

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

February 19, 2010

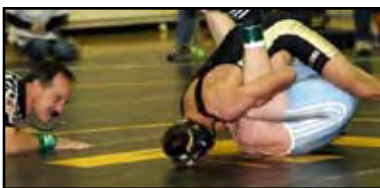
Volume VI, Number 23.



This fellow had no problem getting around in three feet of snow. For a little more information, see the Family Album on Page 9.



It looks quiet. Too quiet. And it may get quieter if the county has its way. Read about plans for the Owens Park community building on Page 12.



It looks like the Falcon is on top. Read about Kyle Flick and the rest of the Poolesville High School wrestling team on Page 13. Clarksburg High School wrestling is on Page 5. (Photograph by Hugh Flick)



A man backed by three doughty youths with shovels can laugh at a blizzard. More pictures inside.

Snowstorms of The Century; Area Closed for Full Week

By Rande Davis

The third major snowstorm of the 2009-2010 winter season began on February 9 in the late afternoon. Dropping over fourteen more inches of snow by the following Thursday morning, a record seasonal snowfall, reported going back the 1890s, was broken. To date, the total accumulation of snow from the first two events in February was over forty inches. All schools in the area and almost all businesses were closed for the entire week of February 6 to 12. The Maryland State Police put out a news directive: "Do not go out in this storm for any reason." Since early Monday, all Montgomery County efforts were focused on 4,128 miles of neighborhood roads—divided into 140 plow routes.

In Frederick County, a state of emergency was declared ordering all private vehicles off the county roads. Even as early as Thursday, Frederick County was reporting twelve-foot-high snow drifts covering some roads.

The town of Poolesville mustered augmented snow emergency crews utilizing employees from their water and sewer departments. The crews began plowing Tuesday at midnight and continued through the early morning hours of Thursday. Except for a four-hour break, the work was continuous and at a pace that never allowed much more than a few inches on most town roads at any given time. Preston

King, town director of Parks, told the *Monocle*, "We were able to keep the accumulation down enough so that emergency service trucks could at least get through if needed." On occasion, the town trucks even plowed on state and county roads. "We dropped the blades on the state roads simply because we had to just to get through," stated King.

As the skies cleared on Thursday, attention turned to concerns over the heavy drifting with drifts over four and five feet in some areas and possible flooding as the snow began to melt. The town was cut off from more salt supplies with the second snowstorm forcing the town to use up reserves. "With this last storm, we had to contract for support

from some front-loaders and backhoes to help move snow since there was no more room left to push it, especially in the townhouse areas," said town manager Wade Yost.

In the first thirty-six hours of the heavy snowfall, town plows got stuck over sixty times which required using chains to pull them out. Because of continuous drifting, Cattail Road became impassible. As the road crews continued pushing the snow off the roads, some residents became irate that the plowing recovered their driveway entrances. "One person actually placed a lawn chair in the road trying to force the snowplow away from

-Continued on Page 11.

PHS Athletes Accept Scholarships

By Rande Davis

Poolesville High School Athletic Director Ed Ross has announced that three Poolesville Falcons have accepted college scholarship offers to play their sports at the next level of competition. A signing ceremony

occurred on February 4 in the high school gym where coaches, parents, administration, and teammates joined in the celebration.

Soccer player Alex Pfister has been accepted at West Point where he plans to concentrate on systems engineering and become an aviator, making military service his career. Alex is the son of Karen and Warren Pfister. He looks forward to the "excitement of joining with West Point's first-

year soccer coach and his staff in helping with their plan to build a strong soccer program in the coming years." Poolesville's Soccer Coach Cristos Nicholas said that Alex is a most remarkable, well rounded, and hardworking athlete. "He never missed even one practice or game his entire career."



PHS scholarship award winners and their coaches: Swimming Coach Jon Leong and Cara Chuang, Soccer Coach Christine Mann and Stephanie Boulter, and Soccer Coach Cristos Nicholas and Alex Pfister.

-Continued on Page 2.

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Amy Seely

"PHS Scholarships"
Continued From Page 1.

Stephanie Boulter will play soccer at St. Francis University where she plans to study to become a physician's assistant. Stephanie is the daughter of Brenda and Steve Boulter. Coach Chistine Mann, whose first year of coaching at PHS was when Stephanie was a sophomore, saw the young athlete as someone with great potential and one whom she could take a chance on right from the start. "Stephanie is a fearless and tenacious athlete, the kind who just gets better and better every year." Stephanie has lived in Poolesville since she was

two years old and will miss PHS but looks forward to the competitive excitement of college play. St. Francis University soccer coach, Brenda van Stralen, told the *Monocle*, "We are very excited about our 2010 recruiting class. Steph will be a help in our midfield. With her composure on the ball and knowledge of the game, she will give us depth in our three-system midfield."

Swimmer Cara Chuang will be returning to her roots by attending the University of Illinois. The three-time All-Met swimmer specializes in the 100 meters and her coach, Jon Leong, describes her as a dominating swimmer in head-to-head dual competition.

Town Commissioners' Meeting Online

The Poolesville Town meeting was held on Tuesday, February 16 due to the Presidents' Day holiday. This was past the *Monocle* deadlines for our February 19 issue. The full town report can be read at www.monocleonline.com.

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Poolesville-25.11 ac. bldg. lot: Bring your horses! This beautiful lot is partially wooded and adjoins an equestrian easement on the north side. Great location in an area of fine estate type properties on large acreage. An 18-hole private golf club is located less than a mile away and the Woodstock Equestrian Center is approx. 2 miles from the property. MLS#MC6772866. Offered at \$475,000.

