

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

July 18, 2008

Volume V, Number 7.



Gracie Jones sang the National Anthem and Jeff Eck kept things safe on the Fourth of July. See more photographs by Hilary Schwab Photography on Page 13.



A solar house, a newly planted tree, and only one person working? What could this mean? See Local News on Page 8.



Even in the woods, a good list is useful. More Great American Campout pictures begin on Page 12.



Even in the woods, a good list is useful. More Great American Campout pictures begin on Page 12.

Barnesville Dedicates Renovated Town Hall

By John Clayton

On a sunny Saturday morning, the Town of Barnesville dedicated its freshly renovated Town Hall, showcasing a building that dates back to 1925, and to the childhood memories of several residents of the town. One of those people, Robert (Bob) Lillard, whom Mayor Pete Menke described as the oldest of the town residents that had lived in Barnesville since birth, said that the building was “back to how I remembered it.”

The dedication, and completion of “phase one,” according to Mayor Menke, was the result of efforts by the mayor, the other town commissioners, and many volunteers. Mayor Menke has been a tireless advocate for restoration of the building, going back to 2003 when discussions of renovating the town’s

once and future Town Hall first came to light. The structure was originally built and used as a town hall, with an open interior and a stage in the back. The Barnesville Baptist Church owned the building at one time, and the meeting hall was converted to a house by adding to the original structure and dividing the interior space into rooms. The Monocacy Lions Club also owned the building for a period of time and used it for its meetings. Mr. Lillard further noted that he remembered when presidential elections were held in the town hall, the last one probably involving Franklin Roosevelt, with the big voting machines featuring the curtains that closed behind you when you pulled the handle and got ready to vote.

Over the years, the building had fallen into disrepair. At a 2004 open house, the building could best be described as offering great potential—a true fixer-upper. Tours at that open house were



Mayor Menke holds the certificate presented by State Senator Rob Garagiola. Pictured with Mayor Menke are Barnesville Commissioners Bonnie Brown and Luke Fedders, Montgomery County Council President Mike Knapp, Mayor Menke, Senator Garagiola, State Delegate Brian Feldman, and Town Clerk Patty Menke.

performed by flashlight. The Monocle reported at that time (Monocacy Monocle, “Barnesville Shows off Once and Future Town Hall,” September 24, 2004) “that it was clear that a great deal of cleaning

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Barnesville’s Cliff Neal Passes Away

By Rande Davis

Barnesville’s Clifford E. Neal passed away on July 5 at his home on Peachtree Road. He and his wife, Vivian, recently celebrated their seventieth wedding anniversary, and the couple was recently honored for that achievement at the Monocacy Lions Club annual picnic held on their farm.

Originally from Montana, Cliff and Vivian came to the area nearly forty years ago where he established a successful career with Brown & Bigelow, Inc. and also became a prolific peach tree farmer and equestrian rancher. The former president of the Sugarloaf Riding Club, he raised prize-winning Arabian horses.

For the past twenty-five years, Cliff shared his special love of animals by establishing and managing the Sugarloaf Pet Gardens. A faithful member of the Poolesville Baptist Church and strong supporter and member of the Monocacy Lions Club for over thirty years, he also has also been the recipient of Lion of the Year award. Cliff was well regarded for his

personal devotion to family, friends, and his Lord.

Even during his advanced years, he loved managing the matters of the pet cemetery and, in fact, Cliff died as he had lived, being of service to others by trying to help a visiting client of the cemetery.

He is survived by his wife, Vivian; children, Dr. Jack Neal of Seattle, Washington, Dr. Janet Maus of Clinton, and Jerry Neal of Barnesville; ten grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

A few years ago, the *Monocacy Monocle* presented a feature article on Cliff Neal, and we are pleased to present the following updated version of the article:

Reprinted from 2004:

When you are born in Paradise, where do you go from there? For Cliff Neal of Barnesville, being born in Paradise Valley, Montana was a great place to obtain his roots, but living in this area is “living my dreams.”

Cliff and his six siblings hail from the railroad town of Livingston, Montana, which is the last significant town just before Yellowstone National Park. One of his favorite memories



Cliff Neal

is the world-class trout fishing in that area—“Best in the world,” says Cliff. Even though anglers have been known to exaggerate, many experts would agree with him.

In his early years, Cliff lived with two sisters and three brothers in the house his dad built. Another sibling came along after they moved to Livingston. Cliff almost didn’t make it past age five, since he was a victim of the 1921 flu epidemic. With loving care and lots of mustard plasters, he made it through.

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Greg Shores (right) is joined by members of Historic Medley, Inc. in greeting visitors to Poolesville during the Montgomery County Heritage Days weekend tour.



The 2008 Concerts in the Park series got a rousing start through the music of Paul Hooper and the Poolesville Project Band.



The Poolesville Basketball Association's summer camp once again had highly successful training and instruction sessions for over 120 future Falcon hoopsters. The camp was held at the high school and at the Poolesville Baptist Church, pictured above.



Nancy Jamison (right) and friend Sydney Wade held a lemonade-stand sale to raise money to benefit Theo's Work, Inc. a non-profit that supports the children in poverty of Haiti.

Lodge #97 of the Poolesville International Order of the Odd Fellows hosted their annual summer luncheon for widows, widowers, and orphans in the area. Enjoying the day are Elle Mae Wynne, Ethel Shannon, Betty Rudasill, and Ruth Grubb.



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Tidbits

Reservist Paul Kelly in Afghanistan

Paul Kelly has been ordered to active duty from his reservist position by the army and is now serving in Kabul, Afghanistan. Kelly has reported to an engineering company in Afghanistan, and his orders are for one year. Paul has been employed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and is one of the founding committee members the Poolesville Wounded Soldiers project that hosts a day of fishing, fun, and simple relaxation for soldiers recovering at WRMC and their families.

Our pride, prayers, and best wishes go to Paul and his family during this time of active duty.

Poole Gets Meritorious Award

William R. (Bill) Poole, who is currently serving as the post commander of the American Legion Daniel-Jeffers Post 247 in Poolesville, received a citation recognizing his meritorious service to the Post. He also received the American Legion Americanism Medal in recognition of the outstanding attributes he demonstrated through his leadership.

Humble Chef

Herbs in a Bottle

By Maureen O'Connell

Fresh herbs in the garden are now in their prime. We have had sufficient rain to keep them growing well, and, if you have been pinching them back, they have not bolted and gone to seed or flower. They can be used fresh every day in all types of cooking. Another use is flavored oils and vinegars.

In an effort to improve their diet, many Americans are moving away from butter and its saturated fat. Two monounsaturated oils—olive oil and canola oil—have become very popular. Olive oil imparts a fruity taste, while canola has a neutral taste. You can make their flavor more effective by infusing them with additional flavors. This is a very easy project you can do in little time. Depending on the base flavor you want, place fresh herbs and/or spices in a clean bottle and add one of the oils. Keep the bottle in a cool, dark spot to season for two weeks, then strain it and rebottle it. Refrigerate until needed and bring back to room temperature before using. Here are a few of my favorite combinations.

Herbes de Provence Oil

- 2 sprigs fresh rosemary
- 1 sprig fresh thyme
- 2 garlic cloves
- 2 sprigs fresh oregano
- 2 sprigs fresh marjoram
- 2 bay leaves
- 6 black peppercorns
- 1 pint of olive oil

Spicy Herb Oil

- ½ tablespoon peppercorns
- ½ tablespoon coriander seeds
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 sprigs fresh rosemary
- 3 red chilies
- ½ teaspoon fennel seeds
- 1 pint olive oil

Basil Oil

- 1 cup tightly-packed fresh basil leaves
- 1 cup best-quality olive oil
1. Bring a medium-size saucepan of water to boil. Add the basil and blanch for 2 minutes. Remove leaves and squeeze dry.
2. In a blender or small food processor, place the leaves and half of the oil; blend until smooth. With motor running, gradually add

the remaining oil. Pour the oil into a glass jar. Cover and allow to steep for at least a day at room temperature; strain and rebottle. Refrigerate until ready to use.

Vibrant Vinegars

Today many great herb and fruit vinegars are available in local grocery stores and specialty shops. Besides the common apple cider vinegar and white vinegar, there are red wine, white wine, sherry, raspberry, black currant, malt, rice, champagne, and balsamic vinegars. With fresh herbs from your garden, you can make a variety of wonderful vinegars that bring impact to salads, soups, stews, and sauces. Use your culinary imagination and try different combinations of herbs and spices. Using vinegar of your choice, add herbs to it and let steep in a cool dark place for at least one month. You may strain and rebottle if you desire. Here are a few of my favorites.

