

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

May 6, 2005

Volume 2, Number 5



Read about the spy tree in Mystery History. Page 9.



Eight hopeful young men faced the judges...



Then five hopeful young men faced the judges. You can't wait to find out how this turns out. See School News on Page 22.



They're off! This event is right around the corner. See Equestrian on Page 23 for more info.

Five Teenagers Injured in Car Crash on West Willard Road

By Rande Davis

The season of careless teenage driving came early to the area this year, and the accident came within inches of being fatally tragic. Just before 2:00 p.m. on April 28, a group of five students from Damascus, Maryland was spotted speeding past Poolesville High School headed south on the rolling and curving West Willard Road.

School bus drivers were lining up for the regular dismissal in front of the high school when driver Connie Moore's attention was drawn to the white, sporty coupe "flying" toward the golf course. A few minutes later it was apparent that something had gone terribly wrong. The

driver of the coupe turned around, and as it headed back toward the high school, the bumpy, winding roadway, coupled with excessive speed, caused the driver to lose control as it slid broadside into a telephone pole.

Not all passengers in the back seat

were wearing seatbelts. It appears no one was thrown from the car this time. Two were flown to shock treatment in Baltimore while the other three were transported to Suburban hospital. Broken bones, bruises, and severe bleeding were the result, and all in the accident are expected to recover.

Chief Moore of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department pointed out just how incredibly lucky these students were, "As the car slid into the telephone pole, the impact point was precisely at the post between the front and the back seats. Had the car impacted a few inches more either way, the most likely result would have been fatalities."



Colored Light

By Dominique Agnew

The front door of Fran Asbeck's house features a stained glass window (a light in fenestration parlance). This door is not only the entry to the Asbecks' Boyds home, but it also represents Fran's beginnings in the artistry of creating stained glass and the foundation of his studio, Lead and Light, located therein.

Unlike many of the artists featured in Center Stage, Fran did not spend the bulk of his life in artistic endeavors. In his own third-person bio, he tells it succinctly, "Having misspent most of his working life in high-tech industry, and certain there was more to his calling, he

discovered an artisan hiding within, and has been hurrying to make up for lost time, spending full time in the study and practice of the craft of glass." The precursor to this errant working life was a childhood in Toledo, Ohio, coming of age during the 1960s Rust Belt Depression where "the only employment was the unemployment line." At the age of twenty-two, Fran came to the D.C. area as "an economic refugee of North Ohio." He worked in the high-tech industry, but, finally, disgruntled that it evolved into the manufacture of weaponry, he hung up his high-tech hat to turn to other endeavors.

About ten years ago, Fran decided he wanted a stained glass design in the light of his front door, and he

thought to himself, "Why not learn how to do it?" He took a class through the Montgomery County Recreation Department—and was hooked. Initially, he had estimated it would take

—See Center Stage Continued on Page 14.



Fran Asbeck

Frederick Commissioners May Ban Slot Machines

The Frederick County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) is considering a bill to ban slot machines within the county and possibly within municipalities within the county. The State House of Delegates has a bill that earmarks Frederick County as one of only four slot machine sites in the state. Public hearings on the matter will be scheduled as early as this summer. The vote to consider the ban was four to zero with Commissioner Bruce Reeder not voting on the issue.

Family Album

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Governor Ehrlich addresses the annual Lincoln Day Dinner. Listening are James Pope, Mrs. Erhlich, Congressman and Mrs. Roscoe Bartlett.



Soldiers from Walter Reed Army Medical Center are welcomed at White's Ferry Pavilion for their day of fishing, food, and relaxation.



Volunteers for "Rebuilding Together" working on a local home.



Chip Smallwood and Carl Hobbs prepare food for the visiting wounded soldiers from Walter Reed Army Medical Center.



George and Houston Miller at the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association Annual Meeting



Attendees at the Sugarloaf CA Annual Meeting

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Tributes

A Year on Haifa Street—Lt. Christina Adams Returns Home

By Jack Toomey

The last time some of us saw Christina Adams, she was playing basketball for the Poolesville girls' basketball team. Now she has returned to us, a confident and proud young woman, after spending a year in the most dangerous place in the world.

Christina graduated from Poolesville High School in 1998. She went on to Elon University in North Carolina and graduated with a degree in Social Science Education. She participated in the ROTC program and after graduation, she was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and was assigned to a transportation training unit at Fort Eustis, Virginia. Upon completion of training, she was ordered to Fort Hood, Texas, the home of the First Cavalry Division. On March 16, 2004, Lt. Adams arrived in Kuwait, and after two weeks of resupplying her unit, arrived in Baghdad, Iraq.

Her base of operations was on Haifa Street, one of the most danger-

ous areas in Baghdad, just outside of the secured zone. As the Executive Officer of her unit, some of the duties included gathering intelligence from civilians, repairing the infrastructure of the city, and providing security for the "Green Zone." Christina's unit also was made up of cooks, mechanics, and other support personnel. "Almost every time we went out to pick up

(a disabled or damaged) vehicle, we came under hostile fire," she recalled.

Lt. Adams's Task Force had about seven hundred soldiers, and she estimated that half received the Purple Heart, and five were killed in action during their year of deployment. She said that one of the most terrifying episodes happened when "we were walking back from breakfast and mortar fire came in and we took cover." A U.S. civilian was killed and a fellow soldier was wounded.

The conditions at her "Forward Operations Base" were spartan. The electricity was off "half the time," and during the summer months, there was very little running water. Christina chuckled when she shared an embarrassing moment that happened last summer. Her unit had a rifle range and during practice with her M-16, the heat of the weapon and sun combined to give her a blistered nose which lasted about a week!

The Iraqi elections were one of her fondest moments during her year in Iraq. On that day in January, her unit provided security for the operations

base, but the next day they went out to clear the street of barricades and "people were coming up to us showing us the proof that they had voted. They had purple ink on their fingers, and the Iraqi national anthem was playing in the streets."

Despite being stationed in a war zone, Christina had email capability and communicated with her family and friends almost daily. She received packages of goodies and necessities from total strangers and was especially appreciative of the large package that she received at Christmas from the Leadership Class of Poolesville High School.

Christina says, "I don't have any regrets, and I think (my mission) was a success." She learned "a lot about other religions and culture and especially why people (commit suicide)" in the name of their beliefs.

What's next? She is scheduled to return to Fort Hood and to await her next assignment. We are all very proud of Lt. Christina Adams and of all the other young men and women who are serving our country across the world.

More Tributes on Page 18.



Lt. Christina Adams.

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Police Blotter Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

The Montgomery County Police Department continues to respond to reports of underage drinking parties in the county. Officers want to remind the parents of teenagers to be particularly cautious of possible drinking parties taking place when they are away from home and to be aware that teenagers may smuggle alcohol into a party even when the parents are at home.

Before leaving teens unsupervised, parents should set and communicate clear rules to be followed in their absence including no parties or gatherings while they are gone. Be direct about expectations and the consequences of your child's actions. Give your teen the phone numbers of several adults to call in case of an emergency and contact your local district police to check your property during routine patrols. Finally, notify your neighbors to keep an eye out for any unusual activity at your home

while your teen is unsupervised.

We are just completing the spring break season, and the months for proms and graduations are fast approaching. Parents and adults are again reminded that it is illegal to host a party where minors drink alcohol or even to allow teen drinking in your home. Adults could receive a \$1,000 fine and be sued civilly.

For tips on how to host an alcohol-free party for teens or to report advance knowledge of an underage party, call 301-670-SAFE. If someone has knowledge of a party in progress, or if a party becomes dangerous, call the police non-emergency number 301-279-8000.

