



Our report on the Chelsea Flower Show is in the Garden on page 14.



What has Gavin Spadin been up to since he left Poolesville High School? See Catching Up on page 10.



Father Vincent Rigdon awaits the verdict of the dunk tank. More pictures of this and more events are in the Family Album on page 2.



The PHS Girls' lacrosse team wrapped up a big season. Read about it in Youth Sports on page 15.

Photograph by Hugh Flick

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

July 1, 2011

Volume VIII, Number 9

## Police Arrest Three In PHS Vandalism, Man Charged in Upcounty Burglaries

By Jack Toomey

On June 16, Montgomery County Police detectives arrested three local youths in connection with the defacing of the outer walls of Poolesville High School. Police had been called to the school on June 13 after an employee reporting for work found that the outer walls of the school had been painted with ethnically-offensive slogans and a swastika. Police also found that an outer shed had been broken into and a utility vehicle had been stolen.

Detectives arrested a sixteen-year-old Poolesville boy, a sixteen-year-old Dickerson boy, and a fourteen-year-old from Germantown. As a result of the arrest, the utility vehicle was recovered. A police source told a *Monocle* reporter that racial or ethnic intolerance was not necessarily the motive for the crime. The three were charged

with destruction of property and burglary and then released into the custody of their parents.

Principal Deena Levine said, "The quick resolution of this case is indicative of the support of our community. We want to thank those who contributed to the reward fund." She added, "This (act) is not a reflection of the school or community."

Police also announced that they had arrested a twenty-four-year old Myersville man and charged him with eight counts of first degree burglary in connection with a crime spree that had been happening in the upper part of Montgomery County. Since April 20, police in both Montgomery and Frederick Counties had been investigating a series of break-ins at homes in outlying areas. The



Poolesville High School

culprit had stolen thousands of dollars' worth of property, including jewelry, televisions, and other electronic appliances. Investigators received a break when a resident called and reported that a suspicious vehicle was parked in a neighbor's driveway. They then traced the vehicle to Andrew T. Olden of Myersville. Frederick County authorities arrested Olden and contacted Montgomery County

-Continued on Page 17.

## Historic Church Closes Doors

By Rande Davis

After 140 years, Poolesville's Elijah United Methodist Church has ceased services.

On June 19, 2011, a gathering of members and friends met at the church for a farewell, for fond recollections, and for heartfelt prayer. Richard Norwood, who has been a member for more than thirty-five years, explained to the *Monocle* that an aging congregation on fixed incomes made it difficult to

sustain an independent church, and on June 30, the property and cemetery merged with the Mt. Zion Warren United Methodist Church in Barnesville.

Under this new arrangement, the property and cemetery will be protected and maintained while the three-times-per-month Sunday services will no longer be offered at the



Elijah United Methodist Church after 140 years.

-Continued on Page 17.



*The Family Album is sponsored by  
Selby's Market  
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*Dan Carter, from Mad Science of Washington, D.C., wowed the kids with experiments at the Poolesville Library.*



*Our Lady of the Presentation held its annual picnic on June 18. Pictured are Father Vincent Rigdon, Deacon Bill Stevens, Annemarie Sartschev, Rick Sartschev, Morgan Sartschev, and LaVerne Stevens.*



*Local historian Jimmy Poole in front of Historic Medley District's John Poole House on Heritage Days, June 26.*




*President Abe Lincoln visited Whalen Commons on June 26 to speak. He was joined by the twenty-three-member professional ensemble of the Washington Revelers in their musical history tribute to Montgomery County.*



*The Bark in the Park Dog Show was a big draw at the June 24 Farmers' Market.*



*Families came to the Poolesville Farmers' Market for the vendors, food, and dog show.*



**Flags were lowered  
in honor of:**

**June 24: Maryland State Flag**  
Former Delegate Ruth M. Kirk, (District #44 for 28 years).

## Things to Do

### July 1 Cugini's Entertainment Night

Featuring: Bill Euler  
8:00 p.m.

### July 2 Cugini's Entertainment Night

Featuring: Bobby and the Jammers  
8:00 p.m.

### July 4 Traditional Family Fireworks

The Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department will offer the Fourth of July Celebration and Fireworks at the soccer fields at Hughes Road and Sugarland Road in Poolesville. The Jim Bowie

Band will once again offer music entertainment prior to the fireworks. The gates open at 6:00 p.m., and along with hot dogs and sausages, soft drinks and water, there will be Cugini's pizza, Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream, Kettle Korn, Kona Ice, 3D fireworks glasses, PHS spirit bands, and glow rings.

The event is sponsored by Jamison Real Estate, the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce, and Selby's Market with volunteers from the Boy Scouts, Monocacy Lions Club, and Odd Fellows helping out. Cost: \$5.00 (Note: to facilitate entry have your \$5.00 bill ready as you enter) Alcohol, pets, and coolers are prohibited.

### July 6 St. Peter's Community Dinner

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Salad, and more  
Plus: Fruit Pie Contest  
Adults: \$5.00, Kids: \$3.00  
20100 Fisher Avenue  
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

### July 8 Cugini's Entertainment Night

Featuring: The Colliders  
8:00 p.m.

### July 9 Cugini's Entertainment Night

Featuring: Doug Bell  
8:00 p.m.

