

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

September 22, 2006

Volume III, Number 12



The charge started right here. The Daytripper will explain on Page 6.



Poolesville Day kicked off with a parade. See our photo spreads inside.



The candidates were out in force on Poolesville Day, see page 2.



Historic Medley hosted an art exhibit in the old town hall. See page 2 for more pictures.

Snafu At the Polls: All Is Well That Ends Well

By Rande Davis

With a new electronic registration book in place, poll judges at their stations, and voters trickling in to cast their ballots for the September 12 primary, Montgomery County election board officials had to be excited over using the new technology for the first time. There was only one small problem. Someone had forgotten to include the voter access cards in the distribution package to the voter precincts.

With news reports on the airwaves hinting that a major problem had occurred, the dustup mushroomed quickly with panic, embarrassment, and conspiracy theories abounding. Almost as quickly, however, the problem was solved. While it was human error that caused the problem, it was also



Betty Jean Selby and Terry Coffren were ready to take your vote.



Those pesky but popular voter cards.

human response that quickly resolved the issue.

The voters arriving early were given the choice of voting later or cast-

ing their ballots by provisional ballot. Polling judge George Coakley at John Poole Middle School reported that most early voters cast their paper ballots and went on their way. "Only two voters seemed upset."

At Poolesville Elementary School, turning to provisional ballots seemed to resolve the issue fine until they began to run out of them. Normally, provisional ballots are available for the infrequent times that voter registration is not clear and further follow-up is required. Naturally, they did not have a supply for all voters, and after about forty minutes, they began to run out. With one ballot remaining, however, the voter access cards arrived just in time, and from that point on, everything ran smoothly.

The new Diebolt Electronic Registration Books make the process of verifying voter registration much faster than the previous card system. The portable computer system is quite compact, and, like the machines used by voters to cast their ballots, they are touch-screen operated. Even though the poll judges were using it for the first time, once everything was in place, they reported being very satisfied with its usage.

The primary election had another problem more significant than the missing access cards – missing voters. While turnout in our area was steady and normal for a primary, there were often many more poll judges and volunteers than voters. At 5:00 p.m., Monocacy Elementary School and Poolesville Elementary School reported that only slightly more than two hundred voters had cast their ballots.

On the Republican ballot, there were no hotly-contested primary races while the contests for United States senator, county executive, comptroller, and states attorney on the Democratic ballot were more uncertain. For the independent voters, their only decision was for the board of education candidates.

With the minor glitch now history, it is easy to say that all is well that ends well. With the pending general election having challenging races at the top, perhaps the larger problem of low voter turnout will also be rectified.

Fifty Years Ago

The Integration of the Poolesville School

By Jack Toomey

Before 1955, black students in Montgomery County attended "Negro" or "Colored" schools. Most of these schoolhouses were inferior and lacked the facilities that the white schools had. Some are still standing, but they are used for different purposes. The Quince Orchard Negro School stands on the grounds of a church on Route 28 about a mile south of Quince Orchard Road. Today it is used to store maintenance items and lawn mowing equipment for the church. The Poolesville Negro School building is on Jerusalem Road at the intersection of Jonesville Road. Now it is the headquarters building for the Montgomery County Transportation Department's Poolesville depot. It was built in 1925 and served black students until

1949. In 2004, Bessie Corbin, a retired teacher who had taught at black schools in Rockville, was quoted in the Washingtonian Magazine, "We didn't have gymnasiums, we played other teams in the (auto body shop), and we had to push the stuff to the side; balls would hit the ceiling. We couldn't play the white schools so we went to Hagerstown, Leesburg, and West Virginia, and sometimes we would get back from games at 1:00 a.m."

In 1954, the Supreme Court announced its historic decision that ruled that segregation in the public schools was unconstitutional. In 1955, Montgomery County chose to begin integration at schools in the lower half of the country. Several PTA groups in Chevy Chase and Kensington voted to oppose integration, but schools

-Continued on Page 12.

Family Album

Sponsored by: Selby's Market Your IGA Hometown Food Store



Monocacy Lion Jack Davis called them as he saw them at Bingo.



Historic Medley District Art Show



Historic Medley District Art Show



Mary Chiswell and her courtiers get ready to go.



Car Show at Poolesville Day



Chuck Hinton made at least one middle-aged Senators fan's day.



Candidates and families before the parade.



Toni Koerber and Walt Prichard at the Historic Medley District Art Show Fundraiser.

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Equestrian

Overcoming Fear: The Long Road Back

By Debby Lynn

If you ride horses, you will fall off of them. It's a given. For ordinary mortals, falls are usually attended by the unwelcome appearance of fear, particularly if you were hurt. Loss of confidence greatly reduces the enjoyment from riding. Instead of a welcome relief from the day's toil and trouble, it becomes a dreaded chore.

If you have lost your confidence and grown fearful after a riding accident, you may have even considered giving up riding, which once was your passion, and now has become your suffering—but fear can be overcome so that riding once again becomes enjoyable. I am not a psychologist, but I can share my own experience in overcoming fear after an accident which may prove useful to anyone who is in a similar situation.

The first surprise for me was discovering just how afraid I had become. During my forty years of riding, I have hit the dirt more times than you can count, including some nasty

falls while breaking young thoroughbreds for the track. Most of these falls left little imprint on my psyche. I just dusted myself off and got back on. Even in instances where I was injured and could not get back on for weeks, I did not seem to suffer undue fear



Debby Lynn overcoming all fear.

upon resuming riding.

But one day, slightly over a year ago, I suffered the worst fall of my career, incurring multiple spinal fractures, serious muscle tears, and significant head trauma. There was no question of resuming riding immediately after the accident. I needed many weeks of healing. I spent those fretful weeks counting down the days until I could ride again—time in the saddle being my greatest joy.

For my first ride, I chose a twenty-

minute walking trail ride on my trusty old mare which I have owned for many years and who was not the horse from which I had fallen. I noticed I was very nervous, but figured I'd shake it off once I got riding. Into the lovely and inviting woods we went. About five minutes into our little ride, my mare saw something and took a couple hinky steps. In an instant, my heart rate accelerated alarmingly, cold sweat began sheeting off my face, and I became so weak and shaky I collapsed forward onto my mare's neck. I was utterly astonished at my response which seemed comically out of proportion to the very minor event, but there it was. I was having panic attacks in the saddle with very little provocation and totally beyond my control. This was a dismal and unsought turn of events, and I turned and rode a long, shaky five minutes home with my heart in my shoes.

I decided to apply all that I have learned about settling nervous young horses to my own situation. Natural training methods recommend not pushing a horse outside its comfort envelope. My comfort envelope seemed pathetically small, but I started there. For my next ride, I took

my old mare to the indoor ring, got on, and walked for five minutes. I was actually relieved when the five minutes were up. This being the case, I did not increase the difficulty of my task. I stayed with five minutes of walking in the indoor each day, until it seemed ridiculously easy and non-threatening. Slowly, I added time in the saddle and the faster gaits until I was fairly comfortable with an ordinary school in the indoor.

Now it was time to get back on the horse which had caused my accident. For my first ride, I had someone hold her bridle as I gingerly got on and took a few turns around the indoor. Slowly again, I built up to a fairly normal ride around the indoor. I got a second shock the day I walked her outside onto the driveway after our school in the indoor. I suddenly thought I was back at the scene of my accident. It was so real, it was eerie. I was, apparently, having a flashback. I felt very sheepish about this one, and confessed to no one, but it served as a heads up for me. My fears and psychological trauma were far from over.

By now, months had gone by, and I was feeling less physically compromised. This in itself lessened my

-Continued on Page 4.



"Ask The Pros" Seminar

Sponsored by H. C. Summers Feed & Supply and Purina Mills

WHEN: Wednesday, October 18th, 2006

TIME: 5:30-9:30 p.m.

WHERE: The Frederick County 4-H Camp Center
3702 Basford Rd.
Frederick MD 21703

RSVP: Before October 11th Contact: Ann Higgins
H. C. Summers Feed & Supply
301-473-8300
or email andyhiggins@yahoo.com

COST: The cost is free but reservations are required. All proceeds from this event go to support the Frederick County 4-H. Heavy appetizers and drinks are provided.

WHAT: We are bringing together a special group of *Equine Professionals, Specialists and Business Owners* for an evening. Ask them questions, listen in on specific topics, participate in discussions, and observe demonstrations. Whether you are a trainer, horse owner, horse enthusiast, competitor, manager, farm owner, business owner, or just married to one, there will be something here for everyone!

**** DOOR PRIZES WILL BE PRESENTED ALL EVENING! ****

We will have a representative available from each of the following areas:

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Fence/Barn Builder	Equine Nutrition Specialist	Accountant
Sports Psychologist	Horse Trailer Specialist	Farrier
Equine Dentist	Realtor	Agricultural Loan Sp.
Lawyer	Personal Fitness Trainer	Acupuncturist
Tractor Specialist	Ground Grading/Clearing Sp.	Arena Footing Sp.

Directions: From Maryland: Take I-270 to Frederick, to 15 South towards Point of Rocks MD. Turn Right on Mountville Rd. Take immediate Left onto Basford Rd. 4-H entrance is on the Right. From Virginia: Take 15 North through Point of Rocks, MD. Take Left onto Mountville Rd. Take immediate Left onto Basford Rd. Look for 4-H entrance on Right.



