

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

January 13, 2006

Volume 2, Number 20

Inside the Monocle



Local rail commuting isn't going to get any easier if the MTA starts closing stations.



Local flood waters? See local News on Page 5.



Read our hot rodder story in Profiles on Page 14.



Another article about Boyds? No, not Boyds—Birds! In the Garden, on Page 12.

Fred Stearns: Beloved Community Servant Passes Away

By Rande Davis

Upper Montgomery County has lost one of its dearest and most important community servants with the passing of Fred Stearns of Dickerson on January 2, 2005. Mr. Stearns, eighty-seven, passed peacefully in his sleep. He and his wife, Jane, have dedicated themselves to the cause of helping those in need by leading Western Upper Montgomery County-HELP (WUMCO).

Born in Huntington Beach, California, he is survived by his wife of fifty-one years, two children, six grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Mr. Stearns retired as a Budget Director with the U. S. Geological Survey in 1972.

WUMCO has been a facilitating organization helping persons residing in the western upcounty region. Working closely with area churches, civic groups, and individuals, WUMCO responds to those facing difficult economic, health, or housing situations. As a result of the selfless dedication of the Stearnses, WUMCO, for over thirty years, has been able to efficiently and effectively respond to a wide variety of needs in a timely manner.

Many in the area have responded to Mr. Stearns's passing.

Rev. Steve Hayward, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, credits the work of Mr. Stearns by saying that he has been a "great gift to us everyday for his hard work. Whatever the need that came our way, he was always available to assist in finding ways to help those who needed help. He and

Jane have been a terrific resource to the community. With Fred's passing, I hope that the community rallies behind WUMCO and Jane in securing his life's work."

Jeff Griffiths, president of the Monocacy Lions Club, said, "Without WUMCO and Fred's work, groups like the Lions could not be as effective in helping those who need eyeglasses, eye exams, food, or many other resources. Our community is greatly indebted to him."

"Fred's passing is a time of sadness; however, how much sadder would it have been for Western Montgomery County if Fred had not been with us to accomplish what he did. Their (the Stearns) sensitivity to the hardships of their neighbors, and their willingness to help will live on in what they accomplished and will never be forgotten, particularly by those whose lives they touched," said Poolesville Town Commissioner, Jerry Klobukowski.

Persons like Mother Theresa are honored and declared saints. It is the angels among us, however, that touch our lives most directly. Fred Stearns was one such angel.



The late Fred Stearns, with executive assistant Renee Brooks, wife Jane Stearns, and Max.

MTA Holds Public Hearing on Train Station Closings

By John Clayton

A roomful of concerned citizens from Montgomery and Frederick Counties gathered at St. Mary's Pavilion in downtown Barnesville to offer testimony on the Maryland Transportation Authority's (MTA) proposed closing of the Boyds and Dickerson MARC commuter rail stations.

Testimony was exclusively in support of not only keeping the two local stations open, but of increasing service

to those stations. Nary a word was heard in favor of the closings. The three presiding MTA representatives were confronted with a barrage of

arguments against their organization's recommendation by a seemingly endless parade of local officials, civic organizations, and concerned citizens.

In early December, the MTA announced that they were proposing to close train stations at Boyds and Dickerson on the Brunswick Line through Montgomery County, and in Jessup and St. Denis on the Penn line to the east, "due to low ridership and an increase in expenses." The agency expressed the rationale that the already low ridership at the two stations has dropped while ridership has increased system-wide. Additionally, the need for additional



The upcounty turned out for the MTA hearing.

—Continued on Page 18.

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Editorial

The View from Baltimore

By John Clayton

The MTA recommendation to close two upper Montgomery County train stations has not stood up to further scrutiny over the past few weeks. The decision to halt service to those two stations would be incredibly short-sighted and at odds with the type of mass transit service that should be available in our area. Maybe it looks good on paper way up in Charm City, but it doesn't make sense on the ground here in Montgomery County.

The MTA's philosophy is to support large high-tech stations (mega-stations?) to serve larger areas, while deemphasizing, bypassing, and closing smaller local stations. The Germantown Station would appear to be their model, where larger scale parking facilities have been constructed. Laughably, the MTA touts Barnesville as a station that should accommodate travelers from other stations, even though the parking there is already at capacity.

The MTA should, as many have said, increase stops at Boyds and Dickerson as a way of attracting new riders and also diverting existing riders away from the overcrowded Barnesville Station and back to closer stations. Many people who would be better served by Boyds or Dickerson

use Barnesville because they cannot afford to be dependent on such limited service. This is the direction MTA should be taking to maximize train usage.

Additionally, what could the MTA's vision possibly be for the booming Clarksburg population? The Boyds station is small, and if it is left open, it would certainly not handle all of the potential traffic from Clarksburg. Their strategy appears to be to encourage people to drive to Germantown and (yes, we're laughing, but it isn't funny) to Barnesville.

The MARC trains are currently the only existing extension of Metro's Red Line into parts north and west of Gaithersburg. The Purple Line and Capital Cities Transitway initiatives are years away. The dollars saved (notwithstanding the disagreements on that point) are not going to bring these solutions any nearer. They had better try to build up existing assets, not close them down.

We note that the *Gazette* papers came out in favor of closing these two small stations while championing the idea of larger stations. This logic would extend to Washington Grove, Garrett Park, and Kensington as well. The *Gazette's* attitude isn't surprising. Neither they, nor their parent, the *Washington Post*, has ever seen a road or a bridge that they didn't think would solve our transportation problems. They are on the wrong side of the tracks on this transportation issue as well.



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The Monocacy MONOCLE

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John Clayton

President and Publisher

Managing Editor

(301) 349-0071

jclayton@monocacymonocle.com

Rande Davis

Vice President

Publisher and Editor

Advertising and Circulation

(301) 349-0070

rdavis@monocacymonocle.com

Dominique Agnew

Maureen O'Connell

Marcie Gross

Debby Lynn

Jack Toomey

Contributing Writers

Hilary Schwab

Contributing Photographer

Other Departments

editor@monocacymonocle.com

advertising@monocacymonocle.com

Published by Monocacy Press, LLC

P.O. Box 175

Poolesville, MD 20837


301 349-0070 • FAX 301 349-5646

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Local News

New Orleans or Poolesville?

Poolesville bore an eerie resemblance to New Orleans during the last week of December. The big red and white notice on the door of the Frederick E. Poole house was reminiscent of doors in the Ninth Ward after Katrina. It advised that the building had been declared unsafe to occupy, by order of the fire marshal. As in New Orleans, flooding was the problem. An unusually high water table coupled with the untimely failure of a sump pump led to nearly disastrous results.

On Wednesday, a tenant seeking the cause for a failed hot water heater threw back the old-fashioned outside basement doors and was greeted by an ominous-looking black lagoon lapping up the basement steps. The water had risen nearly to the top of the basement door jamb. In conversation with neighbors, the possibility of a ruptured water main was discussed. The town manager, Wade Yost, was notified, and he responded immediately by sending a city truck over. After inspecting the situation, Wade himself was called to the scene. City workers ran chlorine tests and inspected the flow rate of the "lagoon." It was verified that the cause of the flooding was not related to public water or street sewers. It was simply an underground aquifer gone amuck. The situation was also determined to be a significant safety hazard due to the water's proximity to electrical systems. "Water and electricity don't play well together" became the catch phrase of the day. Poolesville Tack & Supply employee Monica Breland noted, "If it was okay to mix water and electricity, I could blow dry my hair in the bathtub!" The amount of water itself was also a hazard. A quick arithmetic calculation by Debby Lynn, the tack shop owner, determined that there were in excess of six thousand gallons occupying the basement. A sudden subterranean pond could represent an attractive nuisance to a passing child, particularly dangerous as the possibility existed that the water was electrified.

