

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

June 9, 2006

Volume III, Number 7

Inside the Monocle



Lib Tolbert (left) keeping things on track. See Profile on Page 22.



Read about girls' lacrosse on page 27.



Read about boys' lacrosse on page 27.



SRO at the silent auction at Sandy Cameron's benefit concert. Page 4.



Read about the Frederick Children's Chorus Chamber Singers, and more, on page 17.

Six Alarm Fire: A Memorial Day to Remember

By Rande Davis

On Memorial Day evening, a fire broke out in a Poolesville townhouse at 19544 Fisher Avenue and threatened the other three homes in the same row. The owner of the house, located in the Meadow Valley community on the south side of Fisher Avenue, Nancy Swank, was trying to burn off wood that had accumulated in her back yard when the flue became overheated causing the fire to burst out of control. Ms. Swank was not available for comment for this report.

As soon as the smoke began billowing out from the house, some neighbors called the fire department and also notified some individual firefighters they knew. Even before the trucks from the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department got to the scene, individual firefighters had already arrived and immediately began assessing the safety issues.

Because of the heat and threat to multi-family dwellings, the Montgom-



Fireman battle the fire at the back of the house.

ery County fire department's Rapid Intervention Response (RIR) drill went into effect with the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Depart-

ment taking command and control of the other five fire departments responding to the potential crisis. In all, more than a dozen trucks and between thirty to thirty-five firefighters arrived to control the fire to make sure it did not spread beyond the original site.

In addition to UMCVFD, trucks and firefighters from Gaithersburg, Rockville, Hyattstown, Clarksburg, and Carroll Manor responded to the threat. Also, an EMS command safety support team from Silver Spring came to the scene. Chief Earl Moore of UMCVFD told the *Monocle* that this response is a coordinated approach to bringing potential fire hazards that threaten multi-family dwellings under control.

Even with so many trucks and firefighters on the scene, the RIR resulted in a coordinated effort that not only brought the fire under control within minutes but also prevented its potential damage to the adjoining town homes. In such situations, the Emergency Command Center of Montgomery County's fire department is notified and all fire fighter responses are then controlled by the commanding officer on the scene, in this case, Chief Earl Moore of UMCVFD. Under his coordinated direc-

—Continued on Page 25.



The rain held off, and Clarksburg Day was a success.



More pictures on Pages 14 and 15.

Family Album

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Kasey Marchwicki, Andy Marchwicki, and Dr. Chris Goodwin at the Ike Leggett reception at the Comus Inn at Sugarloaf Mountain.



The Potomac Hunt Club Races.



Neil Brown, Frank Jamison, and Matt Repass during intermission at the Sandy Cameron concert.

Monocacy Critters

Serendipitous Pet and Animal Pictures*



Submitted by: *Debbie Mowatt & family: Pet Gimli*

*Do you have a picture of an unusual pet or animal or one that is just surprising or funny?
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Police Blotter Past and Present



By Jack Toomey
Present

A fifty thousand dollar reward has been offered for information that leads to the recovery of a laptop computer and external hard drive that was stolen during a burglary of a home in the Aspen Hill section of Montgomery County. The computer contains the personal information of about twenty-six million veterans. Anyone with information should call the Crime Solvers number: 1-866-411-TIPS.

May 19. Seven students from Winston Churchill High School, who had arrived at their prom at the Bethesda Marriott and Conference Center, were charged with a variety of offenses after officers detected the odor of alcohol when the students attempted to enter the prom.

May 21. 15100 block of Barnesville

Road, Boyds. Residential burglary. Forced entry to a home, property taken.

Past

June 9, 1915. C.S. Dove became the first white man to be whipped in Montgomery County. Jude Mace ordered that Dove be lashed fifteen times in the jail yard after he had been convicted of beating his wife. Judge Mace announced that all similar cases would be treated in the same fashion.

June 13, 1938. Four persons, three of them children, drowned in the Potomac River before their horrified families when a rowboat carrying eleven persons capsized and sank at Seneca. People onshore, some of whom were at the Seneca Hotel and Seneca Club, took rowboats and rushed to rescue the remaining seven people.

June 14, 1936. Two Montgomery County farmers were killed by lightning when a violent electrical storm struck Montgomery County. Sterling Miles, of near Hyattstown, had gone to check on his turkey coops when the storm struck. He was found by his son. Also killed was Heywood Frazier of Travilah who was crossing a road near the farm where he worked.

—Continued on Page 12.

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Local News

Memories Were Made of Music

By Dominique Agnew

This may be difficult to read. For those who missed the triumphant return of Sandy Cameron to her alma mater with friends in tow, knowing what you were unable to see and hear may prove to be unbearable—the agony exquisitely painful. For those who, on May 25 at 7:30 p.m., decided it was too late, the concert must have already begun, that it was no use in going, it may cause undue suffering to know that you weren't too late, the

performance did not begin on time, and you would have had time to get to your seat to enjoy a Kennedy Center-Strathmore-Carnegie-Hall-style musical engagement.

Why didn't the concert begin on time? Well, it's certainly not Sandy's fault; she was still waiting for the music—from the composer. She confidently walked onto the stage to tell the audience that Mozart was running late, and, hopefully, he'd be there any minute. Soon after, he arrived, music in hand. Unfortunately, he arrived with music to some opera instead of the violin sonata listed in the program. Opening remarks by PHS Principal Deena Levine allowed Mozart a little

time to quickly write out a *Sonata for Piano and Violin* for Sandy and pianist, Anna Ouspenskaya, to play. Anna promptly professed some outrage that there weren't many notes on her sheet. What would she play? Mozart replied to the effect that notes weren't necessary and that they should just


play—and they did.

In this way, through light dialog and banter between Mozart (embodied by Poolesville High School Midnight Player A.J. Lempert) and Sandy, the music was brought to life. All the

—Continued on Page 24.



After the concert, Sandy Cameron, Alexander Brash, Brendan Gillis, Mimi Yu, and Ian Goh.



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Keeping An Eye On Local News

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Commentary

Be There or Be Square

By Rande Davis and John Clayton

This is an undisguised plug for a charity event. The Historic Medley District and the Monocacy Lions are putting on a barn dance and dinner on the evening of June 17. The details of this affair are scattered throughout this issue of the *Monocle*, but we would like to make our case for supporting the event and the good works it will benefit.

The event is a fundraiser to support the efforts of the HMD, a preservation group, and the Monocacy Lions, the local chapter of the Lions Club International. Rande and John are both Monocacy Lions, and Rande is on the boards of both the HMD and the Monocacy Lions. He is also the volunteer chairman of this event.

The HMD has long been appreciated for its work on local preservation projects. When the Poolesville commissioners debated and struggled with the question of what to do with the old town hall, and when the overwhelming percentage of town residents wanted the building and its historical and iconic role maintained, the HMD submitted a proposal to restore the building to its banking roots, maintain the façade, and establish a future site for historical records and artifacts. This was met with favor

—Continued on Page 24.

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COMUS/SUGARLOAF MT: Mature trees & tasteful landscaping complement this gracious brick-front colonial nestled on 2 acs. in Hunt country. Circular driveway, inviting center hallway, lovely country kitchen, FR w/ FP, his & her studies, 4 BRs including Owner's suite w/ full BA, walk-in closet & dressing area. Lwr lvl w/walkout, 2-car rear load garage, deck. MLS# MC5530911. Offered at \$680,000.00. Dir: Rte. 270 to Exit 18 to N. on Frederick Rd. to Comus Rd., past Peach Tree Rd. to sign n left.



BOYDS: Surrounded by mature trees & farmland, this cozy 3 BR, 2 full BA rambler is nestled on 3+ ac. Amenities include a lovely eat-in kitchen w/ island, living rm. w/ FP, family rm. w/ log siding, lower lvl rec rm, hardwood flrs. & above-ground pool. Convenient to MARC station, Little Bennett Regional Park & the Clarksburg & Germantown Town Ctrs. MLS#MC6018089. Offered at \$624,990.00



DICKERSON-MT. CARMEL: Located atop 49.7+/- partially wooded acs., this lovely stone home, circa 1760, features 4 BRs, 2 full BAs & 2 half BAs. Main lvl LR, DR, kitchen, sunroom, mudroom./ laundry rm & powder rm. Upper lvl contains 3 BRs, 2 full BAs. The 3rd lvl includes a large BR & half BA. Amenities include wood flrs., 3 FPs, patio. Additionally, the property boasts a 2-story bank barn, in-ground swimming pool, & stone guest house w/ LR, kitchen, BR & full BA. MLS#MC6046269. Offered at \$1,250,000. 00



DICKERSON: Lovely French chateau style home, constructed in 2001, w/ 6 BRs 3 full BAs, 2 half BAs & 5,800+ sq. ft. of living area. Main lvl entry foyer, LR, formal DR, kitchen, breakfast rm, family rm, den, two powder rms, & Owner's suite w/ FP, sitting area & bath w/soaking tub & sep. shower. The upper level contains 3 BRs & full hallway BA. The lower lvl boasts a recreation room, full BA, & 2 more BRs. The property sits on 2+ acs. w/ views of Sugarloaf Mt. MLS#MC6043579. Offered at \$1,150,000.00



DARNESTOWN/GERMANTOWN: Spacious colonial on 4+/- acs. 6 BRs/4.5 BAs & 5,500 + sf of living space. Main lvl LR, DR, newly remodeled country kitchen, sitting area w/ FP & SGD to 2 lvl deck, library, light & spacious family rm. Upper lvl Owner's suite w/ walk-in closet, dressing area & full BA, 4 more BRs & 2 full BAs. Finished lwr. lvl w/ 6th BR, full BA, storage area & rec.rm. w/SGD leading to patio. 2-car side load garage, inground pool, 2-stall barn, new driveway. Great location. MLS#MC5555585. Offered at \$799,000.00



POOLESVILLE/WESMOND: Convenient to all Town amenities, this spacious townhome features 3 BRs, 2 full BAs & 2 half-BAs. Country kitchen, LR/DR combo, SGD to patio & fenced backyard. Master BR w/walk-in closet & full BA w/shower, 2 more BRs, full BA & large linen closet. Finished lwr lvl w/fam. rm., 1/2 bath. Amenities include:HWFs on main lvl, new carpet on lwr lvl, remodeled Master BA, freshly painted LR, remodeled kitchen w/ new appliances & countertops. Within walking distance of schools, shops & parks. MLS #MC6026389. Offered at \$284,990.

