

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

*Keeping An Eye On Local News*

A Biweekly Newspaper

March 2, 2007

Volume III, Number 22.



The Alicea family enjoyed the surprise Sunday snow. More pictures on Family Album, on Page 2.



A winter photograph by a local photographer. See Center Stage on Page 13.



Meet Debbie and Ernie Smith in Tributes on Page 9.



A not so normal Wednesday morning for these parts. More pictures in Family Album on Page 2.

## Area Escapes Major Damage after February Storm

By Jack Toomey

By the time that you read this article, the Valentine's Day snow and sleet storm and a surprise snowstorm two weeks later might only be a memory—but those with sore backs, strained muscles, and broken bones will probably still be nursing their ailments and won't forget these event for a long time. Jennifer Gilroy, a spokesperson for Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, said that the Up-county Emergency Center in Germantown treated about two dozen children for sledging-related injuries and also numerous adults who had fallen on the ice.

On February 13th and 14th, in what was first forecast to be a significant snowstorm turned into a major sleet and ice storm that left driveways and roads icy, closed schools for three days, and allowed children to enjoy fantastic sledging conditions. On Tuesday, February 13, a Monocle reporter visited Selby's Grocery Store as the storm was beginning and saw only minimal shopping activity. Lin Selby, manager of Selby's, said, "Things have been steady, but [yesterday] was the heavy day." Topper Shutt, chief meteorologist with WUSA-TV, told the Monocle that the heavy sleet spared most of the upper county area a devastating ice storm, Shutt said, "I haven't seen sleet that heavy since February 1994." Jason Samenow, of CapitalWeather, a private forecasting service that maintains Capitalweather.com, explained that warm air aloft and



Beallsville residents making the best of the cold, cold weather.

## Reclaiming the Race Horse, a Case Study

By Debby Lynn

Chapter Two

*This is the second installment of a continuing series on Phoebe, a former racehorse being introduced to a new life as a hunt and event horse. In the first article, we met and fell in love with Phoebe, a well bred but very nervous young mare who just didn't have the mental attitude required for racing.*

The first issue I needed to address when I got Phoebe home was how to keep her. My paddock did not have a run-in shed, and my other horse, Wavey, preferred sleeping in her stall to spending the night out of doors. Phoebe rode home in the trailer with her, and the two horses seemed to have become friends. I tried putting them in adjacent



Phoebe makes a new friend.

stalls for the evening, hoping Wavey's presence would comfort the new arrival. My older mare settled in munching hay, but poor Phoebe began twirling madly about her stall. After observing her for a bit, I decided she was anxious about having to turn away from the outside view to eat her hay. Sure enough, I

-Continued on Page 19.

cold air near the surface combined to give the Up-county area "several inches of weighty sleet which solidified into blocks of ice." While the forecasters may be experts in the business, the word on the street can be just as illuminating: a Poolesville resident, who was encountered struggling with a heavy buildup of ice in his driveway, said, "I like the change of seasons, but I don't like the period from January 15 to February 15."

Unlike Northern Virginia, virtually no power outages happened in the northwest part of Montgomery County or in southwest Frederick County. On the morning after the storm, Allegheny Power reported only 950 power outages in Montgomery County, and they were concentrated in the Damascus area. The next day there were no outages reported. Allen Stagers, a spokesperson for Allegheny Energy, said, "We were anticipating more ice accumulation. Fortunately, we saw only small-scale power outages in the region." Bryan Hockenberry, president of H&H PaveScapes Inc., remarked, "It was not easy to deal with, we haven't seen a storm like this in ten to twenty years. I would rather have

dealt with twenty inches of snow."

Just when most residents had cleared their sidewalks and driveways, a snow squall, its intensity not seen in years, swept through the area on Sunday afternoon leaving another inch of powdery snow. However, long-range forecasts seem to indicate that warmer weather, just in time for spring sports, is on the way.

On Sunday, February 25th, residents were surprised when a storm that had been predicted to leave a small amount of snow and ice, suddenly intensified and dumped at least six inches of snow on the upper county area. This snow was heavier and wetter and muscles that might have healed were once again put to the test. A Monocle reporter who toured the northwestern part of the county observed contracted plows keeping Routes 28 and 109 passable at the height of the storm. Poolesville town employees were called from home and began plowing streets which were cleared by nightfall. Schools were opened two hours late in Montgomery and Frederick Counties that Monday morning.

Family Album

Sponsored by: Selby's Market Your IGA Hometown Food Store



Poolesville resident Charlie Glass fills up for snowplowing duty.



Ginger Deitch prepared for the heavy weather to come.



Lin Selby kept things moving at Selby's Market.



Tito Zemdejas, employee of McDonalds, struggles to remove snow so McDonalds can open for business.



MARC train commuters alighting from their afternoon train at Barnesville. Most were surprised at the snow after leaving Washington in the rain.



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That Was Then...



This is Now...



The Monocacy MONOCLE Keeping An Eye On Local News

Center of Poolesville February 14 1899

Center of Poolesville February 14, 2007

## Things to Do

### March 4

Jazz It Up  
FCC Flute Choir and Selected soloists  
Music by Gershwin, Joplin, Mancini, and more  
Frederick Community College, 3:00 p.m.

### March 8

Cuddleups - Storytime  
Poolesville Public Library  
Stories, finger plays, and music, 10:30 a.m.

### March 9

Basket Bingo and Soup & Sandwich Sale  
Carroll Manor Fire Auxiliary-Adamstown  
Advanced Order on Sandwiches:  
301-874-5380  
Doors open: 5:30 p.m.

Brick  
Weinberg Center for the Arts, 8:00 p.m.  
Adults \$6.00, Students \$4.00

### March 10

Basket Bingo  
Monocacy Elementary School PTA  
St. Mary's Pavilion - Barnesville  
5:30 p.m. doors open, 7:00 p.m. games start  
\$15 in advance or \$20 at the door  
Call 301-349-5611

### March 10

Gaelic Celebration  
Live Irish Bands and Good Spirits  
Tarara Winery, Leesburg  
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
An Evening with Eartha Kitt  
Weinberg Center for the Arts, 8:00 p.m.  
\$30.00 to \$50.00

### March 10 & 11

Annual Maple Syrup Festival  
Cunningham Falls, Thurmont  
Demonstrations and Pancake Breakfast  
Live Music and Children activities  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### March 15

Twosomes -  
Poolesville Public Library  
Stories, fingerplays, and music  
Two-year-olds  
10:30 a.m.

### March 17

St. Patrick's Day Parade  
Gaithersburg - Washingtonian Center  
10:00 a.m. to noon

## Local News

### Poolesville Day Committee Sets Date for Saturday, September 8

The 2007 Poolesville Day Committee had its first meeting, Thursday, February 21, since the untimely death of its chairman, Jake Perkins. The committee elected its leadership for the fall event and worked through a long list of assignments that will have to be completed if the event is to enjoy its normal success. The 2007 committee has been invigorated with the ad-

basketball tournament. Furthermore, the committee is working on several other first-time attractions that they will be revealing in coming weeks.

The new chairman of Poolesville Day will be Brice Halbrook. The rest of the leadership team will be Theresa Yost, secretary, and Phymeon Lyles and Mike Shapiro co-treasurers. Brice was impressed with the willingness of his neighbors to step forward and with the number of new ideas that they propounded. "We are off to a very good start and I am enthused about the prospects," Brice said. "On the other hand there is much to do and we could still use more help." He urged anyone interested in serv-

ing—or desiring additional information—to e-mail him at bhalbrook@aol.com. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 29.

The committee made another not-so-incident decision—that about the date for the event. Most readers will recall that last fall the committee had decided to schedule the event later in September. After considerable discussion Wednesday evening committee

members decided to revert to the "traditional date"—the second Saturday of September or September 8.

Members of the committee include Valaree Dickerson, Rande Davis, Brice and Michelle Halbrook, Phymeon Lyles, Ray Hoewing, Theresa Yost, Laura Yeatts, Lil Winning, Dawn Albert, Tom and Gail Lindsay Lee, Richard and Diane Rose, Brian Sheron, Lisa Domici, Jim Brown, Calvin Sneed and Gabi Jacob.



A portion of the Poolesville Day committee. From left: Standing, Julia Halbrook, Brian Sheron, Brice Halbrook, Cal Sneed, Mike Shapiro. Seated, Phymeon Lyles, Tom Lee, Theresa Yost, Ray Hoewing, Laura Yeatts.

dition of a number of new volunteers.

