

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

November 16, 2007

Volume IV, Number 15.



Sgt. Marco Di Chiro removes some more graffiti. See At Your Service on Page 8.



Artist Calvin Edward Ramsburg and poet Bernie Jankowski. Read about their collaboration on Page 9.



Mr. Bill Harris, Poolesville ES music teacher, wowed the crowd with his performance of "It Ain't Necessarily So" from Porgy and Bess. Read about the talent show on Page 8.



PHS senior Rachel Stream (in black) broke the school career scoring record. See Youth Sports for more. (Photograph courtesy of Tom Amiot.)

Boyd's Country Store Averts Closure

By Rande Davis

Residents of Boyds were concerned that the Boyds Country Store, which has served them for so long, might be closed soon. Carlos Scarzella, the owner of the building located at 15110 Barnesville Road filed for bankruptcy and had A. J. Billig & Co. of Baltimore, Maryland auction the property as soon as possible, keeping the lease for the convenience store optional to the highest bidder.

Jae Wook Hong and his wife, Yong, proprietors of Boyds Country Store, suddenly found themselves not knowing what their future held. The couple has run the business 365 days a year for over twenty-two years, and, suddenly, the family venture was threatened. The couple made their living working the business, but over the years they also did something else—they made a lot of friends.

Boyd's Country Store has become

a landmark, serving the community since the early 1930s and reaching a peak of sorts in the early 1950s as Selby's Market. When Boyds lifelong resident, Arthur Virts, worked there in the early 50s, the store was owned by Brice Selby, brother to the founder of Selby's Market in Poolesville and uncle to its current owner, Roy Selby.

Virts remembers hanging mailbags for the trains, and he told the *Monocle*, "In those days, we had a \$10,000 inventory, high by the standards of the day, and we had everything from fresh meat and fruit and vegetables and frozen items, as well as buck shot and ammunition. Mr. Selby always told me that if a customer wanted something, we needed to find a way to buy it."

It seems most people in Boyds have a story or remembrance about Boyds Country Store. John DeReggi of Boyds seemed to speak for many when he told the *Monocle*, "The family means a lot to the community."

John Cavell has fond memories going back to when he worked Slidell Farm with his uncle and namesake, John Norman Cavell. Mr. Cavell eventually moved on from his farming days to open J&J Trash, Inc. of Walkersville, Mary-



John Cavell and Jae Wook Hong after Mr. Cavell's winning bid for the Boyds Store property.

land, but he never forgot the memories of the store and the friendship he made with the owner, Jae Hong. Mr. Cavell made the winning bid at \$300,000. "This store means a lot to the community, and everyone likes Jae and his family. I wanted to make sure that the store and Jae would stay."

For Jae Hong, on a day that started out with great trepidation and uncertainty, he was pleased his good friend, John Cavell, successfully bid on the building. Asked how he felt, he expressed his appreciation by saying, "He's my boy. He's like a son to me. He's my boy."

The Magic of Ponies

By Maureen O'Connell

On Sunday, November 4, Denise and Eric Chasin, and their daughters, Sydney and Amanda, welcomed friends and the community to their second annual "Brunch with the Ponies" at their Chasin Dreams Farm in Barnesville. There was music, pony fun, air brush face painting, magic acts, games, and good food. Panera Breads and Whole Foods generously donated the food and drinks. The Chasins' ponies are "not just ponies," they are Personal Ponies and the stars of this national organization, which was established in 1986. It is a one hundred percent volunteer organization, registered as a 501c3. Its mission is to provide children with special needs a UK-

type Shetland pony to love and to care for, completely without charge. If you don't have the land and facility to care for a pony, there are many farms, like Denise's, throughout the United States where you may visit and care for a pony or just talk to and pet "your personal pony." Denise is the organization's Assistant Regional Director for Maryland.

September 2007 marks the third anniversary of Chasin Dreams Farm. Tremendous progress was made this past year in introducing the ponies to more children in our community and other regions in Maryland. The ponies wove their magic at schools with special needs programs, fairs, camps, and nursing and rehabilitation centers. The organization refers to their ponies as "roving ambas-



A Personal Pony working the crowd in Barnesville.

-Continued on page 19.

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



A fall seasonal display at Steve and Sandy Austin's house in Poolesville. (Photograph by Jack Toomey.)



Bridget Burke "mans" her booth as she waits for the crowd to arrive for the United Memorial Methodist Church's annual Christmas Bazaar. The signs are good since the crowd appears to be coming out of the walls. Any resemblance to the Rev. Ken Fell is purely coincidental.



Members of the Monocacy Garden Club at their annual fall luncheon at Alexander's in Buckeystown (formerly The Catoclin Inn). The two young ladies kneeling in front are future club members Celeste Kelly and Mietzy Prasado-Rao.

Poolesville American Legion Post #247 welcomes Marine private Zachary Rhodas (PHS Class of 2007) home from boot camp during the Veterans Day observance at Whalen Commons. Post #247 also held their raffle drawing with the following winners: Drew Selby (savings bond), Jack Yates (Cracker Barrel Restaurant gift basket), Kevin Babcock (Cal Ripken memorial picture), and Bob Faust (42" Flat screen TV donated by Phoenix Systems).



Poolesville Relay for Life co-chairs Chrissie Harney and Chontelle Hockenberry address the RFL 2008 Kickoff Dinner. (Photograph courtesy of Poolesville Online)

Business Briefs

By Rande Davis

Local Printer Now Certifiably Green

Smith Litho of Rockville, and a major benefactor for many non-profit organizations in upper Montgomery County, recently received Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Chain-of-Custody certification. FSC certification allows Smith Litho to use paper products originating from FSC-certified forests and manufactured by FSC-certified paper mills. This creates a proven chain-of-custody from tree harvesting to the finished printed product. Earning FSC certification is the latest step in a series of green production practices applied by Smith Litho. Last year, the company began replacing ten percent of its power with certified renewable energy. In addition, Smith Litho has implemented the exclusive use of soy-based inks, installed afterburners to eliminate air pollutants, and invested in special recycling equipment.

"We're very proud to obtain FSC certification," said Charlie Smith, president of Smith Litho. "This is part of Smith Litho's broader efforts to be an industry leader in green business practices and reduce our impact on the environment. We feel it's more than just the responsible thing, it's smart leadership and we hope more companies will follow Smith Litho."

Cugini's Offers Wine and Beer

Just in time for the football season and for a relaxing respite after shopping during the holiday season, Cugini's restaurant, in Poolesville, now offers a selection of wine and

beer on its menu. Lynne Stillson tells us that while they don't quite have ninety-nine bottles of beer on the wall, they do have Yuengling and Miller Lite beer on tap, offer a good selection of bottled beer, and sell their wine by the glass or bottle. For patrons who eat in but do not finish their bottle of wine, Cugini's can re-cork the bottle and bag it for them. Wine and beer cannot be part of a delivery order.

With their party room for groups (with its own TV) large enough for groups up to thirty-five, this newest innovation coming just before the holiday season finds the restaurant ready for all happy and cheerful events.

Looking to Buy a Complete Book Collection for the Holidays?

Dickerson's Quill & Brush recently picked up a few thousand books—most of which are signed—from the estate of collector Rolland Comstock who lived just outside the city of Springfield, Missouri. Mr. Comstock was an avid collector who was rumored to have fifty thousand first editions. Quill & Brush estimates he had thirty to forty thousand first editions and ten to fifteen thousand magazines. Impressive by any account.

Nick Basbanes, author of the well-known book on book collecting, *A Gentle Madness*, interviewed Mr. Comstock in his home years ago. According to Basbanes, Rolland would take all the books he had by an author and fly to signings in New York, Washington, San Francisco, and other cities just to get the books signed. Needless to say, there are quite a large number of signed books in the collection. He also corresponded with many of the authors whose works he collect-

ed, and sent books for signature. We are sure that all of the signatures are correct. Want to know more about this collection or collecting first editions in general? Visit www.qbbooks.com.

New Owners of Poolesville Beer and Wine

It's been a long time since Labor Day Weekend 1975, but Jay Schwartzman, longtime businessman and contributor to the community, has sold his business to Joanie and Nick Jeon of Boyds.

For the Jeons, Poolesville Beer and Wine will be their first venture as a family business. Mr. Jeon recently left the hardwood flooring business to join his wife in running Poolesville Beer and Wine. They have three children: Adele (six years old), Dylan (four years old), and Jenna (three years old).

Jay will be around through the holiday season to help out. For now, there are no changes in mind. The cold beer, wine selection, hours of operation, and menu will stay the same. The Monocle welcomes them to the community and encourages all to stop by and say hello.

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Local News

New Agricultural Reserve Welcome Sign Unveiled during Ceremony at White's Ferry

The Montgomery Countryside Alliance unveiled a new sign welcoming visitors to the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve via historic White's Ferry. The sign is a full-color painting by Barnesville artist and designer, Tina Brown, depicting Sugarloaf Mountain and typical scenery seen around the Ag Reserve.

This is the first gateway welcoming sign to be posted in the nationally-acclaimed Agricultural Reserve and is the result of a partnership between White's Ferry and the Montgomery Countryside Alliance. Since the County Council voted in January to erect signs welcoming drivers into the Agricultural Reserve, county officials have simultaneously been working on erecting public signs along county roads.

Attending the unveiling were: Tina Brown, Ed and Winsome Brown (owners of White's Ferry), and Mike Rubin, Jean Findlay, Cynthia McGrath, and Oakley Johnson (members of the Montgomery Countryside Alliance Board of Directors).

"We want to thank Ed Brown, own-

er of White's Ferry, for partnering with us to post the sign on his property on White's Ferry Road," said Mike Rubin, president of the board of the Montgomery Countryside Alliance. "Tina Brown did a beautiful job portraying the beauty of rural Montgomery. This sign will definitely make people feel welcome as they visit the Agricultural Reserve."

