She has been invited to play in many countries and festivals with diverse orchestras in North America and Europe, she would like to add Asia, Africa, and South America to her list of venues. On the local scene, the Maryland Symphony in Hagerstown has invited her to play this spring where she will perform Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 5.

Although she spends a considerable amount of time studying music, she has other interests, as well. She loves to read and enjoys writing journals and poems as a hobby. She enjoys playing tennis, swimming, and rollerblading, but her music is a driving factor in her life. "Practicing is a whole bunch of things put together," she explains. Sometimes she listens to recordings, at other times she studies musical scores. Of course, she practices playing the violin, physically practicing four hours per day.

It should come as no surprise that she aspires to be a concert violinist – an accomplishment she is well on the road to achieving.

By Dominique Agnew

JPMS continued from page 1—

Finally, when it comes time to put all the fact-gathering and research together to build its own wetlands, the sixth graders will have the help of the Global Ecology program at the high school. Poolesville High School science teacher, Billie Bradshaw, will arrange for the Global Ecology students to help grow the plants for the wetlands – a nice collaboration between the two programs.

The science fair, although required of CETA students, will be open to all JPMS students. Mr. Agnew hopes to invite another school to join in the fair. This will be the only science fair in the whole Poolesville cluster. After the fair, there will be an opportunity for JPMS students to share their projects with other middle school students in the Middle School Student Inquiry Conference.

This is all just the beginning. Everything is in the planning stages now. There is much enthusiasm and support for the program among the parents and students. Mr. Sacco sums it up best, "Although we had a practical reason for wanting to start the program, it will add rigor and will open up opportunities to the students that they may not have had otherwise. Even though we may not be able to open it up to schools in other clusters, I am committed to continuing the program for the benefits it will bring to the students and the community."

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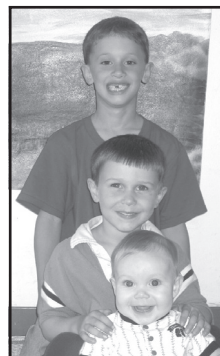
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Remembrances

Patricia Ann Griffiths

We extend warm remembrances of Patricia Ann Griffiths of Poolesville who passed away on Friday, August 20, 2004. Mrs. Griffiths was the beloved wife of Jeffrey J. Griffiths of Kohlhoss Road in Poolesville. Condolences also are extended to daughter Sarah Nichols and son Mathew P. Griffiths, granddaughter Meara G. Nichols and son-in-law Jason Nichols.

Mrs. Griffiths will be well remembered for her twelve years teaching at the Seneca Schoolhouse living history museum. She had most recently been employed with Strawberry Knolls Elementary School. Her specialty was bringing a special zest to the process of learning mathematics. Patty was also a dear friend to us at *The Monocle* and to many area residents. She will be long remembered for her warm smile, joyful laugh, and passionate concern for the welfare of all people.

Persons wanting to honor her memory are encouraged to make a donation on behalf of her memorial fund, which will help provide school supplies to the Strawberry Knolls Elementary School. (Address: Strawberry Knolls Elementary School, 18820 Strawberry Knolls Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20879 301-840-7112, Prin. Frank Kaplan).

Family Album

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Boy Scout troop 496 cleans the streets for Poolesville Day.



Father Reid of St. Mary's Church receives his portrait from the son of the late artist Charles Dyker.



The Summer evening concert program at Whalen Commons offered something for all ages.



Barnesville's Austin Wojciehowski and Ijamsville's Kevin Buck at the Montgomery County Fair.



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Rande(m) Thoughts

By Rande Davis

A Sign of the Times

With the Fall approaching it is good to be back to our normal schedule. As the quieter days of summer came to an end I found myself right in the middle of the big controversy in Poolesville... the town's sign ordinance policy.

I have been a volunteer on the town's Sign Review Board (SRB) and up until now, this volunteer assignment has been simple, routine and frankly, quite boring. Now I am in the news! I am glad that the commissioners have agreed to hold off on any changes in SRB's role until a full review and public hearing can be held to determine the most effective and efficient way to proceed.

The problems with the sign ordinance first came up when I got a call from Al Rosensweig, owner of the Subway shop in town. He just found out his temporary ice cream sign had been taken away by town employees for being in violation of town ordinance. I was surprised since I had already signed off on the sign, so to speak. For him the embarrassing part

was that he had already called the police thinking it was an act of vandalism. Diplomatically speaking, a case of poor communication had moved a routine issue into a full-blown dispute.

When Commissioner Eddie Kuhlman floated the concept of moving the Sign Review Board duties over to town employees the business community erupted in full throttle concern. From there the issue seemed to grow both in publicity and in impact on the other businesses in town. A raw nerve had been touched.

