



There's a concert in our future. See Center Stage on Page 5.



You couldn't try this at home if you wanted to. See Sports on Page 7.



Three Barnesville girls and their locks soon to be parted. Read more in Local News on Page 24.



Michelle Hecker and Gracie Jones are in a Leo Club at PHS. Read all about them and other clubs in the Pulse on Page 25.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

March 30, 2007

Volume IV, Number 2.

The House That Wims Built

By Rande Davis

The opening day for Clarksburg High School's baseball team was cause for excitement for reasons beyond the obvious. Sure, the first game of the season is always filled with anticipation and thrills, but this historic day was filled with too many firsts—new school, new team, new uniforms—to even count. All of these milestones paled, though, against what really made this day special. This was the day that lifelong Clarksburg resident, F. Wilson Wims, had the ball field named in his honor. With cloudy skies and a cold wind chilling the air, the crowd had the heartwarming experience of watching ninety-two-year-old Mr. Wims throw the first pitch ever on Wims Field. Equally as thrilling was seeing the pride in the eyes of Sarah, his wife of seventy years. Wearing a baseball cap and with a blanket draped over her as she sat in her wheelchair, she shared in this special moment for her husband.

As far back as the early 1800s, the Wims family has resided in Clarksburg. Warner Wims, Wilson's grandfather, owned a homestead farm directly across from where the new high school stands today. Wilson Wims was chosen for his dedication to sports and the community over a lifetime of volunteer work. Many years ago, he supported and coached the Maryland Wildcats, Montgomery County's first local black baseball team. He is proud that some of his players went on to play in professional baseball.

Mr. Wims has served as President of the Clarksburg Recreation Association, President of the Clarksburg Community Association, Representative to the Montgomery County Action Board, one of the driving forces behind the establishment of the Clarksburg Recreational Center, and

-Continued on Page 20.

Town of Poolesville Cleared in Lawsuit

By Kristen Milton

After more than three years, the wheels of justice have found a stopping point in the case of a former town attorney who sued Poolesville and its commissioners in a multi-million dollar defamation lawsuit.

According to Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski, the Maryland Court of Special Appeals has upheld a 2005 decision by the lower courts in favor of the town. The court system website said only that the court filed an unreported opinion in the matter March 21, meaning it was not judged to be "of substantial interest." Most of the rulings of the Court of Special Appeals are not reported, which generally means they set no precedents.

The decision seemingly ends a legal saga that began in July 2003 when then-town attorney Chuck Rand notified the town of the potential for a lawsuit arising over the handling of employment issues. Two months later then-Commissioner Andy Johnson, who served until November 2004, objected to the town's negotiations with Rand on the issue in a public meeting.

Rand's original suit, filed in January 2004, accused the town, Johnson, The Gazette, Gazette reporter Kristen Milton, and two Poolesville Board of Elections supervisors of defamation, invasion of privacy, and breach of contract. An amended complaint by Rand's attorneys dropped several defendants and adjusted the charges, and a judge later dismissed much of the rest of the suit, leaving only the defamation charge in question.

In April 2005, Circuit Court Judge Durke G. Thompson preempted a trial by ruling that Johnson's comments could not be used as the basis for a defamation charge and were protected by a state law granting elected officials civil immunity for statements at public meetings.

Rand appealed that decision to the Court of Special Appeals where it remained under review until this week. The only higher court in the state system is the Court of Appeals which has the discretion to choose which cases it hears.



William Wims, #13, poses with the Clarksburg baseball team.

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

Members of Poolesville's Memorial United Methodist Church rehearse for their dramatic presentation (with music/choral accompaniment) the "Living Last Supper" to be performed on Palm Sunday. (See Big Board this issue)



Caption: Pack 694 recently completed their annual model car derby at the Poolesville Baptist Church.

Back row: Doug McKenney and Don Habib

Front row: Cole McKenney, Bryce McKenney, Barron Ford, and Colin Jansson. (results of derby in Tidbits - this issue)



Youth from Poolesville Presbyterian Church help in their recent rummage sale to raise money for the mission project to help Hurricane Katrina victims. Left to right: Vita Price, Mary Beliveau, Holly Defnet, Lori Defnet, and Kevin Beliveau



Poolesville JV pitcher Emily Stubbs delivers a pitch in the home opener against Magruder.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

Things to Do

March 30

Bingo
Carroll Manor Fire Department
5:30 doors open
Games start at 7:00 p.m.

March 31 and April 1

Open House Annapaca Farms
The Alpaca Shop
Hagerstown, MD
Alpaca fleece, yarn, finished products
Info: 301-824-2840
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

April 1

Easter Egg Hunt
Poolesville Baptist Church
Community Life Center
Toddlers to 5th Grade
10:30 a.m.

April 7

Relay for Life
Baked Goods Fundraiser
Selby's Market
9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

April 8

Sunrise Easter Service
Sugarloaf Mountain
6:30 a.m.

Sunrise Easter Service

Aix-la-Chapelle
Rte 28 & Jerusalem Rd
Breakfast/Worship/Tour
6:30 a.m.

April 10

Lions Club Blood Drive
St. Peter's Church
3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

April 11

Relay for Life
Benefit Proceeds from
Chevy's Restaurant
5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Info: chrissie.harney@verizon.net

April 12

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

Soup & Sandwich Sale
Carroll Manor Fire Auxiliary
Advance Sales Call 301-874-2368

April 13

Basket Bingo
UMCVFD – Beallsville
Doors Open: 5:30 p.m.
Games: 7:30 p.m.

April 18

Air Quality Committee Meeting
MCPS Update
PHS Media Center
2:30 p.m.

April 19

Story time – Twosomes
Poolesville Library
Stories, finger plays, and music
10:30 a.m.

April 19, 20, & 21

St. Peter's Annual Spring Rummage Sale
Fisher Ave. - Poolesville
Thurs: 5:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m.
Fri.: 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Sat.: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

April 20

Voice of the Violin
Benefit Concert by Sandy Cameron
PHS Auditorium
Advance Purchase of Tickets
Highly Advised
7:30 p.m.

Basket Bingo

Benefit Carroll Manor Grange
Carroll Manor Fire Hall
Doors Open 5:30 p.m.
Games start at 7:00 p.m.

April 20 to 22

Earth Day Celebrations
Green Earth Goods, Clarksburg
301-916-2035



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Offered at \$539,900

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20105 Westerly Avenue

This lovely 3 BR, 2.5 BA colonial is in move-in condition. New windows throughout, updated BAs, raised panel doors, custom kitchen w/ Pergo flr., Corian counters, maple cabinets & French doors leading to screened porch. Add'l features include a spacious entry foyer, cozy fam. rm w/ FP, office, 3 large BRs including a MBR & BA. Beautiful lot (nearly 1/3 ac.) w/ mature trees & fenced backyard, one-car garage. MLS#MC6259658.

Offered at \$479,000



17308 Soper Street

Poolesville-Wesmond: Charming 3 BR, 2 BAs split foyer w/ detached oversized 2-car garage. Main lvl LR., kitchen/dining area w/ gleaming wood flrs., spacious sunroom w/ vaulted ceiling, wall-to-wall carpet & exit door to deck, 2 BRs & full BA. Lower lvl boasts a large BR, full BA, cozy fam. rm. w/ stone FP, utility rm. & storage area. Great backyard w/ privacy fencing & 2 storage sheds. Convenient to schools, parks, walking trails & shopping area. MLS#MC6318033.

Offered at \$429,000



Poolesville-Summerhill - Spacious 4 BR, 2.5 BA townhome close to schools, parks & stores. Entry foyer w/ wood flrs., eat-in kitchen w/ maple cabinets & new stove w/ ceramic cooktop, new Kenmore W/D, LR/DR combo w/ FP & French doors to Trex deck. Upper lvl Master BR & BA, 3 more BRs, full BA. Freshly painted w/ new carpet. MLS #MC6235384.

Offered at \$271,500



Commentary Obsolescence

By John Clayton

I seem to be haunted by obsolescence which the computer industry has made into an art form. That is not an original thought, and I do not belong to the "Bill Gates is evil" chorus, but today, my computer keeps crashing, and that does not bring out the best in me. I am not enjoying this, as almost everything that has to be done to get an issue of the Monocle to the newsstands is dependent on our personal computers. If that were not the case, I would be writing about something more upbeat and I would probably be finished by now. It is a beautiful day outside, relatively speaking, and I should be on the eighth tee of Poolesville Golf Course rummaging through my bag for a used ball I won't mind shanking into the pond on my next shot. No, I am here—inside—waiting for my machine to recover.

After each crash, Microsoft lets you send them a message to tell them that your system crashed, and I know they are reading these messages and laughing. Occasionally, I will be presented a link with more information. The link offers variations of two messages, which may or may not represent solutions. One: It's not our fault, and Two: If you buy more Microsoft products your problems will be over.

Often, it is a Microsoft product that fails. In my case, it is my copy of Office 2002. I don't think 2002 is so terribly long ago. My car is from 2001 and I do not get these same problems, although, in all fairness, it does demand periodic four-figure repair shop offerings.

Anyway, this is the crux of my annoyance. I really, really hate the helpful "solution" message I get, a variation of the second grouping as described above. The message explains that I am running Office 2002 which is now officially in its dotage and subject only to security patches. This same passage then suggests that I "upgrade my copy of Office 2002." The little box offers a convenient link to "upgrade my copy of Office 2002." I follow the link, and—you guessed it—there is nothing about "upgrading Office 2002" which has a nice inexpensive sound to it. Instead, we are "buying Office 2007." I believe there is an upgrade discount of sorts, but they're not fooling anybody. Their only solution is to buy a new product.

Since Windows Vista is out now, I can only assume my computer life will slowly get worse as I get bullied into

leaving XP and "upgrading." I also notice that the Adobe CS2 Suite is about to become CS3, and since all of these companies seem to like our money equally well, I can only assume that the system crashes will soon accelerate.

Speaking of my car, it is equipped with "OnStar," which provides a variety of emergency or just convenient communication services, depending on the level of service to which one subscribes. You have heard the advertisements on the radio, where the unflappable OnStar rep arranges rescue for the driver who has driven his or her car into a lake, or off a cliff, depending on the version. I just got a letter from these fine folks explaining that since the government (not our fault, sir) is demanding that they convert to a digital cellular network by some such date, my OnStar, being of the analog variety, will cease to function. However, I am welcome to extend my service month-to-month until that time, at which point the little buttons on the dash will cease to be of any utility whatsoever. I'm sure this will be great for resale.

I asked the dealer if they could retrofit my car forward into the digital age. The answer is no, the manufacturer

-Continued on page 20.

Letter to the Editor

The following letter came from recently-resigned Poolesville Commissioner Roy Johnson. In this letter, he provides his reasons why he is against the commissioners' decision to raise water rates.

This letter is a copy of his testimony on the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget, which has been also been forwarded to [Town Manager] Wade Yost, et al.

This is written in opposition to the proposed water rate increase, and corresponding tax rate decrease. These complementary actions lack any forward planning. During the Budget/Water Rate Work Session of February 28, 2007, four of the commissioners acknowledged that they had not looked at the future effects of this plan—at all.