Tuscan Vinegar

- 2 sprigs fresh rosemary
- 2 sprigs fresh oregano
- 1 sprig fresh sage
- 2 sprigs fresh basil
- 1 garlic clove
- 1 tablespoon black peppercorns
- 1 pint red wine vinegar

Lime Dressing

- 3 sprigs fresh mint
- 1 garlic clove
- Zest of 1 lime
- ½ tablespoon coriander seeds
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 pint white wine vinegar

Berry Dressing

- 2 cups raspberries, blueberries, blackberries, or cranberries
- 2 tablespoons honey
- One 6-inch cinnamon stick

The above oils and dressings are my variations of those from Julee Rosso's book *Great Good Food*.



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Commentary

The Circus Lives

By John Clayton

Back in the good old days, not only in the U.S. but all over the world, it was a big deal when the circus came to town. I'm not quite old enough to remember this signature small town event from personal experience, but like any self-respecting Baby Boomer, I at least remember it from the movies, television, and the occasional novel. Unfortunately, the novel that leaps to mind is *Something Wicked This Way Comes* by Ray Bradbury, but notwithstanding that particular circus's bad intent, the novel really caught the excitement and feeling of the arrival of the big event that gets us out of our business-as-usual existence. In the good old days, the circus would enter in a parade with the wild animals, the dog-faced boy, the trapeze artists in their flashy costumes, and the Yak Woman (a sweet gal, and one heck of a good cook) all waving to the crowd. The tent or tents were set up, and everybody went to the big show. Then the circus left, and with the exception of a trampled field and some excellent fertilizer left behind, that was it.

With the arrival and departure of *Extreme Makeover, Home Edition*, Poolesville has indeed seen the circus come to town, and it was a pretty impressive show. I admit that these are strictly armchair observations on my part, as I did not actually go to the event itself, although I did a couple of drive-bys on Jerusalem Road. The Monocle had its own man-on-the-inside with Rande Davis, who copped a press pass and pretty much had the run of the place for the duration, so my presence would have been redundant at best. His comprehensive wrap of the event is elsewhere in this issue.

Everybody was talking about it. A number of people asked me if the Monocle was on top of it, and I told them we were all over it (thank you, Rande). I began to ask people if they had ever actually seen the show, and what I learned was that everybody watches this show. I, unfortunately, had never actually seen the show, although when I first heard about the big event that was brewing outside of town I had to admit that the name of the show had a certain ring of familiarity. This isn't cultural snobbery by any means, but I will admit that if you want to reach me, you had better run your message on the evening news or *Baseball Tonight*—that's about it. My fourteen-year-old daughter's friends thought it was pretty cool that I had a partner that was hobnobbing with Ty Pennington, and I'm sure my failure to do the same only confirmed my cultural cluelessness, but there's not much I can do about that now.

I then did the only responsible thing: I watched an episode of the show. It's a pretty entertaining show. It moves along briskly and has some nice campy audience-participation moments where everyone knows what is expected and pitches in with great exuberance. Watching things get built by people that know what they're doing is extremely entertaining, as witnessed by any number of successful do-it-yourself shows, makeover shows, and even cooking shows if you think about it. This show is also based on altruism towards people whom we can all agree deserve a helping hand, so you can't deny the feel-good factor overriding the whole enterprise. Reading the aforementioned article, you will see that others have joined in the spirit of assisting the Jackson family, and we can certainly all be proud to live in such a community as ours. I understand the Poolesville show will be on television in September. I'll be watching. I think it's great they came to Poolesville. I can't wait until they come to Barnesville.

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Equestrian

Making Your Riding Arena As Safe As It Can Be

By Carol Rae Hansen, Ph.D., Director, Equine Therapy Associates

If you or your child are riding in the U.S., you are probably riding in an "arena" (uncovered or covered) most of the time. These are fenced areas, generally of a specific size, for lessons, practice, and general exercise. Arenas or rings can offer predictability and practicality, but they raise a myriad of safety issues as well. What can you do to make your arena safer?

Systematic maintenance is the essential first step. Arena grounds and fencing should be maintained in good repair, periodically checked for nails that work up from weathering, and free from manure. Fencing should be of a sturdy material that is protected to minimize injury in an accident. Rope, baling twine, barbed or slick wire, are never appropriate as a ring surround. Dust, as it inevitably contains fecal matter, should be minimized, and run-off must be strictly controlled. Wiring for

lights should be encapsulated, with the safest conduits alternating four layers of metal and rubber. All wiring and fixtures should be enclosed and inspected monthly, and placed well above the level at which an equine can chew. As cobwebs, along with rodents chewing, are the two biggest causes of barn fires, they should be removed at least monthly. All wiring should be grounded, with Ground Fault Interrupters (GFIs) installed throughout, and extra thick sheet rock "fire walls" should be installed between all finished (heated and cooled) areas that front onto animal or human areas.

An enclosed, covered arena should be carefully ventilated. Often the cheapest, most reliable and best ventilation comes from orienting the covered arena towards the prevailing winds. Cooler air then enters at ground level, goes up through the center ventilation shafts, and then out through the soffit vents. In the summer, fans may be used to enhance ventilation on sticky days. Excellent siting may allow you to achieve, on average, about three to four times the minimum air exchange per equine per day. (Each thousand-pound horse releases two gallons of moisture into the air each day through respiration, in addition to the moisture released by

the evaporation of urine and manure.) Well-built or updated indoor arenas require multiple sources of ventilation: soffit vents, ridge vents, cupolas, loft doors that open, and many other windows and doors.

Safe gates are essential. They should always be closed for safe riding and to keep wandering dogs and cats from entering. Gates must open easily in an emergency. Entrance and exit gates and their hardware should be heavyweight steel or wood, and should be checked daily. Their width should be sufficient to allow farm tractors and fire equipment to pass, and their installation pins should point down from the top and up from the bottom, to discourage creative equines from lifting them off their pins and escaping. Hinged ends can be chained for extra safety. Hardware should not protrude or be sharp. Needless to say, it is imperative that building and fire codes in construction and repair are followed.

Ring access should also be controlled at all times. Never use or store heavy equipment in the ring when humans and/or animals are in it. Unmounted guests should be directed to an area out of ring for viewing, and all obstacles not in current use should be removed, including mounting blocks, jumps, and extraneous equipment. In

addition, everyone who uses the ring should be familiar with the written Emergency Procedures currently in place at the facility, and should be committed to follow them. There should be a policy in practice to correlate the number of participants to the size of the arena and the activity being provided.

All ring surfaces should be resilient and free of holes, tree roots, and other obstructions. Ideally, there should be an extensive drainage system under the ring, with appropriate slopes, so that an all-weather surface is achieved. Any new construction should meet OSHA and EPA national standards for exposure to mercury and arsenic (commonly found in crushed stone), especially those approved for use in areas close to the beginning of a natural stream. Resilient surfaces provide cushion, and are much less dusty due to the particle size, which also gives it the ability to crush under hoofs, yet allows excellent resistance (traction) in wet weather. Rings require regular maintenance, by mechanized equipment or by hand rake, to cover over small imperfections and the effect of heavy rains.

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Local History

Snowplows in July

By Jack Toomey

July 10, 1975 was a typically hot mid-summer day in Montgomery County. Children and teenagers sought refuge in the swimming pools that had been built at some of the newly-constructed homes in the subdivisions that had sprung up around the center of Poolesville. Others went to Seneca Creek, the Potomac River, or the forbidden quarry at Dickerson for a dip in those cooling waters. Farmers toiled in their fields while other people stayed inside air conditioned homes awaiting the setting of the sun which promised some relief.

Suddenly, the western sky darkened and a line of intense thunderstorms moved through Loudoun County. Farmers retreated from their fields and either went into their barns or their homes. Kids scampered out of the water as the thunder of the approaching storm could be heard in the distance. Commuters driving up Route 28 could see the towering clouds that signaled the approach of the storm. Then the fast-moving

storm hit northwestern Montgomery County with a vengeance. Strong winds drove hailstones, which some said were as big as golf balls, across the landscape and began denting automobiles on Route 109 and crushing fields of corn and wheat. The hail was so intense that on some farms the stones cut through metal roofs. Homeowners were terrified when hail came crashing through their windows and landed on living room floors. Later some residents claimed to have measured the depth of the hailstones at sixteen inches in some places. Merlo Pusey, who was the Montgomery County Agricultural agent at the time, said that it was the worst storm that he had ever encountered. He later reported that 6500 acres of crops in the northwestern part of the county had been ruined. Weather Bureau officials later said that the storm had cut a four by ten mile swath from White's Ferry to Beallsville and Poolesville.