The 93,000-acre Agricultural Reserve was created in 1980 to support the agricultural economy, ensure agricultural land, and to ensure local produce and recreational opportunities for county and regional residents. The robust agricultural sector is comprised of 577 farms, 350 horticultural operations, and now contributes millions of dollars to the local economy.



Barnesville artist, Tina Thieme Brown, and White's Ferry owner, Ed Brown, with the new Agricultural Reserve gateway sign.

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Garden

Fall Garden Chores

By Maureen O'Connell

Your garden might look like it has closed down for the season, but don't store your garden tools quite yet. There are still cleanup chores to be done before putting your garden to bed for a long winter's nap. A little bit of work now will better prepare your perennials, shrubs, and trees to withstand the cold and biting winds of winter.

Fall garden chores can be broken down into two categories: basic cleanup of last year's growth and winterizing the garden for a good flowering season next year. There is both a practical and a visual reason for these tasks. Removing spent plant material from your garden reduces the chance of disease spores and insect eggs lurking in your flower beds all winter, waiting to re-infest your plants come springtime. The foliage of some plants is attractive, dead or alive, but others, especially annuals, look like a disheartening tangle of blackened dead foliage all winter.

The first plants that I inspect for the fall cull are the annuals. After even a slight frost, impatiens, zinnias, daisies, petunias, geraniums, and ageratum give up the ghost; I yank them out, and they go straight to the trash pile. Different perennials demand different pruning plans. Some I cut back to the ground, and others, I cut back to one or two feet. Leaving some plant tips will help you locate the plants next spring, and it will also help insulate the plants from extreme cold by holding mulch and snow over the crown of the plant. Several of my peonies are planted in light shade. By September, the once lush green foliage is covered with the blue gray tinge of powdery mildew. It is best to cut them back to the ground. Check your irises for the signs of the work of the iris borer. If the top of the rhizome is soft to the touch and oozes smelly goo, dig it and the surrounding soil up and discard. If left in the ground, the damage will spread to neighboring healthy irises. Now is the time to cut garden phlox down to the ground, removing and discarding all dead foliage. If you don't have time to do this, at least, remove spent flowers. If left as is, the seeds of your once beautiful white, salmon, or deep red plants will ripen and self sow. Unfortunately, self-seeded phlox revert to their ancestral purplish,

sickly magenta color. As they are usually exceptionally vigorous, they crowd out the desirable, but less sturdy, varieties. During the flowering season, I dead-head coneflowers (*Echinacea purpurea*) to extend the blooming time and remove chance seedlings, but I leave the last wave of flower heads in the fall. They will turn black, but the birds will appreciate the seeds for a month or more. I leave many of my perennials in place for the winter and just cut them back in the spring—ornamental grasses, Autumn Joy sedum, achillea (yarrow), stachys (lamb's ear), and lavender. They look good even after a frost, and their skeletons add a touch of garden interest and reveal the garden in a new light.

Should you apply winter mulch? Where winters are very cold, mulch can save many plants for it helps to moderate the soil temperature. In our Monocacy area, plants can be damaged more from temperature fluctuations and wind than from the cold. A layer of mulch over the soil will keep it at a relatively consistent temperature. But don't be in a rush to apply mulch. Let your plants enter winter dormancy slowly. It should be applied only after the ground has frozen. This can vary from year to year. It is not unusual to have shirt-sleeve weather around Thanksgiving time and early December.

What to use for mulch? Effective winter mulch must be water and air permeable. You don't want to smother the plants you are trying to protect. You can use evergreen boughs, pine needles, weed-free straw, or wood shavings. My favorite is well-shredded leaves. Fix your lawn mower or tractor with a leaf shredding device, and it can serve two purposes. It will save you hours of raking and will provide your garden with enriching, free mulch.

If you planted any young or thin-barked trees this spring or fall, now is the time to apply a paper tree wrap. You can buy it at local garden centers. Remove it in March before new growth starts. Cold, drying wind is a major hazard for plants in our region. If your garden is in an exposed area and gets lots of winter wind, protect it with a temporary windbreak made from burlap.

Many people ask me about winter care for roses. There are several schools of thought regarding this issue. The amounts of winterizing you need to do depend upon the severity of your winters. Not to get into an argument with anyone about global warming (or the lack thereof), suffice it to say, our winters have become milder in the past

-Continued on Page 16.

School News

PHS Presents a Parental Follow-Up Meeting on Staph and MRSA Issues

By Rande Davis

Poolesville High School principal, Deena Levine, hosted a meeting with county health officials and concerned parents on November 1 in the school auditorium regarding the issues relating to staph infections, generally, and the major concern about the potential spread of MRSA (staph bacteria resistant to antibiotics).


Joining Miss Levine and representing the county were Judy Covich (director of school health services), Pam Montgomery (safety supervisor for MCPS), Kim Walker (PHS/PES/MES school nurse), and Kate Harrison (MCPS department of communications). County representatives recommended personal actions to prevent the spread of infection which included regular washing of hands with soap and water or hand-sanitizers, avoidance of sharing of personal care items such as towels, razors, combs, etc., and the

proper care of cuts and wounds.

The protocol used by MCPS through its department of Health and Human Services follows the guidelines of the Center for Disease Control. Miss Levine began the meeting by thanking the PHS booster club for its sponsorship of hand-sanitizing wipes that will be used on athletic equipment. Miss Levine reported that the school is cleaning, on a daily basis, gym floors, equipment, and locker facilities. The athletic department is taking steps to make sure athletes bring their personal jerseys and other sports clothing home on a daily basis to be washed, and is encouraging athletes to shower after games and practices at home, if not in the school showers. Miss Levine told the gathering that, unlike in some other schools, PHS locker room showers are not used for storage, and they are fully operational and monitored regularly for soap and sanitizers. School systems no longer require students to take showers following gym class or sport events. School Nurse Walker has instructed all teachers to monitor students for cuts and wounds and to send students with such scrapes to the health room.

It is speculated that staph infection problems are more prevalent among older athletes since parental




-Continued on Page 26.



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Humble Chef

By Maureen O'Connell

Thanksgiving is a purely American holiday, where thanks are given for the abundance of food in this land, good friends, and family. It is a holiday founded upon traditions. In many families, certain foods are a given in the menu. It is not Thanksgiving dinner without mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie. At heart, I am a traditionalist, but the more creative chef inside of me usually tries to sneak into the menu every year something a little bit different. It is not unorthodox enough to cause a culinary rebellion, but it is enough for guests to say, Oh, this is a little bit different, but good. Whether you have cooked many Thanksgiving dinners or are preparing your first, you'll find the following three recipes delicious, easy to make, and a tad from the ordinary.

Smoky Pumpkin Soup

Serves six

6 slices of bacon, cooked crisp, fat reserved
 ½ stick unsalted butter
 6 cups peeled cut-up pumpkin (1-inch pieces)

6 cups beef broth
 ½ cup Marsala
 1 teaspoon dried thyme Salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste
 Toasted pumpkin seeds to garnish

Heat the bacon fat and butter in a stock pot over medium-high heat. Add the pumpkin and sauté for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Pour in the stock and simmer covered until the pumpkin is very tender, about 30 minutes. Remove from heat. Add the Marsala, thyme, and salt and pepper to taste. Process the soup in batches in a food processor until smooth. Return to the stock pot. Add the bacon. Simmer 10 minutes. Serve immediately, garnished with pumpkin seeds.

The Silver Palate Good Times Cookbook – Julee Rosso & Sheila Lukins

Sweet Potato and Apple Gratin

Serves four

2 large sweet potatoes, peeled and sliced medium thin
 1 to 2 medium apples, peeled and thinly sliced, I used Fuji, but Granny Smiths work well
 1 cup apple cider
 Sprinkling of freshly grated ginger, or 1 teaspoon dried ginger
 1 teaspoon allspice

In shallow baking dish, arrange potatoes and apples in alternating rows. Pour

apple cider over dish. Sprinkle with ginger and allspice. Place in 350° oven for approximately 20 minutes, or until potatoes are tender, but not mushy, and the liquid is reduced to about half.

Humble Chef Kitchen

Maple-Roasted Brussels Sprouts

Serves eight

This is a simple side dish that goes very well with roast turkey. Like broccoli and spinach, Brussels sprouts are a much-maligned vegetable. I believe the fault lies in the method of cooking. They are members of the cabbage family. When overcooked, they become mushy in texture and strong in taste, with an overpowering cabbage smell. They must be cooked quickly, so the centers are still rather crisp when you bite into them. The following recipe might change your opinion of these delicious vegetables.

¼ cup canola oil
 2 pounds baby bBrussels sprouts or regular ones that are halved lengthwise.
 Salt and freshly ground pepper
 1 stick unsalted butter, cut into tablespoons and softened
 2 tablespoons light brown sugar
 ¼ cup maple syrup
 1 ½ tablespoons cider vinegar
 1 cup roasted chestnuts (6 ounces), coarsely chopped

1 tablespoon walnut oil

1. Heat the oil in a large skillet until shimmering. Add the Brussels sprouts to the skillet and season with salt and pepper to taste. Cook over high heat without stirring until they are browned, about 2 minutes. Add the butter and brown sugar and continue cooking over moderately high heat, stirring occasionally, until the brown sugar is melted. Add the maple syrup to the skillet and cook, stirring occasionally until the bBrussels sprouts are just crisp-tender, about 7 minutes. Stir the cider vinegar into the bBrussels sprouts. Add the chopped chestnuts and walnut oil to the skillet and cook until the chestnuts are heated through, about 3 minutes.
 2. Using a slotted spoon, transfer the bBrussels sprouts and chestnuts to a warmed serving bowl. Boil the cooking liquid over high heat until it has thickened slightly, about 2 minutes. Pour the maple sauce over the bBrussels sprouts and chestnuts and serve them immediately.

