

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

May 20, 2005

Volume 2, Number 6

## Inside the Monocle



Another car—another mystery. See Mystery History on Page 9.



Coach Belcher coaches up the PHS Boys' Lacrosse team. See Sports on Page 19.



What's wrong with this picture? Just something that could add to your length off the tee. See Golf with Mike Aldrich on Page 18.

## Reality Check for PHS Seniors and Juniors

By Rande Davis

The two blue sports coupes apparently collided on West Willard Road just in front of the high school parking lot. A major tragedy was unfolding except for one important factor—it was a staged event designed to bring full awareness of the consequences of reckless driving to the students the day before their prom.

Three hundred Poolesville High School juniors and seniors stood along the road as the dramatic project "Every Fifteen Minutes" began to provide a live and seemingly realistic demonstration of the impact and the consequences of an automobile accident.

As some students played the part of the accident victims in the crash trapped in a crushed car, other students filled the role of parents and concerned friends who came to the scene only to be restricted from getting too close to the rescue operation.

As fire trucks and ambulances screamed onto West Willard Road, the firefighters secured the area, assessed the situation, and began the arduous task of removing victims from the cars using the Jaws of Life. UMCVFD Chief Earl Moore assumed his normal responsibility as the Incident Commander overseeing the

action of the firefighters while at the same time assessing and planning for any needed resources to be called in (i.e., helicopter, extra ambulances, additional firefighters, etc.). Captain DuMint of the Montgomery County Fire Department was the Site Safety Officer. In his role, he stands apart from the rescuers constantly assessing their actions and needs with regard to their and the victims' safety.

The most dramatic moment came when the "driver" was finally cut-free from the car only to be placed in a body bag and set aside along the roadside awaiting coroner inspection and subsequent removal. The drama intensified as windshields and back windows were smashed to gain addi-

tional operating room for the rescuers. Finally, the roof was completely severed off and victims were pulled from a car that threatened to burst into flames at any moment.

Chief Earl Moore told us how difficult and intense a real life situation becomes when loved ones arrive on a scene and try to get close to the victims, but, for safety reasons, must be held back from the rescue operation. Watching the event, one is struck with an impression of controlled mayhem. In reality, it is much more like a military operation in its precision with each individual given a specific task and not even requiring many specific instructions. Supervising these events is second nature to Moore and to Captain DuMint. What appears to be a spectators' role is actually a second-by-second assessment of the situation, making constant decisions to secure safety or to obtain additional help. Moore stands near the center of the operation in his highly-visible blue vest so that other rescue personnel arriving on the scene can easily spot the commander in charge so as to quickly obtain direction as needed.



PHS Juniors and Seniors watch "Every Fifteen Minutes."

Continued on Page 2

## Ruling On Challenge to Poolesville's Increase in Waste Water Treatment Capacity

By Rande Davis

In the matter of the Poolesville Waste Water Treatment plant, Administrative Law Judge, James T. Murray, responded favorably to the Maryland Department of Environment and Commissioners of Poolesville request for removal of judgment based on their opinion that the appellant's (Conrad Po-

temra) case did not meet the burden of proof.

However, Judge Murray allowed that there remains a need for further clarification regarding effluent standards and the he agreed to accept a legal memorandum from the appellant. His ruling on that memorandum was expected on Monday, May 16 (too late for this edition). At that point

MDE and the Town of Poolesville will have fifteen days to respond if necessary. Mr. Potemra's action seeks to reverse the Maryland Department of Environment's decision to allow the town to increase its wastewater treatment capacity from 625,000 gallons to 750,000 gallons.

## Family Album

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New JPMS principal Richard Bishop at his first PTSA meeting.



"Streetscape" gets new sidewalks to link Poolesville.



The new student officers of the JPMS and PHS Leo Clubs.



Photo by Benjamin Myers  
Senator Rob Garagiola and another attendee at the BlackRock gala.



Cub Scout Pack 694 on their annual spring cleanup.

## Step Back in Time with Poolesville Barber

By Marcie Gross

John Cougar Mellencamp sings, "I live in a small town...and that's good enough for me." It always amazes me how "small town" Poolesville remains. Poolesville has it all: a grocery store, gas station, post office, and the neighborhood barber shop.

When you first see Poolesville Barber & Stylist on the corner in the middle of town, you probably feel like you took a step back in time. From its old-time sign to barber poles, people are drawn to it. Just wait until you step inside. It is a friendly place just like Floyd's barber shop in Mayberry (on the *Andy Griffith Show*). A member of the Staver family greets you when you pass through the front door, and you always feel comfortable having a conversation while getting your hair cut instead of keeping your eye on your watch contemplating where you need to be next.

Gini Staver opened for business in January 1989. Gini, a Master Barber, bought the shop from Lloyd Grubb who had run the business for years.

Gini and Lloyd both worked part-time for a year together. Then she became a full-time Poolesville barber the following year. In the early 1990s, Gini's husband, Whit, decided he needed a change from the electronic/computer business. The Stavers decided to make the Poolesville Barber Shop a family business. He went to barber college in Wheaton, Maryland, and the rest is history. Now Whit works at the shop during the daytime, and Gini takes over in the evenings. Most recently, the shop became even more of a family-owned business. Gini and Whit's daughter, Viki, graduated from high school in 2003 and wanted to follow in her parents' footsteps. She became an apprentice under her mom and dad in January 2004 and will be eligible to take her barber exam in the coming months. She was able to learn her barber skills from great teachers, as well as her kind customer service skills working on us, the townsfolk of the Poolesville community.

Just when you think, "gee, they seem to have it all," Gini says that she is hoping to open her own barber college in a few years in Germantown. Of course, they will still keep the shop here in Poolesville. For now,

you can catch them in their shop or watching the local baseball games. They are huge baseball fans and enjoy sponsoring teams for the Poolesville Athletic Association and helping out at Poolesville High School whenever possible.

So, step back in time and treat yourself to a real barber experience with the Stavers. They'll greet you with a smile and send you off with one on your face.

### Crash Demo Continued from Page 1—

As the students went back to class at third period, Alex Eams and Chris Rickner, two seniors getting ready to attend the prom, voiced support for the program and the probable impact it would have on their fellow students. Alex stated that this type of scene is "not that unusual for us in Poolesville. With the type of roads we have it is something that can be seen far too often." Others voiced the impression that it will give them something to think about if they find themselves in a car being driven irresponsibly Friday night.

The name of the program, "Every Fifteen Minutes", is particularly

poignant since it refers to the fact that in the United States, every fifteen minutes, a high school student is killed while driving under the influence of alcohol.

For a generation used to the visual education techniques of television, computers, and large-screen movies, the live drama they witnessed seemed to have the desired impact. This could be seen in the faces of some of the students, especially when the "deceased" victim, in the body bag, was carried over to the side of the road. Even some of the humor expressed by a few students seemed to come from the awkward and frightening feeling of confronting death and tragedy.

The program was spearheaded by a group of students in Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD). Teacher Ed Morrell, faculty adviser to SADD, expressed confidence after the event that it had its desired impact. In an informal discussion following the accident, members of SADD all agreed that this particular demonstration would be more successful than the less dramatic programs in the past.