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In the Garden

The Winter Garden

By Maureen O'Connell

As I write this article in the warmth of my office, outside the wind is blowing and howling, and the snowfall is measuring about twenty-four inches. Considering this, some people might think that the title of this essay is an oxymoron. Yes, winter can be a nondescript and forgotten season, but if a garden is designed and planted for winter interest, it can shine. Winter light highlights detail. What stands out in a bare bones winter landscape could be the textured bark of a tree, the radiance of brightly-stemmed shrubs, or the intricately-branched outline of a tree.

In my last article, I talked about garden catalogs. Now is a good time to browse through them and do a little homework if you plan to add some new plants to your garden this spring. Here are a few of my favorites that

will bring your garden to life in winter.

If you are looking for an ornamental tree that does well in our area, the birch tree is an excellent choice. It is an airy, elegant tree which casts a dappled light over the lawn because of its well-spaced branches and twigs. I have a river birch (*Betula nigra*) planted at the edge of a rectangular lawn area. My summer herbs grow happily at its base, where they benefit from just enough dappled sunlight. There are a number of different types of birch trees available for landscape use. All birches have colored bark which keeps their attraction throughout the year. It is during the winter that the bark becomes more conspicuous and stunning. Another interesting feature of birch bark is that it peels away in strips, leaving the underside, which is usually stronger in color than the outside. The colors may range from warm cinnamon, tobacco brown, salmon pink to yellow-orange. In their natural setting in the forest, birch trees thrive on cool, moist soils. They will not

do well in a hot, exposed location with dry soil. During the hot summer months I keep my birch well watered, and it is in a spot that is shaded in the afternoon. The white-barked birch trees are more susceptible to attacks by bronze borer, a serious insect pest, than are species without white bark. Two good choices for our area are the River Birch and the Heritage River Birch.

The dogwood (*Cornus*) tree is a very popular ornamental in our area. This year look for a variety called Arctic Fire. This easy-to-grow shrub will mature to three to four feet. Its twiggy, intensely-red stems will add great color to your landscape, especially in the winter. Another reliable and distinctive dogwood is *Cornus kousa* 'Wolf Eyes.' It has superior heat and disease resistance and sports multicolored leaves with wavy edges and ivory margins that outline prominent green "eyes."

The shrub Daphne is considered by many horticulturists to be a winter essential, but they also agree that this wonderful garden plant seems to have a

death wish, here today, gone tomorrow—but it would be a shame to miss its beautiful foliage and its magnificent fragrance. You must carefully choose the right varieties. Your best bet would be *Daphne x transatlantica* 'Summer Ice.' Its jasmine-scented, ivory-white blooms begin flowering in spring and continue through summer and most of fall. *Daphne odora* 'Alba' is called the White Winter Daphne. This evergreen shrub sets deliciously fragrant white blooms in late winter to early spring. These two Daphnes are considered the most reliable and easiest to grow of this species.

Do you have a part- to fully-shaded area in your yard that could use some winter color? Consider the evergreen shrub *Mahonia x media* 'Charity.' Many people only know the low-growing, spreading American mahonias known as Oregon grapes (*Mahonia aquifolium*). They are considerably less attractive than

-Continued on Page 7.

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Commentary

Watching on Radio

By John Clayton

Like some of you, I wondered how the recent Super Bowl telecast could be the most-watched television event ever without my participation. Like some of you, perhaps many of you, I was unable to watch the game due to the Mother of All Storms, which was, of course, followed by the Mother-in-Law of All Storms.

I had planned to watch the game at my dad's house down county, but this was not to be, as our driveway was impenetrable. My dad then called and told me they had been without electricity for more than a day, and that he and my stepmother had spent the previous night in the relative comfort of their family room, which was about forty-five degrees. I wasn't too worried about him at first; after all, this is a man who spent any number of nights half frozen in snowy foxholes across France and Germany, with naught but his B.A.R. and some cold C-rations for comfort. Then again, he was nineteen then and perhaps that should be taken into account. I was concerned for him and saddened that he would miss the Super Bowl. He said he would listen to it on the radio. I resolved to call him later to cheer him up.

Not long before the scheduled kickoff, well after the snow had stopped falling and even after the wind had stopped blowing, I discovered that our satellite TV reception was kaput. The southwestern sky was clear, but reception was not. This would last until well after the confetti had settled following the game.

As the sky was clear, I surmised that either something was blocking our dish, or the satellite had fallen out of the sky. I am ashamed to say that at one point, in my frustration, I did indeed hope that the satellite had fallen out of the sky so that no one else could see the Super Bowl either, and I wouldn't be personally facing any expensive repairs, but

I realize now this was somewhat immature and more than a little uncharitable. I resolved, once again, to be a better person—beginning the next day.

I considered going up on the roof to clear off the dish. To do this, I would have to walk some fifty yards to get a ladder, and then drag it back around the other side of the house, which was easier said than done. I had spent a good part of the day trudging through knee-to-waist-deep snow. Those of you who have experienced this can appreciate what this means in terms of effort and outright exhaustion. I never fully appreciated the meaning of "walking through knee-deep snow." Knee deep is extremely difficult. In waist-deep snow, already winded, I had pretty much been stopped cold, if you will pardon the expression. So I decided that the effort of discovering whether it was a small chunk of ice or four feet of snow blocking the dish was, at best, information of limited value, as I had already decided I would not be climbing up on the roof. Dragging the ladder would have been the easy part, because I'm not fond of ladders and roofs under the best of circumstances. I might have braved it if the Redskins were in the Super Bowl, but I can't truly be sure. If the Nationals were in the World Series and we had an October blizzard (and if they ever are, we probably will), then maybe, just maybe, I would go up there to face more knee-deep snow—maybe.