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Focus on Business

Wearable Art

By Maureen O'Connell

The town of Barnesville does not have many commercial establishments. In fact, there is only one site at the intersection of Barnesville Road and Route 109 West. Over the last twenty-six years that I have lived in Barnesville, the two hundred-year-old former general store has been home to a variety of antique dealers. They would last for a couple of months or a year or so, and then close down. Several years ago, Barnesville resident Timothy Fitch, a noted weaver and handbag fabrica-



tor, opened Lahara Textiles in the old general store. It was good to see life and activity in the old store again. Mr. Fitch had beautiful woven and knitted artwork and clothing created by him and other artists.

In early spring of this year, I was sad to hear that he was relocating to Philadelphia. He approached one of the artists who had shown at his gallery, Connie Diamant, and asked her if she was interested in buying the business Lahara Textiles. As with many events in life, timing is the key. Connie and fellow artist and friend, Ginny Frank, had shown at numerous galleries and textile guilds for many years. They had toyed with the idea of opening their own gallery, but the demands of a full-time job and raising a family took precedence. Now, having retired from their jobs and the families raised, this opportunity fell into their laps. They felt the time was right, so in early May, they bought the business. They retained the name Lahara. The old general store was to come to life again.

Ginny Frank of Bethesda has a B.S. in Clothing and Textile Design, and an M.S. in Non-Profit Manage-

ment. While holding a fulltime job and raising a family, there was not much time to devote to the art of knitting. She was active in the fabric community and was a member of several knitting guilds in Potomac, Washington, D.C., and Alexandria, Virginia.

Connie Diamant grew up in the world of textiles and art. Both of her parents were well-known artists in Saint Louis. While holding a fulltime job in education administration, Connie kept up her interest in watercolor, oil painting, charcoal, and the art of weaving. She lives in Virginia.

Ginny and Connie's creative talents work well together. Through knitting, Ginny explores the world of color, texture, and design. Connie's works of art, be it table linens, ponchos, shawls, or scarves, show her exceptional ability with color and texture.

The old general store is a perfect site for Lahara Gallery. The building combines a traditional look with a touch of funky. When you walk through the old wooden front door, you notice that the catch is a little slow to close; the walls inside are bright aubergine and purple. The old wooden floor is well-worn. There are large looms and shelves of sweaters, jackets, mittens, silk and woolen scarves, woolen purses, brightly-colored blankets, shawls, and linens in magical colors of cobalt blue, dark purple, dusky rose, brilliant yellow and gold, and the softest of pink — a feast for the eyes. The bare bones of the room are a perfect backdrop for these textile jewels.

What is the meaning of the word Lahara? "In India, the technique of resist dyeing by binding individual areas of cloth to shield them from the dye is known as Bandhani. This method of dyeing has been practiced in India since antiquity. An application of this method, which creates a wave-like pattern, came to be known as lahariya, from the Sanskrit word for wave, lahara." In homage to the extraordinary contributions that India has made to the art of textiles, Timothy Fitch named his venture Lahara Textiles.

Lahara is a two-headed operation. The first floor of the building is a consignment gallery featuring the works of Ginny and Connie and several other artists from Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. They are reasonably priced for such high-quality artistic work. It is a perfect location for artists to show their works

-Continued on Page 19.

"Overcoming Fear: The Long Road Back" Continued From Page 3.

fears. A wise friend told me part of my fear stemmed from the fact that I was in moderate pain while riding and not capable of responding quickly if my young mare made an untoward move. She was right. My fears lessened as my physical condition improved. It was time to tackle riding outdoors.

For this next stage, I enlisted the help of a very dedicated friend. We had been bringing our like-aged young horses together before the accident, and she volunteered to help me regain my confidence on the trail. The first day I trailered to the park and got on to ride down and meet my friend, I was stricken with panic after a few minutes of riding alone out of doors. I turned back to my trailer before I reached our meeting spot, and, overcome with trepidation, I loaded the horse and drove away! My poor friend was left waiting on her horse in the park, wondering what had happened to me. She was devoted enough to return the next weekend for another try. At first, I could only manage a brief walk on the trail. Then, as the weeks went by, I found I could ride a little farther and faster without

worry. By and by, I found myself riding along comfortably, chatting with my friend, and enjoying the beauty of the park.

By the time a year had gone by, I was ready to resume all of my regular riding pastimes. Lessons, foxhunting, and eventing have all regained their joy for me. The year I invested humbly crawling before I could walk was well spent. For many who ride, it is a lifetime passion rather than a simple hobby. We simply cannot imagine life without riding. In the end, it was my love of the sport which prompted me to keep trying, and the help and devotion of good friends which saw me through.

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Business Brief

By Rande Davis

One Year and Counting

The old car wash in Poolesville has been gone and Total Automotive and Diesel has taken its place with the first year in the new location now behind them. Except for the time when a car bounced out of McDonald's parking lot into their drainage pit, things have been going great.

Lyn and Tad Bodmer are very pleased with the move and look forward to continued success. The Bodmers enjoy being involved in the community as witnessed by their willingness to help out the Monocacy Lions Club when finding a tent for bingo appeared impossible. The Monocle had an ad last issue that promoted their use of the facilities for their cause but at end they were able to find a suitable tent[QE/QA: Huh? What is that last sentence?]. Nevertheless, the Bodmers' willingness to step forward to help out was much appreciated by the club.

Area Restaurant Introducing New Offerings

Staying ahead of the desire-for-change curve, area restaurants are

making some adjustments to their menus. **Bassett's Restaurant** has always offered menu specials, but this fall, they are introducing a concept that features extended specials. First up on the menu is a six-week extended special offer for whole lobster at \$19.95. It started September 15 and will run through the month of October.

They are also extending their traditional October Fest offering over a seven-day period. This year, the event will run from September 29 through October 6. They will feature bratwurst, knockwurst, sauerbraten, and a solid selection of German beers. Don't worry about not being German. Just make sure you are hungry.

At **Asia Dynasty**, they are introducing twenty new dining room special selections that offer soup, spring rolls, and fried or steamed rice at \$10.95. There is something for everyone with five items to choose from each: beef, poultry, seafood, and vegetarian. They also are promoting free sides with carryout orders based on size of the order.

At **Cugini's**, they brought in Gelato Italian Ice Cream over the summer, and this exquisite specialty is offered in twelve enticing flavors. If you don't know what gelato is like, think creamy soft custard rather than ice.

What Do You Want to See in Poolesville?

The Poolesville Economic Development Committee sponsored a survey on Poolesville Day asking for direct input from area residents as to their desires from the business community. This new committee (to be featured in the October 6 issue) is developing plans to help foster a better business climate in the area.

Tom Yeatts, chairman of the committee, told the Monocle that the survey's purpose was to "gauge what businesses and services would like to see in the town. Knowing what the general population would like to see could be of value to the town as it attempts to attract businesses to the area."

Chamber Pleased with 5K Race

It may not have been the Marine Marathon, but with one hundred sixty-five entries, this year's 5K Run/Walk was an overwhelming success. The Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored this event, and the participants will be walking around proudly with their run/walk T-shirts.

The race began promptly at 8:00 a.m. and at precisely at 8:16.57 a.m., Ted Bradley, age 42 of Comus, crossed the finish line to claim title to cham-

panion of this year's event. At 8:18.43, another runner from Poolesville crossed the finish line into the parking lot of the restaurant that bears his name. Leo Bassett, age 40, son of the restaurant proprietors, placed fourth.

Other area runners finishing in the top twenty were: Brian Dresser (Boys - 19.47), Christopher Field (Poolesville - 19.54), Henry Giovannetti (Poolesville - 20.25), Christopher Wilson (Boys - 20.30), Thomas Jagodits (Poolesville - 20.56), and Nick Stavely (Boys - 21.01). From first to last, all were winners for their participation. There was only one loser. Rande Davis, who publicly and brashly announced his intention to run in this year's event, was a no show. Asked for comment, Davis sheepishly said something about "there's always next year" — if only he'd gone to those workouts offered by the field hockey team.

And the Winners Are...

Don Hoffacker's Air Conditioning and Heating, Inc. had a drawing at their Poolesville Day booth for either a free digital programmable thermostat, or a whole house Aprilaire humidifier unit for their home.

The winners are: Mrs. Betty MacKnight of Seymore Court and Ms. Lynn Frost, both of Poolesville.

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Things to Do

September 23

Rural Women's Republican Club
Saturday Night in Country – 50s Sock Hop
 Izaak Walton League – Poolesville
Happy Hour: 5:00 p.m. BBQ Chicken Dinner: 6:00 p.m.
 Admission: \$30.00 call 301-972-8609

September 25

Poolesville Library
 Book Discussion Group
Sick Puppy by Carl Hiaasen, 7:30 p.m.

September 26

Storytime, Families (six and under)
 Poolesville Public Library
Stories, finger play, and music, 7:00 p.m.

September 28

Storytime – Three to Six
 Poolesville Public Library
 Stories, finger play, and music
 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

September 29

Seasonal Home Opener
 Vs. Bowling Brook
 Poolesville Football, 6:30 p.m.

September 30

Sugarloaf Citizens Association
 Fundraiser
 Smokin' Ray's BBQ dinner and sides
 (\$20 adults/\$15 youth)
Silent Auction, music and equestrian demonstrations - free
 Sugarloaf Equestrian Center, Conoy Rd., Barnesville, Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Yard Sale, Forest Grove United
 Methodist Church
 Rt. 28 South and Rte 85 transition
 Table Space available: 301.874.2284
 9:00 am to 3:00 p.m., Rain Date Oct 7

Apple Fest
 Dickerson Methodist Church
Food, Apples, Pony and Hayrides
 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 Rain Date: Oct 7

October 6

Homecoming Weekend for PHS
 Home Game vs. Snow Hill
 6:30 p.m.

