



The View from the steps of a Mystery History?

— See page 12



Would this qualify as a bad day to visit White's Ferry?

— See Local History on page 5



Where some people see only decay, others see potential.

— See Focus on Business on page 16



The Daytripper heads for the hills.

— See page 4

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

November 5, 2004

Volume 1, Number 15

New Comus Inn at Sugarloaf Mountain to Open Soon

The signs are up, they're hiring staff. The exteriors of new and restored buildings gleam with fresh paint. The long-anticipated opening of The Comus Inn at Sugarloaf Mountain is now on our horizon, and *The Monocle* can answer the oft-repeated question, "So, what's happening with the Comus Inn?"

Local anticipation far exceeds that which would be typical for the debut of a new restaurant. The old Comus Inn provided many great memories for so many people in the Monocacy region. Can the new Comus Inn at Sugarloaf Mountain rise to the level of enjoyment area residents experienced in the past, or even surpass it? What can we expect?

The Monocle was recently given a grand tour of the facility by Chris Goodwin, president of Comus Restaurant Management, Inc. Mr. Goodwin is an imposing man who makes no effort to disguise his pride and enthusiasm for the restoration project he has commanded. With his team of mostly local investors, he has delivered on the restoration, remodeling, and reemergence of the Comus Inn in a very big way. There are things that will surprise you and things that will reassure you, but most of all, there are things that will delight you.

The transformation of the old inn into its present remodeled and restored condition is astounding. (Talk about extreme makeover!) Those who value the Inn's tradition will be reassured to know that one of the first things Mr. Goodwin did prior to the restoration was to place the structure on the *National Register of Historical Places*, and he resolved to complete the restoration in accordance with relevant federal and state guidelines.

Interior decorator Cyd Goodwin

has added many specialized touches, which include Victorian furniture, period-authentic theme drapes in each room, and Scottish Axminster wool carpeting with a custom pattern. No effort or expense has been spared to preserve historic authenticity in the furnishings of each room. Window treatments were selected to preserve the Victorian or mid-nineteenth century vintage of each

— *Horizons* continued on page 2.



The almost-finished Comus Inn at Sugarloaf Mountain.

Hyattstown Sculptor Linda Tetens

By Dominique Agnew
Contributing Writer

Linda Tetens holds the key to your heart—and your car, your home—and, perhaps, your soul. She doesn't remember if it was the jangling of keys, or holding them in her hands, or while she was driving, but one day, she realized keys were the (sorry) key to so much. Her first key piece (puns abound) involved an upright, freestanding door covered with locks on all sides—and a welcome mat at its feet (I'd only been with her five minutes and she already

had me figured out). This piece led to more: the Key Quilt, the Key Snake. It's not surprising then to learn she recently exhibited a complex, and growing, hanging key piece at a Baltimore art show. The show had an

apt title: Addiction, Passion, Obsession. They could have added fetish to that title.

As interesting as keys are, they're just a medium for when the weather turns foul. Otherwise, Linda turns to her true passion, steel sculptures. Her gallery is literally open to all—even drive-by viewers—as her pieces are displayed throughout her yard.

In a way, Linda has been involved in art all her life, but only just recently has she decided to call herself an artist—or as she puts it—a starving artist. During high school



Linda Tetens with some unique creations.

— *Center Stage* continued on page 10.

Horizons

Comus Inn at Sugarloaf continued —

room or area in the facility. The walls will feature the work of local artist Caroline Jasper and local photographer Tom Shapiro.

Mr. Goodwin stressed that particular attention was paid to requirements and conveniences for handicapped access. He says this was an emphasis he insisted upon above and beyond basic regulations as a tribute to Richard Abel, a paraplegic high school teacher he had at Walt Whitman High School.

As you enter through the front



Chris Goodwin in the Log Room.

door, the lobby has been opened up to provide a warm and brightened welcome. The white marble floor is emblazoned with the restaurant's logo, a silhouette of the sun behind Sugarloaf Mountain.

To the right of the lobby, where the old inn's bar once stood, is a small dining room. The room is called Happy Choice, which was the legal description of the surrounding land when the property was owned by the Johnson family, back when Comus was known as Johnsonville. Happy Choice has been fully refurbished with the original 1862 rough-hewn timber walls restored by the hand of Chris Goodwin himself.

Happy Choice will be a specialized and particularly prized dining room that will feature a tasting menu personally selected by executive chef Patrick Schrader. Small groups of ten or twelve patrons will experience a succession of courses with carefully matched wines featuring the newest ingredients that have come into the kitchen.

The back porch on the ground floor has been fully remodeled and significantly brightened up with new windows. High-tech upholstery bolsters chairs for fifty patrons, designed to support complete comfort

for extended visits. The panoramic view of Sugarloaf Mountain from the back porch remains spectacular—no alterations were necessary.

We walked past an impressive mahogany bar which turned out to be the service bar, and entered the William T. Hilton Room. This dining room is decorated with Victorian details, reflecting its construction around 1899 by its namesake Barnesville builder. The room has deep mahogany walls and a picture window over the back porch so that diners can see Sugarloaf Mountain. The restaurant's logo is etched in the glass, which will provide additional effects at sunset.

From the Hilton Room, we ascended the stairway to the second story, an area that the previous owners hadn't opened to guests. The first room, directly above the Hilton Room, is the Sugarloaf Room, which seats twenty to twenty-two people with its own picturesque view of Sugarloaf. The floors were restored to the original hardwood.

Continuing towards the back of the building we entered the Joel Hamilton Wolfe Room, named after the second owner of the home after Robert Johnson. This is a small room suitable for private dining or meetings. This section was the first addition to the original structure, dating to 1884. Once again, the heart pine floors were restored, as well as built-in cupboards complete with the original trim. While we were admiring the late 19th century structure and detail, Mr. Goodwin directed our attention to the 21st century sound system built into the ceiling throughout the restaurant with individual volume controls in each room.

The second floor also has two other surprising and delightful rooms. The Log Room has its own mahogany fireplace with the original chestnut log walls painstakingly restored, once again by Mr. Goodwin. While not having a view of Sugarloaf, the Log Room will provide a warm and cozy ambience.

The final rooms upstairs are a special treat for wedding parties. Located in the back, with its own second story view of (you guessed it) Sugarloaf Mountain, is a bridal parlor. It has a large dressing room for final adjustments, and a reception area large enough for a bridal party to congregate for a champagne toast prior to the ceremony.

The ground-level has been fully opened and brightened up. The room

allows for 150 guests to dine with a full-length view of Sugarloaf, a special mahogany wine display case, and a hardwood floor for dancing.

This lowest level also has the new, custom-trimmed and detailed mahogany bar for patrons to enjoy a lunch menu and a drink. The matching mahogany bar stools come complete with brass kick plates for the discriminating imbibers. The double doors to the bar open up to join the larger room for weddings. To enhance the elegance of the downstairs, the windows along the back wall (latter-day additions) have been replaced with fifteen French doors. This will expand the capacity for weddings from 150 to 250, with some guests inside and others outside on the large, flagstone patio featuring a new thirty-foot water fountain and pond overlooking the yard and the mountain.

The outbuildings on the right side of the inn are used for storage today, but these fully-restored buildings will become the *Gallery at Sugarloaf* for future artists and authors. We also have to mention the bathrooms which were constructed in a manner worthy of such a fine facility. To get there, one walks through newly

enclosed and windowed passageways so as not to lose the view of Sugarloaf just because you have to take your leave.

The largest addition to the Inn was for expansion of the kitchen. Service to customers will be managed through highly-sophisticated computer systems that control food preparation on a per plate basis. The cooking area is double-sided so that the restaurant and group catering service can operate at the same time. A dumbwaiter connects the main prep kitchen with a ground floor prep kitchen to allow hot food to be plated and served on the spot.

Many of the fresh vegetable and meats will come from area farmers and suppliers. Fresh fish, meat, and vegetables will be offered on a daily basis. They will cut their own meats and dry age their own steaks, which will include Australian organic beef and specialized seasonal cuts above and beyond the basic menu. The pastry chef will start daily at 5:00 a.m. to bake all the bread, rolls, and desserts. He will work from the special pastry kitchen which will be on full view from the outside of the

— See *Horizons* continued on page 15.



