

Inside the Monocle



Something here is ripe for rustling. Is it the livestock? Open farmland? The trees? Read Local History on Page 18 for the answer.



If it's Wacky Wednesday then it must be PHS' Homecoming. See our Photo Extravaganza on Page 24.



The parade was...



... great!



The PHS Cross-Country Team, in their rarely observed resting state. Read more on Page 23.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

October 7, 2005

Volume 2, Number 14

Poolesville Subway Robbed at Gunpoint Montgomery County Police Nab Suspect

Montgomery County Police Detectives from the Major Crimes Division – Robbery Section have arrested the suspected armed robber of the Subway sandwich shop in Poolesville.

On Sunday, September 25, at approximately 8:30 p.m., officers from the 5th District responded to the Subway sandwich shop, located at 19710 Fisher Avenue, for the report of an armed robbery that had just occurred. The Montgomery County police arrived within ten minutes of the call from the store's owner, Vinod Patel. There were two other employees in the store at the time of the robbery: one was working the counter and the other was in the back room. Mr. Patel, who was sitting at a table near the entrance of the shop, was approached directly by the gunman who demanded money.

Through the course of the investigation, it was learned that the suspect entered the restaurant wearing a mask, confronted the cashier, and with a gun in hand, demanded money. After receiving an undisclosed amount of money

from the cash register, the suspect fled on foot in the direction of Wootton Avenue.

This incident follows a similar method of operation by the robber of the Oriental Gourmet on September 8, 2005 and the Boyds Country Market,



Poolesville Subway—Scene of the town's second armed robbery this month.

which was hit twice on September 14, 2005 at 8:54 p.m. and September 20, 2005 at 7:09 p.m.

On the evening of September 28, Zachary Tyler Warring, 21, of

the 19800 block of Beatriz Lane in Poolesville, was arrested and charged with Armed Robbery, Conspiracy to Commit Armed Robbery, First-degree Assault, Use of a Handgun in a Felony Crime, Conspiracy to Use a Handgun in a Felony Crime, and Possession of a Handgun in a Vehicle. Paul Aaron Stoll, 22, of the 17400 block of Hughes Road in Poolesville, was charged as an accomplice. Both are being held on a \$40,000 bond in the Montgomery County Detention Center.

Warring's possible involvement in the other commercial robberies in the Poolesville area remains under investigation.

A police spokesperson said that the arrests were the result of assistance from the community which supplied critical information. Community cooperation coupled with the diligence and hard work of the members of the Robbery Squad resulted in an arrest within one week of the holdup at the Subway shop.

There's Something About Mary: Celebrating 103 Years of Age

By Rande Davis

"My Lord alive, I never thought it was possible." So stated Mary Chiswell as she reflected on her upcoming 103rd birthday. Spoken softly like a half-prayer of thanksgiving and half-thought of amazement, she expressed gratitude for her birth date which is officially October 8, but friends and family will gather in celebration on October 25.

We recently had the great fortune to visit with the grand lady to talk about her remarkable achievement of keeping an eye on Poolesville for over a century. The longevity is to be respected, for sure; however, it is her sharpness of mind and enthusiastic reflections on her life that are to be so admired.

You do not just visit Mary. She receives you. As you wait in the parlor, she makes her entrance by use of her walker. Her beautiful brown eyes still

sparkle as she sits down on the edge of her *Masterpiece Theater*-like chair. She has dressed for the occasion in her bright red dress complemented by a gold locket-watch hanging around her neck, a gift from her aunt on her sixteenth birthday.

Mary Fyffe Chiswell lives in the house her grandfather built. She bought it in 1923 and has lived there ever since. She has lived away from Poolesville for only brief periods of time. She left Poolesville for the first time to begin what was to become her lifelong vocation of teaching. "When I left Poolesville to attend Normal School to become a teacher, I was following the inspiration of those, like Betty Griffith, who taught me in school," said Mary. She crammed two years of study into one before finishing at Towson College. (Mary is the oldest living graduate of what is now

Towson University.)

As she jam-packed her trunk to go off to college in far-away Baltimore, her parents told her that she would not be able to come back before Christmas. "I remember celebrating

—Continued on Page 12



Mary Chiswell at 103.

Family Album



Facing the mosh pit at the Lord's Acre Festival.



Local newshound races for the next shot.

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The Lord's Acre Festival at Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church—one of the area's signature events.



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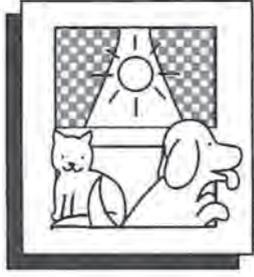
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Editorial

Quiet Poolesville Is Not So Quiet Anymore

By Rande Davis

News reports of crime, scandal, and concerns about growth are on the rise. Even in our small town, there is never a dull moment. The good news is that timely action and putting things into perspective can prevent such concerns from getting out of hand.

The most prominent issue is the current spate of armed robberies in the town and in the area. The Montgomery County Police are hot on the trail of the person or persons who, stealing a phrase from Lt. Gen. Honore, are "stuck on stupid." We have every reason to expect an arrest soon, and when that happens, the community can go back to its expectation of a safe place to live. Even in our movie-dominated culture, the level of stupidity exhibited by the culprit is astounding.

These serious crimes, however, bring the issue of the town having

its own police or constable force to the forefront. While acknowledging that the response to these crimes by the Montgomery County police was timely and professional, it is time for the town to come up with a solution before crime gets out of hand.

There are indicators all over town warning us to take action. Heroin needles have been found at Stevens Park. There have been young teenagers walking through town at night openingly smoking pot, unafraid of others smelling and witnessing their transgression. Even small issues previously discussed such as trash and graffiti point to a community moving in the wrong direction.

Interestingly, Brunswick, Maryland which has roughly the same population as Poolesville has a ten-man police force. The Montgomery Police have stepped up their presence in the town over past years, and their visibility has shown some improvement; however, that is not enough. Our solution may be somewhere in between.

The solution comes from our strength, and our strength is our town

—Continued on Page 12

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The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

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Commentary

(Editor's Note: The following represents the views of its author and does not necessarily represent the views of Monocacy Press LLC or its principals.)

Setting the Record Straight on Poolesville Day

By Jake Perkins, Co-Chair Poolesville Day Committee 2005

First of all, the Poolesville Day Committee would like to thank everyone who helped make Poolesville Day 2005 a great success. While more volunteers would have allowed us to do more with the event, our small core of committee members, along with several other volunteers, made it a great day for the thousands of attendees.

There have been articles published in the Western Montgomery Bulletin (July 30, 2005 and September 17, 2005) that inaccurately portrayed the committee and its work, and therefore, it is appropriate to set the record straight. This commentary has met with the full approval of committee members.

Of particular concern is that at no time did the paper make any attempt

to contact the organizers of the event to verify facts or ask for comment. One article referred to reports that the committee was in "turmoil." There was no turmoil. Six to eight people have been running an event that should have a committee of fifteen to twenty members. We were tired, not troubled.

One article left its readers with the impression that the Commissioners of Poolesville allowed our event to use all of Whalen Commons to "justify" the space. Let me be clear—the Poolesville Day Committee requested use of the space after a survey of vendors during and after Poolesville Day 2004 indicated vendors at the extreme ends of the 2004 celebration received little or no foot traffic (I would also note that the majority of these vendors did not return for 2005.) The Commissioners had nothing to do with the decision; the Parks Board granted the request.

The title of one September article suggests one tone, but the article itself does little more than criticize the event. Again, a balanced, factually based article would have been possible had the paper contacted

—Continued on Page 17

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Local News

HaTikvah – The Hope

By Marcie Gross

It was a sea of blue-green yalmukas filling the parking lot into the new home of Congregation Or Chadash on Kings Valley Road in Damsascus, on Saturday, September 18, 2005. The shofar was blown and blessings were sung as the congregation led its procession of torahs into the new synagogue for the long-awaited building dedication ceremony. Ruach (which means spirit in Hebrew) filled the air. Emotions were high and the compliments were overflowing for the proud congregants whose hopes and prayers were answered in the form of a permanent home.

"The road to Damascus was long and rocky," said Building Committee Chairman Andy Klingenstein. He spoke both figuratively and literally in part because of the rocky terrain, and partly due to the fact that the first formal building committee meeting was held in 2000. The long road began with three anonymous families who generously donated seventeen acres of land and the road continued with volunteers who spent countless hours fine tuning building plans. Over one third of the congregation had a hand in this process. HaTikvah and ruach led the way.

