

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

March 16, 2007

Volume IV, Number 1.



An unassuming home on West Willard, where the Mystery History begins. See Page 15.



Jill Knudson of Calleva Outdoors spoke to future entrepreneurs at John Poole Middle School's Career Day. More on Page 3.



A bustling day at Jamaica Station, circa 1964? Read all about it on Page 6.



Lost? Who needs a GPS System? Just follow a horse. See page 8.

Johnson Resignation Triggers Special Election

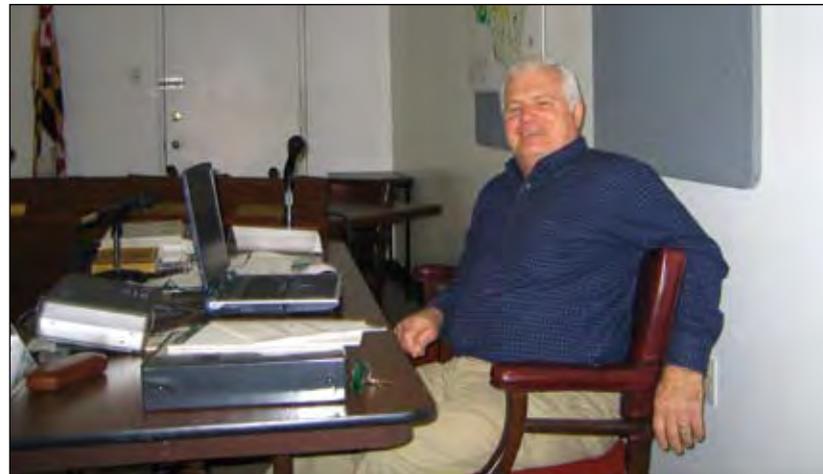
By Rande Davis

Roy Johnson submitted his resignation from the town commission on February 28 in a terse and inexplicable statement that was made effective immediately. The recently re-elected commissioner had served for ten years and was the current vice president. As a result of Mr. Johnson's resignation, the town is required to hold a special election within sixty days of the resignation to determine his replacement.

Speculation behind the reason for the resignation focused on two possible areas: personal family issues or frustration with the direction of the current commission. At our press time, no further statement from Mr. Johnson was provided to the Monocle.

Commissioner Link Hoewing echoed common sentiments as to the outstanding work Mr. Johnson had done particularly in his work in establishing the town's budgetary process. Commissioner Tom Yeatts reflected on the insight he had gained from Mr. Johnson starting as early as Election Day when both stood together outside of the polls for thirteen hours. Mr. Yeatts expressed his regret that Johnson had decided to submit his resignation. President Ed Kuhlman stated his surprise at the resignation and echoed praise for Mr. Johnson for his work ethic and contribution to the budget process and to the town government overall. Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski was not in attendance due to a death in his family and was not available for comment.

Tom Kettler, an officer with the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce, praised Mr. Johnson for the professionalism the former com-



Roy Johnson

missioner brought to the work of the town government. He pointed to Mr. Johnson's career background in expressing his regret over his decision to leave and his astute contribution, especially in financial issues.

Particular concern was expressed regarding possible replacements. In November's general election, there were only three candidates for the two open spots. The town requires a special election to replace Mr. Johnson within thirty days. In that regard, the town has set April 26, 2007 for the spe-

cial election. Unlike in the general election, this election will take place in the town hall at 19710-C Fisher Avenue. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Candidates for commissioner must: be qualified registered voters in the Town of Poolesville (twenty-one years of age), have continuously resided in the corporate town limits

for at least six months prior to the election, maintain residency within the town limits during his or her term of office, and not have been convicted of a felony.

Candidates must file a candidacy form available at town hall, obtain supporting signatures of at least twenty-five town residents who are qualified registered voters, and pay a \$10.00 filing fee. The town must receive the candidate filing forms no later than March 27, 2007.

Hello Dolly

By Dominique Agnew

The Midnight Players will be presenting the well-known and well-loved comedy, *Hello Dolly*, one of the standard musicals performed on Broadway and in theaters around

the country. Composed by Jerry Herman and based on a book by Michael Stewart which was based on a play by Thornton Wilder entitled *The Matchmaker*, *Hello Dolly* is full of delightful antics and comic misunderstandings

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Ashley Gunsteens (playing Minnie Fay), Erin Toman (Irene Molloy), Scott Turner (Barnaby Tocker), Kevin McCarthy (Cornelius Tucker) Gracie Jones (Dolly), Andy Kotch (Vandergelder)

Family Album

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Brittany Ziner of Curves collecting food for the WUMCO Food Bank.



A sign that spring is coming is Girl Scouts (Troop 2505) selling the cookies.



Poolesville lacrosse players warm up on a windy and cold March afternoon.



Monocacy Elementary fourth graders sing songs about canal life in the American History-themed spring concert.

School News

Career Day

By Rande Davis

The eighth graders at John Poole Middle School came face to face with the notion that childhood is not forever. The event is designed to increase the students' awareness that their choices in the coming few years may impact their aspirations for the future and choices. Over forty area business people and professionals took time

out of their daily routine to share with these students the career choices that they had made.

Guidance Counselor Peg Arnold who coordinated the event broke the students into small groups and rotated them to different classrooms to hear about various careers and employment opportunities.

At the end of the day, Mrs. Arnold passed out a survey questionnaire to obtain information as to what the students gained from the presentations. Overwhelmingly, the students voiced their agreement that career day was effective in informing them about new opportunities in the world of work,



Geologist Kathy Mihm at Career Day.

of another student who wrote about "how different jobs could be – you need education if you want to get where you want in life."

Others came to a better understanding as to the breadth of opportunity. "I learned that I shouldn't commit to one career too early because different opportunities will always come up." Along with education and appreciating the wide degree of opportunity, another positive theme that resonated with the students was choosing the right education and career based on something they really loved.

This kind of support to the students came about by so many people in the area willing to share their work experience and advice with them. Steve Kelly (Lawn Concepts), Terry Bacas (Wholesale Building Products), and Dave Johnson (Plumbing & Heating/Air Conditioning Co.) shared the ins and outs of the business world. Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski, States Attorney John McCarthy, and attorney Steve Seeger presented careers in law and politics. Nurse Candace Hanrahan, along with dentist Dr. Margaret Velega, and U.S. Army radiologist Gary Riley got them think-

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Things to Do

March 17

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

HMAP St. Patrick's Day Poetry
Jamboree
Hyattstown Mill, 7:30 p.m.
Darby O'Gill and the Little People
Weinberg Center for the Arts
2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

March 19

Public Hearings
Poolesville Town Hall
Revision of Water Rates
Revision of Tax Rate
FY2008 Town Budget, 7:30 p.m.
Seminar on Identity Theft
Poolesville Public Library
What You Should Know
Lisa Brennan
MC Off. of Consumer Protection
7:30 p.m.

March 22

Three to Six
Poolesville Public Library
Stories, finger plays, music
10:30 a.m.

March 22, 23, and 24

Hello Dolly
Poolesville High School
7:30 p.m. plus 2:00 p.m. on Saturday
Students: \$5.00, Adults: \$8.00
Librarian's Choice Book Discussion
The Speed of Dark by Elizabeth Moon
Quince Orchard Library, 7:30 p.m.

March 23

Hoosiers
Weinberg Center for the Arts
8:00 p.m.

March 24

Pizzarelli and New York All Star Big
Band
Weinberg Center for the Arts

3:00 p.m.

March 25

Washington Balalaika Society Russian
Orchestra
Weinberg Center for the Arts
2:00 p.m.

March 26

Library Discussion Group
Poolesville Public Library
The Tipping Point – How Little Things
Can Make a Difference – Malcom
Gladwell

March 27

Deadline for filing Candidacy
Poolesville Town Commission
Close of business

Sounds of Spring
Poolesville Public Library
Frogs Can Sing
7:00 p.m.

Personal Ponies Benefit
Whole Foods in Kentlands
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
The ponies will greet shoppers.

March 28

Kids Book Club
Quince Orchard Library
Grades 4 to 6
Room One by Andrew Clements
7:00 p.m.

Lunasa and Dervish
Weinberg Center for the Arts
8:00 p.m.

March 30

Bingo
Carroll Manor Fire Department
5:30 doors open
Games at 7:30 p.m.

April 1

Animal Wellness Seminar
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Germantown Community Center

and that this was a most positive experience.