Julie Taras and Tasha Garcia, Food and Wine

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Police Blotter

By Jack Toomey

Present

October 11 Two vehicles were broken into on Hoskinson Road between 11:00 p.m. and dawn. Property was taken in both cases.

November 5 A twenty-one-year-old Germantown man was stabbed to death at a bus stop on Lost Knife Road, adjacent to Lake Forest Mall. Police believe that the incident could be gang-related.

Past

November 17, 1961 A Gaithersburg dairy farmer opened fire on two police officers and a woman after the police were called to a house in Gaithersburg. Police said that a twenty-three-year-old man, who had been drinking, fired a shotgun out a second floor window seriously injuring one officer. The other officer and several citizens had to take cover behind the police car, and the officer was not able to use his police radio for a period of time.

November 18, 1958 A twenty-five-year-old Poolesville laborer was shot in the face after he argued with another man over the ownership of a

jacket. Police said that when the man attempted to leave the house wearing the jacket, he was shot by his assailant.

November 20, 1932 Montgomery County officials were preparing for possible disturbances in advance of the Bonus Marchers who were expected to march through the county on the way to Washington. Police were issued tear gas and radio cars so patrolmen could be dispatched to trouble spots.

November 20, 1930 Four children were injured and sixty others shaken up when their school bus struck a culvert on Route 109 between Poolesville and Beallsville. Charlotte Wilson, Connie Ward, Jane Thompson, and Nancy Chapman were treated for minor injuries. All were residents of Barnesville and were students at the Poolesville Consolidated School. The driver said that he had been run off the road by a milk truck.

November 25, 1902 The six-year-old daughter of Jacob Bodman was accidentally shot in the head by her brother near their Poolesville home. Authorities said that the boy was target shooting in the woods when his sister ran in front of the target and was fatally injured. Doctor Byron Walding was in attendance, but there was little he could do.

masses, and the lack of submerged vegetation leaves the young fish that do survive more vulnerable to predators.

It is suspected to have been brought to the area from the Ohio River Basin as bait by fishermen. As of now, there is no control or eradication for the crayfish. If you have any questions you can contact the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) at 410-260-8610.

Local News

Local Rusty Crayfish Found to Have Invaded the Monocacy River

The *Potomac River Basin Reporter* reports that this past June, the rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*), which is not native to the area, has invaded the Monocacy River. During a Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS), the crayfish was found to have invaded the Monocacy River through the Marsh Creek tributary. Since the original survey, the crayfish has also been found in the main stream of the Monocacy River.

The rusty crayfish out-compete native crayfish for the best habitat, devouring submerged vegetation, fish eggs, macroinvertebrates, and any other food source in their path. They can reduce the number of species of plants, macroinvertebrates, and fish quickly. Rusty crayfish grow so fast they are less likely to succumb to predators. They will eat fish egg

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At Your Service

War on Graffiti

By Jack Toomey

When Sgt. Marco Di Chiro joined the Montgomery County Police Department in 1987, the last thing that he envisioned doing was leading a one-man war on graffiti. While the defacing of public and private property was occurring in those days, Di Chiro, like other young patrol officers, had visions of changing the world by racing from one emergency call to another and making important arrests. Then, he realized that the community was being seriously affected by the defacing of property and that those who were committing these offenses were sometimes graduating to more serious crimes.

Marco Di Chiro was raised in Bethesda and graduated from Walter Johnson High School and later received a degree in Communication Art Design from Virginia Commonwealth University. He joined the police department in 1987 and was transferred to the Germantown station in 2001. During his off-duty hours and while on vacation, he has been involved in restoring lighthouses in Nova Scotia and an old millhouse in Washington County. There

Local News

Performance Tea: An Extravaganza of Local Talent

When Beth Jones and Bill Harris got together to plan a fundraiser to benefit the performing arts in the schools within the Poolesville cluster, it was billed modestly as a Performance Tea. It turned out to be much more than that. It was a rousing showcase of talent in dance, instrumental music, acting, and singing.

Held at the Poolesville United Memorial Methodist Church on Sunday,

came a time when Di Chiro noticed the proliferation of graffiti in the Up-County area. He realized that a basic theory of policing was at work that is commonly referred to as the "broken window" theory. This theory professes that if one broken window is not repaired, then more broken windows will follow. In a recent interview, Di Chiro said that it has been his observation that if a community allows graffiti to remain untouched that more vandalism will happen. He also said that it has been his experience that young people who commit graffiti-related offenses

-Continued on Page 27.

October 28, the event raised just under \$700.00 which will be targeted to help in the renovation of the high school auditorium stage floor.

The attendance was quite good considering it competed against the Redskins versus Patriot game for the attention of area residents. (As a die-hard Redskins fan, I can only say how pleased I was to attend such a terrific event while at the same time being spared the beating by New England.)

Serving refreshments of coffee and tea and enough baked goods to feed half of upper Montgomery County, the early evening event demonstrated that the area is abundant in great talent. Musical instrumentalist fans heard from Sarah Monroe (piano), Michelle Monroe (cello), Aaron Lempert (piano), Brian Gross (guitar), Bryn Blancard (cello), Rebecca Berger (flute), and Jennifer Bryan with Kimberly Blanchard (flute and piano).

For dance fans, there was Victoria Hawkins and Katherine Conner (Irish dancers), Claire Jones (ballet), and Hillary Templeton (tap).

Elizabeth Hitchens did an acting monologue from Jones and Schmidt's *The Fantastiks*, while Marshall Betz and Scott Turner performed an original and humorous one-act play.

The singers ranged from op-

era with Bailey Kerr singing "Se Tu M'Sami, Se Sospiri" by Pergolesi, to contemporary musicals with Drew Simms singing "The Impossible Dream" and Preston Henry singing *My Fair Lady's* "On the Street Where You Live". Gracie Jones and Gabriel Stonebraker performed "Old Devil Moon" from *Finnegan's Rainbow*. While each performance was truly special, a real crowd pleaser was school music teacher, Bill Harris, performing "It Ain't Necessarily So" from *Porgy and Bess*.

The evening ended with Bill Harris and Gracie Jones performing "An Evening Prayer" from Humperdinck's opera, *Hansel and Gretel*.

The organizers told the *Monocle* that they will plan the event on an annual basis, and we strongly recommend to our readers not to miss the next opportunity for a great evening of live entertainment. We'll keep you posted.

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Local News

New Book Features Poolesville Poet and Frederick Painter

By Rande Davis

In an odd twist to the well-known couplet, "I am a poet and didn't even know it," Poolesville poet Bernard Jankowski had a collaborator on his newest book, *Luminous Mud*, before "he knew it."

Mr. Jankowski, whose first book of poetry, *The Bullfrog Does Not Imag-*

ine New Towns, won the Washington Writers Publishing House Baltimore-Washington contest in 2001, had been looking for an artist to collaborate with him on his newest book so as to create a visual balance to his poems. Mr. Jankowski had been a long-time admirer of Frederick artist Calvin Edward Ramsburg who has shown his work nationally and internationally and is a full-time professional artist and rare book collector and seller. Hoping for a fruitful collaboration, Mr. Jankowski mailed Mr. Ramsburg some of his river poems but did not hear back from him, so he guessed the collaboration would not happen.

It wasn't until nearly a year later that Mr. Jankowski finally heard from Mr. Ramsburg and was invited to his basement studio to view some paintings he had been working on over the past year that were inspired by the poems. Mr. Jankowski was astounded to see the beautiful display of art Mr. Ramsburg had completed.

Each painting was not created in response to a specific poem; rather, Ramsburg read the poems and painted, often working simultaneously on multiple canvasses. "These paintings reflect my relationship to the landscape, the river, time, and the felt world. Bernie's poems help me connect to a new vision. The subject matter is one of my favorites."

Mr. Jankowski found "the book was already done. The poems and the paintings joined perfectly on the page. The poems and paintings chose each other."

This new collection contains twelve lyrical poems paired with colorful and evocative paintings that explore our region's landscape and connection to the Potomac River. Art expresses what one sees and feels, and in these pages, readers connect deeply with Jankowski's words on the page as their eyes slowly absorb one of Ramsburg's bold paintings. This

combination of words and paintings evokes the mysteries that surround us when we open our souls to nature's wonders.

A celebration of the publishing of the book was hosted on October 27 at the Quill and Brush in Dickerson, Maryland. There will be another book signing/reading and art show on Saturday, November 10 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Delaplaine Art Center, 40 South Carroll Street, Frederick, Maryland.



Poolesville poet Bernard Jankowski reads from his new book at Quill & Brush in Dickerson. Host and Quill and Brush owner Allen Ahearn stands to his right.

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Youth Sports

Sticking to It

By Jeff Stuart

After struggling to a 1-14 mark in its inaugural varsity season last year, Head Coach Sissy Natoli did not know what to expect from her 2007 Field Hockey Squad. Led by captains Samantha Amberg, Jenna Smith, Delaney Tenca, and Alyssa Roff, the team's senior goalkeeper, the Coyotes hoped to be improved and more competitive. With a proven 225-107-15 career coaching record, Coach Natoli was successful in her twenty-one years at Richard Montgomery and feels the girls learned at a very quick pace.

In the season-opener at Richard Montgomery on Tuesday, September 3, Dana O'Connell and Mirriah Shook each scored with assists by Magen Dionne and Katie Bertrand. Alyssa Roff played outstanding in goal with nine saves, but the Lady Coyotes fell 3-2. Just two days later, the Coyotes dropped another close one at Damascus, 2-1. First-year player, Courtney Clark, scored the lone goal with an assist from Dana O'Connell.