But when you attempt to do something, you take your time and do it right. That's what Congregation Or Chadash has accomplished. Hope (as well as blood, sweat, and tears) has taken this nineteen-year-old congregation from its humble beginnings

meeting in members' homes to renting space in a community center, churches, a public school and a commercial building to where it is today, in a glorious synagogue to call its own. "We've always been a family," said a congregant, "so wherever we were at the time was our home, but now we have a permanent place to make roots in the community and allow our family to continue to grow and prosper." As you enter the lobby and follow through to the sanctuary, you feel the warmth of this close-knit group. The education wing contains many classrooms that are brightly decorated and exude energy.

At the dedication, mezuzot were blessed and attached to welcome the congregation into its new home. The torahs were placed into the ark and children from the religious school sang a prayer welcoming those in attendance. Rabbi Paul Tuchman, Co-Presidents Diane Levitus and Jen Strelser, Religious School Principal Marcy Bixby, and members of the Brotherhood and Sisterhood made inspirational remarks. The Or Chadash Singers sang enlightening blessings for this special occasion. Guest speakers included: Rabbi Scott Sperling, Regional Director, Mid-Atlantic Council, Union for Reform Judaism; State Senators Rona Kramer and Robert Garagiola; Maryland State Representatives Anne Kaiser, Joan Stern, Herman Taylor, and Brian Feldman; and County Councilman Michael Knapp.

After the dedication ceremony, the celebration continued with an Oneg, a reception sponsored by the Or Chadash Sisterhood. Now, the journey continues for this synagogue. Once again, tikvah and ruach will lead the way.



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Center Stage

Color of Harmony

By Dominique Agnew

A profusion of color greets visitors to Alan W. Gramley's studio in Clarksburg: Blues, purples, greens, yellows, reds, pinks, the spectrum complete; swaying, swirling, beckoning. How can one resist? The guest is engulfed before even entering the studio— Alan's flower beds and terraced gardens dominate the landscape of his property; he calls it his living art. Once again, inside the studio, it is no wonder that his paintings reflect vibrant colors and motion. Maybe this is living art, as well.

Alan W. Gramley has been an artist all his life. It is not only what he does, it is what he is. "I've drawn and painted all my life," he says. "It's in my blood." He claims he didn't receive the best of grades in school, but maybe if he'd taken nothing but art classes, his report cards would have looked better. "Instead of doing assignments, I would cut deals with the teachers to paint murals instead,"

he says with a smile.

Alan continued his formal education at Montgomery College in the 1970s where he seriously studied painting. He received very good training from Allan Marsh who tried to focus the students on the old masters and the traditional painting



The Vacation, by Alan W. Gramley

techniques that have been developed over the centuries. Alan adds, "For any artist, if you get the foundation of understanding what the old masters did, it's quite advantageous to you." He finds it amazing the sheer genius the old masters effected by creating

the works they did with the materials available to them. If they wanted a certain color blue, they couldn't just hop over to the local art supply store and buy blue paint. They worked under different conditions with "an economy of materials." The genius of the science of optics the masters integrated into their works is also important to take into consideration: color, picture plane, composition.

Following Montgomery College, Alan attended the Maryland Institute of Baltimore where he continued his pursuit of painting and drawing. He also became involved with other artists that he met at the time. Conrad Fried, Robert Chapman, and Tom Ferrara are great modern artists with whom he became involved and who were very influential. "All of us kind of grew together." They did some group shows together, as well.

His parents were also artistic, but they were not painters. His father, an economist, played the trumpet, and his mother had given up her career as a classical concert pianist to have him. Alan never took up the piano, he says his mother tried to teach him, but he may have been too much in awe over her abilities to pursue the piano.

However, he is especially pleased to have inherited her violin which he does play – and sometimes he plays it while he's painting. He also plays the guitar, and in exchange for doing some paintings for Weaver's Violin Shop in Bethesda, he acquired a chin cello (like a large viola) and an electric violin. (To my favorite editors: Do you have any idea how hard it is to interview someone when there are violins all over the studio? You want too much from me! First, we had to get all the instruments out. Then I played them, then he played them. Next, the Bach came out. I played a little Bach, he played a little Bach. Finally, we listened to a recording of Heifetz playing Bach.) Bach to the story at hand: It's not that he's playing at the same time as he's painting, but it's part of the whole process. After working on a piece for a while, he'll step back and view the work from a distance, and that's when he'll play for a bit. "When you're right up there, you can't see everything simultaneously," he says. "You need to give yourself a space of time at a distance."

Alan works primarily with oil on panel, usually high-grade plywood.

—Continued on Page 14



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Mary Chiswell Continued From Page 1—

Thanksgiving at my uncle's farm. I took a trolley to Ellicott City and then rode a horse and buggy out to his farm."

Mary taught elementary school (mostly second grade in Poolesville) from 1919 to 1964. She started in a much bigger school in Darnestown. The building had twenty rooms. Darnestown was too far to commute so she, like the other teachers, boarded. She eventually came back to Poolesville. Most of her friends preferred to be closer to the District of Columbia for the cultural opportunities of the day like the theater, library, etc. For Mary, her passion for her hometown brought her back to Poolesville.

Most teachers were single, and for those teaching in the Poolesville area, their social life really centered around getting together with fellow teachers. "We would do our fancy work (needlepoint, knitting, etc.), talk, share homemade pies and cookies, and have a good time sharing each other's company," reminisces Mary. A big deal would have been the field trips to Rockville where baseball and soccer were the games of the day.

The classrooms almost always had about twenty-three kids in them, although she remembers when one class had fifty-two. They assigned a teacher's helper in those situations.

Most of the ladies married local men. Mary was no different when she married Mr. Chiswell in 1936. He worked in Washington at the time.

Mr. Chiswell was not big on travel preferring to play golf and bowl as his way of relaxation. However, he encouraged Mary to travel, and travel she did. She joined the Frederick Travel Club and over the years visited pretty much all of the United States. She traveled by automobile and train, reveling in the industrial tours that were very popular back then. She fondly remembers going to glass factories, watching how potato chips were made, and other such tours. She also has fond memories of the Chicago World's Fair and recalls a demonstration on how automobiles were made. She left the country once on a cruise to Bermuda only to be challenged by Hurricane Cleo. Though the ship tilted a lot, the hurricane was not up to a match with Mary.

As she relates the stories of her life and travels, her secret to her long life emerges unspoken. Throughout our

hour-long interview, Mary sat upright on the edge of her chair, fully engaged in the conversation; speaking with enthusiasm and delight so fast I could barely keep up with the notes. She still expresses a youthful zest for life.

Her optimism is genuine. Asked how she does it, she replies, "My mother gave me advice when I first started living on my own in Poolesville. She said, 'Always remember that it is a small town and everybody knows each other. Many families are married to one another. So, never, ever talk badly about any person since you do not know how they may be related.'"

Mary speaks in a hard-to-find beautiful southern accent. It reminds one of the upscale, southern drawl in *Gone with the Wind* but with a modified Maryland tone. The only clue to her longevity that she can attribute to a physical reason is that her mom was a great cook. "The food was fresh, homemade, and we had plenty of it," she remembers.

Of course, being a member of the fourth estate, I couldn't leave well enough alone. So, I had to push for something negative. She finally relented with a small sigh that seemed to say, Okay, just one thing bad. She had a rough time when the Poolesville National Bank closed its doors in the 1920s. "Everyone said to get your money out, but we kept it in there anyway. The day I found out was at a time we were planning a trip to Rockville to buy a new daybed. I was told I could forget about the trip because no one was able to get money out of the bank. We finally settled on getting back some money at twenty-three percent of our savings."

Then she quickly left the negative and resumed remembering fond things of the past. A life-long member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, she remembers her mom baking the bread and cutting off the crust for communion. Mary lived in what is now St. Peter's rectory. She recalls that the blackberry wine for communion was homemade and chuckles on reflection that the sexton at the time was often accused of sampling it when cleaning the church. She can still recall having the job of turning the hand pump to make the organ work.

Physically, Mary has only suffered some broken bones over the years. When she broke her hip, her travels came to an end; however, she greatly enjoys getting together with friends and appreciates when so many of her past students drop in just to say hello.

In the coming weeks, friends and family will stop by with gifts and cards for Mary. When they do, Mary will have a very special gift for them. It is a rare, warm, and beautiful present. It is the gift of Mary's presence. When I left Mary, I asked permission for a kiss. She laughed robustly when she said, "Of course."

At 103 years old, birthday cards never arrive late. So, why not drop her a card and a wish. It'll give her a smile—and, when Mary smiles, the whole world smiles with Mary.