In scanning the survey evaluation forms, there were three things that came up over and over again from the students themselves. The first was that they came to better understand the importance of education as they look to the future, "I learned that no matter what successful job you are in, you got there from trying hard and being successful in school." Over and over again, the presenters emphasized the importance of education. Good education seemed to be on the mind



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Commentary

With Friends Like This, Who Needs Enemies?

By John Clayton

I was experiencing a profound sense of déjà vu. I was looking out the window, watching the snow, admiring the birds on the feeders, and despairing of having a topic to pursue when one of our cats pounced out from behind a tree and snatched a bird. End of reverie—for me, that is, and also, I suppose, for the bird.

At that moment, I did not seem to believe that all birds are created equally, or that they are endowed by their Creator with anything except an obligation to entertain me while I work. Yes, my first impulse was relief that today's victim of feline slaughter was a sparrow, or some other non-descript bird, and not a cardinal, or, heaven forbid, a woodpecker. Sparrows are not particularly fun to watch, and they are nuisances to our many bluebirds—another favored species. Bluebirds are pretty to watch and we enjoy seeing them populate our collection of Jack Davis birdhouses. Sparrows often invade the bluebird houses. We like bluebirds. Sparrows are the evil empire.

One of my daughters asked me recently what the point was about

feeding the birds, or words to that effect. I suggested that it was partially entertainment and partially the satisfaction of doing something nice for some small wild animals. Pursuing the thought further (alone—my daughter had certainly lost interest by this point) I realized that this in turn makes me feel good, which is ultimately the point of this expense of money and effort. Such is the nature of altruism—cynical though that may be.

Then I thought about that “being nice to small animals” thing. I enjoy feeding the birds, but I also enjoy taking pot shots at the local foxes, who are also small animals. Actually, that's even more fun than feeding the birds. I rationalize that I target the foxes in part to protect our roaming cats (all non-reproductive, thank you very much) which is probably another strike against me with the birds, who may very well count on foxes to cull the cat population. Obviously, I maintain my own preferred hierarchy of small animals. I am indeed part of the great cycle of life, or death as it may be. Dwelling on this did not help me develop any thoughts about any other topics that were on my mind, such as global warming, the French, evolution, the environment in general, development in the Ag Reserve, Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital, and Scooter Libby. Maybe that is just as well—but I do feel bad about the bird.

Health

Eating Your Greens

(And not just on St. Patrick's Day.)

By Karen Fales

Including food of all shades of green in your snacks and meals can provide you with a variety of immune-boosting and cancer-fighting nutrition. Greens such as spinach, kale, and collards are high in folate which helps produce and maintain new cells as well as helps prevent changes to DNA that may lead to cancer. Lighter green vegetables such as broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and Brussels sprouts contain luteins which help to eliminate excess estrogen and carcinogens. Even lighter green vegetables, including garlic, onions, chives, and asparagus have allyl sulfides which destroy cancer cells and support the immune

system. The green vegetables we eat also contain an assortment of vitamins important to our good health. Vitamin A is important in vision, bone growth, reproduction. It also helps regulate the immune system which helps prevent or fight off infections by creating white blood cells that destroy harmful bacteria and viruses. The B vitamins help maintain healthy nerve cells and red blood cells. Vitamin E is a powerful antioxidant, and vitamin C is also a strong antioxidant, as well as important in the formation and maintenance of connective tissues.

Good Health isn't all Good Luck. Eat your Greens. Karen Fales

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Center Stage

All Things Bright and Beautiful Maryland Young Voices Festival

By Dominique Agnew

Regular readers of the *Monocle* have learned of the amazing and incredible Frederick Children's Chorus throughout the years, so it may come as a surprise to learn that there are other children's choruses in Maryland—and they're quite good. On Saturday, March 3, four fantastic children's choruses gathered together to spend the day learning and singing with a guest clinician, Dr. Philip Silvey, then they performed together for a free concert at Gov. Thomas Johnson High School in Frederick.

First up was the All Children's Chorus of Annapolis. Only six years since its inception, the ACCA has achieved acclaim in and around the Annapolis area singing the national anthem for the swearing-in ceremony of new American citizens at the historic William Paca House, leading the 9/11 Remembrance Program at the Annapolis City Dock, a celebration of U.N. Day, and a very successful Amahl and the Night Visi-

tors with the AACC Opera in 2005. Liz Barrett, the founder and artistic director ACCA, founded the chorus in 2001 when facing retirement. After a lifetime involvement in music, performance, and volunteer services in the Annapolis area, a community chorus of children was the answer to how she could again give back to the community. Ms. Barrett is helped by Assistant Director Julie Thomas, a former Frederick Children's chorister who is now in her junior year at the University of Maryland majoring in choral music education; and accompanist Carol Day, a senior music education major at the University of Maryland with a focus on choral and piano music. The ACCA is proud to be one of the few choruses in the country that does not charge a fee to be sure all musical children may have the wonderful experience and opportunity of quality musical education.

The Chesapeake Youth Chorale was founded in 1999 by Artistic Director Ann C. Turpin with a group of parents to provide singing opportunities to children in the rural areas of the Eastern Shore. The singers are taught healthy vocal technique, basic musical skills, and performance etiquette through a wide repertoire of challenging music. The chorus draws singers from Queen



The Maryland Young Voices Festival

Anne's, Kent, Talbot, and Caroline Counties and is supported by grants from the Maryland State Arts Council, the Queen Anne's Arts Council, the Talbot County arts Council, and the United Way. Ann Turpin earned a bachelor's degree in organ performance from DePauw University School of Music

and a master's degree in sacred music from Union Theological Seminary in New York. She has many years of experience directing youth and adult choruses and in performing organ recitals across the nation. Ann Turpin

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Remembrance

Mary E. "Tippy" Bodmer

By Rande Davis

Mrs. Mary E. "Tippy" Bodmer, 76, of Frederick, Maryland, died on Thursday, March 1, 2007 at her residence. Born on September 20, 1930 in Aurora, Illinois, she was the daughter of the late Charles M. and Sarah E. White Tipton.



Mary E. Bodmer

Tippy was a graduate of Poolesville High School, attended the Washington School for Secretaries and the National Art School in Washington, D.C.

When she moved to Colorado, she began a career as a newspaper reporter contributing in a variety of departments and articles. When her first husband

passed away, Mary came home to Poolesville and worked with the Washington Bureau of ABC News where she was a Visual Information Specialist in the Graphics Department. In this capacity, long before computer and internet photographic programs, she was responsible for maintaining physical records and photographs used in the network news programs to enhance the visual impact of their broadcast.

She loved animals, and her many interests included art, classical music, literature, gardening, photography, and especially meeting people and being with her friends and relatives. Mary is remembered by friends as someone who always seemed to have a twinkle in her eye, especially when sharing a favorite humorous story or experience. In retirement, she liked to do some work with Trout Auctions in Frederick, Maryland. She also helped the Women of St. Peter's during their semi-annual rummage sales.

Mary is survived by Thomas (son) and Lynne Bodmer and grandchildren Jocelyn and Mollie, of Poolesville; Troy Bodmer (son) of Beallsville; one brother, Dr. Charles Tipton of Arizona; and one sister, Ann Lee Pararas of Rockville. She is also survived by her former husband, Thomas Bodmer, of Beallsville. She was preceded in death by one brother, Wellstood Tipton. A memorial service was held to celebrate Tippy's life at the St. Peter's Episcopal Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of Frederick County, P.O. Box 1799, Frederick, MD 21702.

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Brian Sheron

Profile

All Aboard to 1964!

By Rande Davis

For most of us, leaving the past behind is just a part of life, something we all have to do sooner or later. For Brian Sheron of Poolesville, though, he found another way—he put it in his basement.

As you walk down the stairs in his home, the Poolesville of 2007 dissolves and Long Island, New York, 1964 emerges before your eyes. In front of you is a jaw-dropping model railroad display that would rival anything you might see in a model railroad museum. Sheron's attention to detail is something even a nuclear engineer would admire—interestingly, it just so happens that he holds a Ph.D. in that field from Catholic University.

By day, Brian Sheron is a director

with the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission in its office of nuclear research. He is in a profession that does not allow for margins of error, and that experience shows in the precision he gives to his hobby.

His passion for model railroads began to take hold when he was about eleven when he built his first layout on a four-by-eight foot piece of plywood in the small family room of his parents' house. As he entered junior high school, other interests took over, but his love for trains, both real and model, never totally left him. He fondly recalls his high school days in Greenlawn, New York, and the days when the real passenger cars of the Long Island Rail Road (yes, the LIRR does not combine the two words into one) raced past the windows of his classroom.

