

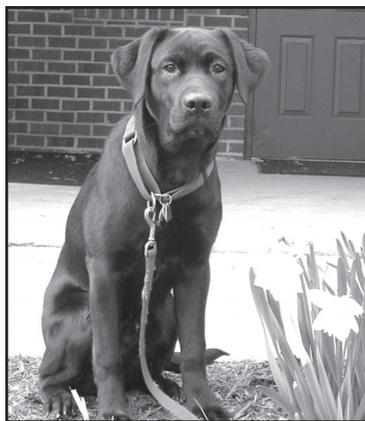
What secrets are guarded by this gateway?

see Mystery History page 9



Coach Mathias offers some tips to senior Greg Brooks.

see Sports page 12



Bo, gentle yet courageous.

see Profiles page 4



Spring has sprung in Poolesville.

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

April 29, 2004 through May 13, 2004

Volume 1, Number 4

## Heritage Area Management Plan—Boon or Bane?

With the discussion of the new Poolesville Master Plan, the time is right to review the Montgomery County Heritage Area Management Plan (MCHA) as incorporated in the current draft. Proponents of the MCHA come from a diverse group of historians, preservationists, and environmentalists, who see real benefits from the MCHA plan. Many local businesses see the benefits of weekend and special event visitors as an acceptable and desirable way of increasing their sales. The Plan's detractors are concerned that the town would cede its authority and autonomy to the county or to the MCHA planning group.

The properties most affected by heritage preservation would be in downtown Poolesville, where zoning law would become more restrictive,

especially as it relates to the facades of designated historic buildings. This area is designated as a Target Investment Zone, where grants, loans for acquisition, revenue bonds, and possibly a Heritage Tax Credit would serve as financial incentives for property owners to accept new restrictions. The Plan would also implement a streetscape concept that would include period lighting, tree planting, landscaping and sidewalk improvements.

Funding guarantees from outside the township will be an essential part of the discussion. Many believe that this should be decided primarily on the town's willingness and ability to support the program financially with or without county and state aid. With current state cutbacks the future of such support may be in doubt.

The potential for our schools to have expanded "living history" programs could be substantial. To better envision the impact of the Plan, residents could visit towns with similar dedication to historic preservation such as New Market, Maryland; Shepherdstown, West Virginia, or Staunton, Virginia.



Will the heritage plan boost visitors?

## Forging Works of Art with Hammer, Anvil and Tongs

For Poolesville's Bob Ouellette, even at eleven years old it was clearly a case of love at first sight. He was attending the Potomac Celtic Festival when one of the exhibitors, a blacksmith, caught his attention. To say the least, he was smitten.

For the next six years any typical weekend would find Bob in his backyard forging a future from his fascination with the art of blacksmithing. In the beginning he worked from a lean-to. While other boys his age were playing computer games or watching TV, young Bob would be outside painstakingly trying to turn a block of metal into a sword, knife or spear.

Over time his interest caused him to read book after book about smithing, and then he would return to his backyard to experiment on the things he had read about. His interest eventually gained the approval and support of his parents, Kathy and Bob Sr., who found themselves on many weekends at various gatherings, conventions, and festivals that featured blacksmith skills and talents. We know

all about the soccer mom, but blacksmith mom? Who would have guessed? The parental support led to the building of a full fledged smithy in the backyard which allowed Bob to pursue his interest no matter what the weather conditions.

Blacksmithing has emerged from its historical role as each hamlet's primary manufacturing company to become, today, an element of the fine arts world. In fact, a college recently visited by Bob, Northern Michigan University, offers an undergraduate program in "Metal Smithing Arts Program." You may have seen some wrought-iron gateways that have elaborate designs and images. These gates and fences are excellent examples of smithing as art.

Although Bob has endured a little kidding from his friends about his hobby (heh, you're gonna burn the house down) most of them are fascinated by his work. The earlier interest in knives and spears turned into crosses, candle holders, fireplace pokers, and even to the point of creating a black rose in its own vase.

Taking additional courses on Saturdays at Montgomery College, assisting at the Carroll County Farm Museum, and joining the Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland have added to his experience, knowledge and education. Local smithies like Greg Campbell of Viers Mill Road have also helped Bob along the way. If you are looking for something very unique, Poolesville Garden and Pool (behind Hearthside Antiques) offers a number of items made by Bob. One thing is for certain. Should you ever drop a piece of his art, it won't break into smithereens.



Bob Ouellette, 17 years old, practices his passion for smithing.

**Poetry Corner**

**Mothers**

As you may know, from time to time  
I will jot down a little rhyme

About some subject or another.  
Could I do one to honor Mother?

“Sure, sure, be glad to do it  
After all there’s nothin’ to it.”

Something simple, light and breezy.  
Well, it turns out it’s not so easy.

Mothers are of the feminine sex  
And are therefore, very complex.

It is, dear friend, not an easy trick  
To figure out what makes them tick

Why will they for miniscule wages.  
Bear with children’s difficult stages?

Why will she from life’s very start,  
Carry you safely beneath her heart?

Why her composure never lose  
While enduring the Terrible Twos

Why, so you won’t turn out a fool.  
Encourage you to do well at school?