Montgomery County Fire Rescue was called, and they dispatched a truck from Beallsville to investigate. Firefighters confirmed that the situation constituted an emergency, and a fire marshal was summoned. By close of business, there was a pumper truck,

three firemen, and two fire marshals (with their vehicles) on hand – plenty of action to satisfy curious onlookers!

Michael Semelsberger was the marshal in charge. His stated mission was to assure life safety. In other words, it was his intention to make sure no one was injured or killed, and to otherwise disrupt lives and businesses as little as possible. He had Allegheny Power de-energize the building so the danger of electrified water was removed. At this point, he closed and evacuated the building. In the opinion of this author, Marshal Semelsberger demonstrated exemplary competency in assessing the degree of emergency and responding correctly. He fixed the problem without overkill and without creating any hardships for the property owner or tenants. He was also greatly appreciated for the compassion he showed to tenants. He made sure everyone had a good place to go, and no one was unduly put out.

The next day, things were put to rights. The property owner had the water pumped out, and, thanks to Marshal Semelsberger's thorough and timely follow-up, the county electrical inspector immediately inspected and cleared the building to be re-energized. At that point, tenants were given permission to reenter the building and remove the alarming signage. All's well that ends well, thanks in part to timely and proficient responses on the part of Poolesville City and Montgomery County Fire and Rescue.

Town Manager Responds to Query on Use of Federal and State Funds

By Rande Davis

During a Town of Poolesville Commissioner's meeting this past fall, town resident, Conrad Potemra, questioned the commissioners regarding the accounting and use of federal and state funds secured through grants and loans. His stated concern was that the use of the funds had not been thoroughly accounted for.

At the request of the commissioners, Wade Yost, Poolesville Town Manager, subsequently put together a full report outlining the expenditures made with the 1990-1991 loan of \$1,028,500 and an EPA grant of \$444,923.

Mr. Wade's report was given to the commissioners at the December

—Continued on Page 13.



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Poolesville--Hunters Run: Spectacular home w/ 3 finished lvls. & upgrades galore. Main lvl entry foyer, den, dining rm, kitchen, sun rm, fam. rm w/ gas FP, powder rm. Upper lvl Owner's suite includes Owner's bath w/ soaking tub, double sink vanity, sep. shower, 3 more BRs, full BA, laundry rm. Lwr lvl game rm w/ tiled bar, theatre rm, full BA, & storage rm. Additionally, there is a split lvl mahogany deck w/recessed hot tub, concrete patio w/ raised platform Tiki Bar, in-ground heated pool, fenced backyard, 2-car garage.



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Lots and Land

Dickerson: Wooded 4 ac. building lot with stream adj. 700 acs. of parkland. County approved perc test. Well on property. MLS#MC5432488. Offered at \$315,000.00

Beallsville: 4.39 ac. lot near golf course, new equestrian center, Owens Park. No perc or well on the property. Property is being sold "as is". MLS#MC5110603. Offered at \$225,000.00

Poolesville: 2.75 ac. lot located less than one mile from the center of town on a quiet rural road within close proximity of the prestigious Woods of Tama subdivision This rolling, partially wooded lot boasts two approved sewer taps. MLS#MC5308569. Offered at \$349,900.

Dickerson: 18.71 acs. currently being utilized as a tree nursery, this property consist of 2 lots with one approved perc. Lovely homesite on a high elevation. Easily accessible to the Frederick area and Gaithersburg/Rockville. MLS#MC5308569. Offered at \$550,000.00

Dickerson: 5.85 ac. non-buildable lot conveniently located of State Route 28. Potential uses include hunting and numerous recreational uses. Offered at \$125,000.00

Poolesville: 25 ac. building lot with County approved septic system for a 5 bedroom residence. Surrounded by farmland, this level lot is within and mile of State Route 28 and approx 7 miles from White's Ferry and the C & O Canal. MLS#MC5389405. Offered at \$750,000.00



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Day Tripper

Revolutionary Daytripper in Boyds

By Dominique Agnew

It's that time of year again. Yes, our thoughts to turn the betterment of self—namely, getting in shape. While some may try di— (phew! That was a close one. I nearly used the “D” word, and we don't use the “D” word in my presence; it's akin to replacing butter with margarine)—some may try modifications of eating habits, others will attempt to increase their physical activity (the “E” word is tolerated—exercise). Fortunately for the *Monocle* community, Montgomery County has provided us with a great place for exercising or for taking the family out for a few hours of wholesome fun right here in Boyds: the Germantown Indoor Swim Center in, er, Boyds.

Just a hop, skip, and a jump from much of the *Monocle* readership, the Germantown Indoor Swim Center in Boyds offers a variety of independent activities, as well as classes and teams. The typical weekday hours for the GISC (shouldn't it be the BISC?) are from 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m., and there should be lap lanes open during almost all the open hours of the pool. For recreational swimming, there is the leisure pool for kids which features fish-shaped buckets that release

their loads once they're full. The main recreational attraction is the slide arrangement. There are two large slides that empty into a receiving pool, then there are more slides from the receiving pool to the leisure pool.

Other amenities include two hot tubs and a coed sauna on deck, and a weight room which includes ellipticals, stairsteppers, and weight machines. It's a good idea before visiting to be sure there are no other activities taking place as the GISC (in Boyds) will host swim meets and dive meets.

For the frequent swimmer, memberships are available on a prorated basis as the year begins in September. Membership includes access to the four indoor pools in Montgomery County and the seven outdoor pools.



The PHS Swim Team caught on dry land at the GISC in Boyds.

The facility is available for rental for parties, and there is an excellent variety of fitness classes offered. There are water fitness classes geared towards seniors or to help alleviate arthritis. Deep water running offers a great workout with no impact. Cashier Jessica Harding says, “We have fantastic instructors.” In the shallow pool, classes are offered in water aerobics, high intensity and fast paced, and water exercise which is of a lower intensity than the aerobics. Even though the GISC (not really in Germantown) is mostly about swimming, there is also available one land-based class: Pilates.

So maybe this year's resolutions to become more fit will become part of a routine more easily with the proximity of the Germantown Indoor Swim Center. It's just over in Boyds, after all. For more information, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec and click on programs, then aquatics, or call 240-777-6830.

Tributes

Area Soldier Selected for Advanced Military Studies

Major Sean Paul Davis, graduate of PHS (Class of 1989), has been notified that he has been accepted into the Army's School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS). This masters program is through the Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. He is currently enrolled in the Command and General Staff College completing his Masters in Business Administration through Webster's University.