April 15, 2005, at 8:50 p.m.: Tavaughn Funderburk, age 28, of the 16900 block of Longdraft Road in Gaithersburg, was arrested and charged with robbery. The arrest was a result of an attempted robbery of the CVS Pharmacy at 18080 Mateny Road in Germantown.

April 24, 2005: 20005 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville. Theft - A 24" x 28" painting depicting a Paris street scene and a 4" x 6" Persian rug with a reddish geometric design were

stolen from Caudussian Rug Gallery. Anyone with information is asked to call Officer Yee, Montgomery County Police, 301-840-4650 or Mir Mozaffari, 301-407-0470.

April 24, 1944: Police were investigating the apparent accidental drowning of two Maryland residents. It was reported that three people, in a small boat, were fishing on the Potomac River between Poolesville and Seneca, when their boat capsized. A fifteen year old boy managed to swim to safety but the others were presumed drowned.

April 25, 1902: Joshua Terry, William Prater, and Gary Dines bought four pies at a bakery at Germantown and retired into a pine grove to eat them and shoot craps. In a quarrel, either over the pies or the game of craps, Terry was shot and killed by Prater. Terry was arrested and taken to the jail at Rockville.


May 4, 1970: A 24 year old Clarksburg man was shot to death and a 31 year old Gaithersburg man was critically injured during an altercation at the Ox Yoke Inn in Germantown.

May 5, 1903: An accident occurred at Dickerson, six miles west of Boyds,

this afternoon at 5:00 pm at the government stone quarry which supplies the District of Columbia with crushed stone for street making. One man was fatally injured and three others painfully wounded. The men were putting down a hole for another blast before quitting work when the explosion happened.

May 6, 1981: An Air Force jetliner packed with sophisticated missile tracking equipment exploded in the sky over Frederick County and crashed in a rural area near Walkersville. All 21 persons on board were killed. Dr. Alan Garst, a veterinarian, was treating a horse when he saw the plane explode above him. Later investigation revealed that the explosion was caused by a malfunction of the control system.

May 13, 1933: Henry King, 33, of Clarksburg, was in critical condition at Emergency Hospital in Washington and J. Carlton Knight, 34, of Rockville, was at Montgomery General Hospital as the result of an accident on the Rockville Pike. The gasoline tanker that they were driving struck another autoist and exploded causing severe injuries to all three.



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Editorials

Location, Location, Location.

By John Clayton

At the recent Boyds Civic Association meeting, Senator Rob Garagiola and County Executive candidate Ike Leggett each commented on Montgomery County's emerging demographic dominance, and also on Montgomery County's continuing image problem with the rest of the state.

The shifts in population among Maryland's counties are well known and the implications and social dynamics have been discussed far and wide. In short, Baltimore City, long dominant politically by virtue of its large population, has been losing people in each census as the Washington suburbs of Montgomery and Prince George's counties have grown. So-called exurbs Calvert, Cecil, and Charles counties have had the fastest growth rates, with each having population increases of just under three percent. (Maryland Newline, www.newline.umd.edu.)

This translates into losses of representation in the state Senate and House of Delegates for Baltimore

City, and gains for all those others. As Senator Garagiola pointed out, Montgomery County now has more Senators and Delegates than any other jurisdiction, and as a result, they are able to fight for a larger share of the pie. Baltimore City is doing what any responsible municipality would do in such a situation — it is challenging the census numbers.

Traditionally, Montgomery County sent our tax money to Annapolis where a disproportionate amount was diverted to Baltimore City. This still goes on to a degree, but little by little, Montgomery County's muscle and hopefully the resolve to keep more

—Continued on Page 19.

Corrections

In our April 8 article on artist Caroline Jasper we made several errors. Her Web site address is www.carolinejasper.com. Her publisher is Watson-Guptill. The Monocle apologizes for the mistakes.

Rande(m) Thoughts

Pre-Prom Warning

By Rande Davis

The most frightening night of the year for parents of high school students is once again upon us. Prom night, a celebratory all-nighter, meant to be an evening of fun, excitement, and filled with fond memories for the years ahead is just around the corner. No one wants to spoil the party, but here is a sobering thought. Fifteen people under the age of twenty-one died last year in Montgomery County in thirteen car crashes. Forty percent of those crashes involved alcohol.

Can there possibly be even one senior who has not been admonished about the dangers of drinking and driving? School faculty, administrators, and many concerned adults have used just about every technique available to get the "don't drink and drive" message out. Still, the accidents occur, and friends and family mourn.

Most of our students will adhere to the warnings and at the very least, arrange for a designated driver — but that is not the answer either. Other-

wise, nine of those young people who died last year would be with us today. We need to remind even those who wisely choose not to drive after consuming alcohol that driving is dangerous enough on its own merits. They need to be reminded that avoiding an early death is really a two-part process. Sure, not drinking and driving is essential, but nothing kills more than speed. The message really is: Don't drink and don't speed.

There are plenty of crosses along the roads marking deaths that are not related to alcohol. The warning signs of death pop up along our roadways each and every day as we travel about. The roadside crosses and markers seem to be everywhere. As of this writing, there are two on Darnestown Road, three on Whites Ferry Road, one on West Willard Road, one on Beallsville Road, and at least two on River Road.

I have mixed thoughts on these well-meant memorials. On the one hand, a simple marker can serve as an ongoing reminder to all to drive carefully. On the other hand, some of them have the serious potential of being a

—Continued on Page 12.

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In the Garden

A Child's Garden

By Maureen O'Connell

Gardening is a fun and educational way to introduce your children to the wonderful world of nature. Children are natural gardeners; they are curious about everything and love to play in the dirt and get dirty. It is never too early to teach them a respect for the environment and the cycle of the seasons. For children it is almost magical to watch a little seed that they have planted grow into something they can pluck off the vine and pop into their mouths to eat. As they say, imitation is the highest form of flattery, and children love to imitate their parents. Whatever mommy and daddy find interesting must be so. All of us have at some times learned that the hard way. This spring let's put this mimicry to good use, and create a garden for your child as a family project. The following tips will get you started.

First, let's find a sunny spot in your yard and prepare the soil.

Explain to your children that plants, like people, need a comfy bed to lie in. They also need to eat and drink. So you add to the soil "food" that will help the young seedlings grow tall and strong. And, when they get a little droopy, we give them water. Your child's garden can be part of your larger garden, or better yet, give them his or her own special spot. Keep it small, so the job doesn't overwhelm them; this is supposed to be fun. Do you have an old sandbox that your children have grown past? Convert it into a garden bed, but make sure it has drainage holes. Have your children help you make a little painted sign that says "Mary's Garden" or whatever his or her name is. This will help develop a sense of responsibility, if they feel that this little plot of earth is "all mine." If you are short on garden space, a small container can be home for lettuce or cherry tomatoes. . . For a child two to four years old, this might be enough to handle.

Now that we have our soil ready, we are going to need some serious tools. Cheap, plastic children's gardening tools will easily break. There are some cute tools on the market that

are sized for children's small hands. Schylling (1-800-767-8697) make tools for the three to five year old set. For those under two, tools and toys are the same thing. Geniusbabies.com. sells a brightly-colored canvas tote with small plastic tools that really work. For the chic young gardener, there is a mini Provencal market bag from R.K.Alliston, one of London's best garden shops (rkalliston.com). Alextoys.com have garden gloves so cute and snug fitting that children will actually wear them. They also carry garden aprons, and colorful and durable kid-sized watering cans. These cans come in handy when making mud pies. So that the garden mud can be left at the porch door and not trekked through the house, backyardgreenhouses.com have children's colorful plastic clogs.