Center midfielders, Samantha Amberg and Katie Bertrand, put a lot of pressure on the Damascus defense. The Coyote defense was led by Delaney Tenca, Susan Wu, Allison Saglio, and goalie Alyssa Roff (eleven saves). "We battled with tremendous heart, hustle, and determination against strong opponents," said Coach Natoli. In the mid-September Magruder Tournament, the Coyotes earned their first win of the year, got a measure of revenge, and advanced to the finals with an exciting overtime victory against Richard Montgomery 3-2 on Saturday. Advancing to the championship game on Sunday, Clarksburg lost to the host Magruder squad, 1-0, in a hard-fought intense match-up. Magruder went 12-4 in 2006 and has ten returning seniors. "We played amazing hockey throughout the tournament," said Natoli. "The offense did an outstanding job putting continuous pressure on our opponents' goalies. The O Attack was led by freshmen, Katie Bertrand, Courtney Clark, Jenna Smith, Bri Moylan, and Page Harris." Leading the way on defense was goalie, Alyssa Roff, (thirty-five saves), and defensive backs, Alison Saglio, Susan Wu, Delaney Tenca, and Samantha Amberg.

The Coyotes worked overtime again on Wednesday, September 9, defeating Seneca Valley, 3-2, in an intense, double-overtime victory. The Coyotes received scoring from Katie Bertrand and Susan

Remembrance

Greydon Tolson: Forest Conservationist Passes Away at 85

By Rande Davis

Greydon Tolson, a renowned and beloved forestry conservationist and arborist, passed away on October 26, 2007.

Greydon Tolson was born in Shawnee on the Delaware (near Stroudsburg) in Pennsylvania in 1922 and moved to Montgomery County at age two. He originally wanted to go into farming with his father, but his father's health failed. Having attended Bethesda Elementary and Leland Junior High Schools, Greydon graduated from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School in 1939, and, not being able to afford Penn State's Forestry program, he enrolled at the University of Maryland as a botany major. In the Ag College, he took forestry courses, and Fred Besley (Maryland's first state forester and originator of the first Big Tree List in the country) was his teacher.

World War II came, Greydon found his beloved wife of fifty-eight

years, Elizabeth Voss Tolson, and he dropped out of college to marry. In 1942, became a tree climber for Asplundh under a trimming contract with Pepco. He then joined the army, the 95th Signal Division, and served in Europe and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. In response to the bitter cold, Greydon found warmth under the cover of the trees in the forest. He would spend a lifetime in the warmth of caring for Maryland's forests.

After his discharge in 1945, Greydon founded his own tree and landscaping business and he and Betty bought a house on Halpine Road. One of his clients was Fred Lee, then the president of the Montgomery County Council. Fred Lee and council member/conservationist Lathrop Smith offered Greydon the position of Montgomery County Forester and charged him with organizing the tree maintenance program for the county which he did for twenty-eight years.

Not only Montgomery County, but also the entire State of Maryland benefited from Greydon's "can do" attitude. In the early fifties, Mr. Pete



Greydon Tolson

Bond, Director of Maryland Forests and Parks, approached Greydon to work with him to reorganize the state's Forestry Boards which had been initiated but had grown defunct. Greydon was elected to a term as President of the State Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards at this time.

Again in the late sixties and early seventies, Greydon stepped up to the plate. When the state determined that the Forestry Boards were regulatory agencies and therefore required an eighteen-page financial disclosure form from every individual board member, most members refused and

-Continued on Page 26.

Wu, with assists from Samantha Amberg, Maria Hobson, and Katie Bertrand. Scoring the game-winning goal with under two minutes remaining in the second overtime period was Bri Moylan off of a fabulous assist from Turquoia Johnson and Page Harris. Allyssa Roff had twenty-two saves.

On October 1, the Coyotes, having had enough close defeats, easily defeated Gaithersburg at home, 5-0. Scoring for the young Coyotes were Bri Moylan, Jenna Smith, Maria Hobson, and newcomer Page Harris, two goals. Assisting on goals were Jenna Smith, Mirriah Shook, Courtney Clark, and Turquoia Johnson. It was a great team effort by the Coyotes.

At home against a strong Wootton team, the girls battled, but the Patriots won, 2-1. At Watkins Mill, Clarksburg shut out the Wolverines, 2-0. On October 10, the Coyotes lost another one-goal game at Northwest, 3-2, but they rebounded nicely at home, defeating Kennedy, 5-1. After winning four out of six, the improving Coyotes suffered a bit of a let down at season's end. On Wednesday, October 17, they were

-Continued on Page 27.



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Big Board

Don't Miss the Midnight Players Production

This weekend starts out with a bang because the Midnight Players of PHS, under the direction of Gail Howard, have their fall play in full swing. This is a real community production having more than seventy-five students involved either as actors, producers, or working on the set. Leaving the musical genre, the play offered this year is *The Ashgirl* by Timberlake Wetenbaker.

This play follows the bare outline of the Cinderella story, but this is not children's play. It is very much adult in theme and content. It is dramatic—sometimes humorous, sometimes scary, sometimes poetic. It is the story of two young people who must overcome huge obstacles on their journey to self-fulfillment and love.

Performances are November 15 and 16 at 7:30 p.m., and November 17 at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 for students, \$8.00 for adults. The box office will be open thirty minutes before each show for seats available that have not been reserved.

The set design is spectacular and worth the admission prices by itself. The crew did a terrific job of following the design and renderings of Matt Johnson and Beth Jones.

Winterglow 2007

The Art League of Germantown presents its Annual Winter Fine Arts and Crafts Show at the BlackRock Center for the Arts, 12901 Town Commons Drive, Germantown, Maryland. Open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, November 16 and 17; and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 18, there will be an artist's reception from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 18 with live music by violin duo, Violinsanity. Admission is free.

Maryland Symphony Orchestra

Experience Western Maryland's only professional orchestra on Friday, November 16 at 8:00 p.m. Under the direction of Elizabeth Schulze, the orchestra welcomes acclaimed violinist Timothy Fain, named last year as one of *Symphony Magazine's* "Up-and-Coming Young Musicians." The concert program includes Prokofiev's *Violin Concerto No. 1* and selections from Handel's *Water Music* and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 8*. Ticket prices are \$25.00 for adults and \$10.00 for students; special group rates are available. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-600-2828.

Holiday Deals You Won't Believe

Plus, a place where can you find that vintage ornament or a brand new one. Do you collect Santas, snowmen, or nativities? Just come to St. Peter's, Poolesville, for their Christmas Attic Sale on Saturday, November 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All year around, St. Peter's collects Christmas and Holiday decorations, ornaments, lights, candles, greens, linens, holiday

clothing, Christmas cards, artificial trees, lawn ornaments, plush animals—anything to do with Christmas. St. Peter's Christmas Attic has been a wonderful success because they have many items for sale that are one of a kind and previously loved. However, there is always plenty of "new in the box" available as well. Prices are low. You can decorate a whole tree for just a few dollars. They will also have fresh-shelled pecans and walnuts for the bag for sale as well as a bake sale, just in time for Thanksgiving.

Celebrate Thanksgiving with the Turkeys

On November 17 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary, join our eight friendly turkeys and all their friends in celebrating a cruelty-free Thanksgiving potluck. Please bring a vegan (no meat, dairy, or eggs) dinner or dessert item to serve eight. A suggested donation of \$10.00 is requested to benefit the animals. There is no charge for children under sixteen. The turkeys will be fed at 1:00 p.m. at a special table loaded with grapes, shredded lettuce, chopped apples, and other favorite treats. Guests are welcome to stroll around the sanctuary and visit with the cows, horses, sheep, goats, pigs, and other animals, too. No RSVP needed, just come on out and enjoy a fun day with the animals. Event will be held rain or shine, and all proceeds benefit the rescued animals. To ensure fun and safety for all, no dogs at any events, please.

English Echoes CD Release

The Folklore Society of Greater Washington presents a CD release celebration concert and dance featuring Liz Donaldson (piano), Becky Ross (fiddle, see Center Stage this issue), and Colleen Reed (flute) on November 17 at 8:00 p.m. The dance will be led by Brad Sayler. Participate or enjoy the spectacle at the Great Falls Grange in Great Falls, Virginia. The cost is \$15.00 for members of FSGW or \$18.00 for nonmembers. More information can be found at www.fsgw.org under "Special and House Concerts" or www.lizdonaldson.com.

The Capitol Steps

Despite a Surgeon General's warning that the Capitol Steps will cause your sides to split, crowds still gather to laugh along—and laugh a lot—with this political satire troupe. With twenty-six years and twenty-seven albums to their credit, the Capitol Steps have mastered the art of putting the "mock" in democracy. Their hilarious song parodies and sketches keep pace with the headlines and, of course, the upcoming presidential election. Catch them at the Weinberg Center for the Arts on November 17 at 8:00 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$20.00 to \$30.00. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-600-2828.

-Continued on Page 17.



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In rehearsal for the Midnight Player's production of *Ashgirl* are Hillary Templeton (*Ashgirl*) and Kevin McCarthy (*Prince Amir*). Production runs November 15 to 17 at PHS auditorium.

Tidbits

Michael Fox Graduates Jet Pilot Training School

Marine 1st Lt, Michael A. Fox (PHS, Class of 2000), graduated from the Naval Aviation Training Station in Kingsville, Texas on October 12, 2007. The Naval Air Station Kingsville is one of the U.S. Navy's premier locations for jet aviation training with its primary mission to train tactical jet pilots for the United States Navy and Marine Corps.

First Lieutenant Fox, who graduated first in his flight training class, joined the Marine Corps after graduating from Texas A & M University where he received a B.A. in anthropology. After basic training at Quantico, Virginia, he began his flight training in Pensacola, Florida. In September 2006, First Lieutenant Fox began flight training in Kingsville where he flew the T-45, earning his "Wings of Gold."