—Poolesville Not So Quiet Continued From Page 4

charter. As our own governmental entity, we have the ability to respond and not wait for a county council accustomed to putting our needs on its back burner.

The commissioners have already discussed the issue of hiring part-time, off-duty police as one possibility. In the short run, that may be the way to go. For the future, some level of a permanent police presence should be the plan.

Beyond crime, other ethical questions have come to the fore. Misuse of town equipment has been brought to the attention of the town's ethics committee. The latest incident involves inappropriate usage of town equipment by Commissioner Kuhlman. Similar transgressions have occurred by others in the past. It is time for the town to codify restrictions on such use. Past precedent, in this case, is bad precedent. We encourage the town to move quickly in closing this gap and write an appropriate code to prevent this kind of transgression in the future.

Finally, there has been an increase in coverage over development plans in

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the town. The recent coverage seems to make it appear that building new homes is right around the corner. The fact is we are still, at a minimum, two years away from "dirt being moved." If all the building plans that are on the table come to fruition, the total number of new homes will be under four hundred with subsequent population growth still below the master plan.

That level of growth is important and necessary for a vibrant community. The concern of the business community is well understood. Lack of growth is threatening the viability of the high school, the middle school, and Monocacy Elementary School. Even our churches look for some growth to take them into the future. Issues of the Ag Reserve should not be confused with the need for growth within the town of Poolesville. Issues of water have been ameliorated, and progress in in-flow and infiltration is being made.

Future budgets for the town need to make room for these future needs. While we generally agree with a concept for a new town hall, such plans need to be prioritized against our need for increased police protection and growth. Build the hall too big and the town will suffer.

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In the Garden

Autumn at Hillwood

By Maureen O'Connell

Two blocks from the busy traffic at the intersection of Connecticut Avenue and Tilden Street in D.C., in an unassuming neighborhood, is Hillwood, a jewel of a mansion and twelve acres of formal gardens. It was the home of the late Marjorie Merriweather Post. She was born March 15, 1887 and was the sole heir to the Postum Cereal Company, which her father Charles William "C.W." Post had founded. At an early age he instilled in her a keen business acumen and a passion for collecting beautiful objects of art. She was married to Edward Bennett Close from 1905 to 1919. Her second husband, financier Edward F. Hut-ton transformed the family company into the General Foods Corporation. That marriage ended in 1935. Her third husband was Joseph E. Davies, the second United States Ambassador to the Soviet Union. While living in Moscow with him in 1937 and 1938, she developed a life-long love for

Russian art and culture. That marriage didn't last forever either. In 1955 she divorced Davies and soon after purchased Hillwood.

Her dream for Hillwood was to create a showcase for the vast collection of objects of art that she slowly accumulated over the past forty years. The mansion and gardens were the settings for the many galas she hosted to support her favorite charities. In 1958 she married once more to Herbert May; that lasted for six years. From then on she chose to be called Mrs. Post. She died at Hillwood on September 12, 1973, leaving her estate as a living museum for future generations to enjoy. The mansion is furnished just as it was when Mrs. Post lived there. Her passionate love of beautiful crafted objects and her fascination with people and culture of France and imperial Russia is evident in every room of the house and every "room" of the gardens. Let me take you on a tour.

The Entry Hall's two-story grand staircase is dominated by a large oil portrait of Russia's Catherine the Great, who reigned from 1762 to 1796. The many portraits and art objects in the Hall give testament to Mrs.

Post's two interests as a collector: the decorative and fine arts of eighteenth century France and imperial Russia. In the early twentieth century, Mrs. Post and many of her contemporaries were enamored with the splendor of the eighteenth century artistic life. The rooms at Hillwood are a step-back to the glorious tapestries, furnishings, paintings and porcelain objects of a fine Parisian home at the time of King Louis XVI. Her favorite colors were pink and blue. You can see all shades of these colors in the many pieces of Sèvres porcelain and Beauvais tapestries. One room is devoted entirely to Russian porcelains. Another room is the "Icon Room." Early Russian artists painted large religious pictures on church walls, and also smaller pictures called *icons*. When Mrs. Post was in Moscow in the 1930s, she was able to purchase hundreds of valuable icons and silver chalices at government-sponsored stateroom sales. As the Communist government strove to control all aspects of Russian society and culture, many Imperial treasures were destroyed or put up for sale to finance its industrialization program. Some four hundred objects fill this room, including over eighty pieces of objects by Carl Fabergé, the celebrated jeweler to Russia's imperial rulers. It is probably the finest collection of Fabergé Eggs, outside of the Hermitage and the Somerset House in London.

Mrs. Post had a life-long passion for gardens and flowers. Every room in the Mansion has fresh flowers arrangements all year long. She envisioned her gardens as a logical extension of the rooms of the house, and each garden "room" would have a distinct character. The twelve acres of gardens that you can tour today are exactly as they were when Mrs. Post lived at Hillwood. Landscape architect William Gebhart designed Hillwood's gardens in 1926, and many traces of

his original designs remain.

The garden room nearest to the house is the French Parterre – a formal garden with low intricate plantings divided by stone foot paths, channels of moving water, and a central pool lined with Italian glass tiles. It is surrounded by walls of English ivy. As you step from Mansion's French Drawing Room, you are transported in time to a small, Parisian formal garden of the eighteenth century. A terra-cotta sculpture of Diana, the Roman goddess of the hunt, overlooks this formal, but whimsical garden of plants, fanciful creatures such as marble sphinxes and a lead cherub riding sea animals in the pool. You exit this room through an archway and walk towards a brick and wood pergola dripping with white wisteria and New Dawn climbing roses and you enter the Rose Garden. The design of the garden is an intricate balance between the four beds – each planted with a single variety of Floribunda rose. The beds are edged in early spring with tulips and in summer with sweet alyssum. This was Mrs. Post's favorite garden on the estate. She chose this site to house her ashes at the base of a pink granite monument

You now walk beyond the pergola towards the brick gate posts topped with lead sculptures of birds and children. This is called Friendship Walk. It is flanked by aromatic boxwood, rhododendrons and azaleas. In 1957, four of Mrs. Post's friends, with the help of her chief gardener, designed this walkway to honor her lifetime of philanthropy

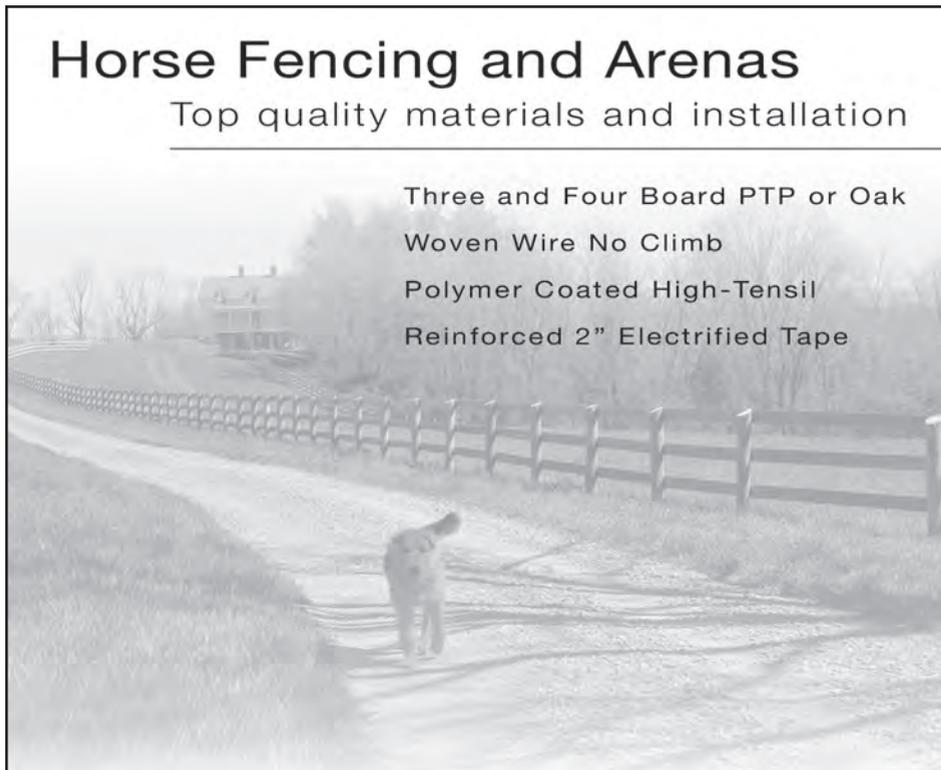
Mrs. Post believed in the benefits of fresh air and exercise. She loved square dancing and golf, so in the Mansion she had a room just for dancing, and out side there was a putting green. It was covered with a closely clipped bentgrass turf and enclosed

– Continued on Page 14

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Autumn at Hillwood Continued From Page 13—

with Japanese hollies to keep the balls from rolling away. The garden is framed with flowering begonias, magnolias, cypress and snowball viburnum.