Torrential rain drenched the area. A Silver Spring woman was driving with her two-year-old daughter and son on Edwards Ferry Road. The sudden downpour caused a small creek to overflow its banks, and their 1965 Chevrolet was swept off the road. The woman managed to pull her son out

of the car but she was unable to save her daughter who was carried downstream by the raging torrent. Firemen later found the body of the girl three hundred yards from the road.

At the time, Nationwide Insurance Company insured most of the farmers in the region. The agent at the Poolesville office was deluged with calls from clients. The agent predicted that the total damage to crops would approach a million dollars. John Hunter, who at the time farmed near Beallsville, was quoted as saying, "A whole year lost, too late to plant another crop." Mr. Hunter lost more than a hundred and fifty acres of corn that was mowed to the ground. Hunter also had about eighty cows in the field at the time of the storm and said at the time that they instinctively formed a tight circle to protect themselves. John Hunter, Jr, who lives on West Hunter Road and is the son of John Hunter, told the *Monocle* that he had been in Poolesville when the storm hit. He recalled that he was at Umstead's filling station and that lightning hit a house just down the

street. Because of the ice on the road, the fire engines were not able to quickly respond to the fire. Snowplows had to be called out to clear the roads in the Beallsville area. Mr. Hunter said, "It was one of the worst storms I have ever seen around here, but we did have a bad one in 1953." Mr. Hunter pointed out a wooded area near his property and said that every leaf on every tree had been sheared off during the storm. He showed the visitor a tractor that, thirty-three years later, still showed the scars of the hailstones. Hunter also said that every window in his house had been broken. County officials later estimated that over \$200,000 in damage had been done to homes, and farm equipment had experienced \$50,000 in damage.

There is no doubt there were severe storms before this day in 1975, and as recently as June 4 of this year there was a brutal storm that caused days of power outages and untold damage, but people who have lived in the upper part of Montgomery County would be hard pressed to remember a storm that left ice-covered fields and necessitated the use of snowplows in July.




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In the Garden Midsummer Garden Thoughts

By Maureen O'Connell

In my last two columns, I spoke about some necessary early summer chores that would allow us to sit back now and enjoy the fruits of our labor. How much did you get done? The dog days of summer are here to stay, and the Japanese beetles and gnats are out and about. "It's summertime, and the living is easy." Well, not quite, unless you have been very diligent about your gardening work or you have a gardener other than yourself. I am a bit philosophical and a bit practical about my garden come mid-July. We are midway through summer, and my hammock lolling in the shade looks mighty inviting. So allow me to stretch out in this restful nook and toss out some random thoughts and tips about midsummer gardens.

The roses that I cut back almost to the ground last month—the victims of a severe case of black spot and an unknown caterpillar's voracious appetite—are now all showing new, green growth. The Knock Out roses took the worst assault. They are still looking a bit like ugly ducklings, but in about two weeks, they should be back in all their carefree glory. Sometimes, even the most highly acclaimed roses are not perfect all of the time. If you still have some rosebushes that are looking bad, cut them back now. If you are lucky, they might come back. If not, you have at least removed an eyesore from your garden. The minute the new growth appeared on my roses, I immediately sprayed them with a mixture of Orthene Systemic Disease and Insect Control. Hopefully, August and September will be kinder to my roses.

Going on vacation soon? Who's taking care of your lawn and garden? After all of your hard work, you don't want to come back to overgrown, wilted, or dead plants and a brown lawn. With a little preplanning, your plants and lawn can survive the separation. Here are a few helpful tips.

We have had a fair amount of rain in May, June, and early July, so most of the lawns that I have seen show good, green growth. We will see what the rest of summer gives us. If your lawn needs mowing, mow it as close to the day that you are

leaving. Cut the grass to a slightly, shorter height than usual, but not so short that in the event of a heat wave or drought, it will burn. If your well or water supply allows you, deeply water it the day before you leave.

Let's look at our trees and plants. Prioritize in this order: trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, houseplants, and containers. The first three are more expensive to replace, and they form the backbone of your gardens.

Check for insects, rot, and disease and spray accordingly. Deadhead your annuals and perennials. I cut back by half many of mine. When you return from your trip, there should be new growth. Have you slipped behind in your weeding? Do it now, or you will soon have more weeds than flowers.

If you have last fertilized your plants in early June, they are ready for a second dose now. If you are using a granular product, make sure that you rake it in well and water the area. Otherwise, it will just sit on the surface and do no good. With dead-heading, pruning, and this added dose of nutrients, your plants will have a good start to their second wave of bloom and growth. As with your lawn, give all your garden beds a good soaking. The easiest and most efficient way is with a soaker hose that you can easily weave through your garden area.

It is difficult to maintain an adequate moisture level with plants in containers, especially plastic ones. They dry out more quickly than those in the more moisture-retentive soil in your beds. Before leaving on vacation, move all of your containers away from direct sunlight and place in a shaded area of your garden. By decreasing their light supply, you minimize their growth and decrease the amount of water they will require while you are away. Water them well right before you leave. If the pots are sitting in saucers, remove them. If it does rain, your plants could be sitting in water the entire time you are gone, and the roots will soon rot. Don't forget your houseplants. I usually move mine outside, water well, and place in the shade. If you are going to be away for more than a few days, you should ask a friend or pay a responsible neighborhood boy or girl to keep an eye on your plants.

In Praise of Common Plants
Shakespeare might have enjoyed *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, but if your garden looks more like a midsummer nightmare, there is time to

fix it now, so you can have flowers well into October and the first frost. Check out the local garden centers. Last week, I visited several in our area to see what was still available. There are quite a few annuals that are still fresh looking, and many of them are on sale. Cut back the early blooming perennials and dig up and discard any annuals that have seen better days. Marigolds are wonderful mid and late summer and fall flowers. There are orange ones, yellow ones, gold ones, white ones. There are small yellow singles, flowered French types, mid-sized ones, and giant ones. It is not too late to plant zinnias. Scatter them among other plants or grow a large block of them. Like marigolds, their colors are bold. Both of these sun- and heat-loving plants do not have subdued colors—those aren't their nature. They have showboating colors that reach out and grab you, but at this time of the year, in many gardens, many plants have already seen their best day. These two annuals can easily and inexpensively give your slightly faded garden a good shot of pizzazz. I don't look to these plants for vivid color accompaniment for perennial gardens. What they do best is to provide traits that are short in the perennial world at this time in

the summer.

In Praise of Loyal Plants

In many areas of life, we know people whom we describe as real troopers. They are the stalwarts, the energizer bunnies who can face adversities and bounce back even stronger. You rely on them because they are always there for you. Permit me a little anthropomorphism when I say that troopers exist in the garden world. With this thought in mind, Sam, Tommy, and I walked around our gardens the other night to see our friends and those that lived up to this name. I shall list them, not in any good, better, or best fashion, but rather in the order that they appeared along our usual evening garden walk route.

Hostas have come a long way from our grandmother's garden, where the varieties were either greens leaves with white edges or white leaves with green edges. By June they were usually scorched by the sun, and then they sadly limped through the rest of the summer. Today, hostas are America's favorite shade perennial. They come in shades of blue, green, and yellow that are hard to find in other plants. They have exotic names

-Continued on Page 16.

Just Listed!!!



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Local News

The SUNWalk Visits the Red Wiggler Farm

By Kristen Milton

A retired doctor drawing attention to the sky's potential power with feats of endurance on sea and land recently made a visit an UpCounty farm and its solar abode.

Martin Vosseler made Clarksburg's Red Wiggler Farm a stop on his SunWalk 2008, a trek taking him from Los Anglos to Boston on foot in the hopes of generating publicity for solar power. This endeavor follows Vosseler's setting of a Guinness World Record in 2007 when he sailed the Atlantic in a solar-powered catamaran and an earlier walk from his home in Switzerland to Jerusalem.

"This SUNwalk is a prayer with body and soul," says the vision statement on Vosseler's website. "A prayer for the awareness and creativity that will lead to changes and actions that will make the sustainable energy possible."

Vosseler's June 28 visit, brought about by an indirect tie to a Red Wiggler employee, also became the occasion for both the exhibition of a solar-powered home donated to the farm by the University of Maryland and a tree planting ceremony.

The 800-square-foot house, designed as part of the U.S Department of Energy's 2005 Solar Decathlon, is generating about 7.5 kilowatts of power per hour through its fifty-one solar panels and will provide housing for Red Wiggler director Woody Woodruff and his partner by the end of the month. The house is tied to the power grid and unused energy can be sold to the local utilities. In addition, it features bamboo

floors and recycled glass tiles, radiant floor heating, and energy-efficient appliances.

"This thing is like a Formula One racecar," Woodruff said. "I'm excited to be the guy who gets to live in it, test-drive it, get the kinks out."