Why endure all the worry and stress?  
The reason is love, one has to guess,

That, and maybe there is one other.  
The hope one day, to become...a  
GRANDmother

The Mudge

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**Family Album**



Author Hilary Hyland visited PES to discuss her book *The Wreck of Ethie*. Joining Ms. Hyland, left to right, are Kevin Heimback, Mrs. Black, Savanna McClure and Tyler Giarratano.



Dalis Davidson of Dancing Leaf Farm and Cecelia Battle at the Spring Studio Tour.



Connie Fiedler of Gaithersburg buys handmade kitchen tools from Chris Holmgren of Seneca Creek Joinery.

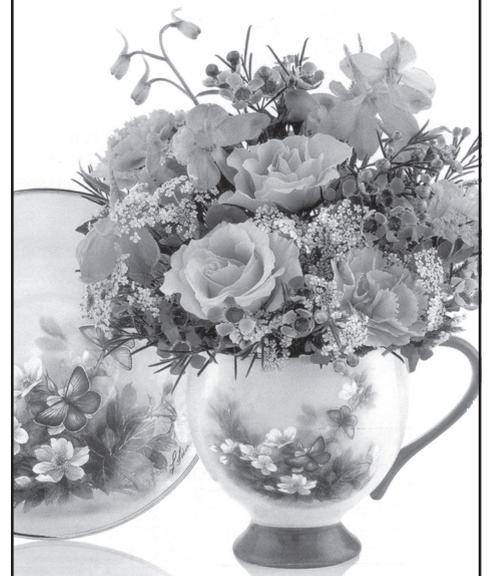


Susan Due Percy of Sugarloaf Studio discusses the tools of the trade with Dxing Chen, Professor of Art at Shenzhen University in China.



Ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick was the featured speaker at Frederick County's Lincoln Day dinner. Chairman Chuck Jenkins and Del. Paul Stull greet her.

**A cupful of love.**



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## The Pulse

### Cub Scout Pack 694

By Bruce Kirby  
Special to the Monocacy Monocle

Cub Scout Pack 694 held its Car Wash fundraiser on Saturday, April 17, 2004 to raise money for upcoming activities, which include a Camping Trip at Little Bennett Park on May 8 to May 9, a campout at Hershey Park on August 28 and August 29,, and an encampment on the Battleship New Jersey and a trip to Philadelphia on October 2 through October 3.

Pack 694, for boys in first through fifth Grade is Poolesville's only Cub Scout Pack. It offers a boy an opportunity to participate in activities that he normally wouldn't be exposed to, builds moral character, and teaches them to "Do Their Best." Most of all—we let the kids have fun! Throughout the year, we sponsor trips to various community attractions in addition to those within the National Capital Area.

This summer, we plan on having a fishing trip in Barnesville and then

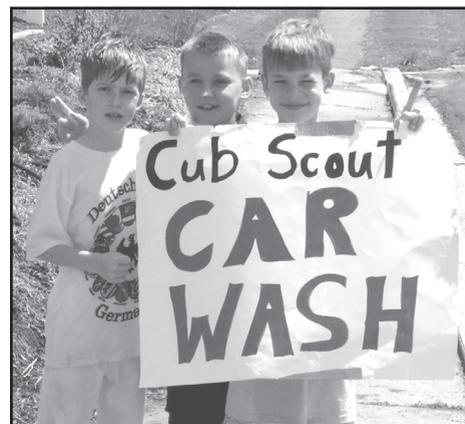
canoe down the Potomac River. The ten Dens we have in the Pack also sponsor their own activities which center on the various talents and occupations of the parents. We have had visits to local farms, a tour of the Channel 4 Television Studios, periodic visits to the Mirant Waste Treatment Incinerator in Dickerson, and overnight campouts in the Maryland Science Museum in Baltimore. We also perform community service projects in the Fall and Spring which teach the kids how to benefit their community.

The Cub Scout Dens are split up by age groups with the Tigers (first grade), Wolf (second grade), Bear (third grade), First Year WEBELO (fourth grade) and Second Year WEBELO (fifth grade). The second year WEBELOs receive their final award, the "Arrow of Light," and cross over to Boy Scouts in a traditional ceremony which takes place at our Annual Blue and Gold Banquet in February. Another high point of the year is the Pinewood Derby in March where the Cubs race cars fashioned by the boys and their parents out of a seven inch block of wood. These cars are raced against each other on a track where four cars race at a time with awards given to the top five cars with individual awards also given for the top

finishers within the various age groups.

Sports programs encourage competitive and athletic achievement, but the Scout program builds individual character. It also builds confidence, and gives them opportunities for leadership and responsibility.

Dens usually meet twice a month, and the entire Pack meets monthly (the third Tuesday of the month) at Poolesville Elementary School. We traditionally recruit new scouts in the Fall, but if your child is interested in Cub Scouts, please contact Bruce Kirby at bakirby1@comcast.net or telephone him at (301) 910-0652.



Matthew Tallia, Nikolay Henze, and Evan Gross drumming up business for Pack 694.



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## Editorial

Our April 1 headline about the possible closing of Mouth of Monocacy Road garnered a great deal of comment on the seeming lack of coordination between government entities. It looked like a case of the left hand not knowing what the right hand was doing. The public's confusion centered on the irony that while the National Park Service was restoring the Monocacy Aqueduct, and Montgomery County was promoting historical tourism, along comes another part of the county to close a main access to the area.

But all's well that ends well. County Executive Doug Duncan got involved and directed the county to step back from closing the road. There is still much to be worked out and some inconvenience will result but our sources tell us that all involved are now working closely together.