In January of 1988, he began his journey to becoming a railroad baron in earnest. He chose the LIRR of 1960 because that was a time he recalled

best, and in 1963, New York City hosted the World's Fair and LIRR trains were repainted dark gray and bright orange to help promote the occasion.

In the beginning, he rummaged through old railroad books at model train flea markets and shows searching for information on the LIRR. This also provided him with the history of the railroad, when it was built, how the ownership changed hands over the years, the various paint schemes, etc. All the information he would need to recreate a bygone time and place.

He decided on the Port Jefferson commuter line, which ran from Hicksville to Port Jefferson along the north shore of the island, to Jamaica, Queens, eventually, taking its passengers into Penn Station in Manhattan. This HO scale model train layout fills a thirteen-by-nine foot room and an adjoining twelve-by-twelve foot room in the basement. In 1964, steam and diesel engines were allowed in the tunnels leading to

Penn Station, so passengers would have to change trains at the Jamaica station in Queens. For Long Island commuters of the '50s and '60s, the conductor's shout of "Change in Jamaica" ranks right up there with "All Aboard" and "Tickets Please" as time-honored commuter sounds of the times.

As you walk the narrow pathway between the track layouts, it is as if you were in a slow-flying airplane drifting over the suburban towns of Huntington and East Northport, with all the vehicle traffic, the busy city life, hectic commerce, and daily life unfolding below. From the advertising signage, which promotes Bert and Ernie's Piels Beer and the latest Broadway play (West Side Story) to workers hustling into work, laborers toiling on docks, discarded trash near the river, and even an automobile junkyard, there is no detail

-Continued on Page 20.

Youth Sports

PHS Wrestlers Weigh Disappointment at States

By Suzanne Tallia

Jeff and Jason both have red hair and blue eyes. Both are honor roll students in the Global Ecology Program at Poolesville High School. Jason recently earned his Eagle Scout from Boy Scout Troop 496 in Poolesville. Jeff is one merit badge and an Eagle project away from his. Both boys are active in their respective churches. Both began wrestling with the Poolesville Athletic Association in elementary school, and are now on the Poolesville High School Varsity Wrestling team.

Jason Boulter is a senior at Poolesville wrestling at 145 pounds. He has been co-captain of the team for three years and has been on varsity for four years. Jeff Tallia is a sophomore at 103, his first year wrestling in high school. Both young men had very challenging seasons but ended the regular season with excellent records. Both qualified for the 1A/2A South Regional Tournament held on February 23 to 24 in Columbia, Maryland.

Both took home fourth place wins in their respective weight classes, qualifying them for the State Championship Tournament at the University of Maryland on March 2 and 3.

Kevin Dorsey, the new wrestling coach at PHS, wrestled in high school for Seneca Valley and began coaching with the PAA youth recreation league several years ago. This year, when he took on the job of head coach at PHS, he took a team of what had been only thirteen wrestlers last year, to a team of thirty, enough for a varsity and JV squad, with a record of five wins, more than they've had several years. This immediate doubling of the team size is a tribute to the reputation he had gained coaching the PAA wrestlers, some of whom are now in high school. The kids respect him as a coach and as a person. They listen to him, learn from him, and work hard for him. The fact that Poolesville had two wrestlers qualify for the State Championship is a testament to the student athletes and their first-year coach.

Wrestling is a very tough sport; it's not for everyone. It requires discipline and mental and physical toughness. You have to possess speed, strength, intelligence, and technique to be successful. The sport teaches

you how to win gracefully, but more importantly, to lose with dignity and good sportsmanship. It's a team sport, and possesses the camaraderie that goes with a team sport, but out on the mat, it is the ultimate one-on-one contest. It is said that he who wins in the first period has technique; in the second, stamina; and in the third, heart. Unfortunately, the end of this season was heartbreaking.

The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) is responsible for just what its title suggests, the organization of Maryland high school athletics. The MPSSAA issues "State Tournament Bulletins," a soft-cover book with information for high school coaches and athletic directors. It also maintains a website. Wrestlers are required to weigh-in for every match or tournament to be sure they do not exceed the weight limit for their class. If you are not there for weigh-ins, you cannot wrestle. Thus, the weigh-in time is very important. In the week leading up to the State Championship Tournament, the MPSSAA website listed all other tournament information, but no weigh-in time. The "Bulletin" cannot be read online. The MPSSAA email box was full, so email inquires were bounced back. Coaches and ath-

letic directors received email and/or memos regarding all other tournaments held this year with the exception of the State Tournament. Calls by the team manager to the University of Maryland yielded coaches' meeting time, and event times, but no weigh-in time. The only place any weigh-in time is listed anywhere is at the top of page 41 in the "Bulletin." It is by no means conspicuous and is in fact listed as "tentative." Everyone who looked at the "Bulletin" missed it, so Coach Dorsey used his best judgment and past experience, and had the two boys at Cole Field house by 12:45. Weigh-ins had started at 12:30. Despite all manner of persuasive arguments, MPSSAA officials refused to allow the two Poolesville wrestlers to weigh-in even though the scales were still open and other boys were weighing in. They claimed they were strictly adhering to the rule that athletes must weigh-in in the order of their class only, a rule that was not strictly enforced at other tournaments this year. It seems supremely hypocritical that MPSSAA requires strict compliance with its rules from athletes and coaches, and yet utterly fails to communicate, and communicate effective-

-Continued on Page 20.

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Local History

The Horse Knew the Way By Jack Toomey

For some people, it is just a place that those living in Poolesville and Virginia pass through on their way home, but a long time ago, the little town of Dawsonville had a general store, several homes, and a doctor's office. Lawrence Allnutt ran a general store at the corner of White's Ferry Road and Sugarland Road. The store, which was demolished a long time ago, carried general necessities and foodstuffs since a trip to Poolesville took a while, and a journey to Rockville was a major undertaking in those days.

On the morning of April 11, 1929, Mr. Allnutt came to work and found that someone had broken a window and then had entered and stolen a small amount of goods. Officer Roy Bodmer, who lived in Poolesville at the time and who knew all of the miscreants in those parts, found enough evidence to suspect that a man named Russell, a known horse thief, was responsible for the break-in. Enlisting the aid of Officer Robert Darby, the two officers set out on their motorcycles in search of Russell. Soon they found him on what was then called "the road to Seneca" and which is now called Sugarland Road. Russell was riding one horse and leading the other by the hand. Seeing the officers, Russell ran off through the fields and hid in some woods leaving the horses behind. Bodmer inspected the horses and found the stolen property in a sack tied to one of the horses. He had seen Russell riding on one of the horses on an earlier date and suspected that the other horse was stolen. Darby, who had been a farmer before being appointed to the department in 1926, had an idea. He

left his motorcycle with a resident of the area and climbed onto one of the horses. The horse turned around and headed back towards Poolesville at a leisurely pace. It took several hours, but eventually, the horse stopped in front of a house outside of Poolesville. Bodmer, who had been following Darby at a great distance, joined him at the house. They entered and found Russell asleep inside the house. Darby and Bodmer arrested him and took him to Rockville. Police Chief Alvie Moxley questioned Russell and he soon admitted that he was responsible for breaking into Mr. Allnutt's store.

There is no telling what happened to the horse or Mr. Russell, but we do know that Officer Roy Bodmer, who later moved to Beallsville, had a very successful career with the police department. The story of his life will appear in an upcoming edition of the *Monocle*.



A photograph of a police officer and his mount, from around the same era as Officer Darby.

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Garden

The Art of Pruning

By Maureen O'Connell

If it's Saint Patrick's Day, it is time to prune our trees and shrubs. For years, I have used this date, weather permitting, to kick-start my spring return to the garden and its chores. One of the first items on my to-do list is pruning. Pruning is an art and not a science, since everyone has a different picture in their mind's eye as to what their plants should look like.

Why do we prune? We do it for the following purposes: To remove dead, diseased, or structurally unsound branches; to remove branches that rub together, causing wounds and increasing the chance of disease; to remove unwanted suckers from the roots of grafted or budded specimens; to achieve a desired shape or size. Pruning is not the answer for having the wrong plant in the wrong spot. As the spring planting season begins, choose landscape plants carefully. If you have a small- or medium-sized yard, don't plant a tree that will mature at fifty feet. You'll end up hacking it to death to fit your property space.