Living in the house and showing its green technologies to guests will be a way for Woodruff to show his support for the philosophy Vosseler spoke about to an audience of approximately fifty people on June 28.

Reached by email, Vosseler said he was "very impressed" by Red Wiggler, a non-profit farm employing adults with developmental disabilities.

"For me it's an oasis, an island of life bringing so many people together—those who work there, those who buy their vegetables and fruit there, those who visit," Vosseler wrote.

The farm reflected "respectful cooperation" between people and nature while the solar house "adds the other essential ingredients for our planet's recovery—renewable energy and energy efficiency," he said. "It will become mainstream, it has to ... if we want to survive."

The guitar music and refreshments enjoyed during the visit—including a cilantro pesto whose recipe Vosseler said he would take back to Europe—completed the vision for Vosseler.

"Let's celebrate life," he wrote, "and it will be enthusiasm that saves the world, not pain and misery."

Since the visit, Woodruff said he has begun to think about conservation less as a deprivation and more as an opportunity. He is trying to think of ways to walk and bike more often, even if it is just around the neighborhood.

"I found myself becoming more aware of how I use energy and how I can use energy in a way that adds value to my life," Woodruff said.

Beth Van Leer, who organized the visit through her uncle's friendship

with Vosseler, was impressed by the fact that Vosseler was not just walking a route across the country but walking everywhere he goes until he reaches Boston. He walked to Red Wiggler from Germantown and has not set foot in a car since January 1.

"Now I am very conscious every time I get in a car and drive," said Van Leer, who plans to find more ways to carpool or consolidate trips. "Before I would just jump in the car and go and do, and now I think twice."

Even the oak tree planted during the Vosseler visit will someday do its part in promoting SunWalk goals. A plaque detailing its history has been ordered, and, when grown, the tree will provide "alterative cooling" for the solar house, Woodruff said.



Martin Vosseler at the Red Wiggler Farm.

To find out more...

Red Wiggler's Solar House will be on display July 26 as part of the Montgomery County Farm Tour and October 4 to 5 as part of the American Solar Energy Society National Tour of Solar Homes. The University of Maryland students who designed the house are expected to participate.

For more information on Martin Vosseler, visit www.sunwalk2008.com.

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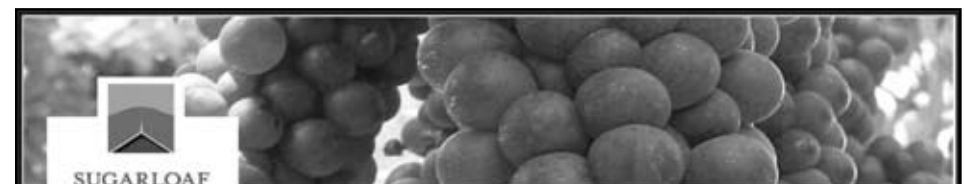
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Local News

Planning Commission Approves Clarksburg Site Plan

By Kristen Milton

A Clarksburg site plan received an intensive multi-hour examination at the Montgomery County Planning Board last month, less for what it was than for what it foretold.

Planning chair Royce Hanson said the 428-unit project by Winchester Homes, including 182 townhouses and 96 stacked townhomes, merited careful scrutiny at its June 19 review because "it looks like it's going to set the pattern for what develops in Cabin Branch."

The project was unanimously approved.

As a whole, the Cabin Branch development will cover approximately 535 acres east of Clarksburg Road and will include commercial development, parks, and a new elementary school. Several different owners and developers are involved, and five other site plans relating to the development were waiting in the queue at the time of the hearing.

The June 19 review included design guidelines for the first time as an after effect of the 2005 Clarksburg Town Center uproar, when a group of residents objected to site plan violations in the development. There was concern over how stringent the new guidelines should be while still leaving room for builders to respond to the demands of the market and site. Some found the draft guidelines too basic.

The rules specified building materials for retaining walls and fencing and outlawed certain trees for the streetscape while requiring a level of variety in colors and materials among other directives.

"I'm not sure in terms of minimum standards that it's going to look any different from what we see in a lot of Clarksburg so far," Commissioner John Robinson said, "and that's not necessarily anything I think at this point this agency feels is something to be overly proud of."

However Michael Conley, Winchester's vice president for development, said the guidelines were not "a definitive design for every house" and flexibility was needed to allow

marketability. "We are proud of our project," Conley said. "We do believe Cabin Branch will be the community of choice in Clarksburg."

Near the end of the three-hour discussion, the board decided to approve the guidelines with the caveat that either the developer or planners could request they be modified in the future.

"It's our first effort to get this deep," Hanson said. "We have to allow ourselves to get smarter."

John Cook, planning chair for the Clarksburg Civic Association, noted that the public had no input in the guidelines but said, "We don't, with this particular part of the plan, have too many issues."

Project-specific concerns covered in the hearing included the height of some of the multi-family buildings and retaining walls and the construction of the eventual school on up to forty feet of fill due to grading issues.

In response to questioning by Commissioner Jean Cryor, facilities designer Craig Shuman said that Little Bennett Elementary School was constructed on twenty to thirty feet of fill material at spots and "we're fairly comfortable."

Construction of the Cabin Branch school will depend on market conditions, said MCPS Real Estate Management Specialist Mary Pat Wilson, who wouldn't commit to a speculative groundbreaking in even three to five years.

The hearing also dealt briefly with the question of senior housing planned for another section of the full Cabin Branch development. Rose Krasnow, development review chief for the Board, noted that the residential calculation for the project did not include the 500 homes for ages fifty-five and up because the units arose from a 2002 review that anticipated they would be a public benefit.

Robinson said the issue would be examined. "It's not entirely clear that an over-55 market project was the kind of public benefit that was originally contemplated," he said.

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Remembrance

Clarence Leonard "Buddy" Allnutt, Jr.

Mr. Clarence Leonard "Buddy" Allnutt, Jr., of Darnestown, died Saturday, June 28 at the Montgomery Village Health Center. Mr. Allnutt who waged a courageous battle against cancer died due to complications of pneumonia.

Born on May 23, 1917, in Boyds, he was the son of the late Clarence Leonard and Laura Mae Allnutt. He attended Poolesville School up through the sixth grade, then started farming full time with the family. In May 1942, he and Betty F. Reed Allnutt were joined in matrimony.

After a career as a farmer, he began working for the Montgomery County Highway Administration in 1953. He was a cement foreman. After retiring, he followed his passion for

gardening from which he loved sharing his harvest with others.

Besides his wife, Mr. Allnutt is survived by his son Charlie, his granddaughter Laura Shelton and her husband Kevin. He has one great-grandson, CJ Shelton, and two great-granddaughters, Kaylie and Holly Shelton. Mr. Allnutt has two brothers, Jimmy and Sonny, and four sisters, Patricia Williams, Barbara Ward, Anna Orrales, and Ruth Stup. He was preceded in death by three sisters Becky Burkett, Thelma Gardner, and Edna Burdette, and three brothers, Johnny, Benny, and Buck.

The family is especially grateful to Georgine Ukteyedi and Stephen Kennedy, and the nursing staff at Family of Nursing for their care of Mr. Allnutt during these recent trying times. The family requests that donations in Mr. Allnutt's memory be made to Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard Drive, Suite 100, Rockville, Maryland 20850.

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Local News

A Week to Remember

By Rande Davis

ABC-TV's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition "invasion" of Poolesville will be remembered by the volunteers, spectators, and residents as one of the most exciting events to ever come to the area.

Initial concern was experienced when those living in the Jerusalem Church neighborhood got only a ten-day advance warning that their lives would be radically disrupted. That concern by some in the neighborhood was quickly overwhelmed by the excitement reaching a crescendo on the Sunday afternoon the Jackson family returned from their trip to Disney World.

By the end of the week, hundreds of people had volunteered to help out while even more had visited the site through the week. When the Jackson family arrived in their sleek, white stretch-limo, it was parked behind a bus which blocked their view of their new

4,500-square foot, five-bedroom home. The crowd, estimated to be around 1000, enthusiastically roared their approval and began the show's trademark chant of "move the bus, move the bus, move the bus."

The abandoned house which was originally on the property was demolished in fifteen minutes on Monday afternoon and, within seventy-two hours, the basic structure of the house was up. The foundation, made of quick-mix 800-psi cement, was a fast-drying compound allowing the team to have the exterior frame facade and roof in place by Wednesday afternoon.

By the following Sunday morning, the family's belongings were moved into the house along with all the new furniture, appliances, televisions, and everything they would need to immediately start living in the home. Even the grass in the yard was green, and around the foundation, flowers were in bloom.

