

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

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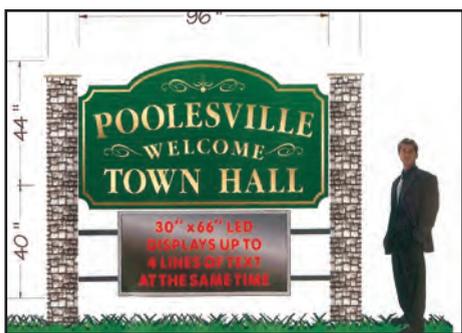
Volume IV, Number 17.



Lynne and Dennis Stillson of Cugini's Restaurant and Reva Hoewing of Crafts-A-Plenty (right) attended the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce holiday party at the Members Club at Four Streams in Beallsville. More holiday spirit awaits in Family Album on Page 2.



Read about the Clarksburg High School Coyote Football team in Youth Sports on page 14. (Photograph courtesy of Sue Apple)



Will this be the final design for the new sign? Will other people want their picture taken next to it? See Local News on Page 9.



C.J. Harrison-Davies with his mother, Anne Harrison (left), and his "play stand-in" Madeline Carr. To see what that might mean, go to Page 8.

Clarksburg Town Center Moving Forward

By Kristen Milton

The hour-long hearing that advanced Clarksburg Town Center by another step this month may have been most remarkable for what did not occur.

The December 13 hearing before the Montgomery County Planning Board, which included no citizen testimony, was largely quiet and reflective. Various groups who have been at odds in the past in Clarksburg's convoluted progression were now, Clarksburg Town Center Advisory Board representative David Brown emphasized, "speaking with one voice." The specific topic of the hearing was approval of amendments, also called an interim plan, for the 270-acre site where building violations identified years ago were incorporated into a new vision for the location. The board, which unanimously approved the interim plan, hopes to deal with the next phase of development in the first three months of 2008.

Much of the hearing was occupied with educating newer board members on what Rose Krasnow, chief of development review for the county Planning Board, called "the long laborious process" of Clarksburg's development. Controversy erupted in 2005 when the resident-led Clarksburg Town Center Advisory Committee alleged height violations in the construction. The discovery of other building violations followed. The resulting examination of the project exposed systemic problems in the oversight of the planning board and eventually sent the parties to mediation.

The plan approved December 13, largely without discussion, called for some landscaping changes and was the next step of the compliance plan that emerged from mediation in June 2006 and included lots with violations that will be grandfathered into the final Clarksburg town center plans. The interim plan addressed only 118 residential units in the town center

area. The next phase of development planning, identified as Phase Three in discussion, will address the overall development including retail elements. Krasnow said planners have begun to receive email accusing them of "holding up" this Phase Three plan as the review has extended far beyond the six months envisioned in June 2006. However, Krasnow said it has simply taken this long to deal with the myriad issues that needed to be addressed. Representatives for other Clarksburg stakeholders agreed.

Stephen Kaufman, an attorney for the developers, noted that the only change to the 170-page interim plan report prepared by planning staff dealt with material to be used in a retaining wall. "As you can see, we are getting into detail," he said.

David Brown also noted that the amendment reflected "the close scrutiny" given to every element of the plan. It was a chore his clients, once simply homeowners without specialized training, were looking forward to relinquishing, he said. "After three years of hard voluntary labor, my clients look forward to the day they get relieved of this responsibility," Brown said.

Kaufman said the Phase Three plan for Clarksburg had been submitted "for some time," but that developers would like to hold another community meeting to garner comment before it appeared before the board in the first quarter of the new year. Planners approved that idea, saying that some residents who were supportive of the compliance plan in 2006 had developed concerns.

Musical Odyssey

By Dominique Agnew

Like a tale of mythical proportions, the life and times of Robert Fogleman include epic travels across the continent and across the sea, near brushes with fame, fortune, and everything that goes with it, and a sojourn as one who imparts knowledge—all in the name of music. Mr. Fogleman may not agree with this comparison to a mythological hero, but he did mention a similarity with Forrest Gump—not the running thing and questionable intelligence, but being on the periphery of many interesting events.

Robert Fogleman, better known as Mr. Fogleman to his students at Monocacy Elementary School, where he teaches instrumental music two days a week, and at John Poole Middle School, where he teaches band, grew up in a small town in North Carolina not too different from Poolesville. Like Poolesville, his hometown was surrounded by farms. He began playing the clarinet in school even though he really wanted to play the drums. His father



Robert Fogleman

dissuaded him by saying, "Drummers are a dime a dozen." His father recommended he play the sax, but as Mr. Fogleman says, "Back then, the band directors didn't start you on saxophone." He eventually did take up the sax in high school and also the flute in college. After bouncing around majors a little, he finally graduated from Lenoir-Rhyne College with a degree in

- Continued on page 15.

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Jen Shell brought her two boys Zack (in fire hat) and baby Charlie to the Carroll Manor Volunteer Fire Department to visit with Santa and sit in the fire truck.



Santa visited the Carroll Manor Volunteer Fire Department to have breakfast with the kids and have them all come up for a photo.



The Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department's model railroad display remains every bit as popular with the youngest generation as it has in past years.



Luke and Lindsey Lightcap had breakfast with Santa at UMCVFD and were not too shy to let Santa know what they want for Christmas



Santa made one last trip around the Poolesville area on top of the UMCVFD fire engine just before he left to return to the North Pole and prepare for his big night.



Santa greeted the Burton family of Poolesville and the Checkly family of Comus during his breakfast visit at St. Mary's in Barnesville.

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POOLESVILLE PARKS NOTICE

Reservation forms are now available at Town Hall for the permitting of the athletic fields in the Poolesville Parks for the 2008 spring season. All applications must be received by January 31, 2008.

Facilities available at Stevens Park are the baseball field, soccer field, and a concession stand. Halmos Park has three baseball fields, soccer field, as well as a concession stand. West Willard Road has a practice soccer field.

Individual coaches are asked to schedule their playing time and field reservations through their organizations, if they belong to an organization that reserve Poolesville fields.

Fields are scheduled to be opened for playing beginning March 15, 2008 conditions permitting. Please contact Town Hall at 301-349-8927 for further information.

Humble Chef The Foods of Christmas

By Maureen O'Connell

Of all the major holidays, more special foods and culinary traditions are associated with Christmas than with any other. It is the time for the yule log cake, candy canes, fruit cake, gingerbread men, plum pudding, sugar plums, Twelfth Night cake, was-sail, eggnog, and a Christmas goose.

What people ate for Christmas during medieval times in Europe depended greatly upon their status in life (peasant, merchant, knight, nun, friar, lord, or king). The Christmas season was not celebrated for just one day; it extended until Twelfth Night. Medieval feasts for the wealthy were traditionally served in three courses. Each course included a soup, followed by a wide range of baked, roasted, and boiled dishes. There is an account of a Christmas celebration in 1289 hosted by Richard de Swinfield, the Bishop of Hereford in Gloucester, England for seventy people. Over a three-day holiday, they ate one boar, two complete carcasses and three quarters of beef, two calves, four does, four pigs, sixty fowl, eight partridges, two geese, as well as bread and cheese. The amount of ale consumed was not recorded, but forty gallons of red and white wine were served.

In the United States, many of our foods and Christmas traditions originated in Victorian England. When we think of this period, we recall the

Christmas feast described in Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol. The Cratchit family shared plump roast goose, oyster stuffing, mincemeat, Christmas pudding, and wassail.

The American Heritage Cookbook and Illustrated History of American Eating & Drinking describes a Christmas dinner at Mount Vernon in the 1790s: "An Onion Soup called the King's Soup, Oysters on the Half Shell, Broiled Salt Roe Herring, Boiled Rockfish, Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding, Mutton Chops, Roast Suckling Pig, Roast Turkey with Chestnut Dressing, Round of Cold Boiled Beef with Horseradish Sauce, Cold Baked Virginia Ham, Lima Beans, Baked Acorn Squash, Baked Celery with Slivered Almonds, Hominy Pudding, Candied Sweet Potatoes, Cantaloupe Pickle, Spiced Peaches in Brandy, Spiced Cranberries, Mincemeat Pie, Apple Pie, Cherry Pie, Chess Tarts, Blancmange, Plums in Wine Jelly, Snowballs, Indian Pudding, Great Cake, Ice Cream, Plum Pudding, Fruits, Nuts, Raisins, Port, and Madeira." I don't know whom I would have more sympathy for, the cook or the guests' stomachs after eating so much food.

