



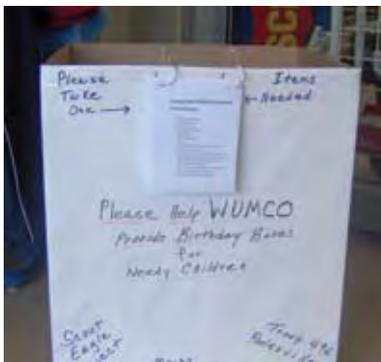
This is the Clarksburg High School boys' lacrosse team. Read about them and the girls' team on Page 9.



Students (and an educator) from Gaithersburg Middle School presented their winning environmental projects at the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association annual meeting. Read about the meeting on Page 8.



The Poolesville Military Support Group will welcome wounded warriors back to White's Ferry next month, and you can help. See Local News on Page 3.



Learn about making a birthday happier. See Tidbits on Page 4.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

April 30, 2010

Volume VII, Number 4.

Kettler Forlines Opens for Sale

By Rande Davis

It's been nearly twenty years in the making, but finally, the Kettler Forlines Homes development, Brightwell Crossing, in Poolesville, will have its grand opening on May 1. The 177-home subdivision has already sold one home to a Poolesville resident.

In Brightwell Crossing, named for the Brightwell Hunt land grant of 1693, Kettler Forlines relies strongly on historical and community themes for the names used for each home model, street, and park (Stearns Court, Bliss Drive, Briarley Hall Drive). The model home even includes many art and photographs of Poolesville.

The community will also have a six-acre recreational park named after former Poolesville mayor, the late Charles W. Elgin, Sr. The park, which is donated to the town, features a lacrosse/soccer field, picnic pavilion, two multi-age playgrounds, multi-purpose basketball court, and walking and biking trails that connect to fifty acres of existing stream and valley woodland. Tom Kettler bought an existing covered bridge that will grace the trails and which serves as the iconic logo symbolizing the historical and country setting of the community.

Kettler proudly promotes Poolesville as a great community having small-town charm, country setting, and historical significance. Tom Kettler's enthusiasm for the community

goes far beyond a marketing slogan as demonstrated by his



Chris Picus, sales manager of Kettler Forlines with associate Rosie Cabrera in the study/game room of the Montgomery model home. The room features a mural of the center of Poolesville.

personal selection of Woods of Tama as his home even though Kettler Forlines has other developments from which he might have chosen.

In a town proud of its volunteer tradition, Mr. Kettler has immersed himself in a large variety of local service groups as past president of the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce, working with

-Continued on Page 10.

On the Way to Broadway?

By Rande Davis

In a dazzling off, off, off, off Broadway performance of the children's favorite, A.A. Milne's *Winnie the Pooh*, the audience at Poolesville's United Memorial Methodist Church was awed by the astounding talents exhibited by virtually every member of the cast.

The special dinner theater performance on April 18 was to help raise money for a new organ at the church, so it was not surprising that the bell and chancel choir all jumped in to

either perform or help prepare and serve a chicken parmesan dinner with a special dessert—a yellow-and-brown-frosted beehive Winnie the Pooh cake.

A star among stars, special plaudits need to go to Rick Arnold, as Winnie the Pooh. His performance was an artistic coup unequalled since Bert Lahr played the cowardly lion in the *Wizard of Oz*. Then again, Peggy Arnold's (Kanga) rendition of the song, "Rock-a-bye, Rock-a-bye, Roo," would have made Judy Garland proud. With a cast of twelve plus one narrator (Dennis Minor), we are hard-pressed to give praise of one over another, but we must

give special mention to Roger Powers in his portrayal of the squeaky, rather wimpy piglet and to the Reverend Ken Fell, as the obnoxious, know-it-all owl. His wing-flapping, tippy-toe dance across the stage is a sight we won't soon forget. Kudos, as well, to the other players: Chris Giarratano (I will long remem-



Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church cast members after their production of Winnie the Pooh.

-Continued on Page 10.

Family Album



The Family Album is sponsored by Selby's Market Your IGA Hometown Food Store



Alden Farms Garden Merchants hosted a benefit for Personal Ponies. Pictured are Dave Therriault, Amanda Chasin, a Personal Pony, Sally Miller, Sydney Therriault, Julia Fidler, and Denise Chasin. In front on four paws is Kiara Wright.



Scout Kevin Koeser (center rear in orange) is assisted in his Eagle Scout project to build a gazebo for the Poolesville Presbyterian Church.



PHS history teacher Ed Morrell brought his students to the center of town to discuss the importance of commerce and its role in community.



Peggy (Kanga) Arnold greets Laurel and Grace Petitt, fans of the Winnie the Pooh play at Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church.

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Focus on Business

Bringing People and Nature Together

By Rande Davis



Keith Hamilton, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited, with customer Andrea Foster.

We're not totally sure, but we think that Keith Hamilton, the owner of Wild Birds Unlimited (WBU) in Germantown, might attribute his passion and interest in birds because of his own migratory ways. After all, ask him where he is from, and Schenectady, Roanoke, Phoenix, and Rockville pop out quickly. Even though he has "been around," he likes to emphasize his local roots as a 1972 graduate of Richard Montgomery High School. After graduation, he went on to West Virginia Wesleyan where he earned a degree in Psychology in 1976.