Spring can be a dangerous time for plants. At the first sign of blue skies and mild temperatures, weekend gardeners,

armed with their new Smith & Hawken Felco #2 pruners and good intentions, attack their gardens' trees and shrubs, and start cutting back, a little here, a little there. But, they assume that all plants get the same pruning treatment. I hate to see a beautiful freeform forsythia pruned back hard to resemble a gumdrop, or a boxwood hacked to look like a small head of broccoli. Our anxious gardener, in one afternoon, can create all kinds of terrible truncated shapes. When the late *Washington Post* garden writer, Henry Mitchell, was once asked about pruning a Japanese maple tree, he said that left on its own, it will grow into a full, rounded shrub, or it could be sculpted, or "discreetly whacked." I was surprised to find that there is an organization in Seattle, Washington, Plant Amnesty, whose mission is "to end the senseless torture and mutilation of trees and shrubs." I don't know if I would describe someone's poor pruning methods so passionately, but for some people, pruning is serious business.

Let's take a look at which plants to prune now, or later in the summer. There are some deciduous shrubs that flower on previous year's growth: forsythia, mock orange, pussy willow, lilac, spiraea, buddleia, and weigela. They should be

-Continued on Page 23.

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Youth Sports

Little Champs Make a Comeback in Close Game

By Curtis A. Osborne

On Saturday, March 3, the Monocacy Youth Basketball Association held its annual championship games around the region for both the girls and boys division

crown. Perhaps one of the best games, and definitely one of the most compelling games, was played at the Centerville Recreation Center in Ijamsville. Before a packed house full of supporters and cheerleaders, the Carroll Manor Firebirds took on the Mount Airy Christian Lions. This game was a rematch from earlier in the season when MAC dominated in rebounds and hustle and beat the Firebirds pretty handily.

This championship game was very strong on defense, with both teams playing aggressively, trying to stop the other's point guard as they crossed mid-court and trying to rebound and defend the passing lanes. The teams had very similar styles as guard play was the deciding factor.

Sean Smith and Vincent Osborne controlled the ball and the tempo on offense for the Firebirds, and Dylan LaVern sparked the defense with his hustle and tenacity. The Firebirds took an early lead in the game and maintained that lead throughout the first half all the way through the third quarter.

With three minutes left in the game, the Firebirds were up by five, but the starters began getting fatigued, and the Lions took control and got momentum, hitting several crucial shots down the stretch to eventually catch up and tie the game and force it into overtime. It was a total team effort as they did not panic, and lightning-quick ball handler Jesse Cherry directed the comeback with his running mate Daniel Murphy. They executed their offense, and they all hit some key foul shots as the Lions took control, hit the first basket in overtime, and never looked back. They won by just two points in a game that saw momentum seesaw back and forth in a gym that was loud and festive. It was a shame that either team had to lose, but all of the kids were winners that day.

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Local News

Town Commissioners Reject Notion of Town Taking Ownership of County Roads

Poolesville town commissioners voted 3-0 not to proceed with a discussed proposal for the town to take over ownership and, thereby, control over county roads within the town limits. Commissioner Klobukowski, who had previously voiced opposition to the concept, was not present to vote on the issue due to a death in his family. Town Manager Wade Yost reported back to the commission his findings on the futility of gaining financial assistance in making repairs and ongoing maintenance from the county should the town move forward. Mr. Wade reported that the town cannot expect repairs or funding from the county upon taking ownership and, additionally, reported that prospects that the county would allocate such funds even without the change in ownership most likely will not happen within five years at best.

With the topic of potential ownership rejected, the commis-

sioners collectively expressed that their only avenue may be to expand their lobbying efforts to seek a reversal of county plans regarding their budgeted infrastructure support on roads within the town.

Town Budget for FY2008, Revision of Water/Sewer Rates, and Change in Tax Rates Submitted for Public Hearing

March 19 promises to be a busy evening for the town commissioners as the town will hold public hearings on three key decisions: approval of the FY2008 budget, revision of water/sewer rates, and tax rates.

The most controversial item is the intention of raising fees for water/sewer usage by ten percent so as to eliminate the past practice of covering revenue shortfall in the water/sewer budget from money from the general fund. In so doing, the commissioners rejected a previous multi-tiered rate schedule proposal in favor of the new across-the-board rate increase. To offset this increase on town residents in their water bill, the commissioners are also proposing to change the FY2007 tax rate of .20 cents per

\$100.00 to .18 cents. The anticipated cost to residents of the new water/sewer rates will be balanced by the corresponding decrease in the general fund tax rate.

The increase in water/sewer user fees is the first such increase since 1998. The early work on the budget anticipated that a reduction in the tax rate to .19 cents would still result in a surplus in the general fund based on an anticipated grant of \$118,000. Rather than accepting the surplus, the commissioners returned the money to the taxpayers by their decision to further reduce the tax rate by one cent.

A major part of the decision to increase the water/sewer tax rate was based on the recommendation from studies of the University of Maryland, advice from the Maryland Rural Water Association and EPA setting goals for user fees to fully fund water/sewer operations.

An anticipated doubling of electric fees for operating the water/waste water treatment plant was the most significant change in past w/w budgets.

The proposed FY2008 General Fund budget shows revenue of \$2,583,558, which is \$55,910 (2.2%) greater than projected costs. Highlights of the new budget allows for a 2.5% increase in town employee salaries, new equipment for the town hall, purchase of a new sweeper broom and cab for skid loader, radar speed signs, utility vehicle, construction on Fyfe Road, skate park, and Halmos Park trail. To indemnify the town from unanticipated catastrophic events, an unrestricted funds account of \$1,045,406 (roughly four months of general fund and Water/Wastewater operation and maintenance costs) is proposed within the budget.

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available at the town hall and citizens interested in making comments will be able to do so at the March 19 (7:30 p.m.) meeting or in writing to the town hall (P.O. Box 158, Poolesville, MD 20837)



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Youth Sports

PHS Lacrosse: A Functional Family

By Chase Spencer

To most, winter is a time of dormancy. There are no leaves on the trees, no plants are sprouting, and the grass is no longer growing. To most, winter is a time to relax, enjoy the winter holidays, and enjoy family—but there is one family that spends the winter season together a little differently. Instead of meeting at a dinner table with other relatives, this family meets in the weightroom of Poolesville High School. Lifting weights with all of their might and will, sweat and staggered breaths are only a measure of how hard a family member is working. This family is the family of the Men's Poolesville Lacrosse team.

Whenever anyone walks into the weightroom, they are sure to hear the voice of the three-year starter and now senior captain of the team, Jake Yost. "This is where we work, there's no play. You lift and you sweat, that's what we do," the senior explains after benching 225 pounds. "Make sure you're working, people, season starts real soon!" This is the mentality with the team: all business, no messing around.

As one looks at one end of the room, Yost is working hard, when facing another, one sees the strongest member of the team, and arguably the school, senior Luke Marchwicki. "I pretty much just lift. I'm one of the big boys, so I gotta act like it," the senior boasts after he lifts a "light weight" of only 315 pounds.

This team is a very structured, disciplined, and efficient machine. The team has produced many greats which include All-American Josh Funk and recent St. Joseph's commit Michael O'Halloran. O'Halloran is a four-year starter on the team, last year's team captain, and he plans to keep the winning tradition at Poolesville. The most amazing thing about this team is that for the last six months, they've been working out with no coach.



Lacrosse practice in the snow.

Coach Curtiss Belcher had been the coach of the lacrosse team since it started, but last year, Belcher stepped down and is now the head coach of Clarksburg High's lacrosse team. Even with no coach, the team continued to work in the weight room and on the field. "We have to keep going. It hurt having Belcher leave, I'll miss him, but we have to move on," says senior goalie Tommy Kiefe.

This season should be very interesting for the players with a new coach and new style of play. The family of the Poolesville Lacrosse team has added a new member. Only time will tell how all the hard work in the family meeting place will really pay off on the field.

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At Your Service

Chris Dimopoulos

By Jack Toomey

This young man exudes energy. He was fifteen minutes early for an interview appointment, heartily greeted a visitor from across the parking lot, and then gripped his hand with a firm handshake. Chris Dimopoulos is a member of the dwindling ranks of volunteer firefighters, a group that, while still important, used to be an integral part of our community. When the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department was founded in 1946, all of its members were volunteers. It was not until 1966 that the first two paid members were hired. Now the number of volunteers has dropped to twenty.