So as far as the game went, I managed as best I could. As my dibs on the television set were now moot, my wife prepared to stream a Netflix movie off the internet. As they say, it is an ill wind that doesn't blow someone some good. To her credit, she also tried to find a site where the Super Bowl could be streamed live for me, and while she pursued a few leads, it didn't pan out. I thought that was extremely considerate of her—not quite as considerate as climbing up on the roof and cleaning off the dish, but considerate enough to be noted here.

So I adapted as best I could. I tuned the game in on my emergency radio (don't tell me this didn't qualify) and found a website

which had the results of each play as it happened and a graphical display of each drive's progress across the field, and settled in for the game. It was a little strange because the radio was about ten seconds behind the internet, so I knew the result of each play before I heard it described. A small thrill I grant you, but I was taking what I could get. I suppose our ancestors were used to this phenomenon, as this is probably how they enjoyed the Super Bowl before there was

television.

My dad called during the game to cheer me up. His power was back on, and his satellite was working. He said it was a pretty good game, and he was really enjoying it. Someday, I will tell my grandchildren about how I roughed it during the great storm of 2010—and about walking through chest-deep snow.



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Tidbits

Relay for Life Benefit

Crop to Cure is pleased to announce that registration is open for its next event, Love, Crop, Cure, on February 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. to benefit Poolesville's Relay for Life. Space is limited to the first forty people that register, so be sure to register now. More details and information are available on www.croptocure.com.

Clarksburg Summer Camps Now Registering

Be sure to register now for your favorite summer camps in Clarksburg. Sign up for baseball, softball, football, poms, soccer, tennis, golf, field hockey, lacrosse, volleyball, basketball, speed/conditioning, and wrestling. Go to www.csasports.org for information and applications.

For the Baseball Tour Team, 15U player applications are now being accepted. The deadline for applications is February 26. Clarksburg Sports Association, Germantown Athletic Club, and Damascus Sports Association are

Youth Sports The Evolution of A Huge Win

By Jeff Stuart

On January 14 at Clarksburg, the Coyote wrestlers posted the biggest win in school history, their first ever over rival Damascus. In Montgomery County wrestling, Damascus has been the gold standard. Clarksburg took eleven of the fourteen bouts, winning in a 56-18 rout.

working together to solicit the interest of 15U baseball players in the Upcounty area that would like to be considered for this special summer baseball tour team opportunity. Player bios and applications are being collected immediately. The deadline for applications is February 26. For information and applications, go to www.csasports.org or call 301-775-2615.

Clarksburg's four-year seniors have overcome adversity and have been part of the evolution of a wrestling program. In the process, they have learned something about themselves. "I never thought that they would last," says Head Coach Josh Munsey, "but they stuck it out."

"There is a famous quote from Olympic wrestler Dan Gable that says 'after wrestling, everything else is easy,'" said senior Chris Williamson (140 pounds). "It is one hundred percent true. I think that I've left my mark—not just me though, but all of the seniors have."

In the beginning, Williamson would be concerned over who his opponent might be. "Now it really doesn't matter who I wrestle. I think I'm going to win and they're going to lose." His favorite wrestling moment was going to the state finals last year and placing fifth. "I had beaten the kid, Nolan Rinker (29-3) of FSK, earlier in the tournament by one point. I had wrestled back all the way to the fifth place match. I was mad that I had lost in over-

time in the match before. I came out and just dominated, kicked him all over the mat."

"Roja Stephensen (130) is the only wrestler I've ever had who never missed a practice in four years," Munsey said. He lost twenty matches his first year. "Being in the first group of four-year seniors makes you push that much harder knowing that you have to set the tone for everyone else who follows," said Roja. "We've worked hard. Success was going to come sooner or later. I just figured this was the year." His favorite moment came last year in the Tuscarora Tournament final. "I pulled out a win, 3-2, against Jeremy Rosenthal of Wootton." However, the Damascus win was really up there in the thrill department. "Sooner or later we were going to have to beat them. It was nice to really blow them out. Now we can work to be the gold standard." Wrestling has given him more confidence and helped him improve his work ethic.

-Continued on Page 12.

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Local News

Women in Farming

By Maureen O'Connell

On January 23, the Montgomery County Historical Society held its 4th Annual Montgomery County Historical Conference at the Germantown campus of Montgomery College. This event focuses on providing training and in-service opportunities for volunteers, staff, historians, and researchers to support and maintain the unique historical and heritage organizations in Montgomery County. This year, it brought together speakers who each offered a unique perspective and valuable insight into many facets of Montgomery County life.

Local Boyds resident Peg Coleman led a session that was devoted to the place of women in Montgomery County farms from the early 1900s to the present day. Peg has been involved with the preservation of local historic

sites for many years. In 2008, she received the Royce Hanson Award for the preservation of agriculture. She is the author of four books and is nearing completion of another book, Maryland Patriot. She was joined in this discussion with three other speakers: Lee Langstaff, Andrienne Altstatt, and Jean King Phillips.

According to information from the Montgomery County Extension Agency, farm women were not seriously involved in the workings and survival of local farms until the 1950s. Further research by writers like Peg Coleman showed substantial involvement by women in the early 1900s. In 1914, under the leadership of President Woodrow Wilson, the "Smith Lever Act" created the modern system of agriculture extension agents. Women could become Home Demonstration Agents. There were strict rules for membership: among them, you could not be married or wear jewelry, especially gold jewelry. Blanche Corwin was one of the first women in this project.

She and her other agents would travel from home to home demonstrating new modern devices for the kitchen. They also helped set up Homemaker's Clubs. Out of this project, the Montgomery Farm Women's Cooperative was established on Wisconsin Avenue in Bethesda. It is still in operation today.