Based on discussions at the February 21 meeting, visitors to this year's Poolesville Day should be able to count on a day of activities that span the "traditional" attractions—the parade, kiddy rides, a great selection of bands, numerous food and other vendors—as well as innovations from last year's event, such as bingo, antique car show and three-on-three

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## Editorial

### All Together Now

By John Clayton

I noted with interest that the state of Maryland is moving closer to adopting tougher mileage and emission standards on new cars sold or introduced into the state. I think this is indicative not so much of political change, but on the growing acceptance by most Americans that we have polluted our world for too long, and the effects have caught up with us. This affects the air we breathe, the water we drink, and our peanut butter. I have noted a growing consensus across social and party lines. It is almost conventional wisdom that we have to do something about it, that we can wait no longer.

Several vivid examples are in our own backyards. The Chesapeake Bay is, for all intents and purposes, almost dead. If that seems harsh, I would suggest that while we may quibble about whether the body is still breathing, it is not the vibrant and fecund ecosystem it used to be, even within the span of our own lifetimes. The decline has accelerated. Again, concern for the bay's survival, while admittedly putting some specific economic interests on the spot, has ceased to be a partisan political issue. Even a Republican governor, Robert Ehrlich, introduced a new tax to try to slow the killing of the bay. (For an informative discussion of the bay's prospects, please read Maureen O'Connell's article in last month's *Monocle*, "Can We Clean up the Bay by 2010?," February 16, 2007.)

Another example is the Anacostia River which is even closer to flat line dead. Over fifty years ago, Justice William O. Douglas took a hike along the C&O Canal by the Potomac River and helped inspire massive federal aid to mitigate pollution. Deep into the second half of the first decade of

the twenty-first century, the Anacostia River is still, at times, treated no better than a river in medieval Europe. You can draw your own conclusions as to the sources of this disparity.

The District of Columbia is served by an antiquated sewer system which in times of heavy rainfall dumps raw sewage into the river. That is correct—you read it right—in the most important city in the most important country in the world, we dump our waste into an open river. This is only part of the problem, as storm water runoff and the residue of industrial pollution also play a part, but the sewage is an outright disgrace. The new Washington Nationals' baseball stadium may be the best thing that ever happened to the Anacostia River, as that and other development has focused attention on the river's cleanup. Again, enough is enough. Official estimates for a solution are for 2.65 billion inflation-adjusted dollars over forty years of implementation. They way we throw around billions of dollars these days, I can't imagine what we're waiting for.

(Author's note: In verifying my comments on Justice Douglas, I read that *The Washington Post*, in a 1954 editorial, saluted the idea of turning the C&O Canal into a highway from West Virginia to the nation's capital. This supports my contention that the *Post* has never ever heard of a road or bridge that it didn't want to see built.)

Efforts to reduce automobile emissions are motivated by a number of factors, primarily reducing toxic emissions in the air we breathe, reducing carbon dioxide pollution of the upper atmosphere, and reducing dependence on foreign oil. It seems that everyone up to the president of the United States now believes we should reduce our usage of gasoline for at least one of these reasons. It's great to have more than one reason for such a

- Continued on Page 13.

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## Remembrance

Lena J. Brewer

Lena J. Brewer of Glen Burnie, formerly of Dickerson, died on February 2, 2007 at Morningside Assisted Living. She was ninety-two.

Born October 21, 1914, in Dickerson, she was the daughter of the late John Lewis Jones and Nellie Jane Titus Jones. After graduating from Poolesville High School, she attended Strayers Business College in Washington, D.C.

She was married to the late George W. Brewer, who died in January 2002, for sixty-nine years. George W. Brewer was from Poolesville and was a past member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church. He was raised on a large nearby family farm as was Mrs. Brewer, who was raised on the family dairy farm, Bloomfield, on Martinsburg Road, in Dickerson. George and Lena Brewer lived in Glen Burnie for over sixty-five years. She is survived by daughter and son in law Betty B. and Edward N. McCullough of Stevensville, Maryland; daughter, M. Joan Brewer of Murrels Inlet, South Carolina; seven grandchildren; and

seven great-grandchildren.

She was a long-time member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church and an active member of Holy Trinity Sodality. She was a member of the Glen Burnie Improvement Association and enjoyed working at the annual carnival. She was a member of the Glen Burnie Home Arts, previously the Glen Burnie Homemakers. She was an active member of the North Arundel Hospital Auxiliary and for many years took charge of the monthly book sale. She was a board member of the Auxiliary for a number of years and proud of her over 18,000 volunteer hours. She enjoyed baking, gardening, and crafts, especially the needle arts.

The viewing was held at Singleton Funeral Home, Glen Burnie, and the Funeral Mass was held at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Glen Burnie, Maryland on February 5, 2007. Interment was held on February 5, 2007 at Monocacy Cemetery, Beallsville, Maryland.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to: Baltimore Washington Medical Center Foundation (BWMC), 300 Hospital Drive, Glen Burnie, MD 21061

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# Commentary

## The Truth

By Dominique Agnew

Avid readers of the *Monocle* have recently read my esteemed colleagues' and editors' views on the truth: John Clayton's rendition of Al Gore's Inconvenience and the refutation by Rande Davis in his Whole Truth. Then came the article in the *Washington Post* based on reports by French scientists (what do they know besides wine, cooking, chocolate, bread, and desserts?) showing that during the twentieth century, global temperatures rose by: Nearly Two Degrees Fahrenheit! The *Post* actually had a large graph to depict the Two Degrees. I have decided, even though my scientific observations are not fully complete, to publish my two cents' worth. What? I'm not a *real* scientist? Pray, what makes a scientist a scientist, a pithy degree? Did Descartes have a degree? What about Marie Curie, Pasteur, and the hundreds of other French scientists? Of course, Descartes was not a scientist but a mathematician, and maybe these other scientists did have degrees, but that's neither here nor there. They're not known for their contributions to mankind, they're known as people who spent a lot of time thinking. In this respect, I'm bona fide.

Now then, the studies show that

something happened in roughly the last one hundred years. Was it the invention of the automobile? No, the French invented the automobile in the nineteenth century (it was probably a lemon). Was it the invention of the airplane? No, again the French invented the airplane in the late nineteenth century—really. When in doubt, consult your French history books. The French also invented the telephone, the periodic table, the éclair, and the baguette—fortunately none of these inventions pertain to the Two Degree problem at hand. What happened? Let me think. Hmm, it's not the car, not the plane. Eureka! It must be the clothes dryer—yes, that supposed necessity to a well-run home. Of course, the dryer was not invented in the twentieth century, the first was invented in the mid-nineteenth century by—you've got it—the French, but the twentieth century brought us electric engine-powered dryers that every home could boast along with the chicken and the car.

Again, I must reiterate that I haven't completed my scientific observations, but I have incontrovertible evidence that dryers exhaust hot air. That air, when measured with a thermometer, is more than Two Degrees warmer than the air around it into which it is exhausted, which, in turn, warms the air around it. You get the picture; it's like a domino effect. If this happens with one dryer, think of the thousands of dryers in

our readership area, the millions of dryers in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, the kazillions of dryers in the nation, all warming the air. How many degrees is that? I don't know yet, I'm still not finished my observations. Very soon, my studies will be complete, and everyone will know: The Truth. At the moment the first issue of *Science* magazine hits the shelves with my findings, my documentary will hit the theaters (or should I make it a musical?).

At any rate, while automakers are busy trying to come up with a hydrogen/electric/solar-powered car that won't break the bank of the average consumer, we can all, voluntarily and of our own free will, unplug the dryer (and not plug it back in). This will do more than just stop global warming in its tracks, it will humidify our homes in the winter (the moisture from the clothes drying will go into the dry air), and it will render our summers less humid (it's not part of my final findings, but the hot air being exhausted into the environment by the gazillions of dryers is also very, very moist—more moist than the air into which it is being exhausted—causing yet another domino effect).

With the sharing of my profound thoughts, I call upon my fellow Poolesvillians, Marylanders, and Americans to cast off the Two Degree shackle of the electric dryer! Let your clothes hang free! "O Beautiful, for spacious skies, for laundry lines a-swayin'" — and so on—to the Truth!