Your child now has his or her garden plot ready, his tools are set to start digging and weeding, and he is properly outfitted for his role as a gardener. Now is the time to take the trip to the garden center to choose plants and seeds.

There are many choices for young gardeners. Here is a list of some that

are easy to grow, have short growing seasons and are fun to harvest. Large seeds such as beans, corn, sunflowers and nasturtiums are easy for little hands to plant. All children love huge sunflowers. They take up a lot of room, so plant just one or two. These magnificent flowers are American natives. Most take eighty to one hundred days to mature, so have patience. In the fall, the large dark centers will be packed with a rich payload of crunchy seeds for roasting. Don't forget to save some for the birds. Every year we plant a couple of acres in sunflowers for the birds. It is amazing how fast the birds can eat them all.

Does your child refuse to eat salad greens? Most children do. If they are part of growing and harvesting the little leaves, they might be more interested in eating salads. Choose leaf varieties as they mature sooner than head lettuce. Make sure you grow enough to share with Mr. Peter Rabbit and family. Children don't like radishes, but they are easy and fun to grow. They germinate in three to ten days, and have a very short growing season of twenty to thirty days. Seeds planted in cool weather yield a mild radish, or

—Continued on Page 10.

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Big Board

Visit a Swiss Garden at the National Cathedral

The annual Flower Mart at the (National) Cathedral is on May 6 and May 7 and is a salute to Switzerland. This is wonderful fun, exploring all the tents full of crafts, flowers, and food. There is also a white elephant and book sale, tea available, and the greenhouse is open and full of garden delights. There will be Swiss entertainment and a running carousel. The cathedral is at the corner of Wisconsin and Mass Avenues in the District.

PBA Summer League Basketball Tryouts

This is the time to sign up for the Poolesville Basketball Association's six competitive teams in the Montgomery County Recreation Department's "Rising Star League." For both boys and girls, there will be a sixth grade team (made up of current fifth graders), a JV team (current sixth graders), and a varsity team (current seventh graders). All players residing within the Poolesville District, including those who attend private schools, are welcome and encouraged to try out. For more information, contact PBA

President Jim Brown at 301-221-1988 or visit www.pbahoops.com.

UMC's Popular Bull Roast Set for May 21

Those great cooks with the Crafty Ladies and Gents are sponsoring their very popular Annual Bull Roast on May 21 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. It's a very reasonable \$10.00 per adults, \$5.00 for kids 4-10, and for those under three – FREE. The full course meal features pit roast beef, sides, dessert, and beverages.

Dance into the summer

Our Lady of the Presentation is sponsoring a fun-filled pre-summer "Beach Ball" dance on May 21. The evening will be held at the Potomac Valley Lodge in Poolesville, and along with the dancing and socializing, there will be a silent auction, refreshments, and cash bar. The evening kicks off at 8:00 p.m. and runs until midnight. It is \$25.00 for couples and \$15.00 for singles. Tickets can be purchased by calling Cathy Raugh at 301-972-8647. Anyone wanting to donate a silent auction item can call Helen Trainer at 301-349-5159.

A Reel Contest at Collier Circle Pond

The 15th Annual Richard S. McKernon Youth Fishing Tournament is

scheduled for Saturday, May 14, starting at 9:00 a.m. A great morning for anglers from six years old to sixteen years old, there will be prizes for the big ones. This is a really popular event so registration is a must. To get registration forms and more information click the Poolesville Town website at www.ci.poolesville.md.us.

Simply Mozart

The Montgomery College Chorus and Symphony Chorus will present a concert entitled "Simply Mozart" on May 8 – a perfect way to top off Mother's Day activities. The concert is located at the Rockville campus at 7:30, and the price is right: free and open to the public.

Spirit of Freedom – Fife and Drum Muster

Cross the river for a weekend of fifeing and drumming. Friday, May 6 there will be a free concert (a tattoo) at 6:30 by the Loudoun Border Guards on the Loudoun County Courthouse Lawn, King Street, downtown Leesburg. There will be a Ring of Friendship then a fife and drum "jam" until 9:00 p.m. following the tattoo put on by visiting fifers and drummers. Saturday is the parade at noon in downtown Leesburg followed by performances in the gazebo in Ida

Lee Park. For more information, go to www.fifeanddrum.org/lbguards or call 703-244-9798.

Frederick Children's Chorus Spring Concert

The Frederick Children's Chorus is celebrating its twentieth anniversary with a special concert Saturday, May 21 at 7:30 at Thomas Johnson High School. For more information, check the website: www.fredcc.org.

Take the Trip of a Lifetime!

Ms. Holly Dacek from Poolesville High School is organizing a June student trip to Scotland departing on June 21, 2006. From the steep hills of capital city Edinburg to the fields of Culloden Moor from the depths of the dark waters of Loch Ness to the turrets of Stirling Castle, get to know the highlights of multifaceted Scotland. See another vision of Britain as you head south to England, filled with Gothic abbeys and class domes and prehistoric landmarks. The current tour cost is guaranteed through June 15, 2005. For more information call Ms. Dacek at 301-972-7900, or holly_dacek@fc.mcps.k12.mdd.us. Or go to www.explorica.com, click "Join a Tour" and enter TourCenter ID: DACEK-43.

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At Your Service

Theresa Bliss

By Jack Toomey

Her students call her cool, awesome, and helpful. She loves teaching, and her second home is the classroom.

Theresa Bliss grew up on Long Island and went to Minnesota for college. She earned degrees in Math Education at the University of Minnesota, Biology at Stoneybrook University, and a Master's Degree in Education at St. Thomas University.

She taught for five years in Minnesota before coming to Montgomery County and was selected to teach math when John Poole Middle School opened. She has taught algebra to seventh and eighth graders since arriving at JPMS and is now the math resource teacher.

Mrs. Bliss has enjoyed her time at JPMS and says, "I love Poolesville.... can't imagine teaching at any other county school." She is especially proud of the performance of her students this year. On the county-wide algebra test, fifty percent of her

seventh and eighth graders scored an A. Theresa thinks that it is especially interesting to teach siblings and keeps track of her kids once they leave to go to high school. "Sometimes the ninth graders come back to let us know they are all right," but after that they seem to adjust to high school.

Her kids are especially fascinated by the fact that she is married to

Robby Bliss, the postal carrier in most of the Poolesville neighborhoods. She often is asked, "Are you married to the mailman?" Mrs. Bliss recently returned from maternity leave after having her second child. She laughed when she recalled that one of her seventh graders went home and announced, "Mom, Mrs. Bliss is pregnant by the mailman!"



Theresa Bliss

She wishes more parents would take advantage of the system where parents can access their child's homework assignments, grades, and progress from their home computers. It's accessible from the school website. She also worries when she sees her former students out late at night put-

ting themselves in situations where they could get into trouble, and she suspects that their parents don't know where they are. When asked how kids have changed in her thirteen years of teaching, she reflected, "Kids today know more about adult topics and seem to grow up faster."

Mrs. Bliss is a bit nervous about the selection process for the new principal. She is now working for Dr. Jerome Lynch and says, "He's great." Then there is the concern about dropping enrollment and she hopes some solution can be worked out so valuable programs and skilled teachers won't be lost.

Jennifer Ogden, now an eleventh grader, remarked, "Mrs. Bliss is a very understanding person, and she would stay after school to help me." Alice Hardwick, also a junior in high school, said, "She had a song about (algebra) that really helped me...I can still remember the words today." Jason Brandt, a senior, was enthusiastic when he recalled being Mrs. Bliss's student, "I loved her as a teacher.... and she inspired me to love math." Theresa Bliss is a dedicated and caring teacher. We are fortunate to have her teaching at our middle school.