Regarding the Water and Wastewater Fund, without a rate increase, the budgeted operating deficit projected for FY08 was about \$184,000. The proposed ten percent increase is expected to generate about \$124,000 of additional water revenue, thereby reducing the operating deficit to about

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the tax rate only insures they will remain unfunded. Examples include the Fisher Avenue Streetscape between Wootton Avenue and West Willard Road, extensions of the trail system beyond what the leftover impact fees can cover, addition of neighborhood sidewalks, etc. If there is really no intention of implementing these projects, why aren't they just deleted from the budget? Most interesting, however, is the proposed Skate Park. The proposed one-cent tax rate reduction can pay for the entire park by FY11. Any of these projects only require a commitment to improve the quality of life in Poolesville, rather than an attempt to balance the budget on the basis of a poorly-conceived water rate increase.

Now, let's turn to Commissioner Kuhlman's sarcasm, erroneous characterizations, lack of budgeting expertise, and censuring of open discussion on the subject.

First, my proposal to separate water and wastewater costs and revenues was not going backwards as he likes to erroneously state. The first part of my proposal was to create a separate,

There are many unfunded projects identified in the budget, and reducing

-Continued on Page 24.

Center Stage

Voice of the Violin

By Dominique Agnew

The violin is an extraordinary instrument: A few pieces of wood, glue, some varnish, four strings, and voilà—a musical instrument. Add to that a stick with horsehair attached to each end, and, in the right hands, the stick and that instrument, wielded together, make beautiful music.

In the hands of virtuoso violinist, Sandy Cameron (Poolesville High School class of 2005), the violin does more than produce music, it speaks to you. Sandy, in the Fourth Annual Music Benefit Concert, entitled Voice of the Violin, aims to show the audience the many different voices of the violin—with music from the early beginnings of the instrument to modern pieces of the twentieth century, and the different styles and sounds encompassed in the violin's history. Her violin will also use its voice to communicate with other instruments in either a chamber setting, with the piano, or with a small orchestra.

As usual, Sandy refuses to give everything away and has left some surprises for the audience to discover. She did provide, however, a few tantalizing morsels of what to expect on the night of the concert. Sandy plans on introducing a variety of voices of the violin—in its own repertoire and involved with other instruments.

"Like last year," she says, "we're going to have some guest artists." For those who caught last year's benefit concert, clarinetist Alexander Brash will be a familiar face. The clarinet also has a voice which will be highlighted in a twentieth century piece by Béla Bartók, "Contrasts." This chamber music piece features both the violin and the clarinet, almost as

solo instruments. Both instruments will interact as well as showing off virtuoso capabilities. There will also be pieces by Brahms, Tchaikovsky, and Schubert. The piece by Schubert, "Fantasy for Violin and Piano," Sandy describes as a "fine example of the voice of the violin" because Schubert took one of his own songs (songs have words) and transcribed it for the violin.

This concert will also feature the nascent Poolesville High School string orchestra which previous benefit concerts helped to fund. "That's going to be really exciting," Sandy says. The string ensemble had its first concert in December 2006 and the first cluster concert in many a long year in January. "It will be nice to feature them for the first time with the benefit concert," she adds. Sandy hopes that this year's benefit will raise enough money for the beginnings of a symphony orchestra in the high school. She expressed her gratefulness for the students who are taking part in these early orchestras as they are the foundation for what future classes and generations will recognize as the beginning of a strong music program in the Poolesville cluster.

As an in-demand concert violinist and college sophomore at Harvard University and the New England Conservatory of Music, Sandy Cameron is a busy young woman with a demanding performance schedule. In our area, besides the benefit concert, Sandy will be performing Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 4, K.218 at Strathmore Hall on March 31 with the National Philharmonic under the baton of Piotr Gajewski (kids are free). In April, she is privileged to be invited to perform for the Harvard Signet Society, an organization founded in the 1870s for student and faculty artists. The society has had amongst its members the likes of Leonard Bernstein, Robert

Frost, Yo-Yo Ma, and T.S. Eliot. Every year, the Signet Society gives out an award and features a guest artist. "I'm very honored to do that," says Sandy of receiving an invitation to be the guest artist this year. In August, Sandy will give two performances at the Bear Valley Music Festival in Bear Valley, California. She will play Rhapsody No. 1 by Béla Bartók, the Brahms Violin Concerto, and Zigeunerweisen by de Sarasate. She is also looking forward to teaching master classes at the festival.

As to the benefit concert surprise, Sandy says, "There will be a surprise, but since it's a surprise, I can't tell you anything about it." With that, she encourages people to buy tickets and come to the concert on April 20 at 7:30. Doors will open at 6:30 for the Silent Auction. Tickets will be sold at PHS from 9:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. weekdays after Spring Break. They will also be sold at Selby's Market Sunday, April 15 from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Advance ticket prices are \$6.00 for students and \$14.00 for adults. Ticket prices at the door will be \$8.00 for students and \$16.00 for adults. Limited premier seating is available. For ticket information, contact Pam Steffen at 301-349-2950.

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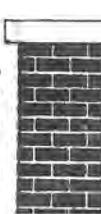
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Big Board

Memorial United Methodist Presents "The Living Last Supper"

Memorial United Methodist Church will offer a dramatic Palm Sunday presentation of Ruth Elaine Schram's "The Living Last Supper" which brings fresh insight into the event and the character, concerns, and fears of the twelve disciples—and of Jesus himself—captured through fascinating monologues of the disciples (each played by a member of the congregation). The drama is enhanced by anthems of the Chancel Choir interspersed throughout the drama. The 11:00 a.m. program is under the direction of Janet Hartz, Memorial's gifted Director of Music.

The historical context of the Last Supper dates back to centuries before the birth of Jesus, and to this day, Jewish people celebrate the passage of Israel from slavery in Egypt by observing Passover. Jesus made it clear this was important when he chose to celebrate the Passover meal—and the Last Supper was this Passover meal—with his disciples during his final hours.

The Gold Rush (1926)

One of the longest and most elaborate of Charlie Chaplin's silent films, *The Gold Rush* amuses audiences with Chaplin's hilarious slapstick humor and unbelievable story twists. Showing at the Weinberg Center for the Arts on April 13 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.

1964: The Tribute

Impersonating the Beatles onstage, 1964 has performed around the world including to a sold out crowd at Carnegie Hall. 1964 recreates an early '60s live Beatles concert, with period instruments, clothing, hairstyles, and onstage banter. Beatle boots, vintage costumes and equipment, onstage mannerisms and speaking voices, and the unmistakable harmonies of the lads from Liverpool make 1964 the most accurate and fun Beatles tribute to date. At the Weinberg Center for the Arts on April 14 at 8:00 p.m., ticket prices range from \$20.00 to \$30.00. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-228-2828.

Attention Parents of Pre-Kindergarteners

Monocacy Elementary School will be holding its annual Kindergarten Orientation event on May 3. This is always a special time for parents and

kids. For more information and to get the school's orientation packet, you should contact Shari Moten at 301-972-7990.

Potomac Artists in Touch

The City of Gaithersburg proudly presents PAINT (Potomac Artists in Touch), a cooperative group of diverse, local artists on display at the Gaithersburg City Hall Gallery, 31 South Summit Avenue. The works of art in oil, acrylic, watercolor, and other media, will be on display from April 2 through June 3. PAINT formed in 2001 with the simple objective of creating a group of artists who would support and actively participate in the Potomac art community and that of the greater metropolitan area.

Help Restock New Orleans School Libraries

The youth at Poolesville Presbyterian Church will be heading to New Orleans to help in rebuilding projects. One of the parent coordinators, Sarah Defnet, reports that they have been asked to help in restocking the public libraries with new books as well. Persons wishing to help are asked to purchase a new book (one of their choosing or one from a list that can be obtained by emailing defnet@verizon.net). The collection point is a box at John Poole Middle School. Hopefully they will need to rent a truck to transport the books, but either way, the Monocle will report on the results of the church's youth mission when they return home.

Local Civil War Music Performer Releases New CD

Doug Jimerson is well known in the area for his living history performances and presentations of Civil War era music and his many CDs in that genre. This past March AmeriMusic, Inc. released his latest CD, Civil War Comrades and the Federal City Band. Available through Amazon and in music stores, it can also be purchased by going to the home page of www.civilwar.com.

PHS Post Prom Party Needs Your Help

Poolesville High School's post-prom party, Under the Sea 2007, is scheduled for May 18 to 19, and the Post-Prom Committee is asking the community and businesses to once again make the event designed to have a safe prom successful.

Their goal is for an alcohol-free, terrific, and memorable evening for juniors and seniors. The success of the evening depends on contributions—everything from cash, prizes, and an ad

in their program, merchandise, food, or sponsors for an activity. Popular items are movie passes, retail store and gift certificates, restaurant gift certificates, Ipods, digital cameras, DVD players, etc. Concerned persons should contact Tim Brown at 301-972-8733 or Tim-brown450@yahoo.com.

Spring Fling 2007

Barnesville School will have a major fundraising event entitled A Triple Crown on Saturday April 21. This venue billed as a night at the races will have a post time of 6:00 p.m. at the Gaithersburg Marriott Washingtonian Center at 9751 Washingtonian Boulevard in Gaithersburg. Persons wishing to attend or businesses wishing to sponsor may call 301-972-0341 no later than April 13.

Grapes & Gifts Galore at St. Thomas More Academy

On Saturday, April 28, the STMA Parent Teach Organization (PTO) will present its first annual Grapes and Gifts Galore at St. Thomas More wine tasting and gift sales benefit. This is a professional wine tasting event for adults only featuring complimentary hors d'oeuvres, sample desserts, music, and an elegant atmosphere for the sale of local business certificates, gifts, and services. Souvenir tasting glasses will be given to all who attend as well as a take-home goodie bag. Tickets are \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 at the door. For more information, contact Kathleen at 301-845-4819 or jkkm-romanelli@aol.com.

Good Things to Do for All

There are many good opportunities to help your community in the coming weeks, so we want to draw your attention to our Things to Do (TtD) column in this issue of the Monocle. TtD has the dates, times, and places. Did you hear the recent reports that there is another very serious blood supply shortage? Then you should

consider giving blood at the Monocacy Lions spring blood drive on April 10. Relay for Life has a couple of ways to help them fight cancer listed in TtD. St. Peter's has their always-popular rummage sale in the middle of the month. As you think about these things, remember that we can also help you and your good causes by promoting them in TtD and in this column, Big Board. The best way to make sure we get your announcements in the paper is to email rdavis@monocacymonocle.com.

The Poolesville Library Advisory Committee is sponsoring its annual Poster Contest. This year's theme is "My Heroes" and runs through April 28. The awards ceremony will be held on May 25 at 7:00 p.m. There will be awards by grade with first place winning \$50.00, second place \$25.00, and honorable mentions winning \$10.00. Full details are available on the library website, www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library.

Green Earth Goods in Clarksburg is holding a weekend of workshops, talks, and activities in celebration of Earth Day. Plans at this time include a talk by author Frank Cook Friday, April 20, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., on "Planetary Herbs," a discussion of useful herbs from different cultures. Frank has traveled to every corner of the world studying traditional healing methods, focusing on native plants and herbs. On Saturday April 21, Green Earth Goods will host a morning workshop on organic gardening, followed by a talk about simple ways to be more "carbon neutral." Specific times will be announced. On Earth Day, Sunday April 22, 1:00 p.m., there will be an environmental art project which will involve making art from gathered trash (great for kids and families!).

Events will be held at Green Earth Goods, 23341 Frederick Road, Clarksburg. For more details call 301-916-2035.

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Youth Sports

Whitewater in Our Backyard

By Jeff Stuart



Whitewater rafting near Dickerson.