Eighteenth century colonial Williamsburg celebrated Christmas with great gusto. Old English customs, the yule-log ceremony and the was-sail bowl were all part of the festivities. The Governor's Palace, the local taverns, and the private homes served menus quite similar to what was served at Mount Vernon. Below is a recipe that might have been served at the King's Arms Tavern for Christmas.

King's Arms Tavern Creamed Onions with Peanuts

16 whole small white onions
2 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
¼ teaspoon salt
2 cups milk
¼ cup whole salted peanuts
½ cup buttered bread crumbs
¼ cup salted peanuts, coarsely chopped

Preheat the oven to 400° F.
Grease a one-quart casserole.
Cook the onions in boiling water until

tender; drain.
Melt the butter over medium heat; stir in the flour and salt.
Add the milk and cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until smooth and slightly thickened.
Put the onions in the prepared casserole and pour the cream sauce over them.
Stir in ¼ cup of whole peanuts
Top with buttered bread crumbs and chopped peanuts.
Bake at 400° F. for 15 minutes or until the casserole is bubbly and lightly browned.
The Williamsburg Cookbook, Letha Booth



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Letter to the Editor

Dear John,

I recently had the opportunity to read your commentary in a recent edition of the *Monocacy Monocle* entitled "The Nuts and Bolts of the Ag Reserve." (The *Monocacy Monocle*, November 2, 2007) I feel your position regarding child lots and sand mounds to be misguided.

Child lots, as you indicated, were created to provide an avenue for a landowner to create a lot for a child on a piece of land in existence prior to 1981. What is required in the master plan and the zoning code is that a development right exist for the child lot and that the land that the child lot was being created from had to be owned by the applicant at the time the zoning went into effect (i.e. 1981). There is no requirement in the master plan or zoning code forcing a child into any occupation relating to agriculture at the time the lot is created or for anytime thereafter; to do so may violate Article XIII of the Constitution prohibiting Slavery and Involuntary Servitude and laws governing alienation. Thus, the argument that child lots were solely created for children to continue farming is baseless and hollow. What was being discussed, by my recollection, was the capability of the landowner to create a lot for his children in addition to the base zoning being allowed under the new zone (one house to twenty-five acres aggregate). Further bolstering my recollection has been the practice and the approvals of the Park and Planning Commission since 1981 that child lots are in addition to the base zoning allowed and not part of the base zoning. Thus the practice validates my recollections. The current zoning text amendment proposed by Dr. Hanson et al is a de facto removal of all opportunity of historic landowners to create a child lot. No matter what side of the argument you are on regarding this issue, one must recognize this zoning text amendment from Dr. Hanson and the Planning Commission as nothing more than a betrayal to those landowners who, since 1981, have made the Rural Density Transfer (RDT) zone a success.

The statements made about the ease of development of RDT lands by utilizing sand mound technology is based not in fact but utter fiction. The regimen for percolation required by the Montgomery County Division of Wells and Septic exceeds requirements of the State of Maryland Health Department. Montgomery County has some of the most restrictive criteria for sand mound

percolation and installation of any jurisdiction in the state. Percolation for a sand mound septic system is difficult, time consuming, expensive, and there are no guarantees of success. Language often cited in the master plan that would deny the use of sand mounds and other septic system technology is the following: "Deny private use of alternative individual and community systems in all areas designated for the Rural Density Transfer Zone (RDT)." What is missing from the language of Chapter VI of the master plan is a list of the alternative septic systems that the aforesaid sentence contemplates that were in existence at the time the master plan was written. Simple language that would have included the phrase "including, but not limited to the following" would have eliminated any question as to what alternative systems the master plan was referring. The real question one must ask is when does something lose its alternative or experimental status? The answer: when a regulatory agency determines the use to be conventional. Sand mounds were granted the right to be used for septic systems for new residential construction by the State of Maryland in 1986, thus no longer considered alternative but conventional. No master plan can override state rules and regulations. The potential loss of the use of sand mounds in the RDT is a loss of equity in our real estate and equality with other citizens of the state and county. The State of Maryland changed the percolation standards in 1986 to fail test holes exhibiting fifty percent or more fractured rock but added to their testing opportunities sand mound tests. This change is fair and arguably equitable.

I, as you, John, very much believe in the preservation of the RDT. My family and my wife were raised in the Poolesville area. We have long roots in the RDT. Because of my life's work, I have had the opportunity to work with clients selling development rights, consult on various conservation easement programs, and develop subdivision lots. The RDT is a bold success in spite of, and not because of, the zoning in place. The zoning in place has allowed for numerous unwanted land uses by our government to encroach and degrade our quality of life. Sand mounds and child lots will never compromise the RDT as much as government unwanted land uses. Currently, the largest commercial facility being contemplated in the RDT is taking shape and being funded with public funds at the Woodstock Equestri-

-Continued on Page 18.

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Published and Edited by
John Clayton and Rande Davis

John Clayton
Production
Financial
301-349-0071

jlclayton@monocacymonocle.com

Rande Davis
Advertising
Circulation
301-349-0070

rdavis@monocacymonocle.com

Dominique Agnew
Copyediting
dagneu@intairnet.com

Departments
editor@monocacymonocle.com
advertising@monocacymonocle.com

Monocacy Press, LLC
John Clayton, President
Rande Davis, Vice President
P.O. Box 175
Poolesville, MD 20837
301 349-0071 • FAX 301 349-5646

Contributing Writers
Dominique Agnew
dagneu@intairnet.com

Debby Lynn
debbylynn@comcast.net
Maureen O'Connell
mafoconnell@msn.com

Curtis Osborne
cptoz@aol.com

Jack Toomey
jackt21262@aol.com

Contributing Photographer

Hilary Schwab
hilary@hschwabphotography.com
Graphics

WhipSmart Graphics
Karie@WhipSmartGraphics.com

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Business Briefs

Yeatts Join Mary Charters and Associates

Tom and Laura Yeatts have announced through their association with Keller Williams Realty that they have joined forces with Mary Charters and Associates. Laura Yeatts states, "Mary began her real estate career as a single practitioner in 1986 and has built a real estate sales business into a nationally recognized real estate team." In joining this team, they look forward to working with their clients through this expanded association. They will continue being the Poolesville area agents for Mary Charters and Associates.

BB&T Announces Winner of the 27-Inch Television

BB&T announced that Elizabeth Darling of Poolesville has won the grand prize drawing for the Samsung 27-inch television. The drawing was part of a new customer drive sponsored by the bank this fall. Mrs. Darling was thrilled and stated, "This is a real special Christmas present for

the family." The drawing was part of a promotional program that centered on the bank recently winning a J.D. Power award for customer satisfaction.

PACC Announces New Area Map Brochure at Holiday Party

The Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce held its annual holiday party at the Members Club at Four Streams in Beallsville. The turnout for the gathering was very strong and indicative of the growing organization that recently announced that the membership has reached 110 businesses and associations.

At the dinner, Tom Kettler, secretary for PACC, announced a new historic map for Poolesville and the surrounding area that will serve tourists, newcomers, and current area residents. The PACC is now taking orders for the advertising brochure and those interested can get more information by visiting www.pacc.cc.



Elizabeth Darling of Poolesville was awarded the grand prize of a twenty-seven inch television by David Miller in a drawing for new customers held by the Poolesville branch of BB&T. Also pictured is Kathy Suen (left) and Lillian Winning.



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Local News

District 2 Councilmember Mike Knapp Is New Council President

By John Clayton

As expected, the Montgomery County Council has unanimously elected Michael Knapp, of District 2 (northern and western Montgomery County), as its new president, succeeding outgoing president Marilyn Praisner. Phil Andrews of District 3 (Rockville, Gaithersburg, North Potomac, Derwood, and Washington Grove) was elected vice president, succeeding Mr. Knapp. Both new officers will serve one-year terms.

