



The CHS Cougars are on the ball this spring. See Youth Sports on Page 14.



Karen Reid entertained the diners during the Haitian Festival at St. Mary's. More pictures are in the Family Album on Page 2.



Kimora Maier dances for the Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre, which you can read about in Center Stage on Page 17.



A Poolesville Falcon refuses to offer on a pitch low and inside. Read about the team in Youth Sports on Page 10.

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

May 14, 2010

Volume VII, Number 5.

## Citizen Committee On Fate of Monocacy Elementary Moving Forward

By Rande Davis

Beginning in March, Community Roundtable Discussions groups consisting of representatives of the Clarksburg, Northwest, and Poolesville Clusters have been meeting to consider a variety of potential approaches to address declining enrollment at both Monocacy and Poolesville Elementary Schools. There are eighteen participants on the roundtable group, six from each cluster.

The purpose of a roundtable discussion group, per the Board of Education (BOE), is "to solicit community input for the superintendent of schools to review prior to making a recommendation to the members of the BOE concerning facility issues. The process also provides community input for the members of the BOE to consider before it makes a final decision. Division of Long-Range Planning (DLRP) staff facilitates the roundtable discussion group and staff provides information on the approaches to facility issues that are raised by the group. DLRP staff assists the committee in compiling its report to the superintendent at the end of the process."

A final recommendation by the superintendent on this matter will not be released until mid-October 2010. After that, the superintendent's recommendation will be followed by a Board of Education work session in early November 2010, a public hearing in mid-Novem-

ber 2010, and action by the end of November 2010.

The first roundtable met on Monday, March 15 at JPMS. Potential approaches to address declining enrollment at both Monocacy and Poolesville Elementary Schools were discussed. Of the various approaches presented and discussed, four were put forward as the most viable during an April 19 meeting.

Approach # 1: Maintain existing schools, including ability for all cluster elementary school students to enroll in MES.



Lynne Rolls, Sarah Defnet and Dawn Albert updated the town commissioners on progress to keep Monocacy Elementary School open

Approach # 7: Provide choice for elementary and middle school students to enroll in Poolesville cluster schools by loosening transfers.

-Continued on Page 12.

## Planting for Wildlife

By Maureen O'Connell

In 2006, the U.N. General Assembly pronounced 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity, to be celebrated worldwide on May 22. This is a collective effort to draw attention to the global decline of biodiversity and to do something about it. Home gardeners

can play an important role in this endeavor in seeing themselves as Stewards of the Earth. With just a few tweaks in your gardens' plantings and maintenance, you can contribute to improving biodiversity.

Your garden can provide a refuge for a wide range of fungi, plants, and animals by adding wildlife super plants to existing or new borders, ponds, and containers. Choose multi-purpose plants with nectar, pollen, seeds, or berries. You can



A hummingbird enjoys some nectar from one of his favorite flowers, the monarda.

create shelter for insects, small mammals, and birds by planting closely and keeping shrubs thick and dense. For a maximum wildlife-friendly garden environment, we should try to keep our gardens free of harmful pesticides. With ninety rose bushes and many disease- and pest-prone perennials, I have settled on a com-

-Continued on Page 10.



Family Album



The Family Album is sponsored by  
Selby's Market  
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In honor of MCP Officer Hector Ayala, a yard and bake sale was held to assist the officer's family.



Throngs of pancake and sausage fans celebrated The Day Before Mother's Day at the Monocacy Lions Pancake and Sausage Breakfast at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.



Father Verdieu, of St. Joseph's in Carcasse, Haiti, shares a laugh with Jack Reid at the Haitian Festival at St. Mary's in Barnesville.

Father Verdieu thanks all those who have helped his community in Carcasse, Haiti. Over \$10,000 were raised at the Haitian Festival dinner, all of which will go towards continuing the projects initiated when St. Mary's first twinned with St. Joseph's in Haiti: medical missions, school construction and education, bringing potable water to the people, and investigating the use of agricultural cooperatives.



Tigers one and all at the Poolesville Elementary School Talent Show.

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# Mystery History

## The Friendly Thrift Shop: A Place of Rich History and Heartfelt Good Will

By Rande Davis

With so many great organizations helping others in the area, we sometimes forget about one of the most long-lasting and dedicated civic organizations in town: The Friendly Thrift Shop. Supported by eleven area churches, its vital mission began in 1972 to



Susan Zych, president of the Friendly Thrift Shop, and Blanche Rippeon.

provide those in need with good, clean, used clothes; today, it also provides small household items. Goods and funds from sales result in donations to WUMCO, the Frederick Rescue Mission, Hands of Love, and other charities. The organization also provides two \$1,000 college scholarships to deserving graduates of Poolesville High School.

In talking to Susan Zych, who has been president of the organization for fifteen years, we learned that volunteer help comes from representatives of the churches with special from help from the I.O.O.F., Lodge #97. "Three members of the Odd Fellows open the store three of the four Wednesday nights each month. Many volunteers come to help sort the clothing during the week as we get new donations weekly."

Located at 17617 West Willard Road (about 200 yards south of the high school), it's easy to ride by this simple, two-story, white building without paying it much mind. Since it is only open only on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings, it would be easy

to think the building is empty, lifeless, and without any real purpose. Think again. Like a good person, its beauty lies from within more than from the outside. Its remarkable role for those currently in need is worthy of its even more remarkable history. It could be said, that of all the historic buildings in town, no building better reflects the character and goodwill of the town and its people.

Many may be very surprised to learn of its vital mission and perhaps equally surprising is its lengthy historical role in town. Built to serve, it has done so almost non-stop for 174 years. Starting out as a simple rural Methodist church on land provided by the Peter Family in 1826 (lots in our area were originally called Peter's Forest); it was the only church in town for a generation. Used as a Union signal post during the Civil War, the congregational cemetery expanded to become the burial ground for both Union and Confederate soldiers. (Its cemetery is worthy of its own Mystery History and, in fact, the

Monocle will do just that sometime soon.)