Mystery History

The John Walker Spy Case

By Jack Toomey

Twenty years ago this month, our area of Montgomery County played an important part in one of the most serious espionage cases in the history of the nation.

John Walker, a navy enlisted man, collaborated with agents from the Soviet Union to betray the United States and delivered material that could have been devastating to the nation in the event of war. His travels, sometimes reaching into upper Montgomery County, happened without notice or detection until May of 1985.

John Walker enlisted in the navy in 1955 after being given a choice between jail and the military service after being arrested for breaking into a gas station. He qualified for duties as a radioman which gave him the keys to the nation's secrets. Radiomen routinely transmit, receive, and have access to the most sensitive information and documents that can mean the difference between victory

or defeat in time of war. In 1967, he was stationed at Fleet Headquarters in Norfolk where he had access to many secret codes, documents, and other top secret material. He realized that the Soviets would probably pay for this type of material so one day he drove to Washington and simply knocked on the door of the Russian Embassy. Walker was interviewed by KGB agents, the Soviet equivalent of the FBI, who verified that he was legitimate and Walker's espionage career began.

In the ensuing fifteen years, John Walker would provide the KGB with a treasure trove of communications key codes that allowed them to decipher U.S. radio traffic and communications during the Vietnam War and most of the Cold War. Some of this information included the location and times of B-52 strikes and the positions of American ships and attack submarines. At the time, Walker's spying was described as "devastating to the United States" and "the most important" (spy operation of its time). Walker would occasionally travel to Europe to exchange the top secret information for cash but became greedy. He believed that the secrets that he was selling were worth more. Walker

then recruited a friend and his brother who were both in the navy to join him in his activities.

Later investigation revealed that John Walker passed bags of secret information to the Soviets in upper Montgomery County as far back as the early 1970s.

Walker was nearing retirement at the same time that his son, Michael Walker, had joined the navy as a seaman. Michael was assigned to the aircraft carrier, USS Nimitz, where he worked in a clerical job. John Walker talked his son into photocopying classified documents and carrying them off of the ship under his clothing or in bags. John Walker retired and settled in the Norfolk area. He made frequent trips to the Washington area where he and the Soviets set up a complicated system where Walker would leave bags of top secret data at secluded spots in upper Montgomery County and then later go to another deserted spot where he would find a bag of cash left there by KGB agents. One of his drop-off spots was at the base of a large white oak tree, no longer standing, that stood at the intersection of White Ground and Schaeffer Roads.

Eventually Walker's ex-wife telephoned the FBI and told agents that

she suspected that her former husband was spying for the Soviet Union. The FBI obtained wiretaps and set up a constant surveillance of John Walker. One evening in May of 1985, Walker drove north on Route 95 towards the Washington area. He was followed by a team of FBI agents and an airplane. He left Route 495 at River Road and drove west. Near the intersection of Quince Orchard Road and Dufief Mill Road, Walker left a signal by the roadside to alert the Soviet agents. He then drove out Darnestown Road to Whites Ferry Road and then onto Partnership Road and traveled to a pre-designated spot where he left a trash bag of documents under a huge oak tree. The bag was quickly retrieved by the FBI who had been watching him the entire time. In the meantime, a KGB agent who had Walker's payoff realized that he had been spotted and left the area. Walker then drove to the intersection of Old Bucklodge Road and White Ground Road where he expected to find two hundred thousand dollars. He thought there must have been a mistake so he left the area and checked into the Ramada Inn on Route 28 near Rockville. Later that night, Walker was arrested and

—Continued on Page 21.

**Child's Garden Continued from
Page 7.**

hot weather gives you a hotter radish. To complete your salad you must have tomatoes, preferably cherry tomatoes. Plant seedlings rather than planting from seed. Your children will have fun eating them fresh from the vine. Nasturtiums are another fun plant to grow. Their edible leaves and flowers add great color to summer salads. If you plant the rambling varieties, they can get quite invasive. I have given them their own garden spot, far from my roses, as they were annoying their neighbors.

Sensory plants are a good choice for curious little gardeners. Once you start seeing through your child's eyes, the choice of plants become easy. You must think large, bright, fragrant and weird. There is no room for Monet's Giverny garden in a child's garden. No color is too brash; no ornament too tacky. Even garden gnomes are welcome. A child lives in the here and now and his garden is all id. He wants to see, feel and taste everything NOW. Let him or her (sorry females for always referring to "him") taste the leaves and flowers of the wonderful sorbet-colored nasturtiums, the tingling spearmint leaves, the woody

rosemary, the peppery basil, and the mild onion taste of chives. Be careful that you don't give your child the impression that everything in the garden is edible. Let him know which plants are toxic. Check out ansicor-nel.edu/plants/alphalist.html for a list of poisonous plants. (There must be a list with a shorter web site). Smell the wonderfully aromatic lavender, the Chocolate Cosmos, which gives off a scent of chocolate and vanilla, and the strong earthy fragrance of marigolds. Lamb's ear (*Stachys byzantina*) begs to be stroked by little gardener's fingers, for it really does feel like a lamb's ear. Silver sage has a cotton wool-like down that covers its large silver white leaves. Ever so gently touch the prickly flower heads of the Globe Thistle (*Echinops bannaticus*).

Introduce your children to the birds and the bees of the garden world. Teach them what are their favorite foods. Hollyhocks and monarda attract hummingbirds; asters, Scabiosa "Butterfly Blue, cosmos and zinnias are magnets for butterflies. If you use non-organic insecticides, tell them that some are deadly for bees, which are so important in the pollinations of plants and flowers. I would plant these from established plants rather than seeds. The seeds can be quite small and hard

for a toddler to handle. This type of garden might be more appropriate for an older child.

If you have the space, pumpkin is a "must" for a child's garden. They are not fast growers, but by Halloween, no need to go to Butler's Orchard, you'll have your own pumpkin patch. For fun personalize your pumpkin. After you have planted the seeds, watered and waited for them to germinate and the plants are a couple of inches in diameter, let your child write his name or initials on the pumpkin with a felt marker. You can then take a paring knife and go over the letters using strong enough pressure to scrape the pumpkin skin. As the pumpkin grows, so will the initials or name.

There is something in a child, especially in the ten to twelve years of age ones, which likes gross, weird things. In the plant world, you could say that gourds fall into that category; they are not necessarily pretty with their vivid, oddly shaped shells and bumpy skin. Gurney Seeds (www.gurneys.com) have several different varieties that would appeal to children. There is Turk's Turban, a very colorful, edible gourd. The Dipper gourd has pale green skin and can be carved out to make a fine water ladle.

The Birdhouse gourd is big enough for a bluebird house. After harvesting it, cut out an entrance, take out the seeds, varnish it and decorate with colorful paint. Voila. You have a bird house.

Now, last but not least, let's create a scarecrow. Let your imagination run wild. That is, not hard for most children. But let's not make it too scary. The birds and the rabbits and the squirrels and the deer have to eat too; plant enough for all. I admit I was saddened to see most of the 150 tulips bulbs I planted last fall chewed to the ground by the deer, but I didn't stay mad too long. Man encroached on their living space long before they entered ours.

Gardening with children can teach us all a little something about patience, disappointments, the wonders of Nature and the need to share our planet with all of God's creatures. Remember that wonderful book, *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett? Make a secret garden for your child. It doesn't have to be hidden behind tall walls and trees. Any garden can become a haven from today's hectic world. Our children live in a very busy, fast-tracked and consumer-minded world. Teach them to love the simple beauty of a garden.