Comus resident Lee Langstaff is a modern-day example of women in farming. After leaving a business-orientated career in Washington, she turned to sheep farming. Her family bought the

farm adjacent to the Comus Inn in 1993. Lee describes herself as a shepherd, but she is also involved in all phases of her sheep farm. Next time you pass her farm, notice that all the sheep are wearing blankets, like horses do in our area. This is because her sheep's wool is used by hand-spinners, and it must be clean.

Andrienne Altstatt is the farm manager for the Red Wiggler Community Farm in Cedar

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Tidbits of the Past

By Jack Toomey

February 3, 1952 The Red Cross Bloodmobile was scheduled to stop at the Beallsville Fire House at 10:00 a.m. The goal for the week was 792 pints of blood.

February 10, 1927 A delegation of citizens met with the Montgomery County commissioners with the intent of improving roads in certain parts of the county. The group from Boyds asked for the prompt repair of the section of road from Boyds to Bucklodge. They said that the road was impassible during times of heavy rain.

February 13, 1952 Tommy Thomas scored with one second remaining to give Poolesville High a thrilling 53-52 victory over Walkersville. Poolesville's Hughie Griffith led all scorers with twenty-six points.

February 17, 1917 Captain and Mrs. Joseph W. White, formerly of Barnesville, spent a week visiting old friends in and

about Barnesville. Captain White had been stationed at Camp Upton, New Jersey.

February 19, 1950 A chest x-ray screening of all students at Poolesville High School was scheduled for that day.

February 19, 1949 Ninety-six displaced persons from Europe were scheduled to arrive in Maryland. They had arrived in Boston aboard the SS Marie Flasher. Among the many towns where they hoped to take up residence were Boyds, Poolesville, and Dickerson.

February 27, 1925 Clyde Harris, Montgomery County game warden, received two hundred rabbits for the purpose of propagation. Three hundred rabbits had previously been received, but most of them were believed to have perished in the snowstorm of January 1.



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Entertainment and Special Nights

February 20: Winter Moon: (Local HS Band): 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Mike Campbell: Singer / Songwriter: 9:00 p.m. to 01:00 p.m.
Matt Fitzwater & the City Lights: Singer / Songwriter: 10:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

February 23: Thanksgiving in February
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"Winter Garden" Continued From Page 3.

their oriental, winter-flowering counterparts such as 'Charity.' This shrub has a strong upright habit, glossy evergreen foliage, and brilliant winter blooms. It will mature to ten to fifteen feet tall with a four- to five-foot spread. Its twenty-four-inch toothed leaves are fern-like and may turn bright red in cold winters. I am sure that if you have one in your garden this year, it would definitely be very red.

There are many other trees and shrubs that could add interest to your winter garden, I have just named a few. In my next article, I will tell you everything you want to know about one of my favorite shrubs, the hydrangea.

My favorite catalog, White Flower Farm, thinks that the best

antidote to winter is a planting of the shrub witch hazel (*Hamamelis*). This genus of five species is prized for its wonderful fragrance, hardiness, and uniquely-colored winter-blooming flowers. Witch hazels are the first to brave winter and break out with flowers on bare branches. Their flowers consist of narrow ribbons of petals curving outwards. They have been described as looking like spiders with crepe paper legs. Look for these varieties: *Hamamelis* x *intermedia* 'Diane,' 'Arnold Promise,' and 'Sunburst.' These three will bring year-round beauty to your gardens and will be trouble-free and very long-lived as a specimen, hedge, or screen.

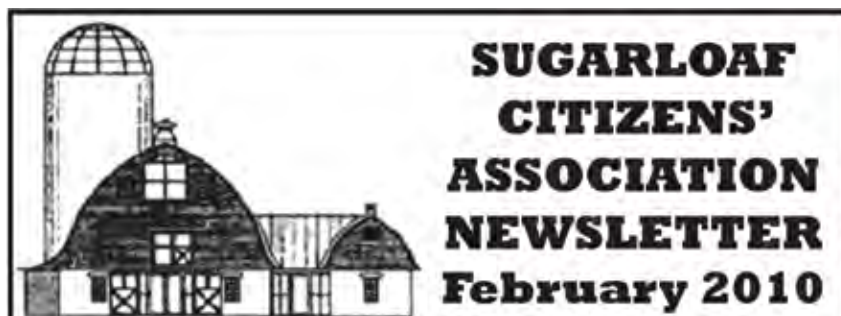
"Women in Farming" Continued From Page 6.

Grove, Maryland. This farm provides jobs for people with disabilities on its organic produce farm. These men and women are involved in all stages of food production, from planting the seeds to harvesting and selling the produce. Andrienne is involved in the farm work from top to bottom. She is another example of a modern-day woman into farming. She says she can drive and repair a tractor as well as any man.

The last speaker in this session was Jean King Phillips. Her family has been involved in farm-

ing in Montgomery County since 1649. She has fond memories of her grandmother and her devotion and hard work for the family farm. At that time, farms were totally self-sufficient. Everything they needed was produced on the farm, and everything was used. Jean remembered the hucksters. They were the itinerant farm salesmen who traveled from farm to town to sell what they bought at local farms.

Women have had a long history in the farms of Montgomery County. Without their help, farming and its culture would have disappeared a long time ago.



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NEWSLETTER
February 2010**

"Protecting our rural legacy"

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Worse than the Snow!