### July 11 to July 15 VBS Memorial United Methodist Church

Theme: Shake It Up – where kids carry out God's recipe  
Explore the Bible as an ex-

citing cookbook filled with recipes for living out God's Word.

Free  
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
301-349-2010

### July 15 Poolesville Farmers' Market

Whalen Commons - Poolesville  
Local vendors selling fresh produce, herbs, artisan cheeses, sweet corn, fruits, breads, pastries, soaps, plants, dog treats, and more  
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### Cookin' in the Commons:

Cooking demonstrations provide by Mixed Greens and Community Kitchen, featuring Jim Woods and Monica Bulat.  
5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

-Continued on Page 19.

**Are You Ready For a New Image?**

Dave Ashley

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**Cemetery Plot -** One space, primary spot, \$1500 plus \$270 prep, Monocacy Cemetery, Beallsville. Owner 301-349-5998.

# Commentary

## Spuds

By John Clayton

One of our fondest friends took a whipping this week. The humble potato was thoroughly mashed by research at Harvard University on the effects of certain foods on obesity. The potato, pretty much in all forms, was the topping on the list. There is no joy in the potato fields of Idaho and Maine this evening, where eyes must surely be filling with tears. Somewhere else, Dan Quayle is laughing.

You may not think you have any skin in this game, but you do. The potato is everywhere, and if you give it up, you will miss it. You simply cannot deny that the potato has appeal. French fries, potato chips, boiled, mashed, or baked—any way you slice it, the potato is always right there.

The potato dominates the bad end of the list of foods that make you gain pounds, or avoid gaining pounds. Working from the weight-gaining end, the list reveals French fries, potato chips, potatoes in all forms, sugary beverages, and red meat. You probably don't have to go to Harvard to be able to spot a meat-and-potatoes kind of guy. The preferred foods on the good side of the list are vegetables, whole grains, fruits, nuts, and yoghurt. No, you do not get fries with that.

The villain at the core of this is, to no one's surprise, sugar. These starchy foods are processed into sugar in our bodies, raising our blood sugar levels and rather counter intuitively making us all the hungrier. This is doubtless why a good meal with potatoes in some form is routinely followed by a healthy, so to speak, desert. First Lady Michelle Obama has been telling us about this for some time. I have admired her resolve to take on a serious health issue such as child obesity, but I haven't really taken it to heart, not being a child, that is; however, now Harvard (didn't she go there?) has attacked the potato. This time it's personal.

I'm not sure what the Irish are making of all this, being a traditional potato-growing and -eating people. I'm not particularly Irish myself. I'm sure there's some Irish blood in my veins, but it has never been a part of my family's identity. My wife's family and hence my daughters, however, are quite Irish. The evening after the article came out in our local daily newspaper, my wife and I decided to use up our remaining potatoes (redskin, of course) and have mashed potatoes with our grilled turkey burgers. They were excellent, and I think I carried an extra pound to my morning weigh-in, but since we're probably going to be potato-free for a while, perhaps it will come off.

I have a strong feeling that this anti-potato fever will trigger some retaliation, and I am hoping the global-warming-denial crowd will rise to the occasion. All of the elements necessary to trigger some righteous rebellion are there. For one, the study is from Harvard, which we know is populated primarily by left wing academics who like to dream up new ways to look down at the rest of us. Some of these people probably have PhDs—elitists who want more nanny state rules for the rest of us. Need I say more? The best way to subvert them is not to come up with contradictory evidence; all you need to do is introduce some solid doubt in the court of public opinion. As the global warming deniers have demonstrated, once the average person, when confronted with scientific evidence about anything, says "I've heard there's some doubt about some of that," the game is pretty much won. Facts, schmacts. You can have all the Harvard intellectuals you want—I'll take Sarah Palin in a leather motorcycle jacket asserting her precious right to feed Freedom Fries to her kids. Which one of us will be on the 11:00 news?

Then again, maybe it would be better just to go with the smart money. Sweet potato fries, anyone?

### The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

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## Local News

### New Pastor for Memorial United Methodist Church

Memorial United Methodist Church has announced the appointment of Reverend Patricia Dols as the new pastor of the congregation in Poolesville. Pastor Dols begins her new responsibilities on July 1.

Reverend Dols (who goes by Pastor Pat) has served various-sized churches, from very small to very large, in the Baltimore-Washington Conference since 1996. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Behavioral and Social Sciences from the University of Maryland University College and a Master of Divinity Degree from Wesley Theological Seminary. She had previously served as pastor at Greenmount UMC in Hampstead, Maryland since 2008.

Pastor Pat was born in

Washington, D.C., grew up in Bethesda, and graduated from Walter Johnson High School in 1967. She and her husband, Tom, have six children, eight grandchildren, and two beagles named Faith and Hope. Pat and Tom reside in Memorial's parsonage at Poolesville.



Reverend Patricia "Pastor Pat" Dols

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Open House: July 2  
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**Adamstown:** Prestigious 4 BR /3.5 BA brick-front colonial in Adamstown Commons. Amenities include hardwood flrs., fluted columns, built-in bookcases, 2 fireplaces (in master BR & family rm.), 3-car side-load garage, huge patio, premier corner lot adjoining open space. MLS# FR7525641. Offered at \$535,000.



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**Comus:** Unique 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath post and beam home nestled on 25.2+/- acs. Amenities include: two-story great room w/stone fireplace, loft, updated kitchen w/ stainless steel appliances, wood flrs. MLS#MC 7546962. Offered at \$650,000.