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Susan Sullivan and Louise Smith at the Barnesville School indoor yard sale.



UMAC Little League at Boyds Field



Poolesville residents attend the recent Commissioners' forum.



PHS students decorate the hallways for Homecoming.



Ryan Pike supervises his Eagle Scout project to build a path walk in Bodmer Park.

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Day Tripper

Winchester, Virginia: Northern Shenandoah Valley

By Rande Davis

In our last issue of *The Monocle*, Daytripper presented the highlights of Harper's Ferry. In this issue we head south to Winchester, Virginia in the heart of the northern Shenandoah Valley.

Winchester is in the other Frederick County. This small city makes for a perfect daytrip for autumn's leafer-peepers. As a native upstate New Yorker, I find northern Virginia's topography comfortingly familiar and equally inspiring. We highly recommend that you make this daytrip during the fall and very early winter.

As you approach the town, your view of the valley and hills is much as it was in the 1700s. As you take in that nostalgic vista, take a moment to visualize what it must have been like in 1748 for a young sixteen-year-old boy coming to the area for the first time in search of employment. You can imagine that our young man most likely would have been exhilarated and excited, and maybe even a bit anxious. Leaving the security of his home life to accept his very first job, this young man was about to become a surveyor.

As he entered what was then called Frederick Town, this young man's heart must have begun beating faster as he was truly falling in love with the region. This is the valley that helped solidify his values, his character, and his sense of honor. These are the human characteristics that eventually would be identified with the American spirit. For you see, our imaginary young man was not imaginary at all. He was none other than George Washington.

Four years after his arrival, Frederick Town's name was changed to Winchester. Then just ten years after his arrival, the citizens elected young Washington to the Virginia House of Burgess. It was from Winchester that George Washington also saw his first military post during the French and Indian War. Winchester's top tourist site, Washington Headquarters, is in the center of town.

Of course, this is only a starting point for history buffs. Winchester was the site of the trial of John Brown in 1859, and you will want to visit the historic Stonewall Jackson headquarters (this is where the scene of Jackson's prayer in the movie *Gods and Generals* was shot). It was from here that General Jackson spent seven weeks in the spring of 1862 fighting four battles, six skirmishes, and a dozen delaying actions. It is also in Winchester where 3,000 confederate soldiers (Stonewall Cemetery) and 4,500 Union troops (National Cem-

etry) came to fight, never to return home. Winchester also hails explorer Admiral Richard Byrd as one of its own.

Abram's Delight, built in 1754, is also a great tour site which offers an exceptional example of a pre-revolutionary estate.

What do you do if you're traveling with someone who isn't crazy about history? You're in luck, there are two locations that blend history and shopping into an entirely enjoyable outing.

The first is Old Town Winchester which is in the center of town where the street is closed permanently to traffic. Visiting the many shops and restaurants here is similar to shopping in a mall. The variety of shops is extensive. For example, you will find two book stores, three children's clothing stores, five clothing boutiques, five galleries, four jewelry stores, four home furnishings shops, and seven gift shops. There are sixteen restaurants within walking distance from one another. We came away with recommendations for the Cork Street Tavern and, for great coffee, the Daily Grind.

Another unique shopping area is Millwood Crossing which is a renovated old apple warehouse and stone tenant house. This is a selection of specialty stores that cater to those seeking antiques, collectibles, fine art, quilts, specialty flags, gifts, and apple products.

One of Daytripper's key ingredients for having a great day is finding a town where there is a quality college or university nearby. These institutions can offer their own special cultural and artistic opportunities. Shenandoah University provides over three hundred music performances a year with many, if not most, free of charge. Be sure to check out their website prior to your weekend visit at www.su.edu.

We contacted the visitor and information center to get an update on events in November and December to give you an idea of a few weekends that might be particularly enjoyable and we were overwhelmed with three pages of events in the coming weeks. From very unique events such as the Gourd Festival (November 6 and 7) and a lecture series featuring *Sapphira and the Slave Girl* (Shenandoah University, November 10) to the scrumptious Bakery Festival (November 13), the novel Holiday Tree Festival (help select, cut, and ship our nation's Christmas tree), and a myriad selection of candlelight tours, walking tours, and celebrations of the arts.

The Christmas Holiday season kicks off with a parade and tree lighting on December 3 and 4. So, pick your weekend or pick your event. Log onto visitwinchesterva.com and have a great fall visit to Winchester.

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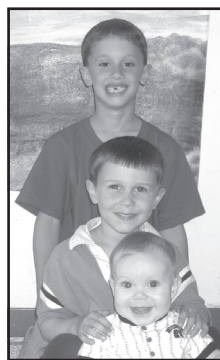
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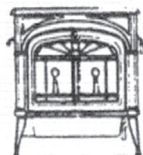
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Local History

"White's Ferry" (Continued)

By Mary Ann Kephart
Special to The Monocacy Monocle

We resume Mary Ann Kephart's History of White's Ferry with the sixty-foot "General Jubal Early" in service and ready to carry six cars or a twenty-ton truck.

In 1971, when Malcolm Brown, the son of one of the owners, returned home after finishing college and a stint in the Army, the owners of the ferry persuaded him to run the ferry "for a couple of years." He spent much of his first year putting the grounds and machinery in order, but Hurricane Agnes came the next year and left chaos behind that was worse than ever. It was not a good beginning, but now, 29 years later, he is not only running the ferry but, with his staff of five to eight, operating a small restaurant, renting boats and picnic tables, selling fishing gear, bait, souvenirs and snacks.

As commuter traffic increased after 1971, the "General Jubal Early" became obsolete and a larger ferry-boat was needed. The next boat, which is in use today, was launched on August 18, 1988, and because two boats cannot be registered with the same name, the new one was named the "General Jubal A. Early." It was made to carry 15 cars, was built in six parts at Norfolk, Virginia, and assembled at the river. Since then, a 9-car section has been added so that the ferry now carries 24 cars.

The two greatest threats to regular operation of the ferry are ice on the river and flooding. The February 9, 1961 issue of *Washington Star* reported that it had been the East's worst winter in decades. Two weeks earlier the ice was so thick you could walk all the way across the river —

not that anyone tried it — and at White's Ferry the General Jubal Early, shoved ashore by a tremendous mass of shifting ice, was secured by heavy cables and awaiting the first thaw. The ice situation on the Maryland side has improved since a power plant was constructed at Dickerson and it began dumping warmed water into the river.

Flooding is a more frequent problem than ice. In an interview with Malcolm Brown appearing in the *Washington Times* on July 6 1987, he said there had been 30 floods since 1971 when he took over operation of White's Ferry — and he did not consider it a flood until the water came into his store. Floods have increased as vegetation which used to soak up flood rains has been uprooted by construction upriver. The worst flood in modern times was caused by Hurricane Agnes and afterward someone marked on the store's front: "Flood 34 feet 6/24/72."

Mr. Brown has developed a clever means of coping: he put wheels on every piece of equipment in the store. At the first sign of trouble, he brings a truck to the door, rolls out his freezer, his refrigerator and his counters, tosses in table and chairs, and drives away. Just before he leaves, he opens every door and window in the house so that the water can flow freely through the building instead of putting pressure on it.

From time to time, there have been other problems, of course. The December 21, 1978 issue of the *Sentinel* mentioned that in the summer of 1973 the river was so low the ferryboat "bottomed out" on the Virginia side. In the summer of 1972 a man drove his front-end loader onto the ferry, after saying it was under the 40,000 pound weight limit. Apparently it wasn't. When he drove all the way to the front of the ferry, it took a nose-

dive and sank to the bottom, stuck there until the front-end loader was winched off.

The *Washington Post* on March 27, 1981 had a photograph of two fertilizer trucks and the General Jubal Early stranded in the Potomac. The trucks apparently exceeded weight limits, but the ferry sank in just ten feet of water, so the men got off onto the push boat and when enough fertilizer was off loaded onto other boats, the ferry rose to the surface.