Finally one last comment: the support of those business and individuals advertising in *The Monocle* has exceeded expectations. We cannot thank our advertisers enough. If you like *The Monocle*, then love our advertisers. They are here to serve you.

## Profiles



**Bo sporting his GEB coat.**

Chocolate Labrador Bo of Poolesville is eight months old, and over six months into his training in the "Guiding Eyes for the Blind" program. Bo was born in Patterson, New York at the GEB Breeding Center, where dogs are carefully bred to create courageous yet loving puppies. In short, Bo is an Alpha Male, but gentle, as so many of us are. Bo lives with Steve and Kathleen Hayward, and undergoes regular quarterly evaluations by the GEB. When he is about 16 months old, Bo will move on to his next level of training. Want to know more? Go to [www.guidingeyes-md.org](http://www.guidingeyes-md.org).

## Calendar

### May 1

JV Baseball – Wooten at PHS  
10:00am  
JV Softball – Wooten at PHS  
10:00am

### May 2

C&O Canal Hike and Bike  
Monocacy Elementary School  
1:30 pm at Whites Ferry

### May 3

Coed Volleyball – Springbrook at PHS  
6:00pm  
Boys Volleyball – Springbrook at PHS  
7:00pm

### May 4

Var. Baseball – Quince Orchard at PHS  
5:00pm  
Var. Softball – Quince Orchard at PHS  
5:30pm  
Boys Lacrosse – Seneca Valley at PHS  
5:30pm  
Girls Lacrosse – Seneca Valley at PHS  
7:00pm  
Monocacy Elementary School PTA  
7:00pm

### May 5

Cinco de Mayo Monocacy Elem.  
5:00pm – 8:00pm

### May 6

JV Softball – Sherwood at PHS  
3:30pm  
JV Baseball – Sherwood at PHS  
3:30pm

### May 9

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY

### May 10

Var. Baseball – Walter Johnson at PHS  
5:00pm  
Var. Softball – Walter Johnson at PHS  
5:00pm

### May 11

John Poole Middle School PTA  
6:30 to 9:00pm

### May 12

Var. Baseball – Watkins Mill at PHS  
5:00pm  
Var. Softball – Watkins Mill at PHS  
5:00pm

### May 14

Monocacy Elem. PTA Bucket Bingo  
6:00 to 9:00pm

### May 15

Commissioners' Fishing Tournament  
Hunter's Run Pond – 9:00 am

## The Monocacy MONOCLE

*Keeping An Eye On Local News*

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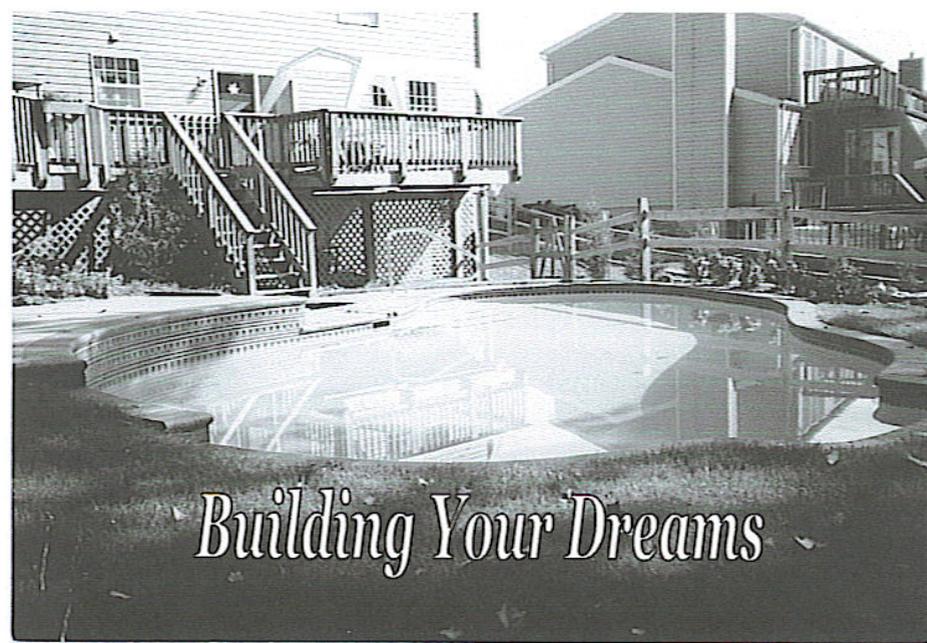
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## The Arena

### Boyds Civic Association Continues Local Activism—Announces Historical Exhibit

The Boyds Civic Association was established in 1965, which may make it the oldest civic association of its kind in Maryland. It may almost be one of the most active civic associations of its kind, and as they move through their thirty-ninth year, they show little sign of middle age malaise. The Boyds CA also benefits from a significant measure of continuity and institutional memory, as their original founder, Arthur Virts, remains active in the Association and the community.

Before a crowd of close to thirty people, CA President Melissa Foster and Vice President Del Lamiman moved briskly through a full agenda that showed a commitment to preserving the community's rich history, a commitment to the use of technology, and a focus on reaching out to the suburban developments that have become part of Boyds, heretofore predominantly rural in nature.