Many of our readers may think that this issue is really much to do about nothing. To them issues such as taxes, fees, growth, etc. are much more important. But, that is because they are not thinking like a businessperson. And, from my point of view, that is also precisely what is wrong with our sign ordinance.

Businesses have to be able to effectively market their product or service. Good signage can be an essential element of any plan to succeed. Bottom-line, profit margins today are such that even small increases in sales can make or break a business. I think most of us can relate to such business concerns. For many in the community the concern on

signage is aesthetics. But, for the businesses it is breadbasket time.

This whole story culminated at the September 7 town meeting. With business owners out in force, the commissioners got an earful. I spoke in favor of maintaining a Sign Review Board and opined it would be advisable for a revision in the ordinance so as to work better with the needs of business.

For whatever their reasons, the originators of the current ordinance put many obstructions on businesses that it does not put on individuals, not-for-profits, and the town. In that sense, the ordinance is inappropriate and I said so at the meeting. I believe the town is trying to enforce a bad ordinance as fairly as it can. Bad law is always hard to enforce.

I do not take lightly anyone's concern that the streets of Poolesville could become very ugly, very fast with inappropriate signage. We can all name many towns that have gone on the wild side. We do not take a back seat to anyone in concern for the town and its ambience.

But, I am convinced that working with the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce and through the support of citizens, a good, efficient and effective sign policy can be put

together that will maintain our beauty as well as prove effective for our businesses.

Our businesses need to demonstrate they appreciate the concerns over the potential for abuse of a lenient policy by helping to make recommendations that work both for them and the concerns of citizens worried about being swamped with obtrusive signs.

The commissioners agreed to allow a review process to advance. This is an excellent time for residents to step forward now in support of our businesses. The services they offer, the jobs they provide and taxes they pay are vital to this community. Their services are more than just convenient. (Although, in today's hurried lifestyle, convenience is nothing at which to sneer.) Each one of us should consider that, at one time or another, we have been a part of group ... in school, or in churches, or various civic organizations ... that has turned to our business community seeking their generous support and donations. The business community has always been there for us.

Let us make sure the elected officials know we want to find a way to solve the issue that works for both businesses and us.

Letter to the Editor

Today, at Poolesville Day, I was given a gentle reminder about why it is so great to live in Poolesville.

We were running a duck pond game to raise money for our non-profit organization. For one dollar, a child could pick three ducks and win a small prize for each duck selected. A young family approached us and asked if we could change a twenty dollar bill. The person running our booth at the time said "Sure," and proceeded to make change. He forgot, however, to get the twenty dollar bill,

so the family walked away with nineteen dollars in change plus their original twenty dollar bill. A few minutes later, our guy realized his error. He felt awful about the mistake, and took twenty dollars from his own pocket to replace the lost money. We wrote it off.

A while later, a young woman with two daughters approached our booth and said there had been a mistake. She told me she wound up with twenty dollars extra and realized her family had walked away with their original twenty dollar bill AND nineteen dollars in change. She apologized for the error and handed

me a twenty dollar bill. I gratefully accepted the money and thanked her for her honesty.

Today, on the third anniversary of our nation being attacked by terrorists, and in the middle of a national election filled with mudslinging, this small act of kindness and honesty made me appreciate how good we have it here in Poolesville. We live in a place where we can close our main street to have a hometown parade and an old-fashioned party on a beautiful September day, and where good people care about each other and do the right thing every day.

In a 21st century world filled with

dishonesty, confusion, and sometimes outright hatred, Poolesville is an oasis of goodness, kindness, and caring. Way to go Poolesville!

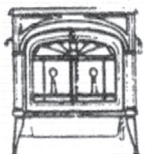
Linda Nessul



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Yom Kippur
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German Dinner
Walkersville VFD
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

September 27
Poolesville Library Book Discussion Group
The Last American Man by Elizabeth Gilbert will be discussed. Copies are available at the checkout for six week loan. New readers are always welcomed.

September 28
Poolesville Library Family Storytime
Stories, fingerplays and music. Pre-registration is not required. Ages six and under may attend with parent, guardian or caregiver.

September 29
St. Peters Pre-School Music and Bible Story Time. 10 a.m.

PHS Field Hockey • Kennedy at PHS
JV - 5:30 p.m.; Varsity 7:00 p.m.

September 30
Poolesville Library Special Event
Twinbrook Tellers. You will be entertained by children telling various stories.

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Work by Carol Stuart Watson
Thursday - Sunday
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

October 2
Frederick's Oktoberfest
Frederick Fairgrounds
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October 2 & 3
45th Annual New Market Days
Street Festival, New Market, MD

October 4
Early Release Day - All MCPS
11:30 a.m.