LOTS AND LAND

West of Poolesville 45.62 ac. Build your dream home on this lovely, partially wooded property located 4 mi. from Poolesville and approx 2 mi. from Whites Ferry & the Leesburg, VA area. Enjoy the privacy of country living on a rustic road. One approved perc.. \$850,000.00

Poolesville: Surrounded by farmland with pastoral views, this 13.5 ac. building lot has an approved sound mound perc to service a 5 bedroom residence. Partially wooded with a stream, this lot is approx. 5 miles from the Town of Poolesville, and 14 miles from Potomac Village. MLS # MC5528055. Offered at \$750,000.00

Barnesville/Dickerson: This 6 ac. Building lot offers the best of both worlds: a totally private, wooded setting with a stream and close proximity to the MARC train station. Approved sound mound perc to service a 5 bedroom residence. MLS#MC5547275. Offered at \$550,000.00

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

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Local News

The Race for Montgomery County Executive

By Maureen O'Connell

On Thursday evening, June 1, over one hundred people from the Monocacy area communities attended a reception at the Comus Inn for Isiah "Ike" Leggett, who is running for election for the Office of County Executive. Many came to express their support for his campaign, and others came to listen to his blueprint of ideas for the future of Montgomery County. A strong sense of community was very visible in the crowd.

Ike began his remarks by answering the most basic question in any political campaign, "Why am I running?" Very simple, he said, "I love Montgomery County, and I care about its future." Looking back over the past years, he reminisced that affluent Montgomery County is a long way, both figuratively and literally, from where he grew up. He and his twelve brothers and sisters lived in a three room "house" near Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana. He was poor then, he said, and he was poor when he left Louisiana. Some people never escape the adversities of growing up poor

and disadvantaged, and some people gain strength and leadership qualities from such experiences. Ike Leggett



Ike Leggett

rose from these humble circumstances and learned how to survive particularly well. Every stage in his life was a steppingstone and learning adventure leading to where he is today.

Ike comes to the job with an impressive and diverse résumé. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Southern University, a Master of Arts and a Juris Doctorate from Howard University, and a Master of Laws from George Washington University. He is currently a Professor of Law at Howard University, a position he has held since 1975. He was assistant dean of the university from 1979 to 1986. During the Vietnam War years, he served as a captain in the United States Army. In 1977, he was a White House Fellow, and later he served as a staff attorney for the Department of the Navy

Ike has devoted his life to public service. His involvement with Montgomery County Government goes back to 1986 when he was elected to the Montgomery County Council as an At-Large Member, a role he served in until 2002. During that time, he chaired the Council's Transportation and Environment Committee and served on the Education Committee. He has had a long history of working with the Maryland Democratic Party; he was chairman from 2002 to 2004.

In speaking about the issues in the coming election, he said that "we better worry about this election and what it means for the Agriculture Reserve." He then asked a fundamental question germane to the issue, "Why did we move here?" We all know the answer:

it boils down to quality of life. We must not be lulled into a sense of complacency thinking "the Ag Reserve will always be with us." Don't be so smug; it is only a piece of paper. The preservation of the Ag Reserve will protect for us and future generations what we have grown to treasure. The pressures from developers to alter our way of life and fragment our land are enormous. Ike Leggett believes in the Ag Reserve. He said, "that if elected, [he] would make the protection of the Ag Reserve a priority. This election is about the Ag Reserve, but no one wants to admit it. I feel like I am preaching to the converted. The fight is not with the people in this room tonight." You can see the benefits of the Reserve every day when you step out your front door. "No, the fight is in Silver Spring, Bethesda, and other down-county areas." The Reserve is not an area set aside for rich folk to ride their horses over hill and dale. "It is our responsibility to educate those who don't understand what the Reserve means to us and future generations." When the land is gone, it is gone.

Ike believes that he is the right person for the job. Besides the issue of the Reserve, he, as county executive, says he will work to find solutions to environmental issues such as recycling, wastewater management, and watershed protection. These are problems that need answers: transportation options, traffic congestion, and road improvements.

In his closing remarks, he asked everyone to "trust what I am saying. I have an established record of keeping my promises. I can assure you, the community, that you will be at the table when decisions will be made about the Ag Reserve. Be a part of this campaign; I am the right person for the job and I will make you proud of my leadership."

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Things to Do

June 9

Bingo Fundraiser UMCVFD
Benefit Soccer Girls' Trip to Ireland
Doors open: 6:00 p.m.
Games at 7:00 p.m. Cash prizes
Contact Lorraine Jones at 301-972-6618

June 10

Farewell to Rev. Steve Hayward and
Kathleen Hayward
Whalen Commons – Poolesville
Free – 3:00 p.m.

June 10 and 11

Relay for Life
Poolesville High School
Football field

June 11

Car Wash
Cub Scout Pack 694, Poolesville. Noon
to 4 p.m., at the corner of Fisher Av-
enue and Cattail Road in Poolesville.
Donations will be accepted.

June 14

Poolesville Public Library
Special summer event
Reading Sign-up Time
2:00 p.m.

June 17

Preservation and Community
Pig Roast Dinner and Barn Dance
Truland Farm – 15800 Darnestown
Road

Dinner: 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Dance: 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
\$35.00 per adult - \$12.00 for 12 and
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June 19 to 22

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June 22

Presentation of Butterflies
By Jerry Schneider
2:00 p.m.

June 24-25

Annual Heritage Days Tour Festival

36 County Sites with Special Festivi-
ties
See Big Board this issue or
visit heritagemontgomery.org

June 24

Odd Fellows Lodge
Annual Orphans and Widows Picnic
Owens Park – 1:00 p.m.
Cowboy Bob's Music Festival
Nothing Fancy Farm
1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

School News

Monocacy Elementary School

Building a Canal Boat

Hurry, there are only nine shirts remaining as the Monocle hits the presses. The campaign to raise money for the building of a new canal boat is going strong. The SGA has joined the C&O Canal Association and the Friends of Great Falls, both nonprofits, in their fundraising efforts to build a new canal boat to run on the canal at Great Falls. The last running canal boat has been out of commission for several years due to a few leaks. The SGA will continue selling T-shirts with a C&O Canal Association-approved design drawn by Emily Durr. Already, over one thousand dollars have been raised. The shirts sell for just \$10.00 each and are available in adult small (four left), medium (four left), and large (only one remains). For more information, call the school at 301-972-7990.

Kudos

Congratulations to Zachary Pearson and Freddy Prasada-Rao who presented special projects at the Project Fair at the Board of Education.

Zachary's project was about chemistry and making ink while Freddy studied nuclear power and created a battery operated car

It's a Bird! It's a Plane!

No, it's Mr. Poole performing a stunt for the benefit of all Bobcat Readers! The Principal's Challenge is underway! If one hundred students read at least fifty thousand minutes by June 9, Mr. Poole will perform a stunt as selected by student votes—and the students have voted. Mr. Poole will be wrestling a wrestling coach! Readers, keep reading and keep track of time spent reading on tally sheets.

John Poole Middle School

It's Academic in the Summer

Not the show, the students. JPMS will be offering academic summer school programs for math and literacy. There will be several programs offered for math and literacy that will prepare students for their upcoming school year. For more information, contact Mrs. Weitzel, Summer School Program Coordinator, by email Yvonneke_M_Weitzel@mcpsmd.org or by phone 301-972-7979.

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In the Garden

Herbal Essence (Part Two of a Two Part Series.)

By Maureen O'Connell

Today, herbs are used for flavoring in all countries of the world. Let's look at setting up an herb garden. Many people are reluctant to grow herbs for they don't know which herbs are suitable for different recipes.

Historically, an herb garden was laid out in a formal design. The parterre was four equal quadrants, bordered with clipped hedges of English boxwood. The early colonists at Williamsburg liked their herb gardens laid out with precise brick walkways, but an herb garden can be any size or shape. It can be as simple as a few containers on your porch steps or a few plants scattered amongst your annuals and perennials. Let it fit into your landscape.

I first planted my herbs in my

main vegetable garden behind the horse barn. That proved not to be a good location; the deer and rabbits harvested more than I did. I next tried a small, sunny patch near the tree line behind my house. Bambi and Peter liked that location even better. So now, my herbs are growing abundantly in a small area around the base of a birch tree very near the house. I also like to mix lavender, rosemary, dill, and chives amongst the rose beds.