**Tributes**

**An Old Soldier Comes Home for V-E Day**

By Rande Davis

It was nearly fifty years ago that he first came to Poolesville and exactly sixty years ago that this old warrior first celebrated the World War II victory in Europe. He came home to Poolesville the weekend of V-E day to visit, celebrate, and reminisce.

Eugene Halmos, Jr., a leading political stalwart in the life of Poolesville during the 1960s and 1970s, came one beautiful afternoon to take a look around. This man, New York City born and raised, was a central figure in town for nearly two decades and never shied from the controversial matters. The newer residents will recognize the

name Halmos for the park located in the Westerly neighborhood. For the others who have been around awhile, they know him as Gene.

This military veteran retired from the service as a major in the air force. As a flight navigator, he was shot down and injured in the European theater during WW II. He was captured and was a prisoner of war. He wrote a book about his POW experience entitled *The Wrong Side of the*

*Fence*. His gift and calling as a writer eventually led him to be the founder of the *Poolesville Bulletin* (now the *Western Montgomery Bulletin*) and an active member of the National Press Club.

Gene served Poolesville as a commissioner and "mayor" and even at eighty-eight years old is a member of the Monocacy Lions Club. For those wanting to wish him well, he is now living at the V.A. Medical Center, Nursing Home "A", Martinsburg, West Virginia 25401. We are certain he well knows the famous quote from Douglas MacArthur given during his farewell speech at West Point, when the General ended his remarks with, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away." Gene, just remember that the contributions to your country and community never fade away, and we hope you come back to visit more often.



**Sandra Cameron Recieves Prestigious Award**

The United States Department of Education has announced that Sandra Cameron of Poolesville High School has been named a 2005 Presidential Scholar.

One young man and one young woman were chosen from each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Two students were chosen from families of U.S. citizens living abroad, 15 students have been selected at large, and 20 students have been chosen from the visual and performing arts. The Scholars have all demonstrated leadership, scholarship, contribution to school and community, and outstanding accomplishments in the arts, sciences, and other fields of interest. A complete list of the 2005 Scholars may be found at [www.ed.gov/programs/psp/awards.html](http://www.ed.gov/programs/psp/awards.html).

The Scholars have been invited to National Recognition Week (NRW) in Washington, D.C., in June. A high point of NRW will be the presentation of the Presidential Scholars medalion to each Scholar, to commemorate their being chosen for this prestigious award.

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## Police Blotter Past and Present

### Present

In recent weeks the Frederick County Sheriff's Office has been investigating numerous thefts from motor vehicles that occurred in southern Frederick County neighborhoods. In most of these cases, the vehicles were left unsecured, making them an easy target for the thief. Some of the types of items stolen include electronic equipment, tools, CDs, and loose change. The total value of stolen items has been estimated at \$14,000. Subsequently, the Sheriff's Office is offering a few precautionary tips that can assist citizens in minimizing the risk of having their automobile or its contents stolen.

Lock your car. Take your keys. Never hide a spare key on the vehicle.

Roll up windows completely.

Remove keys from ignition.

Park in well-lighted areas.

Park as close as possible to an open business.

Do not leave valuables in sight.

Back your car into the driveway. If you drive forward into the driveway, a car thief could raise the hood to hot wire the car, and it would appear to the neighbors that you were just working on the car.

If you have a garage, use it.

Lock your garage door.

Never leave your car running while it is unattended.

Although this information pertains to southern Frederick County, in the past year there have been several cases of thefts from autos in the residential sections of Poolesville.

May 1, 2005 12:57 a.m. A 26-year-old man from Germantown became involved in an argument with another man at the McDonald's at Great Seneca Highway and Mateny Road. The victim, who had objected to the suspect butting in line at the drive in window, got out of his car and was assaulted by the suspect who was described as a white male with a crew cut, and driving a Ford Taurus.

May 8, 2005 8:15 p.m. 1990 block of Westerley Ave, Poolesville. An accidental fire that started in the attic caused substantial damage to a home. A firefighter was injured when a ceiling collapsed onto him. He was flown to the Maryland Shock Trauma Unit.

May 10, 2005 The Frederick County sheriff's office is trying to determine the identity of a man who allegedly sexually assaulted a Middletown girl he met in an internet chat room.

Authorities said the fourteen-year-old girl thought she was chatting with another teenager last Wednesday and unknowingly revealed where she lived. A few hours later, a man arrived at her door and sexually assaulted her.

Investigators believe the man drove away in a late model blue Dodge Caravan with Florida tags. The tag number was traced to a rental agency in Georgia.

The girl was taken to Frederick Memorial Hospital for an examination.

### Past

May 16, 1932 Fire of mysterious origin consumed Diamond's Mill at Gaithersburg, Maryland despite the efforts of a skeletonized volunteer fire department and a crowd attracted by the towering blaze. The loss was estimated by Herbert Diamond, the owner of the mill, at \$25,000 and was said to be partially covered by insurance.

May 20, 1911 Though no marks of violence have been discovered on the

body of George C. Myers, prominent contractor and citizen of Montgomery County, murder is suspected after the body of Myers was found floating in the Potomac River. Myers, who had made a dinner engagement in Washington, was last seen a week ago and his friends suspect foul play. C. F. Ege, of Montgomery County, identified the unfortunate Myers.

May 20, 1936 Charges of robbery and assault with intent to rob were lodged against four young men who were arrested after the robbery of the Villa Roma roadhouse on Rockville Pike.

May 21, 1958 Twelve people were killed after a Capital Airlines passenger plane and a Maryland National Guard training plane collided over southwest Frederick County. The Capital airliner crashed near Brunswick, Maryland and the military plane crashed near Jefferson.

May 23, 1927 Trapped under his wrecked automobile, an unidentified man burned to death near Dickerson, Maryland. A state policeman and passing motorists worked frantically to extradite the man. It was said that the police were pursuing the car when it wrecked on the state road near Dickerson.

## Things To Do

### May 19

Poolesville High School  
Annual Awards Ceremony  
Auditorium - 7:00 p.m.

Tuscarora High School  
Spring Concert  
Auditorium - 7:30 p.m.

### May 19 through 20

Monocacy Elementary Drama Club  
"Sahara Nights"  
7:00 p.m. - \$5.00

### May 21

Frederick Children's Chorus  
20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert  
"There Is Sweet Music"  
Gov. Thomas Johnson High School  
7:30 p.m.; Adults \$10.00; Students/Seniors \$5.00

Audubon Naturalist Society Field  
Trip to Sugarloaf Mountain  
led by author Melanie Choukas-Bradley and artist Tina Thieme Brown. Contact ANS at 301-652-9188 ext. 16 or 14 (registration with fee required).