We are all digging out from a major snow storm. While the entire region was impacted, people in the Agriculture Reserve experienced special challenges because of rural distances. Some lost power, most were stranded, and all of us had to dig ourselves out. However, this storm brought out the best in our rural community. Neighbors helped each other, many volunteered to assist people who could not fend for themselves, and when we did see each other again, we all shared our blizzard stories. Our appreciation of the quality of rural life was reaffirmed and the spirit to protect the Agriculture Reserve from the threat of urban development was renewed.

Once again we have to fight the troubling plans of the Global Mission Church (GMC) to impose an outsize complex into the rural countryside of southern Frederick and northern Montgomery. The Frederick County Board of Appeals has kept the potential for the massive complex alive by agreeing with GMC's legal team that the denial by the Frederick Planning Board was unfair despite the attested legitimate concerns about the inadequacy of the proposed septic system and lack of adequate fire prevention measures.

The County imposes a discharge limit for septic systems of 4,999 gallons a day. While GMC and its attorneys insist that the growing congregation needs this mega church for future expansion, they also insist that water saving fixtures and disposable plates and tableware in the 500 seat dining hall will save enough water to prevent exceeding the legal discharge limit. We argue that a church of this size will not be able to respect the daily legal septic limit and furthermore that there are no monitoring agencies to make sure GMC will remain in compliance. As to the fire precautions, GMC now promises that another access road will be paved across woodlands and a wet weather stream bed!

We urge the Frederick Planning Board once again to look at the legitimate concerns and deny the construction of this complex that threatens our rural area. We believe that GMC should find a location that has city water and a sewer system commensurate with its needs.

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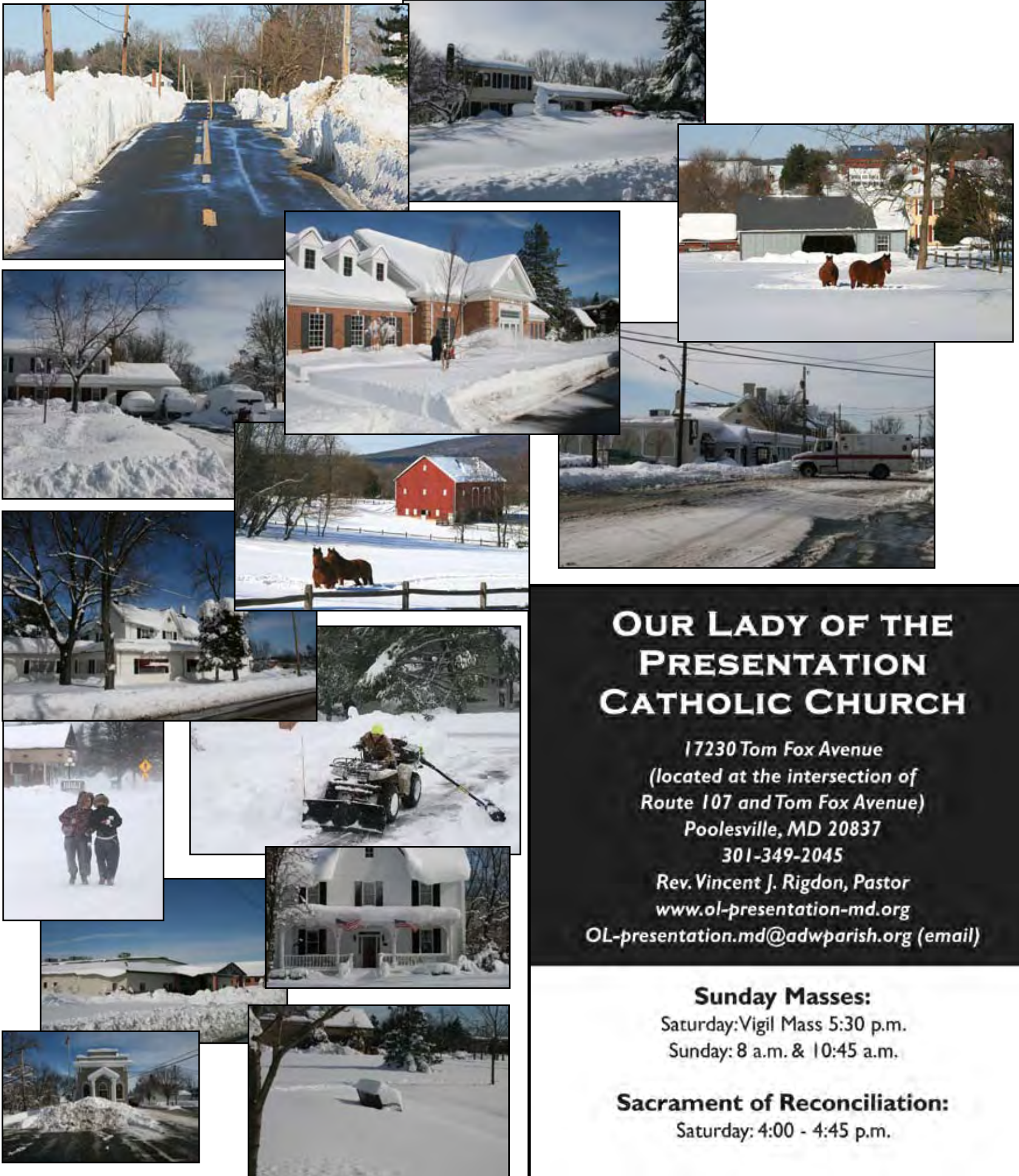
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Family Album



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Frederick County home schooled students helped the Oddfellows and Hands of Love to collect items for the less fortunate in West Virginia.



Members of the world famous Peking Acrobats performed for two assemblies at Poolesville High School.