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## Humble Chef

### Tempting Tapas

By Maureen O'Connell

A thin slice of Serrano ham, a chunk of Manchego cheese, several large caper berries drizzled with fruity olive oil—these simple ingredients evoke the earthy tastes, sophistication, and delights of tapas, the small dishes that have been a tradition in Spain for hundreds of years. Spaniards rarely eat their midday meal before 2:00 p.m., or dinner before 10:00 p.m. To stave off pangs of hunger during the day, they snack on small plates of morsels of cheese, peppers, seafood, meats, olives, and almonds. In Madrid, it is very popular to stop into bars or cafés to enjoy a drink, usually dry sherry, and a choice of these tempting snacks. The word tapas literally means lid, and the first tapas were pieces of bread used to cover wineglasses to keep out the flies. Soon, the barkeepers decided to add a chunk of robust ham, some local goat cheese, and olives to the plate.

The ingredients of tapas evolved throughout Spain's his-

tory, and reflected the influence of different cultures and countries. The east coast of Spain was invaded by the Romans, who brought with them olives, and the knowledge of irrigation methods. In the eighth century, the invading North African Moors also brought olives, as well as almonds, citrus fruits, and exotic spices. Explorers from the New World introduced tomatoes, sweet and chili peppers, beans, and potatoes. Unlike many other European countries, the Spanish readily added these new foods to their cuisine, as their climate was ideal for growing these crops.

Today, you don't have to travel to Spain to enjoy tapas; there is a growing number of tapas restaurants in our area. Spanish produce is available in many local specialty markets and online. A tapas party is an easy and impressive way to entertain at home. Many dishes can be made in advance, and served at room temperature, so you have time to mingle with your guests. Tapas can be eaten as cocktail party finger food, or served on small plates. You could also serve them as part of a sit-down dinner. It is a good chance for people to sample a variety of foods, some that they might not

have eaten before.

Tapas can range from simple fare—mushrooms garnished with garlic and parsley, shrimp in hot olive oil with garlic, parsley, and red pepper, or marinated olives—to sophisticated dishes involving eel, lobster, or oysters. Tapas give you a chance to show your creativity with variations of many recipes. Shrimp can be sautéed in garlic and olive oil, or cooked in a spicy tomato sauce. A tortilla can be made with fried chunks of potatoes and onion, or Serrano ham, or smoked sausage. With clams in white wine with garlic, onions, and tomatoes, you can use mussels in place of the clams. I can recommend two cookbooks which will give you many interesting and relatively easy recipes: *The Cuisines of Spain: Exploring Regional Home Cooking* by Teresa Barrenechea, and *The New Spanish Table* by Anya von Bremzen.

### Sizzling Prawns with Garlic

- 6 tablespoons of olive oil  
– preferably Spanish
- 6 large garlic cloves, peeled, finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- ½ cup pimento, coarsely chopped
- 1½ pounds prawns or large shrimp, deveined, shells and heads left on
- 2/3 cup dry white Spanish wine  
sea salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Heat olive oil in an 8" skillet over medium heat. Add garlic, pepper flakes, and pimento. Cook one minute, stirring constantly. Add shrimp and wine. Raise heat to high and sauté until shrimp are pink, about three minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Serves six.

This recipe is adapted from *The New Spanish Table* by Anya von Bremzen. Buen provecho.

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# Garden

## The Anxious Gardener

There are two definitions of the word anxious: to be troubled in mind or worried, or to be intently eager or desirous. I would like to use these two different meanings to describe types of gardeners that I know.

Anxiety sometimes sets in when an anxious gardener (AG) meets the garden mentor (GM). In the past, I have been a member of several garden clubs, and now I have many friends who are garden club members. So my following comments carry no offense to the aforementioned people. New garden club members can easily be intimidated by older (not chronologically) and more experienced members. The latter's gardens could be layouts for top gardening magazines; their flower arrangements always take first prize at the end of the season flower show. They regale you with their stories about the Philadelphia Flower Show, and they are always available to offer you some sage advice, along with dabs of condescension. At the club's annual Christmas Greens Show, the AG looks forlornly at her meager, but fresh, evergreen wreath with its simple, waterproof, red bow. She enviously casts her

eyes to the GM's mansion-size wreath of four different greens, garlanded with pheasant feathers, pomegranates, glue-gun-applied petit pine cones, and yards of tartan, taffeta festoons.

The AG is often haunted by failure. She carefully planned her new spring bulb garden, and anxiously awaited for the little bulbs to break through the soil in early spring. But, unfortunately, the cozy womb she created for the daffodils, tulips, and hyacinths became their tombs. Instead of blaming their demise on the hard work and tenacity all winter of the squirrel, rabbit, and deer grave robbers, she blames it on her lack of skill.

Our AG has a tendency to be tied to plants that are dull but reliable. She is too worried to try new, and even exotic, plants in her garden. What if they don't do well, or even worse, they don't grow? Her garden turns into a horticultural dinosaur. She faithfully grows impatiens, petunias, geraniums, and zinnias every year. Many gardeners, even experienced gardeners, can, at times, fit the description of this AG.

On the other hand, we have the AG who falls into the category of the second definition—the eager beaver gardener. I have an overwhelming tendency to fill this bill. As the winter

- Continued on Page 14.

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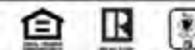


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## Local History

### Lawrence Claggett One of Montgomery County's First Police Officers

By Jack Toomey

Lawrence Claggett was a farmer and part-time constable when the Montgomery County Police Department was formed in 1922. At that time, the county commissioners offered jobs to the constables who served in the various election districts. Claggett accepted the offer and became one of Montgomery County's first six officers.

In those days, the police officers had no means of communication and depended on the hospitality of citizens with telephones. There is anecdotal evidence that there were a few telephone poles placed around the county that had lights on top that were lit when a police officer was needed. The officer would then call headquarters to see where he was needed, but quite a bit of time was spent at the Rockville courthouse waiting for

calls.

Within two weeks of the formation of the department, Claggett discovered a large still located a mile south of Poolesville. Since Claggett lived in Poolesville, it is likely that he was informed of the location by townspeople. He and other officers took turns lying in the woods until someone showed up. Then the officers raided the property and seized a three-hundred-gallon still and many barrels of corn whiskey. In October 1924, Claggett and two other officers were called to a home near Boyds where an enraged father said that his fourteen-year-old daughter had been the victim of a sexual assault. The officers took the man to the courthouse in Rockville where he confessed to raping the girl. Later the man alleged that the officers had taken turns whipping him with a rubber hose until he confessed. Claggett was suspended from duty until an investigation cleared him of wrongdoing. In 1927, a prominent farmer was murdered on his dairy farm near Travilah. Officer Claggett, who had seized a gun from a suspect, caused a sensation when he test-fired the gun by

shooting it into a barrel of flour on the sidewalk in front of the courthouse. In 1928, a man had drowned in the Potomac River and Claggett was assigned to recover the body. Somehow he managed to secure a boat, row to Catfish Island, and bring the body back to shore.

In 1930, Claggett left the department to teach at the National Training School for Boys in Washington. He married in 1931, and while his bride was on the Eastern Shore on an extended visit, he took up residence at his mother's house in Poolesville. The home was located on present day Wootton Avenue near Poolesville High School. On March 14, 1931 tragedy struck. J. Stanley Gingell, a former deputy sheriff turned private detective, came to Poolesville for a visit. When these two men had been law enforcement officers they had investigated a house burglary together. The trail had led them to a cave just outside Kensington where they had found the thief cooking a terrapin that he had caught in Rock Creek. Inside the cave they had found the stolen property.

The house was chilly, so Gingell went to the stove and attempt-

ed to light it by pouring kerosene on the embers. The stove exploded and critically injured both Claggett and Gingell. It was said that the blast could be heard all over town and that townspeople rushed to the scene. Merrill Morningstar and Chalres Fritz heard the explosion and ran into the house and beat out the flames that had engulfed both men. Claggett was carried to the home of his uncle, Doctor E. W. White, where he expired two hours later. Gingell was rushed to the Emergency Hospital in Washington by the Rockville ambulance. Calls went out for blood, and five police officers and other friends went to Washington. Despite the best efforts of doctors and five blood transfusions, J. Stanley Gingell died on April 9.

Lawrence Claggett, one of the first police officers in Montgomery County, is buried at Monocacy Cemetery.