Major Davis has had three full tours of duty in the Middle East. He was with the 101st Airborne in both Afghanistan and during the initial invasion of Iraq. He was with the 1st Cavalry in his last tour in Iraq in 2004 and 2005. He now resides at Ft. Leavenworth with his wife, Camille, and their two children, Alexandra and Joshua. He is the son of Poolesville's Laura and Rande Davis and son-in-law to Janet and Gary Hartz.



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At Your Service

Hi, Miss Michelle!

By Marcie Gross

Whenever our family enters the Poolesville Library, the first thing my sons do is look around, spot their friend, and say, "Hi, Miss Michelle!" Their eyes brighten, and their smiles are always wide. Miss Michelle responds by greeting them (she always remembers their names) and asking them, "What's new?" My children aren't the only ones who adore Miss Michelle a.k.a. Michelle Seltzer. I've seen lots of children go through the same ritual as mine. So many of the neighborhood kids (babies and toddlers included) know Michelle and are happy to see her each time they visit the Poolesville Library.

My older son, A.J., was so excited when he found out I was writing an article about Miss Michelle. He remembers that she was the person to give him his first library card when he was five. My younger son, Mickey, seems to always ask Miss Michelle for very specific books (i.e. he remembers the picture on the cover and

most of the title) and she finds them for him immediately with a smile on her face. For as many questions and requests my sons make (and there are so many), Michelle will help them and make them feel that they and their questions/requests are very important.

One Monocacy Elementary School parent told me, "I'll never forget when



Michelle Seltzer

last spring Michelle visited my son's kindergarten class. She instilled so much excitement into reading. My son asked to go to the library that day

to get his own library card!"

Perhaps Michelle works so well with children because she has spent the majority of her professional life with them (in addition to her two own children, Eric and Jerri). She spent many years in the Montgomery County Public School system as a part-time instructional teacher for eleven and a


half years, a kindergarten assistant teacher at Seven Locks and Kensington Elementary Schools, and a third grade teacher at Harmony Hills. Michelle decided to get into the library system within Montgom-

ery County and began as a shelving assistant and a substitute librarian, and has worked her way up to a library associate II. During that time,

she worked at the Bethesda and Germantown Libraries before coming to Poolesville Library just six years ago. In addition to her library duties, she enjoys leading Cuddle Ups, the zero-to twenty-three-month-old babies/toddlers, in a story time once a month.

Michelle not only spends her time helping others find wonderful books to read and use for research, but reading is one of her own hobbies. Believe it or not, she can read four books at a time. In her spare time, Michelle says that she reads mysteries, historical fiction, and biographies. When asked what her favorite books were, she listed them categorically: Picture Book – The Very Hungry Caterpillar, by Eric Carle; Juvenile Fiction – Charlotte's Web, by E. B. White; Adult Mystery – The Ladies #1 Detective Agency, by Alexander McCall Smith; and Adult Fiction – The Kite Runner, by Khaled Hosseini.

I know that Michelle has brought the joy of reading to so many children in the Poolesville community, and we owe her our thanks and gratitude. She would just blush to hear anything of the sort and simply say that it was her pleasure. So the next time you visit the Poolesville Library, make sure you say "Hi!" to Miss Michelle. It will make her day.



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Police Blotter Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present

The Montgomery County Police Department is reminding community members about the importance of not leaving cars unattended while warming up. The colder than normal temperatures during the winter make it very tempting for drivers to warm up their cars in the morning and leave them running when they make short stops. However, thieves sometimes take advantage of this practice, and cars are stolen. Last winter, seventeen cars were stolen during January and February when drivers were not present, but their cars were running. Maryland law requires drivers to turn off the engine, remove the keys, and to

set the brake before leaving an automobile.

Police also suggest that cardboard packaging from holiday gifts, such as electronics, appliances, or computers, be broken down to prepare the boxes for recycling. Once broken down, the boxes will no longer advertise what you have just purchased and will not be an invitation to thieves. It is also wise to record the serial number and model of all items.

The Montgomery County Police Holiday Impaired Driving Task Force was in operation from December 14 to the 23. The following statistics were released:

Fifty-six people arrested for DWI/DUI. Sixty-eight citations issued for underage drinking.

Four hundred ninety-nine tickets and six hundred fifty warnings issued.

Murder. December 27, about 5:30 a.m. 18400 block of Stone Hollow Drive, Germantown. Officers responded for a report of gunshots and found Stephen William Kelley, age twenty, shot to death in the front seat of an idling car. Kelley had a prior

record of weapons and drug arrests, and police believed that the murder was drug related. On December 30, police detectives arrested Quinton Thomas, age twenty, of Gaithersburg, and charged him with first degree murder. Police said that Kelley and a twenty-one-year-old woman had gone to the house to buy drugs and that the woman was aware of a scheme to

—Continued on Page 19.




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Center Stage

By Dominique Agnew

"There were no other options left to us," Carol Purcell says of what fate had in store for her and her sister. Both parents were artists, and the sisters frequently commiserate on their joint destinies. What else could they be but artists? Now, if only Carol could decide on what kind of artist she is. As she puts it, "I still haven't decided what I want to be when I grow up."

Well, when she was growing up, Carol lived in North Carolina where her father had a business, Hyalyn Porcelain, in Hickory, North Carolina as a manufacturer of gift and artware ceramics. From the 1940s until 1972 when he sold the business, Hyalyn Porcelain put out a wide variety of porcelain and ceramic pieces including ashtrays, vases, serving dishes, cups (like the one from which I was drinking my tea), and lamp bases that were used by the major American lamp companies. Many of these pieces are fast becoming collectibles, so if you have a Hyalyn or see one at the local flea market, keep a careful hold on it.

Carol's mother was also an artist and was very involved with the business as she designed most of the pieces for Hyalyn. She also taught art and was a sculptress, creating works in clay and casting in bronze.

Carol attended Duke University and received her Bachelor's degree in English like her mother and sister before her, but then she rebelled, and instead of earning a Master's in art like they did, she earned hers in writing for young children. After her university years, Carol married and was a professional girl scout. Her husband's work brought them to Montgomery County where they lived on Susanna Farm in Boyds beginning in 1963. At the same time, Carol began what she calls the Mommy Track. Ten years later, they left Susanna Farm to live in the home they had built in a new voting district—right across the street.

When I was first told I should talk to Carol, she was described to me as a potter. She certainly is a potter, but she didn't get into ceramics until the 1980s. She was, however, very involved in different types of art, notably writing. She wrote for *The Little Acorn* in Darnestown with the *Monocle's* own illustrious Maureen

O'Connell. When that became no more, she was a reporter for the *Up-county Express* which was later sold to another paper. She continued her writing with another defunct paper called *Quirks*. For many years she wrote for and edited the newsletter for the Arts League of Germantown of which she's still a member.

While she was writing and raising her two sons, she was still creating artwork in different media. "My whole life has been one of writing and art, intertwined," Carol explains. She was always involved in different shows and is a member of numerous arts organizations and leagues. She participated in many juried shows, but made it a point to stay in local shows after watching the ordeal it was for her mother to ship her bronze in crates using professional movers. "I didn't want to go there."

Prior to veering towards ceramics in the 1980s, Carol dabbled in photography and did a lot of monotypes, a complex style of printing. She also created with fiber arts, but as she transitioned from one focus to another, she never completely abandoned her previous interests. "Things blend into each other," she says. She frequently has hints of other techniques in her later works. Carol says this is true for many artists, "Lots of the art fields lead into others."