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## Daytripper

# Dumbarton Oaks

By Ingeborg Westfall

What much-visited site in the heart of Georgetown (in fact on the highest point in Georgetown) boasts formal garden rooms featuring nearly one thousand roses, galleries of pre-Columbian art and Byzantine art with Roman mosaics on the floor and walls, not to mention a Music Room with an original El Greco painting, a Garden Library, a 1926 Steinway grand piano once played by Paderewski, a rare book collection, and finally, it was the location in 1944 of diplomatic discussions that led to proposals for the charter of the United Nations? If you said Dumbarton Oaks, you'd be correct.

The complex history of Dumbarton Oaks dates to 1703, when Scottish immigrant Ninian Beall was granted 795 acres at the mouth of Rock Creek on its western side. He called it the

Rock of Dumbarton after a Scottish landmark. By 1798, with the establishment of Georgetown and the locating of the national capital in Washington, the estate was reduced to only eighty acres, and later to a fifty-three-acre tract named the Oaks.

Career diplomat Robert W. Bliss and his wife Mildred B. Bliss, heiress to wealth earned from Fletcher's Castoria (a popular patent medicine) purchased the property in 1920, renaming it Dumbarton Oaks. They had wed in 1908 and then spent years abroad, as he was posted to Venice, St. Petersburg, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Paris, and the Hague. In 1922, Mrs. Bliss chose Beatrix Farrand to design the gardens on the property, a collaboration that continued for thirty years. Farrand is still admired for her notable designs, including the Rose Garden at the White House (now known as the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden). At Dumbarton as elsewhere, she worked to fit the design to the land, rather than distorting the land by imposing a plan on it. With their separate rooms, their

use of native plants, and their focus on providing color and texture in all seasons, the terraced gardens showcase Farrand's trailblazing talent. Mrs. Bliss was an active participant in development of the gardens, contributing ideas and preferences, and importing physical objects to complement the gardens. There have reportedly been sightings of the ghost of Mrs. Bliss wandering through the gardens.

As if the gardens weren't enough to admire, extensive art collections acquired over many years offer visitors glimpses into widely varying times and cultures. In 1940, the Blisses donated the estate and collections to the trustees of Harvard University as the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection. In addition to sixteen acres, the donation included 1,200 Byzantine objects from the fourth to the fifteenth centuries, as well as 17,000 Byzantine coins, a library of 10,000 volumes, and 800 pieces of pre-Columbian art including objects ranging from forty textiles to stone sculptures of Aztec deities and animals to relief panels with

representations of Mayan kings to gold and silver from Andean metalsmiths. At the same time, they gave twenty-seven acres to the U.S. Park Service. The remaining ten were sold to Denmark for an embassy site.

If you decide to visit Dumbarton Oaks—and I urge you to do so, it really is a place with many different aspects of beauty inside and out—be aware that in the heat of summer, the terraced gardens may present a challenge. It's really easy and pleasant to descend from garden room to garden room, but it can be a chore to trudge back up to the mansion's high point on a typical hot, humid summer day. Many nearby restaurants offer opportunities to recharge one's energy.

In the modest words of a docent, Dumbarton Oaks does "a little bit of a lot of different things." I'd like to add that they do all those things very, very well. More information is available at [www.doaks.org](http://www.doaks.org).



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# Tidbits

## PES Principal Retires

Mrs. Darlyne McEleney of Poolesville Elementary has retired after eighteen years of service as the school's principal. The PTA recently sponsored a farewell tribute to her at Cugini's Restaurant where the owners agreed to donate ten percent of the proceeds to the PTA. Parents and students came by to thank her personally for all that she has done and to celebrate with her. The PTA gave her a beautiful Tiffany's silver key necklace as a reminder that she holds the key to their hearts. They also gave her a 2011 yearbook and the attending students signed the book with warm wishes.

Mrs. McEleney told the *Monocle* that she plans to join her husband, who retired last year, in travel and in spending more time together. "He wants a playmate" said the woman who spent her career guiding thousands of students through their

elementary school years. Their first trip is planned for Italy to "tour and enjoy the food." Asked what she will miss the most, Mrs. McEleney pointed to the wonderful relationship with the students, parents, and staff who have been such a big part of her life and vice versa. Mrs. McEleney's replacement is Douglas Robbins, who will be profiled in the next issue of the *Monocle*.

## Frosted Dishwasher Glasses

Many folks have been complaining to the town of white crusted glasses and dishes after putting them through their dishwasher. The culprit is not the water supply but a ban or restriction on phosphorous in dishwashing detergents in sixteen states including Maryland. Stores are not allowed to sell detergent with more than 0.5 percent phosphorous. Is there a solution? Yes, while we are not aware of other products that do the job, one concentrate, added along with your standard dishwashing detergent, called Lemi Shine, now carried lo-



Principal McEleney retired after eighteen years of service at Poolesville Elementary School.

cally by Selby's Market, clears up the problem.