Poolesville Relay for Life teams recently came together at Cugini's to watch an episode of ABC's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition. The mother of the family in the episode is a four-time cancer survivor and chairperson of the Davidson County, NC Relay for Life. Poolesville RFL is starting to gear up for the June 19 to June 20, 2010 event.

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Things to Do

Saturdays through March 6
UMCVFD Family Photo Fundraising. See back page for details.

February 19
Poolesville Relay for Life
Movie Night
Poolesville Elementary School
7:00 p.m.

February 20
Basket Bingo
Monocacy Elementary School PTA
St. Mary's Pavilion, Barnesville
Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; Games begin at 7:00 p.m.
\$15 in advance or \$20 at the door
Call Lisa at 301-349-5611 for more information.

Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

The Montgomery County Police Traffic Division, which administers the department's automated traffic enforcement programs, has expanded the safe speed program with the deployment of four portable camera units. The department continues to utilize six mobile speed cameras in Safe Speed vans and sixty fixed location cameras at thirty-nine locations.

Portable camera units operate on batteries and are typically deployed in existing sites on a temporary basis to provide increased safety zones where enforcement is necessary to address speeding issues. This resource provides the flexibility to monitor numerous locations of concern during a typical deployment cycle without the need for the permanent infrastructure found in fixed poles.

Current Crimes

Theft: 16100 block of Comus Road, 19800 block of West Hunter Road.

Disorderly conduct complaint: 20600 block of Big Woods Road.

Past Crimes

February 20, 1952 Jackson

February 22
Poolesville Library
Adult Book Discussion Group
Steig Larsson's *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*
7:30 p.m.

Seminar on Internet Safety
The community focus committee, Poolesville Pride, is hosting an internet safety meeting for all families. The evening's agenda is keeping our children safe on cell phones and the internet with information on how to deal with cyber-bullying. The meeting will be held at Poolesville Town Hall at 7:30 p.m., and the featured guest speaker will be George Simms, Assistant State's Attorney, from the Maryland State's Attorney's

Faulkner of Westminster pled guilty to stealing two Holstein steers from a Poolesville farm in 1950. His twenty-four-year-old war bride made an impassioned plea for mercy. Judge Woodward sentence Faulkner to five years in prison. He was already serving a sentence for cattle rustling in Frederick County.

February 21, 1985 Montgomery County narcotics officers broke up a major PCP ring that was operating in the Upcounty. Seven of the twenty people who were arrested lived in Poolesville.

February 23, 1934 Gustavus Gray of Poolesville, a salesman specializing in rubber goods, had his automobile broken into on North Capitol Street in Washington. A quantity of rubber goods and footwear was stolen.

February 26, 1927 Robert Jackson, of near Boyds, was found guilty in Police Court of selling intoxicating liquors and sentenced to a term in the House of Corrections.

February 26, 1932 Two boys, who were wards of the courts of Washington, were arrested for setting fire to the hay barn of Mr. Jones of near Darnestown. They said that they set the barn on fire because Mr. Jones would not give them a ride.

Office. This meeting is designed for parents and adult community members. Some of the information shared may be graphic and is not intended for elementary-age kids.

February 23
Poolesville Library
H1N1 Flu Vaccines-Free
3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

February 24
CEDC Meeting
Town Hall
7:30 p.m.

February 25
Poolesville Library
Ages two to six
Storytime, fingerplay, and music
10:30 a.m.

February 27
Red Wine Sensory Seminar
Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard
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Senator Rob Garagiola, Kingsview Village Giant Food, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Senator Rob Garagiola of District 15 will meet with constituents in front of supermarkets to seek constituent input on the various issues before the General Assembly.

March 1
Commissioners of Poolesville
Town Hall
7:30 p.m.

March 3
Parks Board
Poolesville Town Hall
7:30 p.m.

March 6
Murder Mystery Dinner
St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Poolesville
For information contact youth@stpeterpoolesville.org

March 7
Senator Rob Garagiola, Selby's Market, Poolesville, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.
See the February 27 entry above for details.

Remembrance

Remembrance: Lillian Maybelle Hansen

Lillian Hansen, the mother of Poolesville's Carol Hansen, passed away at age 89 after two strokes and fourteen months of convalescence. She was known to many through her visits to the

area since 1982. She had many friends in the countryside near Poolesville through her association at St. Peter's Church and St. James in Potomac and with families of Equine Therapy Associates. Her daughter Carol expresses special appreciation for physicians, Drs. Sax and Duggirala, and all the nurses and staff at Poolesville Family Practice who saved her life several times.

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-“Snowstorm 2010” Continued From Page 1.

his entrance, while another threw a shovel at one of the trucks in anger that they had to reopen their driveway. We had no choice but to push the snow back over the entrances. With so much snow, there is nowhere else to push it,” stated King, incredulous that anyone could not understand their dilemma.

The National Guard was brought into the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department with a military Humvee available in case it was needed. Fortunately, there were no fires or medical emergencies during the heaviest initial stages of the storm.

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Local News

Local Parks Being Closed

By Kristen Milton

In a money-saving move, the County Council will close more than a third of the activity buildings operated by the planning commission, including sites in

“CHS Wrestling” Continued From Page 5.

“I work hard,” said senior Jonathan Ko (160). “Everyone works together to help everyone get better.” What’s the big difference about this season? “Winning—this year is definitely better. I have been winning some close matches and losing some close matches. It’s been up and down.” Ko has been a regular starter the last three years. “It really changed my life—in a good way. It gave me confidence.” Against Damascus, Ko eked out a 3-2 win against Caleb Baisden with an escape in the final seconds of the match. Ko is leaning toward attending the University of Maryland at College Park.