In 1892, the Methodist congregation relocated. Subsequently, the building was used for dances, plays, social events, Masonic meetings, Sunday school, and as an election polling place. It has also been a public school, drug store, a veterinarian office, and was once the Poolesville Town Hall, making it officially the old, old, old town hall.

The Friendly Thrift Shop, a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, accepts clothing and small house ware donations during operating hours (Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.) and provides receipts for tax purposes.

Mrs. Zych, while understanding that there are other organizations seeking donations of clothing as well as out-of-town organizations with local collection bins, reminded us that the clothing from the Friendly Thrift Shop helps local people and the funds from sales assists other local service groups nearby.

-Continued on Page 8.

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## Letter to the Editor

### Why Monocacy Elementary Must Stay Open!

By Jerome J. Klobukowski

Dr. Weast's proposed Monocacy Elementary School (MES) closing is a very serious problem for the Poolesville cluster and Western Montgomery County—a problem with far-reaching ramifications that would set the precedent of closing other low-population schools (John Poole Middle School, for example) and that would eventually increase expenses.

Years ago, the Poolesville cluster recognized that under enrollment would be a problem. The cluster and the town acted proactively by recommending a boundary change before the Clarksburg cluster's boundaries were established (i.e., expanding the Poolesville cluster's eastern boundary to the west side of Interstate 270). This recommendation was supported by many residents of the Clarksburg cluster, who, incidentally, then and now, want their children to attend MES. The recommendation was summarily dismissed. The Poolesville cluster has always asked for equity, nothing more and nothing less. All of the Western Montgomery county cluster communities need to join together and say with firmness and determination that they will accept nothing less than "Keeping Monocacy Elementary Open."

The closing of MES will also not increase the in-cluster student population at either John Poole Middle School (JPMS) or at Poolesville High School (PHS). John Poole's current capacity is 480 and its current enrollment is at seventy-five percent. The middle school needs approximately 150 fifth grade students to matriculate to sixth grade each year to ensure a diversity of robust academic programs and to eliminate the need to plead with MCPS for teachers and resources.

That is slightly more students than both of our elementary schools could provide even if they were both at their maximum capacity. Currently, we are witnessing a decrease in the number of teachers and course offerings as the student population declines. I am always suspicious of those who say, "The county will always keep John Poole Middle School open and will never close it." If Dr. Weast can propose closing elementary schools whose student populations are under three hundred, nothing could stop him from decreeing that the new minimum middle school population should be six hundred and closing JPMS because it does not meet that criterion. Additionally, MCPS projects that the middle school's population will decline to fifty percent of its capacity by 2015.

The consolidation of all the Poolesville and Monocacy Elementary students into one school will definitely not extricate the Montgomery Public School System from its budget woes. If, as they say, within three years, the school will need more room to accommodate an increased student population, where will the savings be? Saving one million dollars a year for three years only gets MCPS half of the six million dollars it would probably need for a PES addition and everything that goes with it. More importantly, the consolidation would result in larger class size. Parents and teachers both agree on the benefits of smaller classes for optimum learning. Furthermore, the fifty-one-year-old PES, which only had a partial modernization in 1978, is not on MCPS's current modernization schedule and has not even had a Facilities Assessment with Criteria and Testing (FACT) evaluation (used to prioritize schools for modernization). Nor does the consolidation mean that PES will receive all of the resources it needs. Some say PES will get more resources, along with getting Monocacy Elementary's library books and playground equipment. That is a

very myopic view of how MCPS works. There is no guarantee that PES will be given dibs on the used books or used playground equipment.

One final point, when the county created what is now the nationally-heralded Agricultural Reserve, a promise was made to the Reserve's residents that size would not be used as an excuse to shortchange them on services or to make them into second-class citizens.

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## Commentary

### Signs

By John Clayton

I am certain I'm not alone in enjoying the scenic splendor of the Upcounty during this beautiful spring season. I suppose we have all noticed that we have actually had beautiful spring weather of some duration, which is not always the case. Often the gorgeous days are few and far between, we either have too much rain or no rain at all, and we quickly stumble into summer humidity. Not this year—there have been some wonderful days with rain sprinkled around here and there, hopefully enough to keep the farmers happy, if indeed farmers allow themselves such a luxury this time of year.

The scenic view is also presently devoid of political signs, and this will soon change because something significant is going to happen in the Upcounty. There is a gubernatorial race coming, and there is a popular Republican running—former governor Robert “Bob” Ehrlich. Furthermore, not only is he popular, but times being what they are, he could actually win.

In 2006, when Martin O'Malley faced and defeated the incumbent Bob Ehrlich, the Democrat won statewide by a healthy margin, and by a slightly better margin in Montgomery County. He also won Legislative District 15, which covers much of our reporting area, but by a smaller margin (this is the cue for Upcounty GOP voters to start smiling). Once you start looking at the precinct results out here, it was All Ehrlich All the Time. The two precincts surrounding Poolesville went fifty-nine percent for the incumbent in a losing cause, and Barnesville went for Ehrlich at about fifty-two percent. A little to the east, O'Malley won the precincts around Clarksburg, but Ehrlich did better further north. Hyattstown, in our extreme northern latitudes, went resoundingly for then-Governor Ehrlich.

In 2006, it was clear to me, and I assert this with no empirical data whatsoever, that the Ehrlich campaign overwhelmingly won

the sign battle. It truly seemed that everywhere I went in our area, Ehrlich signs predominated. I believe that the O'Malley signs were green, and it is possible that they blended into the verdant tapestry of our landscape, but I doubt it. At Poolesville Day, the *Monocle* booth was directly across from the Rural Republican Women's Club booth, and the signs were moving out like free hotcakes. I have no idea how they even kept the booth resupplied, although if military cargo helicopters had been landing in the parking lots and disgorging pallets of new signs, I would not have been the least surprised. Everywhere I looked, smiling Upcountians were toting them home. I did see a few O'Malley signs—a few.