## Be a Friend of Poolesville Day

Plans for the 2011 Poolesville Day festivities are getting into high gear as the summer begins. The success of the day is due to the support and sponsorship by the town government, businesses, and the many vendors. Many people have also joined in by working on the committee or as volunteers to help out during the event. Many neighbors have also become a "Friend of the Festival" (FOF) which has become an important part of the support base and gives individuals a great way to come forward to help defray financial costs. By making a \$50.00 donation, FOFs receive a beautiful and high-quality polo shirt emblazoned with the Friend of the Festival - Poolesville Day 2011, and are listed as donors on the website, facebook page, and

on a banner placed at the event. It's a great way to help with the costs of new activities, attractions, and additional production costs. It's also a wonderful way to say thank you for all the volunteer work and financial support that makes it such a terrific day.

## Mihm Earns Professional Certification

Bernie Mihm, Jr. of Fine Earth Landscape, Inc. has successfully completed the Certified Arborist examination administered through the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and the local Chapter of the ISA.

The International Society of Arboriculture is a scientific and educational organization devoted to the dissemination of information in the installation, care, and preservation of shade and ornamental trees.

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## Youth Sports

### Montgomery Soccer Team Wins Big in Virginia

The Montgomery County Timberwolves, a U-15 soccer team coached by Poolesville's Rod Nubgaard, won the MD/VA Memorial Day Virginian Soccer Tournament in Springfield, Virginia. The team is made up of girls from various high schools in the county and was started in 2005 with girls from Poolesville and Germantown.

At their team retreat in March at Poolesville, the girls made winning this tournament as their number one goal for the spring. Most of the players also played a high school sport over the spring season, kept their grades up, and made a strong commitment to training as a team each week.



*Champion Timberwolves*  
 Front row: Val Cantor, Julia Doody, Marisa Brisbane, Evi Liu, Alyssa Nubgaard, and Cristina Guillen. Second row: Rachel Hollander, Christina Fahey, Grace Sekscienski, Lauralyn Heon, Anna-Marie Murgia, Fiona Caretto, Anne Jeke. Back row: Head Coach Rod Nubgaard, Vanessa Ramirez, Kayla Sukri, Amy Wu, Chloe Maczka, and Assistant Coach Eduardo Ramirez

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## Youth Sports

### PAA Lacrosse Sprouts Quickly

By Jeff Stuart

"The Poolesville Athletic Association (PAA) started a lacrosse program to get the kids who play lacrosse to stay in Poolesville," says Laura Garner, the Vice President of PAA. "[Kids] had to play for other towns before. The program is new this year, and it has been a great success. The PAA boys U11 lacrosse team finished the season at 8-1-1 and number one in their division. Pete Barry and Ray Kinzie are the only two kids on the team who have played before."

"I had no lacrosse experience prior to this year," says Head Coach Rick Beaton. "Never played, never coached, but I had fifteen years of experience coaching soccer, basketball, softball, and baseball." With the help of clinics provided by the U.S. Lacrosse Association, not only

did he learn the game, but he also learned coaching techniques.

"The boys worked hard this season. Nineteen out of the twenty-one boys have never played lacrosse before. They play as a team and it has paid off. They have won as a team. They play hard, hit hard, and work hard at practice." Coach Beaton told the *Monocle*. "We teach good sportsmanship. Most all games have been very close, but these kids have come out victorious by playing with a lot of heart."

Scoring has been lead by attackers Pete Barry, Ray Kinzie, Foster Holmquist, and Roger Yerger, and middies Michael Baeshor, Quinn Brentholtz, Noah Garner, and Brian Jacobs (out with an injury), and Niko Sofelkanik.

Of course, these goals couldn't have been scored without the assists from attackers David Couvillion, Danny Geehreg, Darby Johnson, James Royal, and John Sartschev. While the offense has scored fifty-three goals, the defense

has only given up twenty-three. The defense has been led by goalie Garrett Fultz and aggressive defenders Nicholas Beaton, Preston Foster, Ethan Gaddis, Quavon Gaither, Mickey Gross, and Drew Turner.

Many factors have played into their success. Poolesville High School has supported them one hundred percent by allowing the use of the fields, lacrosse goals, and the concession stand. Leni Barry who runs the concession all year says she just wants the kids to have that game day experience. There was also a lot of support from the parents.

Another area of support came from experienced players. They had a current PHS varsity player, Kirby

Carmack, come out to help with individual skills. Josh Funk, a former PHS player, who also played at Ohio State and professionally, come out twice a week to work on individual skills. Assistant coaches are Craig Gaddis, Keith Jacobs, Frank Johnson, and Mike Royal.

The first year success was even more remarkable in that practically the whole team was new to the sport. They were undefeated until the final game of the season. The camaraderie you hope for in a team was there. The boys were in high spirits.



Poolesville PAA Lacrosse 2011

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## Police Blotter

By Jack Toomey

### Recent Crime

**Burglary** 19500 block of Fisher Avenue, 19600 block of Fisher Avenue, 17500 block of West Willard Road.

**Drug offense** 17700 block of Cattail Road.

**Disorderly conduct complaint** 19600 block of Fisher Avenue.

### Past Incidents

**July 1, 1967** A forty-eight-year-old Philadelphia man was sentenced to twenty years in prison for the burglary of a Montgomery County home. Joseph Stocker, a member of the K&A gang, had a record of thirteen previous arrests. The gang, named after a particular Philadelphia neighborhood, often preyed on homes in affluent Montgomery neighborhoods.