In the 1980s, Carol decided to take more classes because she felt she was lacking in studio arts. "I felt I needed more art," she adds. Plus the kids were older. She earned three Associates degrees in art education, art history, and studio art. She attributes much of her work of the past twenty years to Montgomery College, "A lot of what I do now is a spin-off of Montgomery College."

Presently, much of her work is divided between pottery and miniatures. Unlike Hyalyn Porcelain which used the slip casting method

of creating ceramics where liquid clay is poured into a plaster mold, Carol's pieces are all hand-thrown or hand-built. One of the distinctive marks of her work are the carvings and swirls.



Carol Purcell

Recently, one of her hand-built vases was on display at Strathmore Hall. Every year Carol takes courses at the Montgomery County Adult Education Ceramic Studio. She prefers to do her

work there because of the risk to her septic system from the clay. "Clay is really messy," she says.

Her miniatures have also been very successful. Because of their size, she will ship miniatures, and they have been in juried shows around the country, from the west coast in Washington State to nearby Virginia and Pennsylvania. Two of her miniatures were part of a display at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. Most recently, Carol had a number of works on display again at Strathmore Hall for the 72nd Annual International Exhibition of Fine Art in Miniature put on by The Miniature Painters, Sculptors, and Engravers Society of Washington, D.C. (they make up for the size of their works in the length of their names). This show is presented every year in November and December—"a huge show of little bitty things," Carol says. If you've ever been to any of the local art shows in and around Boyds and Germantown, you've probably seen her variety of work including her jewelry. "I enjoy the colors of beads and beading," she explains. For Carol, jewelry is almost recreational.

What about that Master's degree in writing for young children? Her writing has been neglected because of the time it took to create and send the miniatures to show. "I'm hoping to do more writing," she says. There are seasons for some of the shows. For miniatures which show in the summer and fall, she has to prepare in the spring. Maybe soon Carol will find the right season for writing, if she decides she wants to be a writer when she grows up.



Two pieces from the studio of Carol Purcell.



In the Garden

The Birds of Winter

By Maureen O'Connell

A garden is not complete unless it is home to nature's original residents of gardens, the birds. In my daily garden walks I am always conscious of the presence of birds. If they are absent, I miss their melodious songs, their constant chattering, and the soft rustling of their wings in the tall boxwood shrubs. The garden feels like ghost town, without the birds of winter.

As I have repeated many times, gardens live in a state of constant evolution. It is the same in the life of a bird. Every autumn, like clockwork, there is a vivid change of birdlife across across the face of North America. Biting winds, blowing snow and below-freezing temperatures flush out the last of the die-hard insect eaters of summer and usher in the hardy birds of winter. It can be said that all birds that live in North America from December 22 to March 21 are birds of winter, because some form of winter occurs throughout the entire continent between those dates of the year. Yet painted buntings that are typical winter visitors at feeding stations in Florida are not "winterized" birds. They are not equipped to deal with deep snows and temperatures of -20 degrees Fahrenheit with forty mile per hour winds and a wind chill of -ninety degrees Fahrenheit. The 'real' birds of winter are those that not only survive such weather, but handle it routinely. Ornithologists consider the true 'snowbirds' as those species that winter in significant numbers north of forty degrees north latitude. That region would include the northern tier of the states in the West, Mid-West, and Northeast, plus all of Canada and Alaska. If you drew a longitudinal line across the United States, it would fall roughly from northern California, across to Indianapolis to northern New Jersey. We, in Maryland, fall on the fringes of this locale.

My garden is home to hundreds of birds throughout the year. But, it is during the winter months that I more carefully watch them. The key to survival for a bird in winter is the same as for every animal that must endure the cold season. It must eat enough food to maintain adequate body temperature and find shelter to protect itself from the cold. The

birds are not the only ones trying to keep warm, so they must remain alert to avoid becoming food for another animal that is also trying to keep warm. The normal body temperature of birds varies, but generally they are higher than humans. For a sparrow to maintain his normal daytime temperature every minute of the day, and have enough energy to stay warm all night, he must eat more than necessary in the summer months. Small birds, such as chickadees and finches must eat almost constantly.

In addition to the amount of food a bird eats, the kind of food is equally important. They must get foods rich in nutrients to boost their



metabolism. The food of choice for all birds would be sunflower seeds. They are high in protein and attract the 'glamour' species such as cardinals, grosbeaks, finches and jays. They are the best bird food value for your money. For years I filled my bird feeders with 'wild bird seed mix.' It was mostly millet, which the squirrels scattered hither and yond. In the spring, what had fallen to the ground all winter, now grew into thick mats of 'millet grass.' I have switched to sunflower seeds, a little mixed seed, thistle seed and cracked corn.

Beef suet is a wonderful treat for all birds, especially woodpeckers. Crows can be very clever and determined in attacking this delicacy in little wire cages. One day I watched as a large, black crow patiently undid with his beak the wire closing and plucked out the entire suet cake and flew away with it. I guess he was a fan of 'fast food.'

Where you place your feeders is important in attracting the largest number and variety of birds. Many birds will not go near feeders close to a house. I love to watch the birds, so I

put most of my feeders in the middle of the center garden, which is visible from all of my back windows. Ground feeders, such as sparrows and doves, seem to like food sprinkled on the ground. Cardinals, grosbeaks and jays will eat on the ground, but they prefer a more elevated dining table. Finches, chickadees and titmice prefer their feed in hanging feeders. Woodpeckers and nuthatches are very clever in where they prefer to eat their meal. The next time you see a woodpecker at your feeder, watch where he goes after he gets the seed. Often he will fly to the upper part of the tree, lodge the seed in an opening in the rough bark, and proceed to eat it or store it there for future snacks.

Don't forget to provide fresh water for our feathered friends, now that most of their natural sources are frozen. I have tried electric heaters, but in order for the heater to do its job, the depth of the water in the bird bath was deeper than most birds preferred. So, every morning I boil a kettle of water and pour it into a shallow bird bath. Unless it is very cold, the water will remain ice free for a good part of the day.

Did you ever notice that sometimes the area around feeders is humming with birds, and at other times there is no bird in sight. There can be several reasons for this. Sometimes, if you have been forgetful in refilling the feeders, the birds will give up on you and find food at your neighbor's table. Very often it is the presence of a hawk. The other morning I looked out the kitchen window and noticed five or six large, black crows hopping around and eating the seeds on the ground. Suddenly, they exploded into flight, wildly screeching and flew towards the woods. I looked more closely and sure enough, they were chasing a hawk away from the feeding area, where several small sparrows had gathered. There have been several studies that show that birds of winter display different levels of socialization and communication from summer birds. Various species of birds that might not flock together at other times of the year, will group together when foraging for food in the winter. This flocking of mixed species is another winter survival technique in which birds find more food and enjoy better protection from predators than

do individual birds.

During the winter months, a bird might appear larger than he looked in summer. When the cold becomes an obstacle to survival, nearly all species of birds fluff their feathers for better insulation against the loss of body heat. Birds also waterproof their feathers several times a day while they preen, using their bills to distribute oil produced by a gland at the base of their tails.