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Rande(m) Thoughts Continued
From Page 5—

significant distraction that may very well cause the death of some other driver who momentarily takes his eyes off the road.

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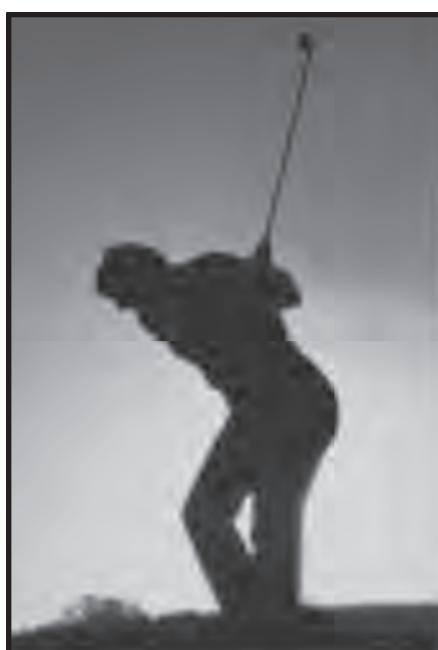
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Center Stage

Continued from Page 1—

him one year to become good enough to prepare the stained glass for his front door, but (you know the saying, the cobbler's children wear no shoes) he became so busy he didn't finish the door for four years. From the very beginning he did shows, and people were buying his pieces, so he promptly hung his sign out and has been in the black ever since.

He has found in the past seven years that many of the smaller pieces sell best: boxes, business card holders, and the like, but he prefers to make larger pieces — "bigger than a bread box, smaller than a house" — these are usually installed immediately. His largest work to date is a stained glass encompassing thirty-five square feet in the courtyard and lobby of N Street Village in Washington, D.C. Undeniably stunning, it is a visual smorgasbord of light, color, and intricate symbols.

He has also received commissions for other businesses in the area: Global Database Systems, Inc. and Barry's Magic Shop in Wheaton. Have you been to the Waters House at Pleasant

Fields in Germantown lately? The transom above the front door is his creation. Fran is pleased that, through word-of-mouth and making contacts, he can leave the selling of his work to some galleries and small stores. This allows him to focus on producing, although he'll still take part in a few shows per year.

While he spends much of his time in the creation of stained glass pieces, preferring to produce above all else, he also teaches the craft to others through the Montgomery County Recreation Department, the Black Rock Center for the Arts, the Stained Glass Window in Damascus, and in his studio, among other places. Nevertheless, he is continually learning about presenting art and cutting glass, and he continues to try new techniques including kiln forming, etching, and fusing fine paints, although he only works with black paint saying, "If it was good enough for medievalists, it's good enough for me." He wants to be sure his work will last for centuries, as well.

His wife, Kathy, provides an interesting anecdote. Years ago, while they were walking through a room full of stained glass in storage, Kathy had remarked that she would love to be surrounded by stained glass.

The many windows of the Asbecks' home now make up the perfect studio for the display of some of Fran's pieces, one of which is a clown as Kathy worked as a clown for many years.

As Kathy says about Fran, "He has just blossomed with this."

Yes, the front door serves as the main point of entry into their home, but it is also a portal into a delightful garden of glass.





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Local News

Property Tax Rate Lowered by Commissioners

By Rande Davis

The long process of reviewing and adjusting the town budget for FY 2006 was finalized at the April 18, 2005 meeting with a unanimous approval. The controversial matter as to whether to fully accept the additional revenue to be realized from increasing property values was settled when the commissioners voted to reduce the property tax rate from .23 cents per hundred dollars to 22.1 cents per hundred dollars. The adjustment prevented the increase in revenue from exceeding seven percent, thereby avoiding the possibility of a voter referendum.

The end result is a budget that, with all things being equal, will end up slightly in the black with a surplus of nearly \$1,300. The new FY06 budget of \$2.2 million, although seemingly lower than last year's budget, does not have FY05's Wastewater Management Fees which were moved from the General Fund to the Water and Wastewater Fund. This accounting procedure was done to simplify and more clearly

show the breakdown of the actual expenses incurred in the Water and Wastewater Fund.

A representative of the town's engineering consulting firm, View Engineering's John Strong, presented the results of a public bid to finish the sidewalks on Fisher Avenue. The sidewalks to be installed will be in two locations: one in front of Poolesville Beer & Wine and the property immediately west, and the other in front of the Fyfe property and Poolesville Physical Therapy. Commissioners Dillingham and Klobukowski both voiced interest in including new sidewalk and/or repair on that area at the corner of Wooton and Fisher Avenues that proceeds toward the elementary school. No decision was made on that for a variety of reasons including a required property owner approval and a future plan for the area that has the potential for new sidewalks that would not have to be paid for by the town. The cost of the project is set to be \$52,000. The company winning the bid was Cylos, Inc. Town Manager Wade Yost reported that a grant for fifty percent of the cost of this project will come from the state.

Mr. Strong also reported that preliminary testing of the results of the relining of sewer lines shows the

work has been successful in reducing in-flow and infiltration of ground water into the system. He was able to dramatically show the negative impact of such leaks from a video camera that had been inserted into the pipes. Such leakage overtaxes the wastewater system.



The Arena

Boyd's Civic Association

By John Clayton

The Boyd's Civic Association held its quarterly meeting on Thursday, April 21 and featured three outside speakers. The headliner, State Senator Rob Garagiola of District 15, discussed some of the accomplishments of the recent legislative session, such as the proposed free-standing medical facility in Germantown which he co-sponsored with Senator P.J. Hogan of Germantown. The new Adventist Health Care Satellite Emergency Department awaits Governor Ehrlich's signature before it can become a reality. Senator Garagiola discussed the challenges they faced in getting the bill passed, as this is the first facility of its kind in the

state, and it was resisted by virtually every hospital in the state.

Senator Garagiola also discussed various bond bills which provide funds (often matching funds) for local projects such as the Germantown Boys and Girls' Club, the Seneca School House Museum, the Red Wiggler Farm in Clarksburg, and the Barnesville Town Hall restoration. All of these projects received bond-based funding in the recent session.

Senator Garagiola also touted the Maryland Energy Administration Solar Energy Grants and encouraged citizens to get their applications in as soon as possible while funding still remains.

Following Senator Garagiola, former Montgomery County council president Isiah "Ike" Leggett delivered a speech in support of his campaign for Montgomery County Executive. Andrea Arnold, managing director of Celebrate Rural Montgomery, discussed the ongoing celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Agricultural Reserve and encouraged everyone to talk it up and to visit www.ruralmontgomery.org for more information. (Please see the *Monocle*, April 6, for our article *Celebrate Rural Montgomery*.)



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Local News

Power Outage from Car Accident

The Tama subdivision in Poolesville was without power for nearly three hours on Saturday, April 23. In the early morning hours a youth lost control of his car on Doctor Walling Road and collided with both a light pole and the electrical power junction box servicing Tama, both located at the junction of Doctor Walling Road and Selby Avenue. Around 8 a.m. an Alleghany Power crew arrived and turned off the power to conduct

repairs to the junction box. Power was restored shortly after 11 a.m.

Tama Residents who arrived at the scene shortly after the accident stated that the driver, who appeared to be intoxicated, attempted to flee but was nabbed by the police. *(Story and photo courtesy of Ralph Hitchens.)*

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- Al Rosenzweig

Al wishes Kumud, Subway's new owner good luck!

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Tributes Continued from Page 3.