The issue de jour, however, as reported in the April 1, 2004 issue of *The Monocle*, is their effort to find a home-away-from-Boyds for the C.W. Wright Construction Company, who owns a lot off Bucklodge Road in Boyds that is zoned for "light industrial use" and was targeted for the establishment of a truck depot. This would result in a large number of heavy trucks moving through the area's narrow roads, as well as additional commuting traffic for drivers, administrative, and support personnel to reach the site each day. They have

appealed to the Town of Barnesville to join their fight to prevent C.W. Wright and any future company from using this property to operate businesses deemed detrimental to the up county way of life. The funding for such a venture was discussed in detail, resulting in a consensus that this would come from additional funding appeals, not from the basic community association dues.

Boyds resident Erskin Huff presented the accomplishments of the Boyds Archiving Group, an adjunct of the Boyds Historical Society, which has worked to collect and preserve the heritage of Boyds. They began archiving materials four years ago, and have more recently officially organized an archiving committee to better pursue their endeavor. The committee is scanning the information and writing it to digital media for long term archiving. A thumbnail version of their progress was available for review at the meeting. The entire collection is in the Boyds Negro School, where recently installed air conditioning and fireproof safes preserve the collection. They plan to convert the Boyds Negro School into a museum this summer, albeit with limited hours, so that the materials can be reviewed by the general public. Mr. Huff put a call for pictures "past and present" to keep the Boyds history project growing.

### Commissioner Testifies Before County Council

Poolesville Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski testified on April 15 before the Montgomery County Council. The focus of his testimony was to implore the Council to support the upper county's needs regarding issues such as the Poolesville School Cluster, the Public Library, the Recreational Youth Center, Police assistance,

and the County Fire Department.

In particular, he asked the Council to assist in expanding Advanced Placement courses offered at PHS as well as asking them to consider helping the school bring an additional foreign language option to the students. He requested that the county not reduce funding for public libraries as will be the case should the proposed FY05 budget go through unchanged.

Mr. Klobukowski also implored the county to continue its nine-year partnership with the town in offering the youth of the area a recreational center. He also positioned the town as fully supporting the needs of the county's police and fire departments.

### Barnesville Town Meeting

The potential truck depot on Buck Ridge Court in Boyds continued to dominate the agenda as the Barnesville town commissioners held their monthly meeting on April 19, 2004 at the Barnesville Baptist Church. The town's attorney, Bill Roberts, reported on a meeting with representatives of the Boyds Civic Association and their attorney that had taken place the preceding week. Mr. Roberts presented a resolution for consideration by the commissioners which confirms the town's intent to support Boyds in their effort to pursue down-zoning of the property. The resolution also laid out the conditions under which the town felt they could work with the Boyds CA, particularly with regard to funding. The commissioners and town residents in attendance agreed with Barnesville Mayor Pete Menke that the issue of traffic speeding through the town is forever an issue of concern, which compels the town to assist in the fight. On that basis, the resolution to work further with the Boyds CA passed unanimously.

The town further discussed the

renovation of the old town hall. The commissioners agreed to pursue an appraisal and inspection of the building for insurance purposes before opening up the facility for the planned open house. This information would also be necessary if any grant proposals are developed for the renovation.

The commissioners also filled vacancies in the town's Planning Commission and Board of Appeals. The former is now composed of Meg Menke (Chair), Clark Brown, Bill Hilton, Bob Lillard, and Pete Menke. The latter includes Allan Brown, Luke Fedders, and Mark Lepine.

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## Day Tripper

Day Tripper looks for those special, one-day excursions that are somewhat hidden, and not necessarily high on your radar screen of things to do. We don't think you need us for the obvious historical, educational, and entertaining tourist sites that you know so well and that our area has in such abundance. Most likely, we have all been there, done that. On occasion, however, we will cover many of these best-known sites when we think something new is happening that you might not know about. Or we may suggest visiting when there are special events or anniversaries that can enhance your visit or bring freshness to going back.

For this Day Tripper, we will focus on a museum that most of you know about but we suspect most of you have not yet explored. With that in mind, we turn our attention to the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia, otherwise known as the "other air and space museum" near Dulles. That's right—it's open, it's ready and it is terrific.

You have loved the National Air

and Space Museum in Washington so expect a whole new love affair to begin with your visit to Udvar-Hazy. Think National Air and Space Museum but think bigger. How much bigger? Consider that the square footage for display exhibits in the Washington's facility is about 165,000 square feet. The Virginia center is around 350,000 square feet, and will ultimately reach 760,000 square feet. To give a more practical perspective, envision ten stories high and three football fields long. The total cost of the DC museum was \$40 million in 1976 dollars. The Udvar-Hazy Center is due to have an eventual cost of \$311 million.

The good news for you is that even though the \$65 million given by Mr. Steven Udvar-Hazy, founder and CEO of International Lease Finance Corporation, was enough to place his name above the entrance, there is still plenty of building left for you to get your name up there too.

Like its sister facility, this center is divided between aviation (294,000 square feet) and space (53,000 square feet). If a particular historical flight artifact is too big for DC, it will go

here. Additionally, there is an observation tower for those not so jaded that they still get a thrill when watching planes take off and land at Dulles.

As with NASM-Washington, admission to Udvar-Hazy is free. But be forewarned, there is a tantalizing gift shop. Everyone in the family will be pleased to know that the site has a large IMAX Theater. If you go this spring, the food services only offer a Subway outlet within the museum. A full service food court is scheduled to open this summer.