United Methodist Memorial Church  
Annual Bull Roast  
Full Course Dinner  
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

National Park Service Rededication of the  
Monocacy Aqueduct, C&O Canal,  
Mouth of Monocacy Road, Dickerson.  
10:30am (www.nps.gov)

St. Mary's Pavilion  
Community Adult Dance  
8:00 p.m. to Midnight - \$10.00

Our Lady of the Presentation  
"Beach Ball" Dance  
Potomac Valley Lodge  
8:00 p.m. to Midnight  
\$25.00 Couples; \$15.00 Singles

### May 26

Poolesville Public Library  
Storytime  
10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

### May 20 through May 31

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## In the Garden

### Horticulture – Keep It Growing in Montgomery County

By Maureen O'Connell

Horticulture is defined as the art and science of growing vegetables, fruits and flowers. Due in large part to the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve, horticulture is alive and thriving in the upper part of our county. 2005 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of this farm land preservation program. In 1980, through the vision and hard work of the then Chairman of the Montgomery County Planning Board, Royce Hanson, a plan evolved that created a 90,000 acres "agricultural reserve", where residential density would be one house per twenty-five acres, down from five acres. Montgomery County has a long agricultural history. It stretches back to colonial times, when subsistence farming, then tobacco, ruled; wheat, other grains, livestock and orchards took over in the nineteenth century.

In the early twentieth century, the farms were generating corn, wheat and dairy products; soybeans came after World War II. In 1949, farmland still covered 67% of the county, but by 1964, urbanization pared that portion to 49% and 36% by 1978. Today the total land area in Montgomery County equals 316,800 acres, of that 75,077 acres are in farmland. This is made up of 577 farms and 350 horticultural enterprises. Agriculture contributes 250 million to the county's annual economy. Monocacy Country lies in the middle of this wide western and northern arc of farmland.

From late May, when the strawberries ripen, through October when the pumpkins are ready to be picked, and to the cutting of Christmas trees in December, the benefits of the Agricultural Reserve are all around us. Over the past twenty-five years, there have been many bumps in the road, but today the Reserve is widely recognized as one of the country's most successful farm-land preservation programs. We must all celebrate this land-mark anniversary, but we should keep in-mind that success can be transitory. If we want the next generation to enjoy the beauty of our land,

we must be vigilant to subtle, creeping efforts to chip away at this dream.

To look at Montgomery County, many people living down-county are surprised at that it harbors so much farmland and open spaces. It is an oasis surrounded by prosperous suburbs, complete with mega-lane highways, shopping centers, condo towers and subway lines. The planner's vision in 1980 is today backed-up with practical farms. Travel down Peach Tree Road. At the bend in the road you can see row after neat rows of peach and apple trees that have been tended to since the early 1930's by the Kingsbury family. Further on down the narrow rural road is Lewis' Orchard., another family owned and operated farm. These two farms, covering many acres, grow their own peaches, apples, berries, tomatoes, squash, peppers, potatoes, beans and many other vegetables. At the intersection of Peach Tree Road and Route 28, you can look to the right of the Lewis' farm stand and see rows of flowers growing that are offered for sale. In the summer there is often a steady stream of cars of suburbanites on their way to these two farms. It is because of the existence of the Ag Re-

serve program that these small family farms are still functioning.

Did you know that Montgomery County is the leading pumpkin grower and the number two berry grower in Maryland. On Sugarland Road in Poolesville is the 350 acre Homestead Farm, one of the oldest farms in Montgomery County. Ben Allnutt and his family have been farming there since 1763, when James Allnutt moved from Calvert County, after buying Thomas' Discovery, a 746 acre spread along Seneca Creek. Ben was born in the big white turn-of-the-century house next to the farm market stand. From May until October Homestead is alive with parents and small children, school and church groups, and dozens of day-trippers, who come to pick-your-own fruits, vegetables and flowers. As they walk along the neatly planted rows of strawberries in May, smell the fresh air and sweet fragrance of the ripening fruits, and see off in the distance the mini-majestic Sugarloaf Mountain, it is hard to believe that you are about thirty minutes from D.C. Ordinarily such bits of Arcadia are swallowed up by the rarely denied appetite for the expansion of rapidly growing subur-

—Continued on Page 17.

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## Big Board

### Visit a Swiss Garden at the National Cathedral

The annual Flower Mart at the (National) Cathedral is on May 6 and May 7 and is a salute to Switzerland. This is wonderful fun, exploring all the tents full of crafts, flowers, and food. There is also a white elephant and book sale, tea available, and the greenhouse is open and full of garden delights. There will be Swiss entertainment and a running carousel. The cathedral is at the corner of Wisconsin and Mass Avenues in the District.

### PBA Summer League Basketball Tryouts

This is the time to sign up for the Poolesville Basketball Association's six competitive teams in the Montgomery County Recreation Department's "Rising Star League." For both boys and girls, there will be a sixth grade team (made up of current fifth graders), a JV team (current sixth graders), and a varsity team (current seventh graders). All players residing within the Poolesville District, including those who attend private schools, are welcome and encouraged to try out. For more information, contact PBA

President Jim Brown at 301-221-1988 or visit [www.pbahoops.com](http://www.pbahoops.com).

### UMC's Popular Bull Roast Set for May 21

Those great cooks with the Crafty Ladies and Gents are sponsoring their very popular Annual Bull Roast on May 21 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. It's a very reasonable \$10.00 per adults, \$5.00 for kids 4-10, and for those under three – FREE. The full course meal features pit roast beef, sides, dessert, and beverages.

### Dance into the summer

Our Lady of the Presentation is sponsoring a fun-filled pre-summer "Beach Ball" dance on May 21. The evening will be held at the Potomac Valley Lodge in Poolesville, and along with the dancing and socializing, there will be a silent auction, refreshments, and cash bar. The evening kicks off at 8:00 p.m. and runs until midnight. It is \$25.00 for couples and \$15.00 for singles. Tickets can be purchased by calling Cathy Raugh at 301-972-8647. Anyone wanting to donate a silent auction item can call Helen Trainer at 301-349-5159.

### A Reel Contest at Collier Circle Pond

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Richard S. McKernon Youth Fishing Tournament is

scheduled for Saturday, May 14, starting at 9:00 a.m. A great morning for anglers from six years old to sixteen years old, there will be prizes for the big ones. This is a really popular event so registration is a must. To get registration forms and more information click the Poolesville Town website at [www.ci.poolesville.md.us](http://www.ci.poolesville.md.us).

### Simply Mozart

The Montgomery College Chorus and Symphony Chorus will present a concert entitled "Simply Mozart" on May 8 – a perfect way to top off Mother's Day activities. The concert is located at the Rockville campus at 7:30, and the price is right: free and open to the public.

### Spirit of Freedom – Fife and Drum Muster

Cross the river for a weekend of fifing and drumming. Friday, May 6 there will be a free concert (a tattoo) at 6:30 by the Loudoun Border Guards on the Loudoun County Courthouse Lawn, King Street, downtown Leesburg. There will be a Ring of Friendship then a fife and drum "jam" until 9:00 p.m. following the tattoo put on by visiting fifers and drummers. Saturday is the parade at noon in downtown Leesburg followed by performances in the gazebo in Ida

Lee Park. For more information, go to [www.fifeanddrum.org/lbguards](http://www.fifeanddrum.org/lbguards) or call 703-244-9798.

### Frederick Children's Chorus Spring Concert

The Frederick Children's Chorus is celebrating its twentieth anniversary with a special concert Saturday, May 21 at 7:30 at Thomas Johnson High School. For more information, check the website: [www.fredcc.org](http://www.fredcc.org).