Sgt Troy Buchanan on Second Deployment

Sgt Timothy "Troy" Buchanan, USMC, graduate of Poolesville High School Class of 1994, has been deployed for the second time to the Persian Gulf. He is the son of Mike and Pam Neville of Poolesville.

Sgt Buchanan is a helicopter flight crew chief for the Golden Eagles - HMM 162. They departed March 26 on the USS Kearsarge. He has a wife and four children living in Jacksonsville, North Carolina awaiting his safe return.



Sgt Buchanan and family.

Area Student Offered Jefferson Scholarship

Rachel Erin Carr of Poolesville is one of 44 students to earn the prestigious Jefferson Scholarship for study at the University of Virginia. The merit-based scholarships cover the

entire cost of attending the University of Virginia for four years.

Ms. Carr is the daughter of Peter and Rebecca Carr and a student at Poolesville High School. Ranking at the top of her class, Rachel is an outstanding student pursuing a challenging curriculum. She has been named a National Merit Scholarship Program finalist and serves as treasurer of the National Honor Society.

Outside of the classroom, Rachel has a strong interest in the environment. She interned at the National Institutes of Health, and while studying global ecology, has competed in Envirothon. Rachel is the leader of the Green Schools Club and co-editor of the school literary magazine. "Through these achievements and others, Rachel embodies the Jeffersonian ideals of excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, and citizenship," said James H. Wright, Executive Director of the Jefferson Scholars Foundation.



Rachel Erin Carr

Poolesville Girl Heads to Leadership Conference

Erica Neville, the daughter of Mike and Pam Neville of Poolesville, will represent Poolesville at the 28th Annual Hugh O'Brien Youth (HOBY) Maryland Leadership Seminar at St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland. This three-day seminar brings together a select group of students (HOBY Ambassadors) to interact with distinguished leaders in the business, governmental, and educational arenas to discuss relevant present and future issues.

Sophomores are nominated by their principal or advisor. These students must be seen as leaders within their high school and in the community. Only one student per school is nominated for this honor.

This conference has asked Erica to encourage the community to save pop tops for cans and for her to bring them to the conference. For more information on contributing please call the Nevilles at 301-407-0368.

HOBY was established by actor Hugh O'Brien following a visit to Africa in 1958 when he was inspired by a meeting with Dr. Albert Schweitzer. For further information about HOBY activities and sponsorship opportunities go to www.hobymd.org or call the International Office of Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership at 310-474-4370 or www.hoby.org.

Focus on Business Sit Back with Some Popcorn and Watch a Good Movie

By Marcie Gross

It's Friday night and you and your family actually have nowhere to be. You proclaim family night and begin to think about how to spend the evening. Suddenly a light bulb goes off! You and your family can spend a quiet evening together popping popcorn and settling in for a good movie—but where do you go to get a movie on a Friday night at this late hour? Why, Jon's Video, of course. He's right in town and practically always open. He has the latest releases as well as the classics and is ready to greet you with a smile and some neighborly advice for a movie for the entire family.

The Chisholm family has had a long history in Poolesville. They have seen the town change with the times. Jon Chisholm has carved out a niche of his own. Meet Jon of Jon's Video Library.

In 1972, the Chisholm family moved to the Poolesville area, and Jon graduated from Poolesville High School in 1975. During his high school days, Jon worked for Mr. Selby at Selby's Supermarket. He said, "Mr. Selby would sit by the back door to collect

—Continued on Page 19

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Location Continued from Page 5—

at home will continue to erode this trend. We will know more later.

Of more interest, though, is the rest of the state's disdain, dislike, and envy of Montgomery County citizens. As Mr. Leggett said, the rest of the state sees us as this "cheese eating, wine drinking blob." He also observed that this attitude makes it hard for our senators and delegates to represent us. We've all taken the brie and chardonnay shot before, but I guess we just took it because we had to, but now, we're getting big and tough. It's time to get even.

If there's an irony at work here, it's that Baltimore City, Prince George's County, and Montgomery County are overwhelmingly Democratic and probably in sync on most issues, at least on a theoretical plane. Here in the upper Montgomery County and lower Frederick County, the voting precincts list more to the Republican side. We probably have more in common with voting patterns in Charles,

Cecil, and Calvert counties, among others, but this isn't a battle over lofty ideals or party politics—this is a battle over filthy lucre and state pork. The three most important factors are location, location, and location.

Face the facts. We have a governor from the Baltimore area, a House Speaker from Anne Arundel County, a Senate President from Chesapeake Beach, and two U.S. Senators from Baltimore—no Montgomery or Frederick County folks in that lineup.

It is time to shift the tectonic plates of state government in the direction of our numerical superiority. It's time to set aside our petty partisan differences and vote location, location, and then more location. It's time to have our cheese and eat it, too. The Monocacy region can lead the rest of the county and swing the entire state. We can start in the democratic gubernatorial primary by voting for our own Doug Duncan over the Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley. Mindful of our new game plan, we should all vote for Mr. Duncan over the incum-

bent Baltimorean Robert Ehrlich. It follows that our plan should extend to national offices—our one hundred percent solidarity will persuade our own Congressman Chris Van Hollen to run for the U.S. Senate seat against whomever Baltimore trots out in the primary and general elections. By this time, I would assume the Senate Presidency and House Speakership will have passed to deserving members of the Montgomery County delegation.

This could work. I realize that all of these candidates are Democrats, but that wasn't my intent—honest.

Movie Continued from Page 19

the incoming stock, and Mrs. Selby would be at the front of the store greeting townspeople and watching the inventory leave the store." Back then, Selby's was not in the shopping center where it is today. It was where Healthworks is now located. Jon fondly remembers helping to move the supermarket from that location to its present one.

Jon left the area for a while to

attend college in Florida, but found his way home to Poolesville in 1979. In the early eighties, Jon worked once again for Mr. Selby and was interested in working for Mr. Willard, another well-known Poolesville resident, at his fix-it shop. When Jon asked Mr. Willard for a job and claimed he had no experience in this area, Willard plainly told him to go to school and closed the door. So that's what Jon did. He went to school and learned how to repair televisions and other electronic devices. Afterwards, he went back to Mr. Willard's shop, told him he had gone to school, and Mr. Willard hired him immediately.

At that time in Poolesville history, there was a video store in the shopping center where the Public Library resides today. Jon (and a few town folks) didn't care much for this store because it didn't have a very welcoming atmosphere. In 1984, Jon decided to open up his own shop in town where he would fix televisions and VCRs, and he included video rentals. Needless to say, the other video store didn't last the year, and Jon became our "video guy." As the years went on, Jon expanded the video side of the business. Today, you can find "a great variety of movies including the current ones as well as odds and ends related to computers, DVDs, and VCRs," says Poolesville resident Jim

—Continued on Page 22.

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The Pulse

Hope Springs Eternal in Frederick County

The steep rise in the cost of housing in both Montgomery and Frederick Counties has had a rippling economic impact in a variety of ways, none more profound than the impact on homeless women with children. While being only one of many causes for homelessness, the lack of available and affordable housing in the area has aggravated an already severe problem.

Almost two out of every three homeless persons in Frederick County are women. There has been a 120% increase in demand for family shelter. Hope Alive, Inc., a Christian-based, non-profit 501(C), is making headway in its effort to provide transitional housing for homeless women and children.

Transitional housing differs from emergency or even long-term shelter in that it exists as a bridge from homelessness to permanent residency through a program that not only offers shelter but also provides individual case management, counseling, training (both educational and vocational), and most importantly, offers a caring and faith-based reference for women

and their children who are without a home.