“We work hard,” says junior Jared Weaver (152), “but it pays off when you go out there match after match knowing that you’re going to win.”

“Wrestling has given me a lot of discipline and helped me keep my grades up,” said junior Camillo Amaya (215). “I want to be here all four years so I can reach my potential like this year’s

Beallsville, Boyds, and Clarksburg parks; however, officials said they hope to see some of the eleven sites reopen with new uses.

“For many communities [the buildings] are icons of their neighborhoods,” Councilman Roger Berliner (D-District 1) of Potomac said prior to the February 9 vote. “They may not be economical, but they are important.”

seniors have.” He feels his best match came in the Damascus Holiday Tournament against Khari Brown of McNamara. “Kari was ranked, very muscular, and intimidating,” said Coach Munsey, “but Camillo matched him move for move, before losing in double overtime. He showed that he can compete with the best.”

Munsey had expected the team to do well this year. “Our best team performance was against Damascus. Our preparation really paid off.” The best individual performance came from Chris Williamson at the Tuscarora Tournament, Munsey said. “In the semifinals, he defeated Poolesville’s Logan Wilson, who had placed third in the state last year. “Williamson, Stephenson, Ko, Borchart, and Ben Asadi have been the backbone of our program and the reason for our success.” Sophomore Daniel Perezalbela and freshman Herbie Testerman stepped up to fill voids created by injuries. Munsey also expects to have quite a few wrestlers qualify for the state tournaments.

Berliner said the utilization rates of the buildings, which ranged from three to eighteen percent in the last fiscal year, did not tell the full story, and that the sites could be better marketed.

One location, Ken-Gar Palisades in Kensington, will be closed for public use but leased to a nursery school that will take over the cost of utilities and custodial work. Berliner said he hoped over the coming months to see other such proposals for the buildings.

The council said the buildings, including those at Owens Park in Beallsville, Camp Seneca in Boyds, and Clarksburg Neighborhood Park, will be evaluated individually and reopened on a case-by-case basis.

The closings at various parks operated by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission were part of a proposal to reduce county spending in current Fiscal Year 2010 by approximately \$70 million.

Councilmember Michael

J. Knapp (D-District 2) of Germantown, chair of the Planning Housing and Economic Development committee which supported the building closures in place of an earlier suggested elimination of school ballfield maintenance, said the council would be open to community suggestions for alternative uses for the sites.

Councilmember Marc Elrich (D-At large) of Takoma Park agreed. “I feel pretty strongly about these little park buildings,” he said. “We destroyed them by neglect.”

This is not the first time that the Owens Park activity center, which had the lowest utilization rate of those closed at three percent, has been endangered. In 2004, Owens Park users successfully opposed a proposal to eliminate bus service to the center but a year later, the site fought for funding as it had only about nine active seniors attending pro-

-Continued on Page 14.

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Youth Sports

PHS Wrestling: Seniors Rule

By Dominique Agnew

The Poolesville wrestling team, under the team tutelage of Head Coach Kevin Dorsey and Mark Agnew in their fourth year together, qualified for the 1A/2A South Regional dual meet championship for the second straight year and the opportunity to wrestle against the Glenelg Gladiators, a Howard County powerhouse. At press time, the meet had been delayed again due to school cancellations. Poolesville has had a brutal schedule this year wrestling against some of the best schools in the county including Whitman, Clarksburg, and Quince Orchard, three of the four 3A/4A regional qualifiers. Despite a tough schedule and a 7-7 regular season dual meet record, the season has been extremely successful. The team went 8-0 at the Big Train Duals at Walter Johnson High School, defending their championship from a year ago. They placed fifth at the Titan Thunder Tournament at Tuscarora High School and won seventh place at the Grapple at the Brook hosted by Springbrook High School. The team placed five wrestlers at the Springbrook Tournament: Cody Savage and Logan Wilson placed second, Robert Winning and Kyle flick placed fourth, and Sean Zaldivar placed

sixth.

The Falcons have six seniors in their starting lineup paced by two 100-win club members, Kyle Flick (145-pound class) and Logan Wilson (135-pound class). Only three wrestlers in PHS wrestling history have had one hundred career varsity wins, so this is quite an accomplishment. Kyle, who is a four-year varsity wrestler has had 116 wins, and Logan, who wrestled junior varsity his freshman year so he could wrestle in the beltway league, has had 106 wins in just three years. The other seniors include Tommy Coombs (130) who has a record of 19-13 so far this season, Sean Zaldivar (152) 21-12, Jonathan Stidham (160) 12-11, and heavyweight first-year wrestler Gus Mullis 14-16. "We will definitely miss these guys next year, most of them have been a huge part of our program since we started here four years ago," says Coach Mark Agnew. "That is a lot of wins we will have to replace, but I am confident that our JV guys will step up, and we won't have as big a drop-off as one might expect."

The Falcons do have a number of talented freshmen both in the starting lineup now or capable of stepping into the varsity lineup next year. Freshman Cory Savage (17-2) has had a strong year and has battled with fellow freshman Will Korzeniewski (11-6) for the starting spot at 103. Cody Dorsey has wrestled well at both 112 and 119 and will be an outstanding wrestler at the varsity level for

three more years. Dylan Fisher, a freshman, found himself thrown into varsity service at 215 and showed steady improvement throughout the year and will benefit from the trial by fire of his freshman season. "Next year, we will have an incredible sophomore team," adds Coach Dorsey. "We're gonna have real good seniors, we're gonna have real good juniors, but our sophomore team will be the team to beat."