With a dad who moved often while with General Electric, Keith has made, by our count, seven states his home at one time or another—not to mention six years in the navy and two more as an active reservist. After serving the country, he decided to study engineering technology, specializing in computers, so he found himself in Florida studying at the University of Central Florida where he also found Beth, his wife to be. She graduated with an English degree, specializing in technical writing. Their careers in the technology world resulted in various moves, but it was when they were living in Tampa, Florida that the couple began to share an interest in nature and animals. They took hikes in the woods, where they often used binoculars to get a better view of the birds they would see

along the trails or help critters in need. One time, as they prepared for a trip to British Columbia, they found themselves involved with a three-week old kitten that needed rescuing. That kitten, which they decided to name B.C., short for British Columbia, became part of the family. They also have a dog, Ginger, who is a rescue dog. It was also during this time that they discovered their local Wild Birds Unlimited.

When Beth accepted a technical writing position with Hughes Network Systems in Germantown, Keith was ready for a change. It was in April 2000 that he first opened his Wild Bird Unlimited franchise. "We were always impressed with their line of products, and, since we both shared a love of nature and bird-watching, it seemed like a perfect fit for us."

Along with the expected product line of bird seed, feeders, houses, baths, books, and chimes, the staff at WBU enjoys sharing its knowledge to better inform people. The company has developed many partnerships with national organizations that support its core mission of bringing people and nature together. Wild Birds Unlimited recently sponsored a northern American bird count that had over 63,000 people charting the birds in their backyard. You may be surprised to learn that the most-spotted bird in our area (and nationally, too) is the dark-eyed Junco—it's less surprising once it is understood that it is a type of sparrow. On those occasions when Keith is not able to identify a bird species or answer a question, he has ready access to John Schaust, staff naturalist from WBU. "He has never failed me on any request I have made of him."

Asked how he would depict bird-watching in general, Keith says that watchers seem to be more in tune with the world around them. "A bird as large as the red-tailed hawk can land on a telephone line, and the vast majority of people go by not even noticing it. Once you get involved in bird-watching, your skills in awareness for the world around you get much stronger."

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In the Garden

The Language of Color

By Maureen O'Connell

In my last article, I talked about the similarity between interior design and exterior design plans. In both of these, an understanding of color is vitally important. I often refer to painters when discussing gardens since there is a common thread that floats between the two. Claude Monet (1840-1926), a leader in the Impressionistic art movement, believed that he never could have become a painter if he had not first been a gardener. Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890), a Dutch contemporary, shared Monet's love for painting flowers and landscapes. He had a far-reaching influence on twentieth century art and is widely regarded as an important contributor to the foundations of modern art. Many people do not realize that his painting career lasted just ten years; he took his own life at the age of thirty-seven. In that brief period of time, he succeeded in capturing the spirit of the people, flowers, and landscape in both Provence and his native Netherlands. The Royal Academy of Arts in London recently held a sold-out exhibition from February 23 to April 18 entitled "The Real Van Gogh: The Artist and His Letters." This was the first time that so many of his paintings have been displayed in one exhibit alongside thirty-five of his letters, mostly to his brother Theo. The letters weave a story that shows Van Gogh's evolution as a painter and his struggle as a man with his unstable emotions. When I reflected back on this exhibit, one thought reoccurred to me: more than once, Van Gogh said to his brother, "I paint flowers to help me, as a painter, understand the language of color."

When we were in elementary school, we learned about the color wheel with its three

primary colors, red, yellow, and blue, from which all other colors are derived. The secondary colors, orange, green, and purple, are formed from mixing two of the primary colors. Then there are the tertiary colors made from one secondary and one primary, but within these basic colors, there are even more layers. This is what Van Gogh tried to show us: "I paint bouquets of flowers in random combinations to study the range of natural hues."

Kermit the frog often lamented that it's not easy being green. For a garden, on the other hand, it is very easy being green. The color green is its frame, its stage, its curtain, its backdrop. Try to imagine a garden without it; you can't—but you can add different colors to all the varied hues of green to create what Monet and Van Gogh saw in a garden.

The success of plant-color association depends on the basic structure and design of a garden. What we see depends not only on the hue or brightness of the color, but on the texture and form of the plants and the nature of the daylight at the time. Colors are never perceived in isolation. They are influenced by other things that are present in the picture: the greens and grays of building materials, the color of your house's siding and roof, paving materials, fencing, and pathways.

No flower has one absolute color; striping, patches, sheens, stamens, throats, and undertones all contribute to the flower's petal palette. Flower petals change color as they unfurl; some roses may turn three to four different shades from tight bud to full bloom to blossom fade. Some of Vincent Van Gogh's most famous works are his Sunflower series. He painted a total of twelve of these canvases, although the most commonly referred to are the seven he painted while in Arles from 1888 to 1889. The other five he painted while in Paris in 1887. While Van Gogh never mentioned why he liked sunflowers in particular, he referred to

them many times in his letters to his brother. Anyone who has been to Provence or even grown sunflowers in his backyard might understand. Of all the flowers, they are the epitome of a giant flower face with the intense yellow of the sun shining full force at you. Some say that Van Gogh saw in the sunflower the simple parable of the brevity of life. His paintings showed them at varying stages in their life cycle, from vibrant, shockingly-clear yellow to a tarnished, green-tinted, wilted, and withering yellow.