**July 13, 1906** Waverly Hill, a resident of the Rockville area, was given fifteen lashes across the back after being convicted of wife beating. Judge Mace ordered that Hill be taken to the jail yard and instructed Sheriff Howard to apply the whip. Howard then used a cowhide whip and applied the whip with vigor. Except for red welts across his back, Hill seemed to handle the punishment well. Upon release, Judge Mace told Hill that if he came back to his courtroom that he would receive forty lashes and be sent to prison for a year.

**July 17, 1906** Henry Prettyman, a man who had been shot at the festival near Rockville, died at the Garfield Hospital in Washington. Bob Askins had been previously arrested. Askins told authorities that he had shot at a woman and mistakenly hit Prettyman.

**July 20, 1927** The county commissioners voted to give each police officer \$300. The money was to be used to purchase uniforms and provide maintenance on their motorcycles.

**July 26, 1936** The Montgomery County police baseball team was scheduled to play the fire department team at the fair-ground field at Rockville. Controversy broke out in the days preceding the game because the police accused the firemen of using a ringer in their lineup. States Attorney James Pugh, an all-city player from McKinley High, was listed as the second baseman. Roy Bodmer of Beallsville, the manager of the police team, vowed to win the game despite the ineligible player.

## Catching Up

### A Helping Hand In a Foreign Land

By Dominique Agnew

When Gavin Spadin, Poolesville High graduate of 2007, signed up for Elizabethtown College's new study abroad program with the University of the Gambia (UTG), little did he know that he would be the only student to apply. One of Gavin's professors at Elizabethtown, located in Pennsylvania, Professor Kurt DeGode, had gone to the Republic of the Gambia, a small country on the west coast of Africa surrounded on the other three sides by Senegal, last August to set up the study abroad program.

Gavin spent this past spring semester—his last before graduation—in the Republic of the Gambia—a pioneer of sorts. While there, he studied with six other American students from Juniata College and Susquehanna University, also located in Pennsylvania.

In addition to taking three classes at the University of the Gambia, Gavin was working on the completion of his senior project with the thesis entitled, "Renewable Energy in Developing Nations." The project also included the implementation of his thesis with other Gambian students. In particular, he was tasked with getting a seven-year-old solar energy system at a Gambian community center in the Pirang area, which had fallen into disrepair, up and running again. This all tied into a large part of his thesis on how to best help developing nations by not giving things directly. When items are donated, if they break, there's no incentive by those who receive them to fix them. Instead, the thinking is to provide microloans and information. This allows the people to take ownership and be more involved in controlling their own destiny.

Living in the Republic of the Gambia was a bit of an eye-opening experience for Gavin. First of all, he had fine lodgings. "For a developing nation, the accommodations were exceptional," he says. There was running water on most days, electricity fifty percent of the time, and internet fifty percent of the time. "I was very satisfied with where I got to live." Gavin did have a bit of free time and really enjoyed the beaches. "The beaches were very nice," he says, "nicer than around Dakar," the capital of Senegal. He enjoyed the chance to visit Dakar for a long weekend. "It was excellent except for my inability to speak French." (Friendly aside: you may think you need Spanish in the U.S., but the rest of the world speaks French—let this be a lesson to you.)

Unfortunately, as a rare white in an African nation, people constantly tried to get money from him every time he

-Continued on Page 11.

“A Helping Hand in a Foreign Land” Continued From Page 10.

walked out of his door. When he would explain in Wolof, the language spoken in the Republic of the Gambia, Senegal, and Mauritania, that he was a student and not a tourist, then they would stop. The area near UTG in Serrekunda, the largest city in the Gambia, is a strong draw for tourists, a huge part of the Gambian economy.

After four months in the Gambia, Gavin is happy to be home in a familiar culture, “not to say it was a bad experience,” he says. “It’s just a different place.” He has graduated from college with a degree in physics, he’s happily engaged to be married in September, and he and his fiancée hope to travel again to Africa.

**Kentucky Bred**  
By Mary Ann Powell



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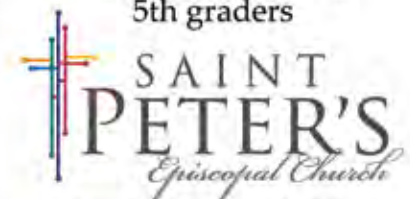
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# Center Stage

## Local Author Encourages Aspiring Authors

By Kristen Milton

Preparing to leave the Upcounty physically, author Melissa Foster hopes to remain in spirit in a literary legacy consisting of a Boyds-set novel and a recently-awarded young author's contest. "I think the more that you can get your child to use their own creativity, there is such value in that," said Foster, a mother of six who decided to balance her four years of service as the Boyds Civic Association president with a gift to the area's children before moving to Williamsport in August. "Things we grew up with, like being entertained by reading, I feel are going by the wayside, so if we can offer that to them, it

would be great."

The Aspiring Authors Contest came together quickly, Foster said. With \$25 prizes provided by her family and a peer judge in her ten-year-old son, the contest was opened to Monocacy Elementary School's fourth and fifth graders in May after a discussion on writing that impressed Foster with the students' enthusiasm and acuity. Winners were fifth grader Anna Skendaris and fourth grader Vincent Chim. Chim's winning entry wove five fairy tales together in an original story.

Foster, on the other hand, drew inspiration from closer to home in her second novel, *Chasing Amanda*, which features landmarks from around the area in telling the fictional story of a clairvoyant witness to a young girl's abduction whose own daughter is kidnapped years later in Boyds.