He will be stationed at Cherry Point, North Carolina for four years



1st Lt. Michael Fox recently graduated from flight school at Naval Aviation Station Kingsville in Texas.

for further training to becoming a Harrier pilot. First Lieutenant Fox, who is the son of Charles and Kathleen Fox of Poolesville, plans to make a career in the Marine Corps.

Local Rhythmic Gymnasts Head to Junior Olympic National Group Championships

On December 8, four area girls will join fourteen rhythmic gymnasts from Gaithersburg's Rhythmflex Gymnastics Club to compete in USA Gymnastics Junior Olympic National Group Championships. The competition will feature beginner through elite levels of rhythmic gymnastics groups and is being hosted by Princeton Gymnastics of Princeton, West Virginia. Those representing the upper Montgomery area are Camilla and Jenna Feeley of Darnestown, Vanessa Berovides of Poolesville, and Carly Johnson of Dickerson.

Rhythmflex Gymnastics—the only gym in the metro D.C. area dedicated to the extraordinary discipline of rhythmic gymnastics—has produced numerous Junior Olympians, U.S. National champions, and Pan American, World, and Olympic Games champions and participants. Rhythmic gymnastics is the number-one sport in Europe for women, combining the flexibility and grace of ballet, with the dexterity of handling various apparatus such as a ball, clubs, rope, hoop, and, most notably, ribbon.

This February, Maryland will welcome some of the world's finest rhythmic athletes from the U.S. and throughout the world when Rhythmflex Gymnastics hosts the Capital Challenge Invitational at the University of Maryland's Richie Coliseum.

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**MYSTERY
PHOTO**

**Do you know where this creek is
in Poolesville?**



You might if you lived in the Summerhill townhouses (now Meadow Valley) in October of 1979. The three persons are paddling their canoe at the corner of Hughes Road and Whootton Avenue - across from Selby's Market. The "creek" is actually the parking lot of the town homes. When a soccer ball clogged a drain after a good rain storm the parking lot filled and these adventurous people had some fun.

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Local News

Ground Breaking For the New Town Hall

By Rande Davis

A November 1, 2007 ground-breaking ceremony for the new town hall was an historic event for Poolesville. With commission president, Eddie Kuhlman, out of town due to family responsibilities, Vice President Jerry Klobukowski spoke on behalf of the town and congratulated "dozens" of residents who have worked diligently since 1994 to bring a new seat of government to the town.

Mr. Klobukowski told the *Monocle* that the location will not only add to Whalen Commons but will "bring benefit to everyone in the town" through its convenience and attractive location. Frederick's Bruchey Building, Inc. will construct the building for \$1,079,500.00, which will bring the total cost of the new structure to \$1,555,959.27. Originally budgeted for \$1,265,796.00, the balance will be



A ground-breaking ceremony for an event that started in 1994. Former commissioner Roy Johnson, Planning Commission chairman George Coakley, commissioner Tom Yeatts, commission vice-president Jerry Klobukowski, commissioner Jim Brown, Town Hall Study Commissioner Charles Elgin, Jr., and Town Manager Wade Yost.

paid through the use of the town's unrestricted reserves account (URA), which is used for emergencies and other similar budgetary shortfalls. Klobukowski reiterated that the town paid for the building through a fund from impact fees (just under

\$800,000), the sale of the old town hall (\$150,000), and a grant from the state (\$150,000). Furthermore, Mr. Klobukowski wanted to remind the *Monocle* that the town pays an annual rent of about \$20,000 for the ill-equipped and limited facilities it now uses, and that

the new structure will serve the community's needs for many decades to come. Recognized for their specific contribution were former commissioner Roy Johnson, Charles Elgin, Jr. (Town Hall Study Committee), and George Coakley (Planning Commission chairman).

Two Area Residents Honored through the Naming of Parks

Two new parks will be coming to Poolesville through the development of Brightwell Crossing (Kettler Forlines Homes) and Stoney Springs (Winchester Homes). The town Parks Board recently recommended that the late Jake Perkins be honored through having the Brightwell Crossing Park named after him. However, Thomas E. Kettler, president of Kettler Forlines Homes at Brightwell Crossing, made a written request of the commissioners to override that recommendation by requesting that former commissioner Charles W. Elgin, Sr. receive the honor.

-Continued on Page 24.

MONOCACY CRITTERS

Serendipitous Pet and Animal Pictures



Photo submitted by Regina Roberts

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*What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving?
The Monocle went around and asked.*



Lib Tolbert, mayor emeritus of Barnesville. "I am so thankful that after four years all my kids will be with me on Thanksgiving Day."



Neville Smith, retired postal worker and Monocle delivery person. "I am glad I am alive and that the back section of my house is finally finished."



Pat Hess, Poolesville Physical Therapy. "I am truly thankful for my family, my kids. I am very blessed."



Nancy Jamison, eight-year-old student. "I am thankful for my family, my friends, and especially my dog."



Ella-Daisy Buabasah of Mayorga Coffee in Clarksburg. "Family, and my workplace, and my boss, Jay."

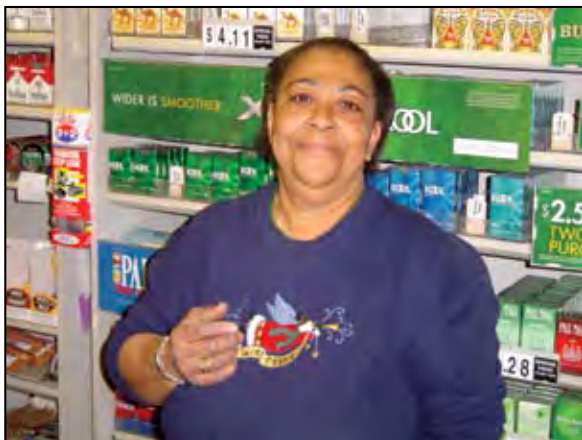
What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving? The Monocle went around and asked.



Gordon Taylor and Kevin Wall of UpCounty Wine and Beer in Clarksburg. Gordon: "To our customers for a successful first full year in business." Kevin: "My family."



Whitney Staver, Poolesville Barber. "I am glad everyone is doing fine and (with a smile) the kids aren't in jail."



Anna Mae Smith of Whipp's Garage in Clarksburg. "I'm grateful for my health. You're living and you should be grateful for it. Every day you're above the ground you should be grateful. Good children, good friends, good church."



Scott Richards and Doug Powell of Green Earth Goods in Clarksburg. Scott: "Family, friends, and customers." Doug: "Ability to stop and reflect and be thankful in general."



Dr. Margaret Valega, Poolesville Family Dentistry. "I am glad that I have made all my weight watcher goals before Thanksgiving Day."

**"Fall Chores" Continued From
Page 5.**

decade. I do not do a major pruning in the fall. For the hybrid teas, I cut back dead or diseased canes to the ground and prune back any tall, leggy canes by about half. For modern shrub-type roses, such as my David Austins and rugosas, my main goal is to reduce winter damage. If the plants are large and tall, I partially prune them by cutting back the long canes. This prevents them from whipping in the wind. I am a little slow in pruning the rugosas for they are usually covered in bright crimson hips that the birds love. I wait until the last hip has been devoured.

Odds and Ends

The only compensation for the end of the outside gardening year is the availability of many glorious bulbs that we can coax into blooming indoors all through the dreary winter months. If you want them to be in bloom for the holiday season, you should plant them now. Both amaryllis and narcissus can be forced directly without prechilling the bulbs. Amaryllis blooms appear about six to eight weeks from planting. Narcissus appears in about four to six weeks. As with tulips, the quality and size of a bulb does matter. I purchase mine from White Flower Farm and Smith & Hawken. The bulbs require

only warm temperatures, light, and regular watering to deliver a wonderful performance of blooms. You can plant them in soil or pebbles, in glass vases or baskets. Be creative. If you are looking for a gift for an elderly person—someone who might be in a nursing home—start a couple of bright amaryllis bulbs in an attractive container now. Take care of them and at holiday time, present them to your friend just as they are ready to bloom. This small, but special, gift will brighten his or her room for months. For a different look this year, plant a Cybister amaryllis. Good things come in small packages. These hybrids are smaller bulbs than their Dutch hybrid cousins. They look like exotic tropical birds, and they are heavy bloomers. I recently ordered a selection of five from White Flower Farm.

If you are going to buy a live Christmas tree for the holidays, dig the hole, where you are going to plant it outdoors now. If we have a cold December and the ground freezes, you will need more than a shovel to dig a hole in January.

Next Issue: Special Gifts for Special Gardeners

A MONOCACY MOMENT

JPMS Red Ribbon Week



Photo by Blanton Studio

Students at John Poole Middle School capped off Red Ribbon week by sitting in the position of the school's initials in the gymnasium. The picture was originally scheduled to be of the entire student body taken outdoors from the roof of the school, but rain caused the picture to be shot indoors by individual classes only. Red Ribbon week devotes an entire week to an anti-drug awareness program that is both educational and fun through its daily themes like hat day, pajama day, Hawaiian day, and the finale, red shirt day.



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**"Big Board" Continued From
Page 11.**

Ecumenical Worship Service to Benefit WUMCO

We think you may have said it a hundred times already: "The holidays are getting too commercial." Consider this your personal invitation to set the stage for a much more meaningful and spiritual holiday, and, in doing so, you can help provide funds for WUMCO Help, the upper Montgomery social service group responsible for helping so many of our neighbors and friends in need.

On Sunday evening, November 18, many area churches will join together in a shared ecumenical worship service of Thanksgiving. This is a wonderful time to join with your neighbors in giving thanks for all that we share through prayers and songs of gratitude. Area churches will come together at Poolesville United Memorial Methodist Church (we incorrectly placed this event at Our Lady of the Presentation in the last issue) at 7:00 p.m. Uncertain what to wear? This service is warm, friendly, and casual.