## Tributes

### Ernie and Debbie Smith

By Jack Toomey

When we think of a team, the image of an athletic team usually comes to mind. The team of Ernie and Debbie Smith has provided the upper Montgomery County area with well-coached sports teams, countless hours of volunteer time, devotion, and love for thousands of children. Ernie Smith played baseball in the Upper Montgomery Athletic Club leagues while growing up in the Clarksburg area. How could he know at the time that he and his future wife would become the mainstays of the league beginning in the 1980s lasting to the present time?

Debbie and Ernie Smith met in the third grade at Clarksburg Elementary School, went to Montgomery Village Junior High together, and then continued on to Damascus High School. These high school sweethearts were married at the age of seventeen and began raising a family soon afterwards. A relative, overhearing a visitor interviewing Debbie and Ernie, said, "He's the only boyfriend she ever had!" They lived in Boyds and moved to Poolesville in the early 1980s just as their oldest son, Ernest, Jr., became old enough to play baseball for the Upper Montgomery Athletic Club. Ernie, then an employee of Comsat, quickly assumed many duties for the league including being elected as vice president of the league, serving for nine years as equipment manager, coaching several teams, and working as an umpire. In addition, when many of UMAC's games were played in Poolesville, he took it upon himself, after a hard day at work, to maintain the fields by removing water, dragging infields, filling in holes, and mending fences. Ernie said, "[At first] we had to play on rocky fields, so I used the tractor so our kids would have a better place to play the games." When UMAC did not have enough fields, Ernie obtained permission for games to be played on the Comast fields. Ernie, after all of those years coaching and handling administrative tasks for the league, is still involved, coaching his grandson's team. He remarked, "I've enjoyed it, especially the lower age groups, being able to show them how to field

a ground ball. I've even had to pick up kids because their parents were still at work."

Debbie, not one to sit on the sidelines, worked hundreds of nights in the concession stands with her daughter, Kim, served as the team mother for her son's teams, was heavily involved in organizing all-star tournaments, and served as treasurer of UMAC for six years. She reminisced about her days volunteering for UMAC and remembered the weekdays that started at four in the afternoon when she had to buy sodas and hot dogs for the concession stand and then not arriving home until after dark. Then there were the weekends that would start at eight in the morning and would last the entire day spent at Halmos Park organizing summer tournaments. Now she is able to take a seat on the sidelines and watch her grandson, Austin, play for Ernie's team and occasionally supervise Amber, another grandchild, who volunteers selling refreshments.

Debbie and Ernie raised three children, Ernest, Jr., Kimberly, and Keith and have four grandchildren, Amber, Jimmy, Elizabeth, and Austin. In April 2000, they lost their youngest son, Keith, who was killed in an automobile accident. Debbie, who was not hesitant to speak about the tragedy, said, "I think it made us stronger, you don't know when one of your loved ones will be taken away." She added, "Keep an eye out, question your kids more, find where they are going, and talk to them more." She related a humorous story about the time when she was attending a game at Halmos Park. She noticed that Keith and a few of his teammates were smearing dirt on their pants. When she asked what they were doing, Keith replied, "Well, at least it will look like we had a hard game." Debbie kept a visitor engrossed with the tales of her relationship with Ernie and how their teamwork, both with UMAC and raising a family, has resulted in satisfaction for both. She said, "We have been together so long that we know what each other is thinking." Gene Lowery, who has been on the board of directors of UMAC for thirty-three years and the president for twenty-four years, told the Monocle, "They were the hardest working and most dedicated people we have had in UMAC. They were always there. You can't

ask for better people."

Ernie, after his retirement from Comsat, is now the Superintendent of Monocacy Cemetery and also drives a school bus for the Montgomery County Public Schools. Debbie said, "I think that is why he likes to drive the handicapped children, because he loves kids so much." Debbie puts in a full day maintaining the beautiful grounds of the cemetery and referred to herself as "Ernie's assistant." They both enjoy fishing and sometimes spend a day on the Potomac River. Debbie also sews, is currently working on a baby blanket, and is considered to be an expert in the kitchen.

The team of Ernie and Debbie Smith has come full circle, it seems. First, he was a baseball player, and she was a spectator. Then he was a coach, and she was a supporter and proud mom, then both were board of directors members and tournament organizers, and now again, Ernie is the coach and Debbie the proud, supportive grandmother. Thousands of children and their parents owe them a debt of gratitude for their tireless volunteer work.



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## Tidbits

### PHS Boosters Annual Mulch Sale

Despite cold winds and school closings, the groundhog promised us an early spring, and it is not too early to order your supply of yard mulch from the Poolesville High School Boosters Club. In fact, now is the time to act. The 3 cu. ft. bag of hardwood mulch is only \$3.75, and the club offers free delivery to all within ten miles of PHS. The delivery date is set for March 17, and you do not need to be home to receive the delivery. The Boosters Club can use help, so if you are available, why not pitch in and help out a little this year as well? To place your order, you can call Terrie Loh at 301-349-2539.

### Rebuilding Together Getting It Together Already

Rebuilding Together Montgomery County is being assisted by Helping Hands Coalition chaired by Ralph Hitchens. Mr. Hitchens is letting everyone know that they are now organizing for the big day, Saturday, April 28, 2007. Individuals

and local groups who can assist and make financial donations can make their donations out to Poolesville Memorial Methodist Church (Reach Committee) and can mail them to PMUMC, P.O. Box 358, Poolesville, MD 20837. Others wanting to help on the project can also call Ralph Hitchens at 301-903-1324 or 301-972-7570.

### Springtime Girls' Basketball Needs a Few More Players

Bernie Jankowski wants area girl basketball players (those born in 1996 only) to know they could use a few more players for their AAU team, Poolesville's Shooting Flames. All league play is within Montgomery County, and the schedule and practices are flexible to accommodate athletes who play in multiple sports. You can reach Bernie at 240-994-3952 and/or get more information at [www.leaguelineup.com/welcom.asp?url=j-flames](http://www.leaguelineup.com/welcom.asp?url=j-flames).

## Big Board

### Ensemble Presents Comedy

The Maryland Ensemble Theater, 31 West Patrick Street, Frederick, is presenting the comedy "Blue Window" on March 1, 2, 3 with all performances beginning at 8:00 p.m. This inventive comedy demonstrates our modern-day inability to communicate and connect with others. The play depicts the lives of seven people before, during, and after a Manhattan dinner party. Described as rhapsodic and lyrical, "Blue Window" explores the qualities that estrange us from one another. Tickets are \$20.00 for adults and \$17.00 for students and senior citizens. Tickets for Thursday performances are \$15.00. For more information, call 301-694-4744.

### Germantown Library Opens

The grand opening of the new Germantown Library near the Black Rock Center for the Arts will take place on Thursday, March 8. Following the ceremonies, the library will be open for business.

### Carroll Manor Fire Department Hosting Soup & Sandwich Bingo night

On Friday, March 9, the Carroll Manor Fire Departments hosts a "soup & sandwich" sale with advance orders suggested (301-874-2368). They are also hosting a basket bingo with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. For more information call 301-874-5380.

### Brick

This 2005 Sundance film winner will be presented at the Weinberg Center for the Arts on Friday, March 9. This hard-boiled high-school noir, told in the style of a Dashiell Hammett mystery will be shown at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students. For more information, visit [www.weinbergcenter.org](http://www.weinbergcenter.org) or call 301-228-2828.

### Frederick Symphony Orchestra's Young Artist Showcase

This concert on March 10 at Frederick Community College features the winner of the Frederick Symphony Orchestra's annual Young Artist competition. This year the competition was for wind instruments. FSO also performs "An Outdoor Overture" by Copland and Symphony #7 in A major, by Beethoven. The theater is located at 7932 Opossumtown Pike in Frederick. Concerts begin at 7:00 p.m.

### Basket Bingo Fundraiser for Monocacy Elementary School

Monocacy Elementary School is hosting a basket bingo night on Satur-

day, March 10 to raise funds for new playground equipment. The event will be at St. Mary's Pavilion in Barnesville with the doors opening at 5:30 p.m. and games starting at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15.00 in advance and \$20.00 at the door. For more information, call Lisa Fedders at 301-349-5611.

### An Evening with Eartha Kitt

The Weinberg is extremely proud to present Eartha Kitt on March 10. Ms. Kitt is an international star who gives new meaning to the word versatile. She has distinguished herself in film, theater, cabaret, music, and on television. One of only a handful of performers to be nominated for Tony (three times), Grammy (twice), and Emmy Awards, Ms. Kitt's distinctive voice has enthralled fans of all ages for more than fifty years. Ticket prices range from \$30.00 to \$50.00 for the 8:00 p.m. show. The performance coincides with the Tivoli Society Annual Gala. For more information, visit [www.weinbergcenter.org](http://www.weinbergcenter.org) or call 301-228-2828.