Herbs were originally from warm, Mediterranean climates, so they need five to six hours of sunlight to do well. The majority of herbs require no fertilization. Feeding induces rank, lanky growth, and it does not help the production of essential oils which give herbs their flavor and fragrance.

To get started in choosing which herbs to grow, ask yourself what kinds of food you and your family like to eat – Mexican, Italian, Chinese, American. Different herbs complement different cuisines. A good selection to start with might include basil, rosemary, sage, tarragon, oregano, and thyme. A larger garden could also

include dill, mint, parsley, savory, chervil, lavender, and cilantro.

A must-have herb for summer tomatoes is basil which has a sweet, clove-like taste. The fresh leaves are best torn or cut with scissors to release flavor. It is an essential flavor in Italian cooking. Use it in pasta, chicken, fish, shellfish, and pesto.

The pungent woody herb, bay leaf, has a strong, spicy flavor that is great in beef stew, bean soups, and pot roasts. The scent of oregano brings to mind and palate pizza and tomato sauce. It is used extensively in Italian, Greek, and Mediterranean cooking.

The strong, piney-scent, needle-like leaves of rosemary add tremendous flavor to grilled meats and poultry. Place whole sprigs under the skin of chicken and it will be flavored from the inside out. Toss potato slices with olive oil, sea salt, and rosemary leaves and roast until golden brown. They are great with a grilled steak.

Where would turkey stuffing be without sage? Use it judiciously also with chicken, duck, eggplant, bean soups, and stews. French tarragon, with its mild licorice flavor, imparts to chicken, fish, tomatoes, mushrooms, and salad dressings a subtle anise flavor. Thyme with its tiny leaves and minty, tea-like flavor is an essential herb of *bouquet garni*.

If your family likes Mexican food, cilantro is what adds the essential punch to many Mexican dishes. Add fresh chopped cilantro to salsa, black beans, tacos, and salads. Like Rodney Dangerfield, parsley, as an herb, doesn't get much respect. No other herb is sprinkled more liberally and used as a garnish in more recipes than this versatile plant. Its pretty, emerald-green foliage makes it an attractive and well-behaved addition to a perennial border. There are two common varieties – Italian flat leaf and the more familiar curly leaf. I use the curly for garnishing, but I prefer the flat-leaf for cooking. It has a stronger flavor, and it stands up well to heat. You can substitute it for basil in pesto. Dill is a very pretty, airy-looking plant. Snip it and add it to summer green beans, potatoes, cucumbers, and



Sweet Basil



Dill



Rosemary

—Continued on Page 17



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Local History

David Munson The Story of How His ID Tag Was Found in Poolesville

By Jack Toomey

David Munson was born in Monroe County, New York in 1828. By 1853, he and his family had moved from New York to Michigan where land was very cheap or even free. Munson became a carpenter, and when the Civil War broke out, he enlisted in the Third Michigan Infantry Division and was told to report to his unit which was then in Fairfax County, Virginia. He somehow made his way to Virginia and joined his unit, and shortly after arriving there, his unit was ordered to march to the Poolesville area. They traveled through Rockville, Darnestown, Poolesville, and eventually made camp at Edward's Ferry on October 12. Their assignment was to guard against Confederate forays into Montgomery County from Virginia. Sometime between October 12 and 28, Munson visited the old post office which stood just west of St. Peter's Episcopal Church on the road to White's Ferry. He might have been assigned to pick up or deliver the mail for his unit or simply been in town on a short furlough. It was not unusual for soldiers to come into town for a meal or to shop, and there is a surviving photo from that era that shows Union troops standing in the street very close to the post office site.

Union soldiers commonly wore a primitive version of dog tags. Usually, they were round discs that were sold by vendors who followed the army selling things to the troops that could not be bought from the military. Most soldiers bought these discs and had their names engraved on them in case they were killed in battle so their bodies would be identified and given a proper burial in a marked grave. Sometime after enlisting in the Union Army, Munson purchased one of these identification discs and most likely wore it around his neck on a chain. Between October 12 and 28, 1862, James Munson lost his identification disc near the old Poolesville post office.

Jim Kirby, a resident of Poolesville, is a retired Motor Vehicle Administration investigator. He took up the hobby of searching for Civil War relics about 1981. Kirby is rec-

ognized as an expert on Civil War campsite locations and the history of the war in Poolesville. A student of history, he is also the great-great-grandson of Benjamin Gaither, the founder of Gaithersburg. One day in November 1992, Kirby was searching some property near the site of the old post office when he found a silver disc in the ground. He brushed it off and realized that he had found an authentic identification disc. When he arrived home, he was able to read the engraving "D. Munson." This discovery started an odyssey that would take him to the National Archives, cause numerous phone calls and letters, and lead him to the identification of the soldier that had been stationed in Poolesville almost a century and a half ago.

Kirby headed downtown and went to the National Archives with his treasured disc. He was able to meet a helpful researcher and after a day of wading through boxes of old Civil War records, he was able to determine that five men named D. Munson served during the Civil War. More visits narrowed down the number until Jim was certain that the disc had belonged to David A. Munson, a member of the Third Michigan Infantry. Kirby eliminated the others because David Munson was the only man of the five that had ever visited Poolesville. He learned that Munson left Poolesville on October 28 never to return. His unit marched out of Poolesville, crossed the Potomac River at White's Ford, went to Leesburg, and then on to central Virginia. Munson participated in the Battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia on May 1, 1863 where he was seriously wounded by a bullet that shattered his right arm and hand. Kirby's quest did not end there. He called the historical society in Wheatlands, New York and fortunately met a very helpful lady who agreed to assist him in his research.

During the next three years, Jim communicated with this lady and other staff and was able to learn a great deal about Munson's life. David Munson was a right-handed carpenter and because his right arm had been shattered by the Confederate bullet, he was unable to continue in his trade. Kirby has copies of correspondence between Munson and the government, and the military ruled that Munson "was totally disabled and unfit for the Invalid Corps because of a gunshot wound to his right arm and destroy-

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—Continued on Page 18.

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Big Board

Blackboard Jungle (1955)

Long before *Stand and Deliver* and the like, Glenn Ford starred as war veteran Richard Dadier who, upon beginning his career as a teacher, was assigned to a high school overrun by juvenile delinquents. Dadier is determined not to let the unruly students have control of his classroom, no matter what. See classic performances of famous actors before they were famous, June 9 at 8:00 p.m.. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. Call the box office at 301-228-2828 or visit www.weinbergcenter.org for more information.

Southern Hospitality at Its Silent Best

On June 16 at 8:00 p.m., the silent film, *Our Hospitality*, starring Buster Keaton and his then-wife Natalie Talmadge, explores the complexities of the desire to kill an enemy in a family feud, but having to be polite whilst that person remains in one's home. Really, it wouldn't be very hospitable to murder an invited guest — at least, not in the South of 1831. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. Call the box office at 301-228-2828 or visit www.weinbergcenter.org for more information.

Junior Lacrosse Summer Camp

PHS varsity boys' lacrosse coach, Curtiss Belcher, is being joined by a group of outstanding current and past PHS lacrosse players in offering a summer lacrosse camp. This four-day event will be from June 19 through June 22. (Rain dates start on June 23). For aspiring young lacrosse players entering third grade through grade nine, the camp will teach the fundamentals of the game and include actual games and competition. The fee for this camp is just \$85.00 and anyone needing an application or seeking more information may contact Coach Belcher at 301-788-8515 or e-mail him at Butkus5197@aol.com.

Plan Ahead for a Great Family Time

For many, many years, the Historic Medley District, Inc. held traditional barn dances and pig roasts for the enjoyment of the community. After nearly ten years on hold, this popular event is returning. The Monocacy Lions Club is joining HMD in sponsoring the Preservation and Community Barn Dance and Pig Roast. This is an important fundraiser for both community groups that do such good work in the area. The ticket for the dinner and dance is \$35.00 per person and

\$20.00 per person for the dance only. For individuals 12 and under, tickets are \$12.00 for the dinner/dance and \$5.00 for the dance only. The pig roast dinner is being catered by Smokin' Ray and will also feature coleslaw, red potato salad, baked beans, and applesauce. The HMD crew will be providing homemade desserts. Dinner tickets include two drinks, but there will be a cash bar all evening.

Odd Fellows Annual Picnic

The Odd Fellows of Poolesville Lodge 97 is inviting the community to join them for their annual widows, widowers, and orphans picnic on Saturday, June 24. Come join friends and neighbors for a fun time of music, dinner with ham and/or chicken, and door prizes. Doors open at 1:00 p.m. at Owens Park.

Annual Heritage Days to Feature Historical Exhibits

The weekend of June 24 and 25 has the annual Heritage Days featuring thirty-six sites of interest. The event is sponsored by the Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County and the Montgomery County Historical Society. For a full schedule and information, visit heritagemontgomery.org or get a brochure at any of the tour sites.

In the Monocacy area, Historic Medley District's John Poole House and General Store in Poolesville will have Civil War re-enactors, Confederate infantry and artillery, Civil War songs, food sampling, Victorian interpreters, Civil War artifacts, and a lecture by a Civil War historian. They will also have craftsmen from many eras on site.

HMD's Seneca Schoolhouse Museum presents education in the county circa 1880. Living history costumed teachers will have a lot of fun events for children including spelling bees, crafts and treats, and the kids will actually get to don some Victorian costumes as well.

Clarksburg's 1909 two-room schoolhouse will offer a video showing the history of Clarksburg.