With increased population on both sides of the Potomac and light industry in Loudoun County, commuters from both shores have discovered White's Ferry. It is the only ferry operating on the Potomac River and the only crossing point between the bridge on the Capital Beltway and

river or to Dulles International Airport; others find the quiet, back-road travel a welcome respite from the Beltway. In an emergency, when there is a traffic tie-up on the Beltway bridge, drivers head to White's Ferry.

White's Ferry has long been used for fishing and recreation. Today you can rent a canoe or a flat bottom rowboat called a "johnboat," buy bait and fishing gear. There are picnic tables, a store and small restaurant, and a ramp for launching privately-owned boats, as well as boats owned by White's Ferry. The C & O Canal towpath is nearby for long walks. In 1988 White's Ferry Corporation built a pavilion that can be rented for parties, family reunions, etc. White's Ferry is surrounded by acres of

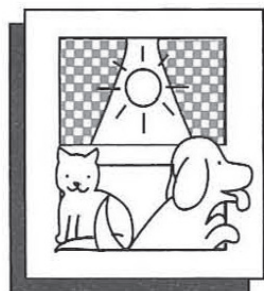


The White's Ferry store during the flood of January 1996
(Photograph courtesy of Malcolm Brown).

Point of Rocks, ten miles above the ferry in Frederick County. It has an enthusiastic and dedicated clientele on a regular basis. For some, it is a quicker way to their jobs across the

wooded National Park Service land. If your interest is in scenery and the river, the chance to get out in the middle of the river on the General

— Continued on page 14.



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Remembrances

Mary Irene Hoffacker

We remember and celebrate the life of Mary Irene Hoffacker of Poolesville. Mrs. Hoffacker, a long-time active member of Memorial United Methodist Church was born on January 22, 1902. She was the wife of the late Edward M. Hoffacker, who



Irene Hoffacker 1902 — 2004

died in 1984. Mrs. Hoffacker died on October 14, 2004 at Annie's Home Sweet Home group home in Gaithersburg.

Her children survive her: Poolesville residents, Treva Souder and Larry Hoffacker and Dickerson's Donald Hoffacker, Burnell Hoffacker of Pennsylvania, and Nevin Hoffacker of Florida. She was blessed with 18 grandchildren.

Mrs. Hoffacker was interned at Monocacy Cemetery, Beallsville. Friends are advised that in lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Memorial United Methodist Church.



Mabel C. Davis

Mrs. Mabel C. Davis, 92, of Beallsville, died on October 20, 2004 at Wilson Care in Gaithersburg.

She was the wife of the late Charles H. Davis. Mrs. Davis was originally from Alexandria, South Dakota and graduated from Dakota Wesleyan University in 1934. She was a teacher at Poolesville High School for many years.

She is the cherished mother of Charles H. Davis and Joan Holmberg. In lieu of flowers friends may make donations to St. Peter's Parish in Poolesville.

Tribute

Mary Chiswell Turns 102

Mary Chiswell turned 102 years old on October 8. Mary is a lifelong resident of Poolesville who is distinguished for her 42 years of teaching in the area. She is the oldest living alumna of Towson University.



Mary Chiswell at 102

Mary is an inspiration for her contribution to the community and for her vivid and sharp mind, sense of humor, and delightful personality.

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Things To Do

November 4

Poolesville Public Library 10:30 AM
Cuddle Ups — Jolly Jelly
Stories, fingerplays and music.
Preregistration is not required. Babies
0-23 months may attend with parent,
guardian, or caregiver

American Legion #247
Open House Reception for
All Veteran's - Refreshments
Owen's Park
7 to 9 p.m.

November 7

UMCVFD Ham, Oyster & Turkey
Dinner • Firehall-Beallsville
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Adults: \$13.00, Children: \$7.00 (6-12)
Raffle tickets, Baked goods, Crafts

November 10

St Peter's Preschool Time
Infants to Pre-Schoolers
Crafts, snacks, storytime
10:00 a.m.

November 11

Veterans Day
Memorial Service at Whalen
Commons
American Legion #247
11:00 a.m.
For more info 301-349-8007

November 12

Poolesville Pre-School Community
St. Mary's Pavilion
Barnesville
Doors Open: 5:30 p.m. Games
Start: 7:00 p.m.
\$15.00 advanced tickets;
\$20.00 at door
Call 301-349-5841

November 13

Poolesville Public Library 11:00 a.m.
Special Event
Apple Pie Perfect — Apple pie aficionado,
Ken Haedhch will share recipes for this
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November 13

Holiday Bazaar
Memorial United Methodist
Church
Crafts, gifts, Lunch, Auction
Table Space Available: \$20
Call 301-349-5128
2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
\$26.00 – Call 301-897-2217

November 18, 19, 20

Sugarloaf Craft Festival
Montgomery Co. Fairgrounds
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
1-800-210-9900

PHS Midnight Players
Jane Eyre
7:30 p.m. at PHS Auditorium

November 18

Poolesville Public Library 10:30
a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Three To Six
Storytime — Stories, fingerplays and
music for children ages 3-6, with
parent guardian, or caregiver Pm-
registration is not required. Some
titles in Spanish may be offered.

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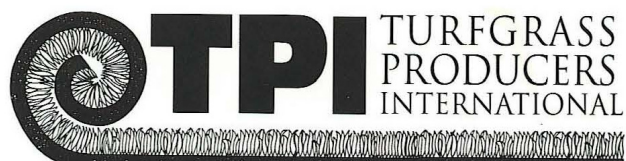
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School News

Leadership Class Comes to the Aid of School Hit by Hurricane

By Rande Davis

Poolesville High School students have achieved statewide acclaim in sports, scholastics, and in global studies. Now, they want to lead the way in a new discipline—leadership. Jan Schultz and John Leon are the instructors for a popular course offered at the high school which explores many of the aspects of being a leader. Their leadership course presents information on what makes for effective leadership and which qualities and values are best exemplified in effective leaders. The teachers also have a special technique which requires the students to select a project that will allow them to utilize the skills learned in the class. If it were a reality TV show, we think it would be called You're Hired!

The challenge to the students is to select a special service project, determine a goal, establish a plan, and execute that plan. In carrying out the challenge, the students experience

firsthand, the importance of effective communication, building motivation, managing an organization, and accomplishing a goal within a specified timeframe. In other words, they learn to become leaders.

There are always leaders among leaders, and in this case, it was Rachel Ganassa and Megan MacGregor who came up with the idea for the class project and organized the game plan for success.

The horrendous weather this fall and the multiple hurricanes in Florida triggered the notion that this class could put in motion. The plan was to help schools suffering the devastation of the storms by marshaling students, teachers, community groups, and businesses in an effort to provide replacement school supplies for the schools hit hard by the hurricane.

Within the space of tens days, the class mobilized a multifaceted, multimedia campaign that quickly brought in over twelve hundred dollars to purchase supplies. Various students were tasked to set up a campaign not only in the high school but also in John Poole Middle School, Poolesville Elementary School, Monocacy Elementary School, and North Bethesda Middle School

(a parent of one of the students works in the office of North Bethesda Middle School.)

They knew that communication had to be crisp and effective. Flyers, posters, and word of mouth could only go so far and so fast. The students put together a power point presentation that was shown on the morning television announcements. The theme was for people to give up their loose change so that the funds to provide supplies could be generated. This project could only succeed if the class could effectively communicate the need and implement the plan.

Students reached out to the business community where local businesses like CVS and Subway provided convenient points to collect change. Wal-Mart's manager, Mike Martin, provided additional discounting once he learned from his checkout employee, Marina, about the specifics of the purchases.

The project reached its conclusion when the class pitched in to fill the van so that teacher, Scott Mathias, could drive the supplies to Florida. From beginning to end, this class performed exceptionally. From our point of view, we can say one thing: You're hired!

Young Democrats Accept Young GOP Challenge at PHS

Political leadership has also come to Poolesville High School. Some young Republicans wanted to organize themselves into a group that would help them to experience firsthand the various facets of a political campaigns. Just as importantly, they wanted to create an organization that would work in voter registration, and facilitate responsible citizenship through group activities that could include guest speakers, field trips to government sites, and discussion and debate events. Athletic Director Mike Riley stepped forward to provide the necessary adult leadership to gain approval from the school administration.