This year the homily will be by the Rev. Charles Hoffacker of St. Peter's Church, and the readings will be shared by the various clergy. Ray Hoewing, a Board of Director member of WUMCO, will talk about all the wonderful things that WUMCO does to help. They need to alleviate a \$20,000 shortfall in funding, so

just in case you cannot make this service, you should know your holiday gift to WUMCO could be sent to WUMCO Help, P.O. Box 247, Poolesville, MD 20837.

Gallagher

Great Comedy without the mess! "No Sledge Show." Flash photography allowed! Sunday, November 18, at 7:00 p.m. at the Weinberg Center for the Arts. Ticket prices range from \$20.00 to \$30.00. For more information, visit www.weinberg-center.org or call 301-600-2828.

Mary Poppins

Your favorite and mine showing at the Weinberg Center for the Arts on November 23 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Relive the magic of Disney's most "supercalifragilistic" musical. Before or after the movie, enjoy Downtown Frederick's annual Frosty Friday festivities. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults, and \$4.00 for students and seniors. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-600-2828.

For Those You Know Who Don't Have a Clue

They do now. In fact, we all do because on November 28, 29, and December 1, Clarksburg High School's drama department will be presenting its fall production: *Clue!*

Under the direction of Michelle Meyer, the show is about seven characters who are all brought to a lavish mansion because they all have one thing in common: they are being blackmailed. Come and experience the adventure as Mr.

Boddy, Mr. Green, Mrs. White, Colonel Mustard, Mrs. Peacock, and Ms. Scarlet journey through the story. This wonderful presentation at Clarksburg High School's auditorium (22500 Wims Road) is a murder mystery sure to make you laugh. Admission is \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students. All shows start at 7:00 p.m.

Boyds Christmas Tree Lighting

The annual Boyds Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place at the Boyds Post Office on November 30 at 7:00 p.m.

Community Lighting Ceremony

The Second Annual Poolesville Holiday Lighting Ceremony will take place at Whalen Commons at 6:00 p.m. on December 1. The traditional colored streetlights will be in place and draped from pole to pole over the main street as usual. The trees, pathways, and the gazebo of Whalen Commons will have been decorated but held dark until their official "lighting" that evening.

There will be carolers, area church choirs, and special performances as we gather together to sing songs, drink some hot chocolate, laugh together, and share a great family event. Bring the whole family.

Peat and Barley CD Release Party

Enjoy a concert and complimentary dessert buffet at the French Quarter Café in Germantown for Peat and Barley's CD release party on December 2. The concert is from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Intermission will include CD signing, T-shirts for sale, and "loads of fun." See this issue's Center Stage for more information about Peat and Barley, the hammered dulcimer and fiddle duo.

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Things to Do

November 15, 16, and 17

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Drama*
7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday
2:30 p.m. Saturday matinee
\$8.00 adults; \$5.00 students

November 16

K of C German Dinner
St. Mary's Pavilion – Barnesville
Adults: \$8.00; Children 6-12: \$4.00
5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

MSO Concert

Weinberg Center for the Arts
Maryland Symphony Orchestra
Guest violinist Timothy Fain
8:00 p.m.

Winterglow

BlackRock Center for the Arts
ALOG Art Show
Friday and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00
p.m.
Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.;
Sunday, meet artists 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

November 17

Christmas Attic Sale
Holiday decorations and crafts
Pecans, baked goods
St. Peter's Church
9:00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Thanksgiving with the Turkeys
Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary
Have dinner with the eight friendly turkeys
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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Lynfield Events Complex, Frederick
5:30 p.m. to midnight

*English Echoes CD Release
and English Dance*
Folklore Society of Greater Washington
Great Falls Grange, Great Falls, Virginia
Concert, then English Country Dance
8:00 p.m.

Capitol Steps
Weinberg Center for the Arts
Side-splitting comedy
8:00 p.m.

November 18

*Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship
Service*
United Memorial Methodist Church
All Invited – To Benefit WUMCO
7:00 p.m.

Gallagher
Weinberg Center for the Arts
Comedy without the mess
7:00 p.m.

November 23

Mary Poppins
Weinberg Center for the Arts

Disney Classic
2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

November 28, 29, & December 1

*CHS Drama Club Fall Production
Clue!*
Adults: \$7.00; Students: \$5.00
All performances: 7:00 p.m.

November 30

Boyd's Christmas Tree Lighting
Boyd's Post Office
7:00 p.m.

December 1

Town Holiday Lighting Ceremony
Whalen Commons – Poolesville
Caroling, choirs, and refreshments
7:00 p.m.

December 2

Peat and Barley CD Release Party
French Quarter Café in Germantown
Concert and Dessert Buffet
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



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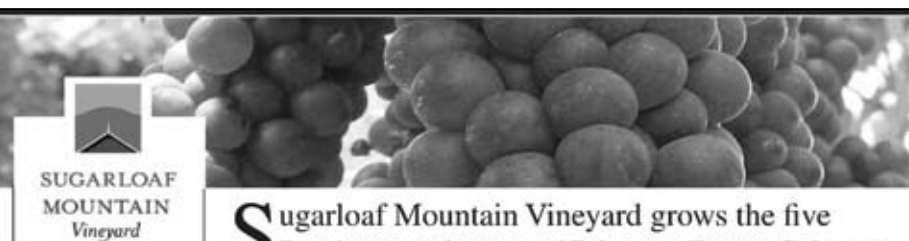
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"Personal Ponies" Continued From Page 1.

smiles and laughter to hundreds of children and adults. They have visited Walter Reed Hospital's Center for Amputees, where they worked their magic for these special heroes.

The Chasins have big plans for 2008. Their riding ring will be fenced, so children can safely ride and drive the ponies. They currently have four ponies. In the spring, they will welcome to their farm Lord Braiden, a stallion. They will be able to expand their breeding program, so that more ponies will be available for use and placement in the community. May the magic continue.

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In general, it does not pay you to upgrade a disk and RAM and rebuild an old box when you can get a new one for twice the money due to the economies of scale, the half-life of drivers, the degrading effects of power cycling and cat hair. Further, I cannot address Windoze software problems since they are endemic [1]. But, if you want, I'll backup your data, clean the box and reinstall Windoze for a flat \$100. If you are in business and have a larger data conversion problem my rate doubles due to Occam's Razor: *Keep it simple, stupid.*

The Windoze operating system is problematic. The industry has standardized on an operating system that is perpetually broken. *N'est pas?* I present a two-step solution that is dirt-simple: 1) Get your important data into flat, non-proprietary file formats that are cross-platform and 2) move to Macintosh or GNU/Linux at your earliest convenience. I don't think Vista passes the giggle test.

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I have twenty years experience and a degree in multimedia, UM 1980.

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Local News

Dedication of Veterans' Memorial

By Maureen O'Connell

On November 4, the parishioners of Saint Mary's Church in Barnesville gathered for a Mass and the dedication of the Veterans' Service Memorial. It was erected to recognize the tremendous accomplishments and proud heritage of all who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States. This memorial was the idea of one of Saint Mary's current parishioners, Mrs. Josephine Evans. She approached Father Lawrence, the pastor of Saint Mary's, in 2005 with the suggestion of a monument on parish grounds to recognize and honor all American veterans, past and present. The Parish Council approved the idea, and with the help of committee members Jo

Evans, Garland Johnson, Jack Reid, and Bob Rossi, the memorial became a reality.

The celebrant and homilist for the Mass was Fr. Sam Giese, Brigade Chaplain 58th IBCT, Maryland National Guard, who holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He is currently serving as the pastor of Saint Mary's Church in Landover Hills, Maryland. In 2005 and 2006, he was Combat Area Chaplain with the 155th Brigade Combat Team in Iraq.

The Dedication Service Program listed an honor roll of American veterans connected to Saint Mary's parishioners and their families. This list includes names of American veterans from every war since the Revolutionary War, going back as far as Private Zachariah Knott who served in the 1776 Maryland Militia. He is buried in Saint Mary's cemetery.

The memorial, situated in front of the church, displays the emblems of the five Armed Services beneath which the inscription reads:

**In Honor of All American Veterans
With Gratitude for Their Sacrifices
This Memorial is Placed
By The People of
Saint Mary's Church And Shrine
Barnesville, Maryland
November 4, 2007
In Prayerful and Perpetual Remembrance**



The Veterans' Memorial at St. Mary's Church in Barnesville.

Youth Sports

PHS Field Hockey Rides to the State Final—Again

By Dominique Agnew

From beginning to end, the 2007 season for the Poolesville High School girls' field hockey team, under Coach Regina Grubb, has been one of strength, endurance, success—and maybe tradition. For the seventh year in a row, the girls have dominated their way to win the region championship, the state semi-finals, and to compete in the ultimate high school field hockey game, the state finals.

With a record of 11-1 in the regular season, only one game got in their way of being undefeated. The girls began their season with a strong win of 6-0 against Northwest and continued in this fashion until game six against a very tough opponent, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. Although they lost 3-1, says Coach Grubb, "The girls played strong and hard, and I was very pleased with the game as a whole." She adds, "It showed me where we were and what

strides we needed to take for the rest of the season."

These strides led to a nine-game winning streak leading up to the state championship. Competitive teams toppled to the Falcons, frequently without even scoring against them. The championship games proved to be tough and exciting. For the region semifinal against South Carroll High School, the score held at 0-0 until the final two minutes of the game. "Both teams came out to play," says Coach Grubb. "We dominated the game, and finally, with one minute and twenty-six seconds on the clock, [senior] Rachel Stream fired a shot from the top of the circle past the goalkeeper to seal the win, 1-0."