Color can produce many different logistical effects in a garden. Bold colors advance towards you, while cooler colors recede away from you. To make a long, narrow garden appear squarer, paint the end boundary wall a darker shade than the others. Use lighter colors such as pale blues, pastel pinks, or bright whites to lighten dark spaces. I prefer the paler shades of white, pink, lavender, silver, and gray which give a restful

atmosphere; whereas, strong, bright colors of red, orange, and yellow lend a more dramatic, hotter look. At Sissinghurst Castle Garden in Kent, England, there is an all-white garden designed by the writer Vita Sackville-West. It is among the most famous gardens in the world, and it consists of plantings of only white flowers, using roses, clematis, lilies, delphiniums, and foxgloves. The best time to see it is towards dusk, when the light is low, and this combination of white plantings and the green of the stage create in the eye of the viewer the luminosity of moonlight.

As Monet and Van Gogh tried to show us in their art, the garden is not static. It is in a constant state of evolution. Don't get locked into filling your garden with solid colors of one hue. Every day your garden can be a changing palette of colors. Learn the language of color.

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Local News

Group Forming To Boost Poolesville Day

The cliché goes that each year Poolesville Day seems a little bigger and better. Judging from the larger crowds each year and the feedback that the Poolesville Day Committee has received in recent years, festival-goers enthusiastically agree. Certainly the committee is hard at work to make this year's event on Saturday, September 25, the best ever.

Consequently, the cost of producing the town festival tends to increase each year too. "Based on feedback from last year, for example, we are increasing security in 2010 and that will put a dent in our budget," Brice Halbrook, head of the Poolesville Day committee says. While support from several businesses and civic groups—and some

generous monetary and in-kind contributions from the town government—has helped fund the expanded attractions in recent years, the committee is looking for ways to broaden the base of support and tap the enthusiasm and interest that many in the community feel for Poolesville Day.

Hence, the Poolesville Day Committee has launched Friends of the Festival, a sort of Boosters Club that will provide grassroots funding and be open to one and all. To put their money where their mouths are, virtually every person on the committee signed up for the \$50 FOF membership before "going public."

Friends of the Festival contributors will be recognized in several different ways, according to FOF coordinator, Ray Hoewing, including: receiving an attractive and quality polo shirt emblazoned with "Friend of the Festival"; having their names included on a prominently-displayed banner at the festival;

-Continued on page 10.

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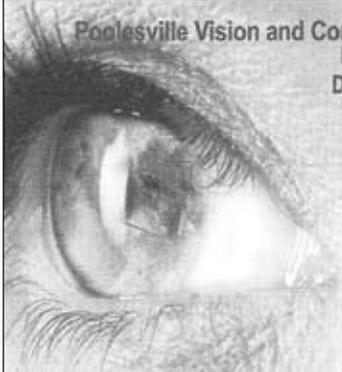
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Commentary

Tea for Me and Tea for You

By John Clayton

I've been giving a lot of thought to the tea party phenomenon, perhaps only as a news event, or for some entertainment value, but I'm paying attention. As I am somewhat of a center-left type, and not a fan of the current loyal opposition, any reader would be justified in suspecting that this is just a lead-in for a backhanded, passive-aggressive stab at all that the tea parties stand for, but that really isn't my intention, and it isn't even how I feel. I could rant about what I think is wrong with their behavior and some of their statements, but I don't think that would really accomplish anything. Besides, some of them may be making sense.

Perhaps I should just get the negative statements out of the way, so that no one has to look for veiled shots later. First, it is a decidedly right-wing group, with all that that entails. This is a matter of taste, of course. There is also no question that a certain lunatic fringe is attracted to the movement, but that shouldn't obscure the point that a healthy suspicion of excessive power on the part of the federal government, and a dislike of taxation, or at least of taxation that is perceived to be unfair (two very different issues), is in our national DNA. If we look past the middle-aged white guy in the New England Patriots mascot outfit yelling about socialism and his precious freedoms, we can at least acknowledge that there are legitimate reasons why many people are uneasy about the expanded role of the federal government in our lives and what the impact of federal budget deficits will be in the coming years. I'm worried, too, but a lot of that money will be spent on me and mine. What would I be willing to give up?

According to the Congressional Budget Office, twenty percent

of our budget is spent on defense and security, twenty percent on Social Security, twenty-one percent on healthcare programs, and fourteen percent on safety-net programs for the working poor, the elderly, the disabled, and others less fortunate. Six percent is for interest on debt, and the rest (about nineteen percent) is for everything else.

Our national nut is \$3.6 trillion. Tax revenues are \$2.2 trillion leaving \$1.4 trillion to be financed on our national Visa card. This approximately equals the sum of two of the following three items: defense and security, healthcare, or Social Security. Take your pick.

The tea party folks are right when they say this is a problem, but what I also hear many of them saying is: "We like our healthcare just how it is. Don't mess with my Medicare and don't mess with my Social Security." I don't think that will solve the problem. I also don't think we non-tea partiers are much different, we're just more likely to raise taxes to keep the system going, and we've forgotten how to party in public.

So Democrats tax and spend, and Republicans just spend. The government is spending this money on us, or more accurately, we are spending this money on us.

Would you vote for someone who will raise taxes or cut your entitlements, or do you just want the government to take something from someone else? What would you be willing to give up?

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- We work in cooperation with many other local civic and preservation organizations.
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Local News

2010 Annual Sugarloaf Citizens' Association Meeting

By Maureen O'Connell

On Saturday, April 17, the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association's (SCA) President Gary Valen welcomed everyone to its annual meeting at Linden Farm in Dickerson. Despite threats to the Agricultural Reserve in the form of child lots, sand mounds, the Barnesville Oaks Development, and the Global Mission Church, many of these issues yet unresolved, President Valen remarked that this past year has also been a positive year in that SCA and other conservation and preservation organizations worked very effectively together to further their mutual goal of protecting the Agricultural Reserve and everything for which it stands.