"The idea for the story came to me as I was running on White Ground Road," said Foster, who has lived in Boyds since 1998. "I started thinking how easily you

could disappear in these woods and what would happen if you did....I wanted to stay true to the idea."

Staying true to the idea meant that local readers will recognize road names and churches, historic houses and playgrounds as they peruse the novel's pages. One reader sent Foster an email claiming to have already taken a driving tour based on the book.

"[Upcounty residents] will have the inside track and I guarantee you they'll never look at those places the same way again," Foster said. "I don't run [on White Ground] alone any longer."

The writing of the first version of *Chasing Amanda*, released in April by Solstice Publishing, actually pre-dated Foster's self-published 2009 novel *Megan's*



Vincent Chim and Anna Skendaris, winners of the Monocacy Elementary School's Aspiring Writers Contest, with local author Melissa Foster.

*Way*, which has garnered several awards and is currently being made into an independent film.

It's a development that Foster never expected. "I don't go too far with thinking what [the movie] is going to mean for the future," Foster said. "I'm just thrilled it's gone as far as it has and people have enjoyed it."

Set in Massachusetts's Cape

-Continued on Page 19.

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# In the Garden

## Highlights of Chelsea

By Maureen O'Connell

The British are often characterized by their love of dogs, horses, and gardens, though not necessarily in that order. London has many beautiful parks and flower gardens, and every year, since 1862, it hosts the Chelsea Flower Show at the end of May. This year, tickets were sold out weeks before opening day, even with record high prices. This iconic event has been described as the start of the English social scene and the most prestigious flower show in the world. I missed seeing it this year, but I have had the pleasure of visiting it five other times. One indicator of its national appeal is the fact that the event is filmed and broadcast live by the BBC for its five-day run. This year's reports of the show reflect a changing thematic trend. The Great Pavilion still housed over one hundred nurseries with their finest, rarest, and, hopefully, blue ribbon-worthy plant specimens, and the grounds of the Royal Hospital in Chelsea were decked out with thirty-two show gardens, but the role of gardens and the environment was addressed more fully by more gardeners. The trickiest and most stressful part of any garden show is to ensure that your plants do not peak before the beginning of the show. London usually does not have to worry about excessive heat in May, but this year was the exception; it was very hot. Many show gardeners grew their plants in cooler Scotland.

Most of the show gardens that I have seen over the years at Chelsea were not easily transferred to your average gardener's backyard. They were quite fanciful, complicated, and expensive. Most Chelsea exhibitors are not of the mindset of Ladew Topiary Gardens' founder, Harvey Ladew, the subject of a recent

column of mine. He designed gardens of which a person could say, "I could duplicate that design or plantings in my home garden." This year, I was particularly interested in the Royal Bank of Canada's New Wild Garden. Dr. Nigel Dunnett, who is considered by many as one of the great plantsman pioneers of our time, designed it. He is a lecturer in urban horticulture at the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom, and the director of the Green Roof Center, which champions green roofs and urban meadows. He has been selected as a lead horticultural design consultant for the London 2012 Olympic Park.

In his New Wild Garden, Dr. Dunnett has brought together two themes that have been used intermittently in the past one hundred years: the arts and crafts movement, and the wild garden. This fact caught my interest; last October I visited Gravetye Manor in Sussex, the home and gardens of the nineteenth-century, Irish-born gardener, William Robinson. He is credited with inspiring naturalistic or wild gardening. Dr. Dunnett viewed Robinson as the linking character joining these two themes. This Irishman encouraged British gardeners to break free from the Victorian, labor-intensive floral carpet designs and Versailles-like, perfectly-raked gravel walkways. The *Financial Times* reported that for Chelsea, Dr. Dunnett took this concept one step further into the twenty-first century. "We are updating the wild garden and putting it in an urban context. We are celebrating nature and natural planting but at the same time shying away from being too purist. For example, we are combining garden plants with native wildflowers."

While one does not usually speak of the arts and crafts movement as an influence on gardening, Dr. Dunnett explores this connection in his Chelsea garden. One of the cornerstones of this movement is the principle of sourcing local materials. One of the components of his garden included a series of drystone walls. For its building blocks, he sent

his students to salvage materials from dumpsters and charity shops. These objects ranged from books to old timbers to dinky car parts. These walls would serve dual purposes as all the nooks and crannies will become bug shelters.

Closer to home, look no further than Lewis Orchards to see the use of local materials in construction—kudos to the Lewises and their beautiful, well-built Great Seneca Sandstone Dickerson Wall. I especially liked the little tulip soldiers who lined up jauntily all along the front of the wall in April.

What can we take away from Dr. Dunnett's Chelsea garden and apply to our Monocacy gardens? All flower shows, from the great ones like Chelsea and Philadelphia to the local garden club's show, exist to showcase the new, the rare, the biggest, and the

best in the world of gardening: plants from roses to begonias, riding mowers, fertilizers, garden furniture, and garden tools. One can collect useful tips and designs from even the most grandiose. You just have to narrow your field of interest. I was introduced to the stately allium Purple Sensation at the 2006 Chelsea show. It appeared in all the top show gardens that year. My garden is now punctuated with these striking, purple, stargazed globes in many of my perennial gardens.

-Continued on Page 17.