October 7

Annual Lord's Acre Festival
 Memorial Methodist Church,
 Poolesville
 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Day Tripper Gettysburg: Another Side to the Historic Town

By Rande Davis

You know all the good reasons to visit Gettysburg. You go for the history, for the remembrance of those whose lives, damaged and lost, served to make this a united nation and a better country. You take your children so they too can gain a sense of gravity and awe for the sacrifice made there. Maybe you think there is not much more to learn, see, or experience at Gettysburg, but maybe you're wrong.

Within an hour and half of your home is the battlefield that commemorates the days that sealed the fate of the South and served to keep America whole. The battlefield is still the mainstay, but there are a few other other attractions that should also be visited, one of which is often overlooked—and on the horizon, a hot political debate is brewing (maybe a modern-day Gettysburg battle).

The newest venue is the recently-opened Gettysburg Gateway, a new home for a multi-theater complex with near-Imax-size giant screens and audio

amplification. Located at Route 15 and Route 30, it boasts new hotels with shops and boutiques in the planning stages. What really sets Gettysburg Gateway apart is the heralded new movie, *Fields of Freedom*. This is a thirty-minute movie that graphically portrays the deciding skirmish of the three-day battle, Pickett's Charge. The movie was filmed in Maryland, using dialogue that came directly from letters written by the soldiers who were in the devastating southern attack. Learning that *Fields of Freedom*, as a movie, is only a bit shorter than the actual skirmish it depicts, magnifies the gravity of the actual battle even more. Pickett's Charge was just a



Pickett's Charge, in the Harrisburg Museum.

short moment in time but something that remains everlasting in our consciousness.

Readers who are history buffs may recall that Major General George E. Pickett ordered his charge at 3:00 p.m. on the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg, July 3, 1863. Over twelve thousand confederate soldiers lined up along Seminary Ridge for nearly one mile, preparing what was hoped to be a final charge against what they believed

to be a highly demoralized and nearly defeated Army of the Potomac. Instead, the charge resulted in the defeat and retreat of General Robert E. Lee's Army of the Northern Virginia. While the film's intensity may not be for everyone in the family, the mature viewer is left with a hauntingly visual perspective of this historic event. No matter how often one visits Gettysburg, the sheer horror of fifty-one thousand casualties in just three days never ceases to shock.

After thirty years of periodic visits to Gettysburg, we finally went to the Eisenhower Farm, discovering its peaceful

ambience overlooking the Pennsylvania hills on the low horizon. This 690-acre farm was purchased in 1950 to simply become "Ike and Mamie's" home, a tranquil respite from a lifetime of public service and duty. However, within a year of Eisenhower's retirement, President Truman, joined by the leaders of twelve European nations, asked him to become the Supreme Commander of North American Treaty Organization (NATO). Rest and retirement would have to wait as the general answered his call to duty once again. His decision to seek the presidency post-

poned the couple's desire to finally go home another eight years.

The home is humble and modest in comparison with the couple's achievements, but the experience of visiting it is nothing short of magnificent. You might be surprised, as we were, to learn that the president was not only an award-winning rancher of Angus cattle but also a pioneer in agriculture through his approach to soil rehabilitation. Many world leaders, from Winston Churchill to Nikita Khrushchev, came to the farm during his presidency and during his retirement. He loved to show off the farm by riding his favorite form of transportation: a golf cart. Guests must have been thrilled to experience the president's personal charm as he drew pleasure in personally grilling home-raised Angus steaks on an outside, charcoal grill.

The home tour only takes about an hour and half and includes a ten-minute video of Eisenhower's life along with self-guided tours of the ranch, stables, and barns. You have to catch a tour bus that departs every half hour from the parking lot of the Battlefield Museum.

The National Park Service has special events all year with the Eisenhower Academy, a summer institute for

-Continued on Page 16.

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Center Stage

The Anger, the Edge—and the Paradox between Them

By Dominique Agnew

If you made it to Poolesville Day (who could have missed it?), you probably heard the new band, Sonic Cheetahs of Death (Sonic Cheetahs for short). With a name like that, the first thought that comes to mind is some kind of angry punk rock band—and therein lies the first paradox.



The Sonic Cheetahs of Death.

Before we explore the world of paradoxes, let's consider how strange it was that this new band looked very familiar. Yep, four members of the Sonic Cheetahs, Andy Swick (lead vocals, acoustic guitar), Matt Raschka (keyboards, vocals), Jeff Stitely (drums), and Dave "Turbo" Gertz (lead guitar, vocals), made up the band grubspoon, that wild insistent rhythm we couldn't get enough of at Poolesville Days of previous years (wild and angry, no less). Conversely, these Cheetahs, they're a new breed. By adding a fifth wheel, bass player, Scott Carpenter, they've become... "We're different," says Jeff Stitely. "We're much more acoustic-based," adds Andy Swick. "We're a study in contrasts," adds Matt Raschka...guys, you're all talking at the same time, and I can't take any notes! Where were we? Right, they've become indie/folk/alternative with undercurrents of alt-folk and alt-country—like a good red wine.

Of course, the addition of a musician isn't cause for a change in name or style of music, there must be a story, and it goes something like this. The Band Formerly Known As Grubspoon (BFGAG) had been having modest success in the Washington, D.C. area, performing at times in New York, and even having some airplay on the radio. Then, last year, the BFGAG was pursued by several local independent recording labels, all locally-based. This appeared to be the break they were seeking. A

few things happened, the labels would say they were coming to a show and not show up, or they would show up and not be nice people (to put it nicely). "This happened several times," says Andy. "[It was a series of] build up, disappointment, build up, disappointment." They had recorded three songs that, as Matt says, "were undeniably good. Man, it went nowhere." Andy says, "Our fan base didn't react as we'd hoped." Jeff adds that they had to keep grinding or change, "Everybody took a chance trying different things."

From time to time they had joked about trying the acoustic sound, and the events of the past year finally prompted them to take a step back and reconsider. Everyone is taking steps to try new things. "For me to sing outside of the shower is a whole new experience," says Turbo. Scott, who wasn't allowed to be quoted much, adds, "I never thought I'd write a song."

Back to our study of contrasts, we have our punk rock name but music that is definitely not punk. "The songs are pleasant," Matt says, "with tragic stories." Jeff adds, "What's fun now is the lyrics [and] the story of the songs." Sigh—what nice boys—if they're not angry, they're tragic. Incidentally, Fred Swick, (see the article about Poolesville High School's athletic director), father of Andy Swick, asked me, "What were they so angry about? I don't understand them." Maybe now he will. These are songs that anyone can pick out on a guitar at home after listening to them. They have well-defined hooks, good melodies, interesting stories, and a broader appeal. Turbo says, "I don't think any of us has said, 'I don't like that song,'" while they have been composing. The metamorphosis has occurred, and they're happy about it. Says Jeff, "We're very excited about it."

The new band's success can best be summed up by what Matt's girlfriend had to say when she first heard the new sound, "What have you been doing for the past three years?" Matt reiterates how supportive she has always been, but evidently she has a preference for the new sound.

Poolesville Day 2006 was their debut public appearance—lucky Poolesville! Their next show is Tuesday, September 26 at DC9 in Washington, D.C. To hear a clip or to learn more about future appearances, visit their website: www.soniccheetahs.com.



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In the Garden

Hungry Plants

By Maureen O'Connell

This summer the book **The Ruins** by Scott Smith appeared in book shops, and it has been on the Washington Post Best Seller List ever since. Its plot was briefly described as "A Mexican holiday turns terrifying for four Americans who encounter a carnivorous plant amid Mayan ruins." The book reviews were favorable, so I bought a copy. It sounded like a "good



Moorei.



Juthatip Soper.



Readii flowers.

beach read" — you know the type, a page turner; a book you can't put down, so you stay up reading it, well past midnight. I finished it a few weeks ago, and I must admit that it was very readable. It is not a great literary work, but it is well written. On August twenty-third, The Washington Post Style section ran an article about the book. The first sentence said, "If you plan to read this book or if you are in the middle of reading it, do not read this article." As I was halfway through it, I did not read the article, even though I was tempted. Well, I shall not ruin the surprise ending for you either. I gave you the plot, and now you can buy the book.

I love flowers and plants, but I have never had much interest in carnivorous plants. My only association with them was, as a child, having a Venus Fly Trap and occasionally feeding it flies. When I was at the Chelsea Flower Show this year, I stopped at the booth of the Hampshire Carnivorous Plants. The company's representative was quite interesting and more than willing to talk about his fascinating plants. He had a very large display of many carnivorous plants in all colors and shapes. In 2005, his exhibit was awarded Best in Show at the British Broadcasting Corporation Gardeners World Live and a Gold Medal at the Chelsea Flower Show and the Hampton Court Palace Show.