Board Member Jim Brown introduced the Piedmont Environmental Council Grant recipi-

ents. Students from six Montgomery County schools, along with their teachers, talked about the environmental projects that they worked on this past year, aided by the Piedmont Council's grant.

The new SCA officers and members of the Board of Directors were elected for the 2010-2011 term: President, Anne Sturm; Vice President, Anne Cinque; Treasurer, Chris Kendrick; and Secretary, Betsy Lyman. In accepting the position of president, Anne Sturm reminded us of several people, now deceased, who laid the foundation of SCA and many important projects that are still ongoing. Montgomery County's recycling program, which is the strongest in the state, and other environmental projects owe their existence to Mary Ann Kephart, Olivier de Messières, and Linda Cates Bristol. Anne stressed that we all can make a difference.

The featured speaker, Dr. Royce Hanson, Chairman of the Montgomery County Planning

Board of the Capital Park and Planning Commission, needed no introduction—his name is synonymous with the creation of the 93,000-acre Agricultural Reserve, established in 1980 as a way to protect farmland and rural space in Montgomery County. As 2010 marks the Ag Reserve's thirtieth anniversary, Dr. Hanson looked back on its legacy in the county, and he looked forward to its future, saying that people see it as a benefit only to local residents, a notion that must be changed, as the Ag Reserve is a great resource for all the citizens of Montgomery County. Today, there are more demands for organic, locally-grown food, and the Ag Reserve has the land and farmers to satisfy this need right in our own backyard. He said that we need clean air and clear water and undeveloped, unpaved areas of scenic value for recreational purposes. Hike to the top of Sugarloaf Mountain, Dr. Hanson said, and look in two different directions. In one, we see the vast development of Vir-



Incoming SCA officers Betsy Lyman, Chris Kendrick, Anne Cinque, and Anne Sturm surround Montgomery County Council member Mark Erlich.

ginia in the distance, and in the other direction, we see the beauty of the mountain trails, abundant trees and shrubs, and wildflower meadows that are part of the Ag Reserve. He continued by saying that we must not become complacent and take this treasure for granted. We need less rhetoric and more action if we want our children and grandchildren to have access to this unspoiled landscape. "The greatest threat to the Ag Reserve is to kill it with

-Continued on Page 13.

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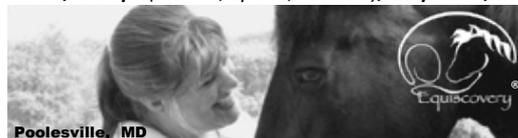
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Police Blotter

By Jack Toomey

Drug offenses: 19900 block of Fisher Avenue, 17600 block of Kohlhoss Avenue.

Burglary: 17600 block of Soper Street.

Assaults: 19500 block of Wootton Avenue, 20100 block of Westerly Avenue, 17500 block of W. Willard Road.

Theft from Vehicle: 16700 block of Elmer School Road.

Past Crimes

May 2, 1932 A wreck on the Frederick Road near Clarksburg caused critical injuries to a Clarksburg woman. Two cars, one driven by John Burdette and the other by James Mason, had collided when a car driven by John Murphy of Gaithersburg slowed to look at the spectacle. In the meantime, Alice Foreman, of that section, was walking down the road when another car driven by Bert Wolfrey of Germantown struck Miss Foreman, passing over her body, and then rammed into the car of Mr. Murphy.

Murphy's car then struck the first two cars.

May 3, 1959 An army sergeant and his brother were reported missing in the Potomac River near Poolesville. The pair had taken a boat out onto the river from the Virginia side and by nightfall had not returned. Their unoccupied boat was later found in the debris-clogged river.

May 4, 1960 Fire destroyed a barn on the J. B. Maughlin farm near Boyds. No injuries were reported, and all livestock were accounted for. Damage was estimated at \$25,000.

May 5, 1958 A schoolteacher from Boyds was arrested in connection with a racket where he would purchase 1950 Lincolns and then alter them to make them look like 1951 models. He would then sell them in Ohio for \$500 more.

May 14, 1960 Two fishermen were rescued from the Potomac River after their boat capsized. They drifted down the river for about three miles until other fishermen heard their cries near White's Ferry. Police identified the pair as Connie Ginn and Richard Johnson, both of Poolesville.

Youth Sports

Net Minders Lead Clarksburg Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse Teams

By Jeff Stuart

On Monday, April 12, Quince Orchard hosted a lacrosse doubleheader against the Clarksburg boys' and girls' teams. The evening matchup was a battle for first place in the 3A boys' division. Outstanding goaltending by Clarksburg's senior Joe Kelly and QO's Michael Chiang marked the first period. As of April 15, Kelly was second in the county in save percentage at sixty-three percent. Quince Orchard broke on top with 7:07 remaining in the first with a goal by Eric Simon on an assist by Sean Holiday. Simon later returned the favor by assisting Holiday on a second period goal to give QO a 4-2 lead. Simon, the county's 2009 top goal-scorer, had five goals in the first half. The Coyotes' senior Zach Hills had three first half goals, but Clarksburg trailed 8-5 at the break, and QO pulled away in the second half, winning 12-5. Nonetheless, an early season first place matchup is where the Coyotes (7-7 last year despite major injuries) wanted to be. Thirteen players have at least three years of experience at Clarksburg; twelve are four-year varsity players. The Coyotes began the season with a 12-3 win at Rockville on Wednesday, March 24, and defeated Northwood away, 9-1, the following day. After the spring break layoff, the Coyotes visited Gaithersburg on

Thursday, April 9, and ran out to a 6-1 halftime lead, but play was interrupted by a thundershower. When the game was resumed on Friday, the Trojans rallied to tie the game with more than a quarter remaining. Hills scored the game winner with more than ten minutes remaining in the fourth. Clarksburg won, 8-7.