There were also two outstanding junior varsity wrestlers who filled in at varsity when needed and performed very well. Tyler Giarratano won his only varsity match and finished 11-3 at the JV level and Tyler Magaha was 1-1 at the varsity level and 13-1 as a JV wrestler. In addition, Robert Winning, a talented sophomore, currently has a record of 24-10 at the 140-pound weight class. Since he was sandwiched between Logan and Kyle's weight classes, Robert always got the tougher match since opposing coaches would look to avoid wrestling Logan and Kyle if they had the option. This strategy was not effective as Robert has wrestled extremely well. Another outstanding wrestler who will return next year is junior Cody Savage (24-9) wrestling at 112 and 119. "The boys stepped up and

did a wonderful job," says Coach Dorsey.

There might be good coaches, there may be outstanding wrestlers, but both coaches agree the program would be nothing without the help and support of the parents. "The parents have helped incredibly throughout the year," says Coach Dorsey. "Our team parents have been there through thick and thin—through two feet of snow—through a blizzard." Notably, Kim Wilson videotaped all the matches for her husband Chris to create DVDs for the wrestlers to study for improvement. Cork Flick has taken care of all the stats for the last four years and has been the contact person with the regional director, and he has been the team photographer. "It might be easier to replace the senior wrestlers than it will be to replace the senior parents," Dorsey joked.

Despite graduating six of the fourteen weight classes, the Falcons hope that the rebuilding process will go smoothly and that they will continue to have the success they have experienced over the past four seasons with this dynamic coaching duo. "We have a lot of young guys and lot of old guys," adds Coach Dorsey. "The young guys stepped up and helped the seniors. I think we did very well."

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Mystery History

Snow Stories

From the Past

By Rande Davis

With so much snow abounding we wanted to share some wintery stories from the past.

The following is a dispatch from an undated 1949 issue of the *Sentinel* in which a letter-writer revealed the truth about the blizzard of the 1890s:

Great Blizzard of 1899 Really "Buried" County

Snow was piled ten feet deep in some places in the County when the great blizzard of February 1899 hit the country.

But the Board of County Commissioners, made up mostly of farmers, refused to spend money to clear the roads on the grounds that Montgomery County should not have to remove snow "that fell in Frederick County and was blown down here by the wind."

John E. Muncaster, in a letter to the *Sentinel* of February 20, 1949, says that the County's farmers cooperated to clear

off the snow. Only one man held out—he refused to send a man to assist in the operation because "God Almighty put the snow there, and He will take it away in His own good time." On February 15, 1899, Mr. Muncaster says the roads were so clogged with snow that it took from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to travel five miles on Norwood Road.

This Bud's For You

Dots Elgin tells of a time in the late 1940s or very early 1950s when a snowstorm was so heavy that the road from Poolesville to Beallsville was completely closed. Seems this presented a heavy burden to some of the local "boys" as the only place selling beer in the area at the time was at Miss Jennie's beer joint in Beallsville in the building where the Beallsville Post Office is located today.

With a determination seldom seen, the Boys got together to solve their dilemma and hand-shoveled their way the full two miles to the store. We guess back then, getting "a cold one" had real meaning.

"Owens Parks" Continued From Page 12.

grams, no program director, and was open only one day a week.

According to a press release, "The Department of Parks believes that the park activity building program is the least essential and one of the least-utilized of their programs." The release cited a 2007 study of all twenty-nine park activity build-

ings that concluded the locations were underused, losing money, and were a future maintenance liability.

In addition to the four sites mentioned, the closed buildings are in Lynnbrook Park and Maplewood-Alta Vista in Bethesda, Stoneybrook Park in Wheaton, North Chevy Chase, Nolte, and North Four Corners in Silver Spring, and Colesville Local Park.

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February's FAMILY CARRYOUT SPECIALS

BAKED ZITI FOR FOUR

Served with house salad and garlic bread

\$18.00

12-PIECE BUCKET OF FRIED CHICKEN

Served with mashed potatoes and gravy, coleslaw and biscuits

\$24.00

PORK BBQ SANDWICHES FOR FOUR

Served with Ms. Vickie's Simply Sea Salt potato chips and coleslaw

\$28.00

HELP THE HUNGRY BY DINING OUT! COME TO BASSETT'S FOR THANKSGIVING IN FEBRUARY FEBRUARY 23

A percentage of daily proceeds will be donated to a Thanksgiving in February which also gives to WUMCO!



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February 27: Music starts at 10:00 p.m.

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January - February: Friday - Sunday, 11am to 5pm (wine served until 4:30), or by appointment

March - April, November - December: Wednesday - Sunday, 12 Noon to 6:00pm

May - October: Wednesday - Sunday, 12 Noon to 6pm, Saturdays open until 8pm

Open by appointment at other times: call 301-605-0130 to make arrangements.



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DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR FREE PORTRAIT

The 2010 Photo Fund Drive is in full swing!

In appreciation of patrons who mail a minimum \$35.00 donation to the UMCVFD Auxiliary, a Portrait Certificate will be issued and is redeemable for a free 8" x 10" portrait of themselves, their family (including well-behaved pets), or any preferred combination.

Local photographer Hilary Schwab has been contracted for this important fundraising event. **Call Ms. Schwab at 301-349-2322 with your Portrait Certificate reference number and book your appointment.** Photo shoots are Saturday 2/13, 2/20, 2/27, and 3/6 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The photos will be taken at the UMCVFD which has an elevator and is wheelchair accessible.

For more information, you may call Marie Allnutt Monday through Friday, 5:00 p.m. through 8:00 p.m. at 301-385-3503. **Our donation mailing address is:**

UMCVFD Auxiliary, PO Box 553, Poolesville, MD 20837

*UMCVFD and Auxiliary are 501(c) (3) Non-Profit Organizations
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