Through the week, Classic Homes of Maryland was joined by more than five hundred volunteers each working in shifts with designated duties. Many of the workers were area residents with their own expertise to bring to the task. Among the volunteers were Chris Giarratano of Senate Home Improve-

ments and John Speelman of Poolesville Hardware (as the Benjamin Moore Paint supplier) who went back and forth bringing specialized help throughout the week and keeping them in supply of custom mixed paint. April Moody of Domino's Pizza helped keep the overnight crew fed while Jeff Brooks of Java Cruiser had coffee and ice drinks ready at all times.

The Monocle was impressed with the cooperation and friendliness of the show's staff. Under the direction of Diane Korman, senior executive producer, they found many ways to help the media stay on top of the story. An amusing first impression in dealing with the staff and security crew was that all seemed to share a similar physical disability in common. Like some kind of alien deformity, they all seemed to talk to their shoulder each time you approached them. It soon became apparent that their communication system, clipped to their shoulders and barely noticeable in their ears, allowed them to continuously communicate with one another.

Building the home was easy com-



Program host and TV star, Ty Pennington, is filmed for the TV show as he puts his arm around Felicia Jackson to lead her to the front door of her new home.

pared to going through the process to be selected.

The process began a few years ago when Montgomery County school teacher Eric Kuhn had Michelle Jackson in his class. It was then that he learned of the family's challenge to stay together after their mother (and aunt) Cassandra Jackson died of cervical cancer in 2004. Mr. Kuhn sought various ways to help the family and eventually came upon the notion of entering them for consideration as a recipient of the Extreme Makeover: Home Edition show.

As time went by, "the need to help the family became more and more critical." He knew that the show had 10,000 applicants per week and getting the show to select the Jacksons would not be easy. The first few years were not successful, but this past March, Kuhn learned the family was in the top 1000, then the top 500. As they finally got past the top 100, the excitement reached a peak when they were finally within the top five. Problems with a location down county almost seemed to scuttle their hope. The producers wanted the family to be property owners of the land where the house would be built. A small group of county officials and businesspersons, who had been helping the family, took action.

The selection of the property in the Jerusalem neighborhood emerged since it already had an abandoned home on the site, both Felicia and Cassandra grew up in the area, and both had family in the neighborhood. In fact, Cassandra Jackson was buried in the historical cemetery right in front of the property in 2004.

Realtors Cuvator Armstrong and Silvia Rodriguez of Silvia International Realty had been trying for months to find the family a home. The Jerusalem

-Continued on Page 17.

Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present

July 3 Theft from a vehicle. 19610 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville.

June 30 Burglary. 20900 block of Whites Ferry Road, Poolesville.

June 28 Theft. Citgo Gas Station, 20000 block of Fisher Avenue, Poolesville.

June 26 Theft. 17600 block of Kohlhoss Road, Poolesville.

June 24 Theft. 20800 block of Whites Ferry Road, Poolesville.

June 22 Residential Burglary. 23300 block of Shiloh Church Road, Comus.

June 18 Residential Burglary. 16500 block of Sugarland Road, Poolesville.

Past

July 17, 1924 Police Chief William Aud stopped Samuel Jewell for speeding through Rockville. When Jewell, of Poolesville, explained that he was in a hurry to get to church services in Loudoun County, Chief Aud did not arrest him but made him promise that he would return to Rockville to pay his fine.

July 18, 1889 A Frederick County jury

deliberated ten minutes before finding John Brown guilty in the robbery and murder of Mr. and Mrs. Rosenstien at Slidell, Montgomery County, on May 13. It was predicted that he would eventually share the same scaffold with his accomplice, Armistead Taylor, at the Rockville jail on August 18.

July 19, 1945 The body of a man that was found lying next to the railroad tracks near Boyds was identified as a soldier from Michigan. It was surmised that he had fallen off of a train. July 22, 1940 Police arrested a Boyds man after he wrecked four automobiles in a chain of wrecks that began on Route 28 near Dawsonville and ended in Rockville. Police said that the man, who was intoxicated, first swerved off of the road and nearly struck some people who were swimming in Seneca Creek at Dawsonville.

July 23, 1971 A sixteen-year-old Clarksburg boy drowned in a farm pond near Slidell.

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"Pick Your Own Zinnias"

Extreme Makeover



After only seven days, the family returned from Disney World and emerged from their stretch limo and waited for the crowd to shout, "move the bus, move the bus" so they could have the new home "unveiled" to them.



The whole family gathers for last-second comments from Ty Pennington as they are about to enter the home for the first time.



The day after the Jackson family moved into their new home, the owners of Classic Homes of Maryland (Amita and Danesh Jain upper left corner and founder Prem Puri standing by Felicia) greeted the family and spoke of their desire to stay in touch with the family and to help in the weeks and months to come.



Montgomery County school teacher Eric Kuhn (center) is surrounded by Jacksons who are showing their appreciation for all the help he has given them over the years and especially for his pivotal role in getting them selected by the television program.



The Poolesville Relay for Life group came with baked goods to share with the volunteers and other workers.



John Speelman of Poolesville Hardware was just one of many local businesspeople that pitched in to help out during the week.

Great American Campout



Youth Sports

The Great American Backyard Campout

By Rande Davis

On June 28, the Great American Backyard Campout was held at Riley's Lock in Poolesville. This is a national event where for one night across the United States, families and friends relive or experience for the first time, how much fun it is to spend a night sleeping under the stars and enjoying the sounds of nature. Sponsored by Hudson Trail Outfitters nationally, Calleva Outdoors arranged locally for an assortment of activities to accompany the camping including canoeing, kayaking, biking, and a climbing wall. Hilary Schwab Shapiro presents a collection of photographs from that event.

Fourth of July, 2008 in Poolesville.

Photographs by Hilary Schwab Photography.



Great American Campout





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Business Briefs

Local Winery to Open New Tasting Room

Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard in Comus is constructing a brand-new tasting room to be finished later this summer. The new facility is in an old barn, an original structure from the farm on which the winery is located. The barn has been totally renovated for its new purpose and will provide over twice the space of the current tasting room, a nearby tent. Keep an eye out for details on a grand opening for the new tasting room sometime in the near future.

New Offerings by Local Restaurants

You may not have noticed, but Poolesville Beer and Wine is now offering an early morning full breakfast menu by opening its doors at 6:00 a.m. You can get a quick sandwich, eggs and home fries, omelets, and even pancakes and French toast.

House of Poolesville had an all-you-can-eat buffet for \$13.95 on the Fourth of July and now will start offering it as standard fare on Saturdays from noon to 9:30 p.m.

New Item Hanging around Poolesville Hardware

Maureen and Terry Sage have developed a partnership that will bring a selection of fresh garden flowers and hanging plants to Poolesville Hardware store. They hope to be in full swing soon, so watch for their special flower- and plant-covered wagon in front of the store in the coming weeks.



The new tasting room in the old barn on the left, and the old tasting room in the new tent on the right, at Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard.

Local News

Five Percent Day at Whole Foods

By Maureen O'Connell

On July 8, volunteers from the Montgomery Countryside Alliance (MCA) got a chance to share information about their group and the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve (Ag Reserve) with shoppers at four Whole Foods stores in the area. In a continuing effort to support local community groups and endeavors, Whole Foods donated five percent of the day's sales at their stores in Kentlands, Bethesda, Silver Spring, and Rockville.

MCA was established to "advocate for land use and transportation policies that enhance agriculture and land preservation; educate about the environmental, economic, and recreational benefits of local farmland; and to support local farms to strengthen our rural economy."

A varied program of activities

was offered at each of the stores. In Kentlands, there was a Countryside Artisans market featuring Art of Fire, Susan Percy, and Ellen Pearl & Claire Howard; a Farm to Store Reception; and celebrity baggers Mike Rubin, a major supporter of the MCA and Maryland House of Delegates Saqib Ali. In Rockville, Denise Chasin and her Personal Ponies greeted the shoppers; in Silver Spring, County Executive Ike Leggett spoke about the MCA and the Ag Reserve; and in Bethesda, Irish guitar solo Jonathan Cook serenaded the shoppers.



Jean Finley and Peg Coleman, Montgomery Countryside Alliance volunteers, at Whole Foods in Kentlands

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--- July '08 Calendar ---

Summer Book Club

A Pace of Grace by Linda Kavelin Popov
Sundays in July and August
11:30am - 12:30pm
In Speer Hall (behind Sanctuary)

VBS: July 26th - Beach Party



Surfin'
Through the
Scriptures

Beach Party: Surfin' Through the Scriptures
Special 1-day event at Calvary Farm Ministries!
Grades: entering K-5
9am-4pm (4-5pm swimming with lifeguards)
Admission is free as are lunch and snack.
Registration Form(s) are available online, at church,
Or call and they'll be mailed to you.
Register today!