"That game was the first where we actually had everybody on the field," said Head Coach Curtiss Belcher, who coached Gaithersburg when the Trojans' Head Coach Mike Mueller was a player. "Mac Raum, our leading scorer last year, was at a national wrestling tournament." In their first home game of the year, the Coyotes defeated Einstein, 9-2, on April 14.

Senior attackman Bryce Apple, a left-hander, has been one of the Coyotes' most consistent and versatile players. A two-year team captain, he has played every position. One of the team's leading scorers, his preferred position is attack. He is an honor roll student, planning on attending Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pennsylvania in the fall. He plans on studying business and playing lacrosse.

Others of the first class of seniors contributing to the building of this program include defenders Chris Williamson, Kory Wells, Donny Sivert, Brent Kidwell, DeSean Martinez, and Kevin Campos; and Mike Dixon on offense.

Coach Belcher played for retiring Athletic Director Mike Riley, then a football coach at Rockville High School. "I was a water boy for the team from about third grade on, so my relationship with Mike goes back a long way."

In the afternoon contest, the Cougar girls (1-3) built a 4-0 lead early in the first quarter, but in

-Continued on Page 15.

VARSITY SPORTS HOME GAMES

Date	Sport	POOLESVILLE	Time
5/1	Baseball	John F. Kennedy	2:30 p.m.
5/1	Softball	John F. Kennedy	2:30 p.m.
5/3	Lacrosse - Girls	Quince Orchard	7:00 p.m.
5/5	Lacrosse - Boys	Northwest	7:00 p.m.
5/7	Lacrosse - Boys	Watkins Mill	7:00 p.m.
5/10	Baseball	Walter Johnson	5:15 p.m.
5/10	Softball	Walter Johnson	5:15 p.m.
5/10	Lacrosse - Girls	Blake	5:15 p.m.
Date	Sport	CLARKSBURG	TIME
4/30	Lacrosse - Boys	Northwest	7:00 p.m.
4/30	Volleyball	Einstein	Coed: 3:30 p.m. Boys: 5:15 p.m.
5/5	Lacrosse - Boys	Seneca Valley	7:00 p.m.
5/6	Softball	Churchill	5:15 p.m.
5/6	Baseball	Churchill	5:15 p.m.
5/7	Lacrosse - Girls	Wheaton	7:00 p.m.
5/8	Softball	Seneca Valley	12:30 p.m.
5/8	Baseball	Seneca Valley	1:30 p.m.
5/10	Lacrosse - Girls	Whitman	5:15 p.m.



Clarksburg High School 2010 girls' lacrosse team.

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“Friend of the Festival” Continued From Page 5.

being listed on the Poolesville Day website; and being included in a listing of FOF contributors in a Thank You advertisement in the *Monocacy Monocle*.

“It’s easy to join,” Hoewing says. “Just go to poolesvilleyday.com to make an online contribution by clicking the FOF logo at bottom of home page.” He advises that those who prefer to make a contribution by mail should make their checks to Poolesville Day Committee, PO Box 4, Poolesville, MD 20837. Anyone with questions or needing further information may reach Hoewing at 301-461-9399.

“UMC Winnie the Pooh” Continued From Page 1.

ber looking him in the eye, man to man, and telling him he makes a great bunny), Wendy Huff (the precocious Roo), Walter Moskwa (Eeyore, the dour donkey), and David Melton (Christopher Robbins, wearing a pinwheel-topped beanie, shorts, and knee socks). We also enjoyed the singing of Kim Bailey, Betty Jean Selby, Linda Shores, and Linda Wilson.

Janet Hartz, while giving new meaning to the term cast director, did a masterful job as the musical director as well. She was joined by Linda Custer, who accompanied on the piano. No decision has been made on taking the

“Brightwell Crossing” Continued From Page 1.

Building Together organization, and as a board member of Heritage Montgomery, an organization that helped him in using many of the historical records in naming streets.

Ranging from a base price of \$519,000 to \$679,000, Brightwell Crossing offers seven styles of homes: the Potomac, the Dickerson, the Seneca, and the model home, the Montgomery. For the prospective buyer, a computer program in the sales office has an interactive floor plan, allowing prospective buyers to build their virtual home by selecting from different floor plans and optional features.

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Earth Day Celebrations took place at Monocacy Elementary School and at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase chapter of the Izaak Walton League



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"SCA Meeting" Continued From Page 8.

kindness. You may talk about its virtues but do nothing to sustain it." In Montgomery County, he said, there are seven separate agricultural land preservation programs for local landowners that go hand in hand with the tenets and goals of the Ag Reserve. Dr. Hanson asked Jim O'Connell, Vice Chairman of the Maryland Environmental Trust (MET), to speak about what MET is doing for landowners in Montgomery County and in all parts of Maryland. Mr. O'Connell encouraged any landowners who are interested in placing an easement on their property to get in touch with him to prevent development of their land.

At the end of Dr. Hanson's remarks, he received a long, standing ovation from the audience, as he will be retiring in June from the county board, where he has been a true friend the Agricultural Reserve.