After a short walk down the flagstone path you come to the Lunar Lawn which spreads out in front of the Mansion's portico. It was so named for its crescent shape. Years ago it offered a panoramic view of the Washington Monument. Masses of evergreen arborvitae and false cypress, azaleas, camellias, dogwoods and magnolias are a treat for the senses, and provide an enclosure for the space created for entertaining on a grand scale. Notice the stately stone lion, carved in England in 1700, that holds court at the edge of the flagstone patio.

Off to the right of this large, grassy lawn, two large stone guard dogs, a tall granite lantern, and the tingling sound of splashing water announce your arrival to Hillwood's Japanese Garden. Many surprises await you at every turn. Follow small white-gravel paths over lazy pools of water; cross the wooden foot bridge and carefully step over the large granite stones. Sculptured features are used sparingly in Asian garden design, but Mrs. Post threw that idea to the winds. Tucked carefully in the garden's nooks and crannies are a stone tortoise, stone lanterns, and numerous figures, including Hotei, the Japanese god of happiness and prosperity who is often misidentified as a laughing Buddha.

At Versailles, Marie Antoinette had her *Hameau* (hamlet), where she lived out her romanticized dreams of peasant life. At Hillwood, Marjorie had her *Dacha*, or Russian country house, which was her romanticized interpretation of a small peasant house. It was built in 1969 during the Cold War. While US-Soviet relations were tense, the *Dacha* represented, for Mrs. Post, a nostalgic view of Russian culture. Its architecture mimicked many features of actual Russian peasants' dwellings, such as whole-log construction and intricate carvings around windows and doors. Today, the *Dacha* houses Hillwood's changing exhibitions. From now until December 4, it features the ceramic works of Eva Zeisel.

Continuing along the path, you come to the Adirondack Building. This rustic little house, half hidden by

a large Norway spruce and umbrella magnolia, recalls the architectural style of Camp Topridge, Mrs. Post's summer retreat in up-state New York.

At this point in your tour if you are hungry, stop at the very attractive garden Café for a spot of lunch. Our last stop will be the Cutting Garden and Greenhouse. You will immediately notice the large, rectangular beds with straight rows of flowers. This is not a garden decoration; it has a more utilitarian purpose of providing fresh cut flowers for the arrangements in the Mansion. The flower selections are typical of those used in the 1950s and 1960s. I recognized the hybrid tea roses, celosia, dahlias, asters, zinnias, sedums, coleus and gladiolas. There was one long row of flowers that I did not recognize. It had the tendrils and stems of sweet peas, but the flowers were shaped like little tea-cups in marvelous shades of light peach, mauve, dark purple, lilac and rose. I asked a man who was tending the flowers what it was. He said that they were the godetia plant. When I got home I checked them out in a garden book that was published in the 1940s. It said that they were very attractive summer annuals, but they did not fare well in hot, humid climates. I gather that Hillwood does not experience the climate of the average D.C. summer.

The adjacent greenhouse is home to over two thousand of the thirty-five thousand types of orchid species. They were all in varying stages of bloom. There were also many other species of flowers that are used to decorate the Mansion year-round.

I visited Hillwood on September 22 and all the flowers were still in bloom. The Fall Garden Touring season runs through Saturday, November 12. Docent-led tours of the gardens are offered daily at 10:30 a.m. The Mansion and gardens are open Tuesday to Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on select evenings and Sundays. You can visit on Sunday, October 9 and 23 and November 6 and 27 from 1 p.m. till 5:00 p.m. To get there, drive down Connecticut Avenue, turn left on Tilden Street and go two blocks to a left on 4155 Linnean Avenue. There is a tree-lined median strip which prevents you from seeing Linnean Avenue on the left. Go down the hill and turn at the bottom and come back up and take the first right turn. Reservations are required: 202-686-5807. There is free parking on the estate.

Color of Harmony Continued From Page 11—

Again, he follows procedures that old masters have used for centuries. He paints in stages, allowing different layers to dry. He can use many layers and the painting will remain structurally sound. There are many advantages to using panel. One is that he can create the texture of the painting, which can sometimes be predetermined by a canvas background. "I can get beautiful, beautiful textural effects on panel." Also, when he doesn't like what he's painted, he can scrape it all off and start over. Then there was the time he painted a panel, took a picture of it and put the panel away for a while. When he came back to it, he painted over it completely and took another picture. When he came back to the painting a second time, he scraped everything off and repainted again to create his third and final work — absolutely stunning — but looking back at the pictures, in a way, he wished he had kept the second painting, but then again, if he had done that, he wouldn't have had the third painting. As he puts it, "I start out, a lot of times, I don't know what I'm

doing. Sometimes, from the get-go, I know exactly what I'm doing."

Alan tends to not have shows in galleries; he can't find a "situation that's agreeable." He continues, "Ideally for a gallery, an artist must have tunnel vision." He says this because he refuses to stick with just one genre. He paints anything from abstracts to landscapes to still lifes — and more. "I'm all over the board; that's just the way I am. I like a whole lot of things. I try not to put limitations either on my art or my music."

So Alan prefers artists' cooperatives like the local Hyattstown Mill Arts Project where he's not told what to produce. As a matter of fact, he's having a show there throughout the month of October ending October 30 — a great opportunity to listen to his paintings.

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Local News

Council Member Knapp Holds Town Meeting on Ag Reserve Issues

It was a standing-room-only crowd that came to the Boyds Presbyterian Church in late September for a town meeting with Montgomery County Councilman Mike Knapp (Democrat, District 2.) The main topic at hand was development within the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve, and those attending shared their concern regarding maintaining the "Ag Reserve."

The Agricultural Reserve was established by county planners twenty-five years ago in an effort to preserve disappearing open space and farmland. It has served as a national model of county planning for a quarter of a

century. While you can buy and sell land within the reserve, zoning restrictions are attached to the land which generally limit building lot sizes to a minimum twenty-five acres per lot.

This town meeting centered on a proposal received by the Montgomery County Planning Board (MCPB) to permit the building of a church within the Ag Reserve. While the proposal has been with the MCPB for some time, it was only recently introduced into council. While churches and schools, as non-profit entities, are allowed in any zoning, the concern of the majority of the participants at the meeting was a basic conflict between this permissive zoning and maintaining the integrity of the Agricultural Reserve. Some participants' concerns were focused on the size of the church, buildings, proposed parking lots, and population of the church community. Restrictions on the size of these non-profit entities is accomplished through

restrictions on water and sewer allocations. Development within the Ag Reserve would utilize well and septic, so there would be no limiting development by limiting permitted water and sewer.

Councilman Knapp related that some of his constituency viewed this proposal as church versus Ag Reserve. He stressed this is not the case. His

thought is to preserve and uphold the mandated Reserve without any prejudice against churches. If there are spaces within the Reserve which are not suitable for any agricultural purpose, they may be considered for other uses, such as churches, but only within the context of preserving the nature of the Ag Reserve.

Mr. Knapp expressed his opinion that the stewardship of the Ag Reserve and serving the faith-based community are not mutually exclusive ideas. He reiterated, "It's not church versus Ag Reserve." They both receive the attention of the county. The need to protect churches which are currently serving the community is recognized. "We have both an ag policy and a diversity policy." Councilman Knapp posed the question for consideration: "Should master plans include space for faith-based communities?"

The concern stems from the fact that a two-hundred acre parcel was purchased in Laytonsville by a church. Since they would be using well and septic, restraining water and sewer development would not be an applicable strategy to control development. Montgomery County has comparatively liberal policies regarding extending water and sewer into the Ag Reserve. Other adjacent counties have more restrictive policies. "In order to preserve the Ag Reserve, we must make sure agriculture remains viable," stated Mr. Knapp. Mike

Rubin pointed out that one third of the reserve, thirty-two thousand acres, is available directly to the public as parkland.

Councilman Knapp cited scientific data that support the concept that impervious surfaces in excess of eight percent of the total parcel lead to a decline in water quality, and negatively impact the environment. The county currently has a fifteen percent cap on impervious surfaces.