October 5
PTA Meeting - Monocacy Elementary
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Wesmond Townhouse Association Meeting
PHS - Room 39
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

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Overall Men

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2. Peter Mattes
3. Austin Keech

Under 18 - Men

1. Reuben Goetzl
2. Matt Barr
3. Mike Vliet

19 through 29 - Men:

1. Eric Zubkus
2. Mark Petraits
3. Jason Kirkpatrick

30 through 34 - Men

(no participants!)

35 through 39 - Men

1. Leo Bassett
2. Mike Knapp
3. Drew McKone

40 through 44 - Men

1. Thomas Jagodits
2. Gary comfort
3. Garth Dalen

45 through 49 - Men

1. Bryon Millmore
2. Mark Prebilic
3. Francois Lalonde

50 through 59 - Men

1. Phil Snoy
2. Steve Hayward
3. Doyle Talkington

60 through 69 - Men

(no participants!)

70 through 79 - Men

1. Lee Miller
2. Heinz Bachman
3. Mike Ciaramello

Over 80 Men: Paul Hauck

Overall Women

1. Rachel Unger
2. Marisa Shapiro
3. Karen Young

Women

1. Marjory Jones
2. Sarah Wikman
3. Monica Billerbeck

Women:

(no participants!)

1. Ulrica Convers
2. Karyn Seymour
3. Stephanie Miltmore

Women

1. Ellen Onderko
2. Laura Coombs
3. Jill Brown

Women

1. Anne Hurowitz
2. Kate Lee
3. Kathy Tomares

Women

1. Amy Mangols
2. Fran Hoewing
3. Glenice Rhodas

Women

1. Linda Lapp
2. Sara Beckstrand
3. Debbie Kettler and Donna Snyder

Women

1. Catherine Wolfrey
2. Kathy Shoemaker

Women

1. Betty Hauck

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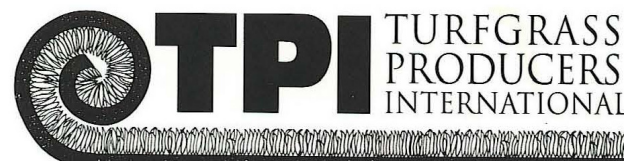
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Local History

"White's Ferry" (Continued)

By Mary Ann Kephart
Special to the Monocacy Monocle

Montgomery County Minute Books show that in 1786 Conrod Myers complied with the requirement for a license to operate a ferry "over the river Potomack" when he posted bond of 50 pounds and provided two sureties, Zachariah Ellis and Enias Campbell, who also posted bonds, 50 pounds each. He is listed as obtaining licenses in 1793, 1795, 1797, 1798, 1800, and 1802, using various sureties. From 1798 to 1802, the records note that the license was "for Myers keeping a public ferry over Potomack

River at the place commonly called Conrod's ferry." In 1795 he also obtained a license for "retailing," that is, having a store.

Conrod Meyers, born in 1738, would have been 64 years old in 1802 and his name disappears from the records at that point. In 1803, 1807, 1809 and 1810 George Bowling was granted a license for "keeping a ferry over the Potomack River at the place commonly called Conrod's ferry."

The importance of Conrod's ferry is reflected in "An Act to lay out certain roads in Anne-Arundel and Montgomery Counties, passed by the Maryland General Assembly in November 1791 (Ch. 53). A road was to be built "from Green's bridge, on Patuxent River, to the mouth of

Monocacy." Another was "from Conrad Myer's ferry, on Patowmack river" to intersect that road, and a third was from Conrad Myer's ferry either to the mouth of Seneca or to intersect the road from George-town to the mouth of the Monocacy. Laurence Oneale, Thomas Fletchall and Aquila Johns were appointed commissioners to lay out, survey, mark and bound the roads from Conrad Myer's ferry, which were to be two perches (33 feet) wide.

While all this was going on, Leonard Marbury Deakins of Prince George's County was putting together acreage in the area near Conrod's ferry as an investment. In 1780 Deakins purchased 55 1/4 acres of the tract Accord from Adam Burns for

4000 pounds Continental currency and in 1792 James Tannahill conveyed part of Accord to Deakins.

Deakins was also interested in Concord, the tract patented by Daniel Dulaney which lay just east of Accord. During the Revolutionary War Maryland confiscated all land belonging to Loyalists and British citizens. Dulaney had sided with the British. In October 1781 his lands were put on the auction block and Leonard Marbury Deakins purchased 120 1/4 acres of Concord for 250 pounds. On 19 May 1800, the Honorable Alexander Contee Hanson, Chancellor, on behalf of the State of Maryland, conveyed this land to Deakins, the

- See White's Ferry on page 15.