### Take the Trip of a Lifetime!

Ms. Holly Dacek from Poolesville High School is organizing a June student trip to Scotland departing on June 21, 2006. From the steep hills of capital city Edinburg to the fields of Culloden Moor from the depths of the dark waters of Loch Ness to the turrets of Stirling Castle, get to know the highlights of multifaceted Scotland. See another vision of Britain as you head south to England, filled with Gothic abbeys and class domes and prehistoric landmarks. The current tour cost is guaranteed through June 15, 2005. For more information call Ms. Dacek at 301-972-7900, or [holly\\_dacek@fc.mcps.k12.mdd.us](mailto:holly_dacek@fc.mcps.k12.mdd.us). Or go to [www.explorica.com](http://www.explorica.com), click "Join a Tour" and enter TourCenter ID: DACEK-43.

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## At Your Service

Devin Boyd

By Jack Toomey

You might have seen him around the Town of Poolesville up to his shoulders in mud, fixing a water main break on your street, driving a snowplow, or operating a piece of heavy equipment.

Devin Boyd is an affable young man who likes his job and has a variety of responsibilities. Devin grew up in Reisterstown, Maryland and attended Franklin High School. He worked in landscaping and construction before he came to Poolesville. Devin's job title is Water Operator, and some of his responsibilities include monitoring the Waste Water Treatment Plant, checking on the town well sites, taking meter readings, repairing water main breaks, and occasionally unclogging sewers. Devin is on call twenty-four hours a day and occasionally his phone rings in the middle of the night with news of an emergency.

He gave a visitor a tour of the Waste Water Plant and explained

that all the sewage from homes flows into the plant and is then treated by a Sequence Batch Reactor. The cleaned sewage is then allowed to run into

Seneca Creek. The entire process takes about four hours. Constant monitoring of the equipment is necessary, and there is an alarm that triggers a pager system whenever there is

a malfunction or power outage. Devin's immediate supervisor, Wes Clem, remarked, "He's conscientious and has a good attitude and is willing to learn."

Boyd also repairs water main breaks. He estimated that the average response time to a reported break is about a half an hour depending on the time of day. His most hectic day was on Christmas Eve, 2004, when there were three water main

breaks in town. He began repair work at about 10 a.m. and finished at 5:30 a.m. on Christmas morning. In times of bad weather, he drives a snowplow or sand truck and also is authorized to operate heavy machinery. Fellow worker Cathy Wachter said, "Devin's a good guy, he's responsible and always answers the phone when we call."

Although his work is often tedious, there are some humorous moments. Once when he was reading an outside water meter, he leaned over a homeowner's fence, and the section collapsed and Devin landed in the snow. In addition to reading the meter, he had to repair the fence! Then there was the time that he was replacing a meter inside a home and turned around to leave only to be confronted with over one hundred snakes kept inside aquariums in the basement.

Devin Boyd smiled when he said, "I like working here a lot, there are very nice people, and my coworkers and supervisors are easy to work with."

In time of emergency, it's good to have a fellow like Devin around and available.



Devin Boyd

## Mystery History

Tragedy at Bucklodge

By Jack Toomey

Willis Windsor was proud of his truck. He had purchased a 1913 Ford roadster when it was five years old and had put a 1921 Ford truck body onto it. Willis used it to haul things for friends, deliver furniture, and sometimes drive his pals around the countryside. He had even put chairs in the back and installed curtains to provide his passengers with some sense of privacy.

Windsor had been a motorman on a streetcar in Washington for three years before he moved to Montgomery County. He worked on various construction jobs and did farm work wherever he could find it. He lived with his aunt at Thompson's Corner. (Note: Thompson's Corner has ceased to exist. It was a small village at present-day Route 27 and 355). As one would expect, Willis was popular because he owned a vehicle, and he enjoyed the freedom that the machine gave him.

As was the custom of the time, most towns in Montgomery and Frederick Counties fielded baseball teams. Boyds, Germantown, Dawsonville, Poolesville, Adamstown, and Rockville all had teams, and they would play before large crowds on the local ball grounds. These games became a popular social event, and spectators could catch up on the latest gossip. Lemonade would be served from large vats, and cakes and sandwiches were available.



The railroad tracks near Bucklodge.

On June 12, 1921, Willis and some friends decided to attend the ball game at Boyds. He picked up Clagget Hawkins and Dick Nicholson who lived near him and then drove to Bucklodge where Joe Carlin and Earl Springer joined them. At the ball grounds, the young men became separated as they moved through

the crowd talking with other friends. After a while, Nicholson asked Willis to drive him to his aunt's home in Bucklodge. Hawkins and Nicholson went along, and a fifteen-year-old, Charlie Cooley, asked to go along. When they arrived at the farmhouse, Nicholson found that no one was at home. Everyone got back in the truck and they drove back towards the ball game. In those days, Bucklodge Road crossed the railroad tracks at grade level. Now, there is an underpass, and Bucklodge Road passes underneath the railroad. As Windsor approached the crossing, he slowed down but did not stop. As they approached Wade's Store, which was a small general store and depot at the crossing, Charlie Cooley heard a roaring sound and saw a fast-moving passenger train approaching. He jumped off the truck and landed on the roadbed. Just as he jumped, the train, a Baltimore and Ohio express train to Cumberland, struck the truck and carried it at least a half mile down the tracks. The conductor and engineer found the wreckage of the truck pinned under the engine. Nicholson and Clagget were dead, and Windsor was badly injured. It was decided to put Windsor in the baggage car and head for

Brunswick. When the train arrived at Brunswick, an ambulance was waiting and Windsor was taken to the hospital in Frederick.

The Maryland State Police sent an investigator to the scene, but it seems that most of the investigation was done by the railroad. Surprisingly, there were several witnesses to the accident. Charlie Kohlhoss, a mechanic and part-time mail handler from Poolesville, William Roberts, a mechanic from Beallsville, and Paul and Karl Brunner from Dawsonville were approaching the crossing from the opposite direction, coming home from the ball game, and saw the accident. Lewis Hamilton of Bucklodge who had just put a five-year-old boy on a train to Germantown, and a man named Simms who handled milk jugs on the platform at Wade's Store were also there.

Willis Windsor stayed in the hospital for over two months. When he was released, he needed a wheelchair to move about and later he used crutches. In 1923, he sued the railroad and the point of contention was whether the warning bell at the crossing was working and whether

—Continued on Page 16.

## Center Stage

### The Keeper of the Gate

By Dominique Agnew

Anyone who has been a part of the Frederick Children's Chorus at any time during the past twenty years knows the familiar face of Mrs. Farrell. She may seem quiet and unassuming, but her place as a fixture of the chorus goes unchallenged and remains constant and true. Mrs. Farrell is the woman seen first by the chorus members upon entering a rehearsal, even before they look for Mrs. DuBose; she is the attendance taker, the accountant of practice logs — she is the Keeper of the Gate.

Maryanne Farrell became involved with the Frederick Children's Chorus "a long time ago," she says when her oldest child, Carey Anne, began singing in the second grade. Mrs. DuBose, founder and director of FCC, asked for a parent to volunteer to take attendance, Mrs. Farrell reminisces, "I was here for the hour," so she took on the job — and she continues. After Carey Anne, Mrs. Farrell's two other children, Kevin and Liam, also sang with the chorus. The last of her children graduated from the Frederick Chamber Singers in 2000 — and she continues.