The founder and board president of Hope Alive is Sue Oehmig, a veteran of more than ten years of working and volunteering in matters of homelessness. She holds a master's degree in non-profit management and has devoted the last three years to making this organization a reality. She has extensive experience through working with the Frederick Rescue Mission, a shelter for men that is also a non-denominational faith-based program to help men who are homeless.

Major progress was achieved last October when the organization was able to take title to a thirteen-acre property in Sabillasville that already has a house and barn. After renovations are completed, hopefully by the end of the year, the facility will begin its mission by helping up to twenty-five women and children. They will provide comprehensive support services that are designed to assist their client-residents through a challenging transitional path to full self-determination. While the time women and children live at the facility will vary, the maximum stay cannot exceed two years.

Their Christian-based approach will be a witness-by-example model that they believe optimizes and brings alive a true sense of hope and accomplishment for the women and their children.

Their fortunes recently took a dramatic step forward, even though for a short time, things looked quite bleak. The Frederick County Board of Commissioners originally voted 3-2 against funding \$100,000 to the program through the Affordable Housing Council. At the time, there was a variety of issues that concerned the majority on the commission such as impact on the neighboring area, possible zoning conflicts, the size of the requested amount in relation to the entire annual Affordable Housing Council's budget from the county, concerns if this type of housing fell under the auspices of the council, etc.

At the request of Margie Lance, chair of the Affordable Housing Council, Commissioner John Lovell agreed to meet with her and Sue Oehmig on April 11, 2005. After an interview that lasted more than an hour, Commissioner Lovell requested a new vote on the matter the following day at the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners (B.O.C.C.). With the request granted, he changed his vote to the affirmative altering the final outcome 3-2 in favor of Hope Alive's request.

In an email, Ms. Oehmig stated, "He (Commissioner Lovell) asked lots of thoughtful questions and was sincerely interested in the welfare of homeless women and children in Frederick County."

Mr. Lovell informed the *Monocle*

that there were a variety of reasons that caused his change in vote. "In the first place," he stated, "these decisions are never in a vacuum. Keep in mind that we receive a great many of these types of requests, most of them from very worthy causes. In this case, we try to balance the concerns of some people within the neighboring area who have shared with the commissioners a strong concern about the location of the program. I was also very concerned with the amount of money requested. The amount represented nearly fifty percent of the annual budget of the Affordable Housing Council's revenue from the county. For me, there were three overriding advantages to funding Hope Alive, however. First, there is great need in this area for women and children and this need has only increased when Faith House closed. Secondly, while requested funding absorbs up to fifty percent of the county revenue for the Affordable Housing Council, that amount of money will go to help up to twenty-five persons. Past precedent of funding other programs for emergency homeless shelters also affirmed that this could be a proper use of the council's revenue."

With renovations set to begin this summer, Hope Alive hopes to initiate its program sometime by the end of the year. Those wanting more information or wanting to help may call 301-620-0419.

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Things To Do

May 6

Monocacy Elementary School
Drama Group's Presentation
Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.
7:00 p.m.

May 6-7

Spirit of Freedom Fife and Drum Muster
Loudoun County Courthouse Lawn
Friday evening tattoo (concert)
6:30 p.m.
Saturday parade along King Street
12:00 p.m.

May 7

Youth on Stage
Poolesville Library
Round House Theater Touring Group
Presents Musicool. 7:30 p.m.

May 8 Mother's Day

The Waters House at Pleasant Fields
Afternoon Tea
3:00 p.m. - \$18 for non-members

May 12

Poolesville Library Story time
Cuddle-ups. Music, stories, finger
play. Two-year-olds and up with par-
ents 10:30 a.m.

May 18

Monocacy Elementary School
Variety Show - 7:00 p.m.

May 19

Poolesville High School
Senior Awards Night
7:00 p.m.

May 19 through 20

John Poole Middle School Drama Club
"Sahara Nights"
7:00 p.m. - \$5.00

May 21

United Methodist Memorial Church
Annual Bull Roast
Full Course Dinner
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Pavilion
Community Adult Dance
8:00 p.m. to Midnight - \$10.00

May 21

Our Lady of the Presentation
"Beach Ball" Dance
Potomac Valley Lodge
8:00 p.m. to Midnight
\$25.00 - Couples; \$15.00 Singles

Walker Spy Ring Continued from Page 9—

eventually agreed to cooperate with
FBI and CIA agents, and he revealed
the depth of his espionage.

John Walker pleaded guilty and
was sentenced to life in prison with-
out the possibility of parole. Michael
Walker was sentenced to twenty-five
years and was paroled in 2000. This
was an extremely dark time in the
county's history, and experts believe
that many Americans died because of
John Walker's treachery.

It all happened here while we
went about our daily business, slept,
and drove the same roads as Walker
and the KGB agents. Why did Walker
and the Soviets choose the Poolesville-
Boyd's area for their espionage? At the
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School News

Monocacy Elementary

Don't miss the drama club's presentation of our favorite and yours, "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory," on May 6. For details, call 301-972-7990.

It's Check Time Again

On Wednesday, May 11, from 4:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m., the Monocacy Elementary Chess Club will host Clopper Mill Elementary for another intense Chess Tournament. This will be the *grande finale* of another successful year of the Chess Club. The Chess Club will need new direction for next year to continue. If you would like to volunteer to be a coordinator, contact Sarah Defnet at 301-972-7724.

The winners of the Knights of Columbus Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest have been announced from Monocacy and Poolesville Elementary schools. For the alcohol abuse posters, the runners up were Kaitlyn Bredice and Kara Scott; and first place went to Amy Defnet, all three of Monocacy Elementary. In the drug abuse category, the runners up were Kayla Knight of Monocacy and

Kelly Hughes of Poolesville; first place went to Dina Maita of Monocacy. The first-place winners' posters have already been sent to compete against other councils and regions. The winners of these regions will then compete at the international level.

John Poole Middle School New Principal Chosen

Richard H. Bishop, present assistant principal at Gaithersburg Middle School, will be the new principal for JPMS. Since 1986 he has been an assistant principal at two middle schools and one high school, all in Montgomery County. He began his career in MCPS in 1971 as a physical education teacher. JPMS PTA president, Sarah Defnet, plans to introduce Mr. Bishop to the Poolesville community on May 10.



New Principal Richard H. Bishop

Sahara Nights at JPMS.

The John Poole Players will present their spring production of "Sahara Nights" on Thursday, May 19 and Friday, May 20 at 7 p.m. in the John Poole Middle School All-Purpose Room. Tickets will be \$5 and will be sold at the door and at lunch the week of the performances.

Roberto Clemente Middle School

The Roberto Clemente Middle School Drama Club will be presenting "School House Rock, Jr." on May 12, 13, and 14 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for senior citizens.

Poolesville High School

Poolesville High School had students honored for outstanding volunteer efforts at the annual Marriott Spirit to Serve Community Service Awards held April 19. The award recognized PHS for the many service projects organized through its student leadership class. Students identify the needs they want to address and develop and implement activities. This past year, students raised funds at the school, invited local elementary and middle schools to participate, and sought business contributions to purchase more than ten shopping carts of

new school supplies to help Florida schools battered by hurricanes last fall. Mike Riley is the school's student service coordinator.

— Movie Continued from Page 19

Dolan. He continues, "Jon goes out of his way to help you find what you're looking for and even has a wait list in case the movie you want isn't there. You will be called when the movie comes back in." Jon's customer service also shines through when, as longtime Poolesville resident Lori Gruber says, "He knows your face when you walk in and can punch up your account right away."