District 2 is by far the largest district in the county and covers the northern and western Up-County from the Frederick County line down into

Germantown, extending east to Olney and Burtonsville. Mike Knapp was first elected to the council in November of 2002 as part of then-County Executive Douglas Duncan's "Go Montgomery" slate, which championed transportation projects, most notably the Inter-County Connector, or ICC. He defeated incumbent Nancy Dacek who actively opposed the ICC. He was reelected in 2006, and was elected council vice president for the past year. He also served as president for the last month of Ms. Praisner's term while she recovered from an automobile accident. In a recent telephone conversation with the *Monocle*, we asked Mr. Knapp how this would change his role on the council. Following a brief allusion to "being in charge of herding cats" he said his term as council president would allow him to work with his colleagues to set the agenda for the council, make various assignments, and set the tone for where the council is going. "I have the same vote that I had before, but it gives me a little more of a platform

than not being council president." With regard to what he hoped to accomplish in his year as president, he cited, first and foremost, the budget: the issues surrounding the budget and "coming up with a strategy to address them." Mr. Knapp also said he is dealing with three Master Plans. They haven't done any since Damascus over two years ago, and he hoped to complete White Flint and Twinbrook, Germantown, and Gaithersburg West, or "pretty much everything north of Shady Grove Life Sciences Park." Mr. Knapp also highlighted a number of outstanding Agricultural Reserve issues. The Ad Hoc Advisory Committee made a series of recommendations and the council had acted on a few of them, but a few remained outstanding, such as the Building Lot Termination Program, Child Lots, and Sand Mounds. He sees these as issues that they "have got to get on the agenda to attack." He also said that the county executive (Ike Leggett) and the council recently completed a satisfaction survey "which is good because it gave

us a baseline for what our residents are thinking and feeling." Mr. Knapp would like to build on that by having the county apply for the Baldrige Quality Awards. These would "give a better sense of how our county government's processes are working to meet our residents' needs. It would give us real feedback so if we know something is working well, why is it working well? If we think something isn't working well, what processes do we have in place to fix that, and how do we figure that out? The survey indicated that people really like to live here, and we all kind of say we're great, but I think it's important not just to say it, but to have the mechanisms in place that we can prove it, and continue to refine ourselves so that as things change, we continue to get better—and that's not a piece that's out there that we can focus on this year."

Commentary

A Taxing Problem For Some

By John Clayton

I had a nightmare the other night: I was a lobbyist—but I wasn't a highly-paid K Street-type golden trough lobbyist, I was an Annapolis (for you out-of-towners in for the holidays that's the state capital here in Maryland) lobbyist for the computer services industry. It was a great job. The dream lasted throughout the entire special session of the state legislature, which, as you may remember, was called by Governor Martin O'Malley to try and close some daunting budget shortfalls. Well, as a lobbyist, in my dream, I never left the Ram's Head Tavern. I just sat there knocking down crab cakes and quaffing pints of their fine microbrews. (Check their website; it says you can quaff pints.) Life was good. Other people came and went; I talked up computer services a little and collected enough business cards to justify my expenses.

Then the nightmare part arrived. While I was bellied up to the raw bar, the legislature, in its wisdom, decided that out of all businesses in the state, the budget shortfall would be attacked

by applying the popular new six-percent sales and use tax to "certain computer services." What had I done? I woke up screaming.

Now assuming that the computer services industry even had a lobbyist on the job to prevent this sort of thing, I have to wonder how he or she even got up the nerve to go to work the next day. According to various published reports, other businesses were targeted by the governor, but he met resistance from the legislature. These other business sectors included tanning salons, massage therapy, health care memberships, and real estate management. All of these businesses escaped unscathed, but not our computer services professionals. Why is that? It could be a little like high school; these other groups may have escaped simply because they are better looking: tanned, limber, buff, and in the case of real estate management, possibly in charge of your trash collection. Meanwhile, the public persona of the computer services industry is that of a nerd or a geek—easier to pick on perhaps. (Editor's note: some of our finest and most valued advertisers are geeks.)

According to other published reports in various newspapers, the industry is fighting back and trying to get the measure repealed, although someone else is going to have to pony up the \$200 million. One significant

point that has been made is that this measure will adversely affect the attraction of businesses to the state, and put existing technology businesses at a competitive disadvantage. Frankly, I think they have a point. A lot of effort, particularly in this county, goes into the nurturing of the high technology economy, and this added cost is bound to have an effect. However, it appears that to the average legislator, taxing a business sector for \$200 million is more transparent to the average voter, and hence less objectionable, than having a tax show up on our health club memberships. (Editor's note: some of our finest and most valued advertisers are health clubs.)

I have another theory about this. The new tax on "certain computer services" kicks in July 1, 2008. Computer systems will have to be changed and tested well in advance of implementation. Who better to do it than the techies? Maybe the legislature didn't think the massage therapists could handle it. (Editor's note: the *Monocle* would be an excellent place to advertise massage therapy services.)

We at the *Monocle* hope that you have had a good year, and that 2008 will be safe, healthy, and prosperous for everyone. When the government needs more money to provide services, we sincerely hope that they tax someone else and not you. We are thankful for the opportunity to pub-

lish our little newspaper, and hope to continue doing so for the foreseeable future.

BB&T

Thank You for Your CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!

It is with pleasure and pride that the staff of BB&T wishes to express its sincerest thanks to all who contributed to our Mission of Mercy Toy this holiday season.

It is through your generosity that over 50 children will be able to receive a gift this Christmas.

The Mission of Mercy program provides mobile clinical medical care to those who cannot afford it. With each year, the number continues to grow. During the holidays, Mission of Mercy collects unwrapped toys and distributes them to the children when they make their weekly stops.

*Devgi Joe David
Jaiman Kathy
Kulon*

In the Garden

The Christmas Flower

By Maureen O'Connell

If you took a poll and asked the question, what plant do you quintessentially associate with the Christmas season, the majority of people would say the poinsettia. Starting right after Halloween, you can find in stores poinsettias in shades of red, white, pink, purple, and speckled colors. This ubiquitous plant has a long and interesting history.

The poinsettia, *Euphorbia pulcherrima*, is a member of the family Euphorbiaceae. The genus *Euphorbia* contains some seven hundred to one thousand species. The showy, colored parts of the plant, that most people think are the flowers, are actually colored bracts or modified leaves. The flowers are the small, yellow cupped clusters in the center of the bracts. The poinsettia is a native plant of Mexico, and it flourished in an area known as Taxco del Alarcon. The Aztecs found this plant blooming in the tropical highlands during the short days of winter. They cultivated it and called it Cuetlaxochitl. It was not just a decorative plant; they used the bracts to make a red-dish-purple dye, and they made a medicine for fever from the milky white sap that today we call latex. During the 17th century, Franciscan priests settled near Taxco, and they began using the colorful plant as a decoration in their churches. The poinsettia might have remained a regional Mexican plant had it not been for the interest and efforts of Joel Poinsett (1779-1851). The son of a French physician, Poinsett was a physician, botanist, and statesman. He was appointed as the first United States Minister (the United States did not appoint ambassadors until 1896) to Mexico (1825-1829) by President John Quincy Adams. From 1837 to 1841

he served as the fifteenth United States Secretary of War under President Martin Van Buren. Poinsett was educated as a physician, but his real love in the scientific field was botany. While serving in Mexico, he visited the area of Taxco del Alarcon and noticed growing by the roadside a ten- to twelve-foot-high leggy shrub with brilliant red blooms. He sent some of these plants back to his greenhouse in South Carolina, where he began propagating these exotic plants. He also gave seeds to his friends and botanical gardens. One of the recipients of these plants was the noted botanist John Bartram, Jr. of Philadelphia. He in turn gave the plant to his friend Robert Buist, a Pennsylvanian nurseryman. He was the first person to have sold the plant under its botanical name *Euphorbia pulcherrima* (literally, the most beautiful euphorbia) around 1836. Poinsett did not name the plant after himself. Historian and horticulturist William Prescott named the plant in honor of Minister Poinsett introducing it to the United States.

What do the poinsettia and the Smithsonian Institute have in common? The answer is that they were both founded through the efforts of Joel Poinsett. The early 1800s were a time of great explorations for the United States. Ships traveled the globe in search of new anthropological artifacts and biological and geological specimens. While Poinsett was Secretary of War, he and fellow politicians debated where to house these newly-acquired collections. Serendipitously, they found their answer in England. James Smithson was the illegitimate son of Hugh Smithson. By the nature of his birth, he was prevented from entering the army, the church, the civil service, or politics. He focused his time and talents on research, travel, and exploration. When he died in 1829, he bequeathed his property and all his assets to his nephew. His will stated that if his nephew died without children, the remaining money would go to the United States to form a national museum, to be

named the Smithsonian Institute. The estate was tied up in court for decades. When the money finally became available, Congress debated for years on how to use Smithson's bequest. Poinsett campaigned vigorously for the creation of a national museum, as Smithson desired. In 1840 he founded the National Institute for the Promotion of Science and Useful Arts. He advocated for a museum that would showcase relics of the country and its leaders, celebrate American technology, and document the natural resources of North America. This was the precursor of what we know today as the Smithsonian Institute. The Castle, as it came to be known, was completed in 1855.