Winter is the time of long nights and short days. After the sun goes down and there is not even a few weak rays of sun to provide some warmth, the night becomes another obstacle to a bird's survival. Some birds slow their metabolism, lower their body temperatures, and reduce their heartbeats to conserve energy. A protected shelter, especially at night, is vital for birds' winter survival. Dense shrubs and bushes are ideal resting areas. I have several large boxwood shrubs near several feeders. They are home to many birds on cold winter nights. There are two very overgrown holly bushes on both sides of the screened porch. Every year my husband suggests that we replace them, and every year I protest. I call them my apartment houses for the hundreds of birds that live there year round.

For reasons I don't know, I have noticed a dramatic decrease in the number of birds in my back yard and at my feeders this year. For the past many years, I have sometimes refilled my feeders daily. This year they all remain half full for a week or more. Where are the raucous blue jays, the brilliant red male cardinals, the flighty finches, the pushy crows, the meek doves, and the ever-present sparrows? I miss them. The annual Audubon bird count takes place at the end of December. I shall be interested to see if this bird decrease is throughout our whole Monocacy area. As the winter garden quietly sleeps, I need the chattering of my bird friends to provide the spark to lighten up my gardens. Yesterday, when Max, Sam and I took our usual late afternoon walk, the garden was quiet, too quiet. It is one, small connection to Nature that man needs, the wonderful birds of winter. On a cold winter morn, with a brilliant blue sky overhead, the sight of a startlingly, brilliant red cardinal against a blanket of pure white snow is enough, if only for a moment, to light a spark within the garden.

**"Local News" Continued From
Page 5—**

meeting, and the listed details showed funds were accounted for and all expenditures were supported through paid invoices with cancelled checks which had to be submitted in order for grant reimbursement. Further audits were completed by the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) to ensure the funds were eligible and properly disbursed. Details of the full report are available at town hall.

**Follow-up on Hit-and-Run
Accident: Ferris-McSweeney Making Progress**

Former Poolesville resident, Stephanie Ferris-McSweeney, was the victim of a hit-and-run accident in Colorado (*Monocle* December 23 issue). The mother of seven suffered a broken neck, broken shoulder, a pelvis broken in two places, and a leg broken in two places as a result of being hit by a vehicle whose driver failed to stop. Her severe injuries had caused her to go into a coma.

As a follow-up to our original story, her mother, Pat Ferris, who resides on Wasche Road in Poolesville, reports that her daughter has made significant progress in her recovery and is no longer in a coma. Mrs. Mc-

Sweeney opened her eyes on Christmas Eve and was able to demonstrate an ability to follow persons in the room. Through medical examination, she has also demonstrated that her ability to speak, while extremely limited at this time, has shown potential for recovery.

Pat Ferris, stated to the *Monocle*, "This was the best Christmas ever. Although I was discouraged at first, her progress on Christmas Eve and afterwards, has been very reassuring. I was able to attend the Christmas Pageant in her place that had four of her adopted children performing." The play, which was written by the children, started off with Santa and elves pushing a button on the sleigh that brought them back to Bethlehem. "I know that Stephanie would have loved the ending which had the elves proclaiming after the nativity scene that 'this is what Christmas is all about,'" she adds.

The *Rocky Mountain News* has announced that a reward has been set up for information leading to the arrest of the driver who has not yet been identified. The family in Poolesville has set up a special fund to assist the family of Mrs. McSweeney. Those wishing to support the fund may contact Pat Ferris at 301-972-7205.

**Winchester-Schraf
Displays Plan Layout**

Mike Conley of Winchester

Homes presented the final plan for the Winchester-Schraf Home Development to the Town Commissioners during their last meeting of 2005. This one-hundred-acre plot will ultimately have ninety-eight homes. The developer does not anticipate building more than about thirty homes a year. A number of periphery issues came to the forefront. Commissioner Kulhman voiced concern that the curbing facing the high school might not be wide enough to support street parking. This is a concern since there will be six driveways facing West Willard Road. In addition, the Wooton Road extension, which goes through the Baptist Church parking lot, was the focus of discussion. The developer is proposing a walking path rather than a street exit. (Many readers may be surprised to learn that the northern parking lot of the church is actually town property.) The plan developed by the Town Planning Commission, includes an extensive recreational area that will have a ball field, tot lot, pathways, picnic area, and bathroom facilities.

Commissioner Tom Dillingham, using the Tama developments as an example, voiced concern over the

new development not having enough entrances and exits.

Local History

Manhunt at Slidell

By Jack Toomey

There used to be a small community at the corner of Old Baltimore Road and Slidell Road. It didn't have more than a schoolhouse, a post office, a general store, and a few houses. In the early 1890s, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Rosenstein moved to this little place called Slidell and opened a small general store on the first floor of their house which stood on the northeast corner of that intersection. They rarely left Slidell and had hired men to bring them the provisions that were delivered by train to the depot at Boyds. Mr. Rosenstein had no use for banks and was believed to keep a large amount of cash around the house.

On May 13, 1899, Garret Linthicum, a farmer, was passing by the store about 5:00 a.m. and saw a man standing out front. He recognized him as Armistead Taylor and thought he might be drunk and continued on. At about 7:00 a.m., Mrs. Carlin sent her daughter to the store to make a small purchase. She returned home and told her mother that no one was in
—Continued on Page 15.



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Profiles

Speed Racer

By Curtis A. Osborne

Back in the late 1960s, all little kids, boys in particular, watched the cartoon Speed Racer. Every little boy wanted to be Speed Racer, and they watched intently as Speed battled his brother Racer X and the Car Acrobatic Teams in thrilling races around the world. His Mach V car had enough gadgets in it to make James Bond envious. The show was about adventure, cars, and speed which encompasses all of motor sports, particularly drag racing.

A lot of kids who grew up on Beach Boys music eventually garnered an interest in cars and racing. When drag racing started becoming popular, racers like Shirley Muldowney, the first lady of racing, and Don Garlit became household names. It had an undeniable appeal. Unlike the other forms of racing, you just line up against your opponent and may the best man or woman win. It is all pure speed, reflexes, and adrenaline. Today, professional racing is a multi-million dollar sport with NHRA-sanctioned races around the country, and ESPN showcasing racing events throughout the year.

On tracks around the country, like the just-closed 75&80 Dragway in Monrovia, Maryland, weekend warriors haul out their supercharged cars and race weekly for purses and chest-pumping pride. Jeff Meleo is one of those guys who grew up interested in cars and the allure of the sound of the engines and the smell of the tires

burning. He has a love and passion for the sport, and he happily toils in the minor leagues of NHRA. Jeff, Mount Airy resident and Wheaton native, has been drag racing off and on for about twenty years, sixteen of them competitively. "I have always liked hot rods and cars as a kid," says Jeff, "but I didn't get into racing until I was twenty-three when I owned my first hot rod. It was a '74 Plymouth Roadrunner."

The expenses associated with drag racing can be cost prohibitive for a lot of people, but it is still less expensive than other types of motor sports. "Drag racing you can do with any car," says Jeff. "You can take any street car, fix it up a little, and go."