Chris was born and raised in Poolesville and attended the local schools graduating from Poolesville High in 2005. He played varsity football and baseball, and in his junior year began attending firefighting classes at the Montgomery County Public Service Training Academy in Rockville. Now, he attends Montgomery College. Chris, whose father is a retired Montgomery County firefighter, said, "Ever since I remember, I've wanted to be a firefighter, I was raised with the fire department." At the same time that he began attending classes at the academy, he became a probationary member of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department in Beallsville. He was allowed to ride on the apparatus to emergency calls, but was not allowed to participate in any of the activity. When he obtained his certification as a firefighter, he became an official member of the department. As any public service employee can do, Chris recalls his first fire as if it happened yesterday. He was a senior at PHS when the fourth period ended. His cell phone rang, and it was his father telling him that there was a fire at a house on White's Ferry Road. Chris ran to the parking lot, jumped into his pickup truck, and drove to the fire. He never made it back to school that day!

The fire department has a paging system in lieu of the old method of calling volunteers with sirens mounted on poles. Chris almost always responds to the firehouse, even in the middle of the night, when more than one piece of fire apparatus is dispatched on a call. He explained



that when a potentially serious call is received at the emergency call center, a designated number of fire trucks are dispatched so he knows when he probably should respond from home. He also spends about three nights a week at the firehouse. Two of the most exciting calls that he has participated in, while they brought misfortune and fear to others, were the two multi-alarm townhouse fires in Poolesville in recent months. He said, "It's a humbling experience, helping people, some you know, and others you don't know." Chris, who had responded from home, was also the first person on the scene of a double fatal accident on West Willard Road. Listening to the police department radio, he heard that teenagers were involved and feared that someone he knew had been killed. As it turned out, the victims were from Wheaton. He has also been on the scene of shootings, knifings, and other crimes. Chris added, "I have been around things that people my age haven't, and it has made me what I am today." Firefighter Carla Myers said, "[Chris] is a pleasure to work

-Continued on Page 19.



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**"Maryland Young Voices"
Continued From Page 5.**

is helped by Assistant Director Brandon Fraseur who came on board last year. He holds a bachelor's degree in vocal performance and music education from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. The accompanist for the Chesapeake Youth Chorale, Avis Wheatley, completed her Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in music and Spanish from Bridgewater College, summa cum laude.

The Frederick Children's Chorus has been making beautiful music for more than twenty years—and it has been growing by leaps and bounds. In 1985, when founder and artistic director Judith DuBose saw a need to elevate the offerings for children in the Frederick area, she began the chorus with a handful of children. That chorus has grown to four choruses for over two hundred children from ages seven through high school, an educational focus with musicianship classes, and a new program for the very young (ages five to eight) entitled Little Music Makers. The advanced choruses, the Chamber Singers and the Concert Chorus, have been frequently invited to sing for numerous organizations including the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Maryland Symphony Orchestra, other choruses, and opera companies. When they travel to adjudicated festivals, they always receive superior ratings. Judith DuBose teaches in the Montgomery County Public School System and was honored to receive the Maryland Music Educators Outstanding teacher Award for the southern Division in 1999. Mrs. DuBose is pleased to have three former choristers as assistant directors, two of which happen to be her daughters. Amanda Barber, Ann DuBose, and Lee DuBose Kassakatis have injected the chorus with new energy, restructuring the sight-reading classes, creating the Little Music Makers, helping with directing, and adding valued support at rehearsals, concerts, and behind the scenes. Mary Miller has been the chorus's accompanist since 1990. She is also the organist for the Myersville Methodist Church and a chemist.

The Glorystar Children's Chorus, founded in 1996 in Potomac with twenty-five children, is a multi-cultural and multi-racial chorus numbering more than one hundred children aged five to eight in four choruses. In the past decade, Glorystar has been recognized for its high standards and excellence fostered through teamwork, discipline, and responsibility. In addition to regular concerts, the chorus has per-

formed at the White House, the Pacific International Children's Choir Festival in Oregon, the prestigious Tuscany International Children's Chorus Festival in Italy, and the Vermont International Choir Festival. The Glorystar Children's Chorus celebrated its tenth anniversary last spring with a gala festival at the Music Center at Strathmore Hall. This year, the chorus will travel to Taiwan via Hawaii and the Pacific Rim Children's Chorus Festival. Glorystar's music director and founder, Cherie Jeng, studied piano at Shih-Chien College in Taiwan. After many years of learning to inspire children in music with Professor Chuang-Lien Lu, she came to the U.S. and received her bachelor's degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Glorystar's Training Choir teacher, Ming Hsieh, also originally from Taiwan, is an experienced early childhood music instructor. She holds many certifications for children's training methods, as well as a bachelor's degree from Tam-Kang University in Taiwan and a master's degree from State University of New York. The accompanist for Glorystar (and for the festival) is Cherie Jeng's daughter, Karen Jeng. A junior at Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in Houston, Karen is pursuing a piano performance degree. She performs solos with orchestras, as well as in ensembles.

When these four choruses came together for the day, they had the good fortune to have Dr. Philip Silvey as their guide and teacher. Dr. Silvey is assistant professor of choral music education at the University of Maryland. He has many years of experience as a choral conductor along the East Coast and he holds numerous degrees from universities around the country. He is also a composer, and his works have been performed by choruses at the national honors chorus level.

The day ended with a beautiful concert featuring each chorus separately performing a few pieces. The concert concluded with all four choruses on the stage showing off what they learned from each other and from all these magnificent teachers. The best, of course, was saved for last: the performance of "All Things Bright and Beautiful" composed by Dr. Philip Silvey. It's not often that performers or children's choruses get the opportunity to meet composers, but it's truly a treat for them to be conducted by the composer and to actually know exactly how the composer wanted the piece interpreted. It's also a treat for the audience, and the rendition by those combined choruses was stunning.

Mystery History

Poolesville's French Connection

By Rande Davis

When Marshall and Edna Hersberger left their homesteading farm in Canada in the 1920s to move to Poolesville, their vision about the future did not include their baby boy, Norman, becoming a hero to the French Resistance.

Norman Davis Hersberger was born Canada in 1919, but he and his three brothers, Marshall, Homer, and Wilson, were raised in Poolesville in a bungalow on West Willard Road. His family and friends always called him by his middle name, Davis, and upon graduating from Poolesville High School in 1938, he was still six years away from the day he would find himself parachuting from his Mustang fighter plane into enemy territory over Brittany, France.



Norman Davis Hersberger

It was the spring of 1944, just five weeks before D-Day, when the American pilot was rescued by the French Underground Resistance and hidden from the Nazis until they could pull off their planned escape to Spain. Davis was put "into hiding, using barns and villages, traveling by bicycle en route to Spain with the goal of reaching the American Embassy." French resistance leader, Jean-Claude Moussat, and his compatriots traveled with him to Paris, holed up in an apartment for two weeks, put him on a train to Spain only to be caught by the Nazis in Bordeaux, where he had planned to stay only one night.

Upon his capture, Hersberger was taken to Gestapo headquarters in Bayonne, France for interrogation. Through the interrogation and torture, Davis Hersberger gave only his name,

rank, and serial number. Hersberger told The Commercial Appeal (newspaper in Memphis, Tennessee) in 1994 that "the guy got so irritated that I wouldn't talk, he came from behind his desk and slapped me across the jaw. The next thing I knew was that I was on the floor." An enforcer was brought in and Hersberger was beaten by cane until it finally broke. They then turned to a rubber hose and, finally, a nightstick in an effort to get him to talk.

"I don't know how long the beating lasted, but he must have gotten me in the head after all, because the next thing I knew is that I woke up in a dark basement that had muddy puddles, a leak dripping from the ceiling, sharing a crowded cell on flea-infested straw pallets on the concrete."

For resistance leader Jean-Claude Moussat and his fellow fighters, it would not be until 1985 that they would finally have the chance to personally thank Davis Hersberger. Moussat met an American named Phillip Schnell who was in France because his daughter was a foreign exchange student. After hearing about Hersberger from Moussat, Mr. Schnell took it upon himself to research the whereabouts of Davis Hersberger. When he discovered he was from Poolesville, Maryland, he contacted town hall, which in turn put him into contact with Charles Elgin, Sr. Mr. Elgin knew the Hersberger family well, but he informed Mr. Schnell that Norman was always known by his middle name, Davis. From this inquiry, Mr. Schnell was finally able to put Moussat and Hersberger in contact with one another.