Their approach must have been contagious because within days of the public announcement that the group was being set up, concerned young Democrats responded by announcing they, too, would start a similar club. Each group would welcome community help in setting effective agendas and finding good speakers.



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Center Stage

December Studio Tour

By Dominique Agnew
Contributing Writer

November has arrived and with it, brisk autumn air, cold rain, the upcoming holidays—and holiday stress. You have finished your shopping haven't you? What? You haven't even started yet? Have no fear—wonderful, beautiful, unusual gifts beckon around the corner, just a hop, skip, jump, and a drive into the Monocacy area. No heavy traffic to battle and no throngs of harried shoppers converge during the gentle and delightful Countryside Artisans studio tour.

The Autumn Studio Tour just took place in October. Of the eight studios, six are in the Monocle neighborhood. One can follow the tour in any order, but according to the Studio Tour brochure, stop number one is Kiparoo Farm in Adamstown. Annie Kelley raises sheep and cows and has been in the wool business for forty years. She dyes her own wool, but her offerings are not limited to wool and knitting,

her new notions room has vintage buttons, ribbons, and lace.

Next stop is Morningstar Studio. Tina Thieme Brown, featured in the October 8 edition of the *Monocle*, charms guests with her beautiful botanical drawings and whimsical watercolors and paintings. Copies of the two books she has illustrated, *Sugarloaf: The Mountain's History, Geology, and Natural Lore* and *An Illustrated Guide to Eastern Woodland Wildflowers and Trees*, are available for sale, as well as ink or hand-colored botanical drawings, prints, paintings, cards, and kits for the aspiring artist. These all make unique gifts for art lovers and nature lovers.

Dancing Leaf Farm and Sugarloaf Studio, studios three and four, respectively, are located right next to each other and share the same driveway entrance for the tour. Entering Dalis Davidson's studio at Dancing Leaf Farm, the eye is drawn from floor to ceiling by the myriad colors and textures of her dyed yarns. The yarn is hand-spun from the fleece of her own flock. Ms. Davidson has designed various knitting kits and patterns to appeal to the many interests of knitters. Other potential

gifts for sale in her studio include buttons and jewelry.

Susan Percy of Sugarloaf Studios shows her art through her prints, paintings, and photographs. She has her own press and utilizes various media to create her prints. Her art captures her field studies, and custom-framed digital prints convey the exquisite beauty found just outside her door. Although nature is a primary inspiration for much of her work, she does not limit herself—rather her art is not limited. She also has icons, etchings, hand-printed cards, and—because choosing the perfect work of art can sometimes be so personal—she offers gift certificates. To catch a glimpse of some of her work before the December tour, visit the art show opening November 7 at Blackrock Center for the Arts.

Also at Sugarloaf Studios are two guest artisans. Rebecca Percy, daughter of Susan Percy, creates unusual accessories—handbags and wallets—using vinyl. They feature quirky motifs and are very popular. William Price, Susan's next-door neighbor has been spinning wood for thirty years. His wooden bowls, bottle stoppers, and ornaments are

beautiful gift ideas and, in a way, a form of recycling. Who knew that an oak beam from an old horse barn could be used as bottle stopper?

Stone Wall Farm, the studio of Kathleen Balogh, is located in Boyds. Located in a small barn, Kathleen's studio is encircled by her farm animals and her garden—her primary inspirations for her art. Furniture, glassware, pillows—none are safe from her paintbrush. It seems that if it's paintable, Kathleen has a plan for it. Creativity abounds in all the corners of her studio.

Visit Maple Grove Studio (featured in this edition of *The Monocle*) in Hyattstown to take in Linda Teten's truly unusual sculptures. While her studio may be of a modest size, her own private gallery is enormous—why it's the size of her yard. Well, it is her yard. Outstanding steel sculptures grace the yard surrounding her home punctuating the plantings with pizzazz. A final thought—keys—are they really just for unlocking doors?

Finally, the last two studios of the Autumn Tour, while not in the

— Center Stage continued on page 11.

Hyattstown Artist continued —

and the years in which she was raising her children, who are now in their twenties, she had artistic diversions and side businesses. She was a member of the National Society of Decorative Painters and enjoyed participating in craft shows while raising the kids.

Finally, a few years ago, Linda decided to go back to school and finish her education, and she received her degree in the Fine Arts from the University of Maryland. After nixing the idea of teaching, for which she would have pursued another degree,

she embarked full-tilt on creating her art.

While she may dabble in stone carving, abstract painting, and sculptures involving other media (need we mention keys?), the body of her work is centered around steel sculptures; however, it is important to note that she only uses "found" steel. No pieces are fabricated for her. She uses rejected pieces of steel and scrap pieces. One of her works, entitled *The Cutting Edge*, is composed entirely of lawnmower blades. Usually, though, she has various bits and piece of steel that she cuts and

welds together for her creations.

Although these sculptures are rather large, she plans them in such a way as to be able to dismantle them for delivery to their permanent homes or for temporary displays in shows.

She also has a theme. A key element (I promise that's the last one) in many of her pieces is the circle. Linda says we "so often overlook the little things in life." Circles in her sculptures "take your vision right through them to focus on something else." While her sculptures are art in

and of themselves, they also serve as a portal to the beauty that surrounds us. They are a conduit to the art in our everyday lives.

Although she just completed her last show of the year, the Sculpture on the Grounds at the Rockville Civic Center—"it was like going home"—near where she had grown up, there will still be opportunities to admire her work. She will open her studio and "gallery" to the public during the December Studio Tour (see the accompanying article for dates).



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Center Stage

Studio Tour continued —

Monocle readership area, are close enough that guests still are not bombarded by traffic and the like. Dancing Pig Pottery of Damascus features pottery created by Virginia Virkus. Her pieces are functional, beautiful, and even both at the same time.

Laytonsville is the home of Art of Fire, a glass-making studio located in a converted dairy barn. Foster, Theda, Todd, Michael, and Josh create unique glass pieces that are “fun, functional, art—to be enjoyed.” In December, step into their working studio and gallery and enjoy the warmth of their glass furnaces. If you find yourself inspired to not only admire their work, you may be interested to know they also offer glassblowing classes. Wouldn't that be a unique gift?

The December self-guided tour will take place on two weekends: December 3, 4, 5 and 10, 11, 12. Check the Countryside Artisans' website for the possibility of new studios at www.countrysideartisans.com. As you enjoy the beautiful Monocacy countryside, keep your eyes peeled for the studios' yellow flags. Follow the yellow ...



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On the Screen

Home and Away in Monocacy

By Ray Clark
Special to the Monocacy Monocle

Ray is The Monocle's movie critic. He will periodically bring us up to date on what you should be renting and viewing at "Home", or what you should be seeing at the multiplex — "Away." Ray may also plug an occasional old favorite.

HOME

New on DVD. *GOODBYE LENIN!* German with bright yellow subtitles.

Christiane Kerner is a hardcore, card carrying communist in East Germany. In 1989, she collapses into an eight month coma. During her absence, the Berlin Wall falls, taking communism with it.

The film is seen through the eyes of Christiane's loving son Alex. When Christiane awakens, the doctor tells Alex that the slightest upset will kill her. Young Kerner must create a world for his mother, where communism rules once again.

Things become pretty amusing as Alex runs around putting together extinct state-approved foods, fake newscasts and such. His sister, who now works in a Burger King, is of very little help. While manufacturing his bedridden mother's world, Alex must deal with the onslaught of western civilization into his own life.

As hilarious as this film is, it is just as sweet and touching in its adherence to three apparent convictions:

- 1) The film doesn't poke fun at its characters.
- 2) It always believes in its characters' visions, or perceived visions, of the world.
- 3) Nothing is closer than a mother/son bond.

Goodbye Lenin! won many German and European awards. It was also the German entry into the Golden Globe and Academy Award foreign language categories.