Those of us who have traveled to whitewater rafting sites around the country have experienced, on a basic level, the thrill and adventure of whitewater, but some of the real masters of whitewater call the Washington, D.C. area home. For many national and Olympic kayakers, the Dickerson Whitewater Course off Route 28 west, just beyond Beallsville, is the favorite place to train. The Mirant Generating Station was built there in 1959. The concrete cooling water discharge canal provided an excellent winter fishing spot in the warm water below the plant. Kayakers, too, found relief from the cold and a few good waves and eddies. There were informal races held in the river below the plant in the mid 1960s.

In 1992, however, an artificial whitewater course was constructed for Olympic athletes to prepare for the Barcelona Olympics. Converting the conduit into a training site involved a unique partnership between PEPCO (now Mirant), the federal government, and private industry. Artificial obstacles had to be placed in the canal to simulate natural water features and create artificial rapids. A scale model for the nine-hundred-foot-long and sixty-foot-wide course was designed at Navy's David Taylor Research Center in Carderock. Miller and Long Construction created seventy-five boulders in ten days. They were installed in October 1991 by Williams Equipment Company, and in less than ninety days, construction was complete. The course was redesigned in 2004 by architect John Anderson to correct some ongoing problems. Digging and Rigging, and Miller and Long donated time and

material for the course renovation. It is straight and narrow allowing spectators to get close to the action.

The success of the facility has spawned the creation of others around the country. There is a newly-constructed whitewater course at Wisp near Deep Creek Lake known as the Adventure Sports Center International (www.adventuresportscenter.com), but the Dickerson Course is the only warm-water, artificial whitewater slalom course in the world and one of the premier venues in America. In winter, the water temperature along the culvert is up to twenty-five degrees Fahrenheit above that of the adjacent Potomac River, making it an ideal year-round training site. U.S. slalom athletes competing at the national and international levels continue to use Dickerson to prepare.

Twelve-time World Champion paddler, Jon Lugbill, recognized as the best paddler in whitewater canoeing; David Hearn, a two-time individual World Champion and four-time Olympian; Kathy Hearn a three-time World Champion in women's kayak and Olympic competitor in 1992 and 1996; Joe Jacobi, a Bethesda native and gold medalist in the 1992 Olympics; and Jamie McEwan, a bronze medalist in the 1972 Olympics, are among those who honed their skills in the Washington area. Dana Chladek, winner of the Bronze in 1992 and a silver medalist in 1996, lives in Kensington. Four members of the 2006 Slalom U.S. Team are from D.C., 2004 Olympians Brett Heyl and Scott Parsons, along with Molly Stock and Zuzana Vanha. Kurt Braumlich was a team member. He is now coaching for the Canadians.

The Dickerson Whitewater Course is operated by the Bethesda Center of Excellence (www.bce-racing.com). It offers an opportunity to practice advanced techniques with some of the most experienced kayak instructors in the country. It is not open to the public, but members of the BCE may use the course, provided they meet the safety and skill standards established by the club. Recreational paddlers may access the course on weekends through Liquid Adventures (www.liquidadventures.org). A national race known as the Big Cash Event (BCE) will be held at the course on April 15, 2007.

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Daytripper

Chips Ahoy!

By Kristen Milton

Snackers rejoice – you can now turn your family's love of potato chips and pretzels into a fun, free, and educational experience by visiting the birthplace of those favorite treats.

About an hour and ten minutes north of Poolesville you will find Hanover, Pennsylvania, the first step into a county that calls itself "the factory tour capital of the world" (York County). Hanover is the home of familiar names such as Snyder's of Hanover and Utz Potato Chips, as well as lesser-known labels such as Revonah Pretzels. In fact, the Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce calls the town "the snack food capital" – boasting nearly a dozen brands. And many of these treat makers will be delighted to show you just how they do it for free.

The tours, some guided and some independent, provide glimpses into manufacturing that will interest kids and adults alike. My toddler son particularly liked the forklift stacking boxes onto pallets at Snyder's while my mother liked the laid-back atmosphere at Utz, where our family was the only one on the tour. "I also liked having the outlet store right there," she added.

In fact, Utz was a hit with the whole family. The Chip Trip began before we even entered the building as the smell of potatoes drew us on, and we counted up the red, white, and brown delivery trucks we passed on the road. Once inside the factory, the entire chip-making process was visible through the windows of an observation deck. There was taped

narration available at a dozen stations along the way, but my children, ages two and four, were not interested in the technicalities of poundage and seasonings. Interesting trivia gleaned by the adults, however, included that the largest fryer produced 3,200 pounds of chips per hour and that burnt or discolored chips were used in animal feed – some of it for Purdue chickens.

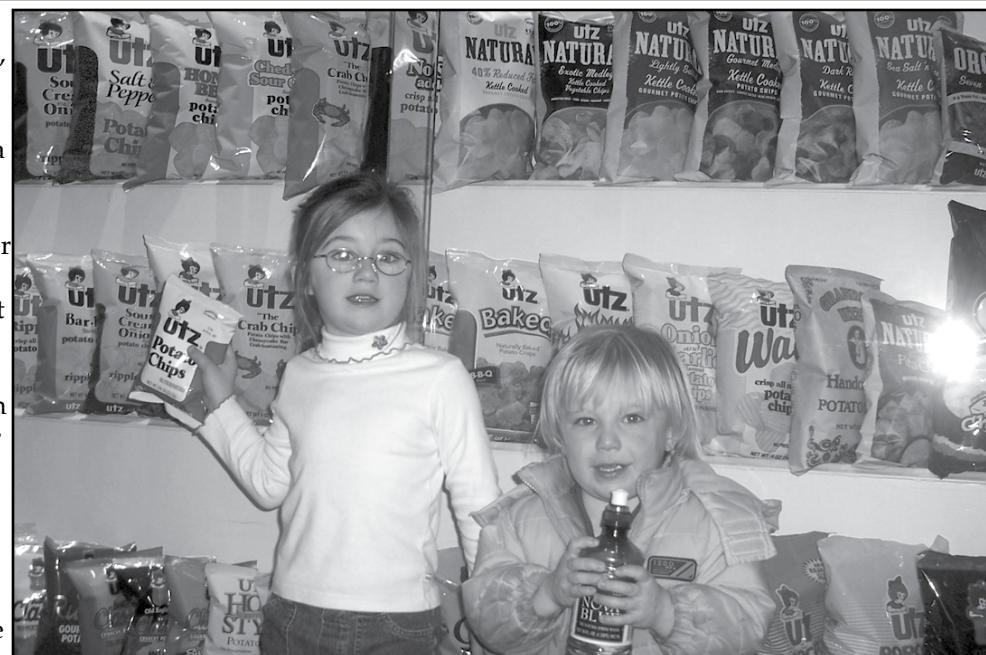
The children were able to see enough through the windows at each stop using steps that brought shorter legs to just the right height (also much appreciated by Grandma). Workers waved at nearly every location, and the kids really seemed fascinated, interpreting what they saw through their own frame of reference such as the "swirling machine" (a slicer) and "orange spices" (barbecue seasoning). We ended up walking the deck several times as they returned to favorite locations.

"I like it all," four-year-old Emma said, although she admitted her favorite part was where a conveyor belt carrying chips traveled above workers' heads to pass just outside our observation window. "It makes me feel like a big chip," she said.

In addition to watching the factory in action, the Utz tour included a small display area on the history and advertising of the company's products and an even-smaller theater. At the end, everyone received a complimentary product sample making this tour literally "all that and a bag of chips"!

At Snyder's—four miles from Utz—a young employee narrated the tour, but the observation areas were much the same, and, once again, we were treated to a salty treat. Snyder's asks for twenty-four hours' notice from visitors. Another pretzel option is Revonah—two miles from Utz—a much smaller operation.

One drawback of tours like these



The author's children load up on some free samples.

is that being operating businesses, many are open on weekdays only. Nonetheless, they would make a great outing on teacher in-service days or during the approaching summer months.

Of course, once you are in Hanover, you may have to check out Famous Hot Weiner where even the burgers come in cylindrical shape on a hot dog bun, or shop at the Bosto-

nian Hanover Shoe Outlet, or even visit local Civil War sites. If you are up for it, just twenty-four miles down the road in York you can add on factory tours of Wolfgang Candy Company and Harley-Davidson Vehicles among others. But that may be a trip for another day.

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Garden

Welcome Spring

By Maureen O'Connell

*April is the cruellest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire, stirring
Dull roots with spring rain.*

(T.S. Eliot, "The Wasteland")

The month of April evokes many different emotions in people, especially poets. T.S. Eliot begins the first line of his signature modernist poem by calling April the cruellest month. The fifteenth of April can easily be called the cruellest day of April, as it is the deadline for Americans to mail their tax returns to the Internal Revenue Service. April can stir us to look forward, and then yank us back to the harsh chill of winter. Robert Frost aptly phrased this sentiment in his poem "Two Tramps in Mud Time."

**The sun was warm but the wind was chill,
You know how it is on an April day
When the sun is out and the wind is still,
You're one month on in the middle
of May,
But if you so much as dare to speak,
A cloud comes over the sunlit arch,
A wind comes off a frozen peak,
And you're two months back in the
middle of March.**

April gives us April Fools' Day, National Poetry Month, and National Gardening Month. For gardeners, April opens the door to spring. March 21 is the actual first day of spring, but March can be quite temperamental and untrustworthy.

In my last column, which was published near Saint Patrick's Day, I discussed the pruning of shrubs and trees. Now that you have completed those chores, let's look to our roses, perennials, and the overall clean-up of the garden.

My spring cleaning takes shape in this order: pruning, raking up dead debris and old mulch, fertilizing, and mulching. Many people don't grow roses in their garden because they think they are too difficult to care for—you must master proper pruning guidelines, know all about rose diseases, and be willing to spray them with toxic chemicals once a week from April to October. As a long-time

grower of roses, I know that this is not true. Plant breeders are every year producing more disease- and pest-resistant varieties, and there is no mystery to pruning. There are two main reasons for pruning roses—the first is to encourage them to flower more vigorously, and the second is to keep them to the size and shape that you want. You cannot under-prune a rose, but you can over-prune one. Hard pruning reduces the number of blooms produced, and sometimes this is necessary if there is extensive winter kill. This practice was popular when large-flowered Hybrid Perpetual and Hybrid Tea cultivars were grown primarily to produce large flowers for exhibition. For roses in my garden, I want the most flowers as possible. The one exception I make is for Mr. Lincoln, a 1965 All American Rose Selection winner. He is still considered the best red rose ever bred, and the quintessential florist's long-stemmed red rose, with the added plus of extravagant fragrance. I prune him back to one or two strong stems with one or two flower buds. The Royal National Rose Society has conducted extensive trials on pruning. These show that much of the traditional advice on pruning is wrong. You do not have to cut the stems precisely above a bud, nor should non-flowering shoots be cut out: their leaves help strengthen the plant. Don't worry about outside-facing buds and sloping cuts. I have pruned some of my roses in a not-so-neat-fashion, and they did just fine. They are tougher plants than you think. Prune Hybrid Teas, Floribundas, English, and other modern shrub types now, removing dead, weak or old wood, and cutting the plant by one-half to two-thirds its length. Taller, more vigorous varieties can be pruned less to allow them to develop an attractive shrub form; however, flowering may be less continuous. Climbers should be pruned now to remove only a few of the older, thicker canes that do not flower well. The remaining canes can be lightly pruned for shaping as needed. Old-fashioned types that don't rebloom should only be pruned in midsummer, after flowers fade, to remove the older, thicker canes and shorten the remaining canes as needed for shaping. Pruning roses by deadheading continues all summer. I believe that deadheading—snapping or cutting off faded flowers, without removing any leaves—does more to encourage more flowers more quickly than the annual spring pruning job.