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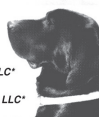
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If you grow up to be an artist, and your first name means "Master" in your ancestral homeland and "Peace" in Russian, then maybe your parents knew you better at birth than seems possible (okay, we admit we're "stretching" it with the Russian part).

For Mir Mozaffari, owner of Poolesville's Caudussian Rug Gallery, his passion for art is subservient only to his drive to expand his educational horizons. Having a PhD. in Clinical Psychology is a great part of Mr. Mozaffari's career, but it is in his paintings that you find a greater part of the man. As a boy, he found that he could express his imagination through his drawings. "I enjoyed creating my own world, and I learned early that I could paint it," states Mr. Mozaffari. He discovered that "things I could imagine, I could give life to through painting." From etchings and black and white drawings to watercolors and then to oil, he became a self-taught artist. Today, he enjoys the simple pleasure of painting reproductions of existing masterpieces (see photograph).

Growing up in the Shah's Iran, he excelled in their educational system, earning his first degree in clinical psychology from Tehran University in 1970. After completing his obligatory eighteen months as an officer in the army, his dream to complete his education in America came true. He was accepted into George Washington University's graduate program where he completed both his Masters and his PhD., studying mathematics and clinical psychology.

While still attending GW, he began teaching as a graduate assistant and after graduation became a professor at Strayer University from 1982 to 1996. This experience and

education put him at the cutting edge of the emerging Information Technology (IT) industry. His career began to change as he found himself evolving from a professor to a computer consultant to the establishment of his own Computer Educational Center and Advanced Information Technology, Inc.

Although he is a political independent, he proudly displays a picture of himself with Newt Gingrich, who at the time was Speaker of the House. The picture was taken because his firm was contracted to help the GOP integrate an Internet access network.

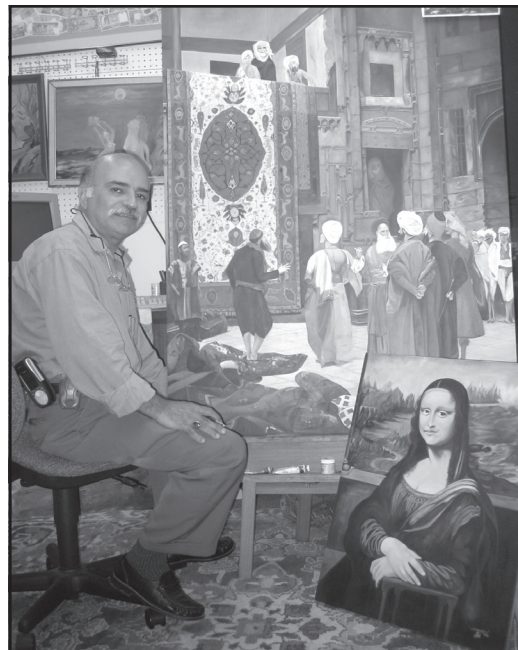
Our conversation with Mir reached a full throttle of pride when talking about three subjects: his daughter, Yasmen, a twenty-year-old

senior at the University of Maryland, College Park, his son, Kiya, a fourteen-year-old high school student, and his becoming a naturalized citizen in 1986.

Over a hot cup of Persian tea, today's engaging merchant can readily transform back to a professor with challenging and insightful perspective on just about any topic you might pursue.

In 2003, when seeking a life less stressful than the high-paced IT world, he accepted the advice and help of his brother who had spent his career in the rug and flooring business. Mir's shop offers high-quality Persian rugs and runners and is also a full-service flooring store that handles hardwood flooring along with tiling and wall-to-wall carpeting for both residential as well as commercial customers.

If you visit his place, we suggest you bring along an intriguing question. We are certain you will be rewarded with not only a great conversation, but also a good cup of tea — and the best part? These days the former professor only gives out straight A's.



Mir Mozaffari, owner of Caudussian Rug Gallery.

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In the Garden

A Melange of Garden Tips

By Maureen O'Connell
Contributing Writer

In the July 16 edition of *The Monocle* I mentioned that towards the end of July I evaluate my garden's successes and failures and write report cards. This is a good time to do this, for if you wait until next spring you often forget which plants performed well or poorly. I recommend that all serious gardeners keep a garden journal. You can keep a record of the stars and identify those for the cull. Now is also a good time to make a list of what new plants you want to order in early spring 2005. With those thoughts in mind, here is a random listing of ideas from my garden 2004.

I have sixty-five rose bushes, and I have sung the praises of David Austin roses. David's roses are wonderful; they are hardy, relatively disease-free, but they are not 100% foolproof. If you plant one rose next year, it must be Wayside Garden's "Knock-out." I have never seen a rose completely sneer at drought, humidity, and rose pests and diseases. It also needs an

amazing two to three hours of sun per day. It will also survive scalding all day sun. This rose is one of the best landscape roses on the market. It has beautiful clusters of three inch cherry red blooms that arise all summer. I must warn you though that they are slow to break dormancy in the spring. I planted three bare root bushes last May. I waited and waited and waited for any sign of life—Nothing. It took almost six weeks before any growth appeared. You must be patient and you will be rewarded with a brilliant rose.