The modern era of poinsettia culture began with the introduction of the seedling cultivar Oak Leaf. It was grown originally in Jersey City, New Jersey by Mrs. Enteman in 1923. From 1923 until the early 1960s, all of the principal cultivars of commercial importance were selections from this original Oak Leaf seedling. During the middle 1950s, poinsettia breeding programs were started at several institutions, including the Pennsylvania State University, the University of Maryland, and the United States Department of Agriculture at Beltsville, Maryland. The Paul Ecke Ranch in Encinitas, California was in the

forefront of commercial horticultural firms breeding programs. Dr. Robert N. Stewart of the Agricultural Research Service of Beltsville, Maryland contributed much in determining the character of the poinsettia that we know today. After years of research, he and fellow horticulturists learned how to segregate desirable characteristics such as stiff stems, larger bracts, and new colors.

Today poinsettias are the best selling potted plant in the United States. They are commercially grown in all fifty states, but California is the top poinsettia-producing state. Paul Ecke of the Paul Ecke Ranch is credited with making the poinsettia an ideal official holiday flower. The ranch grows over eighty percent of these plants in the United States for the wholesale market.

The poinsettia has come a long way from the hills of Mexico. Take care of it and it will brighten your home for the holidays. It likes indirect sunlight for at least six hours a day and room temperatures between 68° F. to 70° F. Water your plant when the soil feels dry to the touch. It does not like cold drafts or excessive heat. Is their life after Christmas for the poinsettia? That is up to you. It can make a handsome houseplant, even when the colorful bracts are long

-Continued on Page 10.

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Reach for the Stars Local Boy Bitten By Acting Bug

By Rande Davis

For twelve-year-old C. J. (Christopher James) Harrison-Davies of Poolesville, the thespian bug bit at an early age. His kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Strickland at Walden Montessori in Potomac, actually recognized the actor and performer in him even before he realized it; C.J. spent much of the school day seeking opportunities to show his ideas to the class. Mrs. Strickland suggested to him and his mother, Anne Harrison, that he might benefit from pursuing this obvious passion, subsequently he got his first role as a mouse in Cinderella at the Musical Theater Center (MTC) in Rockville. At a later theater audition with the McLean Theater Alliance, C.J. learned that one of the other child actors was in television commercials, and he asked his mother, "Why can't I be in a commercial?" Diane Hamilton, a talented choreographer at MTC, recommended that he audition for Linda Townsend, a talent manager, and she agreed to represent him.

Since then, this home-schooled seventh grader has begun to build an impressive acting resume in theater, television, and independent films. You may have caught him in episodes of Fox's "America's Most Wanted," NBC's "The West Wing," various commercials for medical products and college funds, and on PBS.

While being in front of the camera is fun, for C. J., nothing beats live theater. "It's really fun to be in front of the audience; I love to hear the audience reactions."

In October, C.J. gained three roles in a feature play at the Arena Stage (www.arenastage.org), *Christmas Carol 1941*. Written by James Magruder (directed by Molly Smith), it is adapted from Dickens's work. Magruder tells the story of the Schroen family as Washington, D.C. prepares to celebrate Christmas in the aftermath of Pearl Harbor. The Schroen (Cratchit) family keeps the holiday spirit alive in spite of shortages, a housing crunch, and a son who wants to enlist despite his mother's fears. Elijah Strube (Scrooge) pursues his greed from his G Street office with no concern for the holidays or battling tyranny. Only after coming face to face with his past (represented by a statue of freedom), present (statue of winged victory), and future (statue of grief) does he emerge ready to be committed to serving his community.

In *Christmas Carol 1941*, C.J. plays young Strube as he confronts his past. He is also a delivery boy and a young victim of Strube's greed.

In mid-October, the rehearsal period required between forty to fifty hours per week of preparation (including travel time, which C.J. used to work on his school lessons). Madeline Carr, a young adult actress/dancer, was his stand-in during rehearsals to give C.J. time to complete his schoolwork and to stay in compliance with child labor laws.

A big part of being an actor is understanding that roles can change as a play is developed during rehearsals. While initially disappointed when his character's dance was cut from the play to shorten a scene, C.J. was very happy to be added to a different scene as an eerie reminder of Strube's childhood innocence. He told the *Monocle*, "Now that I see how the show works

-Continued on Page 16.



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Local News

Commissioners to Send Protest Letter to County

Poolesville town commission president Eddie Kuhlman voiced concern over the purchase of property off of Elmer School Road by Montgomery County from W.S.S.C. without any participation of town or county residents living in the area. The 2.1 million dollar expenditure is speculated to be for an extension of the county's police pistol range which is on a neighboring property.

The commissioners agreed to write a letter of protest from the town to the county council voicing their displeasure with the purchase and lack of public input regarding potential county use for the land. The speculated use of the property includes expanded training facilities for fire rescue, a vehicle-driving course for public safety officials, and a canine training facility. Such use would greatly increase traffic, especially large vehicle traffic, through the town. Kuhlman protested the county's "commercial development" of the Ag Reserve property with little or no public dialogue, especially the lack of information and consideration to keep the town of Poolesville advised of such purchases and plans. Dennis Minor, president of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department, was in attendance and also expressed the opinion that down county fire and rescue personnel will not be pleased which such a plan and expects that a formal protest will follow in the future. The current public safety training facility is at Darnestown Road and Great Seneca Highway.

Options on Possible Streetscape Designs Considered

Since 2001, the town's streetscape committee has been developing recommendations for changing landscape design to the town's main street section (from Wootton Avenue to Norris Road). The committee has not made any recommendations regarding the section of town from the intersection of Route 107 (Fisher Avenue) and Route 109 toward White's Ferry.

Their focus has been on ideas to beautify the area, to calm traffic, and to create a more consumer-friendly environment to improve business. The committee presented a power-point presentation on their recommendations to the commission on November 19; it is now on the town website at www.ci.poolesville.md.us/streetscape.

Some of their suggestions include:

historically-designed streetlights, additional sidewalks, bike lanes on both sides of the road, and road bump-outs, a traffic calming concept that places planter-like structures slightly onto the street, narrowing the road and resulting in slower traffic. The most controversial recommendation is for a traffic circle at Wootton and Fisher Avenues which they propose as an attractive gateway to the town and to slow traffic so as to reduce accidents.

Town Engineer, John Strong, presented implementation plans to the commissioners to provide guidance as to the stages of development of the plan, some of its costs, and also providing estimates as to the length of public disruptions of daily life while the transition takes place.

As the commissioners reviewed the engineering phases, Kuhlman emphatically pointed out that they are still in a conceptual stage and that no funds, other than those to develop ideas, have been spent or allocated. He also voiced concern that some of the traffic calming ideas may not work well for agricultural traffic of large farming equipment. This concern was shared by UMCVFD president, Dennis Minor, since the fire department has a one-hundred foot ladder truck coming to the department that might have problems with the narrowing of the street. Kuhlman also raised concern over the waste in tearing down existing street curbing infrastructure (estimated to be \$135,000 of curbing) to narrow the road.

The town needs to finalize the streetscape plans so that they can give direction to developers whose impact fees will help pay for the changes and to formally request grants from the state. A public information hearing will be scheduled to present the plan and to hear and answer questions and concerns from the public.

Commissioner Brown Provides Options for New Town Sign

Commissioner Jim Brown, tasked with developing recommendations for a new town sign, presented the options to the town commission. The identification and informational sign would be at the corner of Fyfe Road and Fisher Avenue (across from Poolesville Beer, Wine, & Deli). Along with being an identification sign for the town, it would also serve to provide public information and announcements at the bottom portion of the sign. Costs for the sign range from \$13,900 to \$19,500 depending on which option is selected. The commissioners rejected the most costly

-Continued on Page 18.