### Gaithersburg St. Patrick's Day Parade

The city of Gaithersburg, in partnership with the Gaithersburg Harp and Shamrock Society, will host the seventh annual St. Patrick's Day parade from 10:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 17 at the Washingtonian Center.

Participants include Culkin School of Traditional Irish Dance, Ring of Kerry Irish Dancers, Maple School of Irish Dancing, Fairfax Deputy Sheriff's Pipe Band, MacMillin Pipe Band, Montgomery County Pipe Band, Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club, Greyhound Rescue of America, Six Flags of America, The Lucky Pogue Hockey team, along with equestrian teams, fire trucks, and more. The event is sponsored by Gaithersburg Harp and Shamrock society, MC Recreation Department, and the Peterson Corporation at Washingtonian Center. For more information, call 301-258-6350.

### Identity Theft Seminar at Poolesville Library

Lisa Brennan, investigator from the Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection, will be presenting a program on identity theft and how to protect yourself from this threat at the Poolesville Public Library on March 19 at 7:30 p.m. This will provide valuable information on a modern crime on the rise.

## Youth Sports

### PAA Wrestling 2007 An Amazing Season

By Dominique Agnew

It was ten years ago that Dan Stout first approached the Poolesville Athletic Association (PAA) about the possibility of starting a wrestling team. That first year, the team had a roster of twenty-five wrestlers. Two years later, the team had grown enough to split into two teams, Poolesville Black and Poolesville Gold. Through the past decade, the team has grown and evolved. As Dan Stout's children outgrew the program, he passed on the reins of coaching to new volunteer coaches, and the mantle of commissioner he passed to Stephen Seeger in 2005. From the beginning, Dan's goal was to teach the kids not only about the sport, but to also teach them about "sportsmanship, how to compete, how to win, how to lose." This emphasis on sportsmanship has been realized numerous times over the past decade as the highly-coveted sportsmanship award has been won by a Poolesville team six times.

For the past two seasons, the PAA wrestling program has been going through a sort of restructuring and rebuilding. Last year, for the first time ever, PAA went from having three teams wrestling in the Damascus Sports Association Wrestling League (DSAWL) to having two teams (Poolesville Gold and Poolesville



*Poolesville Wrestling Coaches and Wrestlers holding the Coveted Sportsmanship Trophy for 2007.*

Black) in DSAWL and one team wrestling in the very highly competitive Capital Area Wrestling League (CAWL), also called beltway, which draws the top wrestlers from age six

-Continued on Page 12.

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## Business Briefs

### Hollander Assumes Leadership of Poolesville Chamber

The untimely death of Jake Perkins continues to have reverberations throughout the community. Among his many other volunteer positions in the community, Jake was serving as President of the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce at the time of his death.

The Directors of the Chamber, at their meeting on February 15, elected current Vice President Scott Hollander to succeed Jake as the president for the remainder of this year. A member of the board for the past five years, Mr. Hollander has managed the Chamber's annual golf tournament in recent years. Professionally, he is Vice President and Senior Financial Counselor with Merrill Lynch.

Elected as new vice president was Dr. Tim Pike. Dr. Pike was just elected to the present board but has served on the board in previous years. A resident of Poolesville for over twenty-five years, Tim and his wife Margaret Valega are the well-known owners of a dentistry practice in Poolesville.

### Poolesville Golf Course Offers Spring Special

With spring just three weeks away, it's not too early to start getting the golf clubs out of the storage shed. Poolesville Golf Course has announced that their Poolesville Player's Pass for 2007 will be \$149.00 and will be good from April 1 through March 31, 2008. The benefits of the membership are two free green fees, free USGA 18 hole handicap, twenty percent off green fees, cart rental, house tournament fees, and food and non-alcoholic drinks.

### L' Nora's Expanding Seating

L' Nora's Restaurant has now completed its redecoration of the restaurant while doubling the seating arrangements for the establishment. This is just a start of new things to come for the two-year-old business since they will be announcing some new items on their menu soon. We tried to get a hint as to what to expect, but the owners want to keep it an enticing mystery for the time being. We have been urging them to think "south of the border," but maybe you have another idea for them.

### Curves Launches Annual Food Drive

Curves International sponsors an annual food drive for persons in need in all of their locations each March. Members of the Poolesville Curves participates in this program and the food donation is then given to WUMCO for their food pantry. During the first ten days of this drive, persons joining Curves for the first time are requested to make a non-perishable food donation in lieu of the standard service fee. Of course, the manager at Curves, Shelley Aloji, encourages those in the area wishing to simply help out to stop by with their food donation.

### Gaithersburg Spring Baby Bazaar Now Accepting Registrations

Vendor applications for the annual Gaithersburg Spring Baby Bazaar are being accepted for residents starting March 5 and non-residents on March 12. The outdoor baby bazaar, which is scheduled for Saturday, May 19, will be held at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. The event will be held from 8:00 a.m. to noon, rain or shine with admission to the public free. The resident cost for those selling used merchandise is \$20.00, for those offering new items it is \$25.00, and for non-residents it is \$25.00 and \$30.00 respectively.

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### "PAA Wrestling" Continued From Page 11.

through junior varsity in high school from all around Maryland, D.C., and Virginia.

While the 2006 season was definitely a challenge for all three teams across the board, the 2007 wrestling season has shown that the wrestlers have risen to the challenge. The wrestlers of Poolesville Black and Gold have asserted their leadership, and gave strong showings during the regular season and at the DSAWL championships against eight other teams. Of the thirty wrestlers that attended the DSAWL championship, seventeen qualified for the Regional Championship by taking first through fourth places. There were two first place winners: Brian Truppo and Joey Jones. Five second-place trophies went to: Cooper Myers-Mallenger and Hunter Hegmann—both of whom had to wrestle their own teammates in the championship round—plus Anna Murgia, Matt Tallia, and Jesse Krasner. The six third-place trophies were won by: Colin Fisher, Tim McIntyre, Colby Shriver, Justin Hansen, Trevor Magaha, and CJ Lee. Fourth

place trophies went to four wrestlers: Nicolas Fisher, André Agnew, Ryan Bowe, and Ryan Kirby. "Best of all," says team manager, Suzanne Tallia, "Poolesville Gold was awarded the coveted Sportsmanship Trophy—the largest and most important award of the day." She adds, "It's not just the Gold team, this trophy belongs to all of PAA."

The beltway team has seen great improvement over a difficult first year where the wrestlers were all new to the intensity and competition of that league. Hard work and training has paid off. As of this writing, the CAWL championship has not yet taken place, but two wrestlers, Logan Wilson and Ryan Florczyk, have been invited to participate in the prestigious Maryland-Virginia All-Star Tournament. Logan Wilson, a freshman at Poolesville High School is undefeated in the regular season in CAWL, and he won the Montgomery County junior varsity championship wrestling at 119 pounds.

## Center Stage

### Passion for Pictures and Pastures

By Dominique Agnew

Lee Langstaff has been taking photographs of the beauty of the Agricultural Reserve because she loves taking pictures, she loves the Ag Reserve, and she wants to share these loves with others. These passions recently culminated in a highly-successful multimedia art show entitled "Rustic Roads: A Journey through the MoCo Ag Reserve" at the Black Rock Center for the Arts this past October in conjunction with fiber artist Dalis Davidson and painter/drawer Tina Thieme-Brown. The propagation of the passion didn't start out so ambitious; it was a simple, slightly selfish (in a good way) loving endeavor that brought her to this point.

The story behind the propagation began a few years ago on her brother's farm even though she has been an avid photographer ever since her youth. In the 1990s, her brother purchased a farm in Comus at the base of Sugarloaf Mountain. At the time, Lee was living in Georgetown and was going out to the country on weekends.

#### "Editorial" Continued From Page 4.

worthy goal—it lets everyone play together for a common good. If, like most people, you accept that carbon dioxide pollution is contributing to global warming, then you get the other benefits as a bonus. If you do not believe that carbon dioxide is behind climate change, then you can still join in to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. In short, we can all agree that reducing gasoline consumption is good for the U.S.A. It's the truth. How convenient.