The deleted scenes are worth viewing, as some help to clarify or expand on minor points.

Morality Check: This film deserves its "R" rating for three instances of brief nudity, including one of full frontal male exposure. It is sprinkled with vulgar verbiage, as well.

AWAY

At theaters. *SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMORROW*. Stars Jude Law (also produced) and Gwyneth Paltrow, with Angelina Jolie in a small role, and Sir Lawrence Olivier.

Early in the film, two movie houses convince us that the year is 1939, a time when America lived and dreamed in black and white. Most films bore the same black and white look and formality. "Sturdy" meant thick and heavy and metal. Sci-fi imagination ran just this side of Jules Verne.

Sky Captain takes these stark images and dresses them beautifully. Most of the film's frames are a spectacular black and white with a splash of color — the fleshtones of a face, a neon green bulb, the brilliant reds and oranges of an explosion.

"The world of tomorrow" may have been envisioned in an era long gone, but it was not fully realized until computer-generated images allowed us to go back to the future. A spaceship out of Flash Gordon soars without wires. Captain Video-esque, faceless robots stomp two-by-two through town, like huge, metallic King Kongs.

The story delivers out of the frying pan, smack-into-the-fire action, like the old serials or the more recent Indiana Jones films. The humor has an entertaining cuteness to it. The "romance" is the source of most of these laughs, with its "I won't love you unless you love me first" mentality.

So, see this picture for its fabulous look. If you enjoy CGI creations and fast-paced action, it's all frosting on your visually enhanced cake.

Morality Check: The four instances of blasphemy are worse than the couple of swear words. The violence is comic-bookish, in the vein of *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. PG.

AN OLD FAVORITE

ANGELS WITH DIRTY FACES.

Stars James Cagney, Pat O'Brien, Humphrey Bogart, George Bancroft, Ann Sheridan, and the Dead End Kids with Leo Gorcey and Huntz Hall.

Two wayward teens are chased by police. One is caught and becomes institutionalized. The other gets away, changes his ways, and grows up to be a priest.

Flash forward. Tough guy Rocky Sullivan (Cagney) has just been released from prison, paying a visit to his old buddy Father Connelly (O'Brien). The two begin a tug-of-war for the souls of a small group of wayward teens (The Dead End Kids). Meanwhile, Rocky plays hardball with his old gang of suit wearing thugs (Bogart, Bancroft) causing things to go south again.

So, who wins over the wayward Dead End Kids, gangster Rocky or priest Connelly? It's 1938, who do you think? The climax, however, still leaves a big, fat golf ball in my throat.


I've gotta tell you, gangster movies have never been my favorite film genre. But, this is well worth the journey, and I promise you won't soon forget the ending.

I don't believe that this is available on DVD, yet. I rented it on VHS, but it turns up on cable channels like Turner Movie Classics from time to time.

By the way, Cagney claimed he never actually said, "You dirty rat." You think you know a guy.

Morality Check: This unrated film contains what would probably be considered "G" rated murder by most.

Please send your suggestions for films, and any comments to editor@monocacymonocle.com.



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Mystery History

The new commissioner was very pleased with himself. The installation of the town's new four-foot-wide sidewalks, costing between \$1000.00 and \$1200.00, gave him much pride. The best part is that the sidewalks were all paid for with no outstanding debt. Could this be the beginning phases of today's much-heralded streetscape plan? No, not really, because you see, we are not talking about the year of 2004, but 1912. The "new sidewalk" to which we are referring runs through downtown Poolesville on the opposite side of the street from what we now call the old Town Hall. In 1912, this building was known as the Poolesville National Bank.

Who was the commissioner with so much pride? It was H. W. Spurrier, who at the time not only owned the town's leading mercantile house but was also named the first president of the local bank. The new sidewalks replaced old wooden-plank sidewalks which in their time provided welcome relief from an often muddy, dirt road that ran right through the center of town.

Mr. Spurrier was an important merchant among many important merchants in the then-bustling town of Poolesville. His two-story, forty-four-thousand-square foot establishment offered consumers ready-made clothing, boots, shoes, hats, under-

wear, furniture, floor coverings, chinaware and novelties—but he was not the only merchant in town.

In the first part of the century, we had three other general merchandise stores. They were Wooton and Elgin, Fletchall Hall's, and Thomas

Hoskinson's store. Additionally, Mr. J. E. Pyles had the drugstore, and E. D. Cruitt specialized in harnesses. Isaac Fyfe was the town's butcher, and C. W. Morrison sold tin and hardware.

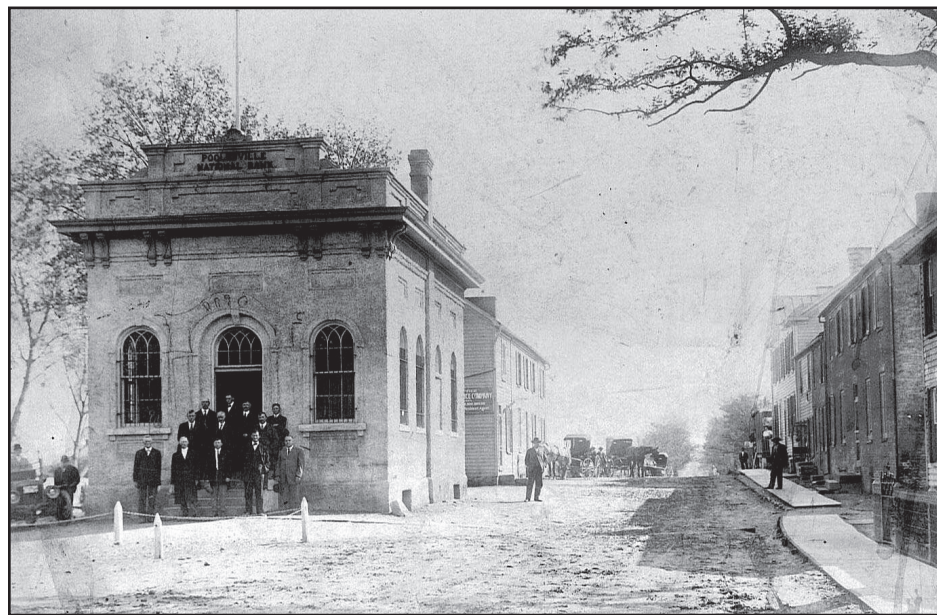
With so much enterprise in the town, the twenty-mile trip to Rockville was an undesired burden on the many merchants and businessmen in town. Besides, the small safes in each store did not adequately safeguard the capital of each merchant. Through the leadership of Mr. Spurrier, the business community joined together to charter the bank.

Along with the previously-mentioned gentleman, James Darby, Dr. Walling, William Griffith, John Jones, Furr White, and D. J. Willard made up the first Board of Directors of the Poolesville National Bank.

Chartered on December 9, 1907 with just twenty-five thousand dollars in capital, all stockholders lived within a five-mile radius of Poolesville. At the time, the bank paid four percent interest on savings accounts which, except for just one

— Continued on page 13.

The Old Town Hall is Banking on a Future



Poolesville National Bank circa 1909, with wooden sidewalks.

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Mystery History continued — other bank, was the highest paid out in the county. By September 1908, resources versus liabilities netted \$89,595.95. By June of 1912, financial success reached \$125,843.12.

Despite careful and prudent management in the early days, the Poolesville National Bank faced its own challenges during the Depression. While much money was, indeed, lost during the Depression, the Board of Directors eventually was able to pay out twenty-three cents on the dollar, and through dedication, they were able to reopen the doors. Not everyone was happy. The younger sister of Mary Chiswell, Poolesville's centurion, vowed never to put her money in a bank again. Eventually, the bank became the First National Bank of Maryland and continued to serve the community for another fifty-four years. It wasn't until December of 1966 that the building's vault doors were officially closed for the last time.

You may wonder if the bank was ever robbed. This old bank building was never robbed, but in 1971, armed gunmen robbed the bank in its new

location, taking \$6,604.00. One robber had a sawed-off shotgun while the other brandished a pistol. While no one was hurt, one shot was fired, possibly by accident. The entire event took just five to six minutes.