Some discussion was exchanged with the audience regarding scaling back the size of churches to lessen environmental impact. Some found this acceptable, some were vehemently opposed to this compromise. Per Mike Knapp, scaling back is not consistent with the premise of preserving the Reserve. He has received some letters from churches in favor of maintaining the Reserve, rather than allowing a church to be built. The letters mention "stewardship of God's creation."

Some of the comments voiced from the audience included: "We have fourteen churches within this area already adequately serving our local faith-based community."

Local land preservation activist Tom Hoffman, who was present in the audience, made a heartfelt plea for Mike Knapp's commitment regarding the Ag Reserve. Mr. Hoffman urged Mr. Knapp to use his position as a

—Continued on Page 18.

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Local News

PHS Students in Car Accident on Jerusalem Road

A 1995 Chevrolet Corsica driven by Alexander Douglas Horner, 17, of Hoskins Road, Poolesville was involved in a single-car personal injury collision around 11:00 a.m. on Friday, September 26, 2005.

The accident occurred while traveling east on Jerusalem Road approaching Cissel Manor Drive. At a point where the roadway curves to the right, the car left the roadway slipping onto a non-paved area causing the car to skid into a tree. The impact from hitting the tree resulted in the car being spun completely around to where it was facing in the direction from



The Chevy Corsica after the accident.

which it had been traveling.

Passengers in the car were Sarah Knudson, 17, of Cattail Lane in Poolesville, and Joshua Heavner, 17, of Wasche Road in Dickerson. Ms. Knudson and Mr. Heavner were transported by helicopter to Children's Hospital while Mr. Horner was transported by ambulance to Suburban Hospital. All three victims of the accident appeared to be suffering from non-life-threatening injuries.

PHS has a policy that allows upper class students to leave school premises during lunch hours. This is reported to have been instituted in the late nineties and was suspended at one time in reaction to reports of students running stop signs and speeding during the lunch hour. The suspension was lifted and the upper class students were again allowed to leave school for lunch at home or at area restaurants. Leaving the Poolesville area remains against school policy.

PHS principal, Deena Levine, issued a notice to all parents and guardians relating to the accident. The accident occurred as the school was just beginning its annual homecoming weekend festivities. Principal Levine took the time to remind the students how quickly their safety can be compromised. She advised parents to "please, take a few minutes, especially this homecoming weekend, to talk with your child about the importance of focusing on their safety."

Monocacy Elementary

Jugs are set up in the front hall to collect change to benefit the victims of Hurricane Katrina. All funds collected will be given to the Red Cross.

Family Fun Night

Friday, October 28 is MES's first family fun night from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., a great evening of fun and games for students and their families. If you are available to help, please contact Lorraine Jones at 301-972-6618 or Libby Lawbaugh at 301-349-5704 or elawbaugh@comcast.net.

The votes are in! There is a new student government in place at MES. Congratulations to President Che Caballero, Vice President Chris Carney, Secretary Andy Baker, and Treasurer Courtney Holston.

School News

All MCPS students

October 10 is an all day open house. Parents are welcome all day to come to the school, meet the teachers, and watch the children in class. Please be sure to check in at the front office first.

All schools are closed October 13 in observance of Yom Kippur.

All schools are closed for students and teachers on October 21 for the State Teachers' Convention.

All FCPS students

All schools are closed October 13 in observance of Yom Kippur.

All schools are closed for students on October 14 for a Professional Development Day.

All schools are closed for students and teachers on October 21 for the State Teachers' Convention.

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An Update on Mr. Sacco

By Rande Davis

The *Monocle* has had a number of readers ask how Mr. Sacco is doing at his new assignment at Lakelands Park Middle School. We contacted him to find out.

The *Monocle*: How are things progressing?

Sacco: The physical part of building the school still goes on. Our main gym is not complete, but the smaller auxiliary gyms are near completion. We are the largest middle school in the county (I went from the smallest to the largest) with 153,000 square feet. We have twenty-eight exit doors and three floors.

I hear many students/parents say they feel they "won the lottery" by coming here. The school is beautiful and many believe it is a high school or community college.

The *Monocle*: What has the experience been like?

Sacco: Building a new school does have its ups and downs. It has been very rewarding to open a new school.

I had the opportunity to hire all of my own staff and create a vision for a school from the ground up. There continues to be great excitement and enthusiasm from the staff, students, and community.

The *Monocle*: How does it compare to JPMS?

Sacco: John Poole Middle School had a wonderful community that I appreciated. The parents were always there to support you and were willing to lend a hand. In considering this move, I questioned many individuals as to the community I would be joining. Poolesville is unique, but this community has also been very welcoming. I have a much more diverse population here (all my communications go out in several languages). However, all the parents at LPMS are just like the parents at JPMS—they love their children and want the best for them.

The *Monocle*: What do you consider your top priorities?

Sacco: As is true of all schools, what goes on in the classroom is most important. Relationships, instructional talent of the teachers, and the feelings of safety and security drive a school.

—Continued on Page 18.

Things to Do

October 6, 7 & 8

Rummage Sale

St. Peter's Parish

Thurs. - 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Fri. - 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Sat. - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

October 7, 8 & 9

2005 Autumn Studio Tour

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

October 8

Fishing With Wounded Soldiers

White's Ferry Pavilion

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Contact: 201-349-0080

Annual UMCVFD Open House

Beallsville, Open: 11:00 a.m.

October 11

Monocacy Lions Club

Fall Blood Drive

St. Peter's Church

3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

October 12

Pre-School Bible Study

St. Peter's Parish

10:00 a.m. Open to public

Poolesville Day Committee Continued From Page 5—

the committee. Upon such contact, it would have been learned that there were poster-sized parking signs that directed attendees to the designated parking area from both sides of town. The problem is that there is simply not enough parking for the number of people who attend because the number of attendees and the number of vendors are at or near record levels for the past two years. Finally, you would have learned there was more promotion of the event than ever for Poolesville Day 2005. A postcard was

mailed in July to all residents and businesses in zip codes 20837, 20838, 20839 and 20842; the usual banners were hung at Routes 28 and 107 and at Wootton Avenue and Fisher Avenue; and every local paper published notices and articles in the months leading up to the event. There is more contentious information in both articles, but it is unnecessary to go over the details at this juncture. My point is this—the public should know that the coverage of Poolesville Day has not been what we would call responsible journalism. Facts were never checked with our committee nor

was the committee ever requested to comment, and, we find it unfortunate that editorial opinions were mixed with alleged facts.

The committee is now in the process of evaluating this year's festival. We welcome all comments and criticism as we try to provide guidance for next year's festival. If the newspaper's publisher or the general public has questions or comments, we welcome those comments from concerned citizens. Please contact our website (www.poolesville.com) and leave us an e-mail with your thoughts.

October 13

Flu Shots

Poolesville Public Library

2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Call 240-773-9550

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10:30 a.m.

October 15

Flu Shots / Flu Clinic

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Frederick Senior Citizens Center

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For info Darlene Armacost, RN 301-

631-3342

October 19

Pre-School Bible Study

St. Peter's Parish

1:00 p.m. Open to public

October 20

Twosomes

Poolesville Public Library

Stories, fingerplay, and music

Two year olds

10:30 a.m.

October 22

Community Yard Sale

Poolesville ES PTA Hosting

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Councilman Knapp Continued From Page 15—

“bully pulpit” to seek commitment to the Ag Reserve by the other council members. Mr. Hoffman was joined by others in expressing their dissatisfaction that Mr. Knapp was not sufficiently passionate regarding his stance on the Reserve.

Councilman Knapp responded that he has personally driven other council members through the Ag Reserve in an effort to raise their awareness of the Reserve.

At this point, the meeting began to wind down, finishing with brief discussions of subjects not directly related to the main subject of mega churches within the Reserve.

Some of those attending voiced concern about a perceived suppression of the church proposal so as to not negatively impact individuals who might run for county executive. They felt that Councilman Steve Silverman (Democrat, At-Large) did not want a highly controversial and emotionally charged item to have a high profile during election time.

Mr. Sacco Continued From Page 16—

We are continuing to build on all of those areas. Many of my “lessons learned” at JPMS have [taught me] a collaborative, hands-on style, and caring for each individual, for example.

The *Monocle*: Any message to JPMS?

Sacco: I miss my students, colleagues, and community members in Poolesville and wish all of them the very best. This has been an adventure for me, and I thank you for keeping in touch.