"I was always the farm outdoorsy person," she says, then she laughed at the paradox of her brother on the farm and her in the city. "How did he get the farm, and I lived in Georgetown?" She helped him and his family get the farm started with gardens and animals. A few years later, she decided to make the move and found a cottage to rent right next to her brother's farm, but he and his family decided to move into town so the kids could attend schools downtown, at the same time, they would begin a renovation of the buildings including rebuilding the house. Lee became worried. "What if they forget how beautiful it is?" was her question and driving mission. She began taking more and more pictures to keep her brother from forgetting. She made calendars for the children. She took pictures of Sugarloaf Mountain, pictures of the kids with the animals, pictures of the landscape through the change of the seasons and through the changes of the crops. So far, she is succeeding in her mission.

One of her neighbors is Melanie Choukas-Bradley, a strong proponent of the Ag Reserve who has written numerous articles to raise awareness of the preciousness of the rural lands in Montgomery County and who was the publicist for Celebrate Rural Montgomery, the year-long celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the inception of the Ag Reserve. One day, Melanie asked Lee for permission to come take photographs of Sugarloaf Mountain from her home for the website. It was the middle of winter, and the view was less than spectacular. Lee mentioned that she had thousands of photographs—a star was born.

For her real job, Lee is a professional mediator and facilitator for environmental and natural resource issues. She holds a bachelor's degree in zoology from Connecticut College and a master's in natural resources from the University of Michigan. She

has training as a mediator and always works on environmental issues. Some of the cases she has worked on have been about drinking water or sustain-



Lee Langstaff

able marine fisheries. She has also traveled to other countries under her professional guise.

Lee also manages her brother's farm. She grows organic vegetables, and she raises sheep for wool and meat, chickens, and other fowl. The sheep came as a result of knitting. "I backed up from the knitting end," she says. After learning how to knit, she learned how to spin, and finally began raising sheep. She now sells wool to other hand-knitters, and she shows her sheep and photography work at the Sheep and Wool Festival in Howard County. And on that farm, she takes pictures. She especially loves capturing children involved in rural life, and she is thrilled when she captures what she calls the intimacies of nature. For example, one of her prints from the exhibit at Black Rock encompassed the bloom of a pumpkin with a honeybee at the very center. "I wanted to reflect the intimacy of the agricultural aspect," she says. "Honeybees are so important to agriculture." She also likes to show products in her photos such as eggs or tomatoes (she grows many varieties of heirloom

tomatoes in her garden every year). Other details she has captured are the beauty of the tomato horn worm up close, the back of the neck of a peacock, and the shell of a box turtle.

At the opposite end of these minute details are Lee's stunning landscapes. "Some people think of agricultural landscapes as static," she says, "but they're very dynamic." From the different seasons to the different times of day to the different crops and their stages of growth, she has captured so much of this energy in her photographs. "Every day you wake up and there's something different," she adds. In her biography, Lee wrote, "My hope is that my photographs will resonate for those who also see and cherish these things, and that it might lead others to notice things that they may not have noticed before, that they may become more aware of the richness and beauty that is accessible to us, in part because of the agricultural Reserve."

The art exhibit at Black Rock was very successful and was very well-received. Between the three artists, they were able to highlight the art of the Ag Reserve and bring awareness of that irreplaceable natural beauty to a larger, more diverse audience. She looks forward to being involved in another exhibit sometime in the near future, but she has no definite plans yet. At any rate, it's almost lambing season, and she won't have time to think about exhibits for a few weeks.

Many of her Lee's pictures can be seen on the Celebrate Rural Montgomery website: <http://ruralmontgomery.org>.

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**"Anxious Gardener" Continued**  
From Page 7.

snows cover my gardens with a white, downy blanket, I anxiously plan the coming spring and summer gardens. To paraphrase an old saying, my eyes are bigger than my garden. As I drive around our area, the sweet songs of the garden center sirens lure me into their lairs to "just look" at their overflowing market packs of brilliant annuals and perennials, row upon row of roses of all colors, and shrubs and trees to bedeck any season. As the garden catalogs begin to flood our mailboxes, the AG devours them, convincing herself that she needs way more than her garden has room for, and her aching back can stoop to plant. She is allergic to and fears any void in her garden—bare soil must be covered—the garden must be fully clothed. She loves clematis that will scramble, not just climb, around the flowers, the old, gnarled apple tree, the lanky dogwood, and the prickly rose bush. If you find that one or several of these tendencies can sometimes be yours, take heart, there is still hope for this gardener.

Who needs a GM? Become your

own. Every gardener probably started out with a small plot of earth and a packet of Burpee's marigold seeds. Begin with a simple and easy-to-maintain garden. Each year, broaden your horizon—select new and unusual plants. Don't brood on your accidental failures; take applause for inadvertent successes. When you order from a garden catalog or visit the local garden center, have a plan in mind. Realistically, how much time and energy do you have for your garden? With that said, I shall now peek into my two favorite catalogs, Wayside Gardens and White Flower Farm, and with my new sense of restraint, make a little wish list for my 2007 gardens. I will try to pick some for you too.

Last summer quite a few people asked me for the name of the gorgeous, prolific, low maintenance rose that I recommended in the winter. It was the Knock Out Rose, one of the best landscape roses ever introduced. The first one of the series on the market in 2000 was 'Knock Out,' a four-foot-high shrub with three-inch fire-engine red blooms. It sneered at drought, humidity, the dreaded Japanese beetles, blackspot, powdery

mildew, and needed only two to three hours of sunlight per day. 'Double Knock Out' was added to the series in 2005. This one was more compact than the original Knock Out, which made it ideal as a low hedge. In 2006, 'Pink Double Knock Out' joined the growing series. I have planted all three varieties, and they are growing well beyond my expectations. This year a 2007 All-American Rose Selection title was awarded to the newest member of the Knock Out family, 'Rose Rainbow.' This beauty sports single, coral blooms around lustrous yellow centers, and has the same exceptional hardiness and disease resistance as its cousins. If you plant one rose this spring, make it a Knock Out.

Many horticulturists believe that the large, fragrant, long-lasting flowers of the Echinacea Big Sky series are among the most exciting new introductions of the twenty-first century. Coneflowers, their common name, have been around for many years. Purple coneflowers (*Echinacea purpurea*) were generally purple or mauve pink. The petals lie tucked beneath the prominent cone. This spiky central cone inspired the name echinacea

from the Greek word *echinos*, which means hedgehog. The old coneflowers are still around, but the newest cultivars come in blazing shades of mango, coral-orange, gold, and brilliant magenta. Richard Saul, of Itsaul Plants in Atlanta, Georgia, is one of the plant breeders in the forefront of this "cone craze." His claim to fame is the long-blooming Big Sky Echinaceas. Look for these varieties this spring: 'Summer Sky' (new), 'After Midnight' (new), 'Sunrise, Sunset,' 'Twilight,' 'Sundown,' 'Big Sky,' and 'Harvest Moon.' They bloom mid-to-late summer, are deer resistant, are drought tolerant, and thrive in full sun. They look best planted in groups of three or more.

About five years ago, the Profession Zinnia changed how gardeners felt about zinnias. They were no longer "grandmother plants" from a packet of Burpee seeds. These repeat bloomers lived up to their name, and they loved the heat, spreading all summer long a carpet of white, orange, and cherry-red petals, that needed no pruning or pinching. New this year, the 2006 All-American Selections Winner Zinnia 'Zowie! Yellow Flame' is going to wow you. Burpee's believes that these flowers are without doubt the boldest, most intensely-colored and longest-lasting zinnia and one of the best new flowers they have ever seen—quite a recommendation. Their three-to-five inch blooms have prominent center cones surrounded by bright rose, rich scarlet and yellow petals. Make room in your sun garden for this one.

For me, phlox evoke the quintessential scent of summer. Their only drawback is a tendency to attacks of powdery mildew. For years, 'David' was the best white phlox for mildew resistance. Now with its sport 'David's Lavender,' we have the same disease resistance, and a perfect example of a good thing made better. Plant them together in groups of three in the middle of a border, with some rosy purple *Liatris ligulistylis* in the back, and the fabulously-scented 'Star Gazer' lilies along the front for a beautiful, low maintenance sunny garden spot.

As you can see, I am living up to my eager beaver AG status. I have many more suggestions of new and old plants, but I'll save them for another article. There are more than enough seductive, new plants on the market this year that will tempt even the most Anxious Gardener.