This museum does not have planetarium theaters but there are plenty of films to challenge your ability to handle extreme motion while not moving at all. "Straight Up: Helicopters in Action" is the one film you may want to schedule. The others are just general IMAX offerings that have little to do with the theme of the museum.

For a small fee (\$6.00) there are two other exhibits which provide a sense of motion and flight. There is a flight simulator and also the SpaceWalk 2004; which takes you on an orbital journey around the International Space Station. For this exhibit

expect a 60 to 90 minute wait to get aboard. If you are crunched for time and need to choose between films or exhibits choose exhibits.

There are exhibits relating to the entire history of flight, which include military history, commercial usage, and the benefits from space and research. While exploring on your own is fun, taking a docent tour is convenient and informative. For those who love the tour guides' penchant for numbers and figures, this facility houses 82 aircraft and 58 large space artifacts along with more than 1000 smaller items.

The headliners are obvious. In the area of space, the Space Shuttle Enterprise is nothing short of awe inspiring. In aviation, the Enola Gay gives a profound and disquieting sense of the seriousness of scientific discovery.

For those readers who resided in our area in the 1970's, there is special display sure to jog some memories. The SST Concorde Air France straddles the exhibit and is a nostalgic reminder of a time when supersonic transportation was brand new. For those of us living in this area, on any given afternoon around 1:00 pm, the

— Continued on Page 7



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## Day Tripper Continued —

thunderous explosion of “this bird in flight” caused many of us to run outside to witness the initial moments of an SST flight to Europe. It was loud, beautiful and highly controversial. All the debates and environmental impact discussions are over now, and even though one of the SSTs is entombed near Dulles, it is hard to believe that it was nearly 30 years ago.

As with all national museums, visiting the website can help you select a special day to go. For example, special exhibits, lectures, and events are scheduled for May 21 in observance of the anniversary of Charles Lindbergh’s Paris flight.

The museum will eventually expand to its intended strength of 200 aircraft and 135 spacecraft. Whether you visit this spring or later, you will want to plan periodic return visits in the years to come. For those of you whose personal remembrances go back to the early days of space exploration, you will understand our rating system when we tell you this museum is better than just great, its A-OK. For all others, just consider that this museum is a real blast (off).

## Equestrian News

### McKee-Beshers

By Debby Lynn  
Special to the Monocacy Monocle

One of my favorite reasons for living in Poolesville is the open land we have for riding. In an area which is becoming increasingly urbanized, our open spaces are a real treasure. Horse keeping, horse sports, and equestrian recreational activities all require significant tracts of undeveloped land. It just isn’t feasible to expect the number of riders we have in this area to all find private land to ride on. Very fortunately for our equestrian community, we have some excellent public lands available to us for riding.

McKee-Beshers is at the top of my list of favorite places to ride. It has everything a rider could desire. This 2,000 acre wildlife management area is criss-crossed with unpaved roads and wide, grassy mows. You will be treated to songbirds trilling, or turkey scuttling by, depending on when you ride. At dawn, the mist curls up from the ponds and owls solemnly inquire “Who?” My best memory of McKee-

Beshers is riding back to the trailers with my friends, after a long day in the saddle. Dusk was deepening into dark on this fall day, and a huge orange full moon hung over the pond, looking for all the world like it was floating in the pond.

McKee Beshers operates under the jurisdiction of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. It is open to riders without restriction, all year round. The entire area is off limits to motorized vehicles, making it safer and more enjoyable for riders. While there are no restrictions for riders during hunting season, deer hunting is

permitted, and it would be prudent for riders to avoid the two week deer firearm season which starts after Thanksgiving.

The area is accessible via Hunting Quarter Road, or opposite Hughes Road; both are off River Road. Park your rig and ride to your heart’s content. Just remember to be a good citizen so riders remain welcome. Some of the acreage is farmed. Be careful to ride around the edges of the fields, and do not tread on the crops. Happy Trails!

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## May Horoscope

*The Divine Miss M (no not that one, this one refers to Miss Monocle) has seen the need for her astrological insight surface locally. Remember, she may be able to read tea leaves and star charts, but she is still only human and prone to exaggeration.*

**Aries** - What happened? You were primed for that move/career change/spa treatment. We were eagerly awaiting the appearance of the new you. Oh well, give yourself time — but remember we're waiting.

**Taurus** - This is the month for you! You've waited so long and here it is. Feeling a little unnerved? Don't think so much, enjoy yourself. Stay away from salty snacks.

**Gemini** - Is it the smell of mulch in the air or perhaps those grass clippings you're tracking into the house? Either way, your thoughts are turning to love this month. Try to keep that smug little smile to yourself.

**Cancer** - Get off the sofa NOW. You're making a permanent dent in the cushions. We haven't seen you in weeks! Come on out and play. Don't forget you're in charge of half-time oranges next week.

**Leo** - No, everyone does not think you're correct. I for one feel you are making a serious mistake if you don't rethink your options. You look great in blue.

**Virgo** - We knew you had it in you all along. Way to go on that proposal. Wear bright colors this week. If you're feeling really peppy, haul out the white espadrilles a week early; we'll pretend not to notice.

**Libra** - You rascal you! Rumors are spreading about that scene you made in Starbucks. Sure, blame it on the caffeine...yeah, we all believe that one (wink, wink). Your lucky number is 1,437.