Jeff's home track was the aforementioned 75&80 Dragway which closed down a few weeks ago in November. When he first began in 1990, like most beginners, he struggled a bit, but he quickly learned the ropes and has qualified for bracket finals every year since 1990. In the process, he has won the overall points championship three times, in 1994, 2004, and just this past month, the 2005 points championship. Currently, he is racing a 1972 Dodge Challenger 440 which has taken him to great heights as a racer. He races in the NHRA division I, class 2 Heavy Eliminator Class. In his car, he regularly speeds down the quarter mile track at speeds of 122 mph. His fastest time so far has been 10.77 at 125 mph, but that was with the aid of Mother Nature and her heavy wind gusts.

This is all the more memorable when you consider that he almost had to quit racing. In 1995, right before Halloween, he underwent a battery of tests, and doctors discovered that

he had a deadly infection of his heart valve. "Doctors said that if I had waited another week, I would have died," says Jeff. He successfully underwent surgery and spent two long months in the hospital recuperating, but instead of giving up, racing was his motivation to get out of the hospital and get better. "I wanted to get back to the end-of-the-year racing banquet." His wife Lisa was motivation for him, too, urging him on and being supportive. Asked if he was able to get her interested in racing, too, Jeff replied, "That was easy. She was already into racing before we started dating, so by the time we got married, she was pit crewing for me, and now we got her a car and she races in the Street Class." Jeff always had a desire to get his whole family involved in racing and pass it down to his kids, but he and his wife don't have children. They were able to get his nephew Vince involved in the effort. Vince Lewis, who initially was part of his crew, is now a racer himself. Jeff, his wife Lisa, and Vince now form a three-car team, Team Meleo Racing. Lisa drives a '74 Plymouth Duster 440 and Vince drives a '73 Dodge Dart 340. Now that is a true family affair.

The 75&80 Dragway was a long-time venue for local racers, nearly forty-five years until the owners sold to developers. The track had featured mini-dragsters, as well as the different classes in which the adults race. Now, Jeff will be racing at the Mason Dixon Dragway in Hagerstown, Maryland which he believes is a better track in some ways. Stay tuned. Vroom! Vroom!

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Poets' Corner

Marionette

By Gabrielle Lalonde

Censored for censorship's sake
 Strings were attached
 Mind was erased
 Guidance wasn't sought
 Yet still it was taught
 That all that was thought
 Shall not be embraced

Strings pulled too tight
 To be able to fight
 And all that they said
 Was labeled as right.

Forced into the storm,
 Of the everyday norm
 Forced to conform
 For conformity's sake.

Creativity deserted,
 To anger reverted
 Causing violence spurted
 In self-expression's place.

Our differences fading
 To similarities so degrading
 That strings grew stronger from
 our hating
 Binding us in their wake.

Hearts left bleeding,
 Still fighting
 To undo the trying
 That causes the hiding
 Of ideas too great.

They cannot compare
 To our cause, unaware
 They ignorantly stare
 As we sit here and wait

To be put to their use,
 Our energy fused
 To never again be set loose,
 Will we ever awake?



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"Manhunt at Slidell" Continued From Page 13—

the store. Shortly afterwards, another customer came to the store and found Mr. Rosenstein lying behind the counter. An iron bar was lying next to his body. Other people came to the store, and someone went upstairs and found Mrs. Rosenstein lying next to a bed in her bedroom. Both were in very critical condition. At least six hundred dollars was believed to have been stolen from the store. Word spread quickly throughout the area, and men organized a posse and began to search the woods. Found in the woods near the store were a pair of bloody shoes and a silver watch belonging to Mr. Rosenstein. Someone went to the Boyds railroad station and the ticket agent said that Armistead Taylor had boarded the 8:30 train bound for Washington. The conductor of the train was later interviewed and said that Taylor had put on new shoes on the train and had thrown his old ones out the window. He had purchased new shoes at Lewis's general store near the Boyds station. Taylor then got off the train at Garrett Park. All roads leading out of Montgomery County were ordered closed and armed men searched every wagon attempting to leave the county.

Sheriff Thomson and his deputy went to the home of John Brown who lived near the Rosenstein store and found a bloody apron and a watch chain. Brown and Taylor were known to be acquaintances. Thompson then went to the farm of his employer and arrested Brown. Meanwhile, Charles Kingsbury, searching on his own, found a new coat and shirt in the woods. They had been stolen from the store. Since there were no medical facilities of any kind in Montgomery County, the family came to Slidell and took Mr. and Mrs. Rosenstein to the University of Maryland Hospital at Baltimore by wagon. They were not expected to survive, and they died shortly after arriving in Baltimore.

In the meantime, the police in Washington, D.C. had been alerted to look for Armistead Taylor. Suspicion had been aroused when a man had come into a pawnbroker's shop in Georgetown and had purchased new clothing and a revolver. A woman, knowing of the manhunt, became suspicious of a new neighbor who had just rented a room next door to her house on Fowlers Hill near Georgetown University. She had seen him sit-

—Continued on Page 19.

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Horses Are Simple People

By Debby Lynn

Ever wish you could take your horse in for some relationship counseling? You dream of galloping across a beautiful meadow, the two of you as one seamless being, mane and hair streaming in the wind; but the reality is that you trudge out to the paddock with a bucket of grain and spend thirty minutes trailing after your horse, cajoling him with every endearment and treat at your disposal, while he has fun staying just out of reach of being caught and ridden.

Your relationship with your horse is just like any other. A typical reason for failure is expectations which are not met. The causative factor is usually lack of adequate communication — and just like a difficult marriage, a subtle, ongoing battle for control is

So start at the beginning. You need to have reasonable expectations in order to avoid disappointment. Horses have fairly specific and limited behavior patterns. Since they have a brain the size of a walnut, you simply cannot expect them to vary too much from their hard-wired behavior patterns. If you know what drives their behavior, you have the best chance of modifying it to your advantage, and don't worry about whether modifying his behavior is fair to him or not. I promise you he is getting the big end of the stick. Would you be willing to trade a guaranteed meal ticket, shelter, medical expenses, and food, not to mention several new sets of shoes every year, for a fun job doing what comes naturally to you? If we could ask them, they would all say yes. In fact, they do all tell us yes. Otherwise, they would not suffer us on their backs at all. Unlike in human relationships, one of the premises of an equine relationship is that our desires always



often present.

Fortunately for riders, a relationship with your horse is a lot less complicated to fix than a human relationship. The down side, however, is that your horse never signed the agreement.

come first. If you do not believe your horse is subservient, you have set the stage for a relationship fraught with disappointment and possibly personal injury. Working with a 1200 pound animal who thinks he's in charge is never a safe arrangement.

—Continued on page 19.

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School News

All FCPS students

January 16, schools closed for all students and teachers for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

January 23 and 24, schools closed for all students for End-of-Term Professional Development.

All MCPS students

January 16, schools closed for all students and teachers for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

January 23, Professional Day, schools closed for all students.

Monocacy Elementary

Monocacy to the Rescue!

Students at Monocacy collected and contributed many items and gift cards to the victims of Katrina. The SGA students prepared over two hundred lunches for the men's shelter.

Poolesville Elementary School

Family Night

The Poolesville Elementary School PTA is hosting a Family Night Saturday, January 14 in the All-Purpose Room of the elementary school. Paul Hadfield, The Funny Guy, will be performing his act which includes juggling, unicycling, slapstick humor, and audience participation. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. with the show starting at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$4.00 per person or \$12.00 per family at the door. Popcorn and drinks will be available. The PTA will be sponsoring a used book sale that night as well. It will be a fun night for all family members.