Montgomery County Councilman Marc Elrich, another

supporter of the Ag Reserve, spoke about the need for constant monitoring of issues that affect our area. Mr. Elrich echoed Dr. Hanson by reminding the audience to not believe the battle has been won. The threat of suburban-style land development never goes too far away if there is money to be made.

Dickerson resident Kirk Mettam presented an update on the Barnesville Oaks Development project on Peachtree Road. The developer has made some concessions for the number and layout of the cluster homes, although, there are still very important issues that must be addressed.

Other local politicians in attendance at the meeting included District 15 State Senator Rob Garagiola, Barnesville Mayor Pete Menke, Montgomery County Council President Nancy Floreen, and Poolesville Commissioners Jerry Klobukowski and Eddie Kuhlman.



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Tidbits of the Past

By Jack Toomey

April 1, 1954 More than half of the 638 students of both the Poolesville Elementary and High Schools were given inoculations of gamma globulin by Montgomery County health authorities who moved quickly to wipe out the epidemic of Jaundice that was affecting the students. Ms. Virginia Hersperger, principal of the elementary school, said that she had received a ninety percent compliance rate at her school.

April 3, 1951 Private Gerald Diggins of Boyds was killed in action during the fighting near Seoul, South Korea.

April 3, 1948 Children at the Poolesville School were scheduled to be surveyed for rheumatic fever and cardiac conditions due to the outbreak of the

disease.

April 3, 1955 The Ballandee Farm, near Poolesville, was sold to Bernard Siegel who was the executive vice president of Food Fair Supermarkets. The 330-acre farm, which included a racing stable, sold for far less than the original asking price of \$150,000, according to Siegel.

April 7, 1948 Thirty Poolesville eighth graders, under the supervision of their social studies teacher, Miss Kathryn Royster, took a trip to Rockville to attend a meeting of the county commissioners. F. Bernard Welsh addressed the class and told them that even though they were Democrats and Republicans, “Everyone does the best they can.”

April 11, 1954 White’s Ferry was scheduled to place a new ferry boat in service. The barge that was constructed at a Baltimore shipyard was seventy-six feet long and was able to trans-

port six cars or one large truck.

April 14, 1946 The National Capitol Dog Club trials were held at Poolesville. Wahoo’s Buddy, a pointer dog, won first prize, and his owner was awarded the Baldwin Trophy.

April 25, 1937 Agricultural students from Poolesville High School attended the annual Farm Field Day at the University of Maryland. Dr. Harry C. Byrd addressed students from all over the state. The team from Poolesville placed second in the milking contest.

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Local News

Ten Years Ago

By Jack Toomey

One comment was overheard several times amidst the group that had assembled at Monocacy Cemetery: "Has it really been ten years?" A rare April thunderstorm darkened the skies, and people murmured to each other, "Do you believe it has been ten years?" The reply was always, "Yes, yes, it has been ten years."

On April 8, 2000, a traffic collision on Fisher Avenue sent shock waves through the Poolesville community. Two juniors at Poolesville High School were killed on a rainy night in one of the worst tragedies ever to affect the community. In the days before Facebook and when many teenagers did not yet own cell phones, word spread on that fateful Saturday night by email, instant message, and calls to the houses of friends. Keith Smith and Michael Zajdel had set out for a night of bowling when their car spun out of control and was struck by a larger vehicle. Those who were in high school in 2000 recalled an eerie silence that had enveloped the school, Principal Mark Levine conducted the morning announcements and said that the school had lost two students and that counselors were available if needed—but many students had not come to school and were instead assembled at the collision site where a makeshift cross had been erected. Later, a more permanent memorial was built, and it remains there today. The media descended on Poolesville, and reporters interviewed students and townspeople. A demand for a change in the teenage driving laws, more police presence, and better driver training were all debated for months.

On this recent April 8, the tenth anniversary of the deaths, a group of about forty family members and friends of Keith Smith gathered at his gravesite. Purple balloons, designating Keith's favorite color, were

distributed. Kimberly Parise, sister of Keith, who organized the event, said, "Every year, we try to gather family and friends just to remember all of the good times that we shared with them, these two were best friends in life, and we know that they are still together." Tony Dabbondanza, who grew up with Keith, said, "He would not want people to be sad." Debbie Loso, of Frederick, told a *Monocle* reporter, "All of our kids grew up together. I still have a video tape of Keith walking in our front door."

Several of Keith's nieces and nephews were in attendance. Amber Parise remarked that she would always remember getting into Keith's car and sitting on a golf ball or golf club and hearing Keith tell her to "suck it up." Jimmy Parise remembered that he and his uncle would often wrestle.

Katherine Zajdel, sister of Mike Zajdel, had visited the graves of her brother and Keith earlier in the day. She was later contacted and said the death of her brother was very depressing and destroyed a lot of people. "I hope that others would learn a lesson from this. Before people go out, they should look at the weather." Katherine now has a seven-year-old daughter, and she added, "I would have loved to have had my brother be a part of her life."

Debbie Smith, Keith's mother, asked the group to draw closer and welcomed them to the ceremony. She said, "I want to welcome you all for coming out, friends and family, it's hard to believe that it has been ten years." Tears and emotion prevented her from continuing, and then she asked that the balloons be released. Forty purple balloons were released, hovered briefly over the grave, and then drifted off in the direction of Sugarloaf Mountain.