Clearly, enthusiasm is a big part of this phenomenon, and Ehrlich supporters were extremely enthusiastic that year, even in the face of what looked, even then, to be an O'Malley victory. In the 2008 presidential election, the enthusiasm was of course on the other side, and in my unsolicited opinion, the Obama forces won the sign battle over the McCain opposition. In fact, Obama actually won most of the Upcounty precincts I reviewed for this column, although Hyattstown still went solidly for McCain. What is it about Hyattstown?

This time, at least as far as the Upcounty goes, I have to believe Ehrlich really has it going. The aforementioned enthusiasm seems to work better (usually) for challengers rather than incumbents. After all, just having the job and trying to do the job is a lot less tantalizing than being the insurgent and trying to charge in and clean up the mess, especially in these arduous times. Since Mr. Ehrlich also has the basic numbers going for him out here, I have to assume that, all too soon, his signs will start popping up like Whack-a-Moles. I don't know if he will win the election itself, but I have to believe his supporters are going to have more fun. Democrats should remember what that is like. It wasn't that long ago.

## Commentary

### When Your Signature Is More than Just an Autograph

By Rande Davis

Oh, my, what to do! There is a petition being circulated asking town residents to sign for the purpose of creating a referendum to overturn a series of amendments (twenty-four to be exact) made by the town commissioners to update the town's charter. If you ask me, I would not sign it. Just as importantly, you definitely should not sign it if your concern arises from reports in the *Bulletin*. Why? Because those reports, beyond being misleading, inaccurate, and at times, downright false, are hysterical in the panic sense of the word, not in the humorous meaning.

Before I point you in the direction of finding the Truth for yourself about the charter revisions, allow me to make a point of personal privilege. Any suggestion that the *Monocle* is “used” by any commissioner “to advance agendas” is absurd. Such reporting is a weak attempt at character assassination—a pitiful and sad approach used over and over again by the *Bulletin* and emblematic of indolent reporting. I fully stand by the reports in the April 16 *Monocle* on the town charter revisions (see [www.monocacymonocle.com](http://www.monocacymonocle.com)), and our readers should know they can count on its accuracy. Our job is to report on public comments and decisions made at town meetings. We did just that. I might add as well, that the suggestion by the *Bulletin* that Mr. Janet was not afforded time by the commissioners to respond to criticisms of the *Bulletin* made at the meeting is also false. That evening, as is the practice during all public meetings, the public was invited to make comments during the open forum at the end of the meeting. He was free to do so, he chose not to, and to report that he was prevented to respond to public criticism is simply not true. How ironic, isn't it?

Before you sign the petition to stop the revisions, are you aware

that each and every change in the charter may be viewed online? Not only that, but the online document shows each change along with the 1982 verbiage. Does that sound like a secretive process to you? Did you know that the revisions came after many public work sessions over a few months' time—all of which were open to the public? Hardly sounds like a “ramming through or power grab” to me.

Am I against the referendum process? No, in fact, it can be a valuable tool in a democracy. Did you know in 2002 that the town property tax rate was .24 cents per \$100,000 of assessed home value? In 2010, that rate is .1595 cents per \$100,000. The tax rate has gone down while revenues have increased. This happens as home values increase. The tax rates have been reduced to prevent overall revenue increases to the town from exceeding seven percent per year. Remember, any commissioner voting to increase tax rates or spend

-Continued on Page 17.

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## Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

The Montgomery County Police Department's Animal Services Division will be sponsoring six rabies vaccination clinics during 2010. The clinics will be held at the Montgomery County Animal Shelter located at 14645 Rothgeb Drive in Rockville. Each clinic will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will end at 11:30 a.m. on the third Sunday of each month through September, and on October 10.

Maryland law requires that all dogs, cats, and ferrets over the age of four months be vaccinated against rabies. Failure to vaccinate an animal as required may subject the owner to a \$500 fine. When brought in for vaccination, all dogs must be leashed. Cats and ferrets must be in carriers or otherwise contained.

### Current Crimes

Theft: 19600 block of Fisher Avenue.

Assault: 18700 block of Jerusalem Church Road.

Disorderly conduct complaint: 17500 block of Kohlhoss Road, 19600 block of Fisher Avenue.

Drug offense: Poolesville High School, 17501 W. Willard Road.

### Past Crimes

May 16, 1956 Montgomery County Police were searching for a large quantity of dynamite that had been stolen from the construction site at the Wheaton Woods subdivision.

May 16, 1968 Clyde Laws and Thomas Dorman were both sentenced to twenty years in prison for robbery and kidnapping in

connection with the kidnapping of a man from the Connecticut and Knowles Shopping Center. Laws and Dorman were attempting to escape after the robbery of a grocery store and the shooting of Officer Raymond Brown. They would later be found guilty of shooting Officer Brown.

May 19, 1911 The body of a man was found floating in the Potomac River at Georgetown. Police thought that the body was that of prosperous farmer William Myers of Potomac. Myers

had been missing from his farm for several days and had been last seen driving his team of horses on the road to Washington.

May 20, 1930 Four young men were arrested by police after the robbery of the Villa Roma roadhouse on the Rockville Pike.

May 21, 1958 Twelve people were killed after a Capitol Airlines plane and a National Guard jet collided in the skies over southwestern Frederick County. The airliner crashed between Jefferson and Brunswick.

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## Business Briefs

### Mirant Hosts Potomac Watershed Cleanup

On Friday, April 9, 2010, employees from Mirant Mid-Atlantic's Dickerson electric generating station hosted a Potomac River cleanup in support of the Alice Ferguson Foundation's 22nd Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. The annual cleanup is part of the larger Trash Free Potomac Watershed Initiative, which seeks to have the watershed free of trash by 2013.

Nineteen employees participated in the cleanup event and removed more than nine hundred pounds of trash along the shoreline near Mirant's Dickerson generating station. Some of the more interesting finds included a tire, a steel drum, and a basketball. The most identified items were Styrofoam and plastic bottles.

"Mirant is very proud to support the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup," said Director of External Affairs, Misty Allen. "Our employees enjoyed rolling up their sleeves and taking part in this important initiative to help keep our local waterways free of trash."