Local History

Sheriff Viett and How He Solved the Great Telephone Wire Case

By Jack Toomey

The first telephone service was established in Montgomery County in the late 1800s, but it was very limited in scope often only connecting a few houses. In fact, the first working circuit, located in Sandy Spring, only allowed the occupants of two houses to talk to each other. In the early 1900s, small telephone companies were established in the towns of Montgomery County, and, for the first time, people could speak with each other on a fairly regular basis. The Poolesville Telephone Company was formed in 1909, and the original equipment was located in a private residence on Elgin Road. Eventually, the Bell Company took over and bought the smaller telephone companies. Interestingly, the first telephone operators, working for the Bell Company in groups, were boys; however, they were considered so rude that they were replaced by women who were the only telephone operators until the 1960s.

In the early twentieth century,

service was rather primitive and phone service depended on operators who would usually work in their own homes. People living in Montgomery County would sometimes pick up their phones hoping to make a call and find that the line was out of service. Others would be in the middle of a call when the line would go dead. This was not an unheard of situation since telephone service was so archaic and malfunctions happened frequently. However, starting in August of 1911, something strange began happening. Citizens of the county whose phones did not work began noticing that the telephone wires were missing. Overnight, entire lengths of phone wire had been stolen, denying rural towns phone service. When repairs were made and new line had been strung on the poles, the thief would return under the cover of darkness, climb the poles, and again steal the telephone wire. It was estimated that over one thousand pounds of wire had been stolen. There was a great outcry for something to be done. Sheriff William Viett, who would later distinguish himself as the lead detective in the Sandy Spring bank robbery case, was assigned by the county commissioners to catch the person as soon as possible.

Viett searched every junkyard and salvage yard in Montgomery County, Washington, D.C., and Alexandria

without success. He and a Bell Telephone Company detective used their own cars to conduct surveillance of places where wire had been stolen in the past. They often spent the entire night parked in their autos, watching and waiting for someone to appear. Nothing happened.

Then on September 17, 1923, Thomas Perry, a resident of Montgomery County, was driving his auto on a rural road. He saw a man that he recognized, William Neagle, up on a telephone pole stealing the phone wire. Perry, whose own phone service had been cut off, chased Neagle but could not catch him. He then told Sheriff Viett about his confrontation with Neagle. Neagle was an electrician, but he had been out of work for several months.

On September 22, Sheriff Viett, a detective from the Bell Company, and a Washington police officer went to Neagle’s home in Washington. Viett stationed himself in an alley behind the house while the other two officers knocked at the door. There was no answer, but they could hear movement inside. Then Viett saw Neagle appear on a balcony on the third floor of the house. The three officers then were let into the house by Mrs. Neagle and Viett rushed upstairs to the third floor where he saw a trap door that led to the roof. Neagle slammed the trapdoor shut and went to the roof. Viett then climbed onto the roof and saw Neagle take a running jump landing on the roof of the house next door. Viett then began chasing Neagle over the rooftops to the end of the block. Neagle had nowhere to run, but he threatened to jump off of the roof onto the street. Just as he was about to jump, Viett grabbed him and wrestled him to the ground.

It was later learned that Neagle had been selling the wire to unsuspecting customers and some of the wire was eventually recovered.

Sheriff Viett returned to Montgomery County with his prisoner, and he was hailed as a hero. The people had their phone service back!

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Focus on Business

Enchanting Animals

By Marcie Gross

Several years ago, my husband and I visited Orlando, Florida. We came across a shop that sold the softest stuffed animal teddy bears we'd ever seen and felt. The shop also sold beautiful sweaters. As we were admiring the items, the salesperson asked us if we needed any help. Both of us turned to her and asked what this wonderfully soft material was. She answered us matter-of-factly: alpaca fleece. I think that was my first introduction to this gentle animal.



Ann Brown and one of her alpacas.

Ann Brown, a long-time Poolesville resident, has a passion for alpacas. She has raised alpacas on her family farm, the Kephart Farm, since May 2003. "I think it's a good use of farmland," says Brown, "because they are such enchanting animals." On her farm she has eleven alpacas to date with a baby (a cria) on the horizon. There are three geldings, four females, one baby girl, and one baby boy.

Here's a quick lesson on alpacas. They are a member of the camel family, and they have no top teeth. Alpacas are herd animals—they like to stay together. These animals have a gentle nature and are fairly intelligent. They

are curious and shy and not aggressive like llamas. There are two types: the huacaya (fuzzy, wavy fleece) and the suri (long, silky locks, softer, like dreadlocks). Alpacas, like humans, have very distinct personalities; they are all different. They communicate by humming. When a baby is born, the mom and the baby bond in the first few days just by humming. Alpacas come from South America and they like to eat from the pasture and avoid the heat.

Ann says that their fleece gets processed into yarn and can also be made into mittens and socks. She sells some of these items here in town at the John Poole Historical House. "People who are allergic to wool are fine with Alpaca fleece because it contains no lanolin," says Brown. In addition to selling the fleece, Ann sells her animals, too. She will also sell alpaca waste to be used as fertilizer for gardens. It goes directly on the garden and is not composted.

The Kepharts, Ann's parents, moved to Poolesville in 1956, so Ann was raised in town. She left for college and moved back here in 1996. Ann says, "The first Poolesville Day really inspired me to come back." Ann lives on the 135-acre farm with her two teenagers and by day is an art teacher at Brunswick High School in Frederick. Ann's interest in art inspired her to teach a class here in Poolesville this summer for children and adults called "Clay Art in Poolesville."

I always enjoy interviewing the people who live in Poolesville. There is such a wide array of interesting hobbies and unique businesses in our own backyard. It's nice to know that our fellow townspeople are willing to share their knowledge on these subjects. If you're interested in learning more about Alpacas, I'm sure Ann Brown would love to tell you about her friends, these enchanting animals.

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The Pulse

Helping Hands from Our Neighbors

The national outpouring of help from individuals across the country for those victimized by Hurricane Katrina (and now Hurricane Rita) continues unabated. Many in our area have contributed in ways large and small. Their efforts will have a profound impact in making lives better for the victims.

Poolesville's Lauren Cissel turned to her employer, Jack Cassell, President and CEO of Vae-Conference Systems, Inc. for permission to contact

her fellow employment associates in a drive to donate school supplies to send to areas impacted by the storm. With her son, Jason, at Poolesville Elementary School, she knew this need for school supplies was important. Mr. Cassell stepped forward to underwrite her purchase of packs of supplies for students, teachers, and families. The momentum grew when the principal, Darlyne McEleney, requested additional help from the school via an email to alert the community of the need and the opportunity to help out.

True to form, the community responded and an additional twenty-five packs were purchased. Through the help of the Montgomery County Public Schools, the packs will be distributed through the Maryland As-

sociation of Student Governments.

Mike Garrett of Selby Avenue in Poolesville has volunteered to assist the American Red Cross and is currently on a three-week stint as a truck driver delivering supplies in the Mississippi area.

Businesses have gotten into the spirit of things as well. Selby's Market collected change at its checkouts for a few weeks and they were able to collect around \$3,000.00 to be donated to the American Red Cross. Curves, the exercise facility for women, wanted to help, but they did not want to handle cash. So they have been collecting items that are needed such as bottled water, first aid items, baby diapers, non-perishable goods, formula, paper towels, toothpaste, disposable gloves, trash bags, and flashlights. They have

even asked for donations of Bibles to help uplift those going through much emotional and physical trauma.

Area churches have made substantial donations to their specific national charitable organizations. Such organizations are well positioned "at ground level" to make immediate differences in the lives of those persons currently displaced.

We would love to share the news of others helping others in our community, so do not hesitate to email us at editor@monocacymonocle.com if you have information or a story to tell. As we approach the end of year, we also want to remind the community that need still exists right here in our own region and we implore citizens to remember WUMCO in the desire to make donations of help to others.

Police Blotter Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present

Armed Robbery. September 14 at 8:40 p.m. Boyds Country Store, 15110 Barnesville Road, Boyds. A lone gun-

man entered the store and approached the cash register. He demanded cash at gunpoint and the suspect fled out the front door. He was last seen running towards Clarksburg Road. The suspect was described as a white male in his teens, 5' 6", 130 to 160 lbs, white mask, gloves, white T-shirt, and dark pants.

Fatal Traffic Accident. September 22 at 11:15 p.m. Maryland State Police said that a forty-one-year-old man

was killed when he lost control of his pickup truck on Route 85 near Buckeystown. Lance Brown, of Carmichael, California, struck two telephone poles and was ejected. Brown, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was pronounced dead at the scene. Police said that speed and alcohol were factors in the crash.

Armed Robbery. September 20 at 7:08 p.m. Boyds Country Store, 15110 Barnesville Road, Boyds. Two suspects

entered the store and one suspect displayed a handgun and demanded money from an employee. Both suspects fled on foot.