If you haven't been out to the Monocacy Aqueduct since its full restoration, there is no better time to do it than during Heritage Days. Musicians in 19th century garb will be presenting historic canal songs from noon to 3:00 p.m., and there will full guided tours throughout the weekend. White's Ferry has special programs about the events there and nearby during the Civil War.

Boyd's Negro School will feature

musical entertainment and serve light refreshments in the early afternoon. Presentations on this one-room schoolhouse will be offered.

The Waters House will feature Doug Jimerson's Gilmore Light Ensemble, a musical group that performs songs of the Civil War era in period dress. Their performances will run from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Nearby is the King Dairy Farm MOOseum with crafts for children, dairy artifacts, around the barn tours, and, most surprising, milk moosic.

On the way out to the ferry, stop by Warren's Church and Historic site featuring its unique group of buildings dating back to the 1860s. The church is still in use today, and there will be special exhibits and photographs displayed. St. Paul's Community church on Sugarland Lane will also have special tours of its building and cemetery site. This African American historical site will have members of the original families on site to share their history of the area.

The Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard on Comus Road, an eighty-five-acre farm with restored barn, silo, and windmill will feature wine tasting.

Our area's most prolific art colony, the Hyattstown Mill Project, has its seasonally outstanding art show on display with refreshments available.

"Police Blotter Continued From Page 3—

June 15, 2001. A Gaithersburg man was arrested and charged with the robbery of the AllFirst Bank on Fisher Avenue in Poolesville. Police said that the man entered the bank and gave the teller a note demanding money. A resident then saw the man ride away on a bicycle. He was then seen getting into a car, and the resident followed him giving directions to the police by using a cell phone. The suspect was arrested at the Germantown MARC train station.

June 15, 1939. Five young men, who had previously started a riot at the Montgomery County jail, were sentenced to three years in prison. The boys, all seventeen years old, awakened the Rockville neighborhood with their uproar. (Note: At that time, the jail was located on the top floor of the old redbrick courthouse)

June 17, 1927. A Rockville man, who was on trial at the Rockville court for illegally manufacturing beer, raised the point that the fluid seized by the officers was not of an illegal nature. Judge Riggs asked the officer how he knew that the brew was intoxicating, and the officer replied that he had drunk two bottles and knew that it was beer.



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In the Garden

Chelsea: The Greatest Flower Show on Earth

By Maureen O'Connell
LONDON, UK

London and areas up and down the Thames River have had two parched winters in a row. In response, the Environmental Agency has issued a ban on all residential use of water hoses, or hose pipes as they call them over here. So the exhibitors of the 2006 Chelsea Flower Show made plans to deal with this drought situation. As Fate would have it, the show, conceived in a drought, was delivered in a deluge. Raincoats and colorful Wellies were the dress of the day, not frilly summer dresses, Manolo Blahnik sandals, and flowery hats. Despite the torrential rains during the setup days and the opening day, the Chelsea Flower Show lived up to its accolades.

The first Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Great Flower Show (later simply called the Chelsea Flower Show) first opened on Tuesday, May 20, 1913 on the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea. It was to show-

case the wonderful world of English gardens and to raise money for charity. Today, it raises huge amounts of money for many charities. The show has always mirrored the prevailing economic and political conditions of the day. During the Depression in the early 1930s, edible plants such

as herbs and vegetables were popular subjects of garden design. After the First World War, "stove plants," which grew in heated greenhouses and needed much garden care and skill, vanished from the show due to lack of labor. The 1937 show was the last before it closed

from [QA/QE: If this is an annual show, how can the last be in 1937 before closing in 1940? There are three years missing.] 1940 to 1946. After the Second World War, RHS president, Lord Aberconway, told a gathering of former exhibitors in October 1946,

"Whatever else we go without, we should not go without a Chelsea Flower Show next year," and, in 1948, the show arose from the ashes, but it was still scarred by the war. It was at this show, in a cottage garden designed by the Women's Voluntary Services so active during the war years, that



On display at the Chelsea Flower Show

the beloved House of Meiland rose 'Peace' was shown.

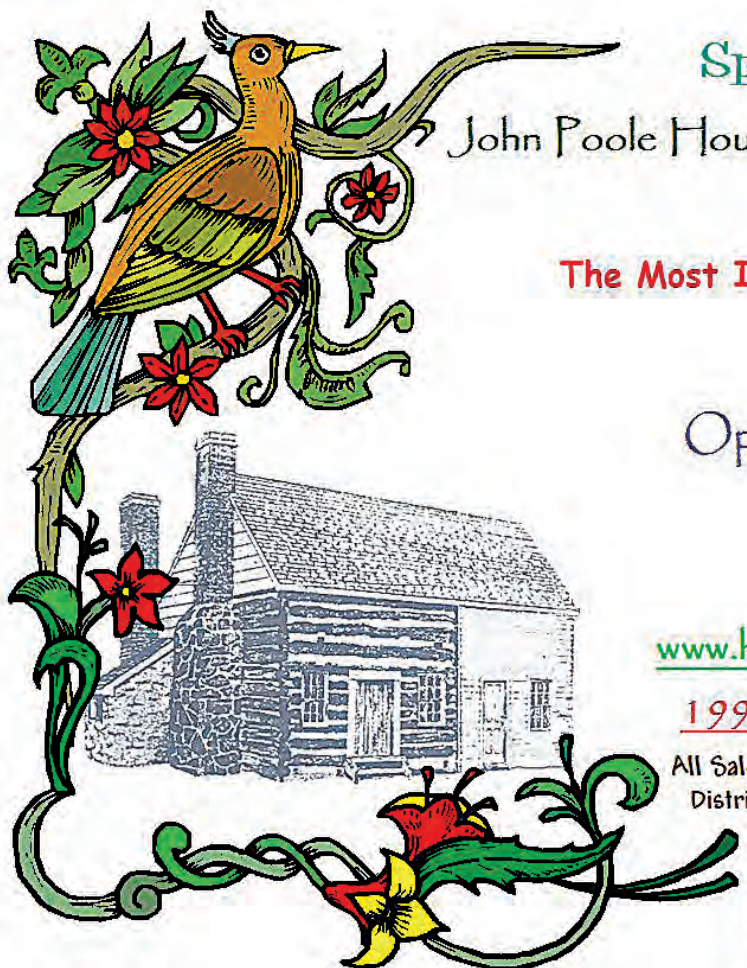
There were several themes running through the 2006 show, but the overall tone could be summed up as "the world in one show." The show catalog said, "This year, the world is

coming to Chelsea; French, American, Japanese, Lebanese, African, and Antipodean gardens are making the 2006 RHS Chelsea Flower Show a truly global event."

Many of the show's judges commented that this year's show was one that consolidated, rather than revolutionized. There were fewer new departures and a lot of déjà vu. This is not a criticism, for many good ideas bear repetition. I am sure that many of my readers have attended garden shows that awed them with their innovative designs and labor-intensive garden displays, but aside from their aesthetic merits, there is often little concern as to whether or not they would work in reality. The inclusion of practicality in the 2006 show might have been a byproduct of the season's drought, but nevertheless, it was welcomed.

All of London spruced up for the show. Every store, restaurant, and street corner paid homage to flowers. At Tiffany's, the doorway was framed with a large archway of roses, hydrangeas, peonies, bells of Ireland, carnations, larkspur, delphiniums, and daisies. On King's Road in Chelsea, the front door of a women's clothing

—Continued on Page 25.



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"Herbal Essence" Continued From Page 8—

tomatoes for a fresh, distinctive taste.

There are other uses for herbs outside of the kitchen. The source of many cosmetics and hair products is plants. Clairol's Herbal Essence is a whole line of products for hair with herbal ingredients. The late English humorist, P.G. Wodehouse, once said, "There is only one cure for gray hair. It was invented by a Frenchman. It is called the guillotine." Now one doesn't have to go to such dire extremes to remedy a bad hair day. Plant an herb garden. When my very gray hair looks a little dull, I gather some sage from my garden and create

a hair rinse. Pour a quart of boiling water over a one half cup of freshly chopped sage leaves; let cool and pour over hair. For years, before there were commercial hair rinses, rosemary was the most favored herb for brightening brown hair. Blondes can use a rinse made from chamomile to bring back natural highlights.

Do you like herbal tea? Grow your own from freshly-picked leaves from your herb garden. Making tea from lemongrass, mint, chamomile, or lemon verbena is simple. Place one tablespoon of fresh leaves or flowers in a tea ball, add hot, not boiling, water into a cup and let steep for five minutes.

Center Stage Star Search

By Dominique Agnew
*I fly in the night so high.
With the spirits I soar
Dancing among the stars,
Dancing among the stars.*

The voices of the more than two hundred singers of the Frederick Children's Chorus danced among the stars during their spring concert, Star Search, as they have for the past twenty-one years. The text above opens the song "Painted Memories" by David L. Brunner, one of many songs referring to stars and other celestial bodies, both figurative and literal. From J.S. Bach's "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star" to "Written on a Star" and "When You Wish upon a Star," the Frederick Children's Chorus sang of God's grace, told of the names of

was singing with the famed Paul Hill Chorale and was astounded when she heard a children's chorus full of voices that were "perfectly in tune and beautifully focused." At the same time, she was finding herself a little frustrated while conducting a chorus of adults for the Frederick Choral Arts Society to find that even though many were musicians, the musicianship did not translate to singing. Judy says, "I saw a need in the community to elevate the offerings for the children." The Frederick Children's Chorus was born.