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## Youth Sports

# PHS Girls' Lacrosse Saw Tougher Competition

By Dominique Agnew

For years, Montgomery County girls' lacrosse has lagged far behind Carroll and Howard Counties in skill and experience. Four years ago, Montgomery County finally added the junior varsity teams for the first time, and there have been teams and camps springing up left and right for the younger-aged players. The gap is narrowing, and very soon, Montgomery County teams will be competing for the state championship along with the other top counties in the state.

In the seasons from 2007 to 2010, the Falcons were a

combined 45-3 against county teams. Lack of competition left the dominating Poolesville High School girls' lacrosse team behind when it came time to compete in the region against Howard and Carroll County teams—that won handily. This year, however, the in-county wins did not come so easily to Poolesville, and they suffered a few tough losses during the regular season. What could have been an undefeated regular season, ended 9-4, but the Falcons were still seen as a team to beat, with only two losses in the county over the previous two seasons, both to Churchill. The level of play in Montgomery County has raised the bar.

On the other hand, when the region competitions began, the Falcons were in a position to finally get beyond the first round. Unfortunately, injury was a contributing factor with two starting players sidelined and unable to contribute, and a third top scorer out because of an



Photograph by Hugh Flick

The 2011 PHS girls' lacrosse team await the National Anthem preceding a home game.

academic conflict. "We played a great game against South Carroll," says Coach Mark Agnew. "They could have easily given up with so many players out and the prom the night before, but the team showed a lot of heart and I am proud of the way they fought." Even so, with three starters out, it was a winnable game—which goes to show how far along Montgomery County girls' lacrosse has come, and how this progress has helped the top teams in the county.

As happens every year, the team is sad to lose its seniors: captains, Chantal Agnew, Katelyn Keese, and Emily Moore; and Jocelyne Mackie, Meaghan Rolle, and Cindy Zhou. Also stepping down as coach after three years is Mark Agnew. "It's been a great run for us over the last three years. I feel like we have improved as a team every year, and the future is bright for the Poolesville lacrosse program."

Of course, the girls still win accolades across the county.

Midfielder Chantal Agnew earned an honorable mention nod in the *Gazette* alongside top-notch private school players. All-County honors were bestowed upon: Chantal Agnew and junior Gina Lee, first team; and midfielder Katelyn Keese and defender Emily Moore, second team. Division honors went to: Chantal Agnew, Katelyn Keese, Gina Lee, Emily Moore, and juniors Allyson Dahlen and Bonnie Giovanetti.

Chantal will continue her lacrosse career as she has signed to play Division I lacrosse at Wagner College on an academic/athletic scholarship.



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**"In the Garden" Continued**  
From Page 14.

This year I added the variety Globemaster; its flowering dome is almost as big as a basketball; it makes quite a statement.

Dunnett was very interested in creating fully-functioning rain gardens. The United Kingdom has a different issue with rain than we have. People often complain that it rains too much in London; we often have the opposite problem of drought during our garden season. I am now planting annuals and perennials that are drought and heat tolerant. I am also using succulents in containers on the very sunny parts of my patio. Too much water will kill them.

Competition is very keen at Chelsea; a good showing can give a big boost to a nursery or garden center, or hybridizer. The gold is the award of Best in Show. This year the prize went to the *Daily Telegraph's* garden designed by Cleve West. He modestly describes his garden concept in these words: "It explores the opposing themes of timelessness in the mysterious and atmospheric setting of a sunken garden." In simpler terms, he combined, in a sunken gravel garden, Mediterranean and English style plants, framed by a dry stonewall, to create a relaxing and inspirational garden.

If you get a chance next year to visit the Chelsea Flower Show, do it; it is quite a gardening experience.

**"Church Closes" Continued**  
From Page 1.

site.

The current building was built in 1950 after the second structure on the site burned down. Elijah United was founded in 1871 after the property was purchased for \$150.00 in 1868. Originally set up as a "Negro schoolhouse and graveyard," the property served the African-American community, which expanded shortly after the Civil War.

According to a booklet prepared by the Historic Medley District, Inc., the first minister was Elijah Aukard, from the Big Woods area in Dickerson. Elijah United was part of a circuit of churches serving the African-American community including Mt. Zion Methodist Episcopal, St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal of Sugarland, Bell's Chapel near Sugarloaf Mountain, and the Warren Methodist Episcopal Church in Martinsburg.

In 1870, a large, two-story structure referred to as Love and Charity Hall served the educational and social needs of the

**"Youth Arrested" Continued**  
From Page 1.

detectives who placed the additional charges.

Olden was charged with the burglaries of the following Montgomery County locations: 20400 block of Mouth of Monocacy Road, Dickerson, 16900 and 15200 blocks of Barnesville Road, Boyds, 11000 block of Bethesda Church Road, Damascus, 26600 block of Haney Avenue, Damascus, 24000 block of Clarksburg Road, Clarksburg, 14300 block of Sugarloaf Vista Drive, Clarksburg, and the 13200 block of Lewisdale Road, Clarksburg.