"I really enjoy what I do here," she says. "I smile at them, they smile at me — I've watched them all grow, and that's exciting. I've known the Chamber Singers since they were little. Most of all, I enjoy listening to them sing."

Mrs. Farrell also, like the Frederick Children's Chorus singers, grew up singing. She sang in church choruses, and she sang in the Choral Arts Society which used to be the sponsor for the Frederick Children's Chorus before it became independent.

By day, Mrs. Farrell is a different woman. To her students and colleagues, she is Dr. Farrell, professor of geography and history, specifically American History and Women's History, at both Hood College and Frederick Community College. Some parents suspect this explains why she is so good at the Gate. Mrs. Husson, the chorus seamstress, marvels, "I am always amazed that she always knows all the kids by name within a few weeks;" she turns to the page as she sees the child walking to the table.

After she checks the singers in and makes sure they've received any handouts they need, she spends the

rest of the rehearsal time tallying the minutes each singer practiced as noted on their practice sheets. The one hour of twenty years ago has grown to almost three hours as the chorus has grown from one chorus to four and from a handful of singers to about two hundred — and she continues — because she loves it. "I look forward to every Tuesday."

### BlackRock Spring Gala

By Maureen O'Connell

"A Night of a Thousand Stars" was the theme for the BlackRock Center For the Arts 2005 Spring Gala held on Thursday, May 5 at the Center in Germantown. Approximately one hundred and thirty friends, sponsors and Montgomery County and State officials joined in to thank this year's honored guests. Proceeds from this fundraiser help support the Center's Arts Education Programs. This year the honorees were Maryland State Delegate Jean Cryor, Maryland State Senator Patrick J. Hogan, and *The Gazette* newspapers. County Councilman Michael Knapp thanked the newspaper for its contributions to the community and especially to BlackRock. Through their continued coverage of events and issues at the Center, they keep the community focused on this jewel of a performing and educational arts center.

Past Chairman of the Board Tom Hoffmann lauded Jean Cryor as someone who is always "there for everyone." She has been one of the founding spirits behind many organizations, BlackRock being one of them. In the early formative years of the Center, when the going got tough and there was little money to support this dream, she was the tenacious bull dog who would not take no for an answer. After hearing the laudatory words of Tom, she commented, much to the amusement of the audience, that "this is like going to your own funeral without dying."

Chairman of the Board David Langstaff thanked Senator Patrick J. Hogan for his vision and support of the Center. He inspired the community to experience the arts and to cultivate a desire to continually explore the opportunities at BlackRock. The Chairman paid special honor to Executive Director Nancy Petrisko. Through her dedicated work and that of her staff, BlackRock has accomplished their goals of financial stability and the establishment of an

identity and reputation as a renowned center for the performing arts. This success story exemplifies how the private sector and the citizenship of a community can get together and make a dream become a reality. BlackRock is not the Kennedy Center; it is a small jewel amongst the growing Germantown suburbs. Without the tenacity

and hard work of those individuals honored here tonight, major sponsors Euro Motor Cars, Pleasants Construction, Carl Freeman Associates, the Butz Family Foundation, William S. Abell Foundation, and the entire greater Germantown community, tonight would not have been possible.

### Correction

In our May 6 issue, we mislabelled a picture in our Tributes section. The corrected pictures and captions follow. We reaffirm our congratulations to these accomplished young women, and offer our sincere apologies for the error.



Erica Neville



Rachel Carr

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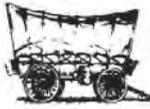
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Photo by Jack Toomey

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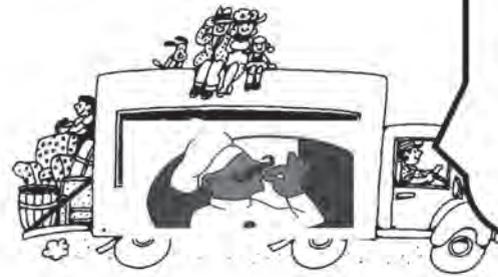
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Barnesville is continuing the \$170,000 restoration of the building with half town funds and half state matching funds. The building dates back to 1925 and has been used for a number of purposes over the years before it fell into neglect. The town showcased the building last fall after a significant clean-up effort but before

more substantial reconstruction work had occurred. The difference now is dramatic—the entire main floor has been opened up and one can more clearly see the attractive and functional facility that had lain concealed under years of neglect.

After the votes were counted, Mayor Pete Menke and Commissioner

Bonnie Brown were reelected. First time candidate Luke Fedders won the other commissioner slot, ousting incumbent Houston Miller.

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**Mystery History Continued from Page 9—**

the engineer had blown his whistle as required. About twelve witnesses were called at the trial in Rockville and they differed over what they had heard and seen. After a number of appeals, the railroad paid for all of Willis Windsor's medical expenses and also paid him an award of eight thousand dollars.

Years later, an attorney who had represented Willis Windsor in court was riding on a train from West Virginia to Rockville. As the train neared Bucklodge, he told his fellow passengers about the accident there in 1921 and about Charlie Cooley's leap that saved his life. A man sitting in the seat behind the attorney was listening intently to the story. As the train passed through Bucklodge, the man leaned over the seat and said, "I am Charlie Cooley." The attorney had not recognized the son of Montgomery County's first police chief.



## The Pulse

### Preservationists Cluster at Annual Sugarloaf Citizens Association Meeting

By John Clayton

The Sugarloaf Citizens Association held its annual meeting on April 30 at the Linden Farm in Dickerson. Following comments by Sugarloaf President Jim Brown, election of officers and approval of by-law changes, there was a discussion of familiar traffic issues on local country roads. This was highlighted by the general issue of traffic through Barnesville and the specific issue of a propane truck that had flipped over near Monocacy Elementary School in Dickerson, just outside of Barnesville. Other traffic discussion revolved around the detours into neighborhoods to avoid the Route 28 construction. Local elected officials provided responses: Barnesville Mayor Pete Menke said that

police radar patrols would be active in his town at least two days each week; State Senator Rob Garagiola discussed the governor's veto of legislation that would have allowed localities to operate speed cameras; and County Councilmember Mike Knapp discussed the increased police presence that he has requested.

The featured speaker, former Montgomery County Council President (and candidate for County Executive) Ike Leggett, spoke on "Can the Ag Reserve Endure?" Mr. Leggett observed that this would be "not insurmountable, but difficult," as open land will become more "difficult to retain." He observed that since there is really no other open land for developments as there was twenty-five years ago, the battle will be more difficult than ever. He said that the real fight would be to convince those outside that the Ag Reserve is worth saving. Proponents will have to establish a new legacy to continue the fight.

Following Tina Brown's observations about the current 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Agricultural Reserve, Dolores

Milmoe discussed what she called the ongoing fragmentation of the Agricultural Reserve by residential cluster development. Some of this development is allowed by "tot lot" legislation that was intended to allow homes for additional family members to be built on existing farmland. Under the same rules, however, homes are just as easily built and sold to the public. Sand mound septic systems which increasingly support development on land that cannot support traditional septic systems were also discussed as a wedge into land preservation. This method has been proposed for the large Winchester development planned for Poolesville.