Worship: 10am-11am *Check out our sermon podcasts*

Questions? Need a ride? Call the church at 301-972-7452



18th Annual Poolesville Day

September 20, 2008

Attention: Interested Vendor & Parade Participants
FINAL Application Deadline - Wednesday, August 20

Come out and celebrate Poolesville!

5K Run, Town Parade, Food & Beverages, Arts & Craft vendors and businesses, Antique Auto Show, Motorcycle Show, Pony Rides, Moon Bounce, Pie Eating Contest, Inflatable Slide & playground,
NEW: Kid's Korner (ages 8 & under) Moon bounce, arts & craft tables, Pam Minor "The Kindersinger"
NEW: Livestock/Agricultural Display, Local musical performances,
WAMMIE Award Winner & Artist of the Year - JUNKYARD SAINTS!



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Special thanks to: Poolesville On-Line, Helping Hands Committee, Smith-Litho

"Midsummer Thoughts" Continued From Page 7.

such as 'Blue Mouse Ears,' 'Aphrodite,' 'Captain Kirk,' 'Gypsy Rose,' and 'Blue Jay.' With shade and moisture when it is very hot, they light up your gardens from spring to the first frost. They are one of the most maintenance-free plants that I have.

For toughness, reliability, and long-lasting color, nothing comes near Hemerocallis, the daylily. The varieties of color and shading are off the charts. There must be a God, for who else could fashion such colors. By selecting those that bloom in early, mid, or late summer, you can have lilies every day from spring to fall. They can take heat, humidity, insects, and just about any soil.

There are some plants that I call see-through flowers. Unlike phlox or coneflowers, which are solid statements, see-through flowers have clouds of lightness and transparency. Their delicate flowers float above their mother base. My favorites are Coreopsis 'Moonbeam' and its new sport 'Moonray,' Lavender 'Grosso,' Lavender

'Provence,' and Perovskia, Russian Sage. They are completely maintenance free, and they bloom and grow all summer.

Last but not least is my favorite plant since I was a child, Stachys lanata. Its name is more familiar and so much nicer under its English names of Lamb's Ear, Rabbit's Ear, or Savior's Flannel. Every time I pass it, I cannot resist touching its soft, gray leaves. Every year, it faithfully comes back and with even more soft, wooly ears. He might get a little cranky and wilted in extreme heat, but that is a small price to pay for its soft beauty the rest of the season.

Well, I should get out of my hammock. It was a nice rest, but now I must see if my friends in the garden need anything.

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Vacation Bible Schools

Dawsonville Mennonite	Blast Off At Power Lab	July 7 to 11	7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Pre-K thru grade 6 Adults Class	Free
Barnesville Baptist	Outrigger Island	July 28 to August 1	6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Pre-K thru grade 7	Free
Poolesville Presbyterian* At Calvary Farm, Jerusalem Rd.	One Day VBS Beach Party "Surfing the Scriptures"	One Day July 26	9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	K thru Grade 5	Free Donation to WUMCO
United Memorial Methodist Church	Power Lab Discovering Jesus' Miraculous Power	August 10 to 14	6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	K thru Teens	Free
Poolesville Baptist Church	OLYMPIAN Spiritual Adventure using Olympic Theme	July 20 to July 24	Sun. 5:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Mon - Thurs 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	4 years old to Grade 6	Free
Cedarbrook Community Church Clarksburg	Power Lab Discovering Jesus' Miraculous Power	July 7 To July 11	6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	K thru Grade 5	Free
St. Mary's Barnesville	Rainforest Adventures	July 7 to July 11	9:30 a.m. to Noon	Pre-K and Elementary	Free

Run with Olympion,
Poolesville Baptist Church
17550 W. Willard Rd
(across from the High School)
301-972-8151
July 20th - 24th
Sunday 7/20 5:15pm - 8:30pm
Monday 7/21 - Thursday 7/24 6:00pm - 8:30pm
The Vacation Bible School of Champions!

"Extreme Makeover" Continued From Page 10.

Church Terrace site came about when Juin Killingsworth of the Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Christine Clarke of the Office of County Executive (she lives in the Jerusalem Church neighborhood), and the Office of Community Partnerships pitched in to help.

Attorney Susan Eleff of Ballard, Spahr, Andrews, and Ingersoll, LLP of Bethesda provided the pro bono legal help. The result was that the property was deeded to Felicia Jackson on April 3. The mortgage was arranged so that the first payments would not be due within the first year.

The family was uncertain of their selection right up to the moment they were visited by the Extreme Makeover team at their motel. Up until then, there remained a family in Baltimore and another in Cumberland that could have been chosen, and since Classic Homes of Maryland could build homes in all three locations, some element of doubt remained throughout the process.

The producers of the television show hand-picked Classic Homes of Maryland after learning of the company's track record of charitable giving. Amita Jain, co-owner and vice president of Classic Homes of Maryland, benefited from the expertise of her father's twenty-five years of home building in Virginia to help her and her husband, Danesh, establish the company in 2006. Ten years ago, the family business developed a charitable foundation which has helped in areas of medical care and education throughout the world. Mrs. Jain told the *Monocle*, "In India, we have built a school for the deaf and the blind, as well as another school for children of impoverished families who would have had no hope for education. We have also funded kidney transplants, and in Kenya, we have sponsored the cost of college for young men and women."

While they were chosen for their workmanship and charitable giving, the builder agreed to the task after learning more about the Jackson family.

"We built this home with a lot of help from volunteers from the community, in labor and materials. What inspired us though was not Hollywood or the show, but the sacrifices that Mrs. Jackson made to keep the fourteen children together. When we heard her story, it was a true inspiration to us to commit to something we did not think at first was possible."

Moving in was one thing, keep-

ing up with the bills another. Concern over how Mrs. Jackson would manage the large household was swept away as more good news came to the family during a news conference on Monday afternoon.

Youth Vision, a division of Contemporary Services, a local human services agency specializing in foster care, group homes, and outpatient rehabilitation promised the Jackson family that they will underwrite a guarantee for the mortgage and ensure it would never be defaulted. This promise was underscored by an initial donation of \$50,000 for that purpose. Contemporary Services understood the harsh reality that Mrs. Jackson would face in trying to maintain employment, manage the household, and raise the fourteen children.

In addition, the executive staff of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. was on hand to present the donation of a fifteen passenger van to the family.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. partnered with The Dwelling Place, Inc. and the Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church to sponsor an evening fundraising concert program entitled "An Evening of Gospel." The Xi Sigma Omega Chapter of AKA has supported the family in various ways for four years. From these joint efforts, \$20,000 were donated to the family.

The Rollins Group coordinated additional support such as Service Masters guarantee on the home's infrastructure after the initial guarantees run out. Other benefits sponsored by Chem Lawn and Merry Maids further came to the aid of the family.

Attorney Susan Elef, who had provided the pro bono assistance in handling legal aspects of the mortgage, came forward to also assist the family in managing the legal aspects of all the donations and trusts funds.

Locally, Bar-T also helped by donating backpacks filled with school supplies to the kids.

Mrs. Jackson, who at the press conference was overwhelmed by all the generosity, summed up her reaction as "wonderful, wonderful, wonderful." She expressed her happiness to be back in the Jerusalem neighborhood and Poolesville in telling the *Monocle* that "this community is the best."

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Things to Do

Beef and Corn Dinner

Carroll Manor Lions Club
Family Style BBQ
\$14.00 for adults; \$5.00 from 5 to 12
Under 5: free
Buckeystown United Methodist
Church
Noon to 6:00 p.m.

Outdoor Movies in the Park

Whalen Commons, Poolesville
Grease
Admission: Free; Popcorn sold
Begins at Dusk

July 20

Music Concert in the Park
Whalen Commons, Poolesville
Billy Jo and the Distractions
Acoustic guitar
7:00 p.m.

July 23

Poolesville Library Special Event
Dance Dance Revolution (DDR) Tour-
nament
Phase one of area Library sponsored
dance contest
Prizes
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

July 24
Poolesville Library
Preschool Films
Three to Six
Five Films shown
2:00 p.m.

July 26

St. Mary's Picnic and Fair
St. Mary's in Barnesville
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July 28

Poolesville Library
Adult Book Discussion Group
Rachel Herz's
*The Scent of Desire: Discovering Our
Sense of Smell*
7:30 p.m.

August 2

Little Bennett Regional Park
Wild Life at the Park
Ages 12 and up
Free
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Local News

What Happened to Sharon Miller's Garden?

By Jack Toomey

In August 2006 the Monocle reported on the efforts of a Boyds woman whose efforts to beautify a former trash strewn lot won her praise from commuters and an award from Montgomery County.