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## Youth Sports

*It Takes a Team to Make a Team*  
By Jeff Stuart

"It takes a village to raise a child," says Sissy Natoli, Girls Basketball Coach at Clarksburg High School, "it takes a team to raise a team." Raising a team from scratch is the task at hand for Coach Natoli, assistant Coach Barb Saxton, Junior Varsity coaches Terri Tippet and Denise Demosky, and the girls on their roster. There is plenty of coaching experience leading the effort. Coach Natoli was head coach at Richard Montgomery for ten seasons and Coach Saxton was there with her for all ten. There is little experience on the court at Clarksburg High School. Two of the Clarksburg varsity girls' basketball players were on the junior varsity team at Watkins Mill last year. However, the varsity team consists of only two juniors, five sophomores, and four freshmen. None had played varsity before. "Dating back to RMHS, this is the most athletic group we've ever had as a whole," said Coach Saxton.

Though the two teams don't meet in the regular season, the girls scrim-

maged Watkins Mill in November. For the transfers, that was important. "That was a statement game," said Coach Natoli. "We wanted to dominate and we did." In the regular season, the girls made history on December 21, 2006, posting the first basketball victory in the school's history and the first home victory. They easily handled Northwood, another first year varsity team, 45-18. Maybe that was the first brick in laying the foundation for this team.

On January 5, they traveled to Poolesville and lost a heartbreaker, 41-40, to a team that was 11-4 through the end of February.

"What an amazing game," said coach Natoli. "We battled back from an 8-point deficit in the last quarter to tie the game. It was back and forth with a few minutes left. We were down by one and took the last shot. It went in and out. This was probably our best game so far this season, an outstanding game!"

The Coyotes' first league road win came on January 10 at Wheaton. They won 45-33.

"We are starting to become more competitive," said Coach Natoli. "Our hustle and energy are endless. We have great speed, and we never quit!"

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## Local News

By Kristen Milton

### Sidewalk Snow Removal Law Proves Challenging – Even to Commissioners

The year's first major storm revived debates over Poolesville's snow removal law as both town officials and staff admitted being stymied by the wintry mess. Commissioner Roy Johnson said Tuesday (after the snow and ice that) he'd broken a snow shovel in an unsuccessful attempt to clear his driveway while fellow commissioner Tom Yeatts had lost two shovels. Town manager Wade Yost topped both by reporting the overheating of a municipal truck pushing a snowplow, and sod damaged by a skid loader in an attempt to clear an especially challenging section of the Cattail sidewalk near Poolesville Elementary School. The sod will need to be replanted in the spring, he said.

All three said work remained to be done to clear the sidewalks that were their responsibility. The town code requires that homeowners clear sidewalks in front of their homes within twenty-four hours of the last snowflake or face a fine of \$50 for the first violation and \$75 for each successive day. The town is responsible for all other sidewalks. In a

phone interview Wednesday morning, Yost said only sidewalks in the commercial district remained to be completed.

Yeatts said he'd spent a half-hour on clearing only a foot of his sidewalk before attending Tuesday's meeting. "This is the first snowfall that I was completely unable to get that ice up," he said. "It's almost impossible to do without some heavier equipment," said Johnson.

But Kuhlman said every snowfall found "there are those who shovel religiously, and there are those who never do anything... We need to have a discussion about the sensibility of our law."

Yost said no one had been ticketed for icy sidewalks as of Wednesday, a week after the storm, although there had been "a few" complaints to Town Hall. Some have complained in past years about lack of enforcement of the removal requirement. President Eddie Kuhlman said it was difficult to cite residents for not clearing the snow when the town was unable to fulfill its part. He suggested that commissioners look again at the possibility of the town assuming responsibility for clearing all local sidewalks. Yost was tasked with preparing cost estimates for possible inclusion in the fiscal 2008 budget.

Not everyone was defeated by Mother Nature, and both Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski and Kuhlman

commended those residents who had cleared their sidewalks.

### Town Installs Lock to Prevent Park Partying

Town officials hope a new protective box installed at Stevens Park's main gate will serve to prevent ongoing partying at the local park. Town manager Wade Yost said there were beer bottles and other evidence of bonfires at the park on February 4, 11, and 14. Each time, Yost said, the lock on the chained main gate had been cut, and drivers had used trails to reach a site behind the soccer fields. The matter was reported to police, and fliers were distributed by the town to the surrounding neighborhood, but the town also took its own action. Yost said a metal box was welded around the chain's lock to prevent bolt cutters from being used. "The only thing that can get in is a hand with a key," he said. There had been no incidents since February 14, Yost said.

### Mystery of Excessive Water Removal From School Vault Still Under Investigation

Efforts are underway to permanently seal a vault under Poolesville High School that has repeatedly filled not with treasure but with water, Poolesville officials said.

President Eddie Kuhlman said the town was surprised by a February 14 newspaper article reporting that the underground concrete vault, which was part of the school's septic system constructed in 1952, had been pumped of thousands of gallons of water in May by Montgomery County Public Schools.

Kuhlman said the town has since talked with county representatives about activities at the vault. The site was formally abandoned in 1976 when the school was connected to municipal sewage lines, but a routine inspection by Montgomery County Public Schools in early 2006 found it full of water. A May pump-down to clear the water was conducted without town knowledge, Kuhlman said.

The vault was found to have again filled with water and another pump-down is planned, Kuhlman said. The liquid in the vault, believed to be infiltrated groundwater, will be tested by the county, he said, and the vault will be filled with slurry concrete. "We were surprised [initially]," town manager Wade Yost said. "Typically, these things are abandoned correctly... [Now] we're going to be kept in the loop." Yost said a member of either town staff or the town engineering firm would likely observe during the final sealing of the vault. Yost said there has been no apparent impact on the municipal water and sewage

systems from the vault's presence.

### Town Considers Ways to Have More Control on Town Roads

Walking in Poolesville means walking on roads controlled by the state, town, and county; some officials said Tuesday they would like a few more feet of those roads under town control. Commissioners reviewed updates of 1996 repair estimates for the approximately 3.5 miles of county roads located within town limits. The new estimates place the cost for repairing all the roads at about \$1.3 million; however, the commissioners were not interested in acquiring all the roads currently belonging to the county. In fact, less than a half-mile of roads—Westerly Avenue from Hughes Road to Fisher Avenue and Hughes from Westerly to Tom Fox Avenue—garnered most of the attention. "Those two are well within our community," said Commissioner Roy Johnson.

The discussion Tuesday was preliminary, as the town has not determined the process of acquiring the roads or Montgomery County's willingness to surrender the thoroughfares.

Commissioner Tom Yeatts said the issue for him was one of equity as the town considers assisting a local townhouse complex with its parking lot paving. All residents "have a right to decent roads," he said.

Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski was concerned about the potential cost. Repairs on the two sections of road under discussion were estimated at \$111,000 to \$133,000.

The most expensive county road to repair was also the longest. Jerusalem Road would cost an estimated \$500,000 to repair, not including work on a bridge located on the road. Town Manager Wade Yost was tasked with finding out more about the process of taking over the roads as well as the potential increase in revenue from highway user fees before returning the topic to the agenda at a future date.

### Water Rate Issue Remains Unsettled

Resident comments failed to settle the issue of Poolesville water and sewer rates as the issue received another airing Tuesday. Commissioners heard from seven residents—both in written comments and at a February 5 public hearing—on a proposal to increase rates in order to lessen the amount of money that must be paid from the town's general fund. The additional input did not seem to advance the issue.

All four of the commissioners present said Tuesday they did not like the distribution of the rate increases. "I think

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## Miss Poolesville 2007: Bring It On!



Look at them, aren't they beautiful? The ten beautiful, talented, poised contestants danced, sang, acted, and played musical instruments into the hearts of everyone in the audience. Their opening theme was a cheerleader tryout in which not one made the cheerleading team. They got it together, and performed a live cheer for their opening act. The ladies then took to the catwalk to model casual wear and activity wear. This was followed by an opportunity for each young woman to showcase her talent: Lisa Catterton brought Super Mario to life in a clever skit. Alix Kress made glasses of water sing. Meghan Rose tried to "Wake Up Poolesville" but ended up falling for a Clay Aiken look-alike. The audience was encouraged to sing Billy Joel's "Piano Man" to Marisa Shapiro's piano accompaniment. Hayley Worthington shared

many poignant memories in a slide show while accompanying it with "Friends Forever" on guitar. "Entertainment Tonight" came to PHS hosted by Amanda Fogel. Gisèle Agnew had the audience in

stitches with her crazy "Safari Planet" ("I'm Gisèle Agnew!"). Katie Kerr belted out a rousing rendition of Aretha Franklin's "Chain of Fools." Katie Ritter shared a knack for physical comedy with "Hyper Hypo." Last, but not least, Jacqueline Orona played guitar and danced to "In My Red High Heels."