Ten years have passed since this tragedy. Speed cameras have been installed, speed bumps have been built on some streets, and the laws concerning teenage driving eligibility have been changed. Yet new tragedies continue. A police captain's

son was killed while riding in a car driven by a reckless driver with three weeks' experience. A new roadside memorial on Darnestown Road, two more on White's Ferry Road, another on River Road, and a few months ago another one on Hughes Road, all mark the spot where a young person lost his life due to careless driving. Teenagers who

"Lacrosse" Continued from Page 9.

the middle of the second quarter, Coyotes midfielder Madison DeFrank (two goals) and Elyse Lapham (four goals) scored back to back within fifteen seconds of each other to cut the QO lead to 6-4 at the half. The two teams traded goals in the third quarter. Kristina Anderson scored two late goals against Coyotes' goalkeeper Jacqueline Hadrosek to put the game out of reach. Hadrosek had twenty-five saves. "It was a good game," said Head Coach May Shlash. "I am proud of the way my girls played. We beat Northwood 16-8. We have four amazing seniors that are truly stepping

are now getting their licenses have never heard of Keith Smith or Michael Zajdel. Most have passed the memorial on Fisher Avenue and chances are that their parents have never told them about the terrible night ten years ago. The police and town hall still get numerous calls about speeding cars, reckless driving, and careless teenage driving. Have we really learned anything?

up and exhibiting a tremendous amount of leadership skills. Elyse Lapham, our most experienced and highest scoring player, has signed to play lacrosse at Robert Morris. Madison DeFrank has been taking more powerful and precise shots this year, contributing on many of our goals. Lynnlee Jewell and Rina Panagiotopoulos are my strongest low defenders. Together, they form a strong barrier around crease. Jacqueline Hadrosek is one of the best goalies in the county. She is a junior with great potential and is already being looked at or recruited by many college coaches. Overall, the team is playing as one united front."

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Youth Sports

Brendan McFall Finishes On Top

By Jeff Stuart



PHS senior Brendan McFall.

For the second straight year, Poolesville's Brendan McFall was named to the All-County Basketball Team. Teammate Kevin Baker received Honorable Mention. McFall recently reflected on his decision to attend St. Mary's College in Maryland and on his career so far.

Why did you choose St. Mary's?

I was hoping I could go to a D I or D II school. In the summer, I played with ten or fifteen kids who were going D I. They were so much more athletic than me, it's not even funny. Coach Harwood at Magruder holds an open gym for the top seniors in the county before the season starts; college coaches come over. The St. Mary's coaches talked to me. After meeting them, I checked out the campus. Taking a tour, I thought it was one of the prettiest campuses I have ever seen—and it has a top flight basketball program. I am not just about basketball. I was on the honor roll throughout high school. St. Mary's is a good school academically, too. *Talk about the last game, the playoff game, against Walkersville.*

I think the coolest thing about playing in that last game was that I have grown up in Poolesville. I went to every single Poolesville home game

from sixth grade until I was in high school playing. That was the most packed I have seen the Poolesville gymnasium ever.

I had offers to play basketball from a number of private schools and prep schools, but the community of Poolesville is something that means so much to me, and to see all the people that I knew, from kids that I coached at the Falcon summer camp and the parents of kids I grew up with, come out and support us was so great. After losing that last game I couldn't sleep, but the way that everybody came out and supported us was really awesome.

Everyone rallied behind us. That last game, it was a hard way to go out, but I still wouldn't trade those memories for anything.

David Schramm told me back in December that you guys had been together since third grade. You guys really were very close.

Yes, I think that sets us apart. At a lot of other schools, one hundred kids come out for the team, and they pick the top players. They may not have ever played

together before. The first time I ever played was in first grade. My dad was the coach. Kevin Baker, probably one of the best players in Poolesville history, was on the team. His dad was assistant coach. Dave started playing with us a little bit later, and Kevin Cabrejas and Kyle Bredice.

These are the guys I hang out with. We are friends first and basketball players second. We would go home and talk about the game. We would call each other, text each other, and talk about it the next day.

Do you have a favorite moment in your Poolesville career?

Senior Night. I have been a part of Senior Night before, and I have seen a lot of great players go through the system and graduate, but I don't think it really set in that it was my senior season until then. Coach Lang told us what they were going to do. They call your name and you walk through the cheerleaders, and the players all clap for you. The fans are standing up for you. That was some kind of moment. I warned

-Continued on Page 17.

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"Brendan McFall Finishes on Top"
Continued From Page 16.

Coach Lang before I might cry. He told me, "McFall, if you cry I am not playing you." So I sucked it up and walked on out there. It was so great. It was a good game against B-CC. We were able to get the win. Every single senior hit a shot. Everybody played defense. We played well as a team.

Coach Lang told me that you could not have had it set up any better against Walkersville. You had the ball at the end of regulation and Kevin had the ball at the end of overtime.

It was a tie ball game with less than a minute left. I have it at the top of the key. We run a clear out. This is going to be etched in my mind forever. I know how much this team needed me. Basketball really is my life. I don't go out partying. I am either in the gym or at home. That last play—it was awful—dribbling the ball, waiting for the last shot. I am at the top of the key—ten seconds left so I gotta make a move. I'm not really sure what I am trying to do. I am trying to get to the rim, so I drive to the right. Kid cuts me off. I drove back to my left trying to get the rim. They knew I wanted to get to the rim. Their game play was not to let me do it. Make him shoot it. Looking back, I should have just pulled up and shot. I crossed back over left and fumbled the ball and got called for a double dribble with about two seconds left.