For the region championship, the team came up against Glenelg High School in Howard County, the number one seed. "The team was pumped and ready for the game," says Coach Grubb. "We started out really strong and scored within the first five minutes of the game." A pass from senior Michele Abbaticchio to junior Katherine Connor who shot past the Glenelg goalkeeper marked the only goal of the game. Tough defense led by PHS goalkeeper junior Megan Foy solidi-

-Continued on Page 22.


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**"PHS Field Hockey" Continued
From Page 21.**

fied the region championship.

Like most of their season games, the state semifinal was also a shutout. Against Kent County High School at Broadneck High School in Annapolis, the Lady Falcons completely dominated with a final score of 5-0. Angela Bardini scored the first goal, Jen Bateman scored the second, and, with the help of her team, Rachel Stream scored three goals.

The state finals again took place at Broadneck High School against Pocomoke High School, defending co-champion as they tied with Rising Sun last year. Both teams were evenly matched with equal domination on behalf of both sides. Unfortunately for the Falcons, Pocomoke was best able to use its advantages by scoring three goals, while the Falcons proved unable to finish their offensive attacks. The game was well fought, and both teams were worthy. "I am so pleased with how the season has progressed. To be in the state final is just a blessing for our program, school, and town," says Coach Grubb. Although this is the Falcons' seventh appearance at the state final game, they have won once, in 2002.

Of the thirteen seniors that are graduating from the team, without a doubt, Rachel Stream will be sorely

missed. This year alone, she scored twenty-six goals, and she broke the school record with a total of fifty-five goals. "She is a very dominant player," says Coach Grubb, "with great stick skills and such a powerful hit on the ball." Rachel will be playing field hockey next year at Old Dominion University on scholarship. Other potent offensive players were: Michele Abaticchio who has "tremendous stick skills and sees the field well;" Katherine Connor who is "in the right place at the right time;" Lisa Trope had the winning goals in both overtime games; and Allie Gost who leads the team in assists and "puts the ball where it needs to be for her teammates to score."

On defense this season, goalkeeper Megan Foy recorded eleven shutouts and was only scored on two times in the regular season. Nora Torrey, Nellie Stovicek, Holly Defnet, Jen Bateman, and Brooke Atwell all "worked hard throughout the season to develop together on defense." Coach Grubb attributes the team's shutouts to their tenacity in keeping other teams from scoring.

About the season and the success of the team, Coach Grubb says, "I'm really proud of the entire team. They came together this season, worked hard, and far exceeded my expectations. It was a great ride!"



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Center Stage

On the Brink of The Silver Lining

By Dominique Agnew

This is the story of a violin—a red one—and the turmoil of generations of humanity surrounding it. Lives are lost; journeys traveled; passions ignited; revolutions waged; blood spilled. Does this sound familiar? If you've seen *The Red Violin*, you recognize it. If you haven't seen it, rent it or borrow it this weekend (not suitable for children).

Let's try anew.

This story begins with a violin—as do the best of stories (if you doubt this, read above). It's amazing what an instrument can do to turn the tides of human lives. The year was 1991 when Becky Ross received a summons from her parents, something along the lines of, "We're moving, come get your junk." Amongst the "junk," was Becky's violin, given to her by a great aunt, from her school days. It had been years since she'd played, having left it at home when she had left to attend Bryn Mawr College then later married, but she decided to pick it up again. At the time, she was living in New Jersey with her husband, Bill Mitchell.

Through colleagues at her place of employment, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Becky started playing music again. "Someone at work mentioned playing Irish tunes," she says, and she found herself drawn to the Irish-Celtic style. With Becky having so much fun, what was Bill to do but join her. He doesn't get a violin, though, that's only for the heroine of the story. No, Bill observed some musicians playing the hammered dulcimer, and he said to himself, "That looks like fun. I bet I could learn to do that." He promptly bought a kit and built his first dulcimer. On the hammered dulcimer, Bill is completely self-taught, having received no formal lessons. He did have musical training in his youth, playing the baritone horn in high school and in his college pep band (Clarkson College in Potsdam, New York). Together with seven others, Bill and Becky were in their first band, the Princeton Rovers.

Sadly for the Rovers, in 1993, Bill and Becky left New Jersey for Laytonsville, Maryland where they still



Bill Mitchell and Becky Ross of Peat and Barley. Photo by Hilary Schwab Photography.

reside. Bill accepted a position at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and Becky transferred to a different NOAA lab in the area—and the music continued. At the time, the director of the Potomac Valley Scottish Fiddle Club was living right around the corner. They were pleasantly surprised by the proximity. "Little did we know it would never be close again," says Bill. "Until we had it [in our home]," adds Becky. The PVSFC is a non-profit group that caters to anyone who likes Scottish Fiddle music, whether they play the fiddle or not. Primarily, an educational group, they do put on a "few limited performances," says Becky. They also host one Scottish dance per year so that members can have the experience of playing in a dance band.

From the PVSFC, Bill and Becky met John Ward and became part of a group he put together, the Homespun Ceilidh Band, still in existence and in demand. Playing with these two groups required Bill to develop accompaniments because it was difficult to read the music while looking at his instrument. "I learned to play chord accompaniment...by necessity to keep up," says Bill. Becky adds, "Most dulcimer players focus on solos." Playing accompaniment is a technique many hammered dulcimer players don't have. "It's given me a unique style," says Bill.

Pursuing their interests in their

-Continued on Page 24.

Local History

A Thanksgiving Day Surprise How the Great Fruitcake Case Was Solved

By Jack Toomey

During the fall of 1964, officials from the Heidi Bakery contacted the Montgomery County Police Department and reported that they had discovered a serious inventory shortage at their Giant Food stores in Montgomery County and Washington, D.C. In addition, they suspected that some of the inventory was being stolen from their main bakery site in Silver Spring. They estimated that over 300 fruitcakes and 750 pounds of nuts had been stolen over a few weeks' time period.

Today, a case like this might be given a short shrift, but in 1964, the police gave full time and effort to the case. Detectives met with Heidi Bakery officials and were able to determine how fruitcakes and nuts were processed, how they were delivered to the stores, and who had access to all of these steps in processing. At least one detective worked in the bakery in an undercover role for a short period of time and saw

a security guard frequently leaving the bakery and going outside to the parking lot. Enough proof was gained, and a warrant was obtained for the security guard. On Thanksgiving morning, two officers stopped the guard as he was leaving the factory. Inside the trunk of his car they found 96 fruitcakes and 210 pounds of pecans.

Later investigation revealed that the employee was packaging the pecans in small bags at his home and had set up a concession stand selling the pecans and fruitcakes to neighbors and friends who did not suspect that the food was stolen. The unfortunate gentleman appeared before a magistrate later in the day, and the compassionate official released him on bond so he could spend a Thanksgiving afternoon and dinner with his family. Fruitcake was not served.

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“Town Hall” Continued From Page 13.

In his letter, Mr. Kettler cited Mr. Perkins’s extensive commitment and contribution to the town, recognized him not only as a personal friend but also as his successor as president of the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce, and noted that the two worked together on Poolesville Day for many years.

In recommending Mr. Elgin, Kettler stated that Mr. Elgin “had never been recognized by the Town of Poolesville government for his lifetime of service to the community and naming the park on property which has been in his family for over seventy-five years would be a fitting tribute to this memory.” For clarification of readers, Elgin Road was named such when Charles Elgin, Sr. was a boy, and the bridge outside of town that bears his name was an honor given by the State of Maryland. The site of that bridge had previously been a very dangerous, near-right angle turn in the road which caused many serious accidents especially during rainy and snowy weather. The state named the new bridge for Mr. Elgin in recognition of his tireless effort to get the state to correct that problem, even though it was not within town limits.

Commission President Eddie Kuhlman endorsed the recommendation and confirmed that the park in Stoney Springs would be more appropriate for Mr. Perkins since it will be situated near the high school where Mr. Perkins had committed so much support. Wade Yost, town manager, reported that Winchester Homes had no preference in the naming of the park and told him that the town can make the decision.

With that information, the town commissioners voted unanimously to name the park in Stoney Springs after Jake Perkins.

For those not familiar with Charles W. Elgin, Sr., a brief listing of some of his contributions include: president of the Poolesville Town Commissioners (1978-1992); town postmaster for thirty-four years; fifty-year member, board of director member, secretary, and treasurer of Monocacy Cemetery Company; charter member of the Monocacy Lions Club; fifteen-year vestry member of St. Peter’s Episcopal Church; charter member and past president of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department; chairman of Building and Grounds Committee of the Poolesville High School PTA and Poolesville Elementary School during the planning stages of both schools.

Commissioners Begin Review of the Streetscape Aspect of the 2002 Master Plan

Town manager, Wade Yost made a power-point presentation on the 2004-05 Streetscape recommendations which is a sub-part of the 2003 Town Master Plan.

The streetscape proposals have the objective of improving the visual ambience of the town as well as the public safety of the roadway. The presentation by Mr. Wade was an overview of recommendations previously made along Fisher Avenue from Wootton Avenue to Norris Road. Commission President Kuhlman pointed out that all recommendations are subject to approval by the commissioners and no decision has been approved to date. As a general statement, the plan seeks to create a traffic-calming concept by narrowing roadway through the use of acceleration/deceleration lanes, bike lanes, tree/plant bump-outs, and, the most controversial, a traffic circle at Wootton and Fisher Avenues. Mr. Kuhlman voiced major concern and objection to the plan as it appears to him to not be sufficiently considerate of the agricultural nature of the town and the seasonal movement of farm equipment and similar vehicles through the town. He also voiced objection to the costs in removing current sidewalks and curbing, which in many cases are nearly new, as unnecessary and wasteful.