Moussat wrote Hersberger, "It was courageous to bear the torture of the Gestapo. Without your courageous silence, the members of our own group and network would have been captured and killed by the Gestapo." Hersberger wrote back to Moussat, "I am grateful for your aid in helping me attempt to escape to England. It's too bad it didn't work."

After World War II, Davis met and married Mary Eloise Shoaf from Covington, Tennessee where they resided and raised their two children. While Davis Hersberger passed away a few years ago, he remained very humble about his wartime experience, only saying during 50th Anniversary ceremonies in 1994, that "the capture and refusal to talk were just part of his duties as a member of the U.S. armed forces."



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School News

Monocacy Elementary School

Congratulations to Sophia Coates for being named a 2007 Carson Scholar. This award is for academic achievement and humanitarian qualities. Sophia and her family will have the opportunity to meet Dr. Ben Carson and his wife this spring at a banquet.

Congratulations to Jenn Kmiecik, music teacher, on the birth of her six and a half pound son, Todd Daniel.

Poolesville High School Buy a Brick!

Want to leave a remembrance of your student's years at Poolesville High School? Buy a brick with his/her name on it. The bricks cost \$60 each, and funds raised go to the PTSA. The bricks from 2006 and 2007 will be laid this summer. Questions? Email John-leach@mac.com.



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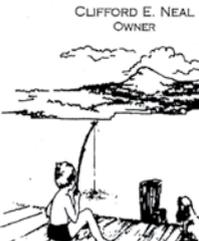
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Big Board

Want Some Money?

Sugarloaf Regional Trails wants to give money away. The SRT wants to award small grants of \$500 and \$1,000 to individuals who are pursuing SRT's goals of environmental and historic preservation. In recent years, SRT awarded a grant to Melanie Choukas-Bradley and Tina Thieme-Brown for the publication of their two books on Sugarloaf Mountain and to Margaret Coleman for her forthcoming book, *Mama Wears Two Aprons*. If you have a project that you think might be of interest to SRT, write to them at Sugarloaf Regional Trails, P.O. Box 412, Barnesville, MD 20838.

HMAP's Annual St. Patrick's Day Poetry and Potluck Jamboree

An evening of poetry, food, maybe some music, and maybe some other stuff will take place on Saturday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m. Join the commotion at the Hyattstown Mill.

Darby O'Gill and the Little People

Three wishes, the Irish, leprechauns, a Death Coach—what's not to see in this old Walt Disney classic? Showing at the Weinberg Center for the Arts on Saturday, March 17, at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-228-2828.

Hoosiers

An unexpected late-1986 box-office hit, *Hoosiers* tells the true story of a group of underdogs who become champions. Stars Gene Hackman and Dennis Hopper. March 23 at 8:00 p.m., tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-228-2828.

John Pizzarelli and the New York All Star Big Band

Following in the footsteps of his father, guitar legend Bucky Pizzarelli, John Pizzarelli is a world-renowned jazz guitarist, vocalist, and bandleader. He has performed numerous times on popular national television shows and frequently tours the U.S., Europe,

and Japan. This big band with the cool jazz flavor comes to the Weinberg on March 24 at 3:00 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$30.00 to \$40.00. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-228-2828.

The Balalaikas Are Coming

March 25 brings the Washington Balalaika Society Russian Orchestra to the Weinberg at 2:00 p.m. Founded in 1988, these Washington-area musicians play traditional instruments and music of the Eastern European countries. The WBS Orchestra has performed at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall with the Paul Hill Chorale and the Choral Arts Society of Washington; Carnegie Hall in New York; the Round Lake Auditorium in New York's Adirondacks; Lisner Auditorium; the Embassy of the Russian Federation; and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-228-2828.

See the Ponies; Help the Kids

Personal Ponies will bring their ponies to Whole Foods in the Kentlands on March 27 from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Whole Foods will donate five percent of the day's sales to Personal Ponies, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides small UK Shetland ponies to children that are differently able. The ponies will be in the parking lot to greet shoppers most of the day. Personal Ponies is dedicated to the belief that the life of a child with disabilities is immeasurably enriched by having a tiny pony to love and care for. The interaction and bonding that occurs between a tiny pony and a child with disabilities is nothing less than magic.

Museum to Host Series of Informative Lectures

The City of Gaithersburg Community Museum announces an informative series of exhibits and lectures including one on March 27 at 7:30 p.m. which is titled: *The Historic District and How to Get What's Coming to You*. This presentation is by Judith Christensen, historian with the Gaithersburg Historical Association. This workshop for property owners in a historic district or site covers eligibility criteria, the process of filing, how to write an application, and how to apply for tax credits. It is at City Hall Council Chambers, 31 South Summit Avenue.

Another lecture is entitled "What it was like to be on the Home Front during World War II." Author Eleanor Cunningham describes growing up in Rockville during World War II. She will talk about deprivations suffered because of the war effort, of friends sent overseas, and about the joy of war's end. This lecture will be held on April 13 at 11:00 a.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers.

Not Exactly a Drive-in Movie Theater, but...

Poolesville's Community Economic Development Committee (CEDC) is making plans for more community social events, which will include summer movie nights at Whalen Commons. They hope to have such movie nights on Friday or Saturday in July and are looking to use a large screen. While their website is not presently up and running, you will be able to log onto Poolesville.com to keep abreast of social events like movie nights and summer music and other activities still in the planning stages.

Lunasa and Dervish

The Weinberg is pleased to present two Irish supergroups, Lunasa and Dervish. Pushing the boundaries of traditional Irish music to the limits, these bands add a driving, dynamic swing to the beautiful and evocative tunes of Ireland. The two bands will take the stage on March 28 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets range in price from \$21.00 to \$26.00. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-228-2828.

Animal Wellness Seminar

On April 1, 2007, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tails of Hope Sanctuary and Celine Roll, in cooperation with the Montgomery County Depart-

ment of Recreation, will present their second Animal Wellness Seminar at the Germantown Community Center, 18905 Kingsview Road, Germantown. Guest speakers will include Dr. Carol Lundquist, DVM, PC; Celine Roll, Certified Animal Acupuncturist and Tellington TTouch Practitioner; Terri Lewis, Dogs and Company, and Cynthia Halle, Cridders Whole Pet Natural Food Stores. The program will include information on vaccinations, nutrition, acupuncture, chiropractics, homeopathy, Tellington TTouch, and Herb.

Everything you ever wanted to know about Boyds in one night!

You are cordially invited to attend An Evening With Arthur (Virts) and Friends - Sunday, March 25, 4pm. Event will be held at Kerr Fellowship Hall, 19821 White Ground Road, Boyds. Sponsored by the Boyds Historical Society.

Families welcome! Refreshments will be served! Also speaking will be Betty Hawkins, Roger Burdette, Joe Ganley, John King, Earl Dillehay, and Jimmy Spring.

New Jewish Education Program in Upper Montgomery County

Am Kolel Sanctuary Retreat and Renewal Center, an independent community devoted to spiritual and educational needs in the Jewish community, announces the founding of the County Cheder. A Cheder is a room or a place of elementary age Jewish learning. The school opens in September 2007. An Open House will take place Sunday, March 25 from 3:30 -6:00 PM.



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"Dimopolous" Continued From Page 14.

with. He is willing to learn, and he is not like your typical nineteen-year-old."

Chris and his dad have an unusual hobby. On their days off, they drive around the countryside looking for firehouses. When they come to a small town, they quickly find the firehouse, introduce themselves, are welcomed in, inspect the fire apparatus, and talk with the firefighters. One of the more memorable visits they have made was in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania where they saw a ladder truck that had been



dis-

patched to the Pentagon in September 2001. Because of its small size, it was the only ladder truck available that could actually be driven inside the burning building. Dimopolous said that one of the most satisfying moments of his relatively brief career was to be able to work with his father, who has since retired, at his fire station in Kensington. They even operate a lawn care business together.

Chief Earl Moore said, "Chris aggressively pursued what was required before he was allowed to ride on the apparatus. He has steadily progressed and has gotten better the whole time." Chris currently is attending the Frederick County Fire Academy, where after his graduation in May, he will become a paid firefighter in Frederick County, but he will continue to be a volunteer at the UMCVFD. Speaking of his future plans, Chris said that he would like to move up in the ranks, but "I'd like to stay on a fire truck as long as possible." His advice for residents is to check their smoke detectors regularly, to have an evacuation plan, and to call 911 promptly when a fire is detected. He remarked, "The faster that you call 911, the faster we will be there."