The bank eventually became our town hall, and today it sits empty, storing some records and waiting for decisions to be made about its future. Perhaps you have a good idea as to how the town may utilize the building. Be sure to let us know, and we will pass your ideas along.



Poolesville in 1899 — Before the Bank.

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"Strawberry Moon Farm"

Poolesville-Westerly—JUST LISTED! Lovely 4 BR, 2.5 BA colonial with large addition. Freshly painted inside and out. New roof, newer appliances, newer HVAC, family room w/ fireplace, one-car garage, patio. Convenient location close to schools, parks and shopping facilities. MLS#MC 5065675. Offered at \$394,000.

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White's Ferry continued —

Jubal A. Early and look up and down is well worth the fare.

After crossing to Virginia and returning by White's Ferry, we leave the grounds and see that the big sign welcoming us as we came says, on its reverse side, "Thank You." And we think to ourselves, "Thank You, General Jubal A. Early for carrying on the tradition of service that began something over 200 years ago!"

Editor's Note: Mr. Malcolm Brown has handed over the day-to-day operations management of the Ferry to his nephew, Richard Brown, and White's Ferry continues to thrive.

The Monocle sincerely thanks Mary Ann Kephart and Malcolm Brown for their assistance in presenting this series.

Mary Ann Kephart was born in Silver Spring and graduated from the University of Maryland. She spent five years in Japan and three years in Belgium when her husband was stationed there with the government, became interested in historic preservation while in Europe, and in 1974 was a founding member of the organization "Historic Medley District, Inc." Her article "The Darnall Place," written for a course in Architecture at the University of Maryland, appeared in the May 1978 issue of the publication of the Montgomery County Historical Society.



The Flood of September 1996 from a boat in the river
(Photograph courtesy of Malcolm Brown)

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Horizons

Comus Inn at Sugarloaf continued — restaurant as patrons come to the front door. The pastry chef will also prepare wedding cakes on-site.

Executive chef Patrick Schrader came to the inn directly from his position as executive chef at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas. Originally from Wisconsin, Patrick went to New Orleans to play football in college and ended up learning his trade literally at the chopping block from a number of famous chefs, including Paul Prudhomme.

Mr. Schrader described for us how each plate will be individually prepared and each dinner guest will find himself "fully engaged and involved in the meal." Mr. Schrader will supervise a kitchen staff that includes four four-year graduates of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York. The standard menu will offer three tiers of multi-course fixed price meals, with each tier offering additional courses.

The beverage menu will offer a choice of over 600 wines (4,000 bottles) and a large selection of domestic and international beers. The

Comus Inn purchased a large part of its wine inventory from Frederick's Turning Point Inn to fill the restaurant's three wine cellars. A French wine preservation system will allow the finest wines to be offered by the glass.

There is a wide opportunity for fine dining at the Comus Inn with consideration for different dining experiences. While the restaurant seeks to become renowned for its exquisitely prepared food and wines, it will offer luncheon menus, and every Sunday evening from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m., the restaurant will offer a traditional family supper menu.

Earlier on Sundays, patrons will be able to enjoy a unique Musical Brunch with pianist and musician Will Rosenauer.

The Comus Inn at Sugarloaf Mountain will open to the public in "mid-November" in what Chris Goodwin called a "soft" opening. This will allow the restaurant to fully train service staff and make any adjustments deemed necessary. They plan to be open for

Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve and will make a special announcement for New Year's Eve. Reservations will be advised for all intending to dine at the Inn, especially on the holidays. They will celebrate with a "grand opening" after the first of the year.

So, how much has all this refurbishing, remodeling, and restoring cost? "Over three million dollars."

We were impressed with the logo of the restaurant, which is a silhouette of Sugarloaf Mountain and the sun. From the restaurant porch, we know the view is of a setting sun, but after taking the tour, we think it just may be a rising sun.



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Focus on Business

A One-Bedroom B&B?

By Rande Davis

Peg Coleman of Boyds has a lot of business titles...publisher, editor, novelist, preservationist, historian, innkeeper, and spinster. This dynamic lady is not your typical spinster. She and husband, Jim, have been married for forty years.

Peg has done quite a few demonstrations of the nearly lost art of spinning and dying wool at many of the festivals in the area. If you visited the John Poole General Store on Poolesville Day you got a chance to witness her practicing her craft firsthand. From a herd of around one hundred sheep, the Coleman farm is now down to just two sheep, but that's enough wool to keep Peg busy. For those readers who like factual tidbits, here are some intriguing shearing statistics: one sheep can yield about ten pounds of wool, one pound of wool can spin out to twelve hundred yards of yarn, and from that you can knit one large sweater.

Peg Coleman, a native of Montana, has lived in Maryland for the last thirty-six years where she has been a major contributor on Maryland's history—especially Montgomery County's history. A history major from Hood College, she and Anne Dennis Lewis published the regionally popular "*Montgomery County: A Pictorial History*" in 1980.

The Colemans' farm is just a quarter mile in from Barnesville Road in Boyds on their idyllic Pleasant Springs Farm, which has to be considered one of the most intriguing bed and breakfasts in America. Unlike most B&Bs with their mansion-like, multi-bedroom setting, Pleasant Springs is a one-bedroom B&B. In a restful setting nestled peacefully on a slight hillside overlooking a still, quiet pond, its special attraction is its authentic living history experience. The cottage and surrounding gardens were featured in a segment on the Home & Garden network.

Those staying at this B&B take more than a step back from the hectic hubbub of modern American life. They leave the 21st century to experience the simple, warm, and cozy rural life of mid-1700s Maryland.



Peg Coleman of Pleasant Springs.

Modern conveniences, however, are present in all their necessities. Whether resting in the rocker by its fireplace or enjoying a breakfast in the dining room, the visitor will be hard-pressed to realize that the place is within forty minutes of the most powerful house in the world—the White House.

This quaint bungalow of today would not be recognizable to the person seeing it in the early 1980s. This home once owned by a man named Thomas Drury was a "real goner." Its sorry level of deterioration can be seen in the picture on our front page, but slowly, board by board and log by log, the Colemans brought this historical farm home fully back to life.

For Peg, the physical restoration of the Drury farmhouse was only the

beginning of its story. The rest of the story is that by combining her vast knowledge of local history with a delightful knack as a storyteller, Peg wrote her first historical novel, *Paul of Montgomery* (Publish America 2002 or www. PublishAmerica.com). This novel restores the spiritual life of the Drury family and in so doing, the many Marylanders who lived, worked, and raised there families right here in our Monocacy region. This story is our story. It's told through the eyes and heart of a twelve-year boy, Paul Drury, living in a most important year—1776.

There is much more to tell about Peg Coleman and the many hats she wears in our community. Even though she is a writer and former columnist, she was a bit of a tough interview. She is naturally a very humble person and getting information about her takes a little determination. With *The Monocle's* special devotion to history, I am certain our readers will get to know more about Peg in future issues. (*Paul of Montgomery* can be purchased at the John Poole Store and Museum in Poolesville.)



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Can You Name the Street? Meet the Groundhogs!

These gentlemen were members of a Poolesville Pitch Team in the 1940s. Many of its streets are named after them. Can You guess? See below.



Left to right -
The Groundhogs Pitch Team
Back row: Will Hempsstone, Ben White, Julius Hall, Joe Willard,
Front row: John Poole, Isaac Fyffe, Dr. Walling, Jerome Offutt, Lige White, Doc. Hersperger and Ray Bodmer (child)



The Pulse

Monocacy Garden Club

By Rande Davis

The Monocacy Garden Club recently held their biannual flower show at the United Memorial Methodist Church in Poolesville. This group of horticultural enthusiasts is now in their fifty-third year. The notion of the club originated from the late Dorothy Menke of Barnesville. The cofounder and first president was Isabel Chisholm. Originally started as an informal club, it has developed to the point where now it is one of thirty-three garden clubs that make up the District IV, National Capitol Area Federation of Garden Clubs.