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We are fortunate that their call for help is answered by the Western Upper Montgomery County Help, better known as WUMCO Help. In fact, in 2006, the number of those receiving needed assistance was around 650

people.

WUMCO has been helping neighbors in need for nearly forty years. Originally set up primarily as a food bank, the need was found to be much greater than that, and WUMCO expanded its mission to meet that need.

Now, however, WUMCO Help is in need of help. Ray Hoewing, a member of the board of directors, recently advised area churches of the projected deficit approaching \$20,000. In response, the ministers of the Poolesville churches determined to find a way to help. It was decided that through the annual Thanksgiving Ecumenical Worship service, the call to help WUMCO would go out.

Every year, on the Sunday evening before Thanksgiving, the Poolesville congregations of St. Peter's Episcopal, Memorial United Methodist, Poolesville Presbyterian, Poolesville Baptist, and Our Lady of the Presentation Catholic Churches invite the community to join together in an ecumenical worship service of thanks. This year, the churches made additional donations to WUMCO, and the collection from the worship service was also given to them. From this effort, almost \$8,500.00 was raised.

While this donation will make up a major portion of the projected

deficit, the shortfall for WUMCO is still quite heavy. There are a number of ways people can help WUMCO Help. Financial donations of any size would be most welcomed, and as they approach the Christmas holiday, toys for children are still a big need. The toys donated to WUMCO go to children right here in the Up-County area. Donated toys should be new and unwrapped. Also, a check to WUMCO Help, Inc. (P.O. Box 247, Poolesville, MD 20837) would be just in time to make someone's Christmas merry and bright.

"The Christmas Flower"
Continued From Page 7.

gone. Some years I will keep it going through the winter, and then I plant it in the garden in the spring, where it will grow until the first frost. But most years, I get tired of it about February and out it goes. The days before Christmas are its glory days, and that is the way I choose to remember the beautiful poinsettia. Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

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School News

News in the News

On November 19, 2007, Monocacy Elementary School students launched the inaugural issue of the *Monocacy Pawprint* (*Monocle* editors, eat your hearts out). Filled with school news, a feature on a class, jokes, fiction, sports, comics, and games, the *Pawprint* hit the ground running.

The idea for a school newspaper as an after school activity came from parent, Marcie Gross. When she proposed it to the staff, speech pathologist, Mrs. Kristy Martin, expressed interest in helping as she does a little writing for magazines herself.

The group began in early October with fourteen fourth and fifth graders who immediately began the task of putting together a newspaper. They plan to publish two more issues, one in winter and one in spring, and they've already divided their tasks for the next issue. The budding reporters who meet Wednesdays after school are: Benton Anthony, Sirisha Ashley, Dru Corbeille, Ricky Day, Megan Fedders, Barron Ford, Leanne King, Michael Kuhn, Nicholas Kuhn, Meghan Lockett, Lilly Nichols, Jessica Ricketts, John Aidan Shea, and Corinne Wallace.

This issue's featured class was Mrs. Eye's fifth grade, and next issue, the fourth grade classes will be under the spotlight. The suspenseful fictional story, "The Lost Village," begun in Issue 1, will continue in Issue 2. In the sports section, good sportsmanship was covered as was baseball in the fall issue, and the tragic death of Redskin Sean Taylor will be covered in the winter issue. The students of MES can look forward to more games, comics, and kid stuff, as well.

To see the hard work and creativity of these students, visit the

Monocacy Elementary School website at www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/monocacyes to view a copy of the *Monocacy Pawprint* in color.

Clarksburg Sophomore Wins Washington Wizards' Essay Contest

Kelsey Nelson, a tenth grade student at Clarksburg High School, was one of the two December winners of the Caron's 3Ds to Succeed Essay Contest sponsored by the Washington Wizards. Kelsey was recognized and presented with a plaque at the December 9 Wizards home game during halftime.

Caron Butler had some struggles as he was growing up, but his 3Ds (Dedication, Determination, Discipline) helped him through the hard times and made him into a strong and successful all-star, both on and off the court. In order to motivate youth in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area to use these 3Ds to Succeed, Caron and the Wizards recognize and reward local youth who have used one of these 3Ds to overcome adversity, build character, or power achievement to succeed in their own lives.

Kelsey wrote of her determination to become a sports writer for the Clarksburg High School newspaper. An athlete herself, she loves professional sports, especially the Baltimore Ravens and the Washington Wizards. She took the winter season off from basketball to focus on her grades, and she approached the editor of the school paper about helping with the sports section. Although, she didn't have any experience, her determination showed through, and she was named co-editor of the sports section. In her spare time, Kelsey tutors kids at the Boys and Girls Club, and she helps with the dance team. "When you see them smile," she says, "it just lets you know that your job was well done."

Police Blotter

By Jack Toomey

Present

Residential Burglary 22000 block of Old Hundred Road, November 15 between 6:30 a.m. and 2:19 p.m. Forced entry, property taken.

Robbery November 16 at 5:10 p.m., at the Farmingdale Skate Park, 18211 Chalet Drive, Germantown. Victim assaulted, property taken. The suspect was described as a male, 15 to 18, 5 feet 5 inches tall to 5 feet 8 inches tall.

November 24 Burglary arrest at the Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard, 18125 Comus Road. Two sixteen-year-olds were arrested by police after being found with property taken from the establishment in their auto.

The Holiday Impaired Driving Task Force has been in effect since November and will continue until January 5, 2008. Officers will be watchful for aggressive and impaired adult and teen drivers. There will also be officers on patrol who are certified as Drug Recognition experts to aid in apprehending drug-impaired drivers.

Past

December 22, 1944 Six hundred gallons of milk were spilled when the body of a truck slid off of the chassis when the driver rounded a curve near Frederick. The driver told the police that he skidded on the ice and the wheels hit the curb with sufficient force to remove the milk tank from the body of the truck.

December 24, 1951 A forty-three-year-old Beallsville woman, mother of ten children, was critically burned when a

coal oil stove exploded in the family's one-story frame house. The children managed to escape the burning house which was completely destroyed. Firemen said that they had trouble getting water to the fire because nearby streams were frozen. Montgomery police put out an appeal for clothing and said that they would pick up any donations from the public.

December 24, 1935 The police switchboards at Rockville and Frederick were flooded with calls from residents of the rural areas who reported seeing an illuminated low-flying craft. Officers who were sent out to investigate were not able to find any trace of the object and at first believed that it was a new type of airplane until they discovered footprints in the snow on the roofs of farmhouses in the area.

December 25, 1981 Five members of a Clarksburg family were killed in a head-on collision on a rural road near Mount Airy. The family had been returning from Christmas Eve services when an intoxicated driver crossed the center line and plowed into the family car. Maryland State police said that the other driver claimed that he had fallen asleep.

December 28, 1947 Two duck hunters from Washington were stranded on a small island in the Potomac River near Seneca after their boat drifted away. The men resorted to firing their shotguns into the air which attracted the attention of another hunter who rescued them.

December 29, 1933 A fire truck from the Washington Grove Volunteer Fire Department overturned while racing to the scene of a devastating fire at Dickerson. One fireman was injured and six other shaken when the wheels of the truck encountered soft mud

beside the road. The fire in the general store of S. Creighton Jones caused \$24,000 in damage. There was no water to fight the fire, so the railroad sent an engine tender from Brunswick to supply water.



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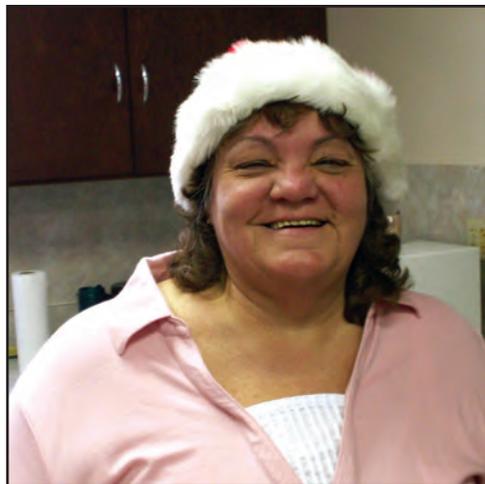
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Name That Santa

Answers on Page 23.