**Scorpio** - Stop all that worrying. It has never gotten you anywhere useful and that muttering to yourself is scaring the dog. Don't wait for that special someone to make the first move, surprise them with your new found confidence. Check for spinach teeth first.

**Sagittarius** - Wow, prepare for exciting times in the immediate future. Hold onto your hat, keep smiling, and watch where you step. Enough said.

**Capricorn** - The energy you have this month is phenomenally strong. Dust the bookshelves while you're in the mood. Guests really do the white glove treatment when you're not looking.

**Aquarius** - Your busy schedule may not seem to allow it, but don't let the good things in life pass you by. What's with those ratty, old sneakers you insist on wearing?

**Pisces** - Go ahead and make those plans, it's now or never! Make sure to renew those library books before you leave.

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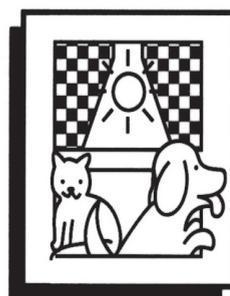
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## Mystery History

Traveling north on Route 109 from Poolesville you may have noticed the grand white gateposts that stand rigidly at attention, eerily guarding a mysterious history of the grounds behind them. Except for a few out-buildings, there is little evidence today to tell passerby that one man's dream to bring a West Point to the area existed on this property a long time ago.

If you traveled back in time to April of 1910, you may have come upon Sydney Johnston Lodge standing at those gates, dreaming of turning the property into a military academy. At that particular moment, right where the current ranch home sits, stood a three-story colonial-styled home that had been a girls' academy, and had then become a boarding house. Mr. Lodge, a graduate of Fork Union Military Academy and Richmond University, was visiting his mother on Easter break from his instructor position at the New York Military Academy (NYMA) at Cornwall-on-the-Hudson, New York. NYMA sits at the foothills of Storm King Mountain, which is home to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

If Mr. Lodge had inquired from locals at the time, they would have told him that the property had been, since 1874, a highly respected, all-girls academy called Briarley Hall Seminary for Young Ladies and Little Girls, and originally called Briarley Hall Female Academy. It seems that even in 1874, the marketing mantra for a successful enterprise was still "location, location, and location." You see, while not mentioning curriculum at all, the original advertisements for the female academy emphasized that "the boarding and day school for girls was one half mile from Poolesville and only four miles from Sellman's Station, (near the current Dickerson station) on the Metropolitan Railroad and that a stage passes by the school four times daily."

The twelve acre site, which originally was part of the Chiswell's Inheritance in Poolesville, became an all-girls academy until sometime past 1906. Along with classical education, the school catalog emphasized that the "girls are taught to act from a high sense of honor and duty, and to love all that is beautiful and right. Religious instruction, *without sect or*

*creed, is constantly given, as it is this alone [that] gives learning its true value.*

It took Mr. Lodge two years to accomplish his dream of opening and operating a military school on the site. The school opened in 1912 and subsequent school catalogs describe the school's 60 by 40 foot gymnasium, which is attached to the north side of the current home. In its first year, the military academy had 33 cadets (17 from Maryland) enrolled. In 1915, Charles W. Woodward joined the faculty but later he became a lawyer and eventually the Chief Judge of the Montgomery County Circuit Court. It is for him that Rockville's Woodward High School is named.

The students' uniforms were exact replicas of those worn by West Point cadets and were made of the same gray cloth, trimmed with black braid with an Academy emblem on the cap and collar. For cadets to participate in any of the schools sports which included baseball, swimming, football, tennis, basketball and track, they had to maintain an average grade of 80% in their classwork and 75% in conduct.

The rigid military standards produced strong students. Yet the school was not strong enough to sustain the devastating impact of the depression. Declining enrollment forced Briarley Hall Military Academy to retreat into bankruptcy on March 26, 1930. The abandoned building became an easy target for squatters and eventually reached a state of such disrepair that the owner, Mr. Thomas Perry, decided to demolish the main building (by controlled fire) rather than face what he considered to be excessive repair costs.

Many connections to the school remain with area residents. Captain Lodge's son, Lee, still resides in Frederick, Maryland as does Mary Tipton Bodmer, whose mother, Sarah Elizabeth White, taught two years at the academy. Elsie Lee White, the



Guard-house.