Over the years, carnivorous plants

have been mentioned in many books and movies. Those of us "in a certain age group" will remember Morticia in "The Addams Family" television show in the 1960s. Cleopatra was her African Strangler plant, which she raised from seed and often fed it meaty tidbits. It was particularly fond of zebra burgers and yak meatballs. The phenomenon of humans being part of a plant's protein diet was brought to life in the 1960s in a comic horror movie, then a successful Off Broadway show, and finally a big-budget movie remake, each called "Little Shop of Horrors." One of the characters in the cast was Audrey II, who was described as "the product of hybridization between a Butterwort and a Venus Fly Trap." Maybe Tom Cruise or Mel Gibson could get a part in a new remake of the movie.

After reading the book and picking

up some information at the Chelsea Flower Show about carnivorous plants, my curiosity was aroused. How much science fiction was in

the book *The Ruins*? All living organisms are classified as either flora or fauna. We are accustomed to the idea of animals eating plants, but we are not used to plants eating animals. The definition of a carnivorous plant is any plant that traps insects for food. The question is why they need insects for food. Other plants get their nutrients from the soil in which they live. Carnivorous plants usually live in moist places where there is little or no nitrogen from the soil. They are the classic examples of adaptation. Most grow in the poor soil of wetlands, so to survive they had to adapt by turning to insects and other small creatures to provide their nutrients. Non-carnivorous plants would have difficult times thriving in wetlands with no nutrients and no ability to use insects. They could not exist there. Why don't wetlands have nutrients to sustain plants? In wetland environments where water is not quickly recharged by streams, chemicals released by decaying plant matter can become concentrated. Acidic compounds accumulate and increase the acidity of the water. When this happens, microorganisms, which aid in decomposition, cannot function. When plants die, they do not rot; they become waterlogged, which leaves few nutrients for plants. It is very difficult for plants to obtain nutrients in acidic soil. This is why there are special fertilizers for acid-loving plants.

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How do carnivorous plants get their supper? Worldwide, there are more than six hundred species of these plants and they have varying methods of entrapment. Carnivorous plants range in size from ones as small as microscopic fungi to huge pitcher plants that can devour small vertebrates such as rats, lizards and frogs. Generally, though, insects are the main course of most carnivorous plants. The plants have special organs with which to capture insects, and glands that give off digestive juices to help them make use of their food. In the plant world, you will find that carnivorous plants have probably the most extravagant, flashy and exotic colors. This is all part of their hunting strategy. Like "painted ladies of the night", they lure their prey into their lairs with bright colors, unique shapes and sweet nectar. Others give off a scent like decaying meat, which is a powerful attraction for insects.

Let's look at some carnivorous plants and their traps. Charles Darwin described the Venus Fly Trap (*Dionaea muscipula*) as the one of the most wonderful plants in the world. That might not be the opinion of a fly. His entrapment act is very simple. Its leaves work like a steel trap. They close tightly around an insect, locking in their supper. Digestive juices fill the closed trap and the insect drowns. Come and get it.

The North American Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia*) has slender, tubular leaves with fluted foliage. Some of them look like exquisite stained-glass vases. An insect is attracted by sugary nectar on the rim of the leaves. Inner hairs point downward, and the insect goes down a slippery slope and is trapped at the bottom in a pool of digestive enzymes. There is no room for the insect to spread its wings and fly out. Dinner is served. The most widespread of all North American Pitcher Plants, *purpurea* ssp *venosa*, can be found from the Florida panhandle on up through New Jersey, whilst *ssp purea* can be found growing in bogs from New Jersey into parts of Canada.

Sundews (*Drosera*) produce sticky tentacles which act like fly paper. They are very efficient small fly catchers.

Bladderworts (*Utricularia*), with over two hundred or so species, are by far the largest genus of carnivorous plants. They are epiphytic, terrestrial, and aquatic varieties. They are small plants with white, violet, blue, orange, lavender and mauve flowers. Leaf stalks resemble partly inflated balloons and are the traps.

Butterworts (*Pinguicula*) are beautiful in both foliage and flowers. They have sticky, fuzzy leaves that insects get

-Continued on Page 9.

**"Hungry Plants" Continued
From Page 8.**

stuck on. The victim struggles, which gets the plant's digestive juices flowing; the leaf edges fold inward, suffocating the insect.

Monkey Cups, or Tropical Pitcher Plant, (*Nepenthes*) is a very interesting looking plant. It is native to humid jungles in exotic locations such as, North Sumatra and the Philippines. They produce hollow pouches or pitchers, which hang from the plant. The pouches come in very outstanding colors, ranging from dark red, richly colored orange, bright yellow, purple-green, and pink speckled purple. They attract and digest their prey in the pouches. These are the guys with the big appetites, easily devouring rats, lizards and frogs.

While visiting the carnivorous plant exhibit at the Chelsea Flower Show, the company's representative lamented the loss, worldwide, of habitats for carnivorous plants. These plants live primarily in wetlands or bogs. In the United States, almost ninety-five percent of wetlands have been destroyed by humans, draining them and paving over them for more roads, housing developments and strip malls. In Europe, the once vast moors and wetlands are going the same route. In Southeast Asia, slash and burn

methods of agriculture are destroying more and more habitats. In our area, many bogs have been lost in Maryland and Virginia. With the loss of wetlands, most of the carnivorous plants, once found in this area, are facing extinction. You might say who cares if some plants that eat insects become extinct. As I mentioned in a previous column on the shale barrens in Poolesville, restoring and preserving rare wetland plants, habitats and associated ecosystems, all play a part in preserving the quality of our environment. Take one issue, the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Protecting the wetlands is vital to the health of the Bay. The few remaining bogs of Maryland are all in the watershed of the Bay. Agriculture and development activities directly impact the health of this body of water. The run-off water carries pollutants and chemical into local waterways, and eventually to the Bay. Bogs filter rainwater run-off. Destroy the wetlands and the plants living there and you take one more step towards the pollution of one of our nation's national treasures, the Chesapeake Bay. Carnivorous plants are more than oddities of the plant world. They are part of Nature's plan to protect our environment.

Youth Sports

Tried, True, and New

By Dominique Agnew

Fred Swick may be the new athletic director at Poolesville High School, but he's not new to the athletic director's office. During predecessor Mike Riley's eleven-year tenure, Fred was the assistant athletic director for the first eight years. Following in Mike's footsteps is in some ways easy — "Mike did a lot of really nice things," he says—but not without its challenges. Fred plans to continue the things Mike established that were successful and start establishing a few of his own ideas.

The first thing Fred had to do when he came on as athletic director in May was to hire new coaches: all of the boys' head coaches but one, the girls' varsity bas-

ketball coach (his old position), and a half dozen junior varsity and assistant positions. At this writing, eighty percent of the positions have been filled with all of the fall coaches in place. "I think we've got really good people," he adds. The two most difficult positions to fill will be the head coach position for wrestling and the boys' lacrosse position. "I'm happy with what we've done so far," he says.

Learning the ropes of athletic director was the second challenge. There are vendors to deal with. Which ones deliver equipment on time? Which ones provide quality equipment? The details behind the scenes have to be overseen. The track needs repair, the tractor doesn't work properly. "[These are] issues that are not a big deal, but little details that need to be done."

Since the beginning of his tenure, Fred has

made it a point to keep the athletic page of the PHS website current. In the past, "the website has not been

-Continued on Page 25.



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Profiles

Ken Fell

By Rande Davis

For Ken Fell, pastor at Poolesville's Memorial United Methodist Church, his sense of calling to the ministry was a journey that started with a simple nudge by a pastor from his youth and a personal understanding of God's grace shown through the life of his younger sister.

The middle child of Willard and Gweneth Fell, young Ken left his home in New Jersey to study political science and communication at Hope College in Holland, Michigan. Growing up as a member of the United Methodist Church, this son of a refinery worker and registered nurse did not have the ministry high on his list of things to do. It wasn't until after graduating in 1974 that his home pastor spoke to him about the possibility of attending seminary. The minister saw something in Ken that Ken himself wasn't quite ready to accept.

He may not have been certain about the suggestion, but he had learned something very important about God's grace from his younger sister, Karen, born with Down's syndrome. He was thirteen when she was born, and as she grew, he grew to appreciate her blessing to the family. "Karen has always had a special way of seeing the good in people." He reminisces how she, at times, could get angry when he or others might have upset or crossed her. Her gift of instant forgiveness, however, was complete without condition. Her witness to a God who loves and forgives without condition had profoundly affected him.

Finally, the pastor's vision and his sister's example led him to enter Wesley Seminary in Washington, D.C. Like most young people, his path to his life's calling was not a simple straight line. After attending Wesley for two years, he needed time to reassess his decision, and he left the seminary. He struggled with his decision for two years until he finally knew it was the path he was supposed to be on and returned, graduated, and was ordained in 1980.

After serving three years in New Jersey, he came to Maryland serving at churches in Johnsville, Frederick County, and in Union Bridge in Carroll County.

Rev. Fell and his family, wife Dyan, and children Brian, Sarah, and David, came to UMC after the retirement of

Lewis MacDonald. Rev. MacDonald and his wife, Patsy, were highly beloved and his special gift as a preacher was well known throughout the community. In 1996, Memorial broke ground on an 11,600 square foot addition that was christened McDonald Center in honor of the many contributions made to the church by the couple.

The history of Memorial reaches back nearly two hundred years when the congregation was one of several circuits organized by the Virginia Conference of Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1826, the congregants dedicated a new building as its sanctuary. That building still stands on Willard Road. At one time, it also served as Poolesville's Town Hall, and today it is the Friendly Thrift Shop.



The Reverend Ken Fell.