If you did not pull up dead annuals or trim back perennials last fall, do it now. I cut back to the ground most of my perennials—phlox, daylilies, iris, chrysanthemums, coreopsis, delphiniums, foxglove, liriope, and coneflowers. Many perennials, such as hosta, ferns, and peonies will have completely died back over the winter. Lady's Mantle (*Alchemilla mollis*) doesn't like to be sheared back frequently, so in the fall I leave it intact, and in the spring I cut back the winter die-back and any sun-scorched leaves. I do the same for Lamb's Ear (*Stachys byzantina*). In humid or wet weather, the foliage may "melt" or get mushy and rot. The best way to deal with this is by raking affected foliage out by hand. When more sun and air get into the plant, it will put out new foliage. Your lavender plants might need a little bit of help now. I love large stands of it, so I lightly prune it in early spring to give it some shape. Don't cut it back to the ground; it's not necessary. The light green, tightly-cupped buds of the sedum plant start to push their way out of the soil about this time. I love to watch the slowing changing colors of the blooms of the sedum plant 'Autumn Joy,' but these plants can become pests. Their vigorousness overwhelms them as they

grow tall and flop over on their neighbors. To control this tendency, trim to the ground now any old growth. After new growth begins, cut back to eight inches. They will also grow to be less leggy if you don't fertilize them; they do better in poor soil.

For pruning purposes, the beautiful clematis can be divided into three groups. The first group blooms in the spring from buds set the previous season. Prune, when needed, after bloom. The second group blooms in early summer on short stems that come from buds set the previous season. Now, remove dead wood, and cut the remaining stems back to a pair of strong buds. The third group blooms on new growth. Therefore, prune all stems back to twelve inches from the ground each year about now. If you are unsure which group your clematis falls into, prune any dead or diseased wood, and watch to see when it blooms.

Now that everything is suitably pruned, get a good rake and remove all dead debris and old mulch. It is also a good time to get a head start on weeding. It always amazes me how

-Continued on Page 26.



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Equestrian EHV-1 Concern Surfaces for Area Horse People

By Debby Lynn

Equine Herpesvirus in its hyper virulent neurologic form has appeared in our area once again. EHV-1 is a common viral disease which usually causes Rhinopneumonitis, a respiratory disease. Less commonly, the virus can cause serious and sometimes fatal neurological disease. In these cases, the highly infective nature of this disease coupled with the threat of fatality is cause for concern. Since this outbreak originated at the equine medical center in Leesburg, we have a more comprehensive history of events than is usual.

It began on February 7 when a horse from St. Mary's County, Maryland was admitted to the hospital for a colic. Four days later, the horse developed a fever and ataxia and was moved to isolation. The horse was tested for EHV-1, and a positive test result was returned on February 16. During the period of time between admission of the animal and the return of a positive test result, eighteen horses had been released from the hospital that had potentially been exposed to the sick horse. EHV-1 can be transmitted by virus-laden moisture droplets being carried through the air from one horse to another (airborne), and via fomites. Fomites are anything which can convey the virus from horse to horse. They can include a caretaker's clothing and shoes.

Another horse at the hospital developed a fever on February 18, at which point the hospital closed and the state imposed a quarantine on the medical center. The Maryland Department of Agriculture began an investigation two days later, which included five farms that had horses returned from the medical center, plus the farm in St. Mary's County from which the original sick horse had come. An unfortunate effect of today's mobile horse community was the speed at which this disease hemorrhaged out from Leesburg and spread tentacles across Maryland and Virginia. The Department of Agriculture reacted with remarkable alacrity for a government agency, but in just a few short days, 130 Maryland horses had possibly been exposed. Investigational

hold orders were issued for thirteen facilities in six counties. A hold order is less restrictive than a quarantine, but assures no horses will be moved on or off the property until the order is lifted. Two of the horses discharged from Leesburg were returned to two separate facilities in Montgomery County, both of which were placed under hold orders until negative test results were returned on the horses in question. Ultimately, of the forty-four horses tested by the state, only one Maryland horse tested positive. The positive horse was located in Harford County, and was euthanized on February 22. At press time, all hold orders had been lifted excepting the farm in Harford County and one farm in Carroll County, which is still under a hold order due to one of the original eighteen horses released from Leesburg developing a fever. The horse tested negative for EHV-1, but has been returned to the hospital, and the hold order will remain in effect at this facility until the situation is fully resolved.

Virginia did not fare as well as Maryland and had state-imposed quarantines at ten locations, including the medical center. Six Virginia horses tested positive, of which five suffered neurological symptoms. Quarantines in Virginia are expected to continue until the end of March, and venues such as public horse sales and steeple-chase races have been cancelled. Private organizations such as the Jockey Club and the Masters of Foxhounds Association have taken measures to prevent the spread of EHV-1 from Virginia. Maryland racetracks are not allowing horses to ship in from Virginia, and recognized hunts in Maryland and Virginia have been instructed by the MFHA not to hold meets.

What can we do to protect our horses from EHV-1? The currently available vaccine for EHV-1 provides adequate protection for Rhinopneumonitis, but is not fully effective against the neurologic form of the disease. It is felt to be of some help, however, and vaccinating your horses is a wise precaution. The disease is most likely to manifest in older, debilitated, or stressed horses. Keeping your horse in peak health is a good defense. While full fledged bio-security measures may prove impractical or cost prohibitive for many barns, there are some common sense precautions we can all take. Every barn which accepts new horses for residence should have isolation facilities. A distance of forty feet from the nearest adjacent

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paddock is recommended to prevent airborne disease transmission. In the case of an EHV-1 outbreak, extra care regarding fomites should be taken. When filling buckets and troughs, make sure the hose does not touch them. Don't share equipment such as feed bags, oral syringes, buckets, or grooming tools between horses. Limit the number of personnel going

from horse to horse, and keep hands, clothing, and footwear as clean as possible by using disinfectant footbaths and washing hands when entering or leaving a barn area. Most of all, be cautious about moving horses on and off farms in the face of an outbreak. Controlling the movement of horses in Maryland and Virginia during this outbreak has effectively prevented an epidemic.

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Local History

Four Corners Gangsters

By Jack Toomey

During the 1930s, the nation was terrorized by criminal gangs that preyed on small communities because of joblessness, sparse law enforcement coverage, and the adoration of gangsters such as Dillinger, the Barrow Gang, and Pretty Boy Floyd. Montgomery County did not escape this crime wave, but our criminals tended to be homegrown.

Elwood Matthews was a reclusive man of sixty-five years old who shared a small farm with his brother just north of Four Corners on the Colesville Pike near Silver Spring. He had lived there for over twenty-five years, and, even though he was a man of considerable means, his house was in disrepair and was heated by a wood stove. He kept cows and hogs on his place and grew crops that he sold by the roadside and also shipped to Silver Spring grocers. He even owned a horse that had once marched in President McKinley's inauguration parade.

On November 21, 1936, Matthews walked through the woods to a small general store at Four Corners which was then no more than a country crossroads. He chatted with the shopkeeper and left for home around 8:00 p.m. When his brother returned home later that night, he found the house cold and the animals unfed. On November 23, he reported his brother missing to the Silver Spring police station. A thor-

ough search of the wooded area and Northwest Branch creek was made by the police and neighbors without revealing any trace of Matthews. There was much speculation in the community that Matthews had fallen victim to highway men who were known to work in the area.

On December 3, 1936, two Boy Scouts were hiking in the woods at a Boy Scout camp near the Burnt Mills dam. They came upon the body of man in the Northwest Branch creek who apparently had been washed downstream and was wedged between rocks. The boys ran to the store at Four Corners and reported what they had seen to a police officer who went to the creek and identified the body as Mr. Matthews. It was found that Matthews had been shot three times and that his suspenders had been wrapped around his neck. It was thought that Matthews had been shot and thrown into the creek and then washed over the dam during heavy rains earlier that week. His brother Charles exclaimed, "He was killed by someone he knew... there's a lot of bad characters in these parts."

On the same day that Matthews was found, three young men waylaid a bank official in Charleston, West Virginia. They kidnapped him, robbed him of bank receipts, and stole his car. The police chased the car and shot it out with the bandits. Two of the holdup men escaped; however, War Joseph Kirby, originally from Scranton, Pennsylvania, was shot and wounded and taken into custody. He was questioned about his accomplices and revealed that he and his two friends had killed a man in Montgomery County a few weeks earlier. Montgomery County police

were notified and immediately began searching for William Read, 22, of Four Corners, and Lawrence Gingell, 22, of Kensington. It was known that Read and Kirby had met at the House of Corrections while serving sentences for housebreaking and had befriended Gingell when they were released. Kirby had settled in the Four Corners area upon his release and the three young men formed a trio and had previously kidnapped a cabdriver in Silver Spring, robbed the Manor Country Club while firing shots at the patrons, robbed the general store at Burnt Mills and shot the owner, and planned to rob other country clubs in lower Montgomery County. Kirby also confessed that he, Read, and Gingell had murdered a traveling salesman on Thanksgiving Day just outside of Charleston after they had left Montgomery County. Montgomery Police Chief Garrett assigned some of his best officers to the case.

Gingell returned to his home at Kensington after being gone for two months. He had never been in serious trouble before and had made his money by caddying at local golf clubs. His mother had just heard a radio bulletin that he was wanted for murder. She told him that he should turn himself in, and Gingell left the house supposedly bound for the Bethesda police station. However, instead of going to the station, he headed south into the District of Columbia. He was hitchhiking across the old Highway Bridge into Virginia when a passing motorist recognized him. The motorist flagged down the nearest officer and told him of the sighting. A Washington scout car was dispatched to the bridge, and Gingell

was arrested. He initially identified himself as "William Jones of Aspen Hill, Maryland," but he couldn't remember what his birth year was, and he quickly admitted that he was the wanted person. Gingell confessed to the murder of Matthews and the salesman in West Virginia. It was learned that Gingell, Kirby, and Read had been on the way to rob the Indian Springs Club when they had spotted Matthews. They had hidden in some bushes and had accosted him and robbed him of about sixty dollars. Read had then shot the farmer because Matthews had testified against his brother in Circuit Court two years previously in a robbery case. Gingell then directed the police officers and States Attorney Pugh to Burnt Mills where he reenacted the crime. His mother, a widow supporting twelve children, stated that she wished her son had never gotten into caddying at local clubs. "Caddying doesn't do a boy any good...they just learn to gamble, smoke, and drink."

Read also returned to his home at Four Corners, and his father and mother, who had several other children, tried to talk him into surrendering. His father called the police, but they were shorthanded and could only send a few officers. While waiting for two officers to respond from Poolesville, Read somehow snuck out of his house and fled through the woods. He was captured in Ruston, Louisiana on January 27, 1937 after the robbery and kidnapping of a cabdriver and was returned to West Virginia for trial.

Gingell, Kirby, and Read were tried in West Virginia for the murder of the salesman and the kidnapping and robbery of the bank official. All were found guilty and Gingell and Kirby were sentenced to life imprisonment. William Read was sentenced to death and was hanged at the Penitentiary at Moundsville, West Virginia on November 5, 1937. Gingell was eventually paroled and died in Montgomery County in 1981. It is unclear what happened to Kirby, but he may have died in prison. Apparently, none of the trio ever faced trial in Montgomery County for the murder of Elwood Matthews.



Montgomery County had its own version of the Dillinger gang shown in a 1930s-era photo. They were just as vicious and preyed on the same type of victims as did Dillinger.