Youth Sports

Coyotes Stake Area Gridiron Claim

By Jeff Stuart

The 2007 season ended abruptly for the Clarksburg High School football team. The end came with a convincing 35-0 playoff loss at the hands of unbeaten Eastern Tech in the Maryland 2A state semifinal at Baltimore Community College-Essex on Friday, November 30. Just a week before, the Coyotes had a convincing win of their own, trouncing Middletown, 33-7, in the region final at Clarksburg. Two weeks before, they had begun the playoffs with a 14-10 home win over Rockville.

Despite falling to Eastern Tech, Clarksburg (12-1) has staked a claim in football-rich northwest Montgomery County, defeating three 4A schools and four 3A opponents, and has given the school's first graduating class a going-away present. The Coyotes were ranked twentieth in the November 13 Maryland State AP

Rankings. Quince Orchard (4A-W) was in the top spot. Sherwood (4A-E) was seventh, and 3A Damascus, ninth. The Coyotes were seventeenth in the last *Washington Post* top twenty poll.

Who rose to the challenge for the Coyotes, a team with only ten seniors on its forty-man roster?

"Mark Small carried the ball 200 times for 1284 yards and ten touchdowns. He really did a nice job for us," said Head Coach Larry Hurd. "Cody Martin did a nice job at quarterback completing 40 of 69 passes for ten touchdowns, 557 yards and just one interception. Defensively, Robert Osborne, Avery Graham, and Brandon Martin led our team. Rob has already verbally committed to a full scholarship at Towson University. Brandon had three interceptions. Avery was the biggest newcomer making an impact both offensively and defensively. He is a tremendous athlete and made big plays on both sides of the ball. He led our team in tackles."

While every game in an undefeated regular season is terribly exciting, the pressure to keep the winning streak only builds, there are some games that really stand out. On Friday, September 27, at Wootton, Clarksburg won again, 13-7. The Coyotes thwarted a Wootton desperation pass at the goal line as time expired. Rob

Osborne, at 280 pounds, was the biggest offensive weapon against the Patriots, carrying the ball 22 times for 112 yards. Clarksburg had used Rob at running back, but he had carried the ball just eight times in the previous three games. In a grind 'em out affair, neither team earned a first down in the first quarter. With the Patriots having to gear up to stop Osborne, the shorter and quicker Small rushed twenty-nine times for 166 yards and a second quarter touchdown that gave the Coyotes a 7-0 halftime lead. Late in the fourth quarter, Osborne, having worn down the Wootton defense, scored on a fifteen-yard run, outracing the Patriot linebackers to the end zone with just three and a half minutes left. The Coyotes missed the extra point. Wootton quickly drove sixty yards in six plays, scoring with 2 minutes 7 seconds left to make it 13-7. Mirroring Clarksburg's Osborne, Wootton senior linebacker Brendan Ray also performed well on offense, capping that drive with a six-yard scoring run. After an unsuccessful onside kick, the Wootton defense held, and the Patriots got the ball back for one final attempt.



The Clarksburg HS Coyote football team, undefeated during the regular season, made an effort toward the state championships.

For their efforts against Wootton, Osborne and six-foot, 245-pound offensive guard Tim Mieklejohn were named "Stars of the Week" by the *DC Examiner*. Running behind Mieklejohn, Clarksburg's ball control, the ball offense produced sixteen first downs. On defense, Tim had four tackles including a sack.

In another exciting game on October 5 at Poolesville, Clarksburg broke out to an early 12-0 lead, but they led only 27-20 after three quarters. Thirteen unanswered points in the fourth put the game away. For his per-

-Continued on Page 20.



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**"Musical Odyssey" Continued
from Page 1.**

political science. He then set off on his journey, one which had already begun years before, to become the next great jazz musician.

From Charlotte, North Carolina and gigs all over the southeast United States, Mr. Fogleman then traveled to Cincinnati, Los Angeles, New York City, and back to his hometown—never staying more than two or three years in a city, always making the move with friends who were headed toward the next city. Some of his friends did very well, but, in retrospect, he felt himself always on the periphery. He met and played with many great musicians, and saw many exciting things happen to other musicians. As a matter of fact, one of his bands in Los Angeles, Brian and Thang (the name of the band), was featured on the soundtrack to *48 HRS.* with Eddie Murphy. Unfortunately, that was after the band decided to drop the horn section and after they changed their name to the Busboys. However, while the band was still complete with horns, Mr. Fogleman remembers many instances when big-name musicians and producers would drop by their rehearsal to check them out, including Stevie Wonder who sat in on a rehearsal with them. In New York City, he again played with many jazz greats, and he also studied under George Coleman, Miles Davis's sax player. When he made his way back to North Carolina, it was to help his brother as a mechanic, still playing music on the side, even going to Europe for a bit.

When he finally decided to pursue a degree in music education, he applied and was accepted at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. True to the form of events occurring around him, a year after he began his studies, the teachers went on strike. Mr. Fogleman ended up finishing his degree at the University of Massachusetts in Boston. While he had pursued the degree as a backup plan, just in case the musician thing didn't work out, Fate came along in the form of a woman (Muses, Fate, Destiny—they're always "o' the feminine gender"—O'Keefe—we can't help it). The day after they married in Boston, they drove to Maryland so she could start law school (plus she was originally from Maryland).

This is the time when Mr. Fogleman became a teacher and a conductor—well, yes and no. He'd actually

been teaching privately for years, since he was twenty, and he was a conductor long before that. He recounts tales of childhood when he and friends would put on little concerts. He made percussion instruments out of household items, learned the melody of tunes like "Petticoat Junction" on his clarinet, conducted all the instruments so they learned their parts, and put on performances. All this helped his transition to band teacher, but it wasn't always easy. After student teaching at Sherwood High School, his first teaching job was at Oxon Hill Middle School in Prince George's County. "It was tough," he says of the experience. "I wasn't ready for it." Not only is the middle school age difficult, but he'd never been in a situation where the kids did not want to play. It was enough to keep him out of the classroom for a while, and he opened a private studio. He finally did come back to the classroom and taught at various elementary schools, Kingsview Middle School, Francis Scott Key Middle School, and finally, JPMS and MES. At JPMS, he had some big footsteps to follow, those of Mrs. French. "She was really good," he says. "It's tough following a successful band director. I had to establish myself with the kids," he adds, "but they responded real well." He's pleased to note that the program has really grown. The advanced band has thirty-eight students and the sixth grade band has thirty-three students.

Since his return to the classroom, he has conducted the sixth grade honors strings and the junior honors jazz band. He is also in his seventh year of conducting one of the few home school orchestras in the state. From its small beginnings, it has grown into an orchestra of sixty students at three levels, beginner, intermediate, and advanced. Now, he finds himself at the helm of another nascent orchestra, the Poolesville Youth Symphony Orchestra. "The orchestra is definitely an outgrowth of a desire that Sandy Cameron and her family had for the musical growth of the students of the community," he says. When he was asked to start the orchestra, he says he gave it serious consideration before accepting. "I'm not an established conductor by any means," he adds. He felt there were people more qualified as far as repertoire, but he does have the honors program bands and the home school orchestra under his belt, and he feels Poolesville is a good fit. These are definitely kids who want to be there, and they accomplish much

musically at PYSO in weekly rehearsals.

Mr. Fogleman is truly pleased to see the students picking up where he left off, in a sense, "I like to see these guys step in where I was." When he saw former students at the Poolesville High School winter concert, he says, "I know they were having a blast." He adds, "My soul is not as a conductor, my soul is as a player. My thrill is not in conducting, but seeing the kids playing. I would give up conducting anytime to sit in the section." One thing Mr. Fogleman does as a conductor and a band teacher is share his love of music, whether he's conducting or sitting in with the kids to play with them.

"It's been a bit of an odyssey for me," he says. "I've played with some really great musicians in a lot of places. That's a memory I'll always have," but he quickly adds, "I'm still building memories with the students." Conducting the junior honors jazz band, he says, "was a great highlight for me," as well as seeing his own children turn into decent musicians, his daughter on cello and his son on clarinet.

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"No Job Is Too Large or Too Small"

**"Reach for the Stars" Continued
From Page 8.**

with those changes, I am glad they were made because the moods in the scenes are stronger."