### High Schoolers to Open Skate Board Shop

Congratulations to Rudy Martin and Sid Egley, the two entrepreneurs are opening their very own skateboard shop in Poolesville. Even though they are juniors at PHS they see a

great opportunity with the grand opening of the town's skateboard park just weeks away so the duo will open the Skate Shack 301 on May 15. They will have for sale brand name skateboards, T-shirts, hats, shoes, sunglasses, helmets and other safety items of interest to skateboarders. The shop is located between Professional Cleaners and Hearthside Antiques in the site previously held by Stephanie's Secret Garden. Sid's mom is Stephanie Egly and Rudy's parents are Jim and Nancy Martin. They will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekends. Weekday hours still have to be determined and will be based on their student schedules but you can call 301-525-5289 to find out more on the weekday hours if you can't wait till the weekend.



High School juniors Rudy Martin and Sid Egley are opening a new skateboard shop.



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#### How to contact us:

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#### Our Future ...

The annual meeting of Sugarloaf Citizens' Association drew nearly 100 people to the Gothic Barn at Linden Farm on April 17 for a morning of dialogue, information, and fellowship. Young people from schools in Montgomery County demonstrated environmental projects sponsored by the Piedmont Environmental Foundation, an SCA affiliate.

The main speaker was Royce Hanson, the Chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board and one of the original creators of the Agricultural Reserve. He is leaving public office in June this year and presented SCA with a valedictory address that touched the past but mainly looked to the future of the Reserve. There is not enough room in this article to repeat this address but we will emphasize two major insights that serve as beacons for the work of SCA and other organizations that contribute to the protection of the agricultural and open land legacy of Montgomery County.

Royce Hanson clearly stated that while the Ag Reserve is unique in that it provides a protected zone for agriculture in Montgomery County, the Reserve is not safe from attacks by developers. Pressures are constantly mounting as demand increases for housing and business activities in the Metropolitan Washington area.

A second insight was his view of how the future of the Reserve can be sustained by dedicated politicians and motivated activists. Increased food producing opportunities in the Reserve will strengthen the will of all Montgomery County residents to support the preservation of agricultural land. Another way to sustain the Reserve is placing as much land as possible into the Maryland Environmental Trust or similar easement programs as a way to prevent the building of new highways through the Reserve.

Sugarloaf members are dedicated to do what is necessary to protect agriculture in Montgomery County. Royce Hanson leaves a powerful legacy that will serve as an inspiration and guide for years to come.

One other matter has just appeared as this article is being written, involving the routing of transmission lines (PATH) by Allegheny Power Company through the Ag Reserve. Maryland Public Service Commission has allowed a PATH application despite the fact that both Virginia and West Virginia have rejected PATH applications. We are monitoring the situation and will keep our readers informed.

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# Local News

## Maryland Delegation Attends Poolesville Town Government Meeting

The Montgomery County State delegation attended the May 3 Poolesville Town Government meeting to provide interested residents with a wrap-up report of the 2010 session.

Senator Rob Garagiola reported that while economic conditions have resulted in shrinking state funds, Montgomery County has a 10% increase in funding in the coming fiscal year. He cited the economy, energy, and healthcare as the priority issues and voiced concern of a pending "crisis of adequate physicians" due to inadequate re-imbursements to physicians.

Delegate Brian Feldman spoke on the shift of teacher pension cost from the state to the counties with 50% of those costs going to the counties by 2015. Delegate Kathleen Dumais reported a tightening and uniformity with

other states on sex offender laws and the improvement in the state's child support guidelines. Delegate Craig Rice spoke of progress in safe school initiatives but regretted the school air quality issues still did not have new legislation.

The delegation stayed for a question and answer period following the legislative overview.

Town Manager Wade Yost provided a third quarter financial status report that shows the town is slightly under revenue projections by \$20,000 to \$30,000 coming to the close of FY2010. The shortfall is attributed to the town interest income from an anticipated \$90,000 to only \$8,600. The hard winter also resulted in heavy snow removal costs and more overtime pay than anticipated. Cash assets in the General Fund, Water and Wastewater account plus its Investment Fund provide the town with \$4,233,188 cast assets. Of the total cash on hand, \$930,785 remains in unrestricted cash reserves.

On other meeting matters, the commissioners appointed Charles Stump to the CEDC committee

## "Thrift Shop" Continued From Page 3.

"It's a great place to shop and, to me, the special part is that the whole thing is an ecumenical operation, with the town government providing space, and joined with other civic groups working together." Come and shop and expect a new variety of items each week. Clothing prices are \$5.00 for

a brown grocery bagful, and house wares are priced very reasonably.

The member churches are Barnesville Baptist, Dawsonville Mennonite, Elijah United Methodist, Dickerson United Methodist, Memorial United Methodist, Mt. Zion - Warren United Methodist, Poolesville Baptist, Our Lady of the Presentation Catholic, Poolesville Presbyterian, St. Mary's Catholic, and St. Peter's Episcopal.

and the Keep Monocacy Open committee leadership updated the commissioners on their roundtable discussions.

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## School News

### Sullivan Becomes New CHS Athletic Director

Mr. Jeffrey K. Sullivan has been selected as the new athletic director at Clarksburg High School. He has served as the athletic director at Paint Branch High School for the past seven years. He holds professional teaching certifications in physical education and health.

Mr. Sullivan brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership to the position. In June of 2008, the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) recognized him as a Certified Master Athletic Administrator. In 2007, Mr. Sullivan was named Athletic Director of the Year for District II-B by the Maryland State Athletic Directors' Association. He has been a curriculum writer and instructor for the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Coaching Fundamentals course and has completed twenty leadership training courses through the

NIAAA. Mr. Sullivan has coached a number of sports, including soccer, baseball, and volleyball.

During his tenure at Paint Branch High School, Mr. Sullivan emphasized academic excellence and sportsmanship. He collaborated with coaches and administrators to establish an Athletic Academic Advisory Program, promoting academic achievement as the student-athlete's first commitment to his/her team. During the 2008-2009 school year, Paint Branch High School earned the overall MCPS Sportsmanship Championship, with thirteen teams winning sportsmanship awards.