Sharon Miller moved to Boyds in 1990 and noticed that directly across from her house that there was a small lot next to the MARC train station waiting platform that was filled with trash, overgrown with weeds, and seemed to be a dumping ground for people too lazy to use the county facility at Shady Grove. Within a few years she had started a project where she removed railroad ties, metal, garbage, and even some of the remnants of a 1986 CSX train wreck that had been left there. After having the trash hauled away and improving the soil she began building a garden that included dogwood trees, a Japanese maple tree, and various varieties of flowers and grasses. She even had a decorative bench placed there and restored an old sign that welcomed visitors to Boyds. During the years that the garden flourished she had to put up with occasional visits from CSX workers who while defoliating underbrush along the railroad tracks would kill some of the flowers. Then there were the county workers who

were sent to trim the area and would mistake her ornamental grasses for weeds and would then cut them down.

In June of this year Mrs. Miller came back from an out of town trip to find that a large metal cabinet with several concrete pads had been constructed in the garden. While surprised by the sudden demise of her garden Miller was resigned to the right of the Maryland Transportation Authority, who owns the parcel of land, to convert the property for their own use. Miller told a Monocle reporter that she thought that "she had done a good job with planting (the various ornamental items) and cleaning up the lot". She recalled the time when Montgomery County recognized her by giving her an award for her efforts to beautify the community.

John Hovatter, a spokesman for the Maryland Transportation Authority, said that the large metal cabinet and buried lines that were placed at Boyds on MTA property were part of an effort to improve the T-1 fiber optic line from Washington to Martinsburg, West Virginia. He said that in the future that most MARC stations will have train warning devices, public address systems, LED screens, and machines that will allow commuters to purchase tickets. He was not aware that the cabinet had destroyed much of Mrs. Miller's prior work.

While a few of the trees and annuals that were planted years ago remain much of Sharon Miller's garden is gone. We all owe her a debt of gratitude for making this small parcel of Montgomery County a more pleasant and attractive place for these years.



Sharon Miller in her garden in 2006.



The site of Sharon Miller's garden in 2008.

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"Cliff Neal" Continued From Page 1.

His little house on the prairie, although humble, was grandiose in its role of building family bonds and establishing solid values that would guide Mr. Neal throughout his ninety-two years. The home was small, but the view was magnificent. Surely this is where Cliff first obtained his positive and graceful view of life.

Cliff has been married to the love of his life Vivian for seventy years, and although they both went to the same high school (they were separated by two years), they didn't date until he was out of high school. They have raised four children, and today have fifteen grandchildren (counting spouses) and seven great-grandchildren.

Coming from a large family, Mr. Neal worked out of high school for the Northern Pacific Railroad, which had him traveling on the rails from Montana west beyond the Rocky Mountains on a train that was powered by a steam engine. He also worked in a men's clothing store, where he was impressed with the "classy dressed, well-versed, and highly personable salesman" for such manufacturers as Arrow shirts and Florsheim shoes, giving him the idea of becoming a salesman.

In 1946, he made his move east,

first to Philadelphia and Harrisburg, and finally to our area in 1953. Cliff worked for Brown & Bigelow, a specialty advertising and calendar publisher. He became the district sales manager in Washington, D.C.

While B&B might not ring a bell, at one time or another, many of us may have had direct contact with the result of Mr. Neal's work. Try checking out what's on your refrigerator door; you see, Mr. Neal specialized in sales of complimentary calendars for companies to give to their customers and clients. His most famous calendar was the bicentennial "We the People" calendar that was purchased by all members of congress to send to their constituents.

Through the years, his entrepreneurial spirit moved him to try various endeavors. At one time on his nearly fifty-acre farm on Peachtree Road, they had two thousand peach trees, but on October 29, 1979, he awoke to what sounded like rifle shots through the woods. Tragically, the sound was of peach tree branches cracking and breaking and eventually wiping out the orchard, the result of a surprise ice storm which resulted in his moving on to other things.

His frontier spirit, which is well grounded in his soul, didn't let him down, and his faith and gratitude for his Lord has always seen him through

the difficult times. Cliff Neal steadfastly moved on.

Mr. Neal also raised purebred Arabian horses on the farm and at one time had twenty-two horses. He had a prized stallion named Bosporus, which sired Redmann, a two-time winner of the National 100 Mile Race. In 1988, after bypass surgery, Cliff decided to give up the horse business and sold out.

In 1980, the Neal family was contemplating new uses for the farm when his son Jerry Neal introduced the notion of a full-service pet cemetery. The family's deep love of their property and desire to preserve its natural setting coupled with a profound love of animals and empathy for those who lose their pets prompted them to establish Sugarloaf Pet Gardens on Peachtree Road in Barnesville. Mr. Neal felt helping grieving pet owners was his special ministry. People love him.

The neophyte can be excused if his imagination leaves him to believe the cemetery is just an antiseptic method of handling the death of a pet. Sugarloaf Pet Garden's mission is to provide a complete, dignified, and respectful funeral service for grieving pet owners who have lost their special friend. Who among us has not experienced the deep, wonderful, and unique love of our pet?

Sugarloaf Pet Garden has lovingly handled the burial of upward of two thousand pets and animals. Their approach is very professional, offering all the needs of the pet owner, including pre-burial preparation, selection of a casket, customized funeral services and arrangements, and selection of burial site and marker. The gardens are beautifully landscaped to allow for calm, quiet, and natural meditation for those visiting the gravesite of a beloved pet. As *The Monocle* was interviewing him, his strength and drive was abundant and impressive not simply because of his age but especially since he was recuperating from his second hip surgery. His enthusiasm for life was totally undiminished. In fact, he was very concerned about getting to his mail inbox, which he hadn't seen in two weeks.

It is said that idle hands are the devil's playground. If that is so, then it can be said that the energetic spirit of Cliff Neal has driven the devil mad. With family close by and a homestead to be proud of, Mr. Neal is filled with gratitude. Through his long and experienced life, through trials and tribulations, Mr. Neal pensively looks across his kitchen table and looks you right in the eye proclaiming his special appreciation for "living his dreams." May we all be so guided.

"Barnesville Town Hall" Continued From Page 1.

up had been done, but that a great deal of repair and cleaning up remains. There were holes in the ceiling, wasp nests in the windows, and refuse piled in various rooms, but these shortcomings were easily offset by Mayor Menke's enthusiasm for the project and his vision of what the building could once again become."

The project was made possible in part by a grant of \$85,000 as a result of a bill introduced by State Senator Rob Garagiola. The \$85,000 figure was intended to represent one-half of the amount needed for the full restoration. The grant provides matching funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis as the town spends its own funds on the work, and Mayor Menke reported that the project is still within budget.

District 15 Delegate Brian Feldman, making reference to the \$85,000 state grant, observed that it was nice to see the money being put to work, and that he was glad to have played a small part in the process. He referred to the building as a legacy: tax money "well spent on a project that will outlive us all."

In his brief remarks before the actual

dedication ceremony, Mayor Menke thanked all who attended, including those from other towns in the area—the "suburbs of Barnesville," as he called them. He gave special thanks to his fellow commissioners, Bonnie Brown and Luke Fedders, and those who volunteered over the years to get the project to this point. He praised the contractor selected by the town, Dave Johnson, for applying his expertise in restoring old buildings to the town hall restoration, and noted that Mr. Johnson won the bid in a fair and impartial process as required, but that "the town got extra because of [Mr. Johnson's] love for the town." The mayor pointed out the refinished chestnut ceiling pieces and wainscoting, and the original flooring as examples of Mr. Johnson's craftsmanship.

Mayor Menke also explained that the Town of Barnesville is committed to zero growth, with lot size and frontage requirements specifically intended to forestall any growth at all. He said that the county had plenty of growth nearby in Clarksburg and Germantown, and that the UpCounty has a commercial center in nearby Poolesville, so there

was no desire for growth in Barnesville whatsoever.

Mayor Menke singled out Senator Garagiola and former town commissioner Houston Miller as being fundamental to the success of the effort. He also thanked Senator Garagiola's colleagues in the District 15 delegation for their assistance in getting over any legislative hurdles for the grant. This included Delegate Brian Feldman, who was present and joined Senator Garagiola on stage with Mayor Menke and the commissioners, and Delegate Katherine Dumais and former delegate Jean Cryor. The decidedly UpCounty crowd particularly enjoyed the bipartisan reference to the Republican Cryor, still greatly revered.