Arena Stage is a non-profit theater company dedicated to putting the American spirit in the spotlight. The *Monocle* wanted to know how working there was different as compared to C.J.'s other theater experiences. "It's theater-in-the-round, and the cast is a lot smaller than the shows that I have done so far. Also, I had a lot less time to rehearse (one month) than most of the shows that I have been in. Backstage is a lot bigger than usual. It's cool because backstage is shaped like a racetrack and is below the audience. It's fun to use a password to go through the backstage door. This is the first time that I've had my name on a dressing room door, too, and my dressing room even has a sink in it!"

With rehearsals now complete, the show is being performed for six weeks (running through December 30) and has about eight performances per week. C.J. will also accompany some cast members to local schools to discuss the show with students.

How does C.J. like acting when the audience is all around the stage?

"You need to be able to act with your back (using extra motions so that the audience behind you has something interesting to look at), and stand shoulder-to-shoulder [offset on a different plane, not directly in front of each other] so that you don't block the other actors from the audience in front of, in back of, and next to you. You also need to project more so that the audience behind you can hear you. Molly Smith, the artistic director, has challenged me to project my lines so loudly that she will have to tell me to speak more quietly. It's a difficult challenge because it wouldn't sound right if my characters are shouting, but I think I can pull it off, and I'm going to be really happy if I can do it. I'll know I got it right if I earn a 'be quieter' note."

C.J. is also cognizant of all the people involved in putting on a production. "There are lots of people working backstage to run the show, and the cast and crew members are really nice. Sue (White, stage manager) is great at keeping everything on track and is always cheerful. Daniel (Eichner, actor) helped me learn the swing dance, and James (Gale, actor) helped me project more. Chris (Bloch) is really good at acting without dialogue and I learned a lot by watching

him. Vijay (Mathew, directing fellow) helped me develop my character."

Through this experience, C.J. has also learned important lessons in history. One segment in the play presents the Bonus March of 1932 when World War I veterans marched on Washington to protest the lack of support and benefits from the government. The cast members attended a special museum exhibit of that march and the curator answered their questions. During a post-show discussion group, one audience member said that he was a kid in D.C. when the Bonus March happened, and the marchers camped near his backyard in Anacostia. "He told us that he would hang out with the bonus marchers, and they would talk him into boxing with another kid. Sometimes he would get knocked out. He would get a candy bar for boxing there. It was cool to hear him telling us about that. I can't imagine being a kid then."

Through it all, the hard work of rehearsals, the travel time in the car, the daily schedule that begins at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 1:00 a.m., C.J. remains happy and excited. Once when he had a day off, his mom suggested to him that wasn't it nice to have time to relax, and he responded, "No, I'd rather be in a show right now." His acting comes with a philosophy that was shown as he and his mom drove up to the theater for a recent performance. He saw audience members off in the distance arriving for the



As Scrooge (Elijah Strube) confronts his past in the background, Poolesville's C. J. Harrison plays the part of the young Scrooge in Arena Stage's presentation of Christmas Carol 1941.

show, and he cheerfully said under his breath, "Have fun, guys!" For this serious young man with a taste for the theater, having fun is what it is all about.




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Tidbits

Local Gymnastics Team Wins Top Prizes

Rhythmflex Rhythmic Gymnastics made a clean sweep of the nation's top prizes at USA Gymnastics' Junior Olympic National Group Championships, held December 8 in Wytheville, Virginia. For those unfamiliar with this sport, rhythmic gymnastics combines the flexibility and grace of ballet, with the dexterity of handling various apparatus such as a ball, clubs, rope, hoop and, most notably, ribbon. The competition featured beginner through elite levels of rhythmic gymnastics groups. The Rhythmflex delegation consisted of three groups. The intermediate group, comprised of Sofia Ameti, Jenna Feeley, Lilia Gestson, Alona Guseva, Carly Johnson, and Catherine Panasenkov, took first place in all events and claimed the all-around title. Two other groups, consisting of Vera Bzhilyanskaya, Camilla Feeley, Anastasiya Golikova, Masha Khmelniker, Janet Shi, Mia Shparaga,

Natasha Stepanova, and Anna Yaschenko, took home the gold and silver medal in the beginner's division.

State Transportation Survey

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) is revising the state transportation plan and is seeking input from Maryland residents. They want to know what your thoughts are regarding the future of the transportation system. The website has a brief survey which asks how you get around, what you would like to see improved, and your satisfaction with Maryland's transportation system. It then asks you to evaluate the amount of money spent on various forms of transportation.

The website is: www.e-mdot.com/Planning/Maryland%20Transportation%20Plan

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I have twenty years experience and a degree in multimedia, UM 1980.

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

an Park in Beallsville, and not one of the preservation groups complains or seems to care. This facility in and of itself will alter the quiet enjoyment of the RDT. It will encourage further fragmentation of the RDT and will be operated on septic systems designed for residential houses. It is estimated by the staff to the county council that approximately two hundred child lots remain with the potential that one hundred will ever be realized in a 93,000-acre zone. This amounts to 325 new residents (3.25 residents per household) on one house per 930 acres (93,000 divided by 100). I do agree that sand mounds may create more development, but does that mean that the lots that are created will not be used for some form of agricultural use?

What is left out of the discussion is that newer lots may very well create greater agricultural diversity. Are we to create an elitist zone solely for the wealthy to use for their recreation, such as the Woodstock Equestrian Park, by denying child lots and sand mound lots where farmettes can be created for diversified agricultural uses? Are we now entering a society

where the non-farming aristocracy tells the landowning/farming peasants what to do with their land? Are the landowners/farmers the new enemy of the RDT because they may want to tap their real property equity?

John, I have been in the RDT since the beginning, and not much has really changed

except for numerous government-owned unwanted land uses. Until recently, we lived in a very cohesive, united area, but, with the appearance of newer residents with a save-the-world attitude, our community has become divided. The campaign to save the RDT has divided our area. The tactic has been to down zone and deny the landowners and farmers their property rights. Instead of working with the landowners and farmers to craft and fund conservation easement programs, they took the condescending path by punishing people for owning real estate. The only winners are residents of the down-county who will declare, when push comes to shove for another unwanted land use: "Stick it out there!" Then you will realize that our preserve is only to be preserved until our down-county neighbors need it for something they don't want in their neighborhood.

**"Town Meeting" Continued
From Page 9.**

to provide public information and announcements at the bottom portion of the sign. Costs for the sign range from \$13,900 to \$19,500 depending on which option is selected. The commissioners rejected the most costly design, which included electronic LED signage, as being out-of-character with the town. The second option and least expensive remains for consideration but does not have enthusiastic support since it has what Brown calls the "Ocean City look" utilizing replaceable letters that slide onto the announcement part of the sign.

The option that the commissioners requested Brown to get more information on provides a printer option that allows the town to produce its own large posters and banners to be slid onto the announcement part of the sign. The cost of this option, \$17,100, includes the cost of a printer capable of full color, large poster printing

Groups Seek Support and Funds from Town

Two groups sought funds and support from the town at last Monday night's meeting. Cheryl Dietz and Susan Vissari, spokespersons for Relay

for Life, requested sponsorship support from the town for their fundraising program for the American Cancer Society. Steve Goldberg, representing Montgomery Heritage, requested \$2,500 from the town to help produce a county "walking tour" Ipod that would include sections of Poolesville. The commissioners, while expressing that both groups were representative of good causes, suggested such requests should first go to the Community Economic Development Committee for review and recommendation. Commissioner Kulhman raised the idea that the town should develop a formal process for grant request and that such recommendations could be part of the upcoming budget process.

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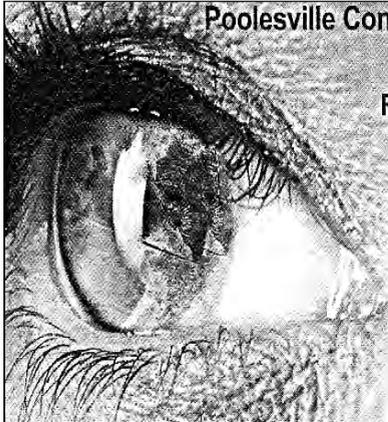
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**"Coyotes" Continued From
Page 14.**

formance, Coyote running back Mark Small was listed among *DC Examiner* "Stars of the Week." He led Clarksburg with 231 yards on 30 carries.