In 1892, the original brick church was built on its current location, but in 1915, a fire gutted the building. The resilient Methodists of Poolesville responded by rebuilding the edifice, and the current structure was completed and dedicated (debt free) in 1917.

Today, the congregation is pleased to be hosting Poolesville's Robert Snyder as part of his educational experience on his personal journey to becoming a minister. Mr. Snyder, after a military career and retirement from the Marriott Corporation, is in his third year at Wesley Seminary and serves the Memorial congregation through various ministries within the church.

Beyond its community service, they have been sponsoring Sue Porter, a missionary in Central Asia who has worked there in a women's clinic.

Just like here in the sprawling

-Continued From Page 22.

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School News

A New School, a New World

By Dominique Agnew

This past August, the brand-new Clarksburg High School opened for the first time for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. At the helm is James Koutsos in his first tenure as principal. "I fooled them all," he jokes. More seriously, he applied for the position when he learned of it, was given the opportunity to interview in front of a panel of twenty community members, students, and MCPS officials, and in May of 2005, he was appointed by the board. Obviously, he made quite an impression.

Of course, he is qualified and experienced. The only years he lived outside of Montgomery County were his years at William and Mary earning his undergraduate degree in finance. Then he decided he wanted to teach, so he earned his Master's in secondary math education from George Washington University. He taught at secondary schools in Montgomery County, including a three-year stint at Poolesville High School where he was also the varsity football coach, then he served as an assistant principal at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School and Seneca Valley High School while earning his administration certificate from Johns Hopkins.

On July 1, 2005, Mr. Koutsos began his position as principal of Clarksburg High School, and since then he has been busy. He has spent the year planning, hiring staff, and visiting many other high schools, especially new ones, to learn strategies for opening a new high school—not a small undertaking, to say the least. He met with principals like Henry Johnson who opened Northwood High School and Carole Goodman who opened Blake High School. He even went as far as Dominion High in Loudoun County and to the Eastern Shore to meet with Dr. Ed Shirley, now superintendent of Caroline County Schools, who had opened Northwest High School.

As Mr. Koutsos was hiring new staff members, they too would travel with him to gather important information. Sometimes the resource counselor or the business manager would join him. His assistant principal, Bernie LeGrande, was hired early and is a veteran administrator. "I've leaned on her a lot for her wisdom." Mr. Koutsos adds, "[These visits were] helpful as we crafted a vision of what we wanted the school to be." The vision is based on three things, scholarship, leadership, and relationships, as embodied in the CHS Vision: "All members of our learning community will receive a rigorous education in an environment that expects scholarship, promotes leadership, and fosters respectful global relationships."

Naturally, scholarship is an expectation; it is the purpose of education. At CHS, the vision is to not only have students graduating but also prepared



Captain James Koutsos

for life beyond the classroom doors whether that leads them to college, the military, or the world of work. As of this year, two programs have been established to enhance the academics at CHS: the Capstone Project through Integrated Technology and the APPS program. The Capstone Program looks for ways to integrate technology in all content areas. Seniors are expected to complete a Capstone Project which demonstrates mastery in a particular area of their choosing, giving students a chance to "carve out their own niche." APPS stands for Advanced Placement Power Scholars and emphasizes AP courses. This program is modeled after Walter Johnson High School's APEX program. Students must

apply prior to their freshmen or sophomore years and are then expected to take at least six AP courses and exams.

Promoting leadership is another fundamental part of the vision at Clarksburg. "Our world needs leaders," says Mr. Koutsos. That doesn't mean all students must become world leaders. Sometimes leaders are found in the little everyday things behind the scenes. He wants the students to find their potential as leaders and to look at how they treat one another.

This leads to relationships. Relationships between students are important, but more important are relationships between the staff and the students. If students trust their teachers, then there can be high expectations. "The staff can successfully motivate students if [they're in a] trusting relationship." Interestingly, many relationships have been involved in the staffing of CHS. Athletic Director Mike Riley at CHS is the same Mike Riley who hired Mr. Koutsos to be the football coach at Poolesville High School a decade ago ("We stole Mike Riley," he jokes). James Koutsos also attended Sherwood High School with CHS's Assistant Principal Mike Smith.

Mr. Koutsos is pleased that the staff and student body have embraced the vision and the direction in which the school is heading. "I'm so energized by our staff and students," he enthuses. "It's been amazing."

At Your Service

Blanche Rippeon Retires from Poolesville Elementary

Fresh-baked bread as part of a school lunch? How about soups made from fresh vegetables in the school and turkey baked in the cafeteria for Thanksgiving? That's how things were in the cafeteria of Poolesville Elementary School forty-one years ago when Blanche Rippeon of Dickerson began working there. It was the mid-sixties and there were five chefs, and they "did everything," says Blanche. "We cooked all the food," including cakes, cookies, fresh vegetables. "We made our own bread." For Thanksgiving, yep, they baked their own turkeys. What happened to those school lunches?

More important than the school lunches is the woman behind the school lunches. After forty-one years at Poolesville Elementary School, Blanche

Rippeon is retiring. Not surprisingly, the town of Poolesville presented her with a proclamation with words of praise for her many years of love and service to the students and staff of PES.

"Whereas, she was responsible for preparing and embellishing the culinary and epicurean delights served at



Blanche Rippeon

Poolesville Elementary School's renowned Chez Blanche's Cafeteria of Fine and Refined Eating, which at one time included the on-site preparation of delectable casseroles and delicious homemade bread," the proclamation reads.

Back to those school lunches and homemade bread—what happened? Well, in the mid-1980s, Poolesville "went satellite." All the food is prepared at a facility in Gaithersburg, packed in trays with foil, and sent to the schools. At the schools, the trays are simply put into an oven for heating. Goodbye home-baked

bread. Inevitably, five people working in the cafeteria became two. Of the twenty-one years of Poolesville Elementary being a satellite, Blanche was the cafeteria manager for the last twenty.

Five years ago, Blanche brought back the Thanksgiving Feast. It wasn't the whole turkey baked in the cafeteria as in years past, but it was a special event for students and their families. The children could invite parents and grandparents and other family members to join them for lunch. Tickets had to be purchased in advance. "It got to be a big thing," says Blanche. The art teacher helped the students create table decorations, and the other teachers were in on it as well. "The teachers were very good," says Blanche, "they worked with me." In all, it was a lot of work, but Blanche "really enjoyed doing that."

Blanche Rippeon grew up in Poolesville attending Poolesville Elementary when it was still attached to Poolesville High School. She laughs when she talks about her graduating class of twenty-five students. "It was just a farming community," she says. She raised her two daughters here. One still

lives in Poolesville, and the other lives in Woodbine and has given Blanche five grandsons.

After forty-one years at one of the parts of the school where all the children go, she sees many faces she knows in her travels through the area. When she goes to Selby's, for example, she's tickled to see young adults at the check out line who used to be in her cafeteria line. "Are you still there?" they'll ask. Some will say, "Do you still make hot ham and cheese?" Speaking of lunch lines, it must be some sort of reverse déjà vu when some kids say, "My mom said you were standing in that same spot when she came through the lunch line."

"Whereas, she never let a child go without the lunch that they would like to have, even went out of her way to offer 'specials' which were not on the regular menu, and heated up items brought to school by students," the proclamation continues.

Blanche was no ordinary cafeteria manager, however. She managed to make the PES cafeteria a special place, in

-Continued on Page 13.

"Fifty Years Ago" Continued
From Page 1.

opened without incident. Montgomery County waited until 1956 to integrate the schools in the upper section of the county. Before schools were opened for the fall semester in 1956, high school students in the Poolesville school district were given the choice of remaining at Lincoln Junior High and Carver High Schools in Rockville or attending the Poolesville High School. The Poolesville Elementary School had not yet been built and students from grades one through twelve all attended the same school. Black elementary school students continued to attend the Edmund Taylor School in Boyds due to overcrowding in the elementary grades at Poolesville. Fourteen black students, all in grades seven through nine, elected to attend the Poolesville High School while sixty other black students continued to attend Lincoln Junior High and Carver High Schools in Rockville.

On September 4, 1956, school opened for the fall semester. Things went well in Montgomery County except in Poolesville. That morning the fourteen black students began to arrive by bus or by car. A crowd of about two hundred adults and students stood outside the school trying

to encourage white students not to attend class. Another crowd of students also loitered outside the main entrance to the school attracted by the crowd of protesters. An infamous photo of townspeople holding picket signs with vicious racial overtones was printed in the Washington newspapers and can still be found on the internet. When the bell rang to signal the start of the school day, about half of the student body tried to enter the school, but the crowd of adults tried to block the doors. Howard Lyles, who lived in Jerusalem at the time, had been taken to school by his parents. In a recent interview he recalled, "People were walking back and forth," but he was able to enter the school because Coach Robert Moen opened a side door for him. A contingent of about twenty Montgomery County police officers, who had been stationed nearby because of hints of trouble, moved in and forced the crowd away from school property and then stood guard around the school grounds. The black students were able to enter the school building without further incident. An avowed segregationist, Everett Severe, who lived in Kensington, tried to inflame the crowd and promised that the school would not be integrated. He led some of the adults to a nearby

house where a meeting was held. The school day passed in relative peace and school was dismissed an hour early, in part so the police could escort school buses and patrol the neighborhood around the school. Only forty-six percent of registered students attended school that day.