Local News

Rebuilding Together

By Ralph Hitchens

Spring is finally here (we thought it was here back in February, but later we thought it might never come!), and that means it's almost time to pick up a tool and do some good for those less fortunate. The Poolesville "Helping Hands" coalition is a small part of "Rebuilding Together - Montgomery County" which used to be known as "Christmas in April." A simple idea: people from various churches and other organizations get together on a Saturday at the end of April to do some construction work on behalf of a deserving senior citizen or a worthy charitable organization. This year, we have a workday scheduled on Saturday, April 28, with a modest project here in Poolesville and a larger one some distance away, in Laytonsville.

The Montgomery County chapter of Rebuilding Together is part a nationwide nonprofit volunteer organization working mainly to help elderly and/or disabled low-income homeowners and families through home renovation and repair; this runs the gamut from routine maintenance to specialized modifications such as the installation of wheelchair ramps and grab bars to improve safety and accessibility. Where necessary, the RTMC provides referrals to social service providers to address other issues the homeowner may be experiencing. All services are provided free of charge to eligible homeowners.

Since it was founded in 1989, Rebuilding Together Montgomery



Joe Butt, Ken Koeser, and Bob Cline are rebuilding something together.

County has mobilized something like 40,000 volunteers to rebuild well over 1,000 homes across the county. Participating organizations include any number of churches along with civic groups and corporations. Here in the greater Poolesville metropolitan area, the "Helping Hands" coalition includes four churches—Memorial United Methodist, St. Peter's Episcopal, Poolesville Presbyterian, and St. Mary's Catholic Parish of Barnesville—along with the Monocacy Lions Club and Kettler Forlines, Inc. Collectively, these organizations contribute funds to RTMC, which identifies one or more projects in our area and—after an inspection to determine what needs to be done—provides funding vouchers at local hardware stores for the necessary supplies such as paint, lumber, hardware, etc. RTMC also furnishes a dumpster and a portable

toilet for the worksites. A skilled "house captain" is in charge of the project, tools are provided (although you are encouraged to bring your own), and "Helping Hands" takes care of everything else: coffee and donuts in the morning, subs or pizza for lunch, plus sodas, cookies, etc. Nobody goes thirsty or hungry, and everybody earns a complimentary T-shirt at the end of the day. Who can volunteer? Any and all adults, and high school youths are also welcome. (They will receive community service credit for hours worked.)

This year we are undertaking two projects, one fairly modest in scope and the other more complex. Here in Poolesville we will be doing some roof repair, linoleum installation, and hanging a storm door at a house on Jerusalem Church Road. The larger project is at "Camp Friendship" east of Laytonsville, a facility owned by the Carol Jean Cancer Foundation that serves pediatric cancer patients. At Camp Friendship, we will be rebuilding a good-sized deck around the swimming pool, replacing the worn-out wood planks with Trex or some other durable material, and we will also be power-washing and staining two buildings.

Christmas-in-April veteran Chris Giarratano is our house captain this year. He will personally lead the work at Camp Friendship. An assistant house captain yet to be named will take charge of the work on Jerusalem Church Road. Helping Hands needs at least forty or fifty volunteers to make all this happen. Many, of course, will come from the participating organizations, but

everybody is welcome. No skills or specialized tools are needed—as Woody Allen once said, eighty-five percent of success is just showing up. Wear old clothes, bring work gloves if you have some, maybe some of your favorite tools if you'd like, but show up!

If you are interested in being part of this worthwhile community service project, contact the Poolesville "Helping Hands" coordinator, Ralph Hitchens, at 301-903-1324 (weekdays), 301-972-7570, or 240-687-5246 (evenings & weekends), or preferably via e-mail, rjee@earthlink.net.



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Youth Sports For Love of the Game

By Chase Spencer

The spring season is very wondrous. The snow starts to melt, the suns starts to shine, and fathers get to take their young sons out for a game of catch. That first game of catch with a father is amazing. It is totally pure, joyful, and memorable. Later, those sons grow up and some stop playing baseball, but others continue to enjoy the sport they love—on the Poolesville High School boys' baseball team.

These boys have grown into young men. Instead of throwing softly with their fathers, they are hurling baseballs at high speeds and with great power. Yes, those boys have grown up, and as Coach Ted Gardiner looks upon his team, he can only smile.

Ted Gardiner is the newly-appointed varsity coach of the baseball team after Will Gant went to Clarksburg High to coach football and baseball. "The biggest transition from a JV team to a varsity team is in

the big picture. We have to consider playoffs now, structure practices, and try to improve every day," the new coach explains. "We practice fundamentals every day, you can never be too accurate of an arm, or too smooth of a swing, so we work on that every day." Gardiner also happened to explain that this is a new team. There is a new style of play with different advantages to all of the players working together. With the great fielding of Jason Kramek and Kevin Campbell, and power hitters in David Johnson and Pat Zapata, the team seems to be very well rounded. One of those well-rounded players who was on the varsity squad last year is junior Tommy Hughes.

"We really have a group of guys that just love baseball. Love throwing the ball around with the guys, taking soft toss, sitting in the dugouts eating sunflower seeds, we just love baseball," says the talented junior who led the team in homeruns last year. "I can drive down to Pat [Zapata's] house and just throw the ball for an hour or two, then we'll drive to the batting cages and hit some balls. We just love baseball, and we want to get better." Even with a team that lost six senior starts last year, the baseball team seems to be run-

ning in stride. The six that left will be missed, but the team keeps on going, filling the void with new talent. With players such as Mark Saxman, Alex Patterson, and Cory Wyne to fill the missing starting spots, the team should do fine, and possibly better than last year's squad which went to the regional final last year. Could this be the year Poolesville takes home a state championship in baseball? Coach Gardiner and the rest of the squad is getting better every day—maybe this is the year.

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Remembrance

James Hall of Barnesville



James Hall

James Hall, 65, died on Thursday, March 9 at his residence in Dickerson, Maryland. Mr. Hall was born in Barnesville and was interred in St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Boyds, Maryland. James was a devoted

farmhand throughout his life and well known for his great affection for horses. Many in the community remember him for his equestrian jaunts through town on his large white horse. He was especially pleased to ride in area parades in his cowboy attire.

He was admired for his physical strength and is reputed to have been known at one time as the "strongest man in the county." This strength came from his legendary work on farms in the area. Dr. Chet Anderson, of the Peachtree Veterinary Clinic, remembers working with him on a large Arabian horse farm where he surpassed everyone in his ability to move heavy bales of hay. "He could throw them two at time and keep it up all day long." Others remember him as the huge man who could ring the music man bell every time at the Beallsville fair.

His very close friends, James and Joey Caywood, with whom he resided for the past fifteen years, and brother Albert Hall, sisters Edna Jones and Liz Honemond, and nephew, Eddie Jones, survive James Hall.

Bob Holland

Former Dickerson resident, Bob Holland, 92, passed away on Thursday, March 8, 2007 at the Northwestern Medical Center in St. Albans, Vermont. He was born in Easton, Maryland on July 7, 1914, the son of the late Herman S. and Virginia (Lockwood) Holland. He was married to the former June M. MacIntosh, who preceded him in death on September 11, 1997. Bob was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army as a captain. He was employed for twenty years by the Sugarloaf Mountain Land Trust as a superintendent. He was an active member in the Monocacy Lions Club until he moved to Isle LaMotte,

Vermont in 2003. Survivors include his daughter, Christina Hofstetter, and her husband, Peter, of Isle LaMotte, Vermont; his son, Douglass, and his wife, Vicki of Birmingham, Alabama; his grandchildren, Genevieve and Sara Hofstetter, Sam and Ian Holland, Rob Holland and his wife, Lisa, and Heather and Michael Holland; two great-grandchildren, Lucas and Sophia; his former daughters-in-law, Patricia and Jackie. In addition to his parents and wife, Robert was preceded in death by his son, Robert. There will be a memorial service (date to be determined) at St. Peter's Episcopal Church prior to his interment at Arlington National Cemetery.

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Equestrian

Reclaiming the Racehorse: A Case Study Chapter Three

By Debby Lynn

This is the third 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. Chapter two found Phoebe adapting to her new home and learning some initial lessons about trust and dominance which set the stage for her to become a successful riding horse.

We moved on to trips across the road, to the arena, for lunging lessons. Lunging can achieve several goals with the young horse. It establishes his work ethic, conditioning him to focus on you and be obedient. It teaches him verbal commands, which will help you reinforce and clarify your aids when you begin work under saddle. If done correctly, it will improve his balance on the twenty-meter circle, and teach him to seek the bit and accept contact—the caveat being: "Done correctly."

Separating your control from establishing contact and fostering balance is the key element of proper lunging. Horses learn best through passive, rather than interactive, methods. For example, it only takes one touch of the nose for a horse to remember forever what an electrified wire means. The wire is passive, and thus perfectly consistent. It never produces a variable response to the horse. Our aids are by nature interactive and variable, introducing some degree of uncertainty in the horse's mind. Lunging is an excellent opportunity to teach balance and engagement as a passive matter. To facilitate this situation, I always use a properly-adjusted lunge cavesson over a bit hanger, which affords the separation of control from bit activity. Depending on the horse, I use either standard donut side reins, or a running side rein, sometimes called Vienna reins. For a horse heavy on the forehead, I would probably prefer side reins. For Phoebe, the Vienna reins were a better choice. She is very anxious about the bit, and the Vienna reins are less constrictive than side reins. She can always lower her head all the way to the ground. After first warming up without them, I gradually introduce one rein at a time, starting with the outside rein, since it helps the most to keep her upright and out on the

circle. I first attach it as loosely as possible, just short enough to keep her from stepping on it. I always make very sure I am in a position to drive the horse forward as I attach the rein. If the horse panics, it may run backward or even rear and possibly go over backwards. Position yourself at the shoulder, with the lunge whip pointing down, but to the horse's rear as you fasten the rein. If it steps back, you are in a position to insist it go forward immediately. Begin with a small circle, moving the horse back out to the twenty-meter circle when you are confident it has accepted the restriction. Gradually add the inside rein, following all due precautions, and then shorten them a bit, but still leaving them fairly long for the first few times. If all goes well, begin shortening them until the horse comes on the bit and works through the back. At this point, the inner rein should be a couple holes shorter than the outside rein, to accommodate a correct bend. Now you can be more active with the whip, encouraging the horse to step under and engage the hind end.

Trot is the gait I most use with a young horse, as balance at the canter is difficult at this stage. I always, however, start with a few minutes of walking. Walking promotes obedience, since I insist the horse wait until I ask for trot. As well, it allows his respiratory system to warm up adequately, and helps the horse relax and overcome anticipation. After several successful lunging sessions, I dispensed with the Vienna reins and set out some cross rails to lunge over, to see how Phoebe liked them.

Her first encounter was quite comical. I first established a good trot circle to the inside of the rail, then pushed her out to present her with the

-Continued on Page 26.

School News

Monocacy Elementary School

Spring Showcase

Thursday, April 19 is the date of the Spring Showcase. Student work will be "unveiled" throughout the school, jugglers will be performing, and the SGA silent auction will take place.

Pennies for Patients

The SGA is sponsoring a Pennies for Patients campaign. Students can deposit change in the bottle found in the front hallway through March 30.

Peter Pan

The MES Drama Club will present Peter Pan Thursday, March 29 at 7:00 p.m. and Friday, March 30 at 1:45 p.m.