Tina Brown returned to report on any developments in the ongoing pressure for a new crossing over the Potomac—the dreaded Techway. While all is reasonably quiet in that area, she observed that County Executive Doug Duncan still has a bridge study in a ten year plan. Ms. Brown warned all to be particularly vigilant to any discussions of "regional transportation authorities," which, by definition, may make decisions above the desires of local interests.

Other local political luminaries in attendance included Poolesville Town Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski, local Democratic Party activist Carol Oberdorfer, and Barnesville Town Commissioner Houston Miller.

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### Gardening in MC Continued from Page 7.

ban areas. Look across the Potomac River to our neighbors in Loudon County, Virginia for an example of that mentality. Montgomery County's answer to that dilemma is the Agricultural Reserve.

Butler's Orchard, a pick-your-own enterprise in Germantown, is another farm that exists because of the Ag Reserve. Susan Butler and her two brothers run this family owned farm. Her father started the business in 1950 with thirty-seven acres. He was involved with more traditional farming, whereas today Butler's grows fruits, vegetables, bedding plants, pumpkins and Christmas trees. Many children have vivid and fond memories of hay rides in the crisp days of fall and the Easter egg hunts in the spring at Butler's Orchard.

The preservation of farmland within the Ag Reserve provides opportunities that serve many purposes. In 1996, Woody Woodroof founded Red Wiggler Community Farm as a non-profit horticultural therapy and vocational training program for adults with developmental disabilities. Their first farm was on Peachtree Road. They have since moved to Ovid Hazen Wells, just off Route 27, south of Damascus. The park is 290 acres and the farm uses ten acres for their farming program. Its Mission and vision serves three different target populations. The primary target is adults with disabilities. These men and women plant, care for and harvest vegetables and flower crops.

They are also involved in meeting the people who buy their produce. They are learning work-place skills, earning a living and are becoming part of a community. The secondary target is youth with or without disabilities, who work at the farm learning to care for and harvest crops. They follow the cycle of planting a seed and eventually selling the crop to a customer. The third target is not a population group, but a commitment to the essence of responsible environmental stewardship. Their method of farming is organic. Most of the jobs on the farm are completed without the use of tractors; they use their hands and simple tools. By using such tools and old-fashioned methods of farming, they are able to create jobs manageable to people of all levels of abilities. You need a driver's license to drive a tractor, but no license is needed to weed a row of plants with a hoe.

The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America is located off Willard Road in Poolesville. It located there in the 1940s, but it is able to continue its preservation work because of the Agricultural Reserve. Its mission statement is "to provide an opportunity to experience the beauty of a natural forest environment and to create a balance between protection and use." In 1997 chapter members bought a 127-acre parcel of land, adjacent to their existing 366 acre farm, bringing a total of 493 acres under conservation programs. This new parcel is called the West Woods. It consists primarily of woodlands, but also contains a

unique shale habitat. This land will never be developed; it will preserve perpetually this unique habitat and the plants and animal life it hosts. The area is the finest red shale location existent in Maryland. The soil type and its associated plant communities exist only in a narrow belt running from western Montgomery County, into eastern Frederick and Carroll counties. In this area an amazing variety of unusual plants can be found, including four state-endangered species. The West Woods also is home to a wonderful diversity of wild flowers. Here again is an example of an irreplaceable wonder of Nature. If it were not for the Agricultural Reserve, we would be in danger of losing this natural treasure.

Montgomery County is nationally well-known for its attractive suburbs, quality schools, up-scale shopping centers and performing arts centers. But it is the preserved land in the Agricultural Reserve that creates a more meaningful quality of life. Author Bill Vaughan once said, "Suburbia is where the developer bulldozes out the trees, then names the streets after them." Drive down the narrow twisting back roads of Monocacy Country; they are bordered by open fields of crops, cattle, sheep and horses; there are miles of country lanes and woodlands to hike, bike and ride horses.

More than twenty-five years have passed since the County approved the Ag Reserve preservation plan. What about the next twenty-five years? On April 30, I attended the Sugarloaf Citizens Annual Meeting at Linden

Farm in Dickerson. After the election of 2005-2006 officers, President Jim Brown led a discussion of several conservation and preservation concerns. Tina Brown spoke about the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Agricultural Reserve – its past, its successes and its future. As I looked around the room at the audience, I was struck by the fact that the majority were about forty to fifty years of age and older. For the past twenty-five years, these people and many others have laid the foundation, built the structure and kept intact the Ag Reserve. But they will not be here twenty-five years hence. Where is the younger generation? Very often, we don't appreciate what we have until we lose it. We cannot assume that the Ag Reserve will remain, if we are indifferent and adopt a "take it for granted" attitude. Again I say, look at Loudon County, Virginia. Political changes of heart are everyday occurrences. We have made great progress in saving many of the farms in our area, but what about the rest of our beautiful land in Monocacy Country? Will the ability of landowners to plant houses instead of corn and hay take over? That is the challenge we now face. Some people who are against the AG Reserve ask the question, "is the goal to preserve open land for its own sake," in other words "saving scenery for city folk", or to preserve land for farming? Royce Hanson said the answer is yes to both options. This is not an example of Hobson's Choice. They are compatible. It is a symbiotic relationship that we must all do everything we can to preserve.

## Big Board

### United Methodist Bull Roast

The Crafty Ladies and Gents are sponsoring their very popular Annual Bull Roast on May 21 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. It's a very reasonable \$10.00 per adults, \$5.00 for kids 4-10, and for those under three – FREE.

The full course meal features pit roast beef, sides, dessert, and beverages.

### Dance into the summer

Our Lady of the Presentation is sponsoring a fun-filled pre-summer "Beach Ball" dance on May 21. The event will be held at the Potomac Valley Lodge in Poolesville, and along with the dancing and socializing, there will be a silent auction, refreshments, and cash bar. The evening kicks off at 8:00 p.m. and runs to midnight. It is \$25.00 for couples and \$15.00 for singles. Tickets can be

purchased by calling Cathy Raugh at 301-972-8647. Anyone wanting to donate a silent auction item can call Helen Trainer at 301-349-5159.

### St. Mary's Community Dance

St. Mary's Pavillion also has a community dance scheduled for 8:00 p.m. Their event is BYOB, but snacks will be provided. Cost is only \$10.00 per person.

### Attention All Garden Enthusiasts!

The annual Beyond the Garden Gate Tour of many private gardens in Frederick City will be May 21 and May 22. The event runs from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. This self-guided tour offers visitors a unique peek into some of Frederick's finest private and public gardens. Tickets cost \$12.00. To obtain the list of businesses selling the tickets, call 301-228-2846 or email [hdouves@cityoffrederick.com](mailto:hdouves@cityoffrederick.com).

### The Frederick Children's Chorus

The twentieth anniversary concert is May 21 at 7:30 p.m. at Gov. Thomas Johnson High School. The chorus will be performing favorites from its past twenty years as an ensemble, and the singers will be joined by numerous alumni coming from all over to partake in the Sweet Music. There will also be a silent auction. Do you have a singer in the family? Now is the time to register children for the next school year. Contact manager Ann DuBose at 301-845-2451 or [www.fredcc.org](http://www.fredcc.org). Concert tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students and seniors. All seating is general admission.