This has been a banner year for hydrangeas. Their prolific blooms have been as large as dinner plates. I think that the abundant rainfall in early spring and summer gave them a good healthy start. Over the years I have tried various methods for drying them. It was all hit or miss. I would leave them in a water-filled vase and leave them there until the water evaporated. Sometimes they would look okay and other times they would completely wilt. I tried hanging them upside down in the garage or basement. There was equally mixed results. This year I found the key to success. It is the time of their bloom-

ing cycle that you remove them from the plant. I used to gather them at the peak of their flowering, when they were bright blue or pink—Mistake. There is too much moisture in the blooms. Wait until they turn green and are slightly tinged with pink. This is the final stage of the bloom, but the moisture level is perfect for drying. I gathered several bouquets and hung them up-side down in three locations: the barn aisle, garage and the basement. The cool, dark basement environment yielded the best results. They turned a lovely blue-gray with no hints of brown.

You must plant lilies, the Aristocrat of the Garden! This year has been particularly difficult for many flowering plants with the frequent rain and high humidity. Besides the rose "Knockout," the real trooper of the garden has been the Oriental Lilies. The shining star of this species is "Casa Blanca". The fragrance is unbelievable. Order it now and plant them in the fall.

Astilbe has been promoted as a good perennial choice for shady areas. Forget it! I have a large stand of several varieties and I tell you that they cannot tolerate our summer climate. Even if you water them twice a day, they still wither and die as soon as the hot weather arrives. Plant hostas instead.

I have edged several of my gardens with white impatiens. White is a wonderful cool accent color for any gardens. It is particularly striking in early evening. Depending upon which garden they were planted in, there were varying results. There are many variables that affect the growth of a plant: soil, light exposure and feeding. All of my gardens have good loamy soil and correct light level. The impatiens were all the same variety, White Elfin. The variable was the type of plant food. I have a small garden of six hybrid tea roses that are underplanted with the white impatiens. Their vigor, compared with the impatiens planted in other gardens is phenomenal. They are two to three feet high compared to the twelve to eighteen inches high of the other plantings. The only difference with the two impatiens was the application of Rose Tone fertilizer to the larger plants and the standard 10-10-10 fertilizer to the smaller ones. I guess that impatiens are rose wannabees, so feed your impatiens Rose-Tone.

Want to add a formal touch to your garden? Plant a tree rose. These



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specimen roses are created from a shrub rose that has been pruned over three to four years to produce budding at three feet height. They provide an interesting touch when planted above shorter plants or roses in a formal garden setting. I planted David Austin's Sophy's Rose this year and she bloomed beautifully. This particular rose does very well in the U.S. It is an attractive light red and it is a repeat bloomer. This rose was named for the Dyslexia Association.

Towards the end of summer, the days can be quite hot and humid. We tend to get lazy and ignore our gardens. The enthusiasm that we bring to the May and June garden is waning. But before all energy is gone, make your garden notes now, so that next May your garden 2005 will be even better.

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Equestrian News

The Huntsman

By Debby Lynn

Special to *The Monocacy Monocle*

Was it just yesterday, or on some bright morning prior to the Civil War? Horses and hounds were gathered in a field in Boyds, as the sun sent its early rays shafting through the rising mist. Twenty or so riders listened attentively as an elegantly dressed gentleman in a frock coat addressed them. They were preparing to ride across farm country with a pack of hounds, in pursuit of the fox.

It WAS just yesterday, but except for the fact that horses and hounds arrived via motorized vehicles, instead of on foot, it could have been long ago. Fox hunting is essentially the same today as it was over a hundred years ago.

Now, as then, one of hunting's central figures is the huntsman. His job is to direct the hounds in the field. Larry Pitts, huntsman for our local hunt, Potomac, hunts around nineteen couple of hounds per hunt. Notice hounds are counted in pairs. It's one of those "always been done that way" things. It may be because, like counting a drawer full of pennies, it's quicker to count noses that way. Larry answered this question with a laconic "because the English (from whom we learned to

hunt) can't count."

Imagine controlling thirty-eight excited hounds in the field. In order to work successfully, they must all be attentive to Larry, and obedient to his commands. Part of the foxhounds' willingness to do the huntsman's bidding is a matter of breeding.