What began as a handful of singers in 1985 has become a full chorus of two hundred voices with numerous added programs that enhance, educate, and expand the musical possibilities for the children involved.

The Chorus is composed of four different choruses: the Training Chorus, for beginners; the Intermediate Chorus, a step up from the Training Chorus; the Concert Chorus, mostly



The Training Chorus

those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, and reminded us that dreams can come true.

One such dream that has come true is the existence of the chorus. In 1985, director and founder of the Frederick Children's Chorus, Judy DuBose, realized that there was a void in Frederick and its environs. With a degree in Vocal Choral from Westchester University, Pennsylvania in hand and years of experience as a music teacher under her belt, Judy was gently pushed by two catalysts into creating the chorus. First, she

fifth through eighth graders and the focus of the chorus; and finally, the Chamber Singers, high school students who have outgrown the Concert Chorus and are ready for more, namely, a repertoire usually found performed by college and professional choirs. While singers in the two preparatory choruses prepare for the Concert Chorus, the Concert Chorus and the Chamber Singers are the showcase. They travel to adjudicated competitions (most recently last year in New York) and consistently receive superior ratings, and they are invited to perform as featured groups at professional conferences—a pedestal for other choruses to emulate—and for local charities and organizations.

Even after twenty-one years, the chorus continues to grow, but not necessarily in numbers. The Chorus began offering sight-reading classes to

—Continued on Page 18.

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**"Munson" Continued From
Page 9—**

ing the use of it." Two prominent citizens of Monroe County also wrote in support of Munson, and one said, "I have never seen him perform any work or duties with his right arm, and I further state that he has no profession, neither is he skilled in any arts or science."

In 1898, Munson appealed for a raise in his pension to fifty dollars. The trail grows murky, and there are letters back and forth, but it is not known if he was successful in obtaining the raise. In 1912, James Munson died in Wheatlands, New York. His daughter wrote to the government and appealed for money to pay for his burial. She stated that her father had been bedridden during the last years of his life and that his pension had gone to a nurse who cared for him. Kirby could find no return correspondence from the government. A member of the historical society in New York developed an interest in the investigation and by chance located Munson's gravesite one day and took photographs of the gravestone.

Kirby keeps James Munson's identification disc, copies of his enlistment papers, and discharge documents in a framed box which he proudly showed to a visitor. He keeps a scrapbook of

all of the correspondence between David Munson and the government. Jim also has a large collection of Civil War relics that he has found over the years. He reminisced, "I was trying to get something to do, trying to find a hobby." Twenty-five years after taking up the hobby, Jim's dedication to detail and experience as an investigator has allowed us a glimpse into the life of a common soldier who visited Poolesville nearly a century and a half ago.

**"Star Search" Continued From
Page 17—**

its members through its educational initiative a few years ago when the need was perceived. Also, seniors in the Chamber Singers who may be considering a career in music can serve internships to train and conduct the Training Chorus. Members of the Chamber Singers are also involved in the day-to-day operations of the organization from office work to newsletter preparation to booking guest musicians.

Of course, shoots have sprouted, perhaps they're branches, extending the reach of the chorus. A few years ago, the chorus began offering summer camp through Frederick County Parks and Recreation. Children spend a week finding their voices (every child has a singing voice) and experi-

encing the joy of singing and creating music with others. At the end of the week, the campers put on a fully-staged performance. Another branch is the new Little Music Makers. Initiated by Ann DuBose (Judy's daughter) and Amanda Barber, former chorister, the Little Music Makers is tailored towards five- to eight-year-olds as a preliminary to the formal chorus. Using a combination of established methods developed by Kodaly, Dalcroze, and Orff, the Little Music Makers introduces young children to singing skills through games and childhood songs. Fun and activity-oriented, the Little Music Makers makes for an easy transition into the Training Chorus.

Judy DuBose is especially excited about the new leadership that has grown with the chorus. "The leadership is spreading out among the off-spring," says Judy. Both of her daughters, Ann and Lee, have returned to Frederick after their university studies and have taken active roles in the directing and the leadership of the chorus. Also, Amanda Barber, among some of the first singers in the Frederick Children's Chorus, has returned to help and has taken on positions of teaching and directing. Judy thinks that not only did the chorus draw her children back, but the community

did, as well. She says, "They feel very connected to Frederick and really appreciate the qualities of this town and community." They grew up in Frederick during a time of great growth in the arts in the area.

For those who missed the spring concert, Star Search, but would like to see and hear these young voices, exciting opportunities have presented themselves to be chorus for the coming months. In June, the chorus will join the Glorystar Children's Chorus for its tenth anniversary with three other invited children's choruses at Strathmore Hall. A guest conductor, world-renowned Jin Ling Tam, will conduct the combined choruses, and each chorus will perform a short program. The Frederick Children's Chorus is also very excited to have been invited to perform *Carmina Burana* by Carl Orff with the Baltimore Choral Arts and the Maryland Symphony Orchestra in April of 2007.

For children who may be interested in participating in the chorus, there will be two summer camps of fun and games including singing and, at the end of the week-long camp, a short production. To learn more about the camps and the Frederick Children's Chorus, visit www.fredcc.org.



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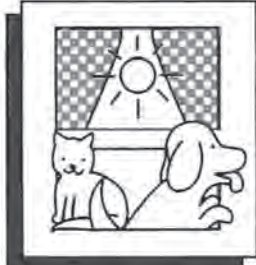
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Profiles

Lib Tolbert: She's Still the One

By Rande Davis

Ever notice how nearly every successful team has a go-to guy? You know, the kind of guy who in the clutch always seems to come through. (Relax, our use of guy in this case is gender-neutral, as in "hey, you guys.") The truly great teams have more than one go-to guy. In Barnesville, however, they have one who really stands out.

For over half a century, the residents of Barnesville have known who their go-to guy is, the one they trust the most to "git-r-done." In that town, the guy (or gal, if you really insist) is the Mayor Emeritus, Elizabeth Hays Tolbert, known affectionately as Lib.

That someone from the Hays family is a key leader in Barnesville would not surprise anybody who has lived in the town anytime within the last two hundred and sixty-nine years. Barnesville is a historically rich tobacco farm region that was originally identified and surveyed in 1747 by one of Lib's ancestors, Jeremiah Hays. We think the town would be more appropriately named if it were called

Haysville, though. Barnesville got its name when the Maryland General Assembly created the town in 1811, and named it after William Barnes who just happened to build the first home there. Mr. Barnes grew weary of the town, though, moved to a place in Ohio, and subsequently got Ohio to name that area in Belmont County after him. Excuse us if we think naming one town per person is the max. Wil-



Nancy Dacek, R. Scott Fosler, Lib Tolbert, and Marlene Michaelson.

liam can have the Ohio Barnesville, we happen to think the Hays family got robbed.

So while Jeremiah Hays first surveyed the town, and Leonard Hays built the first store in town, we won't forget that there was this other

gentleman who was a magistrate for many years, Abraham S. Hays. Then again, we shouldn't forget a formidable town academic named Edward Hays, either. When Lib Tolbert's dad lived in Barnesville, practically every house in town was owned by a Hays. Therefore, for the record, we proclaim that from now on Barnesville should be known as Haysville.

The real point of all this is to point to the real importance of Lib Tolbert to this town, the surrounding area, and subsequently, the entire state.

When Lib's parents passed on, she got the house in which she was born, and her sister, Mary White Lok, got the farm. Over the years, the decades, and even the centuries, important civic meetings have been held in the living room of Lib's 1797 farmhouse. Lib's mother was a Ray before marrying a Hays. The Ray's family history goes back to Texas and Virginia.

When Lib's grandfather, Ennis Ray, was a lieutenant colonel in the D. C. National Guard in the mid-1860s, he took his militia over the Potomac River to join the South. He ended up in prison for treason, and the only

reason he wasn't hanged was because the patriarch of the Blair family (Blair House adjacent to the White House) intervened on his behalf. Lib's namesake and grandmother, Elizabeth, was very dear to her. Grandmother Elizabeth was twenty years old when she and her husband, who was sixty years old, married. Her direct approach to life taught Lib everyday lessons of life (like learning to drink like a lady) and is most likely where Lib inherited much of her straight-to-the-point demeanor. Lib's memories of her early days visiting her grandparents' thoroughbred horse farm in Virginia bring back many heartwarming memories.

Lib attended school first in Barnesville in a building that had classes up to sixth grade across from the present Barnesville Baptist Church. Lib's mother taught in this school. In Lib's classroom, the first row of students was first graders; the second row was second graders, etc.

Discipline in her mother's classroom was simple. "Mother always made the students who misbehaved clean the privies as punishment." The privies in those days were two out-houses, one for the girls and one for the boys. This cleaning duty was all they needed to maintain control.

—Continued on Page 23.

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**"Lib Tolbert" Continued on
Page 22—**

When Lib was in the fourth grade, the Barnesville School was closed, and she was sent to a school in Poolesville. After her junior year, she was sent by her parents to board at St. Mary's Female Seminary in Leonardtown (today's St. Mary's College.) Lib became a cadet in a nursing program in Garfield Hospital but didn't practice that career very long since she met the cousin of a close friend named Sam Tolbert. He was an air force major from Atlanta, Georgia stationed at Bolling. Lib cannot be sure if it was his rank or his uniform, but whatever it was, he certainly "set the barracks on fire."