Olden was being held at the Frederick County jail in lieu of bond.

community until the first church structure was built in 1871. That building was replaced in 1909. In 1950, a fire totally destroyed the church and all of its cherished records as well. The Jerusalem Baptist Church welcomed the congregation to worship with them until the new building was constructed. This was not the first time the community rallied behind the congregation. In 1982, Elijah was hit by vandals who desecrated the church, tore the draperies, "carved KKK in the top of the communion table, and stole the American flag." The Poolesville community rallied again, and at the next Sunday service, over one hundred men and women came to worship in the church to show support for the members of Elijah. Speakers spoke against the hateful desecration, and the woodworking shop at Poolesville High School refinished the communion table.

The historical nature of Elijah and the cemetery was formerly recognized when the property was included in the Maryland Historic Sites Survey.

At the time of the closing, over forty families claimed Elijah as their spiritual home. A banner for the church proclaims the church to be faithful servants, sustained by God's grace. Their mission statement was powerful but simple: To promote spiritual growth, to serve and to love one another, and to work together to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. The doors will close, but their mission will continue in conjunction with the congregants at Mt. Zion Warren United Methodist.



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July 1: Bill Euler  
July 2: Bobby & The Jammers  
July 8: The Colliders  
July 9: Doug Bell  
July 15: Ron Kemp Project  
July 16: Snakebit

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# Remembrance

## Jack Stringer: Longtime Resident and Activist in Poolesville

By Rande Davis



Jack Stringer in Rio de Janeiro, February 1982.

John "Jack" Stringer of Poolesville passed away on June 17, 2011 after a heart attack and respiratory failure. Jack, whose maternal family was from Poolesville, lived at his home on Beall Street for over thirty years. He was well-known in the community as a concerned citizen and activist for various causes in the late 1970s and 1980s. His parents, Harry R. and Marguerite K. Stringer, his brother Harry R. Stringer, Jr. and sister Joan Miles preceded him in death.

He was born in Washington, D.C. and graduated from Wilson High School. He was a graduate of the University of Maryland, majoring in English and Journalism. Jack's interest in journalism came from his father who was a writer for the old *Times Herald* in Washington and eventually with the *Washington Post*. Jack's father wrote a popular racehorse column called "String Along with Stringer" in the 1930s.

Mr. Stringer served in the Korean War in the beginning of his three years of service and finished his military service in

Japan with the 4<sup>th</sup> Mobile Radio Company. While in the army in Japan, he was stationed at Camp Zama north of Tokyo serving as the radio disc jockey for the military Far East Network, which broadcast music and news throughout the Far East. His daily show aired from dawn to mid-afternoon primarily to military families and others interested in an English language broadcast. At the end of his service in Japan, he served at Supreme Headquarters in Tokyo under General Maxwell Taylor, as a public information radio reporter. In that position, he produced radio interviews of soldiers serving in Japan that would be sent home to their families for broadcast on their local radio stations.

After the military, Jack began his writing career with the New York Daily News Bureau located at the National Press Club in Washington in the mid-1950s. Eventually, he had a twenty-two-year career as a public information writer for the federal government working for various departments, including Health,

Education, and Welfare, the Federal Drug Administration, and the National Oceanic Service.

Jack had a great passion as an outdoors sportsman, especially as a duck hunter and fisherman. Locally, he was very active in an organization that he helped develop, the Poolesville Citizen's Association.

He is survived by his niece Geoya Stout, her husband, Glenn Stout, and children Kathryn, Nikolas, Timothy, and Gabriel Stout.

A memorial service will be held at Hilton Funeral home on July 1 at 11:00 a.m. followed by a reception for friends at his home in Poolesville.

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“Center Stage” Continued  
From Page 12.

Cod, where Foster has vacationed since childhood, the film version of *Megan’s Way* is being cast and will be submitted to festivals like Sundance and Cannes. Foster said she was referred to the director by a reader.

But as readers and reviewers discovered her first book last year, Foster was busy turning a 600-page earlier manuscript into the 376-page *Chasing Amanda*. She said she feels lucky that her first attempt at a novel was picked up by a publisher and hopes the same will happen for her third effort, currently in the hands of her editor.

The third novel, *Come Back to Me*, is “an international love story/ tragedy” with characters based in Bethesda, Foster said.

Meanwhile, Foster has been exhaustively promoting the two books through blog tours and book signings, among other events, and preparing for her

family’s move to Williamsport.

“It’s very sad to leave a place you’ve been so long,” she said. “[Boyd’s] is the epitome of a small town.”

Foster won’t be gone forever. In addition to a book signing at Poolesville Day, she plans to return in the fall to sponsor a second Aspiring Authors Contest, a competition she hopes will continue both at the Dickerson school and at the elementary school in her new hometown. “I am so thrilled that I did it; I never knew I would like it so much,” she said. “I feel like it gives something back to the kids.”

“Things to Do” Continued  
From Page 3.

Featuring: The Bob Lauder Band offering a mix of country, folk, and rock  
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**Cugini’s Entertainment Night**

Featuring: Ron Kemp Project  
8:00 p.m.

July 16  
**Cugini’s Entertainment Night**

Featuring: Snakebit  
8:00 p.m.

July 17  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Classic Car Show**

Urbana Volunteer Fire Department  
Vintage, classic cars and trucks  
Vehicle registration: 10:00 a.m.  
Showtime: Noon to 4:00 p.m.

July 18 to July 22  
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July 23: The Great Train Robbery  
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July 22  
**Cugini’s Entertainment Night**  
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July 22  
**Cugini’s Entertainment Night**  
Featuring: JDN Band  
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