Hound breeding was begun by French monks centuries ago. Prior to that period, we just had miscellaneous dogs. The original hounds were bred to hunt stag and boar. Today's hounds descend from the French monks' efforts. Potomac's pack was begun in the 1800s, with hounds brought over from England during colonial times. It is added to by the hunt's breeding program, and by drafting hounds from other packs. In one of Potomac's most famous efforts to bring new hounds to the pack, the hunt master of that time returned to England, acquired suitable hounds, and, regrettably went down with the Titanic when he tried to return with them.

So, if you are driving down one of our famous rural roads on a fine autumn morning, and see a good sized hound, white with Potomac's trademark lemony brown markings and soulful eyes, it is a working foxhound, that has perhaps gotten separated from his pack. If you could take note of where you saw him, and call the kennels at 301-972-8017, Larry would be most grateful for the help.



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Big Board

Special Retrospective on the Art and Gentle Humor of Carol Stuart Watson

Historic Medley will present a special art show featuring the work of Carol Stuart Watson. She is best known in our area for her work illustrating the *Country School Boy*, the child's storybook featured at the Seneca Schoolhouse.

Her art work, which is on loan from her family, includes original paintings, draft, and final illustrations, hand-colored pen and ink drawings, Christmas cards, and ornaments. The highlight of the show is the collection of satirical cards, and drawings that Watson sent to her mother and her many brother and sisters from her travels abroad. Her droll depiction of historical preservation is particularly on the mark. This exhibit will run through October at the John Poole House – Thursday to Sunday from 12 to 5.

Fun, Food, and Games

The United Memorial Methodist Church in Poolesville will hold its annual *Lord's Acre* event all day September 25th.

An Evening on the Riviera

This is one of Frederick County's most popular fundraising events and will be held on October 8 at the Lynnfield Event Conference Center on Hanson Road. It features gourmet and specialty food presentations by over 30 restaurants, three wine shops and vintners, two microbreweries, carriage rides, and more. Admission is \$85 per ticket. For more information call 301-662-2507.

Preschool Music and Bible Story Time

St. Peter's Episcopal Church begins a new season of Preschool Music and Bible Story Time with alternating morning and afternoon sessions. Children enjoy singing, guitar playing and active music. Then they hear two Bible stories read from large, colorful picture books; and finish the session with a craft and light snack.

In September, October, and November we meet on Wednesdays, alternating morning and afternoon sessions each week. While the program focuses on children ages 2-5, younger ones are welcome with parent or caregiver. The next session is September 29 at 10 a.m. Contact the church office at 301-349-2073.



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Poolesville

Mystery History

By Rande Davis

Winding your way into Poolesville while coming from Gaithersburg on Route 107, you may have been curious about some of the odd and unusual turns along the way. Why are they there?

Then, just as you approach Whalen Commons, (the village green adjacent from McDonalds) you may have also noticed another curiosity—the small group of historic homes near the Gazebo that seem mysteriously and oddly tucked away about fifty yards off of Fisher Avenue. Homes back then were rarely that far off the main road.

But before going into the mystery part of our story, a little bit of history first.

The white house with the black shutters was built in 1828 and is affectionately known as the Hersperger House, after the late Virginia Hersperger, a beloved resident of Poolesville and teacher who was also Montgomery County's first female principal. She called the home, which is presently owned by yours truly, *Wits End*. We recently renamed the home *Virginia's Grace* in her honor.

The original owner of the cedar

house built in 1893 was W. Scott Beall, who is the namesake of the road out front known as Beall Street. The present owner is longtime Poolesville resident, Jack Stringer.

Tucked out of site just behind Dominos' Pizza is a house called Peter's Forest, which is owned by Paul and Betty Houck. This home has such an intriguing history of owners and usages that it deserves its own article and will be the focus of our mystery history in the next issue. (Just to whet your appetite, you might want to have a cold one ready when you read its history.)

The last home that is part of the row is the home of Paul and Claudia Shibelski. The first building on this site was known as the Thomas Cator House, but since that house has burned down it is not part of our mystery. The house standing there today is called the Talbert-Willard-Cubitt House and it sits on part of the previous home's foundation. Just why this house should be considered Poolesville only mobile home is the real oddity. But first, back to the mystery part.

The mysterious reason why all these houses stand so far off the main

The Mystery and Oddity of Beall Street

road into town is simple. Today's main road (Fisher Avenue) was not the main road into town when they were built! The original main road was the one now called Beall Street; back in the early 1800s it was known as Coxen Road.

Back then, Coxen Road passed within a few feet of the front of Peter's Forest and moved west where you can currently see its path in front of the house. But rather than turn as the road now does toward Fisher, old Coxen Road extended toward Poolesville passing just a few feet in front of the Willard House. (The big home right next to Jo's Frame Shop.) From the Willard House it went to the center of Poolesville between the John Poole House and the old Town Hall.