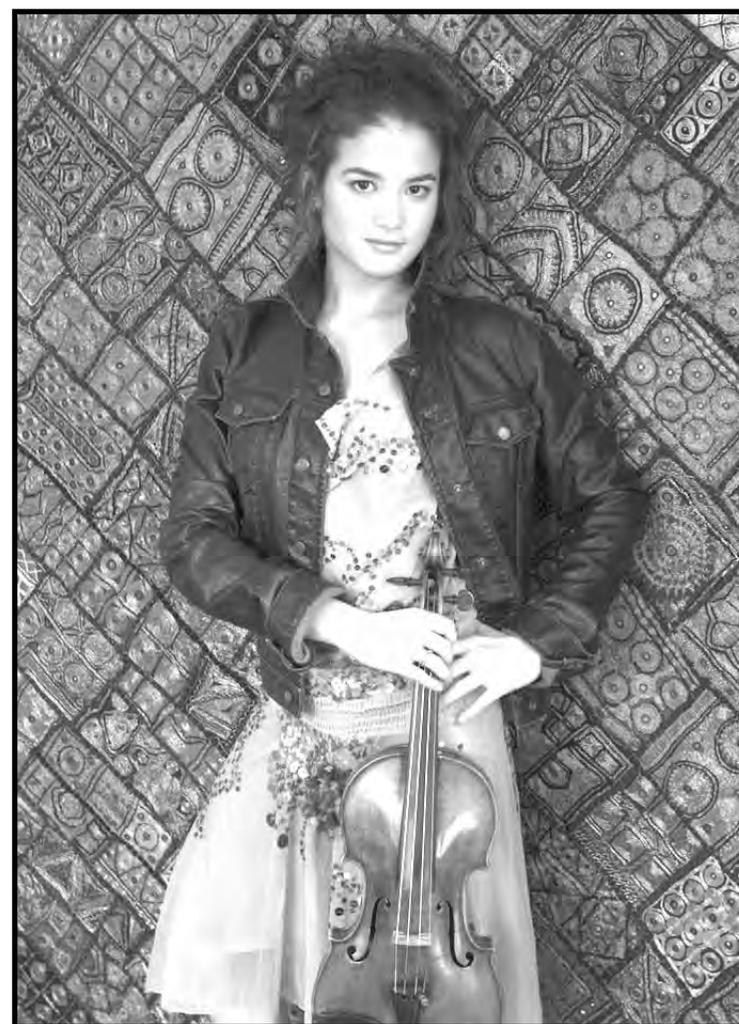
The firehouse in Beallsville is no different than others in this area. There is a dearth of young people willing to sign up to be volunteers. We are fortunate that there are people like Chris Dimopolous willing to give their time and energy to protect the community.

Local News

Voice of the Violin

Sandy Cameron, world-renowned violinist (PHS Class of 2005), will again take the stage for the fourth Sandy Cameron Music Benefit Concert at Poolesville High School, Friday, April 20, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for the exciting Silent Auction. Sandy has invited musicians from Harvard University to join her on the stage, and they will be accompanied by pianist Anna Ouspenskaya. Advance ticket prices

are \$6.00 for students and \$13.00 for adults. Ticket prices at the door will be \$8.00 for students and \$16.00 for adults. Limited premiere seating is available. For ticket information, contact Pam Steffen at 301-349-2950. For information on volunteering or making a donation, you may contact Roger Hayden (rah22222@netscape.net), Dominique Agnew (301-407-0001; violin@intairnet.com), Suzanne Tallia (301-972-8595; stallia@verizon.net), or Pam Green (301-349-2403).



Sandy Cameron

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"Long Island Railroad" Continued From Page 6.

too small to catch Brian's attention. (He tells us that one of the benefits of his hobby is that it helps develop keen observation skills useful in every day life.)

A strong sense of humanity and even humor emerges from his work. Look closely down one alley, and there, tucked discreetly in the corner, is a small street band with a sign promoting its name—Not the Choir. This is a delightful anachronism since Brian plays banjo in the Poolesville Presbyterian musical troupe by the same name.

All of the engines and passenger cars are accurate models of those that ran on the Port Jefferson Branch during that era. After twenty years of work and \$30,000, he still is not ready to come to the end of the line. He was recently able to convince his very patient wife, Kathy, to let him use another smaller room in the basement. The beginning stages of Penn Station and NYC are coming together.

As you leave the main display room, you can follow the tracks to a point where they change to East River tunnel only to re-emerge in

Manhattan. He has already completed the underground station with ticket booth and retail stores. Penn Station, the skyline of New York, a dual track overhead subway line, and harbor place displays will rise on what is now just a plywood foundation.

This writer spent five years commuting, two hours each way, on the Hudson Harlem Line into Grand Station, and although my experience on the LIRR is limited, I can assure you that my past NYC commuting experience came fully to life as I wandered among the various tracks.

As you leave the basement in the Sherons' home, you leave a time when Barry Goldwater was running against Lyndon Johnson, The Mick was coming to the end of his career, and a few people in New York were in the planning stages of building something they would later call the Twin Towers. As you begin to ascend the basement stairs, you experience a surreal moment. Part of you expects to see the Twilight Zone's Rod Serling standing at the top of the stairs, while the other part is thinking how nice it would be to get off the fast-moving train we are all on, and, with ticket in hand, wait for the conductor to shout, "Change at Jamaica."

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"PHS Wrestlers Weigh Disappointment at States" Continued From Page 7.

ly, the information that is vital for that compliance.

The result: two student athletes who have worked extremely hard for months, and have achieved the distinction of qualifying for the State Tournament, through no fault of their own, are dealt the ultimate punishment by the very adults who are guilty of failing in their duty to communicate the requirements. Shame on you, MPSSAA, and shame on Director William Beattie for failing to make an exception and do the right thing by these boys. No one can make up to these two young men for this crushing experience. One can only hope that this experience will force the MPSSAA to take a look at itself and its communications to insure that it doesn't happen in the future. Unfortunately for Jason, it will be too late, he'll be off wrestling in college while studying biochemistry, but as a former PAA coach said to Jeff, "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger."

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**“Hello Dolly” Continued
From Page 1.**

as a matchmaker, Dolly, has found the perfect match for a well-known half-a-millionaire—namely, herself.

As with all the productions by the Midnight Players, Hello Dolly will be double cast allowing more students to have lead roles, and they can also rest their voices. Roughly sixty students will be on stage, and a very large tech crew of twenty-five students will be

working behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly. The new music director, Mr. James Laster, will be conducting the live orchestra in the pit.

Show times are March 22, 23, and 24 at 7:30 p.m. and March 24 at 2:00 p.m. in the Poolesville High School auditorium. Ticket prices are \$5.00 for students and \$8.00 for adults.



Ashley Gunsteens (playing Minnie Fay), Erin Toman (Irene Molloy), Dylan Hodges (Barnaby Tocker), A. J. Lempert (Cornelius Tucker) Katie Kerr (Dolly), Andy Kotch (Vandergelder)

**“Career Day” Continued From
Page 3.**

ing of the benefits of a medical career.

Kathy Mihm (geologist), Amy Hsu (biologist), and Joeseeph Betz from the Health Science Administration asked them to think about various careers in science. This IT generation heard from Karen Kalantzis Micheals of Corporate Network, along with Judy Murgia and John Leach about why technology or computers is a career they should consider.

Nancy Bodmer’s pottery demonstration in the freelance arts presentation was a big hit and photographer Hilary Shapiro and author Lisa Cou-turier joined her as well.

Jill Knudson, horseback riding instructor at Caleva, was joined by Renee Canali and fire investigator Captain Rutten in getting the kids to think of the possibilities in working with animals. Representatives of the military, police, and fire/rescue discussed the benefits of their career choices. Presenters included Capt. Randall Kuldell (Naval Reserves), Rod Nubgaard (Coast Guard), Richard Hegmann (CIA), Kelly Pavlick (MC police), Lt. Todd Dahlen and Ty Stot-telmeyer (MC firefighters).

Careers in investment and finance

included Kevin Cecco (IRS), Frank Hart (stockbroker), Nicole Joseph (Mortgage), and Jim Newberry (Marketing/Advertising).

Getting a good education, choosing something you love, and expressing a newfound appreciation for the many career opportunities in front of them were the things they wrote down regarding Career Day. One thing they didn’t put down but they learned just by going from one group of presenters to another—there are a lot of people who care about them and are willing to help.



Members of the fire department at Career Day.



Karen Kalantzis Micheals of Corporate Network Systems.