In just their second season, the fledgling 1A/2A Coyotes capped off a perfect 10-0 regular season with a 24-18 win over visiting Watkins Mill on a cold and rainy November 7 evening, but anxious home fans had to wait four alternate overtime possessions to celebrate. After taking a 6-0 first quarter lead on a fifteen-yard run by Avery Graham, the Coyotes missed the extra point kick and did not score again. Watkins Mill scored in the fourth quarter on a one-yard run by Alex Goodrich to tie, but they passed in their attempt for the extra point and failed. Watkins Mill made a determined effort to play the role of spoiler. After the Wolverines failed to score in the fourth overtime, the Coyotes eventually prevailed on a six-yard run by Graham.

Neither team scored in the first overtime. Neither team converted an extra point attempt in the final three. Ultimately, neither the rain nor the Wolverines could dampen the Coyote's parade. Clarksburg entered the playoffs with home field advantage as the number one seed in the 2A West region playoffs.

Other players who stepped up and helped the success of the team were Cody Martin, Matt Civetti and Kyle Shafer who were essential in the win against Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (Kyle recording double digit tackles for the second time this season).

The difficulty for Coach Hurd in the post season was trying to keep his team from getting too caught up in the excitement of being undefeated and to remain focused on the playoff games. "The season went very well for us. We were challenged over the last few weeks [of the regular season] and we

responded." The team's preseason goal was to make a run in the 2A playoffs. Though the Coyotes did not bring home a championship, that goal was met. During Hurd's successful coaching tenure at Poolesville (31-4 record, three playoff appearances from 2003 to 2005), his teams played solid, basic football. They were not penalized much and committed few turnovers. That hallmark discipline has carried over to Clarksburg.

There may be other undefeated seasons and perhaps a state title in Clarksburg's future, but this season is in the books—and it was a great run.



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Romans 12: 5

**2007 Christmas
Schedule**

December 24: Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Children's Christmas Mass with
Gospel Pageant
6:30 pm Vigil Mass of Christmas
12:00 am Midnight Mass

December 25: Christmas Day

10:00 am Solemn Mass of Christmas with Brass

December 31: New Year's Eve

5:30 pm Vigil Mass

January 1: New Year's Day

10:00 am Mass of New Year's



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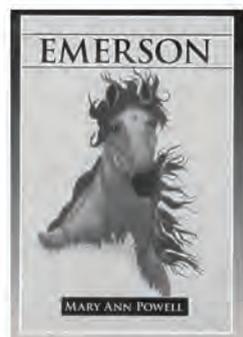
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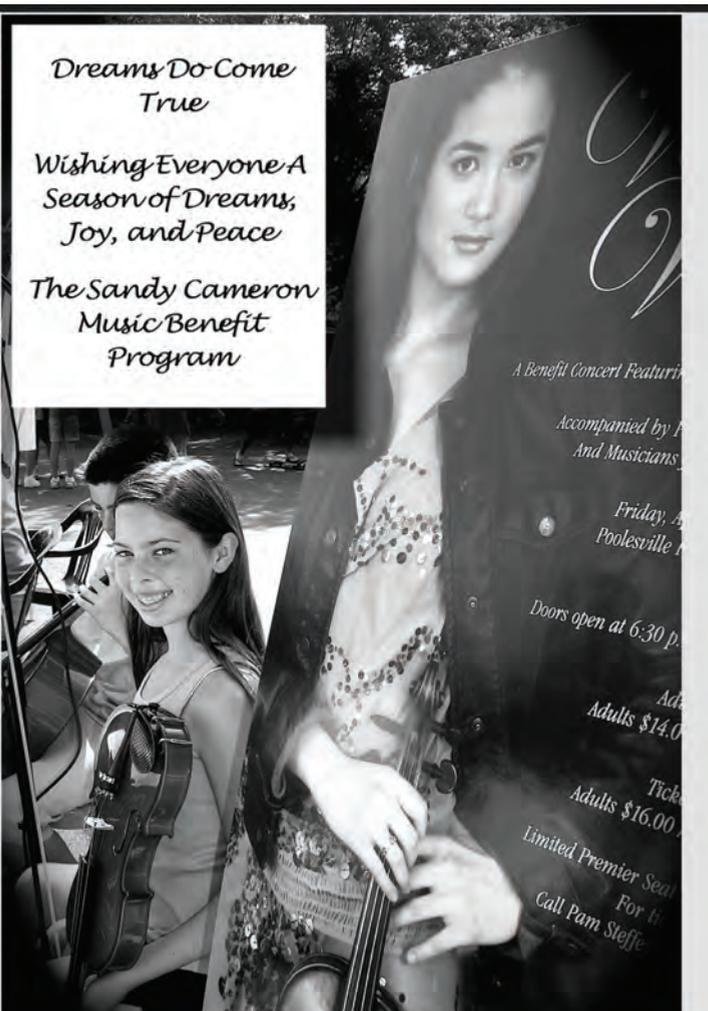
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BAPTIST

Poolesville Baptist Church
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301-972-8151

...

December 16

6:00 pm Adult and Children's
Musical

December 23

10:30 am Worship Service

December 24: Christmas Eve

7:00 pm Candle Light Service

www.poolesvillebaptist.com

EPISCOPAL

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
20100 Fisher Avenue
Poolesville, MD 20837
301-349-2073
E-mail: stpeters387@verizon.net

...

December 2, 9, 16, 23: Sundays of Advent Season

8:15 am Holy Eucharist

10:30 am Holy Eucharist

December 16

6:00 pm CRE:8 youth-driven
worship

December 24: Christmas Eve

2:00 pm Pageant for all ages

10:30 pm Holy Eucharist

December 25: Christmas Day

10:30 am Holy Eucharist

December 30: First Sunday after Christmas Day

8:15 am Holy Eucharist

10:30 am Holy Eucharist

January 6: The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

8:15 am Holy Eucharist

10:30 am Holy Eucharist

www.stpeterspoolesville.org

METHODIST

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Every Sunday

9:45 am Sunday School (all ages)

11:00 am Worship

December 24: Christmas Eve

5:00 pm Worship with
communion

7:45 pm Christmas Music in the
sanctuary

8:00 pm Worship with
communion

www.pmumc.org

PRESBYTERIAN

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301-972-7452

*For more information, please see our
ad in this issue.*

...

Every Sunday in Advent

9:45 am Sunday School (all ages)

11:00 am Worship

Making Room at the Inn

December 9

5:00 pm Potluck Dinner

December 16

11:00 am Children's Pageant
*The Mystery of Simon
Shepherd*

December 24: Christmas Eve

7:00 pm Traditional Candle Light
Service

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...

December 24: Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Children's Christmas
Mass with Gospel
Pageant

6:30 pm Vigil Mass of Christmas

12:00 am Midnight Mass

December 25: Christmas Day

10:00 am Solemn Mass of
Christmas with Brass

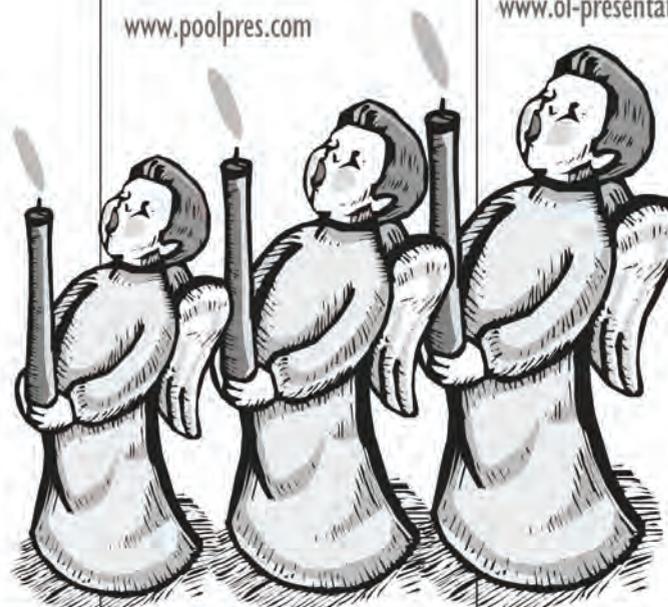
December 31: New Year's Eve

5:30 pm Vigil Mass

January 1: New Year's Day

10:00 am Mass of New Year's

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...so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another.

Romans 12: 5

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Terrie Daniels Healthworks Poolesville	George Hilliard Retired Poolesville	Joanie Jeon Owner - Poolesville Beer & Wine	Gordan Taylor Upcounty Fine Wine & Beer Clarksburg
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