John Poole Middle School

An Evening in Candyland

January 13 is the date of the Holiday Dance sponsored by the PTA/SGA. Tickets sold for the December dance are still valid.

Mitten and Glove Collection

The week of January 17 to 20, the Leo's Club will be collecting mittens, gloves, and hats for the homeless. All sizes needed.

Washington Post Grants

Two teachers received Washington Post Grants. Ms. Peg Callaghan won the grant for a collaborative project with the Baltimore National Aquarium, and Ms. Nori Thorne won the Washington Post Grant in the Arts for her African Adinkra printmaking project.

JPMS Looking for Volunteers for Career Day

The highly successful annual Career Day at John Poole Middle School will be held February 27 and the administration is seeking individuals within the community who will volunteer to speak to the students about their particular career. The event is for eighth grade students and would be presented in ten- to fifteen-minute increments several times as the students rotate from speaker to speaker. The event will be from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Those willing to participate should call Diane Kitts at 301-972-7980.

Free from Strings

A poem written by eighth grader, Ellie Lalonde, of John Poole Middle School (JPMS) was selected from among thousands of poems to be published in the anthology, *A Celebration of Young Poets*. The poem, entitled "Marionette," speaks on the censorship of society and people not being as open to new ideas as they could be. Says Ellie, "It speaks for itself, in a way."

The maturity and depth of the message are compelling, so it may come as a surprise to learn that Ellie wrote the poem two years ago for a Slam the Wall Poetry Contest held at JPMS when she was in sixth grade. This year, Mrs. Lindsay, Ellie's English teacher brought to her attention the national poetry competition. Ellie took the flyer home, went to the website, and entered her poem. Some time later, she received an email saying that her poem had been selected.

This year, there will be another Slam the Wall Contest which she plans to enter, but Ellie doesn't write poetry just for competitions. When she finds the time or, as she puts it, "I have to be in the mood," she'll write poetry. She adds, "Once I'm in the right mood, I can just really kind of go." Go, Ellie, go!

Please see Miss Lalonde's poem on page 15.

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**"MTA Hearing" Continued From
Page 1—**

capital investment at each station (ticket vending machines, upgraded public address systems, and passenger notification systems) makes the maintenance of low volume stations impractical.

The original hearing was scheduled for December 15 and was postponed due to an ice storm, but the holidays and the new year did little to cool the passion of almost 150 people and an impressive covey of local elected officials who expressed total solidarity in opposition to the plan. Speakers were limited to three minutes each, and over forty people signed up to speak. The agency members on the panel were prohibited by rule (as if good common sense would not have been enough) from answering any questions or offering any opinions of their own. At the stated completion time of 8:30, close to a dozen elected officials had their say personally or through intermediaries, and some thirty or more other registered speakers remained. While many of the arguments were essentially the same, it did seem that even as the evening wore on, someone would come up with a fresh wrinkle concerning why closing the stations was a bad idea.

Among the elected officials present were District 15 State Delegates Jean Cryor and Brian Feldman, County Councilmen Mike Knapp (District 2), Nancy Floreen (At Large), and Barnesville Mayor Pete Menke. Statements were read on behalf of many other elected officials including Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Montgomery County Executive Douglas Duncan, District 15 State Senator Rob Garagiola, and County Council President George Leventhal. During her remarks, Councilman Floreen advised that the County Council was unanimous in its support of keeping the stations open, and Delegate Feldman offered a similar statement with regard to the state delegation.

Mayors and other officials from other Maryland cities including Kensington, Garrett Park, Washington Grove, and Rockville spoke in opposition to any curtailment of commuter rail service in the county.

The stations were also defended on the grounds of historic preservation, most prominently by Mark Rothenstein of the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, Perry Kapsh of the Historic

Medley District, and Susan Soderberg of the Germantown Historical Society.

The primary argument of the evening was expressed by many speakers in varying tones of incredulity: with the increasing traffic burden on I-270, and with no relief in sight from extra lanes, the Purple Line, the Corridor Cities Transitway, or any other solution, and with large scale development in Clarksburg, how can MTA possibly consider taking actions that would degrade, rather than support, the availability of mass transit to as many people as possible? Gary Erenrich of Montgomery County Public Works and Transportation, speaking on behalf of Mr. Duncan and others, called the decision "shortsighted," given the Boyds station's proximity to Clarksburg. He also noted, in support of the historic crowd, that the stations had operated since 1880, and Montgomery County has provided substantial maintenance support over the years.

Councilman Knapp perked up the affair with a jaunty address that included a crowd-pleasing statement that excoriated the MTA for not consulting with elected officials "to solve a problem that doesn't exist." He received the first large ovation of the evening by encouraging the

MTA to increase service to Boyds and Dickerson to build ridership, as those stations now are only served by a fraction of trains. This was a sure-fire applause line all evening, and a major focus of many speakers' testimony.

Delegate Cryor was also passionate in her address and highlighted her membership on the Ways and Means Committee, which many in the audience perceived as a not-so-veiled threat against the MTA. Ms. Cryor stressed that simply building roads would not solve our problems, and that they cannot close stations "in the middle of a transportation crisis."

Delegate Feldman highlighted the point that it made "no sense to close stations" in light of continued growth and the concepts of Smart Growth. As one of the last of the elected officials to speak, he also said that he would try not to repeat the arguments already made, and to his credit—didn't.

One other major point made concerned parking at the Barnesville Station. The MTA has justified its

recommendation on the proximity of Barnesville to the closed stations, but as Mayor Pete Menke pointed out, the lots at Barnesville are already full. He said that Barnesville doesn't want the increase in commuter traffic that would result from the closings, and was the first of many to point out that the Dickerson station also serves growing communities in southern Frederick County. Perry Kapsh of the Historic Medley District observed that the HMD owns a property adjacent to the Barnesville station that commuters use for overflow parking, but that as the HMD completes the rehabilitation of that property, it will no longer be available which will worsen the Barnesville station parking situation.

The idea that the stations would be closed due to the high cost of high-tech ticket vending machines was roundly mocked by many speakers, who not only questioned the cost-benefit of the new technology, but were appalled that this could be a reason for reducing service.

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**"Police Blotter" Continued
From Page 10—**

rob Kelley of his money. On January 2, police arrested Keisha Branscomb, twenty-one, of Baltimore, and charged her with attempted armed robbery and conspiracy. Both Thomas and Branscomb are being held at the Montgomery County Detention Center.

Past

Jan 13, 1887. The farmhouse of Timothy Craven, of the firm of Codwise and Craven, railroad contractors, which is about four miles from Gaithersburg, caught fire about twelve o'clock Tuesday night and was burned to the ground. Three men were fatally burned, and it is said that the fire originated from a wood fire in the kitchen stove.

Jan 18, 1931. Classifying the use of a smoke screen as next door to murder, Judge Charles Woodward yesterday imposed what were probably the highest fines ever dealt out in Rockville Police Court. Two men were charged with liquor law violations and the use of a smoke screen device on their auto.