John Poole Middle School

John Poole Middle School students gave a good showing at the 51st annual ScienceMONTGOMERY Science Fair. Students from forty-one schools participated in the countywide fair on Saturday, March 17, with seven of the eight participating John Poole students earning awards for their projects, and bringing home \$445 in prize

money. The eight students are: Curtis Betz, Kelly Brown, Madison Cecco, Amy Defnet, Aiden Dolan, Brendan Dolan, Emily Durr, and Maddison Graham.

Poolesville High School

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. Proceeds will go towards the music programs of the Poolesville Cluster. Tickets are on sale now at PHS weekdays until 4:00 p.m. until Spring Break. Following Spring Break, they will be sold at PHS from 9:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. weekdays. They will also be sold at Selby's Market Sunday, April 15 from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Advance ticket prices are \$6.00 for students and \$14.00 for adults. Ticket prices at the door will be \$8.00

for students and \$16.00 for adults. Limited premier seating is available. For ticket information, contact Pam Steffen at 301-349-2950.

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.

Local News

Town Unveils Site Plan for New Town Hall

With a targeted date of spring 2008, bids for the construction of the new town hall will go out in April. Commissioner Link Hoewing voiced a desire to make sure that local firms are given preference when possible. John Strong of View Engineering introduced a new product called porous concrete that will be used in the parking lot area. Using a bucket and a block of porous concrete, he demonstrated the effectiveness of the innovative concrete product in filtering rainwater into the ground below. Due to microbes growing within the porous material, the concrete actually treats the water as it makes its way through the concrete.

During the presentation, Tom Kettler suggested that bathroom facilities in the town hall be made accessible to park users without disturbing the security of the office area. In that way, he opined, proposed plans to build separate comfort stations just for the park could be eliminated.

The building on Beall Street will face Whalen Commons and the parking area will be situated to its left (as you view the building from Fisher Avenue) and just to its rear.

Unusual Public Hearing on Proposed Resolutions Result in Low Turnout

Despite the unusual circumstances of holding a public hearing on three resolutions at one time, the public turnout did not go beyond the few concerned citizens that come to meetings on a regular basis. The resolutions presented were to raise water and sewer rates by ten percent across the board, set property tax at .18 cents per \$100.00 assessed value, and approve the new town budget.

Making their opinions known were Bob Roit, Conrad Potemra, Rudy Gole, Tom Kettler, and Stan Janet. Mr. Potemra voiced his objection that the commissioners failed to adequately find ways to reduce costs and faulted the draft budget for not clearly explaining carryover funds from previous years, in one case as much as nearly \$300,000.00. If accurate, such funds could be used to reduce taxes. Mr. Gole recommended that revenue from renting communication towers atop the water tower should be ap-

-Continued on Page 17.

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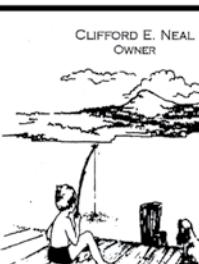
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**"Local News" Continued From
Page 16.**

plied to the water and sewer budget, which in turn would reduce, if not eliminate, the need to raise water rates. Mr. Roit recommended that the commissioners rethink the proposal to purchase its own road sweeper at an estimated cost of \$75,000. He expressed his opinion that since the town currently spends \$2,000 per year to contract for sweeper service, the cost of the equipment coupled with annual maintenance cost made the purchase plan unwise.

Former commissioner, Roy Johnson, while not present for a verbal presentation did submit his opinions on the resolutions and those thoughts are in letters to the editor in this issue of the Monocle.

Health Questionnaire and Indoor Air Quality Concerns at PHS

The Healthy Air Alliance, a group of citizens concerned with the air quality and related environmental issues within Poolesville High School, has been working with MCPS to investigate indoor air quality (IAQ) issues since 2006. The two biggest concerns have to do with problems of high humidity (i.e. mold) and possible poor ventilation. Mold can cause allergic reactions in twenty to thirty percent of the general population. With the installation of new HVAC equipment, HAA would also like new equipment that monitors both the humidity and CO₂ levels and has the

ability to provide continuous records on a daily basis. With humidity below sixty percent and CO₂ levels controlled within specifications, HAA reassures that good air quality will result.

The administration has been circulating an anonymous health questionnaire, which was developed by HAA, to find out the degree of discomfort or illness that is possibly attributable to poor air quality. There is concern over lost questionnaires previously submitted since some individuals have reported having to resubmit their questionnaire. To date, HAA has voiced uncertainty as to the total number of complaint forms that have been turned in just from PHS and has not received an explanation concerning lost questionnaires.

At the recent March 8 meeting between PHS staff, HAA representatives, and Montgomery County Public School staff, Richard Hawes, Director of Facilities Management for MCPS, reported that the school is a safe building for the staff and students. Individual concerns were raised and reported to Mr. Ed Light, a licensed Industrial Hygienist. He is investigating their concerns and promised a full report on those concerns. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on April 18, 2007 at 2:30 p.m.

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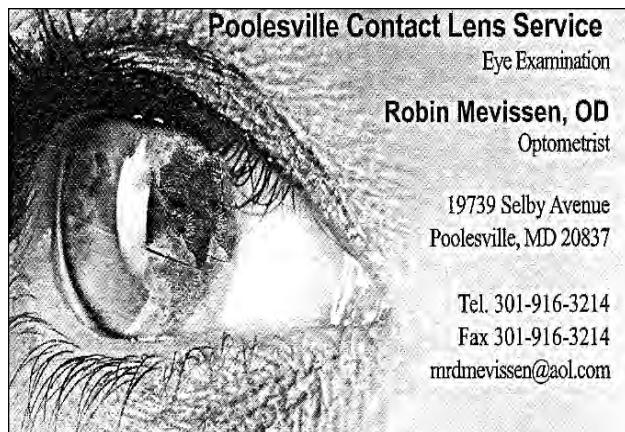
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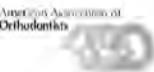
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Local News

Brown to Run for Commissioner

By Rande Davis

Jim Brown, long-time youth recreation leader and volunteer, has committed to seeking the position of commissioner in the wake of Roy Johnson's abrupt resignation and the subsequent call for a special election. Former commissioner, Tom Dillingham, who lost a re-election bid this past November, has obtained a petition and forms to file. Mr. Dillingham did not provide the Monocle with a final statement of intention; therefore, we could not ascertain he would actually file to run. Another candidacy petition was requested from town hall, but the individual did not divulge who the petition was for. As the deadline of filing of March 27 falls after press time, other candidates may come forward, as well.

Jim Brown had considered making a run for the position last November but determined that the timing was not perfect. While acknowledging that the timeframe still isn't perfect on a personal level, he nevertheless decided to step forward "to get involved for the sake of the town."

Brown has been the president of the Poolesville Basketball Association on a volunteer basis for the last seven years and more recently volunteered to be a member of the town's planning commission. His work with the kids, however, played a large part in his desire to seek the commissioner position. He wrote in an email announcement that he looked "forward to, if elected, doing all I can to preserve the rural character of Poolesville while also making sure our families and our children have every opportunity to grow and thrive in a progressive and safe small town environment."

He also stated that he would seek to do what he could to make sure we have the right mix of successful businesses in our town—businesses that provide the goods and services our town needs.

With a priority of listening to the people of the town, he also set goals of limited growth (including

not threatening the long-term level of the town's water/sewer capabilities), keeping home values strong, making sure our taxes accomplish what we need them to do, and making sure the town encourages the development of programs and activities for our children.

He concluded his statement by saying, "It's a big agenda, but having the chance to make a positive difference in people's lives has always gotten me excited. I'll still be involved in youth sports, but this is a great opportunity, and I hope the town comes out and backs me on election day."



Pat Thorne (daughter), Thomas Wims (nephew), Mrs. Sarah Wims (wife), Mr. Wims, Francis Foreman (daughter), and Joanne Woodson (cousin).

"Commentary" Continued From Page 4.

says this does not look like it is going to happen. Of course, you could just buy a new car.

Somewhere during this past month, while spring began, while the Washington Nationals began their third spring training, while the Iraq war entered its fifth year, while American Idol continued its four hundredth year (or so it seems), and the New York Yankees for the thirty-eighth year in a row prepared for a season without an adequate replacement for Mickey Mantle, the *Monocacy Monocle* began its fourth year of operation. In late 2003, we began working out a plan and collecting scrap lead to melt into type, and in March 2004, we managed to get an issue out on the streets and trails of the Up-County. The issue was all of eight pages and featured two original concepts founded by Rande Davis: the "Mystery History" and the "Day Tripper." We have had issues with as many as thirty-two pages since that time, and someday we may have more, but we were quite pleased with our inaugural eight pages. We thank all of you who contribute to and support the *Monocle*. We plan to be around for a while, even though it doesn't seem like it at this exact minute.

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Nicole Kirchoff's bat goes flying as she lays down a bunt against Magruder.

"William Wims" Continued From Page 1.

carpenter, and brick mason, he was the owner of Clarksburg Construction Company. He built four homes on Wims Road and rented them to black families who otherwise would not have been able to live in the area. He also built five homes on Runningbrook Drive. Principal James Koutsos presented Mr. Wims with a special framed acknowledgement of this honor and Coach Will Gant presented him with a baseball signed by all the players

on the team.

As an athlete, Mr. Wims preferred to play with the number "13" and he was presented with a jersey with that number and just behind home plate, emblazoned into the ground in light blue and white, is the number 13, a reminder of what "ol' #13" has meant to Clarksburg over a lifetime of community service.



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Please Join Us In Worship

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday, April 1
8:15 AM & 10:30 AM Palm Sunday Liturgy

Maundy Thursday, April 5
7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Liturgy

Good Friday, April 6
12:15 PM Way of the Cross
4:00 PM Children's Holy Week Service • 7:00 PM Good Friday Liturgy

Holy Saturday, April 7
9:00 AM Holy Saturday Liturgy

The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day, April 8
8:00 AM Easter Day Liturgy
9:15 AM Easter Day Liturgy followed by Easter Egg Hunt
11:15 AM Easter Day Liturgy



Easter Sunrise Service

6:30 a.m.
At Aix La Chapelle
19000 Darnestown Rd. (Rt 28) at Jerusalem Road
Worship/Breakfast/Manor House Tour
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Holy Week begins this Sunday. It tells the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, a final meal with his disciples, his betrayal and death. It culminates with joy of Easter morning!

Sunday, April 1, 11 AM. Palm/Passion Sunday
The service begins with the children's palm parade.
"The Living Last Supper" will be presented
by the Chancel Choir and dramatists

Thursday, April 5, 7:30 PM. Maundy Thursday
Jesus celebrates the Passover Seder and is betrayed

Friday, April 6, 7:30 PM Good Friday
Understanding the death of Jesus

Sunday, April 8, 8:30 AM and 11 AM Easter Sunday
Violist Joelle Miller joins the musicians of Memorial
As we celebrate the resurrection of Christ!
Special Easter Music at 10:45 AM.
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The Risen Savior
On Easter Morning
Fellowship Breakfast: 9:00 a.m.
Worship and Celebration: 10:30 a.m.

SPECIAL EASTER EGG HUNT
ON MARCH 31st
10:30 a.m. - In Family Life Center
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Pulse

Embracing Diversity in Our Community

By Kristen Milton

Organizers planning a summer diversity day for Poolesville say the event is intended to celebrate differences and encourage achievement as well as bring more unity to a community some see as divided.

Organizer Phymeon Lyles said the seeds for the first Poolesville Diversity Celebration, scheduled for June 16 in Whalen Commons, were planted more than a year ago. "I was talking over with my friends a couple of years ago, saying we need to do something to recognize the kids," Lyles recalled. "I was thinking the minority kids because I'm a minority in Poolesville."