The Old Coxen Road, due to swampy conditions, was closed down around 1841 with the current Route 107 taking its place. (Guess the problem of accumulating water on that plot of land goes back a long time!)

Now that clears up the mystery part of Beall Street, but the odd part involves the Talbert-Willard-Cubitt house and why it can be referred to as Poolesville's first mobile home.

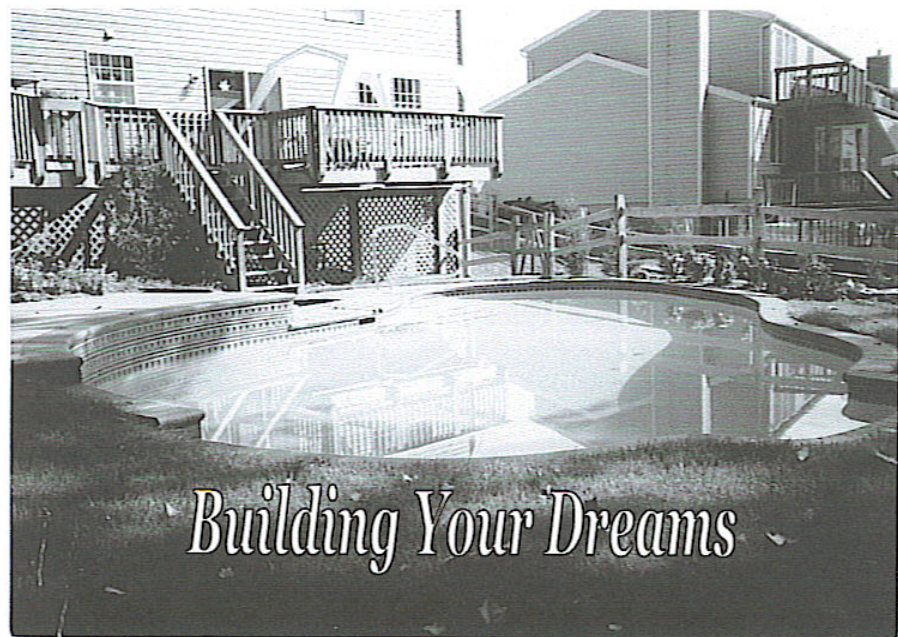
While the house you see today was built in 1867, the odd part is that it was not located on its current lot. Its original location was a quarter mile west where the white Willard House now stands! So, how did it get to its current spot? Its owner, Harry Willard, had it moved using log rollers and two steam engines in 1912. Hence, it became Poolesville first mobile home! The fact that the front porch and back section of the home did not exist made the move somewhat easier.

This story is only part of the intrigue and mystery of Beall Street. Next issue we will get into the story behind Peter's Forest.

Information for this article came from Dots Elgin and from her wonderful book, "The History of Poolesville," Heritage Books, Inc., available at the John Poole House Museum and Gift Shop. Every home in Poolesville should have one.

Much of our information also came from the delightful Helen Pumphrey. We are in the beginning stages of a new series taken from conversations with Helen Pumphrey and other great area residents such as Mary Chiswell. The history mystery of early life in our region is just beginning.

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White's Ferry continued from page 7— purchase money having been paid. Finally, in July of 1809, Deakins purchased 36 ½ acres of Resurvey on Discord from Isaac Hite of Virginia for \$913, and had land on the banks of the Potomac River where Conrod's Ferry was located.

Just twelve years later, on 22 March 1823, Leonard M. Deakins of Prince George's County conveyed to his wife Deborah M. Deakins, for \$5, parts of Discord, Accord and Concord, a total of 227 3/8 acres. Leonard died the next year, leaving Deborah Deakins to manage the land on the

Potomac. From an Equity case we know that Conrod's ferry was in operation. On 16 March 1827, a petition was filed concerning improving Coxen's Road, which was on low swampy ground and many times impassable, "from the ferry which was on low swampy ground and many times impassable, "from the ferry now kept by Isaac Nicholls and known by the name of Conrod's Ferry to Seneca Bridge.

Excerpted from an article which was originally published by the Montgomery County Historical Society.

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CMAA Fall Kickoff

By Curtis A. Osborne
Special to the Monocacy Monocle

The leaves are changing colors, the kids are back in school and Fall is in the air. Another glorious summer has come and gone. Thus begins the new 2004-2005 Carroll Manor Athletic Association sports season.

This Fall, CMAA is offering a variety of opportunities for boys and girls of all ages. Both Fall soccer and baseball are under way in what is surely going to be a fantastic year for the organization. According to William Benzing, Baseball Commissioner for CMAA, this is the largest Fall baseball turnout they have ever had. They are fielding an unprecedented five teams, two at the Pinto level (ages 7-8), two at the Mustang level (ages 9-10) and one at the Bronco level (ages 11-12).