### Forget Stradivarius—This Violin Is a Louisville Slugger

National Symphony Orchestra violinist, Glenn Donnellan, visited Clarksburg High School, toting an unusual musical instrument for which he has become quite well-known—an electric violin fashioned from a baseball bat. He demonstrated the hand-made violin to orchestra students



*National Symphony Orchestra violinist Glenn Donnellan gave new meaning to the phrase "batter up."*

and to the Advanced Placement Power Scholars, a group of about 170 students enrolled in a rigorous course of study at Clarksburg. Donnellan achieved notoriety last year when he posted a video of himself playing the national anthem on YouTube; he was later asked to play the national anthem at a Washington Nationals baseball game. His appearance at Clarksburg tied in to the students' study of physics and music, and showed them a real-world application of science and engineering.

### PHS Springtime Congratulations

The Poolesville High School Shakespeare Club's performance of Othello's garnered four awards at the Folger Theatre Shakespeare Festival. The students were honored with the most prestigious Spirit of the Festival Award, as well as outstanding ensemble acting and outstanding directing. The director was Cat Tappert, and the cast was: Matt Dicken (Lago), Tom Potmesil (Othello), Cara Forster (Desdemona), Anthony Franks (Roderigo), Serena Nguyen (Emilia), Lindsey Osbursen (Casio), Lucy Tan (Bianca), Nazia Rahman (Gratiano), James Rogers (Lodovico), and Jessica Man (Montano). Playing townspeople and with the crew were: Grace Chen, Rebecca Morris, Diana Tappert, and Gentrice Caruso-Di Paolo.

Poolesville High School has two National Scholastic Art

*-Continued on Page 15.*

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*"Planting for Wildlife" Continued  
From Page 1.*

promise maintenance program. I carefully select organic products with the least potential harm to the environment, and I watch what time of day I use them. I plan to focus on three visitors to our gardens that have been in the news lately and are fascinating and beautiful specimens.

Perhaps the best known of all North American butterflies is the monarch butterfly. It is easily recognized by the orange and black pattern of its wings. This iconic butterfly is in serious trouble this year, with more than fifty percent of its population destroyed due to unstable weather patterns, continuing loss of habitat, and an increase in pesticide use. Each year, this migratory insect covers 3,000 miles to overwintering sites, but with increased logging in Mexico, record amounts of rainfall, and continued, unrestrained development in Canada and the U.S., both their winter and summer homes face serious erosion. The home gardener can make his or her gardens more attractive to butterflies, especially the monarch, by planting their favorite flowers. Butterflies need broad flower heads on which to land, such as the coneflower, sedum, daylilies, liatris, and monarda. They also enjoy fragrant flowers, such as phlox, Shasta daisies, dianthus, and *Buddleia davidii*, appropriately called the butterfly bush. The plant vital for the survival of the monarch is milkweed (*Asclepias*). Adult females lay their eggs upon its stem and leaves, and when the beautiful, fat, white, black, and green caterpillars hatch, they feast exclusively on milkweed leaves. Across the U.S., milkweed is being cut down, and parking lots, condos, and shopping malls are replacing the fertile fields. Here again, the home gardener can help. You know how the ad goes with the famous person with a white mustache saying, "Got milk," well gardener, "Get milkweed." This North American wildflower sports vanilla-scented blooms in many colors that appear in dense clusters all sum-

mer.

In the past several years, American farmers and beekeepers have noticed a dramatic decline in honeybee hive populations. After much study, experts decided that this situation, called Colony Collapse Disorder, was not due to any one factor, but to a host of worldwide issues. This past year, there has been an increase in the bee population for reasons that are not quite understood. Welcome honeybees to your garden this summer with these very attractive and low maintenance flowering plants: lavender, verbena, foxglove, coreopsis, stachys (lamb's ear), and Russian sage.

For me, the sight of the small, beautifully-colored hummingbird in my garden is exciting every time. He spends a great deal of energy flying, so he must feed almost continually. His choice of diet is nectar and insects. Interestingly, hummingbirds are able to perch and will do so at feeders, but since they fly so much, they have poorly-developed feet. They are more comfortable in flight, as they can barely walk at all. Hummingbirds are attracted to brightly-colored flowers. In my garden, they seem to like fuchsias the best, so I place several hanging baskets close to the house so I can observe them up close. They also like coral bells, monarda, penstemon, and digitalis.

Every year, I keep a record in my garden diary of what plants my favorite visitors to the garden like. They surprise me sometimes and change their foods of choice. If every home gardener made an effort to protect these irreplaceable garden inhabitants, we can make a small, but important, step in protecting our environment.

## Youth Sports

### Big Week for PHS Softball

By Jeff Stuart

On Saturday, April 24, the Falcons' softball team (8-2) faced off against Blair (10-2), the 4A East Division leaders, at Blair. On the mound, PHS's Magen Harris matched up against Samantha Schweikhardt of Blair. Harris cruised through the first two innings, but a costly Poolesville overthrow helped the Blazers race out to a 3-0 lead in the third. Two Blazer errors put runners on in the top of the fifth, and Poolesville's Lori Defnet delivered a two-run double and then scored on a single by Haller to even the score 3-3. Patti Maloney came on to pitch and shut the Blazers down in the fourth and fifth innings. The Falcons' Nicole Kirchoff (who scored three times) singled in the sixth, and Kelsey Carnahan followed with a triple



*Patti Maloney fires one in and Amy Defnet stands ready at first base.*

to make it 4-3, but Blair answered with three runs in the bottom of the inning and prepared to close it out in the top of the seventh.

They nearly did. Poolesville was down to their last out when Amanda Haller reached on an error. Morgan Howard hit a fly to center which was misplayed, and Kelly Hanscom (running for Haller) raced home to make it 6-5. Nicole Kirchoff was hit by a pitch. Then Carnahan delivered the game winner, doubling over the head to the leftfielder, driving in two. Poolesville led 7-6, giving the Falcons their own chance to close it out. Maloney was all business in the seventh, striking out the first two batters and getting a weak comebacker to end the game.