Lyles said she knows of young people in town who have either dropped out of school or seem to be drifting since graduating; her message to them and all area young people would be: "Just because you may not be on honor roll doesn't mean you can't be successful in life."

Discussions for an event reflecting such a message ranged from a Juneteenth celebration to a more inclusive model that was the group's eventual choice. The organizational committee has been actively seeking support since January. Presenters already signed up include Korean drummers, local poets, motivational speakers, and author/historian/Poolesville native Nina Clarke. There are also about ten registered vendors offering jewelry, cosmetics, and ethnic foods such as samples from Asia Dynasty restaurant. Attendees will be encouraged to bring blankets and food to create a picnic atmosphere.

The event is being held under the auspices of the Sugarland Ethnohistory Project since Lyles said there was no time to complete separate non-profit paperwork. Lyles, who has lived in Poolesville for seven years, said she was not motivated by any perceived inequalities in the community but rather by a desire to recognize and motivate young people. "There's not a need for us to do anything like this; I just thought it was a great thing to do," Lyles said.

Fellow organizer Cheryl Homond-Williams was less sanguine. Williams, who grew up in the area and returned six years ago from

Germantown, said her children, ages twenty and fourteen, have been disappointed with the feeling of separation they have often noted in Poolesville.

"I came up with a very diverse group of friends, and I've noticed since I came back the kids [from different ethnicities] aren't as close anymore," said Williams, who went on to say she sees the same trend among the adults. "There's a definite split, and the children feel it," she said. "There's some prejudice there; there's lack of understanding among the cultures...so what I'd like to get out of this day is just a togetherness...I want to see a community built back up."

Williams's daughter, Gabriella, a Poolesville High School student, will be reading her award-winning poem, "Color Me," at the diversity event. True to the original concept of the day, a Youth Recognition Ceremony is planned. "If they haven't done anything but move on to the next grade I want to recognize them,"

Lyles said. "I'm looking for [the event to be] something to motivate the kids to get them to do something with their selves."

Organizers hope there will be enough interest in the celebration to make it an annual event. They also emphasized that all area residents should feel equally welcome to the event. "It's something for everyone," Williams said.

"I hope we get the audience we're looking for," Lyles said. "If not, there's always next year."

Info: For those interested in participating either as a vendor, performer, or committee volunteer should call 240-855-7284.

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Romans 12:5

2007 Holy Week Schedule

April 1

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
5:30 pm (Saturday) — Vigil
8:00 am, 10:45 am (Sunday) — Mass

April 4

Wednesday of Holy Week
7:00-8:30 pm — Confessions

April 5

Holy Thursday
8:00 pm — Mass of the Lord's Supper

April 6

Good Friday
12 noon — Stations of the Cross
8:00 pm — Celebration of the Lord's Passion

April 7

Holy Saturday
11:00 am — Blessing of Food for the First Meal of Easter (Chapel)
4:00-4:45 pm — Confessions
8:00 pm — Easter Vigil

April 8

Easter Sunday
8:00, 9:30, 10:45 am — Mass



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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present

Montgomery County Police detectives have arrested Fabricio A. Sandoval, 35, of the 18900 block of McFarlin Drive, Germantown, and charged him with multiple burglaries that had been happening in the Boyds and Germantown area. In each of the burglaries, entry was gained to the house by forcing open the front door or breaking a window next to the front door enabling Sandoval to unlock the door. Once inside, he would steal electronics, jewelry, and credit cards. Sandoval was developed as a suspect after officers arrested him in the act of breaking into cars in Germantown and after credit cards, stolen in some of the burglaries, were used to make purchases in stores. A search warrant was obtained for his house and stolen property was found. Some of the homes in Boyds that Sandoval is alleged to have burglarized were in the 17500 block of Carlson Farm Drive, the 18700 block of Broken Oak Drive,

and in the 18600 block of Crossview Road. Sandoval was being held in lieu of a \$200,000 bond.

The Frederick County Sheriff's Office and Maryland State Police will now utilize LoJack, a stolen vehicle recovery system using proven and proprietary radio frequency technology. LoJack operates through a cooperative relationship with public law enforcement agencies to effectively combat vehicle theft. LoJack operates on a special radio frequency specifically allocated by the FCC exclusively for stolen vehicle recovery. The system works as such: Law enforcement accepts a report of a stolen vehicle and enters the information into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). Then, law enforcement activates the LoJack system hidden in the stolen vehicle and tracks the vehicle.

March 12. Two Boyds men, who do not know each other, were driving south on River Road in separate cars near Lake Potomac Drive. For unknown reasons, the leading car crossed the double line and struck a truck head-on which caused the lead car to spin around striking the follow-

ing car. The driver of the first car was reported to be in critical condition while the second man was less seriously injured.

Past

April 5, 1906. The remains of a murdered man, previously thought to be Edward Green of Frederick, were removed from the potters' field at the Frederick almshouse. It was reported that the man had been mistakenly buried under the name of Edward Green, but it was discovered that Green was alive and well.

April 6, 1968. Four thousand army troops were rushed into Washington to combat widespread burning and looting that followed the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Fires and disorder were reported in nearly all quadrants of the city, and Montgomery County officers were detailed to stand guard at major entrances to the city. Some minor vandalism was reported in Montgomery County including an incident where a firebomb that failed to explode was thrown through the front door of the county office building.

April 7, 1960. The summer resort

town of Seneca, Maryland was inundated when Seneca Creek overflowed its banks and poured water into the tiny town. Summer homes, a hotel, and boat rental facilities were either swept away or severely damaged.

April 7, 1942. The son of the superintendent of the Postal Telegraph Company of Washington, D.C. was killed when he fell off of a rocky crevice on Sugarloaf Mountain. He was part of a group of boys from Bethesda Chevy Chase High School who were exploring the mountain.

April 10, 1880. Samuel Robertson was hanged at the jail yard in Leesburg for the murder of his uncle that happened in October 1879. It was revealed at the trial that Robertson and his uncle had been arguing about some whiskey when Robertson struck the fatal blows. After devotional services, Robertson was led to the gallows.

April 12, 1931. An hour after he had been cleared of a manslaughter charge, George Barnes of Washington was arrested by police in Silver Spring who said that Barnes had a gallon of whiskey in his car.



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**"Letter to the Editor" Continued
From Page 4.**

all-inclusive water and wastewater budget. That is the first thing that anyone would look for if they were concerned about compliance with operating an independent enterprise fund. I even suggested that it be renamed something like the "Poolesville Water Authority" simply to eliminate confusion with regular town business conducted under the name "The Commissioners of Poolesville" as is the case now. The cost of doing this is Zero Dollars.

This is an important first step because there is no current agreement as to what the actual cost of this enterprise fund is. In my proposal, I made a summary, which I believed to be accurate. Commissioner Kuhlman made a summary which I believe left out about \$250,000 of identified water and wastewater items in the budget, probably due to his lack of expertise in the budgeting arena. He also attempted to show how much of our property tax rate went to the Water and Wastewater subsidy; however, his erroneous figures did not include the missing \$250,000 and they also left out the \$184,000 operating subsidy. My guess would be that, if the other three commissioners independently attempted to summarize the actual costs of everything water and wastewater, we would then have five different answers. Obviously, the public will never understand it if the commissioners can't even agree on adding up numbers currently scattered on about a dozen pages of the current budget.

Commissioner Kuhlman further ridiculed my proposal because I proposed to redefine the subsidy as a wastewater-only subsidy, rather than a list of water capital projects, wastewater capital projects, water debt service, wastewater debt service, and a sizable share of the operating budget as well. He called this going backwards because it simplified the confusing manner in which the current budget is organized. The bottom line was that, by separating water and wastewater costs and revenues, and limiting the General Fund subsidy to only wastewater items, we were then in a position to charge non-taxpayers a fair share for wastewater service. My first estimate was that this would generate about \$40,000 of new revenue per year, and it would not change the bills of any taxpayers, both residential and commercial.

My proposal would have removed the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) loan from the equation. In order to do this, we needed to borrow

ahead on the WWTP Impact Fees yet to be collected. The commissioners are asking the developers, Winchester and Kettler-Forlines, to pay for connecting up new wells with reimbursement to come from, of all places, impact fees yet to be collected. Commissioner Kuhlman sarcastically dismissed my proposal as "Enron Economics," but when applied to the developers, it's good business for the town. The difference is that the proposed budget shows sufficient Impact Fee revenue over the next five years to more than cover my proposal, and it shows the developers will still be in the hole by about \$500,000 after those five years as far as recouping their up-front costs are concerned. As a matter of interest, who is left holding that bag if the anticipated houses are never built? Certainly, this is not Enron Economics.

My proposal provided for dividing up water and wastewater charges on the bills, with different rates for each. I'm not sure if Commissioner Kuhlman refers to this opportunity to educate the public as to the separate costs of these two systems as "Enron Economics" or "going backwards" when he sarcastically dismissed my proposal. This also opened up other possibilities in the future. When some new houses were occupied, you could collapse the tiered water rates between 10,001 and 30,000 gallons down to the 0 to 10,000 gallons level while, at the same time, decreasing the wastewater subsidy from one hundred percent to ninety or eighty percent. Again, the overall impact on individual water bills would be small: we would have solved the issue of tiered rates in the "design" quantity range (up to 325 gallons per day per house), we would be moving to reduce the subsidy, and everybody would understand it. Talk about going backwards!

In short, what you need to do is:

- (1) Agree on what you are trying to accomplish, i.e., Goals;
- (2) Project your actions into the future for the best benefit for the town as a whole; and
- (3) Consider all proposals objectively, without sarcasm, ridicule, or self-interest.

Most importantly, you must reorganize the budget to show a complete, stand-alone Water and Wastewater Budget, completely independent of the Town's General Fund Budget.

Local News

Barnesville Girls Donate Locks

Just try to keep up with the Jones. Last week Emily, Marjory and Meredith Jones of Barnesville had over ten inches of their hair cut off, for a very worthy organization, Locks of Love. This organization collects hair from donors to make hair prosthetics for financially disadvantaged children under the age of eighteen who have suffered from medical hair loss such as alopecia areata, radiation treatment or severe burns. The prosthetics are custom fit and styled for each child.

Emily is a sophomore at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg

majoring in accounting, Marjory is a freshman at Sacred Heart University in Connecticut playing Division I lacrosse and Meredith is in the seventh grade at St. Thomas More Academy in Buckeystown. Marjory had donated over ten inches of her hair to Locks of Love two years ago and she felt that she should do it again and her sisters decided to join her. The Jones felt that Locks of Love was a way to help a child in need to regain self confidence and feel more like a normal child.

Locks of Love accepts a minimum of ten inches of clean, dry hair. The hair should be all one length and it can not be bleached or chemically damaged, and it must be in a pony tail or braid. For more information about Locks of Love please visit their website www.lockslove.org/donate



Marjory, Meredith, and Emily Jones.

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Pulse

The Roar of the Lion

By Rande Davis

Finding time to find a way to help others is challenging for everyone with busy schedules. For our youth, with academics, sports, clubs, and part-time work, that challenge is no less difficult. At the Poolesville High School and John Poole Middle School Leo Clubs, students have found a way.

If you haven't heard of Leo Clubs, you may be surprised to learn there are over 5,000 such clubs around the world with over 140,000 young people actively finding ways to help individuals in their own communities throughout the year.