That night, a boisterous crowd gathered at the Poolesville Town Hall. Everett Severe again spoke and demanded that the school system allow the Poolesville parents a public hearing in Rockville. Other speakers criticized the police for helping enforce the order of the courts. After the public meeting, many of the men who were present adjourned to a farm on Route 107 to hold a rally. A plainclothes police officer was able to infiltrate the group and later reported back to his superiors. On September 5, police doubled their numbers at the school, and there were no disturbances, but attendance remained low.

On the evening of September 7, a crowd of about sixty adults gathered in Rockville and began assembling on Jefferson Street near the courthouse. The police, who had been forewarned, had assembled a group of fifty county and state police officers. When the crowd started to march towards the headquarters of the school board Police Chief James McAuliffe announced, "There will be no demonstrations in Rockville tonight," and threatened to arrest anyone who caused trouble. Some racist signs were hung on the school board building and most of the crowd dispersed and returned to the same farm on Route 107 where they were kept under surveillance by detectives.

Because the attendance rate at the Poolesville School remained low, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Forbes Norris sent a letter to the parents of absent students quoting Maryland's compulsory school attendance law, which carried the threat of fines and jail. As the week went on, more parents sent their children back to school and the attendance rate climbed. By September 10, ninety percent of the students were attending school. On the evening of September 17, over two hundred Poolesville citizens attended a school board meeting in Rockville. An attorney representing several families, who had continued to withhold their children from school, challenged the board members on Maryland's compulsory attendance law. Eventually, the attendance rate increased, and by the third week of September, almost all students were attending

class. It was later determined that Severe was an avowed segregationist and had attended pro-segregation rallies in Virginia and had attempted to disrupt schools in other jurisdictions.

Today children of many races and ethnic backgrounds attend the Poolesville schools. Has it been only fifty years since those tumultuous days of 1956?

School News

And the Band Played On

By Rande Davis



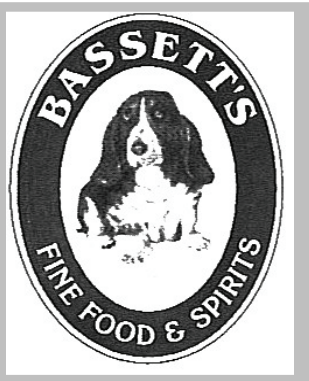
A big surprise at the Poolesville Day parade was the inclusion of a marching band, something that had been missing from the event for a very long time. This band was very special, however, since it was the debut performance of the Poolesville High School marching band.

James Laster came aboard as music department chairman in June replacing Mike Schreiber. Building upon the popularity of the drum line, introducing more contemporary music, and using the attractive new uniforms obtained last year, the result was a forty-three member marching band stepping sharply and playing crisply on Poolesville Day.

Asked how the band came together so quickly after so many years of non-existence, Mr. Laster pointed to the support of the administration and emphasized the music the students were more interested in playing. "We have new instruments and more drums. Also, we are trying to make it more fun by playing contemporary music."

Mr. Laster has new plans for the school's choral groups with a traditional choir while another that will feature show music. He is also developing a multi-school choral extravaganza that will be held in January. Mr. Laster is very pleased with the community support he has gotten and looks to the community for ways to continue that support. "We will be performing at home football games as well as one away game. We will encourage people to make tune requests and donations to the band which we will then use in the program."

Mr. Laster has exciting plans, and the Monocle will keep readers informed as he marches along.



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"At Your Service" Continued
From Page 11.

more than one sense of the word. The children could always rely on her to have "specials" in case there was nothing on the menu they wanted.

"Whereas, regardless of the number of assigned staff, all could expect kind and courteous service at breakfast or lunch," reads the proclamation.

On top of providing food for lunches and breakfasts, the cafeteria was always a place to hang out for the teachers. It was a place where people were comfortable and there was a sympathetic ear. The kitchen at PES was definitely different than those of other schools—it must be special—and evidently so is Blanche to her coworkers.

"Whereas, her heart of gold and, as described by her students, her 'helpful, nice, thoughtful and dedicated' service will be sorely missed," reads the proclamation.

In 1994, she won the Heart of the Program Award which is only given out once a year in Montgomery County. Teachers and secretaries at PES nominated Blanche for it without her knowing. When she won, she was completely surprised. Her family had been notified but had kept the secret from her and had stayed hidden when

her name was announced. "I never expected to be chosen," she says. Also, this past year, the librarian at PES, Sharon Black, secretly nominated her for Morning Person on one of the morning news shows. Again, she was surprised (and tickled) when the students began arriving at school saying they had seen her on television.

Despite all this fame, Blanche is a very private person—private and compassionate. The proclamation reads: "Whereas, if compassion were a person it would be Blanche, recognizing some were less fortunate than others, she never refused to serve a child, even if it meant paying for the meal out of her pocket."

It goes without saying that Blanche will be missed by the students and staff of PES, fortunately, she is active in the community and keeps her hands in other activities. She pet sits a lot, cleans houses, volunteers at the Friendly Thrift Shop, and also helps out at the Izaak Walton League with their dinners and parties. She's also looking forward to seeing more of her grandsons' activities.

Over the years, Blanche has developed friendships with the teachers and will miss the companionship that she enjoyed, but most of all, she says, "I'm going to miss the children."

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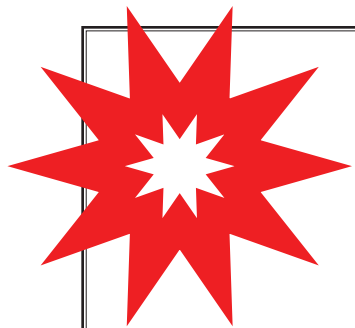
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“Gettysburg” Continued From Page 6.
 teachers, a very popular educational offering. They have a Christmas at the Farm special event in December, and we can only imagine how beautiful that tour would be especially with snow blanketing the countryside.

If you plan your visit to the Eisenhower Farm in the morning, you will be able to catch the Gettysburg Express at 1:00 p.m. This historic scenic train adventure is a sixteen-mile roundtrip excursion passing through the battlefield and the countryside. The conductor provides narration on other battles that occurred along the route. If you have young children or grandchildren who are enticed by the popularity of Thomas the Train and his friends, they will be especially thrilled by the train ride.

For the adults, an evening dinner train relives the romance of dining on the rails. In addition, they offer Murder Mystery dinner trains, Ghost Trains, and Variety trains that offer various entertainers. These specialty dinner excursions require advanced planning and you can log on to www.gettysburgtrain.com for more details.

While in Gettysburg, be sure to spend time downtown at Lincoln Square, with its historic hotels and shops, which

enlivens the historical experience beyond the battlefield. The square is just up from the train station where President Lincoln arrived to deliver his Gettysburg address at the dedication of the Nationally Battlefield Cemetery. The city also sets up a farmers’ market in the square during the growing season including other seasonal



The Eisenhower home.

special events throughout the year.

The hot political issue stirring up so much debate is whether to allow the introduction of casinos outside of town. Based on the yard signs, it looks like the town is about evenly split on this proposal. While we like Gettysburg just the way it is, if the casinos come, we will report on their development in a future day-tripper.

Gettysburg is a town lost in time and a fitting memorial to its historical role in our nation’s history. Expanding your day-trip plans to include an overnight may be the best way to experience its full offering.

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Tributes

Truman Thomas Forty-One Years on the Road

By Jack Toomey

It would seem that almost everyone in the Poolesville area knows Truman Thomas. He greets everyone he sees with a cheery salutation and always seems to be in a jovial mood. He has had many life experiences, some difficult, most enriching, and at the age of eighty-eight he carries on with the vigor of a younger man. Some know him as Curly Thomas and he explained that he picked up that nickname as a young man, "I never wore a hat and this group of girls started calling me Curly."

Truman Thomas was born in St. Mary's County, Maryland in 1917. He had twenty brothers and sisters and lived on his parents' farm on the Patuxent River. His childhood was spent crabbing, fishing, and hunting on the vast expanse of land. He moved to Montgomery County in the early 1940s

and he and a brother built two houses at the intersection of Route 28 and Berryville Road. After serving in the army during World War II, Thomas went to work for the Montgomery County Department of Transportation in 1946. He drove county school buses every school day and during the summer for the next



Truman Thomas.

forty-one years.

For the first ten years, Thomas drove school buses during the time of segregation. His responsibility was to pick up nearly every black high school student in the upper county and deliver them to Lincoln High School in Rockville. When he lived on Route 28, he would leave his house before sunrise

and begin picking up students in Co-mus, Boyds, White Ground, Poolesville, River Road, and Tobytown, and then he would head down to Rockville. After his high school run, he would turn around and retrace his route and pick up elementary school students and take them to Edmond Taylor Elementary, the school for black elementary students, on White Ground Road. Since black schools did not compete against white schools in athletics, he would drive basketball, track, and baseball teams to Carroll County, Baltimore, and Southern Maryland. Mr. Thomas estimated that he averaged several hundred miles on the road each day during that time.