In 1945, this twenty-year-old got married in the same house in which she had been born. When they moved to Germany in the 1950s, Sam continued his service to the country as an intelligence officer whose group became

renowned for Operation Paperclip, a project after WWII where victorious Russian and American intelligence teams began a treasure hunt throughout occupied Germany for military and scientific booty.

After serving in Germany and London and other various stateside duty stations, they returned to the Pentagon and Barnesville.

Family is obviously the most important thing in Lib's life. You can still hear her heartstrings strain when she speaks of her brother Fred, who left George Washington Law School in service to his country and was killed in the Korean War. "He always had plans to become a farmer, a lawyer, and then governor of the state of Maryland." Lib and Sam had four children, Eleanor, the oldest, and brothers Fred, Richard, and John. When Lib speaks of their successes, she speaks with the excitement found only in the voice of a mother's love.

Family for Lib is not restricted to bloodlines. One of her dearest friends is Dorothy Hallman, a friend she thinks of as family, who has been with her all of her life.

Lib's political life began in the 1930s when her Uncle Shirley ran for the House of Delegates. "I had a bumper sticker on my bike: R. S. Hays for Delegate." He won, of course. From there, her political interest was honed at the family dining room table over family discussions. She is a proud Roosevelt Democrat who exudes a warm sense of bipartisanship in acknowledgement of relatives who went the other way. Her husband, Sam, finally registered to vote just so he could cast a ballot for Barry Goldwater.

She has been the president of the PTA and on the board at Prospect Hall. She started out as a Democrat precinct chair and was twice elected as a delegate to the Democratic national

convention in 1992 and 1996. Her participation and leadership in countless committees and civic organizations are just part of the public record. She laughed uproariously when I quizzed her about her long-term political machine in Barnesville and wanted to know if she could compare it to Mayor Daley in Chicago.

A highlight as mayor came when she was invited to the White House in the 1980s as part of a mayoral conference on transportation funding for cities. After arriving at the 17th Street White House entrance, she was escorted into a room filled with mayors from large cities like San Antonio, Kansas City, and Atlanta. When she met the mayor of Atlanta, they got to talking, and he asked her about the size of her staff. She informed him she had a staff that pretty much consisted of one person—herself. The Atlanta mayor was a bit confused but asked about Barnesville by saying that he "knew of Baltimore in Maryland but had not learned of Barnesville." He then asked how large it was, and she told him one hundred and fifty-four. He thought about that and concluded that 154,000 was quite a nice-sized city. "No," said Lib, "just 154 people." With that, some silence fell on the group, but Lib just smiled and told them to just enjoy the moment because "she knew she did."

For thirty-four years when Barnesville needed trusted leadership, the town turned to Lib. When various conservation groups sought leadership, they turned to her. More recently, she chaired the committee on rustic roads in the county. Most people who know her acknowledge that she speaks her mind directly and provides guidance with timeless wisdom and integrity.

At eighty-one years of age, when most others would be quite happy to simply spend their days quietly, Lib doesn't shy from the call of her community. When the Montgomery County Council needed a chairperson of an ad hoc advisory committee to research, discuss, and come up with suggestions to preserving the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve, they went to the leader they had learned to count on in the past. They turned to Lib. Uncertain as to whether she wanted to do it or not, a friend encouraged her by saying she should do it, if for no other reason than that she would have fun.

In Montgomery County, the go-to guy is still Lib Tolbert. After all these years, as the song says, she's still the one, and we're still having fun.

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"Sandy Cameron" Continued
From Page 4—

composers in the program had been influenced by Mozart in some way, most of them, of course, he never met, with the exception of Beethoven who was a child when he met Mozart. Explanations of the history of the pieces and educational tidbits were woven into the script in an enjoyably entertaining manner. Who knew classical music could be such fun!

The first half of the program included the first movement from Mozart's *Sonata for Piano and Violin*; the third movement from Mendelssohn's delightful *Piano Trio in D minor, op. 49* which introduced one of Sandy's friends, cellist Mimi Yu; a foot-stomping composition by Sandy Cameron entitled *Fo' Three Fiddles* but arranged for two violins and viola featuring Ian Goh on the second violin and Brendan Gillis on viola; and closed with, finally, part of Mozart's opera *The Magic Flute*, "Pa pa pa," a charming arrangement for piano, violin, and clarinet with Alexander Brash on clarinet.

The second half brought back all the musicians to perform an arrangement for piano quintet of the "Wedding March" from Mendelssohn's *Midsummer Night's Dream, op. 61* featuring young dancers from the community: AJ Lempert, groom; Claire Jones, bride; Hillary Templeton, Shelly Robinson, Valentina Henze, and Kerry Reed, fairies; and Maggie Reed and Erin Sparrow as flower girls. The dancers were given full artistic license to choreograph the piece as they wished—and they ran, or danced, with it. This was followed by the first movement from *Sonata for Piano and Violin, op. 12 no. 1* by Beethoven, then movements from two quintets for clarinet and strings by Mozart and by Brahms, highlighting the joy of chamber music and the excitement of playing in a group—for the fun of it. The program closed with a virtuosic

Introduction and Tarantella, op. 43, for violin and piano composed by Pablo de Sarasate (don't try this one at home, folks). Two encores brought back Sandy and the quintet. Sandy played the familiar "It Ain't Necessarily So" from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, and the quintet, in authentic Mozartian style (meaning they only practiced it once), performed a different movement from Mozart's *Quintet for Clarinet and Strings, K581*.

In her letter to Friends in the program, Sandy expressed her pleasure at seeing the concert series begun three years ago continue and blossom. She also explained her vision of raising funds through the benefit to "provide scholarship aid to all Poolesville cluster students seeking to develop their musical talent." She notably dedicated the performance to the teachers of the Poolesville community. "They have given so much of themselves to prepare their students...that we are forever indebted to them."

At the end of the concert, Sandy thanked all those who donated to the benefit concert, especially the gold and silver sponsors: Blackstone International, R. Edwin and Winsome S. Brown, Peter and Pam Green, Roger A. Hayden, II and Pasternak & Fidis, P.C., Chas. H. Jamison, Inc., Phoenix Systems, and the Washington Post. Sandy made it a point to mention that Frank Jamison of Chas. H. Jamison, Inc., has been a generous sponsor since the beginning of her benefit concerts in Poolesville.

Finally, Sandy expressed her surprise at the ability of the committee of parent volunteers representing all the schools in the cluster, Dominique Agnew, Sara Beckstrand, Sammeei Cameron, Chris Dominici, Pam Green, Roger Hayden, Heidi Rosvold, and Suzanne Tallia, to pull the concert together and to far exceed the goal of raising twenty thousand dollars. An exact figure is not available yet as donations are still arriving. Representing

PHS and helping with logistics were Ronnie Heller, Cathy Hoponick, Gail Howard, Benie King, Jonathan Leong, and Deena Levine, to name just a few.

Then there was some dude, Eric Agnew, who evidently drove the musicians wherever they wanted to be driven. Sandy seemed really pleased about that. Where can one find such a chauffeur?

The visiting musicians not only graced Poolesville with beautiful music and exquisite performances, they left Poolesville taking a little bit of the warm-heartedness of the town with them. Violinist Ian Goh, originally from Great Britain, left a letter for Mr. and Mrs. Cameron. In it, he wrote, "...it is with great pride that I can say that the only place I have been to besides Boston and New York in my four years at Harvard is Poolesville, Maryland...The warmth of your welcome and the community spirit here are simply extraordinary."

To those who missed the concert but read this article despite the warnings, I'm sorry. Your anguish must be acute, and you may be considering—no, we mustn't even think such thoughts! You wouldn't want to miss next year's concert, would you? When it was wished at the end of the concert that she would come back, Sandy said she would like to come home every year. So get ready for next year. Who knows which composer will rise from the hereafter to grace the humble stage of Poolesville High School.

"There or Square" Continued
From Page 5—

by most in the town and weighed strongly in the decision for the town to accept HMD's proposal. The group is also known for its work with the John Poole General Store and Museum and the one-room Seneca Schoolhouse living history museum. The town hall project will be supported through various fundraising and grant programs.

The evening of dining and dancing is one of those fundraising programs.

The Lions Club International is well known as the largest charitable organization of its type in the world, but the funds raised that go to the Monocacy Lions Club will be returned directly to the community through support for eyeglasses, eye exams, scholarships, gifts to WUMCO, holiday food baskets for those in need here in the community, and many other community contributions.

The HMD sponsored similar traditional barn dances and dinners in the past, but one has not been held for the past ten years. With the return of this traditional event, the community gets a chance to experience and contribute to the cultural heritage of the agricultural community while helping to introduce the wholesome family fun of the old-fashioned community dance to a new generation—yes, all that plus helping two worthy charitable groups.

The pig roast which starts at 6:00 p.m. will be catered by Smokin' Ray, renowned throughout the area for his pork barbeque, as those who have attended Poolesville Day can attest. After dinner, the traditional square dancing will begin at 8:00 p.m. Patrons do not need to be proficient in square dancing to have a great time since the Grim Pickers will be providing instructions and guidance.

Tickets can be purchased in advance with PayPal at www.historic-medley.org or at the barn door. For those attending both the dinner and the dance, the fundraising cost for adults is \$35.00 and for those twelve and under it is \$12.00. Those who just want to attend the dance can do so for \$20.00 per adult and \$5.00 for those twelve and under.