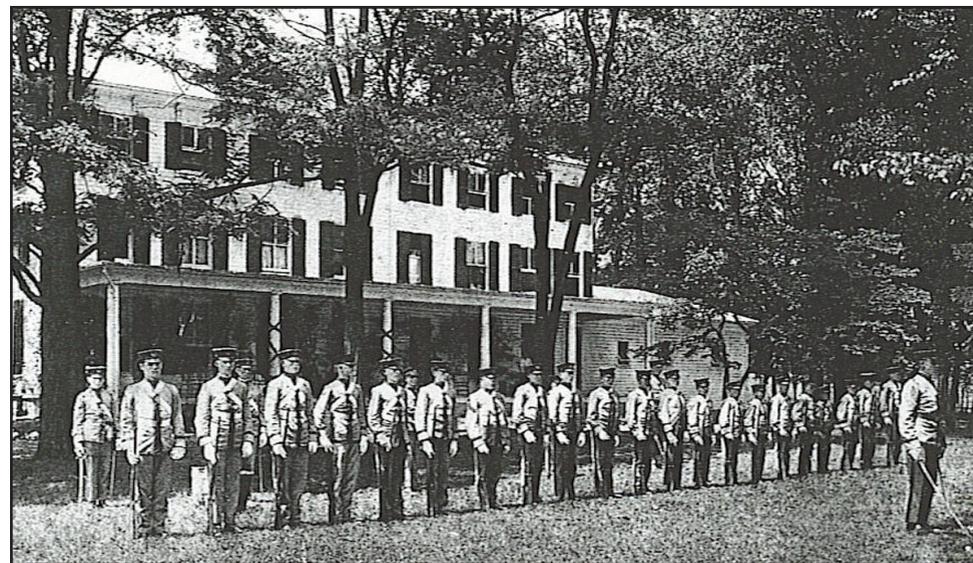
## Gate Posts to a Mysterious Past

mother of Poolesville/Dickerson resident, Boo White Davis, graduated from the girls' seminary.

Today the original academy's clubhouse, a guard-house, gymnasium and water-well give proof that our area once had a proud and distinguished private educational institution. Linda and Jay Jurata, along with eight month

old Kaitlyn, are the current guardians of the Briarley Hall property.

Facts and quotes for this article came from The Montgomery County Story, Vol. 26, #2 (May 1983) published by the Montgomery County Historical Society, Mary Charlotte Crook, author and editor.



Roll call of cadets in front of the now demolished barracks.

# VOTE



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## Focus On Business

### The Bassetts: Poolesville's Beautification Team

If Leo and Betty Bassett didn't have the restaurant in Poolesville, our guess is that they would have their own show on HGTV. Move over Martha Stewart—it's the Leo and Betty Show.

As a one-time fine arts student at George Washington University and a long-time owner of a business that supplies all nine Clyde's Restaurants with their floral designs, Leo has relished tackling the décor of the restaurant, their home, and now their vacation home in Deal, Maryland. The Bassetts jump into renovation and restoration projects with a flourish that would make Martha's head spin.

Many of us have witnessed the transformation of Bassett's Restaurant over the last nine years. What was once a corner country diner (the Titus Taste Cupboard) with red-vinyl spinning stools, now has a Cheers-like ambience with warmth and charm. Others have enjoyed watching their progress in restoring and renovating the 1860 Norris House across from the Poolesville High School parking lot.

Now they have begun to refinish their vacation house in Deal, Maryland and once that is complete maybe, just maybe, they will finally be finished. If you've thought of offering your house for renovation so Leo can keep his skills sharp once they are finished with their homes, forget it. That line is already too long.

Betty gives Leo credit for their restoration and renovation accomplishments and is willing to take credit only as an assistant. It hasn't always been easy on her. She cringes at the thought of their home on Wooten Avenue when they first went through it. Words like "dilapidated" and "disrepair" only begin to approach her original thoughts about the house—she said "disgusting" was more like it. But during their initial visit to the property, Leo could only keep saying, "Isn't this wonderful," from abandoned room to abandoned room. Today the house is a showpiece inside and out.

She would be the first to admit that it took the vision of an artist to see the beauty in the house when they first saw it. Lucky for her, Leo is an artist, and before that a Marine. Although it's

been awhile, if you happen to see an ultra-light pilot floating just 2000 to 3000 feet above Poolesville one day, don't be surprised if you find that Leo has returned to his long-lost hobby.

The Bassetts are both native Washingtonians who share a special romantic venture. They dated in high school but went their separate ways only to find each other again later in life, marrying eight years ago. Betty attended St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing in Baltimore and after graduation found employment at Providence Hospital in the pediatrics and obstetrics department. She went on to work with the federal government in the occupational safety and health areas where she spent most of her career in national security.



Betty and Leo Bassett.

They take pride in their restaurant and especially emphasize that the service they offer helps keep the entertainment close to home reducing the need to travel. Bassett's employs between forty-two to forty-seven people in any given week and over the years, Leo can only estimate that they have hired hundreds of area residents.

So the next time you are in the restaurant, bring your home restoration questions with you. Between the entrée and dessert, you just might get some of the answers you were seeking.

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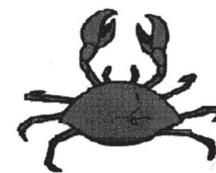
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## Big Board

### WUMCO Plans Annual Meeting

WUMCO Help (Western Upper Montgomery County Help) will hold its Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 6, 2004, at 7:30 p.m. at the Boyds Presbyterian Church, 19901 White Ground Road, Boyds. All local residents are invited. For more information call 301-972-8481 or e-mail wumco@prodigy.net.

### Open House at Star Gazing Farm

Star Gazing Farm, a small sanctuary for retired farm animals and wayward goats, will hold an open house on May 16, 2004, from 1:00 to 4:00, rain or shine. Meet the friendly farm animals, see various demonstrations including sheep shearing, goat hoof trimming, and duck herding. Sample duck eggs, pick herbs, and

enjoy the afternoon. All family members are welcome, but please leave your animals at home. 16760 Whites Store Road, Boyds. E-mail farmeranne@stargazingfarm.org for more information.

### Community Dance

St. Mary's Church in Barnesville is holding a dance with music by DJ Frank Stanek at St. Mary's Pavilion in Barnesville on Saturday, May 15, 2004, from 8:00 to 11:30 p.m. BYOB, setups will be available. Tickets are \$10 per person (Adults Only) and are available from Kay Poch, 301-972-0228, beginning on May 2.