We are certain you know about the Lions Club and particularly our own chapter, the Monocacy Lions Club that has been contributing in a variety of ways to the community for sixty-four years. The Monocacy Lions Club has been supporting two Leo Clubs in the schools for a few years now, and the name Leo comes from their association with the Lions

Club.

Monocacy Lions Gary Burdette, Frank Austin, Charlie DeBree, and Peter Gallo launched the local Leo Club program through the help of former teachers Lois Vuolo and Kathy MacNamara.

Many of today's PHS Leos got started when they were in middle school. The JPMS group has twenty-six members who coordinate a variety of fundraising events and activities so as to make a difference with persons within our area who need help. Such clubs, especially within this age group, are especially effective in teaching leadership skills since the organizations are really

run by the kids. The Monocacy Lions stop by occasionally and make a donation to them on an annual basis, but the group really runs its own show.

Of course, there are adult sponsors and supervisors who assist without dominating the effort. JPMS has always had strong participation right from the beginning. This year started out with a new challenge since the previous sponsors, Lisa Langevin and Lynn Becknell, who were adult sponsors for many years, could not continue this year. At the start of the year, it looked as if the club might have to take a hiatus, but past members continued to pester

Principal Bishop, and through his efforts, the 2007-2008 year was saved when LuAnn Elerick volunteered to not let this happen. As a parent of a Leo herself, she knew of the good work they did, and LuAnn could not let the club miss even one year.

Under the leadership of club officers, Lisa Elerick (President),

Kimberly Lartz (VP), Megan Lane (Secretary), and Centrice Carusa-DiPaulo, JPMS Leos have had a strong year and have had fun accomplishing their goals. This year they have raised money and prepared Thanksgiving Food baskets, conducted a Christmas toy drive, lightened the hearts of seniors at Shady Grove Hospital Pediatric ward, and sponsored a manna drive of canned food for the Humana Food bank.

At PHS, the Leos have to compete with even more clubs, sports, and groups, but this has not disturbed their ability to attract thirty

students to participate and help accomplish many goals. Beth Jones has been the adult/parent sponsor for a few years now and has often expressed her personal satisfaction (even admitting initial hesitation) in helping with the program. For parents, Beth expresses her thoughts of gratitude she made the decision to do so and would encourage other parents to help out.

Under the club leadership of Gracie Jones and Michelle Hecker, PHS Leos have had an outstanding year. They have donated \$342 to the Children's Gulf Coast Hurricane Recovery Fund for Children (after selling bottled water during Poolesville Day last year). They raised just under \$400 to help Darfur Relief Fund from a pumpkin/bake sale (see those kids standing outside of Selby's really do something special). They prepared baked goods for fire fighters at UMCVFD and the Lord's Table soup kitchen, collected food and treats for the troops in Iraq, and conducted a cleanup day at local parks. (Whew! That's a lot of helping – making this adult admire them and think about what I have done lately.)

As a parent, maybe you hear once in a while the lamentation from kids that "there is just nothing to do around here." Now you can give them something to think about. Kids may be too young to be a Lion, but the roar of the Lion is loud and clear from today's Leos. For all you adult readers who are impressed, I want to remind you that the Monocacy Lions have something for you to do, too.



Megan Lane, Centrice Carusa-DiPaulo, Kimberly Lartz, Lisa Elerick, and LuAnn Elerick.

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**"Welcome Spring" Continued
From Page 9.**

quickly in early spring new weeds appear in the garden almost overnight. Pull them up, roots and all. If you are uncertain if the plant you are looking at is a weed or not, wait a few weeks until you can be certain what it is. Don't laugh. I know several husbands who annually get into trouble each spring, as they diligently clean up the garden of weeds, or the nascent, prized perennials their wives carefully planted in the fall.

Your garden is now ready for a little dose of food. I use a general purpose 5-10-10 fertilizer, which I lightly scatter over all the flower beds. For roses, use Rose Tone fertilizer. For acid-loving plants, such as azaleas, rhododendrons, dogwood, holly, hydrangea, mountain laurel, use one specifically for this type of soil.

The last step in your garden cleanup is the application of good, organic mulch. There is no other gardening chore that wins a cost/benefit analysis so decisively. A little mulch now will drastically reduce the amount of time weeding, watering, and fighting pests. Apply it in a layer of two to four inches. If you have a small garden, bagged hard wood mulch is the most convenient. If you have a large area to be mulched, buying it in bulk will be

more cost efficient. The only potential problem with this method is finding a place to put the mulch, and being diligent enough to spread it in a timely fashion. You don't want to be staring at a huge mound of deteriorating mulch in July.

These chores should keep you busy for a few weekends, and by May you can admire your beautifully maintained garden, and disprove Mr. Eliot.

Tip – How much mulch? Bulk mulch is usually sold by the cubic yard, and that can leave gardeners scratching their heads when trying to figure out how much to buy. Here is the easiest way to calculate this.

1. First, find out the size of the area you want to cover in square feet. This is easy; just multiply the length of your garden by the width.
2. Next, decide how deep you want the mulch to be, in inches. Two to four inches is sufficient.
3. Now multiply the size of your garden in square feet by the depth of your mulch in inches.
4. Divide the number you get in step three by 324. This is the number of cubic yards of mulch you will need to cover your garden.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

THE MONOCLE WANTS YOU!!



ATTENTION READERS

We need you to help bring in the news! Do you or your group have an event we need to publicize in *Things to Do* or the *Big Board*? Be sure to email us. Do you know of a milestone in someone's life or other short news item that readers would like to know about? Email us for *Tidbits*. Do you have a picture of a community or sporting event in the area that you would like to share with our readers? Email us for *Family Album*.

We are here to report your news so be sure to contact us if you have a story in mind. Email all items to editor@monocacymonocle.com



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"Reclaiming the Racehorse" Continued From Page 15.

little obstacle. She trotted steadfastly forward, head lowered, ears pricked, every atom of her body focused on the rail. When she got there, she produced a jumping effort worthy of a Nations Cup jump off, cantered a stride or two away from the fence, and stopped dead, craning her neck around to peer at the fence for a protracted moment, as if trying to sum it all up. I left her totally alone, curious to see what she would do. She began walking meditatively around on her predetermined lunge track, me with my arms close to my sides and the whip held passively to the back. As the little rail came before her once again, she picked up a trot all by herself and, this time, took a neat little hop over the fence, once again stopping a stride out and looking at the fence over her shoulder. "Huh, I guess that's all there is to that," said her face.

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| Friday | 4/20 9am – 9pm |
| Saturday | 4/21 9am – 3pm |

Tidbits

Scholarship to be in Perkins Honor

The Poolesville High School Boosters Club has voted to name its annual scholarship in honor of Jake Perkins. A former president of the boosters and long-time "voice" of athletic events by virtue of his announcing football and basketball games, Mr. Perkins graduated from PHS in 1987 where he played basketball and football. There will be two \$1,000 scholarships for one male and one female. Applications for the scholarship will be accepted until April 16.

Lovell – Whitmore Wed

Jonathan R. Lovell of Jefferson, Maryland and Kelly Anne Whitmore were married at the Loyola College Chapel in Baltimore, Maryland on March 17, 2007. Mr. Lovell, a graduate of Brunswick High School, completed his undergraduate studies and received an M.B.A. from Loyola College. He is employed by the Reznick Group, an accounting firm in Baltimore. Mr. Lovell is the son of John R. and Johanna Lovell of Jefferson and Kelly Anne Lovell is the daughter of Fran and Eric Anolik of Morristown, New Jersey.

Looking for a Way to Help Your Town?

Poolesville town manager, Wade Yost, has announced that the town is in need of volunteers for several positions on various commissions within the town. Each of the following has one opening. The Planning Commission oversees all proposed plans relating to the master plan, and residential and commercial development. The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) considers appeals to variances

and special exceptions to the town's zoning regulations. The Sign Review Board (SRB) evaluates the acceptability of all sign usage applications for signage requests. The Community and Economic Development Committee (CEDC) plans community events, activities, and seeks ways to promote the town and business opportunities. While the Planning Commission and CEDC meet in regularly-scheduled monthly meetings, the SRB and BZA meet on a per need basis.

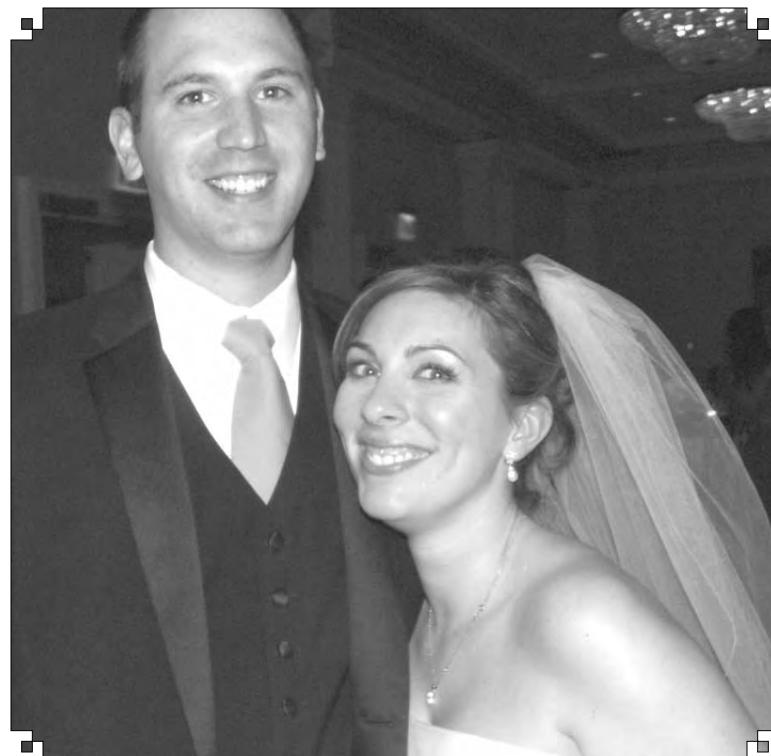
Scout Pack 694 Holds Mini-Model Derby

Scout Pack 694 held its annual mini-model derby at the Poolesville Baptist Church on March 17. Each scout makes his own car model to race against other models on a pinewood racetrack that rises to about five feet at one end. It's similar to the familiar soapbox derby, only these are models about six or seven inches in length and they race down a sloping track. The winners this year were: Ian Kenten – first place; Steven Morningstar – second place; Joe Brashear – third place; Cole McKenney – fourth place; and Tyler Morningstar – fifth place. Bryce McKenney won the contest for "Coolest Car." These winners will represent the pack at the Black Hills District Regional Pinewood Derby on April 28.

On Thursday night, March 22, on ABC television, the Grey's Anatomy episode entitled "My Favorite Mistake" was written by former Germantown resident Chris Van Dusen. Mr. Van Dusen graduated from Watkins Mill High School in Gaithersburg in 1997 and is a graduate of both Emory University and the University of Southern California. He initially considered a career in journalism, but he decided to move to Hollywood and enrolled in the innovative Peter Stark

Program at USC where he decided to pursue a career in screenwriting. He began his television career in 2004 as assistant to Shonda Rhimes, the creator of Grey's Anatomy, the most popular scripted show on television today. In 2006, Chris co-authored the book Grey's Anatomy: Overheard at

the Emerald City Bar. He has received production credits on many episodes, in addition to his writing credit on the March 22 episode. He is the son of Dennis and Julie Van Dusen of Potomac, Maryland.



Jonathan and Kelly Anne Lovell



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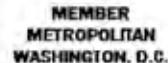
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