### Attention Recent Graduates!

Need employment? The Spring Career Fair at Harry Grove Stadium will be on June 2 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Job seekers are encouraged to come out to the stadium and talk with local area businesses regarding

current career opportunities. Attendees even get free tickets to that evening's Frederick Keys game.

### It's Not the Indie 500, but....

Supreme Chevy/All GM Sunday Night at the 75/80 Speedway in Monrovia will be on May 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be drag racing along with a truck show for all GM powered vehicles – hosted by the Heart of Maryland Classic Chevy Club. The festivities will also include a parts flea market. For more information call 301-865-5270.

### Plan Ahead for the "Wedding from Hell"

The Brunswick Community Players presents its first interactive comedy murder mystery at Dessert Theater on Saturday, June 4 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, June 5, at 2:30 p.m. at Brunswick City Park.

## Golf Tips with Mike Aldrich



### Tension – The Enemy of Distance

Many times each year, I am asked by other golfers, "How do you hit the ball so [darn] far?" I regularly drive the ball into to 290 yard range, and about once a round hit one well over 300 yards. I am a little more than slightly overweight, and not extraordinarily strong. My hand eye coordination might be a little better than average, and I trip over my own feet at least once each day.

The answer to the question is simple. I apply a lot of speed to the head of the golf club by keeping my arms supple and responsive. I avoid all stiffness, and overexertion of effort. Think about the arms of a major league pitcher. Roger Clemens is an excellent example of keeping loose to create speed. The great pitchers are always described as having rubber arms, not steel ones.

The same principle applies to swinging a golf club. A great drill to help you increase clubhead speed is to turn the club upside down and grip it as shown in the photograph. Attempt to keep your arms as flexible as possible, and swing it with the intention of making the loudest, longest "whoosh" sound that you can. (Don't hit the ground with the butt of the club, or you may "deshaft" the head). The loudest part of the "whoosh" should



The upside down club drill.

be just past your imagined impact. Try this ten times, then turn the club around and see if you can keep the same feel with the grip in your hand.

As with learning any skill, golf requires repetition. Don't give up on gaining distance after only one or two sessions of practice. Adding even a little speed to your swing will take time, and the resulting gain in distance will not be significant immediately. Touring professional work for weeks on end, trying to squeeze another three, four, or five yards out of their drivers. Be patient, and stay loose!

*Mike Aldrich is the PGA Head Golf Professional at Poolesville Golf Course. He is a protégé of Manuel De La Torre, one of Golf Magazine's "Top 50 Teachers." Mike is a highly sought after instructor, working with some of greater D.C.'s top amateurs and PGA Professionals. Mike hopes that Poolesville Golf Course will become "Your home for all things golf". The facility is only 30 minutes from Gaithersburg, Rockville, and Frederick.*

## Local News Diesel and Dust

Garrett and Houston Miller of Barnesville are bicycling across the country this summer and will be raising money for a new nonprofit organization: the Piedmont Environment and Education Foundation. Details about the ride and the Foundation can be found at [www.bikedust.org](http://www.bikedust.org).

The Piedmont Environment and Education Foundation (PEEF) is a new nonprofit organization chartered in the State of Maryland. Seed funding for the Foundation has been donated by the Mirant Corporation. Additional funding for PEEF will be provided by Mirant as well as through fundraising spearheaded by the Sugarloaf Citizens Association. (The Sugarloaf Citizens Association is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization of community volunteers who work to promote understanding of public policies affecting northern Montgomery County. The Association owns and operates offices and an educational facility in Dickerson, MD.)

Their goal is to raise several hundred thousand dollars over the next several years to act as an endowment for (as the name of the organization implies) educational programs for middle and secondary schools in the District of Columbia and suburban Maryland.

PEEF plans to make available to school groups and individual teachers

small grants that can be used in their classrooms to initiate or reinforce fundamental ideas in environmental science. Ideally, these grants will enable field work for students and teachers and other hands-on experiences. They plan to work with manufacturers of laboratory equipment and supplies suitable for measurement at this educational level. Our goal is to provide not only "canned" experimental systems with suggested lesson plans, but also to appeal to the creativity of both the students and their teachers in designing and performing well crafted experiments.

Our board of directors includes representatives of the stakeholder organizations (Mirant and Sugarloaf) as well as environmental science educators at both the secondary and University levels. As the organization matures, our mission and our methods will certainly evolve, but we think that funds raised over these first few years will deliver a valuable jump start for raising environmental awareness for environmental problems as local as the stream that runs by the school or as global as climate change.

Your support for this ride will help get PEEF the start it needs to succeed. One hundred percent of the funds pledged in support of this ride will be used to directly support environmental education programs. As a fledging organization, PEEF relies completely on volunteer and pro bono efforts. An on-line pledge form is available at [www.bikedust.org/support.php](http://www.bikedust.org/support.php).

Garrett Miller is finishing his junior year at Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio where he studies art, computer science, and girls. He was a contributor to and editor of Sheer Magazine. He is also the Political Cartoonist for the Oberlin Review. Houston Miller is a professor in the Chemistry Department at the George Washington University and was a Town Commissioner of Barnesville.

## School News

June 15 is the last day of school for MCPS students – believe it.

*Monocacy Elementary*

The chorus will be singing at the dedication ceremony at the Monocacy Aqueduct on Saturday, May 21. All are welcome to attend.

Volunteers at the school are invited to the Volunteer Tea, Friday, May 27 at 1:45 p.m. Please call the school at 301-972-7990 as soon as possible if you plan to attend.

*John Poole Middle School*

Richard H. Bishop, the new principal for JPMS, had an opportunity to meet and talk with parents and teachers at the PTA meeting on May 10.

*Poolesville High School*

The Midnight Players would like to thank everyone who came to see "Brigadoon." Two performances were sold out and the other two were well attended. They offer a special thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the production a success.

June 3 at 2:30 p.m. is graduation for seniors at Strathmore Hall. School will be closed so that the entire staff is able to attend. A special thank you to Sandra Wolf-Meei Cameron and all those who helped with the Sandra Cameron Concert as part of the proceeds went to the cost of renting Strathmore Hall. Parking is at the Metro lot, connected to the concert hall. It is imperative that families attending graduation pay for parking with a SMART card which must be purchased in advance. Call the high school with questions at 301-972-7900.

Tired of tossing your empty inkjet printer cartridge and old cell phones in the trash and adding to the waste problem? PHS has a solution. Send in these items to the school in plastic bags, and a company will collect them and pay the school to have the opportunity to recycle them.

*PHS and JPMS Recognized by Parents during Appreciation Week*

It was practically a non-stop, weeklong marathon of appreciation by area parents for the school faculty, administration, and staff at Poolesville High School and John Poole Middle School. Coordinated by a large contingent of parents from each school (some of the parents who have children in both schools pitched in at both schools), the mission was to make sure that the teachers and staff properly understood just how appreciated they really are. From all accounts, the program was very successful in meeting this goal.

Each day of the week brought forth a new and special way of showing how much the teachers and staff are appreciated for their dedication and hard work throughout the entire year.