*-Continued on Page 19.*

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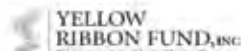
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**"MES Roundtables" Continued  
From Page 1.**

Approach # 9: Create special programs at Poolesville cluster elementary schools and middle school, related to Agricultural Science and Global Ecology.

Approach # 10: Create a math/science theme at Poolesville cluster elementary schools and middle school.

It is possible that a hybrid approach may surface from further discussion about these options as the roundtable process ensues.

There are also four approaches, in no particular order, that the Poolesville Roundtable cluster representatives believe may be interesting and which may possibly have merit.

Approach # 3: Create a virtual/hybrid school at MES utilizing technology to increase utilization and provide MCPS with a demonstration school for online curriculum activity.

Approach # 13: Reduce tuition for Frederick County students to enroll in MES.

Approach # 14: If MES is closed, use it to house a charter school.

Approach # 4: Add a prekindergarten program at MES.

There were six other approaches that were offered by various members of the roundtable process which were discussed but have been taken off the table as not being viable.

During the April 19 meeting, one additional approach was put forward and designated as Approach 0. Approach 0 is defined as "Have the Board of Education

develop a policy for schools located in the Agricultural Reserve – including Poolesville Cluster Schools – that recognizes their special status and accepts lower enrollment levels at these schools than in other MCPS schools." No Board of Education policy currently exists concerning schools in the Agricultural Reserve.

The next Poolesville-Monocacy Roundtable Discussion will be on Monday, May 17, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at John Poole Middle School's media center. The community is encouraged to attend. At this meeting, the representatives hand in their approach analysis forms and any PTA or other represented area's position papers.

Following the completion of the discussion group process, DLRP staff conducts a Public Information Meeting for the community. The meeting is held to advise the broader community of the approaches to facility issues that have been discussed and to gather community feedback on the approaches." This meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 24, 2010, at John Poole Middle School Cafeteria, 17014 Tom Fox Avenue, Poolesville, MD from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

A full report on all approaches considered is available at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/CommunityInfo\\_Roundtable.shtml](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/CommunityInfo_Roundtable.shtml)

Regular reports will be posted at [www.poolesvillepta.org](http://www.poolesvillepta.org) and all concerned citizens are encouraged to attend.



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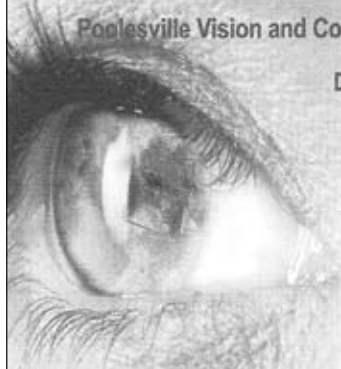
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## Youth Sports

### Where They Want to Be

By Jeff Stuart

On Thursday afternoon, April 22, the Clarksburg softball team was where it wanted to be, battling Blake at home for the division lead. It was not easy, but the Coyotes won 5-4 in a nine-inning thriller. Blake scored two runs in the top of the first, but pitcher Riley Wilson doubled home two runs in the fourth to tie it. Clarksburg took a 3-2 lead in the bottom of the sixth on a double by Alexa Meyer. Wilson struck out ten and held the Bengals scoreless for five innings. The Bengals were then able to tie the game in the top of the seventh. Both teams scored single runs in the first extra inning. In the ninth, the Bengals had the bases loaded with two outs, but Maria Mullin, looking into a tough sun, snagged a slicing liner to right to hold Blake scoreless. In the bottom half, Maria delivered a sacrifice fly to give Clarksburg a hard-fought win in a well-played, tense game. Wilson and Meyer had two hits each. Caitlin Scalzi had two stolen bases. Alexa Allen, Jen Taff, Mandy Le, Meyer, and Scalzi scored runs for Clarksburg.

Just three days before, in what Head Coach Larry Hurd called "a huge win," the Coyotes had rallied from another three-run deficit to beat Damascus, 7-3. Wilson had again jumpstarted the offense driving in three in a four-run fourth inning to give her team the lead—and she held the Hornets scoreless the rest of the way. Michelle Sloan, Taleen Doukmajian, and Meyer each had two hits.

After starting the season with three straight tough losses against the top three ranked teams in the county, all 4A contenders, Clarksburg rallied for nine straight wins. On March 23, the Coyotes lost their opener to Richard Montgomery (12-1), 3-2. A 4-3 loss in eight innings to

Sherwood (12-2) and a 4-1 loss to Blair (14-2) followed.

The Coyotes were tired of waiting for a win and, on April 10, pushed aside a very good Falcons team at Poolesville (6-0) to begin the season turnaround. The Coyotes had only four hits. Scalzi and Becca Taft each had two. Clarksburg scored two in the first and Wilson struck out ten, holding the Falcons to just two hits. The Coyotes pulled away scoring three in the top of the seventh.

Clarksburg then defeated Northwood at home, 10-0, in a five-inning game. The team was led on offense by Caitlin Scalzi who recorded three hits (single, double, and home run). The defense was led by the shutout thrown by Jenny Taff in her first varsity start.

Scalzi is the leader of the 2010 Coyotes on offense with a .500 batting average, including nine extra base hits and twenty-one RBI. She also has fourteen stolen bases. Meyer has a .382 average and nine RBI. Becca Taff has a .433 average and seven RBI. Alexa Allen has a .400 average. At .375 are Jenn Taff and Maria Mullen. Taleen has a .320 average and seven stolen bases.

"We want to continue to establish ourselves as one of the better softball programs in the county. We believe we have done that so far and want to make sure it continues," said Coach Hurd. The Coyotes were very competitive in their very first season, 2007, and finished 17-2 in 2008. They were 14-4 last season. Riley Wilson, Amber Ratliff, Michelle Sloan, and Rebecca Taff are among the first group of four-year seniors at CHS that helped the Coyotes softball squad hit the ground running—never looking back.