Police are looking for a white male, 5' 9", skinny, white mask, and blue jeans, and another white male, 5' 7", medium build, white shirt, jeans.

Armed Robbery. September 25 at about 8:15 p.m. Subway, 19710

—Continued on Page 21.



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Big Board

Honoring Wounded Vets with a Day of Fishing

Join soldiers who are convalescing at Walter Reed Army Medical Center for a day of fishing, camaraderie, and a picnic. The event is on October 8 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the White's Ferry Picnic Pavilion. Bring your fishing rod and an extra to share. Participants are invited to bring a side dish or dessert. Want to help out or donate? Call Carl Hobbs at 301-349-0080 or Paul Kelly at 301-641-0787.

Autumn Studio Tour

Take in the changing of the seasons with a drive through the countryside touring the studios of local artists and artisans. Added to the usual medley of painters, sculptors, and the like are two new studios. Lindenwood Farm on Westerly Road in Poolesville has custom farm tables, original paintings, decorative accessories, and jewelry. Lahara Textiles of Barnesville has just opened its doors to showcase beautiful textile gifts: rugs, blankets, towels, scarves, bags, and more. For a listing of all the studios and a map of the tour, visit www.countrysideartisans.com and keep your eyes peeled for the yellow flags while you're driving.

Huge Bargain Days Again at St. Peter's

The much-anticipated St. Peter's Parish Fall Rummage Sale is set for October 6, 7, and 8.

The line forms early on Thursday with doors opening at 6:00 p.m. with the deals going until 9:00 p.m. On Friday is a marathon all-day event from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. The sale winds up on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 pm.

An Evening on the Riviera

This is one of Frederick County's most popular fundraising events and will be held on October 8 at the Lynnfield Event Conference Center on Hanson Road. It features gourmet and specialty food presentations by over thirty restaurants, three wine shops and vintners, two microbreweries, carriage rides, and more. Admission is \$85 per ticket. For more information call 301-662-2507.

An Evening with John Tesh

Grammy-nominated recording artist and radio show host John Tesh presents an uplifting evening of music on Saturday, October 8 at 8:00 p.m. at the Weinberg Center for the Arts. Tickets are \$45 (Front Orchestra

& Mezzanine), \$40 (Mid-Orchestra), \$35 (Rear Orchestra & Rear Balcony). Visit weinbergcenter.org for more information.

Celebrate Rural Montgomery Fall Festival at Butler's Orchard

Saturday, October 8 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Bring the whole family for an afternoon filled with a variety of activities including face painting, hay rides, mazes, and live music. Admission is free, and food and beverages will be sold. Visit www.ruralmontgomery.org for details.

Peter Pan

Watch the original silent screen version of J.M. Barrie's classic tale, accompanied by the mighty Wurlitzer organ on Friday, October 8 at 8:00 p.m.. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults, \$4.00 for seniors (ages 62+), students (ages 13 through 18 or any college student with ID), and children (ages 3 through 12) Visit weinbergcenter.org for more information.

Inn for Some Exquisite Wine Tasting

Join the staff of the Comus Inn for fun and informative wine tasting. The many faces of Pinot Noir will give you a chance to meet other local wine lovers and taste four different expressions of the Pinot Noir grape. Four wines with hors d'oeuvres. Friday, October 1, 6:45 p.m. Call in advance at 301-349-5100 or visit www.thecomusinn.com.

Farm Festival in Boyds

Incredibly friendly farm animals, live music, refreshments, activities for children, educational demonstrations including horse first aid and sheep shearing, raffles, crafts for sale, live auction, and exhibits from other rural community organizations—and it's all FREE. Join the fun on October 15 at the Star Gazing Farm Animal Sanctuary from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Information at 301-349-0802 or www.stargazingfarm.org.

Song Circle of Fun

The Hyattstown Mill Arts Project (HMAP) has a Song Circle scheduled for October 17 at their gallery in Hyattstown. The evening of song begins at 7:30 p.m. and includes singers, musicians, and people who like to sing with others. All ages are welcome. Enjoy this time of folk music and bring along your guitar, banjo, spoons, and kazoo or just snap your fingers and enjoy the spirit of this old tradition while making new friends. For more information, call 301-874-2452.

War of the Words

Washington's best-loved couple,

James Carville and Mary Matalin, share their unique insights into the hottest political issues on Saturday, October 22 at 8:00 p.m. They provide an entertaining and enlightening look at politics—from two very different perspectives. Seats are \$47.00 for Front Orchestra and Mezzanine, \$44.00 for Mid-Orchestra, and \$39.00 for Rear Orchestra and Rear Balcony. Visit weinbergcenter.org for more information.

Yard Sale Extravaganza

The PES PTA hosts a community yard sale on October 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the PES parking lot. Bring your goods to sell, as spaces are available at \$20.00 per space for businesses and \$10.00 for individuals. The PTA provides the space and the crowd, you provide everything else. Reserve space by October 12. Call Maria Briancon at 301-407-0663 for more details. No matter what, plan on coming for great bargains.

Weinberg Afternoon of Piano

John Wickelgren, pianist and instructor at Frederick Community College, presents a program of Domenico, Janacek, Chopin, Ravel, and Liszt on Sunday, October 23 at 3:00 p.m..

Police Blotter Continued From Page 20—

Fisher Avenue, Poolesville. A man armed with a gun entered the shop and robbed the clerk of an unspecified amount of money. He then ran towards Wooton Avenue. Police are looking for a white male, 18 to 21 years, blue T-shirt, dark pants, white mask covering his face and head.

Past

October 5, 1898. The large new bailing establishment of John H. Gasaway, of Germantown, Montgomery County, caught fire at 10:00 p.m. The building had just been erected and contained a large amount of rye, straw, and a new bailer. It was said that the building was totally destroyed.

October 7, 1964. Five youths were arrested in Poolesville over the weekend following a series of incidents in which night-riding youths smashed windows and windshields in more than two hundred autos, Montgomery County police said.

October 15, 1941. The Montgomery County Commissioners yesterday ordered stringent police protection of all county public schools from

Tickets are \$20.00 for Front Orchestra / Mezzanine, \$15.00 for Mid-Orchestra, and \$10.00 for Rear Orchestra / Rear Balcony. Visit weinbergcenter.org for more information.

Phantom of the Opera (1925) and Young Frankenstein (1974)

On Friday, October 28 at 8:00 p.m., Lon Chaney and the mighty Wurlitzer take the lead, followed by Mel Brooks's comic monster-piece. Tickets are \$9.00 for adults, \$7.00 for seniors (ages 62+), students (ages 13 through 18 or any college student with ID), and children (ages 3 through 12) Visit weinbergcenter.org for more information.

Annual Writers' Evening

The HMAP is announcing the Annual Writers' evening. All members who write or recite songs, poems, essays, fiction, etc. are invited to prepare a reading for presentation at the Mill on October 29, 2005. We hope to permit each reader approximately seven minutes to read an original piece of writing, maybe more as time permits. If you would like to participate, please contact Lee Robison by email leerobison@aol.com or leerobison@yahoo.com or phone 301-972-7689.

firebugs and burglars as the direct result of the fire at the J. Enos Ray School in Takoma Park. Montgomery police were ordered to guard all public schools in hopes of catching the culprit.

October 16, 1900. A quarantine has been established at the residence of John Fisher, near Poolesville, owing to members of his family being ill with diphtheria. Four have already died and others are very ill. The disease has so far been confined to one family, and a box of old clothing shipped out from Washington is supposed to have introduced the disease.

October 17, 1904. An inquest into the death of Ernest Peacock was held at Rockville with Justice of the Peace Joseph Reading presiding. Peacock died at a Washington hospital as the result of a pistol wound inflicted by Henson Poole, an eighteen-year-old boy, on Seldon Island, near Edwards Ferry about ten days ago.

October 20, 1934. Montgomery County police were without new leads in the slaying of William Hill, retired Potomac farmer, whose body was found Thursday in the basement of the Potomac School. It was reported that his head had been crushed with a heavy instrument.

Golf Tips with Mike Aldrich



The Shanks!

It is forbidden to say "shank" during a round of golf in the same way that the characters in Harry Potter refuse to say "Lord Voldemort" aloud. Fear of saying the word "shank" only makes it seem scarier. Shanking the ball is not a magical curse or a disease. It is merely moving the club in a way that causes the ball to catch a portion of the hosel. In fact, during one of my best tournaments this year I shanked a ball so badly that it traveled on a ninety degree angle to my target line. I almost knocked the next shot into the hole because I understand the causes and the fixes for "the shanks" as I proceeded to shoot 70 in the Head Professional Championship.