The Monocacy Garden Club Horticulture Show is the club's premier event and it is much more than just a simple community flower show. In addition to its selection of design classes and its wide representation of horticultural specimens, the show has accredited flower show judges who meet the most stringent requirements in rating entries. Winning recognition in its flower show represents significant achievement in growing and arranging flowers.

The club's current president is former Poolesville High School principal, Terrill Meyer. The group has the current restriction on membership not to exceed thirty-five participants, due to the fact that club meetings are always in a member's home. Unavoidably, women in the area who wish to join the club are on an waiting list.



Judy Stone at the Monocacy Garden Club flower show.

In the Garden

November – Texture and Form

By Maureen O'Connell
Contributing Writer

As we head into the early days of November and the profusion of the bright colors of summer and fall fade, the landscape of our gardens take on a new form. The underlying skeletons begin to poke through for their day in the sun. Many people feel that when the flowering plants and shrubs die back, the garden also dies. This is not true. As I have mentioned several times that gardens are ever-changing, our gardens will now be sporting a coat of different colors. Gone are the pale pastels and the fiery shots of summer and fall's orange, red and gold. They are replaced by tones of sepia, grey and brown. With next year's bud tight and safe, our gardens begin their hibernation.

This time of the year does end Max's, Sam's and my daily tour of the gardens. We might have to bundle up more and limit our time sitting on the one garden bench I leave out all winter. One must retrain one's eye to appreciate the early winter garden. Texture and form overtake riotous color and dense green vegetation. The evergreen trees and the hollies now take center stage. They are not competing with lush plants and shrubs that surround them in the summer and fall. It is as if they were saying, hey, look at me. They go unnoticed most of the year. Now watch how the bright sun of a cold winter day glistens off the shiny holly leaves and the blue-grey of the spruce trees shimmer against the cold blue of the sky. Plants also offer up a new level of interest. Observe the beauty of a hoary frost on the spikes of lavender and rosemary. The sedum that has flopped over much of the front edge of the Middle Earth's Garden sparkles with the frost and dew drops of the early morning light. I look forward to the first light snowfall; the delicate white flakes sit ever so pertly on the David Austin Roses. The Helleborus takes a short nap to emerge in January and February with new soft green and pale white flowers. One variety is aptly called the "Christmas Rose." In early November and maybe into December if the weather is not too frigid, the Johnny jump-ups, sweet peas and dwarf snapdragons planted in a protected niche under the Rosa

Rugosas will come into their third life. I was amazed last year to see several of my ferns under the dogwood trees still fresh and green enough to include in a Christmas floral bouquet. My thyme plants, nestled under the White Birch tree, have all summer spread though the surrounding herbs. Now they form a dense fragrant matt like ground cover that usually lasts well into December

People often ask me when do I prune my roses and perennials. Other than the occasional midsummer tidying-up, I prune the roses twice a year. Once the night temperature averages below freezing for three to four weeks and the plants become dormant, I trim the top canes about five or six inches. The main purpose of this pruning is to remove the tall growth and prevent winter wind damage. In the more exposed area of the Upper Garden, I will remove a little more growth. I will wrap the stems of my Tree Standard Roses and Wisteria with strips of paper tree wrap and burlap. The wisteria is in the direct path of very strong winds, so I will probably enclose the whole tree in burlap. The wisteria is a very special tree. I planted it for Molly, our Golden Retriever who died last September at age twelve. The major pruning will come around St. Patrick's day.

I prune each perennial in different ways, depending on their growth habit. I cut the coneflowers back to the ground after the blooms end, and apply a winter mulch after the ground freezes. Speaking of coneflowers, remember the "Holy Grail" of coneflowers, "Razzamataz." I received shipment in late October, so they are now safe and snug in the Upper Garden waiting to dazzle me in May. I also cut back to the ground the Phlox. This helps prevent seedling offshoots appearing in the spring that have reverted back to a not-true color type. As phlox are very susceptible to powdery mildew, this pruning help stop the spread of fungus spores. I

also cut back peonies, iris and lilies to curtail the spread of disease.

What follows is what I call my hodgepodge of gardens tips. It does not follow the theme of this particular article; it is merely ideas from the odds and ends bin in the potting shed.

Have you ordered your Paperwhite Narcissi and Amaryllis bulbs for indoor forcing for the winter months? One Narcissus plant will perfume an entire room for weeks. The beauty and size of the Amaryllis will astound you. I recommend that you buy top quality bulbs; there is a big difference. I order mine from White Flower Farm in Litchfield, Connecticut or I buy them from Smith & Hawkins on Connecticut Avenue. I buy enough bulbs so that I can plant them in intervals so I have flowers all winter. They are fool proof. You can order just the bulbs or the bulbs, planting medium and pot. I have found them a very good holiday gift for people who don't need any more "things." They are also much appreciated by older people who can enjoy the flowers all winter. It is a holiday present that you don't have to figure what drawer to stash it in after the gift giver has left and gone home.

If you plan to purchase a live Christmas tree to plant in the yard after the holidays, now is the time to dig the hole. Many garden articles tell you that early December is time enough. No. Very often the ground is already too hard. Even if it is not, digging a hole in the cold windy weather is no fun. Start digging.

Did you bring your household plants in after vacationing in the garden all summer? Check for mealy bugs and aphids regularly. The dry warm climate of the indoors encourages their growth and spread. Spray the plants with insecticidal soap or wash the leaves in the sink with dishwashing liquid. Ivory Liquid is just as effective and a lot cheaper.

Next article: Holiday Gifts for Gardeners



Big Board

Family Style Ham and Oyster Dinner

The Auxiliary of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department Located in Beallsville, Maryland, Will sponsor their annual "Family Style" Ham and Oyster Dinner, November 7, 2004 from Noon until 6:00 p.m. The event will be held in the UMCVFD Firehouse located at 19801 Beallsville Road near the intersections of Route 28 and Route 109, Beallsville. The price this year is \$13.00 for adults, 12 and older, and \$7.00 for children (6 years and under free). Carry-out dinner is available for \$1.00 extra. Fancy table with baked goods and crafts will be available for sale, and a cash raffle, with the first prize \$500.00.

Poolesville Library Events

November 4, 10:30 a.m., Cuddle-Ups "Jolly Jelly" Stories. Stories, finger plays, and music. Preregistration is not required. Babies 0 to 23 months may attend with parent, guardian or caregiver.

November 13 11:00 a.m. Apple Pie Perfect — Apple pie aficionado, Ken Haedrich, Will share recipes for this all-American treat. Learn baking tips and enjoy tasty samples. Sponsored by the Friends of the library and Montgomery County Maryland Inc. and the LAC. Apples supplied by Homestead

November 18, 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Three to Six Storytime—Stories, finger plays, and music for ages 3 to 6 with parent, guardian or caregiver. Preregistration is not required. Some activities in Spanish will be offered.

Exhibits at Glenview Mansion Art Gallery

November 7 to November 30. *Treasures of Rockville: Historic Houses* by Connie Ward Woolard and *Maryland Society of Portrait Painters*, Members Show, varied media.

Reception November 7, 1 to 4 p.m. Concert, U.S. Navy Band Chamber Ensembles, 2 to 3 p.m.

Artist Talk November 18, 7:30 p.m. Guided Tour November 19, 10 a.m.

All offerings are free. For information and gallery hours call 240-314-8682 or 214-314-8660, or go to www.rockvillemd.gov. Recorded directions 240-314-5004.

Glenview Mansion Art Gallery at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville.

Memorial Methodist Church Celebrates The Donor Sabbath

Memorial United Methodist Church in Poolesville will be celebrating The Donor Sabbath again this year on November 14, 2004. This year's speaker will be Dr. Allan Kirk from the National Institute of Health. Dr. Kirk is involved with the transplantation research at NIH and will be speaking of his experiences in the research. His presentation will be at the 11:00 a.m. service and there will be time for fellowship and questions at the coffee hour immediately following the service.

The Donor Sabbath is a nationally recognized observance of the sacrifice and gifts of organ and tissue donors. This celebration for these gifts is open to the public and the church welcomes visitors to come and celebrate organ donation with them.