### Upper Montgomery County Rural Women's Republican Club

The GOP ladies held their annual membership reception at Nancy Snider's home in Comus and were delighted to host congressional candidate Chuck Floyd, Delegate Jean Cryor

and Kevin Igoe, former executive director of the Maryland Republican Party. Their special guest was Betty Jane Carroll, president of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women.

### 50th Anniversary of C&O Canal Through-Hike

In the early 1950's, Justice William O. Douglas recognized the significance of the C&O Canal and in 1954 he led a group of concerned citizens and journalists down the entire length of the towpath to experience the scenic wonders of the canal. Through Douglas' dedication, the C&O became the scenic park we have come to enjoy. This year marks the 50th anniversary of Mr. Douglas' original march, and the C&O Association honored him by hiking 185 miles from Cumberland, Maryland to Georgetown in Washington, DC. The opening banquet was on April 17, and hiking will be completed in Georgetown on May 1.



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## Youth Sports

### Nobody Wants to Run Against Poolesville

Welcome to the land of the giant killers. The Poolesville Falcons have to face competitors, time and time again, who have as many students in one grade as the Falcons have in the entire school. Going against the big guys doesn't faze them in the least.

The Monocle spent some time with the school's exciting Track and Field team, who recently dispatched Magruder in an outdoor event, 70-67 for the boys and 89-48 for the girls.

The Indoor/Outdoor Track and Field team at PHS is just one team amongst the elite. The group is outstanding but special recognition should go to the girls. How good are they? Just ask coach Scott Mathias. He wants you to know that "this girls track team is the best sports team that has ever been at this school... in any sport. And, that's not to belittle the other teams, which are and have been great."



High jumper Greg Brook on his way to a personal best of six feet.

Coach says that the "coolest thing is that nobody wants to run against Poolesville. And, on that rare occasion when they actually beat us, that becomes a very big deal to them."

With four straight state indoor championships, five state indoor records, three county indoor records and one state record in outdoor, who can argue with the man? And, even though the girls have overshadowed the boys in the past few years, the guys are coming on strong. Coach Mathias says, "They are finally learning how to win, to get over the top, too."

Track is one sport where the whole may, on occasion, actually be smaller than its parts. That is because no matter what the team's results, there are always terrific individual stories of talent, hard work and "learning how to win." What makes the Falcons so special? Coach Mathias would tell you

that, "More than anything, we are blessed with talented kids. But, even more than that, this team is what I have always dreamed of having. It is a team that treats each other like a family... all year they are part of the track team family even when it's not in season."

There are trophies and plaques to win but for Coach Mathias "it's so cool to see these kids push themselves to that point where they step up physically. They keep trying, trying, trying to break "that" barrier... just to see that happen... that kind of thing is so fantastic. I just feel so lucky to be working with them."

And, when it comes to winning, who better to bring it home than a hometown boy? Coach/teacher Scott Mathias, who was a 1989 graduate of PHS, went on to Clemson, and started teaching at Churchill High School before he found his way home to Poolesville in 1998.

For Scott, the secrets of success for the school's sporting teams come from all directions. He credits Athletic Director Mike Riley for putting together a great team of coaches. "I mean the proof is in the results. Just look at what he has done with the whole program over the last ten years."

He credits his team assistants, Erika and Richard Waters and Andrew Bort, who help keep the team focused, motivated and on track. Richard Waters brings to the table an outstanding college track record; he was the ACC champion in the 180 yard straight hurdles.

The foundation of the team's success began a few years ago from past athletes like Alyshia Vaughn who is now at Claflin University, South Carolina on a scholarship, and Chris Earle who competes for VMI.



PHS anchor races to defeat Magruder.

The group is replete with talent and the athletic prowess of the team starts with today's seniors like Janelle Thompson who go to Towson University on a track scholarship as

Maryland's State Champion in the 1-mile and 2-mile heats. Christina Mann will head to NC State with a soccer scholarship. She has been a leading team member in the 400 meters ever since she was a freshman. Ashley Lowe, will go to Richmond University on a field hockey scholarship. And then there is Erin Moore, who Coach Mathias says "is an absolutely phenomenal athlete, leading individual performer of the year. She will attend Virginia Tech on a soccer scholarship."

On the boy's team, Poolesville has seniors like Will Cline who owns the discus and shot put. Football star Vince Riggs has brought his incredible football skills. Seniors like Matt Eader, the winning miler against Magruder in the last meet, has also helped bring the boys' team up.

A surprise this year was first year track star (and senior) Greg Brook. He became the first runner in fifteen years at Poolesville to run the 100-yard dash in under 11 seconds. In the high jump, he took honors against Magruder by reaching his personal best of topping six feet.

The team now heads to the University of Pennsylvania to compete in the Penn Relay which will feature around

400 schools in competition. It is the largest event of its kind in the world and it will give our kids the thrill of experiencing over 40,000 cheering fans boosting them on.

Team spirit takes many shapes and forms. The cohesion of this group could be summed up in something the coach overheard that had nothing to do with athletics. He overheard a student inquiring about the idea of asking one of the girls on the track team to the prom. What was the athlete's response? He told the his friend, "Listen, let me tell you, the girls on this track team are the coolest girls you are ever going to meet."



PHS relay team demonstrates State Championship form.

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