In the early 1950s, he was offered a parcel of land in Jerusalem. When he arrived to inspect it, there were only bushes and trees. He cleared the land himself, built the house, and has lived there ever since. Thomas said, "I enjoy living in Poolesville. I've had no trouble with anyone, I try to do the right thing, and go to church every Sunday." After moving to Poolesville, integration was implemented in the Poolesville schools, and his route changed. Thomas was responsible for picking up most of the children, high school (which was then grades seven through twelve) and

elementary students, in the Poolesville district. Mr. Thomas said that he insisted that every student say good morning when they got on the bus in the morning. If they didn't, he wouldn't let them on the bus. Once he had a young man who said, "I'm not saying that to you," so Thomas told him to find a new way to get to school. The next day, the young man politely greeted Mr. Thomas. Now Thomas occasionally sees him around town, and the man insists on buying Thomas a soda or candy. Mr. Thomas wistfully said, "I enjoyed driving for Montgomery County, I would come back today if they asked me." During his forty-one years of service Mr. Thomas used only one day of leave and never was involved in an accident. When asked about the conduct of students over the years, Mr. Thomas said, "I drove all kinds, white and black, I started out right with them, if you are nice to them then they will be nice to you." Incredibly, Thomas only had four school buses assigned to him during his career, two Fords, an International, and when he retired, he was driving a new Dodge bus.

In 1987, Thomas retired from full-

-Continued on Page 22.

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"Wearable Art" Continued From Page 4.

under one roof. Lahara is part of the Countryside Artisans group which organizes tours of local artists' studios in the fall, winter, and spring. This year the fall tour will be held on October 13, 14, and 15.

The second floor houses a working studio, The Loft. Ginny said, "This



is where the creative stuff happens." The mission of the studio is "to support both emerging and established textile artists looking toward improving their skills." It has a host of reference and resource materials, design hardware for weavers, knitters, crocheters, and quilters. There is a well-lit workspace with sewing machines, looms, and an enormous worktable. Connie and Ginny plan to offer three types of membership levels at the Loft.

For a reasonable fee, members can have the benefit of a working studio at a fraction of the cost of an individual studio. The group aspect offers experienced artisans, as well as beginners, a supportive atmosphere of creative synergy where they can explore and develop their talents. Ginny commented that in the last five to ten years, there has been a resurgence of interest

in the fiber arts, especially among young people. For years, these activities were considered crafts; today they are considered art.

This new artistic venture for Ginny and Connie will take time to evolve.

They feel fortunate

that they now have the time, the energy, and the ability to see 'their labor of love' grow.

Currently the gallery is open on Wednesday and Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. They soon hope to be open on weekends. You may also call for an appointment: 301-349-0056. Next time you drive through downtown Barnesville, stop in to meet these two very talented artists. You'll enjoy the visit.

Big Board

A Reminder from Last Issue: Annual Popcorn Sale to Benefit the Scouts

With fall coming on, this is the time for the sale of popcorn by area scouts. This is the scouts' major fundraiser for the year and seventy percent of all proceeds go right back to the community. They offer a variety of different packages of microwave popcorn and also have fresh-popped, flavored selections including cheese, chocolate, caramel, and others. They don't have a contact number, but you will be seeing the scouts out and about and possibly knocking on your door.

SCA Offers Second Chance for Smokin' Rays

Save the date, Saturday, September 30: SCA and Smokin' Ray's

The Sugarloaf Citizens Association has their fundraiser scheduled for Saturday, September 30 from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. Come enjoy a day in beautiful Monocacy Country and support the Sugarloaf Citizens Association (SCA) Fundraiser. If you missed Smokin' Ray's barbecue on Poolesville

Day, here's a second chance. The cost of the dinner is \$20.00 for adults and \$15.00 for kids twelve and younger.

Most of the day's events are free with a moon bounce for the kids, music, and a horse vaulters and quadrille team performance. The silent auction will have many exciting items highlighted by terrific weekend getaways, clothing, and crafts.

It will be held at the Sugarloaf Equestrian Center in Barnesville. There will be signs on the road to direct you to parking. Admission is free. For more info, contact Laura Van Etten at 301-972-7147.

Puppets and the Wolf

Prokofiev's classic Peter and the Wolf in which each character is represented by its own instrument and musical theme is performed at the Weinberg Center for the Arts on October 6 at 10:00 a.m. and October 7 at 2:00 p.m. by the famous Das Puppen-spiel Theater. After the show, see the puppets up close and meet the actors. Prices range from \$5.00 to \$15.00. For more details visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-228-2828.

-Continued on Page 23.

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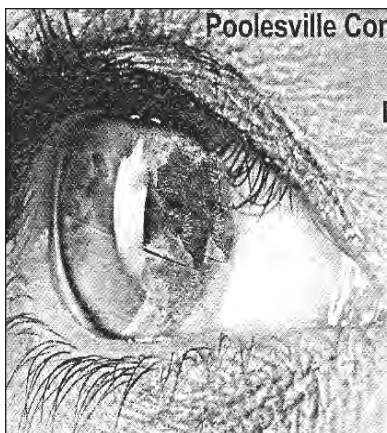
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Local News

Woman Escapes Injury in Accident

By Jack Toomey

A twenty-five-year-old Frederick woman escaped injury at about 7:15 a.m. on September 5 when she lost control of her car and struck a power pole on Route 109 near Poolesville. Montgomery County Police said that the woman was traveling east on Beallsville Road near Jerusalem Road in heavy rain when her car veered off of the roadway and split the power pole at the base. Allegheny Power Company crews responded to the scene and elected not to immediately replace the pole since there was no hazard to motorists. They returned to the scene with a large contingent of workers at about 5:00 p.m. and removed the damaged pole. The car also destroyed about forty feet of fencing.

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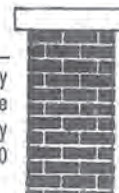


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"Truman Thomas" Continued From Page 18.

time duty. He continued to drive part-time to functions such as field trips until 1992. He said, "After forty-one years I have no complaints, your children were my children." At the beginning of his retirement, Thomas worked for several years doing home improvements. When asked if he had any hobbies or things to keep him busy, Thomas laughed and said, "I've worked all my life, I'm not looking for any more work now." Although he admitted that he likes cooking and frequently prepares meals for Gladys, his wife of fifty-nine years, and friends.

Today, some who read this article will remember the cheerful bus driver who made their bus trip a little more tolerable during their school days. Some parents will remember the dependable gentleman who transported their children safely throughout the years. Others will recognize the distinguished gentleman who has a good word for everyone. Truman "Curly" Thomas is truly a good neighbor, a model citizen, and an ambassador of good will.

"Ken Fell" Continued From Page 10.

Monocle offices, things sometimes go awry in the Memorial Church office. When that happens, though, they know who is to blame. They know not only the culprit, but also his name. He is Buford. You may even have seen Buford yourself. He is short in stature and carries a rather large potbelly. He is always in Rev. Fell's office standing on an end table. Buford is a stuffed animal whose last name we guess is Murphy and he is the creation of Rev. Fell's sense of humor. I think Buford must get out of this pastor's study on occasion because every group I know seems to have his handiwork around.

Rev. Fell believes that the strong heritage of the church is apparent in today's congregation. "This church is gifted by so many highly-talented people. We have so many people willing to go the second mile." With an adult choir, youth choir, bell choir, and two hymnals, the church is well-regarded for its musical spirituality. Rev. Fell is especially pleased with its youth and young adult program. "Memorial is a place where grace abounds and is a joyous place"



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Tidbits

Sporey Continues Winning Streak

By Rande Davis

Jim Sporey, who has been featured in the Monocle for his wood-working craftsmanship, entered his work at the recent Montgomery County Agricultural Fair and repeated last year's success by getting three blue ribbons.

Mr. Sporey creates intricate woodworking arts despite having severe arthritis in his hands. This year, his blue ribbons were for his entry of a nativity set, wall clock, and a fantasy display featuring a fairy on a mushroom with birds. His fourth entry, a three-kings candleabra, gained third place with a white ribbon.

Jim always prepares very special crafted favors to be given away at the Odd Fellows annual Christmas dinner, and he is working hard already to have them complete in time for the December event.

Art Show Fundraiser Successful

HMD's art show on September 7 at the old town hall in Poolesville was a very good success. With eighteen artists displaying their work and with a crowd approaching over one hundred, HMD raised around \$10,000. The money will be used to offset the costs and produce matching funds for the renovation of the building. When completed, the building will be restored to its bank origins and will serve the community as a museum specializing in the Civil War.





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"Big Board" Continued from
Page 19.

Two Very Popular Events on Tap Again This Fall

Memorial Methodist Church in Poolesville has scheduled its popular Lord's Acre festival for Sunday, October 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Crafty Ladies and Gents will put on another fine lunch for people to enjoy and socialize with their friends. They will have other crafts and yard sale items available and be sure to stop by to listen to their contemporary choir.

Then the following week, St. Peter's is going to have its much-anticipated annual fall rummage sale which runs from Thursday evening to Saturday afternoon, October 12 through October 14. Get there early on Thursday evening because the line will start growing about an hour before the opening time of 5:00 p.m. and will go until 9:00 p.m. On Friday, the doors will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. with the rummage sale hours on Sunday from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. If you have items other than summer clothing to donate, you can drop them off anytime after October 7 or call 301-349-2073 for further instructions.

Your Chance to Golf at Holly Hills and Help a Good Cause, Too

The Barnesville School is holding its golf tournament at Holly Hills Country Club on October 23. Registration starts at 10:30 a.m., and participants can enjoy the driving range and practice putting greens while waiting for the 11:00 a.m. BBQ lunch in the grillroom. Just to hedge your bets a bit, you can purchase mulligans and power balls at that time, too.

The school is looking for corporate sponsors from \$250.00 (tee sponsors), \$500.00 (beverage cart sponsors), \$750.00 for dinner sponsors, and other more prominent sponsorships with signage and golf included up to \$1,550.00. Cost per individual is \$175.00 and for foursomes it is \$650.00.