Monday started the extravaganza with balloon bouquets (donated by Poolesville Balloons), Hershey kisses, flowers, and an array of thank you cards. Tuesday brought bagels and

—Continued on Page 19.



## Youth Sports

### PHS Boys' Lacrosse: Building a Future Great of Success

By Rande Davis

The Poolesville High School boys' lacrosse team may not have the same depth in experience as last year's team, but, according to Coach Belcher, they "have the same work ethic and same heart." The players pride themselves in always being the better-conditioned team, and that is one of the main reasons this group has been so dominant in overtime play. years. In their last game of the season against Quince Orchard, they once again found themselves in overtime. The Falcons had not lost an overtime game in five years, and they were able to take three quality shots on goal, but the other team got a lucky bounce and the season ended in an exciting but disappointing loss.

While senior Matt Fields is the only player on the team who gained post-season recognition last year in the division and all-county rankings, Coach Belcher anticipates a number of players joining him for such accolades this year. Fields, who will attend Division II powerhouse Limestone College next year, is joined by many teammates in excellent play this year. Senior Steven Eader, heading to McDaniel College to play lacrosse, is the team's leading scorer and number one in face-offs, winning seventy-five percent this year. Offensively, Peter Halbrog and sophomore Michael O'Halloran have done an excellent job. Peter O'Halloran has been a great two-way mid-fielder who, like Eader, has excelled at the face-off.

The defensive play this year has been led by senior Tommy Dorrycott (going to Shenandoah University to play football), junior Chris Hren, and sophomore, Jake Yost.

Coach Belcher expects all of these players to be highly ranked post-season in the division and county.

The all-important goalie position has been superbly handled by sophomore Brady Cunningham as the first year starter, with sophomore Tommy Keefe showing superior play as well. Coach Belcher points out that "Cunningham stopped almost sixty percent of the shots on goal, and Keefe has the full confidence of the team in the



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event that Brady goes down. In fact, there are many teams where Tommy would be the starter."

A lacrosse team wants to have at least forty percent of their shots on goal successful. The team also keeps a close eye on controlling groundballs, the equivalent of a loose ball in basketball. "We stress groundballs because whoever controls them controls the game," emphasizes Belcher. Matt Fields has a +10 groundball average per game which in football would be like three to four interceptions per game. Most of the success in defense is credited to Coach Gregg Friedman, according to Belcher, "I believe he is a better coach than seventy-five percent of the head coaches in Montgomery County."

The future for lacrosse at PHS is extremely bright. Not only is this team very young and predominantly sophomores and freshman, but the feeder program, just started by Colin Potemra and Justin Shell, is very promising for long-term success. "We are lucky to have PHS alumni and experienced, former college lacrosse players like Potemra and Shell run this program," says Belcher. "The have just the right mix of intensity and fun" in their coaching.

Lacrosse in Montgomery County is behind Frederick County in its development with the latter starting junior varsity teams next year. That puts Montgomery County as the only school system without a junior varsity lacrosse program. Belcher believes that the commitment of Athletic Director Mike Riley, the players, their parents, and the dedication of Potemra and Shell is what makes everything work so well for now. Belcher states, "We will have a hard time keeping our successful trend without a full-fledged JV team and a community-supported feeder team"

Long-term aside, the team now heads (at our press time) into the playoffs against Brunswick High School. Beating them would pit PHS against number-three seed Carroll High School. With the early season challenge of multiple injuries now behind them, Coach Belcher anticipates a lot of success in the post-season. This team has already had success, and anticipation of good results in the post-season now begins to grow.

### Boys' Volleyball 2005

The Poolesville boys' volleyball team ended the season with a disappointing loss to Northwest after being ahead two to zero. The game seemingly summed up the season where the team struggled to win that elusive third game out of five, managing to do so only twice throughout the season.

Montgomery County's best-dressed coach, Mark Agnew, remarked, "It's the lack of volleyball experience that hurts." With this as the team's second year, it's still a very young, inexperienced team. This season, there were seven new players who had never played volleyball before who had to learn the skills of the game while trying to grasp nuances of strategy. However, Coach Agnew added, "We improved a lot as the season went on." Two of the new players, seniors James Mitchell and Roger Cochran, "did a really good job." Returning players, sophomores Russell Karn, the team captain, and Richard Graham, were essential to the team and will be huge assets next year.

"The players coming back next year have resolved to work in the off-season," continued Coach Agnew, "since we're playing against a lot of teams that have club players." This will be the added experience the players need to effectively compete against better developed teams.

#### School News Continued from Page 18—

coffee (donated by Starbucks and Einstein's) at JPMS, with PHS enjoying an Italiano Smorgasbord Luncheon discounted and delivered by Cugini's. A wide variety of families provided homemade desserts for the pleasure of the staff. On Wednesday, the offerings were reversed with the bagels/coffee going to PHS and the luncheon for JPMS. Thursday gave the staffs breakfast at both schools, and Friday became Cookie Day at both schools.

Prior to the kick off of the week-long festivities, the Staff Appreciation Committee distributed special nomination forms to honor selected faculty and staff. From these nominations the committees were able to identify some staff people that deserved a little extra recognition. The following people

were recognized for special contributions.

At PHS, Kathy Hoponick, secretary to the principal, received a special recognition award because of her hard work in helping on the Sandra Wolf-Meei Cameron Concert. She also was recognized for her contribution in helping the talent show and for her overall positive attitude throughout the year. Gordon Haines, Building Services, received a special award from PSTA President, Roger Hayden, for his diligent, trustworthy, and dependable hard work throughout the year. Social Studies Teacher, Jan Schultz, received many nominations from peers, families, and students for the great enthusiasm and dedication she brings to her classroom and peers.

Over at JPMS, Coree Ogden was recognized for her ever-smiling presence, positive attitude, and consistent patience in serving the staff, students, and parents. Donald Walker, Science instructor, was presented an award because of his enthusiasm, positive attitude, and for "making the science classroom a place where students cannot wait to learn."

Deena Levine, PHS principal, was enthusiastic over the week's events in stating, "It was a large morale booster for both staff and volunteers." Sarah Defnet, JPMS PTA president, added that "it was also a great week to welcome our new principal, Mr. Bishop and also to say our appreciative farewells to interim principal, Jerry Lynch." Roger Hayden, PHS PSTA president, said, "I was so proud to see so many volunteers step up to make it such a success... actually, the entire year was great."

Each person involved in the appreciation committee deserve special recognition and Pam Green who chaired the JPMS and co-chaired the PHS committees asked the *Monocle* to make sure we recognized all of the parents who participated: Madgie McCaughan (PHS chair), Julie Bellet, Melanie Dahlen, Sarah Defnet, Valarie Dickerson, Lisa Guertin, Nancy Kerr, Diane Hayden, Donna Kaufmann, Barbara Mumford, Heidi Rosvold-Brenholtz, Lynn Silvey, Bob Simmons, Beth Staten, Tammy Taylor, Erika Armstrong, Barbara Dillon, Linda Mundy, Kathy Stovicek, and Anita Yutharkosol. The *Monocle* would also like to thank Pam Green for assisting us in getting this report about this special week's activities to the readers.

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