Ok, so now that you can think rationally about shanking the ball, how can you stop it from repeating? There are four main causes of shanking the ball that create 90% of the problems.

1. You are shifting your weight toward the ball before impact. This can be shifting from balanced to on your toes, or from on your heels to balanced. Either type of shift will

cause the club to be significantly farther "out" and make it very likely that you will find the hosel. The easiest fix for either issue is to start off balanced from heel to toe, and finish your swing the same way.

2. You are using your hands in a very active way. By turning the club closed you make your arms extend even farther out, and deliver the hosel in a way that can deflect the ball from the face into the hosel. This is the most frustrating cause of the shank because the more that you see the ball go right (for a right-handed golfer), the more that you want to close the clubface to keep it from heading off in that direction.

3. This one is so simple that it hardly seems worth mentioning. You are standing too close to the ball. It is possible that you are starting off too close to the ball but setting the club so that the ball is centered. You make a good swing, but since you were standing too close, the ball careens off on an 80 degree angle to your intended target. Just step back about two inches; that is the average distance from the clubface to the hosel.

4. Okay, this one is even simpler, but I see it almost once a week during lessons. You are actually starting with the hosel of your club directly behind the ball. The good news is that even a non-golfing friend can help you discover and fix this one. The only trick is to move the club head back by moving your feet. If you just pull the club back

without moving your feet, you will need to refer to number 3.

So the next time you shank the ball, you don't need to seek out the services of a shaman to heal your aura. Treat this swing flaw logically and keep your senses about you. You might even be able to "cure" yourself.

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. Poolesville Golf Course offers a great golf course, top quality merchandise, and a home for your outing groups. The facility is only 30 minutes from Gaithersburg, Rockville, and Frederick.

Poolesville Golf Course Announces 2005 Tournament Winners

The 2005 Club Championship concluded with Zech Zoerner winning the Mens Gross Division with a 36 hole total of 154. Mr. Scott Warren won the Net Division with a 151.

The 2005 Ladies Gross Champion is Felicia Wilson, and the Net Champion Kathy Yarmas.

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Sports

Boys' Soccer 2005

By Dominique Agnew

"It's been a difficult season so far," says boys' varsity soccer coach, Mark Agnew, but that doesn't mean the team is doing poorly, nor does it mean the team will not win regions or states—the goal of this season, of course. It means that Coach Agnew knew he would have a young team, but he wasn't expecting two key players to be injured prior to the season and unable to play for the whole season. Senior Jimmy Stout and junior Gavin Spadin, both starters on last



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year's regional championship varsity team, sustained injuries keeping them off the field for the season. "Since we graduated eight seniors from last year, that left us with an even bigger hole to fill," says Coach Agnew. "We only have four returning players from last year's varsity season." This required bringing up a lot of younger players with the bulk of the team made up of sophomores and juniors. On an encouraging note, Coach Agnew remarks, "Despite being very young, we have played exceptionally well."

The captains this year are: junior Russell Karn and senior Luis Mejia.

Russell plays forward and midfield where "he is exceptionally strong." Luis plays midfield and is to be commended for "his tenacity on the field and his leadership." Another player to keep an eye on, Mark Fales, sophomore, "is very solid in defense."

As always, Poolesville soccer has to spend the season playing all the big schools of Montgomery County, but it's all just practice for the important games at the end of the season. Despite the extreme competition, the boys' varsity soccer team has some truly impressive games. The memorable game against Einstein High

School which has a good soccer team, for example, will certainly go down as a highlight of the season. The boys had not been playing very well the whole game, and, with three minutes left in the game, they were losing two to one. Then, defensive back, senior Chris Hren (we spell names correctly in the *Monocle*), "hit a forty-yard shot in the upper ninety over the goalie's attempt to block the shot." This tied the game—and reignited the team. They dominated the two overtimes and ended with a two-two tie. After the struggle of the game, "the tie felt like a win."

This is Coach Agnew's second year coaching soccer. Last year, he coached the team to its first regional championship since the last century, but he expects it won't be the last of this century.

The Loneliest of Team Sports

By Rande Davis

Forget about the crowds, the cheers, even the help of teammates. On this team, you are on your own. Your role and goal are not complicated. You are out simply to beat your best personal performance. If you do that, your team will do its best.

In cross country racing, you are truly on your own. The drive to do your best comes only from within. The coaches' exhortations and the shouts of your teammates are left behind as you leave the starting line at the sound of the pistol. The pounding of your feet and the throbbing of your heart will be the only sounds you hear until you finally approach the last one hundred yards of the race. Even then, there will be almost no crowds and no cheerleaders. However, Coach Jim Vollmer will be there. Jumping up and down and screaming at you to push even harder, not to lose focus, yelling at you to not slow up now but to push even harder. At this point, your biggest fans are the coaches and your teammates urging you on to the finish line.

The Poolesville High School boys' and girls' cross country teams share mutual goals. They want to qualify for the state meet as a team or as individuals. One for all and all for one.

Conditioning is the name of the game in this sport. Fifteen-year Coach Vollmer leaves his teaching job at Montgomery County's vocational center, the Thomas Edison High School of Technology, every afternoon and

pulls up to the track on his motorcycle about thirty minutes after the team has already begun warm-ups and stretching drills. The assistant coach, Erika Waters, now in her fifth year, is already there getting things started and keeping the athletes focused. Ms. Waters, originally from Pittsburgh, teaches Spanish at the high school. A collegiate runner, she also coaches long-distance events in indoor track and swimming in the spring.



Erika Waters and Jim Vollmer

In 1990, when Mr. Vollmer heard the athletic director at Poolesville bemoan the fact that the school did not have a cross country team, he resolved to end that problem once and for all. The school has had a cross country team ever since.

The boys' team ended September with a 1-1 record, beating Kennedy High School and losing to Einstein High. The PHS girls advanced with a 2-0 start.

The team's only at-home match was on October 5 against Watkins Mill, Seneca Valley, and Northwood. PHS runners compete on a cross country route that starts and ends at John Poole Middle School.

After the last meet against Wheaton High School and Rockville High School at Wheaton Regional Park, the team will get ready for the county competition on October 22 at Gaithersburg High School. From there it is on to the 1A West Regional Invitational at Clear Springs High School (November 3). If all goes well, they will compete at the Maryland State Championships at Hereford High School on November 12.

The boys' team consists of twenty runners led by returning junior, Austin Keech, who finished seventeenth in the State 1A meet last year. Austin finished second overall in the Poolesville Day 5k with a time of 18:36. "I started with cross country as a way to keep in shape and find a sport that I can do most of my life," stated Keech. "My goal is to make the top ten in the state competition."

The varsity consists of third year runner, Mike Vliet and second year runners Dan Babicki, Ryan Pike, Brian Dresser, and John Tarney, who is out of action for now nursing shin splints. Newcomers Brennan Keagan, Zach Samuelson, Henry Giovannetti, Jeff Tallia, and Dan Kator round out the group battling for the seven varsity team spots. Other members on the boys' team are Matt Ducall, Nick Eames, Joe Garbini, Dan Putt, Zach Rhodas, David Shapiro, Nick Stavely, Danny Vaughn, and Phil Weigner.

The girls' team has seven members and is led by third year senior, Jami Earle, and first year junior, Sarah Knight. After sitting out last year, Jami has set some specific goals for this season. "I want to make the state finals," says Jami.

The heart of the girls' team is made up of the first year freshman runners Sarah Gross, Maggi Earle, Devin Hamburger, Brianna Giarratano, and Kristyn Kirschbaum. The role of lead runner is still up for grabs since they are very competitive and the number one spot has changed at each of the first three meets of the year.

Improving his or her endurance is something each runner works at every day, five days a week for at least forty-five minutes. Endurance will be the key when the time for the state competition comes around. While most cross country courses in the area are quite flat, the course at the finals has become famous for a monster hill that is at the beginning and near end of the race. How steep is the hill? We got a good idea from Athletic Director Mike Riley as we stood just about fifty feet from one of the field lights at the school track. "Look straight up at the top of that light and you get a good perspective as to how steep the state meet hill is," says Mike. Coming down that steep incline at the end of a race can be challenging also for tired runners. In fact, they actually pad the trees along the hill just in case an exhausted runner loses his/her balance running down.

Running times, sizes of hills, and distances can vary from meet to meet. For Coach Vollmer, success doesn't vary though. In fact, for the long-distance runner, Coach Vollmer's t-shirt says it all: "Success is largely hanging on when others let go." The determined runner is the successful runner. The PHS runners are determined.

Poolesville High School Homecoming 2005



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