Jon does a lot for our community. He hires local kids to work in his store. Everyone says how helpful and friendly his staff is to the customers—a tribute to Jon. Recently, Jon supplied "video bucks" to Monocacy Elementary students as a reward for the school's reading program. Jon is a proud member of the Monocacy Lions Club and the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce and has been president of both.

On the weekend and even during the week, stop in and chat with Jon and his crew. They'll get you ready for the movies!

Mr. Poolesville

He's dashing. He's debonair. He's (drums roll, trumpets shout, the red carpet is stretched down the aisle) Mr. Poolesville! Yes, the show of all shows hit Poolesville High School like a hurricane and swept the audience off its collective feet. The judges were overwhelmed. How could they choose just one man from this conclave of worthy men? Their talents were stupendous, their poise, enviable. They were Corinthians among boys: Eric Agnew, brave enough to chase cows...and teachers; Chris Demopoulos, he might save your life some day, rapping all the way; Matt Fields, don't vote for Pedro, vote for Matt's dance moves; Ben Hept, so funny, it's ridiculous; Chris Kramek, from the shores of Australia to a "Whose Line is it Anyways?" hoedown; Alex Kreiser, mothers everywhere beware, he just wants to Misbehave; James Mitchell, 1970s rocker who loves his cowbell and especially his mom, "I love you, Mom," (get the tissues); and Chris Rackens in the Great Race, who knew McDonald's was the Cultural Center of Poolesville?

There before the audience stood the Awesome Octet in formal wear molded to their fit physiques.

Who would win? How could the judges possibly decide? Fingernails were chewed, teeth were gnashed, hair was pulled. The suspense was too much! Please, irreverent judges, end the torture! Finally, one man was brought forth to stand alone. The suavest of the suave, the glibbest of the glib, he of the Great Dance Moves—citizens of the Monocacy region, meet your new leader, Mr. Poolesville! Oh, his name, right! Fellow countrymen, ask not what Mr. Poolesville can do for you, ask what you can do for Matt Fields, Mr. Poolesville to the likes of you.



Mr. Poolesville
Matt Fields

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Youth Sports

Girls' Lacrosse

The Poolesville High School girls' lacrosse team has a new coach, Betsy Tseronis, and she's a woman with a mission: she is dedicated to making Poolesville the first girls' high school lacrosse team in Montgomery County to win states.

Coach Tseronis graduated from Villanova University where she played lacrosse in 1997 after having grown up in Pennsylvania where she started playing at the age of twelve. Upon graduation, she worked in her field, sales and sales management, then retired to work in the real field—she knew she wanted to be involved in sports. In 2002, she and her husband moved to the Washington, D.C. area, at which time Betsy came to know Jenna Siegel of Champions of Tomorrow, a non-profit organization devoted to athletic endeavors for girls and women. Ms. Siegel is also the field hockey and lacrosse coach at Quince Orchard High School. Last year, while Coach Tseronis was an assistant coach at QOHS, she watched the girls' lacrosse game against Poolesville and decided Poolesville was the team she wanted to coach—she was so impressed by the talent and determination of the girls. She also feels strongly about Athletic Director Mike Riley, "He is known as a great A.D., and it's important to work with good people."

Coach Tseronis is very positive about the prospects of the team, she says, "The season is going along very well, but we can be lulled into a false sense of security." Most of the girls on the team started playing lacrosse as freshmen (this is actually the case across Montgomery County) while other counties have lacrosse programs in place for younger girls. This makes the competition outside of the county extremely tough. "A lot of skills need to be learned, and there is a lot of tactical knowledge to be gained."

Usually, Poolesville sports have a tough time within the county because of the bigger schools, but the opposite is true for lacrosse. "The county makes it difficult," says Tseronis about establishing lacrosse programs for the younger ages.

The bulk of the team is made up of sophomores. "The girls work very



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hard and are very dedicated, and there's a lot of leadership on the field coming from all directions," she adds. "This is definitely not a one-dimensional team." As she tells the girls frequently, "We are working today, not for the next team we play, but for the final goal."

The final goal of winning states may not arrive this year, but Coach Tseronis feels it is close. "When this sophomore class is seniors, we'll be unstoppable."

The Tuscarora Tennis Barn: Where Tennis is Fun

By Curtis Osborne

One of the fastest growing competitive recreational youth sports, next to golf, is tennis. Tennis's popularity is soaring right now and is a good way for kids to get in shape, play competitively or recreationally, play as an individual or as part of team, and have a great amount of fun in the process; but even if you are not the most athletically gifted person, learning to play tennis would provide benefits that last a lifetime. Because of the recent surge in popularity, tennis classes everywhere are filling up, with young and old participants alike. A terrific place to learn and play tennis is at the Tuscarora Tennis Barn in Frederick.

The Tennis Barn has been in business for thirty-three years, and it was established by Aubrey and Joyce Dixon, the principal owners, for people to learn the game and to have fun. For young athletes, the Tennis Barn has a very successful junior academy program that is designed to create a fun and educational experience for kids ages nine through eighteen. Aubrey, who is also the Head Pro, established the model of the junior program and his model is the method of instruction used by all of the staff.

It is a very nice facility that has a pleasant, friendly, and relaxed atmosphere. It is very family-oriented and has several exceptional amenities, including four indoor courts, separate locker rooms for men and women, two outdoor har-tru courts, [QE: What is har-tru? I think it should be defined for the readers.] a lounge, and a nicely-stocked pro shop with restringing

capabilities.

Rich Moreland is the director of the junior academy and is in charge of and responsible for running the program. Asked how he began there, he says, "I did not play tennis until I moved to Frederick right out of college. I decided to take up tennis and contacted Aubrey who started me with private lessons. Within eighteen months, I was helping him with lessons."

They have a great staff that has impressive credentials, and they gear their classes towards the kids having fun. Fun is the operative word here, as it is a very important part of the overall Tennis Barn philosophy. On staff, they have Rich who has coached at Middletown High School and currently coaches high school and tournament players. They also have Mark Turner who went through the junior academy program and played for Salisbury University. Phil Hammond played for Furman University and is also head tennis coach at Mount St. Mary's University. Also on staff are Greg Selby who played for Shepherd College, Susan Crane who gives private tutoring to juniors, and student instructor Sarah Roberts who is currently playing for Hagerstown Community College. All of the instructors have experience playing USTA events which is beneficial when teaching students.

"The junior academy's mission is to make tennis into a fun sport to be enjoyed for a lifetime," says Rich. "To achieve this mission, we emphasize stroke production and match play. We believe that every student, regardless of his or her ability, can learn to play tennis so that the experience is a social experience and a personally enjoyable one."

For those gifted athletes who want more competition, they have addressed the issue in creative ways. They created a winter Saturday night mixer where the best players can practice and compete against one another as well as enhance their skill development. Also, in the lobby, they have created a fun promotional board that displays photos of their junior "stars" which gives an incentive to all of the kids to one day make the big board too. They are also developing

other alternatives, including promoting tournament play for those inclined to do so. "We always keep our original mission in mind in that it is our overriding objective to make tennis fun for all," says Rich. "We are an extension of Aubrey, and we attempt to fulfill his philosophy every day that we are in business."

The Tennis Barn is not just for kids though, adults can benefit as well. They offer private instruction, women's and men's singles and doubles, round robin tournaments, mixed doubles, Friday Night Mixers, private court time, and USTA adult leagues on Saturday and Sunday. Tennis anyone?

For more information on the junior academy, contact Rich Moreland. For information on the Tuscarora Tennis Barn in general, you can contact Rich or one of the other fine staff members at 301-473-5050.

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