Dave Johnson discusses plumbing at Career Day.



Nancy Bodmer of Bodmer’s Stoves & Pottery.

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present

A new law went into effect on November 2, 2006 which is designed to decrease the number of injuries associated with off-road vehicles.

In the past few years, police have noticed an increase in illegally operated off-road vehicles, ATV, and other similar vehicles operated in the county. These off-road vehicles pose a substantial safety risk to all riders whether on public or private property. The new law has specific requirements designed to increase the safety of the rider and increase responsibility for parents of juvenile riders. The changes in law are as follows: helmets and eye protection are required; the vehicles may not be operated on county or park property; they are not allowed on publicly-accessed property such as malls or apartment complexes; they may not be operated on private property without permission of the owner; safety equipment is required; they

may only be operated between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.; if under sixteen, the driver must be supervised by an adult; and, of course, these vehicles can never be operated on public roadways.

February 23. A fourteen-year-old resident of Boyds was standing in front of Northwest High School when he was approached by a sixteen-year-old youth who struck him in the face and stole his money.

On March 3, Frederick County deputies stopped three different vehicles, in three different locations, for routine traffic violations. In each case, deputies found illegal drugs such as cocaine, marijuana, and prescription tablets inside the cars. Each defendant was charged with various narcotic offenses.

Past

March 16, 1930. A Washington man was killed and two girls were badly injured when the car they were riding in crashed on Middlebook Hill, three miles north

of Gaithersburg, on the Frederick Pike. It was said that the three were returning from a dance at Brunswick when the driver lost control and hit a tree.

March 18, 1922. Three sheriff's deputies went to the farm of James Elkins at Martinsburg to serve papers that would have attached personal property of the Elkins family; however, the officers were routed by blows struck by Mrs. Elkins and her two daughters. Sheriff Alvie Moxley was knocked down but only slightly injured.

March 19, 1978. A six-year-old boy lost his life when he fell through thin ice on a pond near the home of the relatives he had been visiting in Poolesville.

March 21, 1948. A nine-year-old Boyds girl, who had never seen a real gun, accidentally shot her six-year-old brother in the jaw while she was playing with the gun.

March 22, 1934.

The large grain warehouse and elevator of Dietrich and Gambrill at Buckeystown was badly damaged by fire. Ten occupants of nearby homes were also routed by the fire.

March 22, 1927. Montgomery County police were searching for Miss Minnie Ryman of Barnesville who left her house a few days earlier and had not returned. Ever since her disappearance, Chief Orme and Officer Bodmer had been scouring the county for her.

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**"Pruning" Continued From
Page 9.**

pruned shortly after blooming.

Forsythias are very vigorous growers in full sun. Prune severely each year immediately after flowering, cutting approximately one-third of the old branches back to the ground.

The profusely-blooming and sweetly fragrant mock orange should not be cut in winter. Prune right after flowering; remove old wood at this time to promote better growth habit and flower production.

Pussy willows are fast-growing shrubs that are known for their decorative catkins, which usually appear in early spring. For the past several years, my two large ones displayed their catkins right after Christmas. They can grow ten to twelve feet in just one year. Left unpruned, they can ultimately reach twenty-five feet in height, and fifteen feet in width. To control the size of these shrubs, prune to within a foot of the ground immediately after catkins fade, which is usually in late spring.

For Walt Whitman, a waft of lilac scent inspired poetry; for the rest of us, it is the essence of spring. To maintain healthy growth, remove spent flower clusters and prune after flowering to keep the center open to sunlight. Remove suckers (growth from the base), and prune out some of the older wood periodically to renew the plant.

Spiraea, or the old-fashioned bridal wreath, gets its name from the Greek *speiraira* referring to its traditional use in garlands and wedding crowns. It is a relatively carefree shrub. Prune summer-blooming types in early spring, as needed for shaping. Prune spring-flowering types immediately after flowers fade, by removing a few of the oldest stems to ground level.

There is another category of deciduous shrubs that do well with a hard pruning between now and late winter. They flower and berry on the same year's growth, so you can cut any time before spring growth begins.

Buddleia davidii, butterfly bush, blooms on new wood. In the northern portion of their growth range, they tend to die back to or near to the ground in the winter. In our area, where they don't always die completely back, they should be cut back to

the ground in the fall or early spring to encourage vigorous new growth. After the first year that I planted my butterfly bushes, I couldn't bring myself to cut to the ground the healthy-looking stems. They grew fairly well that summer, but the following spring I did force myself to cut them back. They returned with more vigorous spring growth, and flowered well into the fall months. Don't be alarmed if there is little sign of life in early spring; they break dormancy late. With the onset of warmer weather, they will grow rapidly.

Crape Myrtle is a deciduous woody plant that grows very well in our area. The American botanist and horticulturist L. H. Bailey (1858-1954) wrote: "The crape myrtle is to the South what the lilac and snowball are to the North—an inhabitant of nearly every home yard." Growing up in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, I never saw this shrub until I moved to Washington, D.C., my idea of the South. This stunning shrub produces summer-into-fall blooms. Do not prune these late-leafing large shrubs or small trees until growth begins in the spring. To maintain an open form, pinch back over-vigorous roots. It can also be trained to a single trunk by cutting back to the ground all but a single lead.

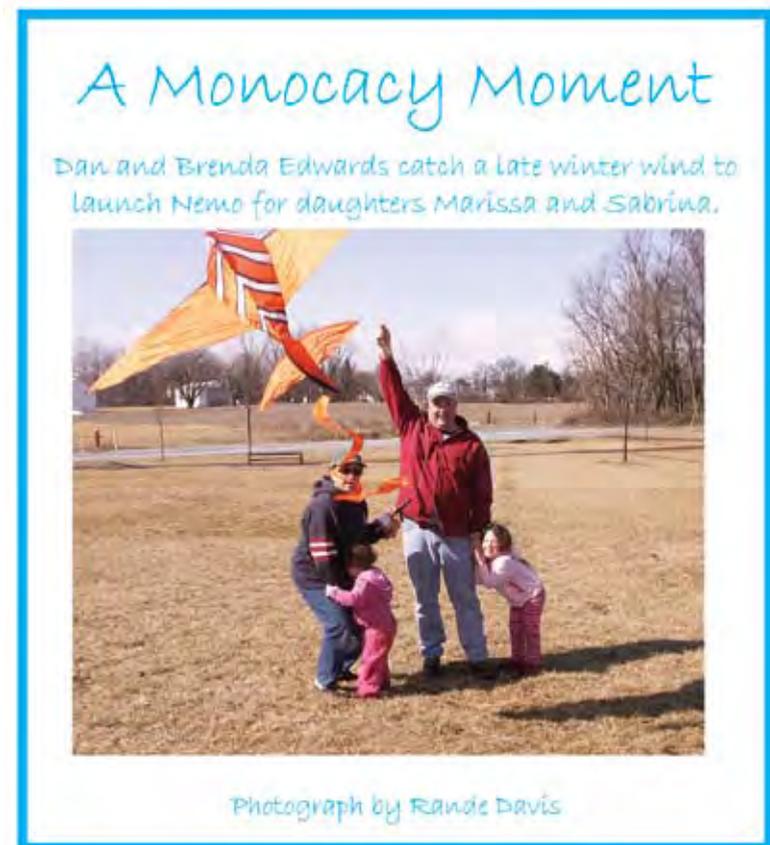
Classic flowering hydrangeas bloom in late summer and on into fall, in snowball-like clusters in shades of white, pink, or blue, depending upon growing conditions. Most species require little pruning, except for the removal of dead flower heads after blooming or in early spring. 'Endless Summer' marked a breakthrough in hydrangeas by flowering in spring on old wood, and then in summer on new wood. Now, there is a white-flowering sibling, 'Blushing Bride,' with the same dark green leaves and large flowers, but earlier rebloom. Another new addition is 'The Swan.' It is an improvement of older cultivars, as it is very cold-hardy and adaptable to many soil types, and it blooms on new wood, so you can prune any time of the year.

Now is a good time to assess the health of your large shade trees. The framework is bare, and you can easily see which branches are dead, diseased, or need to be removed. Except for small, lower branches, major prun-

ing should be left to professional tree surgeons. For trees near your house, an incorrect judgment of the line of fall of a large limb can result in some nasty damage to your house. A tree shouldn't look pruned. Even with

small pruning jobs, step back and study the tree's natural shape, and try to maintain that.

In my next article, I will discuss spring clean-up and pruning of your rose and perennial flower beds.





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