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*"CHS Violin and Ad" Continued on Page 9.*

**Tidbits**

Award Gold Key winners: Rachel Thompson and Sean Duncan. In 2010, more than 165,000 works of art were submitted to the awards, and only 693 artworks from the Region-at-Large earned Gold Key recognition. Rachel's and Sean's award-winning photographs advanced to the national level of judging for the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.

Kudos to Mr. Daniel McKenna, sponsor of the PHS debate team. Eight students qualified to compete at the county debate finals. Congratulations to: Raja Ayyagari, Matt Tran, Prana Gokhale, Daniel Seong-Min, David Zhou, Keena Li, Beidi Luo, and Yosmin Badie.

**Forget Stradivarius – This Violin Is a Louisville Slugger**

National Symphony Orchestra violinist, Glenn Donnellan, visited Clarksburg High School, toting an unusual musical instrument for which he has become quite well-known—an electric violin fashioned from a baseball bat. He demonstrated the hand-made violin to orchestra students and to the Advanced Placement Power Scholars, a group of about 170 students enrolled in a rigorous course of study at Clarksburg. Donnellan became well-known last year when he posted a video of himself playing the national anthem on YouTube; he was later asked to play the national anthem at a Washington Nationals baseball game. His appearance at Clarksburg tied in to the students' study of physics and music, and showed them a real-world application of science

and engineering.

**PACC Directory Hits the Street**

The Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce has published its 2010 Poolesville Area Community and Business Directory. This Directory covers residences and businesses in Barnesville,

Beallsville, Boyds, Comus, Dawsonville, Dickerson, Jerusalem, Martinsburg and Poolesville. It will be delivered free to homes and businesses during the week of May 17, 2010.

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## Things to Do

### May 14 to May 30

#### Art Exhibit

Hyattstown Mill Art Project, Featuring Watercolors by Irene Kelly  
14920 Hyattstown Mill Road  
- www.hyattstownmill.org  
Open Weekdays: noon to 4:00 p.m.,  
Saturday: 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

### May 13, May 20, and May 27

#### Plant Clinic

Poolesville Library – Master gardeners Terri Pitts and Pam Hosimer will be on hand for your gardening questions. 7:00 p.m.

### May 14

#### 2nd Annual PES PTA Spring Carnival

Inflatable's, rock wall, dunk tank, games and plenty of food  
Rain date: May 21  
Poolesville Elementary School,  
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

#### Carroll Manor Fire Co. 3rd Annual Golf Tournament

Glade Valley Golf Course  
\$75.00 per player  
Includes: Golf, cart, Long Drive and Putting Contest and Closest to Pin. Door Prizes and Buffet

Lunch. Tee Time: 8:00 a.m.  
Contact Lori Gourley-Benfield for more information at 301-834-7207

#### Super 7 Bingo

Carroll Manor Grange #406  
\$25.00 – 21 Games  
7-Filled Baskets, 7-\$50.00 Cash Winners, 7-Coach Purses, Raffles, Door Prizes, with food and beverages available. Doors Open: 5:30 p.m. Games: 7:00 p.m.  
Call Doris Simpson (301874-2368) or Carolyn Arnold (301-831-8362) for information

### May 15

#### Picnic for Wounded Soldiers

Sponsored by: Poolesville Military Support Group  
Picnic, fishing, music, and fellowship with soldiers and their families all welcome – please come!  
No admission fee – donations accepted at event or may be made out to Fisher House and mailed c/o Richard MacKnight, 19600 Seymour Court, Poolesville, Maryland 20837-2293. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Bassett's Entertainment Night  
Featuring: Chris Compton. 10:00 p.m.

### May 17

#### Commissioners of Poolesville Meeting

Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

### May 20 and May 21

Book and Art Fair. JPMS  
Throughout both days

### May 20

Twos Storytime  
Stories, fingerplay, and music  
Poolesville Library. 10:30 a.m.

SGA Variety Show  
Monocacy Elementary  
1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

### May 21

#### Basket Bingo

Longaberger Baskets and Vera Bradley Bags  
Raffles, Door Prizes and Special Bingos  
Homemade Food and Desserts Available. \$20.00. Doors Open: 5:30 p.m. Games: 7:00 p.m.

#### Flower Show

The Monocacy Garden Club invites the public to their Spring Standard Flower Show entitled "Nature's Bounty" from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Parish Episcopal Church, 20100 Fisher Avenue in Poolesville. The show is free and refreshments will be served.

### May 22 and 23

#### Historic Medley Tag Sale Fundraiser

John Poole House and General Store Museum  
19923 Fisher Avenue  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
(Donated items may be dropped off on May 20 and 21)

### May 22

Clarksburg to Host 1st Annual Relay for Life  
Clarksburg High School SGA hosting the Clarksburg Community's First Annual Relay for Life. The event is open to the public from 1:30pm-10pm and will have activities for people of all ages including a moon bounce, silent auction, bake sales, cancer awareness activities and a luminaria ceremony at 8:30pm to honor those who have won the battle with cancer and remember those who have lost the battle. Admission is free to the event, however all activities serve as fundraisers to raise money for the American

Cancer Society.

For more information, send an email to chsrelayforlife@gmail.com or visit the website www.relayforlife.org/clarksburg

#### Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre Presents

Classical Elements  
PHS Auditorium. 6:30 p.m.  
Free Admission – Donation Appreciated

Cugini's Entertainment Night  
Featuring: Doug Bell. 8:00 p.m.

### May 23

#### Maryland Classic Youth Orchestras Strathmore

3:00 p.m. - Chamber Strings, Youth Artists and Symphony  
7:00 p.m. - Chamber Orchestra and Philharmonic  
Ticket Information: www.strathmore.org

#### Fundraising Event for Poolesville Relay for Life

Wine Tasting Benefit at Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard  
From 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### May 24

MES Closing Roundtable  
Public Invited  
JPMS-Media Center. 7:30 p.m.

### May 26

Community and Economic Development Committee Meeting  
Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

### May 27

Poolesville Library. 10:30 p.m.  
Three to Sixes Storytime  
Stories, fingerplay, and music

#### Poolesville Youth Symphony Orchestra Concert

John Poole Middle School All Purpose Room. 6:00 p.m.