Watermark Concert

Watermark will perform on Sunday, November 14, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center of Poolesville Baptist Church, 17550 West Willard Road, Poolesville

Tickets are available from: Poolesville Baptist Church from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. 301-972-8151 or mccall.pbc@verizon.net. www.poolesvillebaptist.com/concerts.html.

Simon or Terri Subirias: Terri (Home) 301-972-8535 Simon – E-mail simon.subirias@marriott.com, Family Christian Bookstore (Gaithersburg). The Shepherd's Table (Frederick) or www.poolesvillebaptist.com/concerts.html

Group sales – 10+ tickets purchased as one transaction cost \$12.00 through November 13

Advanced sales – 9 or less tickets cost \$15.00 through November 7

Regular pricing – 9 or less tickets cost \$20.00 from November 8 to November 14

Ten or more tickets cost \$20.00 day of the event November 14.

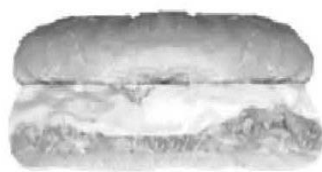


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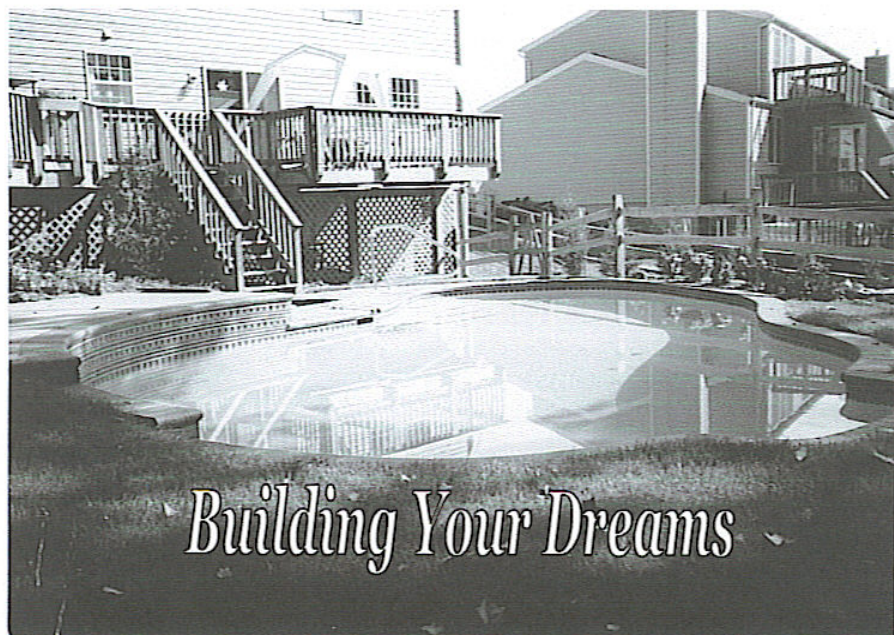
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Wishing All Our Friends and Customers a Happy Thanksgiving!

Youth Sports

Varsity Field Hockey: Walk Confidently, But Carry a Big Stick

The traditional success of the PHS varsity field hockey team (7-2) has continued throughout this fall as the team now prepares for regional competition. The success of the varsity field hockey team stretches all the way back to the 1980s under the tutelage of Nancy Hopkinson. Back then, Coach Hoppy taught her girls how to win through confidence and hard work. One of her star players took her lessons to heart and now brings the same message to today's Poolesville team.

Coach Regina Grubb, who played on Hoppy's varsity team for four years, went on to coach eight years of field hockey with five of those years at PHS.

Before asking about the hockey team, we wanted to get Coach Grubb's take on why PHS sports are so strong. The first word coming from her gives us a big clue as to why the school does so well. That first word was "we". Coach Grubb states, "We have very motivated coaches and players who develop a love of the game. We work with the girls to give them the best instruction and help them to develop their skills and knowledge of the game. We focus on developing their basic skills as JV players and as they move up to varsity those skills are refined and more advanced skills are taught." Are there any other secrets? Coach Grubb emphasizes that "We stress to the girls that they have to be confident in themselves and, finally, they are taught to enjoy their athletic experience and to have fun."

This year's team had only two returning seniors. Nevertheless, their confidence in themselves and in the coaching staff is apparent as their individual skills continued to improve. As the team continued to gel, their trust in one another and in the coaching staff increased.

Their confidence and trust showed by winning two of their games in overtime with both of these games being very uplifting experiences. Senior K.C. Marchwicki (forward/midfielder) has provided the team with special leadership on and off the field by displaying a great work ethic along with her motivational skills in helping the team reach their peak.

Another senior, Laurel Caywood, has also been a big factor in motivation and she has had an outstanding year as the team's goalie. The future of the team looks bright with sophomore center back Kaylee Rattie, having a strong, positive impact on the team's defense. Junior Emily Slovcek (midfielder/forward) has also stepped up this season and has been a significant part of the team's success.

The Falcons face the winner of the Catocin versus Tuscarora match at home in their first regional challenge. At that point, their focus will be to take each game one at a time. Whether the 2004 Falcons bring home a state championship as they did in 2002 or become a state finalist as in 2003, their play, dedication, and hard work make them champions for sure.



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United Spirit Competitive Cheerleading

By Curtis A. Osborne
Contributing Writer

Across the nation, high school and college soccer and football games have begun. Most athletic programs prepared for the season with light summer workouts as well as having various camps for the athletes to sharpen their skills. Serious practice begins in earnest in August, in anticipation of the season opener. Far from the radar, but going through equally strenuous practices in far off hot gyms, are athletes competing in the sport of competitive cheerleading.

To many outsiders, you can't put "cheerleading" in the same sentence with "athlete" or "sport". However, they would probably change their perspective if they attended just one practice or competition. These are physically taxing competitions that rival football and basketball games in intensity, with packed auditoriums, screaming fans, concerned family members and rowdy rivals. Like any sport, the fear of injury is real, as those cheerleaders who have suffered broken bones, separated shoulders and blown-out knees can attest. Competitive cheerleading combines the spirit of traditional cheerleading with the grace of dance and the conditioning and skill of gymnastics. They perform pyramids, flips, tossing, jumping, twirling and handsprings. All of the things your parents told you not to do at home.

In the spring of 2004, two of the area's most successful programs formed one of the best and biggest gyms in the region when Frederick Spirit and the United All Stars gym merged to form the United Spirit All Stars. Because of the merger, they will be able to compete at the highest level of competition. They get to practice in a beautiful, new, and massive 8000 square foot training center with the amenities and guidance needed to make them champions. They now have six teams, which include two junior teams, two senior teams, one mini and one youth squad. Placement on those squads is based on skill level, which is ascertained during tryouts.

According to Suzie Garrett, one of the coaches at the gym, they have some of the most talented cheerleaders in the area and the best qualified coaches, who have several years of experience as coaches and as former cheerleaders. "For 2004-2005," Suzie says, "we expect the program to grow even more and be very successful during the competition season. With these extremely talented girls and hands-on coaches, the competition season will be great. Merging together was the best idea for these two programs and will lead to a long lasting program."

So far, the new union has gone smoothly. It is always difficult to merge two groups that have perhaps different philosophies, missions and culture (see AOL and Time Warner) but this merger has gone extremely well. A lot of that success has to go to the owners, Pam Jamison and Pat Rakich, the Program Director Nicole Haight, all of the extremely tough, talented and dedicated coaches and of course, the girls themselves.

To develop a sense of camaraderie and teamwork, as well as to work on their skills, several of their squads went to a cheerleading camp at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in August. The young ladies and coaches had a great time bonding and working on stunting and tumbling. More importantly, they got to hang out and get to know each other and build a team, which is very important. Team chemistry is very important any sport, and this is no different. Also this summer, the gym has had several open houses for them to show what they are all about and to recruit new members.

The dividends for such hard work will certainly payoff in the upcoming season. They have a tentative competition schedule which has them competing in Hagerstown, Washington DC, Baltimore, Florida, Hershey Park, PA and others. If you are interested in finding out more information on the program, contact them at 301-371-0313.

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