The teams will be competing in an eight game schedule in the Tri County Pony Baseball League. However, Fall baseball has a different set of objec-

tives than the Spring season. Emphasis on Fall baseball is on player development and it gives the kids an opportunity to have fun, and to learn new skills and positions. It is also a good way for the kids to keep their skills intact and give them a leg up on other kids when the Spring season rolls around. Standings are not kept, so all the kids and coaches have to worry about is developing and learning. This is also a great way for the coaches to teach, to develop and to gauge the abilities of some of the players that they will be inheriting in the Spring.

Soccer is also in full force this Fall and is kicking off with a new Soccer Commissioner, Tom Mixon. There are eight teams this Fall, consisting of three boys teams, two coed teams and three girls teams, all at various ages. One of them is a highly competitive select team called the Dragons, which held tryouts to find the best soccer players available.

Signup for girls and boys basketball began September 15, also under the leadership of a new Basketball

Commissioner, Lowell Marshall. CMAA participates in the Monocacy Valley Youth Basketball Association, which is comprised of several other Frederick area teams. To register, you can go to the website at www.eteamz.active.com/cmaa or call 301-639-7823.

The CMAA, under the direction and leadership of President Dennis Bendorf, has a lot of exciting activities planned for the upcoming year and expect a competitive and fun filled year of athletics. Perhaps the most important news thus far is that of the brand new girls softball field that is going in. The field was graciously donated to the organization by the Adamstown Fire Department. The field is on their property. This donation was made possible by the tireless efforts of Eddie Arnold, Andy Keirn, Lewis Hill, Chuck Wade, various businesses that donated equipment and expertise as well as the many volunteers who helped make it a reality on Field Day, Saturday September 11.

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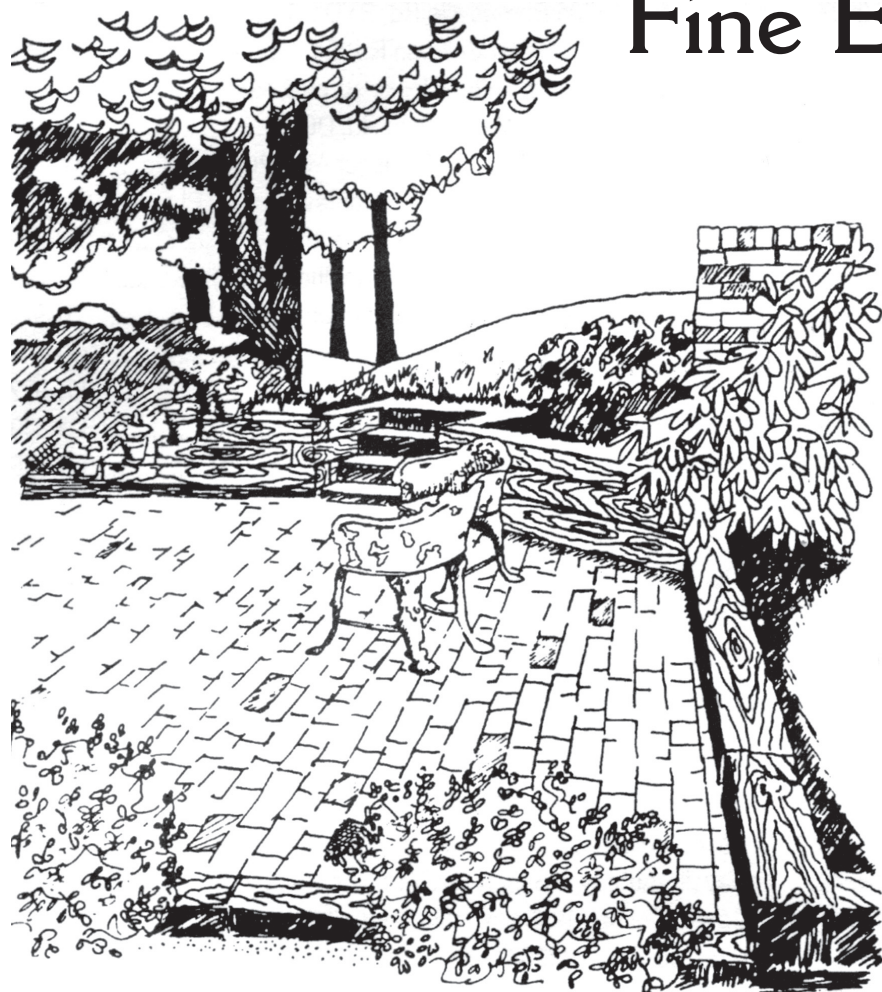
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