### June 1

Farewell Reception for Librarian Mark Gochnour  
Poolesville Library. 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Cake and refreshments



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*"When Your Signature Is More than Just an Autograph"*  
Continued From Page 5.

more than what you approve still has to stand for reelection. The power of checks and balances remains.

Before putting your signature on a petition, don't go by what I say or what anyone else says. Read the charter revision document yourself. It could not be more available. Every commissioner and the town manager stands ready to answer any question or clarify any point you may have. This is a very small town; surely there is at least one commissioner you know and whose opinion you trust. You may decide to vote for the referendum or decide it is not necessary. At least, the honor of your signature will rest on facts. A signature on a petition is not just an autograph.

## Center Stage Introducing: The Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre

By Dominique Agnew

It's been a long time coming: first a wisp of an idea, then a nugget of hope, then the seeds were planted for the possibility, and finally, the fruition of a beautiful artistic endeavor in Poolesville.

Twelve years ago, Fran Ichijo opened her Hope Garden Ballet at Healthworks in Poolesville with just a handful of students. The handful grew. Through word of mouth, the story spread of an accomplished ballerina and teacher who taught classically-correct ballet with love, tenderness, and enthusiasm. Twice a year, there were performances that became more complex and better-attended. Finally, what was just a school

has transformed into the Hope Garden Ballet Academy, and a performing troupe has branched off from the school, the Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre (HGCBT).

In the beginning, Fran, artistic director of HGCBT, had not planned a theatre. "I love teaching ballet," she says, and after meeting Terry at Healthworks, found a studio available. "Teaching ballet is what I do." She will admit, she always wanted to have her own company, but it was not part of her daily thinking. "As I found so much talent in Poolesville, that's when the dream came alive," she says. "I began to see the possibility."

That was four or five years ago—but there was a problem. Just as her students began to blossom into dedicated dancers, they had to leave Hope Garden because the studio wasn't big enough. In January 2008, the problem was resolved; the studio was expanded. Now there is also a Studio B, both studios with proper sprung floors, mirrors, and barres.



Claire Jones, longtime Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre dancer and PHS senior.

She's quick to point out that there was more than just talent, there is also parental support. As the dancers become more advanced into the middle and high school years, they need to train five to six days a week. "Anything worthwhile takes commitment," says Fran, "whether it's the arts, math, or history." On the other hand, she is very careful not to burn out the kids. "I never want anyone to say they're not enjoying it."

The mission of the HGCBT is

-Continued on Page 19.



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**"PHS Softball" Continued From Page 10.**

Just two days before the Blair game, the Falcons had clinched the 3A/2A division championship with a 6-1 win over Seneca Valley at Poolesville. The win featured the pitching of Harris and Maloney along with good defense by Sasha Trope and Morgan Howard. Harris gave up a leadoff hit, but the Falcons turned a double play as Harris deflected a hot comebacker. Carnahan picked it up and threw the runner out at first, and Amy Defnet wheeled around to throw a strike to Howard who blocked the plate and made the tag.

In the bottom of the first, Trope singled to left and Maloney homered over the left field fence, putting Poolesville on top, 2-0. The Eagles' Kianna Murphy homered in the second, closing the gap to 2-1. Neither Harris nor Seneca's Kelsey Gunn allowed a run in the third. Maloney closed the door for PHS, giving up one hit and striking out seven over the next four innings. The Falcons

picked up two in the fourth. Lori Defnet reached on an error, Amy Defnet singled. Haller singled to drive in a run. Then Cheyenne Wolitizky laid down a nice bunt to the third baseman. Speedster Katie Duncan (running for Amy) slid home safely. The Falcons scored two more insurance runs in the fifth. Trope, at second base, made a diving stop of a ball heading up middle and throwing the runner out by a step to end the game. The win gave Poolesville its second straight division title (and the sixth in the last nine years).

"This year we are rebuilding," says Head Coach Laurie Wohnhas. "We lost six seniors, all four-year starters, to graduation. We have two senior captains: Lori Defnet (OF) and Nicole Kirchoff (OF). They provide a lot of leadership on the team."

This makes for a decidedly young team with two freshman starters, Kelsey Carnahan (SS) and Morgan Howard catcher, and three sophomore starters, Patti Maloney (3B/P), Magen Harris (P), and Amy Defnet (1B). There

are six juniors with only Sasha Trope (2B) having varsity experience. Juniors who moved up from JV were: Piper Raines, Cheyenne Wolitizky, Amanda Haller, Katie Duncan, and Kelly Hanscom. Stats leaders are: Patti Maloney, batting .704, and Sasha Trope, .450. Maloney and Lori Defnet are tied with eleven RBI each.

The Falcons started off the year with a 9-3 home loss to 4A Richard Montgomery (8-1). They won their next two on the road against Northwood and Magruder easily, before losing, 6-0, at 3A division-leader Clarksburg. A 12-3 win at Quince Orchard on April 14 triggered a six-game winning streak that included wins over division rivals Rockville, Watkins Mill, and Wheaton.

The Falcons were 12-4 last season and won the 3A/2A/1A South Division Championship. They hosted Winters Mill in the Region Championship game, but lost, 4-1, in a contest shortened by a thunderstorm. Maloney was named to the Washington Post All-County First Team.

**"Hope Garden" Continued From Page 17.**

to seek and provide performance opportunities in and around the community. The theatre is open to dancers outside of Hope Garden, by audition, as well. Larger venues would also be welcome. "One of my goals is [for the dancers] to perform at the White House—I don't care who the president is—and the Kennedy Center," Fran adds. "I have big goals. I think children can do a lot more than what adults give them credit for."

The next show, Classical Elements, will be on May 22 at 6:30 at Poolesville High School. For the first time, there will be a group classical piece. The older dancers have already performed solos from the classical repertoire in past concerts, but "Paquita," originally choreographed by Mazilier, will be the first group piece, and it will feature a guest soloist from the Maryland Youth Ballet, Kimberly Thompson of Poolesville. "Everyone's gonna love it."

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