The formal wear was elegant, the escorts handsome and dashing, and somehow (how could the judges decide?), the field was narrowed to five lovely ladies. They each had to answer...One Question. With poise and grace, wit and humility, the questions were answered. Tabulations occurred one last time, and the crown was placed on the head of (drum roll)...Katie Kerr. "There she is, Miss Poolesville, there she is, your ideal, the dream of a million girls, who are more than pretty."

### "Local News" Continued From Page 17.

they're too steep," said Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski.

Commissioner Roy Johnson continued to advance an alternative plan that would involve dividing water and sewer expenses, charging for water only and making sewage a free service for taxpayers paid for by the town's general fund.

This would mean sewage rates would apply only to non-taxpayers such as Montgomery County schools, churches, and communities like Jonesville/Jerusalem.

President Eddie Kuhlman said the idea was "going backward, like a decade." Various studies and advisory groups had recommended that the town

move toward making the services self-sufficient, he said. "[Residents] realize it's time for a rate increase. I don't think anyone is going to argue with a rate increase," Kuhlman said.

Another work session on the rates question will be scheduled before the issue returns for a vote, and no timeline for finalizing the long-standing question

was established.

Revenue from water and sewer bills currently pays less than half of the cost of providing the service. For years, commissioners have paid excess water and sewer operations expenses with general funds.

## Police Blotter Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

### Present

Montgomery County detectives have been investigating a case of identity theft that is very similar to the 2006 cases commonly referred to as the "Wig Lady" case. The investigation has revealed that several women, shopping in stores, have had their identification stolen by pickpockets. The suspects then have gone to banks and withdrawn funds from the victim's accounts. Citizens, especially women with purses, are cautioned to be careful while shopping.

January 27. Assault. A man, who

lived in the 23000 block of Taylor Shop Place, Clarksburg, hired two workers to move his belongings. A dispute erupted, the men pulled out knives and threatened the victim, and the men fled. The identities of the suspects are known.

January 29. Shooting. A Hyattsville man reported that he was standing outside of his car at River and Partnership Roads when someone in a passing car shot him in the buttocks.

### Past

March 6, 1920. The general mercantile store of Thrift and Waters at Germantown was destroyed by fire. The store was the largest of its kind in Montgomery County, and damage was placed at \$33,000.

March 7, 1900. The police of Washington received word from the telegraph operator at Boyds Station that John Braxton had been arrested by Montgomery County authorities. Braxton had been sought in the shooting death of Moy Sing, a Chinese laundryman; however, when a Washington detective came to Boyds Station, he said that Braxton was not the wanted man. Braxton instead was charged with entering the premises of Mary Warfield and stealing clothing.

March 7, 1950. George Pumphrey of Poolesville was reported to be recovering in the Frederick Memorial Hospital after being injured when his car was struck by a Baltimore and Ohio freight train at a crossing near Monrovia.

March 10, 1956. Frederick County police received an emergency call that

a dead man was in a cow barn at the Burdette farm at Tuscarora. When the police arrived, they found a man in a drunken condition sleeping. He was not dead.

March 11, 1905. The postmaster at Sugarland, Maryland was arrested by postal authorities after an examination of his books revealed that he had been falsifying his accounts and records, thus defrauding the government.

March 14, 1945. A woman living at Braddock Heights, Maryland was hanging clothes in the backyard when a missile whizzed overhead and landed on her property. Military authorities confirmed that the hole had been caused by the firing of a Nazi artillery missile from a test site near the house. Authorities said that they would be looking for a new test site.



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## Tributes

Statement by Senator Warner  
Regarding Jake Perkins  
(Submitted for the Senate record)

Mr. Warner. Mr. President, today with a deep sense of sadness, I wish to speak in honor of a wonderful man, Jacob N. Perkins --a former staff assistant in my office, who passed away on February 5, 2007. Although Jake worked for me some time ago--in 1990

and 1991--he remained a key part of what I like to call the extended Warner staff family.

Jake first came to my office as a summer intern from Virginia Tech University. From day one, he impressed all of us with his profound work ethic, his absolute dedication and loyalty, his keen interest in government and politics, and his generosity of spirit. In fact, Jake was such an impressive young man that, after his internship, he was hired on as a mem-

ber of my permanent staff to serve as my chief mail clerk. He always carried out his responsibilities in an exemplary fashion, giving 150 percent of effort each and every day.

Upon leaving my office, Jake returned to Virginia Tech to finish his undergraduate work. In 1994, he received his bachelor's degree in political science, compiling nearly a 4.0 average his final two years of school. After graduating at Virginia Tech, Jake attended law school at the University of Maryland in Baltimore.

Through all the time that has passed, Jake has remained a steadfast friend of my office, supporting my campaigns and projects whenever possible and maintaining warm and important friendships with current and former staff members. Indeed, only this past Christmas, he was the principal organizer of our annual staff alumni luncheon.

In recent years, Jake began to have significant health problems. His passing away this past Monday at the early age of 37, reportedly due to kidney transplant complications, is a tragedy.

Jake was a remarkable man in so many ways. For one, you would never have known he was ill, not even for a day. He was the type of man who

never complained, who was always upbeat, and who continuously looked out for his friends and family.

He was an avid Virginia Tech sports fan, an unflinching fan of the New York Yankees, and always eager to enjoy a game of golf with his friends.

Jake had a tremendous community presence in his hometown of Poolesville, Maryland. From his leadership role in the local Chamber of Commerce, to organizing and serving as chair of "Poolesville Day" in honor of his beloved community, to helping coach youth basketball teams, to serving as an announcer at local school sporting events, Jake's dedication to community service exemplified the motto of his alma-mater, Virginia Tech: *Ut Prosim*--that I may serve.

Jake Perkins was a big man with a big presence. The biggest thing about him, however, was his heart. He will be greatly missed by this Senator and many Warner staff members past and present.

- John W. Warner, U. S Senate

### "Reclaiming the Race Horse" Continued From Page 1.

relocated her hay so she could look out the door while she ate, and she settled right down. The next morning, her undisturbed stall told me she had rested comfortably.

For the first few days, I let the new mare get adjusted to her new routine. My older mare is a bossy alpha mare, and proceeded to tell Phoebe exactly what she could and couldn't do in the pasture. This suited Phoebe to a T. She derived a great deal of personal security from this arrangement and began to relax. In fact, much to Wavey's annoyance, Phoebe trailed around after her like a groupie after a rock star. She drank when Wavey drank, muzzles touching. She grazed the exact same spot as Wavey until Wavey pinned her ears and drove her back, as if to say, "For gosh sakes, do you have to follow me everywhere?" Phoebe, like a pesky kid sister, would back off, then slowly inch back to eat tête à tête with Wavey. When, after several days, I tried to establish Phoebe's work routine, she made it clear to me she had eyes only for Wavey. Leading her down the drive to the ring was fraught with personal danger, with Phoebe spinning, striking, and screaming at the end of her lead, no more aware of me than of the leaves fluttering in the autumn air.

For horses, trust and dominance are synonyms. If you dominate them,

they will trust you. If they trust you, they will allow you to dominate them. Conversely, without their trust, you cannot dominate them, and if you don't dominate them, they will never trust you to keep them safe. I am underwhelmed by most "natural training" methods, but find some of the initial ideas useful. One system was developed by an equine behavioral scientist. He observed horses in pasture, and codified their natural communications within the herd into games people could play with their horses. It's basically a system of non-confrontational dominance, following the pattern exhibited by horses interacting with their own kind. The basic precept is: he who yields his feet is not dominant. The games consist of keeping the horse busy moving its feet, and rewarding the horse for signs of submission. Where most of these methods go wrong comes in recognizing signs of submission. I've watched people put their horses through all the paces without getting the slightest sign of compliance from the horse, and been satisfied that they are training the animal. But the horse remains unridable because they never really achieved dominance in the horse's mind. Notwithstanding the usual failures, I began working Phoebe around the stable yard for a quarter hour twice a day, playing submission games. Soon, she could hold her attention on me and obey these small but significant directives.

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