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**"Memorial Day to Remember"
Continued From Page 1—**

tives, each arriving firefighting team has a special role. While one group, usually the first on the scene, immediately assesses rescue needs, another safety support group will go about shutting off electricity and gas. While one group will know to go the rear of the building, another group will be directed to go to the front. What could appear to an outsider as a chaotic situation, actually is a study in effective

**"Chelsea Flower Show"
Continued From Page 16—**

and shoe store greeted its customers with two giant, Cinderella-like slippers covered in chartreuse bells of Ireland, pink roses, fuchsia, peonies, and white rhododendrons. A men's clothing store down the road on Sloane's Square had two large Versailles-green planters packed tight with perfect white roses.

The Flower Show is a top social event for London. On the Monday night before Opening Day, the queen and other members of the royal family attend. There are also many corporate parties in large white flower-bedecked marquees. The English have a love of gardening that is unique to this small island. They are very serious about the place of gardens in their lives. Only in the UK would prime time television devote several hours a day to coverage of the highlights of a flower show, but in the newspapers, there were some grumblings about the "affairs of the garden." An op-ed in *The Times* of London was entitled "Gardenmania — the growing craze that confirms we have lost the plot." The columnist, bringing to mind George Orwell's quote that "the British are a nation of flower lovers," questions whether the horticultural obsession is now growing wildly out of control. He goes on to comment: "The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) boasts a live interactive coverage from Chelsea as if it [were] offering instant action replays of grass growing. During one action-packed outside broadcast, a professional photographer of flora suggested that 'his was the most exciting job in the world.' The Guild of Drying Paint Watchers might demur."

However, this feeling might be indicative of a growing economic fact. Gardening, like many other leisure pursuits, has gone from being a private hobby to a public hobby-horse, where there is much money to be made. Once gardening provided a respite from the stresses of daily life.

and coordinated crisis management to bring the dangerous situation under control as soon as possible.

As an example, the hook and ladder truck from station 31 in Rockville immediately pulled into the rear of the town home and began extending its 100-foot ladder so firefighters could be in position to ward off flames jumping from one town home to another.

In what could have resulted in a disastrous Memorial Day to remember in Poolesville, the fire was brought

As Voltaire's *Candide* said, whatever happens in the world, one must "*cultiver votre jardin.*"

Enough about one's philosophical read of the show, let's take a peek into the show's spectacular gardens and flower displays. The show grounds are divided into two areas, the Grand Pavilion, and the booths and gardens set up around its perimeters. On the outside, you have two types of exhibitors: the commercial booths selling assorted garden-related items and judged actual garden designs. I sometimes go overboard at flower shows and buy too many items that catch my eye. At Chelsea, my buying sprees were tempered or held in check by the how-shall-I-fit-it-in-my-suitcase dilemma. I did buy one small item, a ladybug house. My garden's ladybugs have been homeless for years, so I felt that they needed a smart birch wood home.

There are four categories of gardens at Chelsea: Show Gardens, Chic Gardens, City Gardens, and Courtyard Gardens. These gardens are selected from a large number of applications. The judges pay particular attention to the quality of the design, planting, and construction. They also assess the gardener's interpretation of the garden's theme and its overall impression.

The sponsors of the show are a diverse group, ranging from the newspaper, *The Daily Telegraph*, Tourism New Zealand, to Cancer Research UK. The Jurassic Coast Garden was particularly whimsical. The coast of Dorset and East Devon was once home to dinosaurs and prehistoric life. The garden was designed to communicate the excitement of this extraordinary history. The Zoological Society of London's Gorilla Garden sought to transport you into the landscape of the western lowland gorillas. The idea for the garden was inspired by the zoo's conservation work with gorillas in Gabon. A much-publicized garden was Garden Africa. The sponsor is an established non-governmental

organization and UK charity and a Make Poverty History partner. The garden at Chelsea "marks the launch of a six-year project that aims to create 1,001 training and resource gardens in drought-prone southern Africa." These will provide a model for African gardens demonstrating how to maximize rainwater collection, store gray water (water that has been used for washing clothes and cooking), and stop water from evaporating from the soil by putting thick layers of mulch on the ground around the plants. With the advance of global warming, these valuable lessons of conservation can be applied to the world.

The star attraction of the show is the Grand Pavilion which houses nursery and floral displays. As far

under control in just minutes, there were no severe injuries to residents or firefighters, and the adjoining neighbors who had been evacuated were even allowed to return home that same evening.

Neighbor Roger Ferrell, who was roused from his home even while he was on oxygen, was especially complimentary of the fire department. "I am very, very grateful for the response. Their service is a really good deal. They did such a great job."

Chief Earl Moore was very adamant about the level of concern the fire department has on the fireplaces in these homes, and their use in hot weather. He had a special warning to them as well as to persons with older fireplaces. "These fireplaces are over thirty years old now, and it is very important that each gets thoroughly examined before residents use them." Mr. Ferrell may just have the best solution in stating, "I converted the fireplace to gas a number of years ago."

as the eye can see, and well beyond, there are walls covered with fuchsias, begonias, orchids, carnivorous plants, peonies, irises, David Austin roses, hostas, sweet peas, and many more flowers. The crowded aisles in the middle area showcase hundreds of other flowers and shrubs. A large area is devoted to conservation, composting, organic gardening, and plants used as alternative medicine.

I stopped to talk with many of the exhibitors. A nurseryman who specializes in irises and peonies told me about the trials of timing temperamental irises to bloom at the appropriate time. The BBC, who covered the show for prime time television all

—Continued on Page 26.



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**"Chelsea Flower Show"
Continued From Page 25—**

week, learned about his tricks of the trade and wanted to film the near-miraculous efforts of getting an iris to bloom on command. Looking at the nurseryman's very sizable array of irises in shades of pink, white, mauve, purple, peach, and yellow, I asked him why some of them had their "heads" wrapped in little paper scarves held together with rubber bands. He had heard that the BBC was coming in an hour to film the "blooming" of his irises. Five minutes before their arrival for the viewing, he and his assistants would remove the paper and hold hair dryers over each iris to help it bloom. Five minutes and voilà, a perfectly just-bloomed iris.

The people from Bowden Hostas of Devon were quite chatty. Of the over six hundred varieties of hostas, they had a display of over one hundred, beautifully arranged around a babbling brook. The plants ranged from the small 'Mouse Ears' to the taller 'Elegans.' I asked him if he had much trouble with slugs and their voracious appetite for hostas. This man was in his late sixties; he recalled the times in World War II when coffee was scarce. To stretch it out, people added

chicory. They did not like the taste, but they eventually became used to it. Coffee grinds were added to garden compost heaps. Gardeners found that if they sprinkled the chicory flavored grinds around the hosta plants, the slugs would not eat the leaves. They don't like the smell of chicory. I'll try that next time instead of a bottle of Bud. He said you can also ring the plants with strands of thin copper wire. The slugs will not cross over the wire. Later in the summer, I'll let you know if these two methods work

One of the most magnificent and eye-catching displays was that of Blackmore and Langdon's delphiniums and tuberous begonias. This nursery is one of the show's oldest exhibitors, starting with the first show in 1913. Some of the beautiful, well-staked delphiniums were over six feet tall. They are easy to grown in England's cool, wet summers. They struggle in our hot, humid weather. I have ten beautiful blue and white ones doing well now in my rosa rugosa garden, but I don't think that they will last much longer.

Many awards are given during the week of the show. The most coveted one is Best of the Show. The 2006 overall winner was Tom Stuart-Smith's garden for *The Daily Telegraph*.

It was a work of contradictions, but it stole the show. One judge said, "It is quite simply the best Chelsea garden I have ever assessed. It was 'intense' and colorful, modern and traditional, controlled and exuberant." There was a clear, geometric layout with lush plantings in colors of mauve, purple, and blue, splashed with white, punctuated with bright orange rusted steel panels strategically placed around the garden, large cubes of water tanks, oak decking, and iron settees. The plants included iris, salvia, geranium, nepeta, euphorbia, phlox paniculata, penstemon, alchemilla, and stachys. Floating above the large flowery area were 'Purple Sensation' alliums. What I appreciated most about this garden was that many aspects could easily be translated to a home garden. There was enough repetition of plants and materials to create a strong harmony and natural flow that could continue from early spring to fall. This kaleidoscopic assortment of perennials would do well in Monocacy country in any sunny border with well-drained soil. I was impressed with how well all the plants of different colors, sizes, and textures worked well together. One judge aptly said, in describing the garden, "Exquisite...the plant associations are made in heaven."

Breakup Day is when the Chelsea Flower Show closes. The events of this day, like the show itself, are part of the Chelsea tradition. At the end of this day, plants on the exhibitors' stands are removed and sold to the show's visitors. It is quite a sight to leave the show grounds and see elderly gents in blue blazers struggling with tall delphiniums in black plastic pots and country ladies in sensible shoes and tweed suits clutching dripping bundles of hostas or roses, as they make their way to the tube station or bus stop. Many underestimate the size and weight of their precious new acquisitions, soon to be part of their gardens. They contently return to their chic London flats or charming cottages in the suburban villages. They are sad to see Chelsea, the greatest flower show in the world, end for this year, but thrilled that they were a small part of it. Chelsea 2006 is now history, but you know that next year, Chelsea 2007 could even be better.

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Youth Sports

Girls' Lacrosse at PHS: A Seriously Fabulous Season

By Dominique Agnew

It was with some surprise that Coach May Shlash found herself on the third day of tryouts as the head coach of the Poolesville High School girls' lacrosse team. Expecting to co-coach alongside returning coach Betsy Tseronis, Coach Shlash became the only coach when Coach Tseronis, baby imminent, decided it would be best if she not coach the season.