The item that sparked the most discussion was a traffic circle at Wootton and Fisher. While a circle will undoubtedly serve to reduce traffic speed of incoming vehicles, there was concern about the ability to properly manage the street crossing of school students walking to and from Poolesville Elementary School. A rigorous estimate of the cost of a circle has not been made, but it is roughly estimated to approach \$1,000,000, and there appeared to be an understanding that the prospect of financial support from the state, while not impossible, is considered highly unlikely at this juncture.

After this review, the next step by the commission is to put together a budget estimate so as to establish what the costs to the town, even with grants, may be. Residents and businesses wanting to know of potential impact on their locations in town may request information from the town hall on all proposals being made for each intersection and parking lot entrance.

“Peat and Barley” Continued From Page 23.

They did sell a few of the CDs, but Bill is quick to say that it’s now out of print.

Two years later, Bill attended a composing workshop at an Upper Potomac Dulcimer Festival in Harper’s Ferry taught by Sam Rizzette. With these skills, Bill would compose two pieces as wedding presents, and they would be found on their next CD, *On the Brink*, which came out in 2003 (would you believe they live on Brink Road?). Bill and Becky had been discussing the possibility of recording a real CD in a studio for some time, but it took Bill’s diagnosis of cancer in 2001 to spur them to action. “That sort of focuses the mind,” he jokes. Not only was *On the Brink* well received among their growing fan base, it was a 2003 Wammie (awards from the Washington Area Music Association—WAMA) nominee for best traditional folk recording.

Also new to this recording, there were two new instruments. Bill and Becky still played the hammered dulcimer and the fiddle, but they had each upgraded their respective instruments. Bill, who found himself more serious about the music, purchased a D600 from Dusty Strings in 2000. It’s a larger dulcimer than the one he built, with an extended range (more bass “which Bill uses to great effect in Peat and Barley arrangements,” Becky says) and pedal dampers which are “not that common [and] which also facilitate interesting effects in the arrangements,” adds Bill. Becky, in a strange fluke, replaced her red violin with another red violin. By 2002, Becky decided she wanted to devote all of her time to music. “Against all standard advice, I quit my day job,” she laughs. The week before she was to leave NOAA, Becky was contacted by John Schmidt who worked in another department of NOAA who had heard of her leaving to play the violin. Well, it just so happens that in his spare time, he makes violins. He graciously offered her a violin on loan, and the beautiful tone of this instrument is what’s heard on the CD and I performances today.

In pursuing her focus on the violin, Becky has become a member of a number of musical groups. With Violinsanity, her violin duo group with Dominique Agnew of Boyds, she “is enjoying returning to my classical roots.” She continues, “My classical

playing is now refined by the improvisation that I’ve learned through playing for dances.” Her other two regular groups are: Tasker’s Chance with Jeanean Martin and Deborah Bower specializes in eighteenth century music, and the English Country Dance Trio with Colleen Reed and Liz Donaldson. She also plays as hired with other musicians.

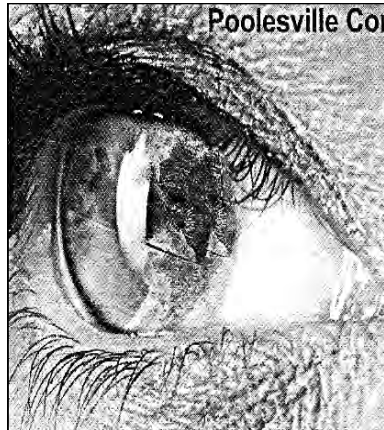
As the years rolled forward, Bill and Becky considered going back into the studio. They had more arrangements; Bill continued to compose. “Time gets away from you,” says Becky, “you have to set your own deadline.” Once again, it was an illness that gave them a little shove. Bill’s cancer reappeared in 2004, and this time, he underwent a stem cell transplant. This road was a more difficult one, but you know the saying, every dark cloud has a, yep, *Silver Lining*. The title song, “Silver Lining,” is another exceptional composition by Bill. “We’re getting loads of compliments on that,” says Becky.

Original compositions have become a sizeable portion of Peat and Barley’s repertoire, but even more so, their captivating arrangements of well-known traditional pieces and Bill’s tunes. Because they both play melody, harmony, and rhythm, they frequently weave beautiful blends that are both haunting and intoxicating. “That’s what we think is the strength of our duo,” Becky says, “our creative arrangements that keep the listener’s interest through the interplay of the two instruments.”

What about the violin that began our story? Just like in *The Red Violin*, it is in the hands of a new violinist to weave its magic. Becky recently passed the family’s red violin to her nephew.

Peat and Barley will be having a concert and CD release party for *Silver Lining* at the French Quarter Café in Germantown on December 2 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Arrive early and enjoy a meal. There will be a complimentary dessert buffet during intermission complete with CD signing and T-shirts for sale. Becky promises, “It’ll be just loads of fun.”

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**"Staph" Continued From
Page 5.**

involvement with sub-teen children through the monitoring of cuts and bruises, the washing of athletic clothing, and making sure the athletes wash and shower is more common.

During the question and answer period, town commissioner, Jerry Klobukowski, questioned if the county had considered changing from its current bleach cleanser, which must be used daily, to other products that can kill the bacteria for up to ninety days. He pointed out that such products are often used in other school systems and by many professional athletic teams. Ms.

Montgomery assured him that they are looking into all available items but she was unsure how long the process might take. Kate Harrison told the *Monocle* that before moving to other products, the county must thoroughly vet them for other concerns, which could include their allergy potential within the entire student body.

Students will be involved in the educational process concerning prevention of staph infections by producing educational pieces for their daily TV announcements designed to better inform the students as to preventive actions needed to minimize staph problems.

**"Tolson" Continued From
Page 10.**

walked away. Greydon organized the Montgomery County Board, which invited all the local boards to meet; it was decided that the forestry board system was too valuable to let go, and a paperwork compromise was reached. Every county board in the state came back. Once again, Greydon served as president of the State Association.

On Arbor Day 2007, the Montgomery County Forestry Board honored him as the first recipient of an award established in his name: "The Greydon Tolson Forest Resource Conservationist Award."

Mr. Tolson was also a life member of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department.

During his funeral services and at the public reception following, many family members, friends, and coworkers told stories of Greydon's humor, generosity, expertise, and devotion to the community. Jerry Neal of Dickerson remembered Mr. Tolson as one of those people who knew everything there is to know about farming and was always willing to answer your questions or provide help. "Whenever something would happen and I wouldn't be sure how to handle it, I could call Greydon and he would not only know what to do, he would come over to help do it. He

would never accept any money for his help. When Greydon was in his sixties, we had an eighty-foot pine tree split in two by lightning. Greydon roped himself up the tree with a chainsaw dangling from his belt, limbed the tree, and then with only me helping, pulling on a rope exactly where he said to, he dropped the tree between two hedges, missing the house as well—just like that."

Reverend Charles Hoffacker described Mr. Tolson as a true shepherd in the biblical sense of the word. "Greydon took care of the trees and forests, but he was a shepherd of people, caring in his way not only for those close to him, but for all the citizens of this county. Our common life is far better for the shepherding he provided."

Mr. Tolson is survived by his children Cathleen T. Phelan, Brian Robert Tolson, Leslie Tolson Newman, Sarah Blythe Glassco, Greydon Seth Tolson, ten grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department or the Greydon Tolson Fund for Forestry Camp Scholarship and Forest Resources Preservation which is managed by the Montgomery County Forestry Board, 17400 Annapolis Rock Road, Woodbine, MD 21797.

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"Graffiti Patrol" Continued From Page 8.

been trained to spot graffiti, approach property owners, and to quickly remove it before more appears. He carries cleaning supplies in his police car that are capable of removing graffiti from wood and metal, and he also carries a bucket of generic gray-colored paint to quickly cover up obscene and racist writings. His officers carry rollers, brushes, handles, rags, gloves, face masks, and protective clothes covering. That material is in addition to the normal police-issued equipment! His unit will typically remove graffiti from county and municipal property, mailboxes, utility boxes, and railroad property if it is accessible and in view of the public. They will remove drawings from commercial property but need the permission of the property owner. In June, his unit removed graffiti from over 120 sites. Di Chiro said, "We have zero tolerance and will prosecute everyone, we have made numerous arrests." On the day that the Monocle reporter met with the sergeant, he was at a commercial establishment in Poolesville. Armed with his paint bucket and brush, he was painting over a small sample of graffiti. Di Chiro commented that in the past, the same wall had

been covered with larger scrawls on a routine basis. Di Chiro intimated that some locations were under surveillance and that evidence was constantly being obtained. He chuckled when he remarked, "We will gladly sign you up for a year cleaning graffiti" if an individual is detected committing vandalism. He also solicited the cooperation of the community and said, "Anybody who sees anything can call and remain anonymous." Di Chiro stressed that in order to enforce the laws against vandalism, the police must know about the crimes, and that information has to come from the community.

The Graffiti Eradication Team has certain goals and among them are



Sergeant Marco Di Chiro.

to immediately remove graffiti, to create a community partnership with the community, to provide education to the community reducing the bureaucratic stumbling blocks that were formerly present, and to develop a positive working relationship between at-risk offenders and the police who will supervise clean-up projects. The unit has been so successful that only about two percent of sites are again attacked with major incidents of graffiti after an arrest.

Sergeant Di Chiro, who recently received an award at the Germantown Oktoberfest for his work in eradicating graffiti, is committed to making our community graffiti-free. He encourages all citizens to contact the police at 301-279-8000 if they see vandalism in progress. If residents have information about suspects in these cases, Di Chiro can be reached at 301-840-2650.

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"Clarksburg Field Hockey"
Continued From Page 10.

shut out by a good Whitman team, 5-1, and there was yet another one-goal loss on October 20 as they lost to Sherwood, 1-0, on the season finale. Their record for the season was 5-9, but at season's end, the improvement Coach Natoli was looking for was apparent, and the competitive effort was there all year long. The Coyotes were not an easy opponent

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