It was a good day to be a local politician. The mayor thanked Delegate Feldman for being a "friend of Barnesville and the upper county," and said that Council President and UpCounty Councilman Mike Knapp was "a person we can always call when we need help." Mayor Menke also contrasted Barnesville's political structure with that of the largest Barnesville suburb, Poolesville, and had kind words for the Town of Poolesville councilmen present: Link

Hoewing, President Paul Kuhlman, and Vice President Jerry Klobukowski, which must have been appreciated as a welcome diversion from the more rancorous tone generally afoot in Poolesville. Town Manager Wade Yost was also present to represent the suburb.

Mayor Menke also commended Montgomery County Police Department Commander Tom Didone from the Germantown Station for what he has done "to help the UpCounty since he's been here." He continued that he has helped with Barnesville's through-traffic problems "more than any other person ever has." Subsequently, Commander Didone told the *Monocle* that he believed it was important to "try to get to know the needs of the small communities" in the area.

Senator Garagiola performed the dedication, more pictures were taken, and the crowd, which had shown precious little willingness to wait for the ceremony to conclude, continued to dig into Town Clerk and Mayoral Spouse Patty Menke's impressive luncheon buffet.

Longtime former mayor Lib Tolbert, when asked for comment on the restored building, just said she was "so proud of it."

Tidbits of the Past

July Tidbits of the Past

By Jack Toomey

July 1, 1917 Mrs. Clifton Viers entertained at tea in honor of Mr. and Mrs. G. Robert Gray of Poolesville who had recently returned from their honeymoon. The event was held at Mrs. Viers's commodious home near Rockville.

July 4, 1920 The Clarendon club played Sid's Lodge of Poolesville in a holiday doubleheader games of baseball at the Poolesville grounds.

July 15, 1917 Mrs. Thomas R. Hall of Poolesville visited her parents, Rev. and Mrs. Samuel White.

July 19, 1918 Edwin Broome, superintendent of schools, appointed the following principals to their posts for the 1918-1919 school year:

Ruth Iddings at Sugarland, Julia Barber at the Buck Lodge School, and at Poolesville, Nannie Cromwell.

July 21, 1918 Forty eight Montgomery County men were selected for the July draft requirement. Among them were Harry Buxton of Boyds, Willie Cornwell from Dickerson, Samuel Poole who lived in Dawsonville, and William Harding of Buck Lodge. Also called were Paris Lambert, Earnest Hicks, Lee Allnutt Jones, all of Dickerson, and Dorsey Lewis of Clarksburg,

July 21, 1918 The Poolesville chapter of the American Red Cross elected Mrs. Arthur G. Elgin as chairman, Mrs. Thomas R. Hall as secretary, and Mrs. G. Robert Gray to be treasurer. Other appointments were Mrs. G. Robert Gray as chairman of the wool committee and Mrs. Harry Williams to head the garments committee.

July 21, 1922 George Bacher of Washington arrived in Rockville to look after the interests of P. A. Waddle and Cyrus Ferguson, both of Poolesville, who were in the Rockville jail charged with operating a whiskey still.

July 22, 1920 Thomas Hall was appointed as dog tax collector for the Poolesville and Barnesville districts. John Hall was appointed as constable for the Darnestown district.

July 23, 1911 Twenty-five wom-

en of the Poolesville district organized the E. V. White chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy. Miss Nana Hays was elected president, Mrs. Thomas Chiswell as first vice president, and Miss Medora Jones, treasurer.

July 31, 1916 The Marines of Washington, who play in the D.C. Government League, defeated Poolesville 7 to 1. F. Cubitt, L Cubitt, Lodge, and Hersperger had base hits for the Poolesville team.

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Local News

Poolesville Town Meeting Report Housecleaning Items Occupy Town Meeting

Sub-Committee Review Skateboard Park Development

The Master Plan committee reviewing possible use of the recently-purchased lot behind Selby's Market will consider the potential use of a community center in developing a site plan. Currently, its members include chairman Eddie Kuhlman (representing the commissioners), Doug McKenney (Park Board), Cal Sneed (Planning Board), Ted Wroth (resident), a non-voting position from the Community Economic Development Committee (CEDC), and Jim Brown (representing a sub-committee reviewing a potential skateboard park). Two members of the CEDC had sought to share the one position, but it appeared to be the consensus of the commissioners to only allow one person per position. The skateboard park sub-committee also includes Pete D'Amelio (resident), and two skateboarders to be

selected later. The expressed opinion centered on the need to maintain continuity from one meeting to another and that alternating representatives would not facilitate this goal.

Town Hall Use by Residents and Groups

Town Manager Wade Yost presented an outline of guidelines to be fully developed which will allow non-profit civic groups the use of the community hall in the new town hall. Some of the restrictions suggested were: limit use to Poolesville residents and groups only, disallow the use of alcohol, tobacco, food, or beverages, disallow the sale of products, disallow such groups from charging an admission fee, etc.

Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski sought to restrict the use of the facility by civic groups until the town has had some time to occupy the building. He initially recommended that such use not be allowed for up to the first year but later suggested that the restrictions might be in place for only a few months. Mr. Kuhlman voiced the opinion that a "public building paid for by public money should be open for public use." Mr. Hoewing endorsed this concept in clarifying that the town hall was not the commissioners' building but the "people's." He further endorsed the idea of establishing the guidelines and an ap-

plication form to be submitted by interested groups. Mr. Yeatts supported the notion that a deposit should be required, and he suggested it should be meaningful (\$250.00) to ensure that any costs to the town for cleanup or repair would be covered. Mr. Brown recommended that the process include proper identification of all applicants (i.e. driver's license), and that the person responsible for the application must also be in attendance, and that this responsibility cannot be transferred.

The town staff had contacted seven other municipalities allowing public use of their town hall facilities to find out what restrictions, policies, and guidelines are generally in use by other jurisdictions. Mr. Yost was tasked with reporting back with a more complete list of restrictions, legal requirements, and application form(s).

Town Manager Announces Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for New Town Hall

The completion of the town hall is still scheduled for the first part of August, and Wade Yost announced that a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the official grand opening will be held on September 13. The facility will be open to the public during some portion of Poolesville Day. The general public is invited to attend the event with formal invitations being sent to various county and state VIPs. There will be refreshments and entertainment during the ceremony.

Kuhlman Elected to the BOD of the Maryland Municipal League

Commissioner Eddie Kuhlman was elected to the Board of Directors of the Maryland Municipal League (MML) in a member-at-large position during the group's recent convention in Ocean City. This non-profit, non-partisan association represents 157 municipal governments and two special taxing districts in Maryland.

The MML works to strengthen the role and capacity of municipal government through research, legislation, technical assistance, training, and the dissemination of information to its members. "I am very proud to have been elected to serve on the MML Board of Directors along with so many fine people from across the State of Maryland," said Mr. Kuhlman. "MML has been a great resource for Poolesville." Mr. Kuhlman has previously served on the MML Legislative Committee for six years and the Convention Planning Committee.

Also attending MML along with Mr. Kuhlman were commissioners Link Hoewing and Jerry Klobukowski, and town manager Wade Yost. In referring

to the benefits to the town of attending MML (for example, the proper and legal use of emails, care of town water tanks and facilities, demographic trends in the state of Maryland, etc), the various seminars were cited along with the networking opportunity and development of personal contacts with other municipal leaders. MML is also a time when the commissioners can hear directly from the governor and have the opportunity to spend some direct time in discussion with him.

Pierce Expands on Reasons against Use of Town Water

Robert Pierce expanded on the reasons "why we (the Pierces) do not want town water." As previously reported, Mr. Pierce has initiated legal proceedings relating to the use of a new well on the Winchester development property. The town has previously notified residents adjacent to the Winchester development who are on well water that should the Winchester well adversely impact them, the town will either drill a new well or pay the cost to hook the household to town water.

Mr. Pierce's detailed analysis opined several concerns over the level of health safety of town water versus the quality of water from their current well. "Plain and simple, the water you distribute to the homes in Poolesville is contaminated with compounds that we have no desire to imbibe." The over-three-page report concluded that "low levels of contaminants may differentiate natural water supplies from distilled water, but do not pose any health risk. In fact, many are beneficial. Much of the town water from town wells does not pose any health risk either. However, some of the wells do have elevated levels of contaminants that are troubling, and all of the distributed water carries disinfectant byproducts at concentrations for excess cancer risk." Mr. Pierce further questioned the qualifications and expertise of town personnel testing the water supply.

Due to legal proceedings, the town commissioners are not commenting specifically on the complaints of Mr. Pierce at this time. However, Town Manager Yost did offer insight as to the role of the town in testing the water by noting that overall, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) does most of the testing and analysis in state facilities. Poolesville town water, as with any municipal water facility, is strictly monitored by the state and continues to receive state safety approval. Once the legal matters have passed, it was suggested that more detailed information from the town could be forthcoming which would further clarify the town's position.

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