So how did it go? "It went fabulously," Coach Shlash enthused. "It was an amazing experience." She had played lacrosse in high school, and she loved the coaching experience so much that she volunteered to coach the senior all-star game and is looking forward to next year — but first, what happened this year?

Despite being the smallest school in the county, the PHS girls' lacrosse team is known as a powerhouse and one of the toughest teams in the county. The girls won their division with a record of 7-0. Their season record was 10-2, losing only by one to Damascus and Quince Orchard with the Damascus game going into an exciting overtime. Overall, including playoffs, their record was 12-3. While the loss to Century High School of Baltimore in the playoffs was certainly disappointing, Coach Shlash says the girls played remarkably well. She also points out that not only does Century have a junior varsity team, they also have feeder programs. Many of the Century varsity players have years of experience while many PHS girls didn't start playing until high school.

This year's team graduates four seniors: Brittany Hilton, Andie Shar-tel, Emily Stovicek, and Jessica Egly. Coach Shlash concedes that it is a loss for the seniors to leave (Jessica Egly and Brittany Hilton were both named All-Division, also Brittany was named All-County first team, and Jessica All-County second team and honorable mention for All-Gazette), but there is a strong group of juniors on the team, many are already as strong as the seniors, notably Jacqueline Orona who was named All-Division, All-County, All-Frederick NewsPost, All Examiner, and All-Gazette; Meghan Rose, All-Division, All-County, and second team All-Gazette; and Jess Rolle,

second team All-Division, and second team All-County. Following right behind the juniors is sophomore, Erika Gonzalez, first team All-Division and honorable mention All-County.

What Coach Shlash will really miss with these seniors is the way their leadership grew throughout the season and the way in which they supported less-experienced players at practice and during games. She says, "They took them under their wings." All of which is important in trying to build a team.

In general, Coach Shlash is proud of the players, and she's proud of what she has been able to do, not knowing she would be the only coach. She tried to create an environment for the girls in which they felt free to take risks even if it means they might make mistakes. She also wanted the girls to have fun. She says, "Once they're having fun, then they take it more seriously."

Falcon Boys' Lacrosse: If You Watch It, You're Gonna Be a Fan.

By Rande Davis

Ask Coach Curtiss Belcher of Poolesville High School what makes this sport so popular, and he cuts to the chase with a response that would be a great slogan for the sport. He emphatically states, "If you watch it, you're gonna be a fan. Even a great defense will give up five or six points a game." Lacrosse is a fast-paced, non-stop offensive game.

At a time when many sports are trying to figure out how to increase the offensive play to excite the fans more, lacrosse is a fast-paced game that is akin to basketball from the spectator's side of things with the exception that in lacrosse you cannot play man to man.

It is the only game indigenous to Native Americans and, uniquely, ambidexterity is important to successful offensive play. It is so fast paced that substitution of play is done on the fly with time outs not necessary for adjustments.

The forty-member Falcon team finished 8-6 and won its division even though the school lacks many of the feeder programs enjoyed in other counties. PHS doesn't even have a junior varsity lacrosse team. Two former PHS players, Justin Shell and Colin Potemra, started a young feeder league just a few years ago, but it is too early to ascertain the impact of this league.

Falcon Coach Belcher was recruited to coach high school lacrosse even though he had not played the sport in high school or college. His experience came as a result of friendships with players in the Towson State University lacrosse club during summer breaks and playing the sport with them. This former college defensive end was more attuned to football and baseball when Gaithersburg hired him more for his overall athletic background than for specific experience as a player. After two years at Gaithersburg, AD Mike Riley brought coach Belcher to PHS as head varsity coach. Mr. Belcher teaches as a special education para-educator for PHS.

Over the past six years at PHS, Coach Belcher has had twenty of his players go on to play college lacrosse. This year's team had six seniors with team captain, Peter Halbrook, making the 1st team All-county. He has accepted an offer to play with Roanoke College next year. Halbrook led the Falcons with 57 points for the season. In lacrosse, points are factored by both actual goals and assists. Halbrook leaves PHS as the all-time highest scorer in the school's lacrosse history.

Co-captain Brandon Carroll suffered a major setback early in the season when he suffered a broken wrist in three places just as the season was kicking off. This outstanding student is headed to Virginia Tech where he hopes to play lacrosse as well.

Three-year player, senior Chris Hren, completed his final season by being selected for the seniors' all-star game. He was also selected for All-Division, a special honor by being chosen by the league's coaches. Chris will be taking off a year from education by working as an industrial fisherman in Alaska.

Seniors Petry, Keady, and Van Werkhoven have been major contributors to the team's success this year.

As the season closed, the Falcons

immediately began looking ahead to an even better season next year. Junior Mike O'Halleran is expected to continue his growth and emerge as one of the most premier players in the county. He is off to a great start by being selected 1st team All-Division, 2nd Team All-County, and 2nd Team All-Gazette this year. Overall, the Falcons have twelve juniors returning, and with Bernie Cunningham and Tommy Keefe coming back, the Falcons once again will have the luxury of having two very effective and talented goalies.

Additionally, seven of the Falcon players will be attending a recruitment camp this summer that will give them great experience against top players and will also give them an opportunity to be seen by every major college coach in the country.

A fundamental need to strengthen lacrosse in the county is to develop a strong feeder program. Coach Belcher hopes to address that issue through a new lacrosse camp he will begin this summer.

As an aid to college entrance as well as financial benefits, many athletes and their parents are beginning to pay much more attention to lacrosse. Coach Belcher will be holding a special Fundamental Skills Lacrosse Camp this summer from June 19 through June 22 for both boys and girls who will be entering third through ninth grades. The program, which will be located on the West Willard Road Field, will feature skill development, competition, and an introduction to the game. He will be assisted by a number of former PHS players such as Josh Funk (Ohio State), Mike Bertha (Lynchburg College), Bobby Fales (Loch Haven University) as well as two current PHS players Jacqueline Orona and Tom Keefe. The camp will cost \$85.00 and application forms can be obtained from the coach through the high school.

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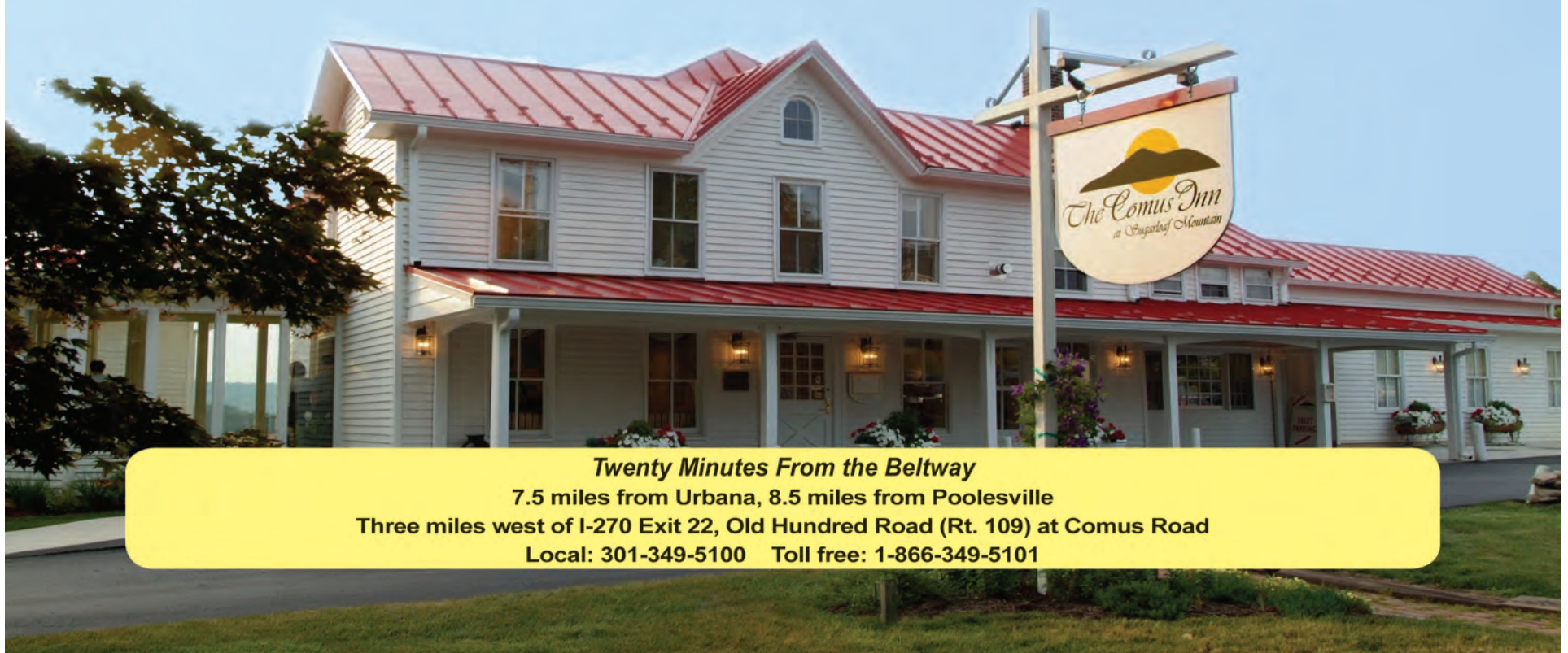


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