Monies raised by the tournament will help fund upgrades in their computer infrastructure. They are hoping to replace outdated computers for staff, faculty, and library student computer labs. Funds will also go for new hardware and software, color laser printers, and wireless internet access, among other things.

If you want to help sponsor or play, call 301-972-0341 or email mwood@barnesvilleschool.org.

Police Blotter Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present

August 22. A thirteen-year-old Poolesville boy was arrested and charged with first and second degree assault after allegedly shooting a companion in the eye with a paintball gun. The victim was taken to a hospital in Baltimore for treatment.

Past

September 24, 1892. Joseph R. Walton, a well-known druggist from Washington, was struck and killed at about 2:00 p.m. by a fast-moving express train in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Walton was employed at Whiteside & Walton, Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, and it was not known what he was doing in Gaithersburg.

September 29, 1932. A twenty-year-old girl was in serious condition at the Montgomery Hospital after she was shot by a farm worker who mistook her for a chicken thief on the farm of Mr. Sabine at Laytonsville. Police said that the

worker was within fourteen paces of the girl when he fired and that there were no chicken houses in the vicinity.

September 30, 1902. George Marshall, the carrier of the mail between Rockville and Potomac, was arrested by the post office inspector and charged with robbing the post office at Potomac of about ninety dollars worth of stamps.

September 30, 1898. Mrs. Gassaway, wife of John H. Gassaway, one of the leading citizens of this county, met with an accident on Tuesday night while out driving. Mrs. Gassaway, her two children, and their nurse were traveling on the county road leading from Germantown to Darnestown when they crossed a bridge over Seneca Creek and their wagon fell into the creek.

October 2, 1980. A million-dollar fire heavily damaged a Montgomery County mansion at Barnesville. Arson was suspected at the home owned by a Saudi Arabian concern.

October 3, 1943. A fleet-footed thief played hare and hounds with Montgomery County Police as he fled from them when they tried to arrest him in a theft ring. Police eventually brought him down with a bullet in the leg.



The Barnesville School 17th Annual Golf Tournament

Monday, October 23, 2006
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PLAYER PARTICIPATION

INDIVIDUAL: \$175

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To register or for additional information please contact Mary Wood at 301-972-0341 or mwood@barnesvilleschool.org (Credit Cards Accepted)

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 - Tournament Shirt/Golf Cap Sponsor.....\$1,000**
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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

10:30 a.m. Registration Opens

Enjoy the Driving Range, Putting Green, Raffle Preview, Mulligans & Power Balls

11:00 a.m. BBQ Lunch in Grill Room

11:45 a.m. Call to Carts

Pre-tournament Announcements

12:00 p.m. Shotgun Start

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5:00 p.m. Dinner Buffet in Clubhouse

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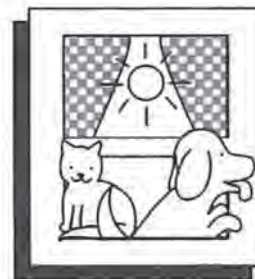
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**"Tried, True and New"
Continued From Page 9.**

kept up-to-date." He wants parents and students to be able to go to the website and find the information they need. Now, there is an announcement page with all the dates and times of special meetings, game schedules, and all necessary forms. Especially with the new magnet program and so many students from outside of the Poolesville Cluster area, it can be difficult for some of those parents to get needed information. With the help of Ted Gardiner as webmaster, they have hit the website hard to make things more convenient for parents.

While Fred is continuing the maintenance of the many improvements Poolesville has seen over the past years, he has some improvements in mind, as well. He would really like to see new bleachers for the baseball and softball fields. He hasn't had time to get to them yet, but he's hoping for donations from individuals and businesses to get them installed.

For many Poolesville residents, Fred's is a familiar face. He and his family have lived in Poolesville since 1978 before which he lived in Rockville since the age of three. Fred began coaching in 1983 and teaching physical educa-

tion in 1987. He has taught at every level, but mostly in high school. "I like high school," he says—that explains it all. Besides his stint as assistant athletic director, he has coached basketball, football, and baseball, and he has been the department chair, the position he relinquished to become athletic director. He finds it amusing to be at the point where he has taught and coached the children of former students he either coached or taught in the past.

Fred adds that he really appreciates the parents who are willing to help behind the scenes. There are a number of parents who lend a hand, not looking for recognition.

With the coming changes brought on by the new magnet program and the influx of students—the possibility of portable classrooms may impact practice fields—Fred plans to continue improving and building upon the success of the athletic program. Despite its small size, Poolesville High School offers every sport that the 4-A schools offer, and frequently gives those teams a run for their money in competition.

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O'Donnells Seafood Restaurant
Poolesville Golf Course
Kloby's Backyard Barbeque

Local News

More Transitions at St. Peter's Parish

By John Clayton

St. Peter's Parish Episcopal Church has continued to experience changes in its leadership. Following the departure of long-time rector Steve Hayward this past June, St. Peter's has now said goodbye to Assistant Rector Cynthia (Cindy) Simpson. Reverend Simpson came to St. Peter's seven years ago and over that time thoroughly revitalized the church's youth programs, established a robust and popular summer Vacation Bible School, and spearheaded or assisted many other good works. She also traveled to South Africa recently in support of the mission that St. Peter's assists in Richmond, South Africa. She is leaving to continue her quest to become an ordained Episcopal priest in accordance with a program set out for her by the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. The parish bade Cindy a farewell following Sunday worship services on September 10.

St. Peter's has used substitute or supply clergy on Sundays since Reverend Hayward's departure, but on September 5, the Reverend Charles

Hoffacker joined St. Peter's as an interim minister. This is a temporary, fulltime position that provides clerical leadership during the period that the church searches for and selects a new rector.

Reverend Hoffacker was most recently a rector of a church in Michigan and had previously worked in churches in Illinois and Ohio. He was born and raised in the Philadelphia area and attended St. John's College in Annapolis, as well as the National Cathedral's Cathedral College, formerly the College of Preachers.

He lives with his wife and daughter in the District of Columbia. His wife, Cindy Guthrie, directs the children's division of the main public library in the District and is a professional storyteller. Their daughter, Sophia Hoffacker, attends seventh grade at Washington Latin, a brand new public charter school. Her passions include

drama and comedy.

Reverend Hoffacker said that writing is an important part of his vocation and that he contributes articles, columns, reviews, and sermons to a variety of online and print publications. He joins St. Peter's while they are in the middle of a large building addition and renovation project.



Cindy Simpson



The Reverend Charles Hoffacker.

Reverend Hoffacker told the Monocle that he is excited to be serving this congregation. He said he sees a bright future as St. Peter's continues its long tradition of service here in Poolesville. He also looks forward to inviting the community to attend events in St. Peter's new building.

Local News

An Evening of Thanks

By Maureen O'Connell

On Wednesday, September 13, over a hundred people attended a reception



Tom Hoffmann and Tom Conway

were worried about issues that would affect the quality of life in this area of the county, particularly the proposed bridge across the Potomac River connecting Virginia and Maryland. From this small, but

hosted by the sponsors of the Montgomery Countryside Alliance (MCA) at the Comus Inn.

The MCA started out in the early 2000s as a small group of concerned citizens in the Agricultural Reserve who

much-focused group called "Solutions Not Sprawl," emerged a larger group called the MCA.

Mike Rubin, Tom Hoffmann, and Oakley Johnson, founding board members, thanked those in attendance for their tireless work and financial support for the MCA. Tom Hoffmann commented that every time he sees bicyclists on our back rural roads enjoying the beauty of the countryside, it tells him why we must fight to preserve the Ag Reserve. It is not just for us and our children and grandchildren, it is for all to enjoy.

Janna Howley from Fresh Farm Markets thanked the founders and supporters of MCA for all their work in protecting the farmers and farmland in our area. A representative of Whole Foods in Rockville presented Mike Rubin a check for \$4,000 in support of the work of MCA.

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Keeping An Eye On Local News

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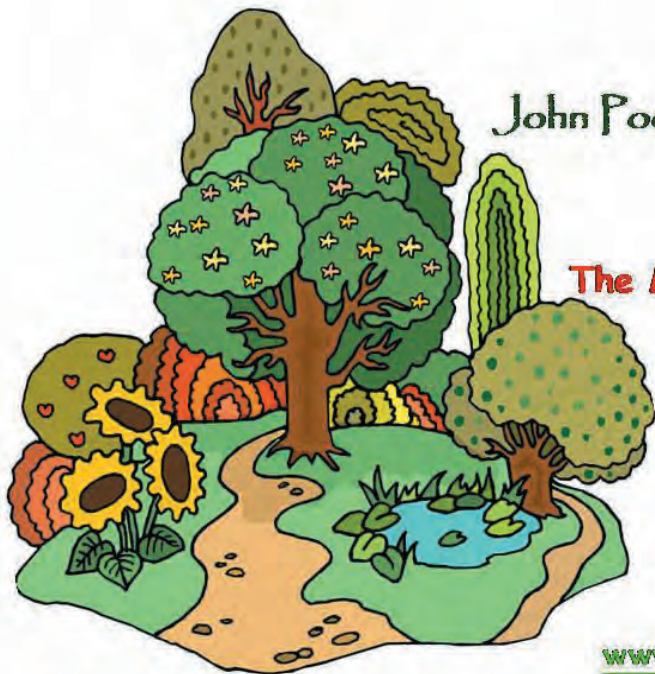
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