Jan 19, 1945. Three Montgomery County men were found dead in their car on Edwards Ferry Road. Police speculated that the men, who had traveled to Baltimore for their pre-induction physical examinations, had become stuck in the heavy snow and that the tailpipe of their auto had become clogged filling the car with deadly gases. Efforts to revive the men with an inhalator were futile, and the men were pronounced dead by the coroner. It was pointed out that Edwards Ferry Road had not been cleared of snow and that school buses had had to be rerouted in recent days.

Jan 20, 1941. Thirteen year old William J. Linharrit was back at his home in Poolesville after being lost in the woods all night. Young Linharrit and his collie dog had left home during the afternoon and were found by a trapper in the morning. Searchers from the police and Rockville Fire Department, who had spent the night in the woods searching, were not notified that the boy had been found until later in the afternoon.

Jan 21, 1903. Albert Holtzeman was arrested at Point of Rocks by Deputy Sheriff White. He is charged with the theft of two hundred dollars from Lawrence Jones, a farmer living near Dickerson. He is also accused of shooting at Jones. Holtzeman worked for Jones and says he can provide an

alibi.

Jan 25, 1902. William Page was accidentally killed this afternoon while hauling a load of wood from Hyattstown to the residence of Mr. Wells at Clarksburg. Page was killed when the horses became frightened, and when Page jumped, he stumbled over a rock, throwing his head under the wheels, crushing his skull and causing instant death. He was a prominent young farmer, thirty-five years old, with a wife and six small children.

**"Manhunt" Continued From
Page 15—**

ting on the steps counting a large sum of money, so she went to the police station in Georgetown and reported what she had seen. After hearing the description of the man, the captain of the station ordered that all off-duty and reserve officers be called from their homes. Messengers were sent to all quarters of the city and a small army of police officers assembled. So as not to arouse suspicion, the officers left the station in pairs and headed in the direction of Fowlers Hill. As the officers approached the house, someone started firing shots from the second floor of the house. A few of the officers, including Sergeant Fritz Passau, ran up the stairway to the second floor. Taylor had crawled into the attic, and he was ordered to surrender. Instead of giving up, he fired shots through the trap door and one of the bullets struck Sgt. Passau, mortally wounding him. His body was carried to the street by his fellow officers, and for two hours, shots were exchanged by the officers and Taylor. Finally, the police decided to burn down the house to force Taylor to surrender.

When Taylor learned of this plan, he decided to give up asking that he be protected from the huge crowd of citizens that had assembled to watch the gunfight. When the attic was searched after his removal, a gold watch and one hundred ninety-two dollars were found. Taylor was then hustled away to the Georgetown police station which was heavily guarded from the throng of over two thousand people who had gathered out front.

Sheriff Thompson, his deputy, Selby, and later States Attorney Kilgour, questioned Taylor at the police station. He admitted that he and Brown had left Brown's home early in the morning of the crime. Taylor had stood outside while Brown robbed the store. After Brown had attacked Mr. Rosenstein, Taylor came into the store

**"Horses are" Continued From
Page 16—**

Once you have it in mind that you have the position of master in your horse's life, you are on your way. Next, have expectations of your horse which are in line with his hard-wired tendencies. The most important things in his life are food and his social life with his herd. Owning a horse is kind of like having a teenage child. He's more likely to be influenced by his barn or turn out buddies than by you, and whenever you see him, his first reaction is: "Where's the food?" Horses spend a lot of their turn out time reviewing and reestablishing their pecking order. Part of their survival mechanism is linked to dominance and submission in the herd. So whatever your expectations are, they must take these factors into account. It's not that he doesn't like you when he avoids being caught. It's that he would prefer to stay with his buddies, one of which he probably considers his superior, rather than you, or perhaps he prefers eating grass to working. It's nothing personal. You simply can't expect him to prefer your company naturally. Your job is to make him prefer to come to you. You must make him consider you his superior. If a treat doesn't do it, consider negative reinforcement. With a horse which won't be caught, I take a lunge whip with my bucket of grain. As long as he is looking at me with his ears forward, I shake the grain and coo at him. The minute he turns away to avoid being caught, I flail the whip with all my might and run after him, shrieking invectives. It usually only takes one treatment, provided you are a nimble runner and sufficiently

and hit Mrs. Rosenstein over the head after she intervened. They then stole the money and several items and left the store.

Taylor's trial was held in Frederick on July 6, 1899. He was convicted and sentenced to death. Brown's trial was held the following week, and Taylor surprised the spectators by taking the witness stand, and even though under the sentence of death, told the jury that Brown had killed Mr. Rosenstein. A jailer testified that he heard frequent arguments between Taylor and Brown where they blamed each other for not disposing of the evidence. Brown was also convicted and sentenced to death.

On August 18, 1899, Taylor and Brown were scheduled to be hanged. Sheriff Thompson delayed the execution because he believed that Gov-

uninhibited in your reaction. Don't try this when your pals are lined up on the rail snickering.

For a successful equine relationship, make it clear to the horse that you are always the boss, and you always get to pick what it is you are doing together. Compromise is not a good solution. By the same token, part of your job is to ask only fair questions of your horse. Make sure he understands what you want of him. Make sure he is physically and mentally capable of responding correctly. Every time you interface with your horse, he is developing his end of the relationship further. If he felt physically uncomfortable or worried during your last ride, it will affect your current ride. If he got the better of you, dominance-wise, last time, this will greatly affect your current ride. Make sure you always set your horse up for success by keeping your demands clear and simple. If he gets in a muddle and rushes off when you try to canter in the corner, don't punish or retaliate. Take the problem apart into discreet job skills for him. Try some leg yield before the corner to make sure his inside hind is really engaged enough to be able to strike off. Make sure he understands the half halt separately, so you can use it to your advantage before asking for the canter. If you communicate with him in a clear and straightforward way, you make it easy for him to say yes.

A bit of simple horse psychology can turn your equine relationship around to where you both feel happy, secure, and enjoy your time together immensely. Would that all our relationships were this way!

ernor Lowndes might intervene and issue a stay of execution. When the governor failed to send any word to Rockville, Taylor and Brown were led from their cells to the scaffold that had been constructed in the courtyard of the Rockville jail. Taylor startled the onlookers by stating, "All I have to say is I did all the killing, Brown was not in it." Brown then stated, "I am innocent." Without further ado, the sheriff gave the order, and Taylor and Brown went to their deaths.

Rosenstein's home and store sat vacant for a few years, and then it was torn down. Today, the crossroads at Slidell contains only a few houses, and certainly there is very little memory of the horror that happened there over a century ago.

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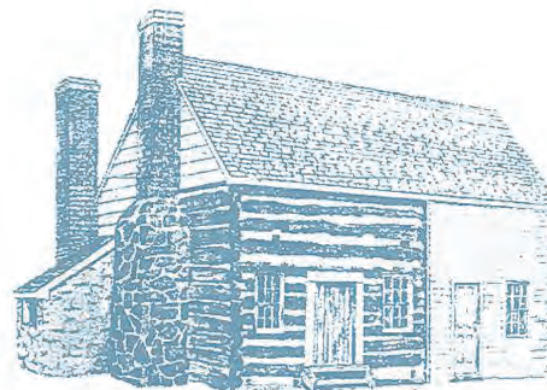
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