In the first overtime, they made some shots early. We were down. Kevin decides just to

explode. I think he had all nine of our points. Three consecutive threes. He had the ball at the very end. They knew he was shooting the lights out so they put two guys on him. He had a tough shot at the end of the first overtime—banged off the rim. One of our guys had a chance to tip it in, but it didn't work out. We go to that second overtime. I give credit to Walkersville. We had opportunities to win it, but they were able to just pull it out. It was a heck of a game.

Do you have any favorite players?

My favorite player in the NBA has been Shaq. I was 6'2" in middle school. I always gravitate toward the big guys, but I really look up to the guys that came before me at Poolesville. Some of the best times I had were late night pickup games at Owens Park in Beallsville under the lights. I played ball there with Mike Mulcahy and Luis Mejia, and the seniors my freshman year, Jay Lowe, Jason Kramek, and Kyle Dickerson; the seniors my sophomore year, Daniel Camillo, Matt Robillard, and Joe Miller; and last year, Chris Soper and Dane Hanscom. I tried to follow in their footsteps. Jay, Jason, Jimmy, and Dane have all given back to the basketball program by coaching the Poolesville summer league teams. And I really looked up to Jimmy Bowen, the senior captain when I was in eighth grade. He was the last guy off the bench, but he is the most levelheaded person I have ever met. He told me to live in the moment.

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Tidbits

Scout Asks for Your Help on Eagle Projects

Brad Ragazinsky of Poolesville Boy Scout Troop 496 is collecting contributions to fill Birthday Boxes for WUMCO to distribute to needy children so they can be sure to get a present on their special day. His goal is one hundred Birthday Boxes because 2010 is the hundredth anniversary of Scouting in America.

If you think you might want to help Brad in his worthy goal, please consider donating: adult size shoe boxes, boxed cake mix, cans of frosting, small birthday candles, goodie bags, wrapping paper, ribbon, assorted wrapped candy, cookies, etc. Additionally, small new gifts such as toddler toys, preschool toys, craft sets, coloring books, crayons, pens, pencils, markers, books and workbooks, and hygiene and toiletry items will be accepted. Of course, cash contributions would be appreciated and can be arranged for by calling 301-972-7420.

Donations can be dropped into display boxes at Selby's Market, Poolesville Physical Therapy, Sheer Elegance Hair Salon, Poolesville Hardware, Total Automotive and Diesel, and the Cleaners next to Hearthside Antiques.

Kehilat Shalom Breaks Ground on Holocaust Memorial Garden

The Men's Club of Kehilat



Kehilat Shalom breaks ground on their Holocaust Memorial Garden.

Shalom synagogue in Montgomery Village broke ground on its Holocaust Memorial Garden in commemoration of the more than six million people that perished. Jim Weston, Men's Club President, chose April 11 because it is Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom HaShoah. In his remarks before Kehilat Shalom Rabbi Mark Raphael took shovel to dirt, Mr. Weston reminded the nearly two dozen community members gathered that this is a very special time in history. "We, in this generation, are still able to hear stories of the atrocities of the Holocaust firsthand from survivors. It will be our responsibility, however, to pass those stories on to future generations. The garden is one way to ensure that the memory lives on in Montgomery Village."

Renee Brooks Honored for Ten-Year Service to WUMCO

At the April 20 annual meeting of WUMCO Help, Inc., Renee Brooks, assistant to the executive director and case manager, was honored for her ten years of

service to the Upcounty service organization. Her responsibilities include client registration, correspondence from vendors, check writing, preparing periodic reports and donor letters, data entry in the system records, organizing meetings, and grant writing. Jane Stearns, executive director, praised Renee as being critical to the success of WUMCO and cited her dedication and sometimes innovative approaches to helping WUMCO clients.

The annual report recapped 2009, which closed on a positive note despite concern of the downturn in the economy. WUMCO does not give money but does help pay essential bills for qualified applicants. Their



Renee Brooks (center) was honored for her ten years of service to WUMCO. Also pictured are treasurer Angela Drum and executive director Jane Stearns.

assistance also includes providing emergency food, a holiday toy drive, and transportation for clients needing assistance in making medical appointments. Started in 1968 by Jane and Fred Stearns, the local organization receives strong support from local churches, businesses, civic organizations, and many individuals. In looking back at 2009, Mrs. Stearns stated that the organization "managed to assist all those who needed help without any further cutbacks. Grant money was still short, but one blessing is the fact that most of the WUMCO community has provided considerable backing. We continue to thank all who contributed in any way to WUMCO. We still have faith that when a need arises, we will be given the means and the know-how to meet it. We attribute this to the One who put us here to do this work for the community, so we give Him special thanks."

The board of directors of WUMCO includes: Nancy Allnutt (president), Tracey Forfa (vice president), Jane Stearns (execu-

-Continued on Page 19.

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-Tidbits Contined from Page 18.

tive director), Angela Drum (treasurer), Renee Brooks (executive assistant), and board members Ray Hoewing, Mike Plummer, Cheris Praniewski, and Rande Davis.

6th Annual PTRS Wheelchair Basketball Tournament

Poolesville High School alumnus, Josh Funk, class of 2004, now a physical therapy major at the University of Maryland at Baltimore (UMB), is helping to organize the Sixth Annual PTRS Wheelchair Basketball Tournament in which the UMB physical therapy department takes on the Maryland Ravens wheelchair basketball team. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$7 at the door, and include two free raffle tickets. Proceeds go to the Kennedy Kreiger Spinal Institute. The fundraiser takes place May 3 at 5:30 p.m. at 601 Lombard Street, Baltimore. Please contact jfunk002@umaryland.edu or gshir001@umaryland.edu for tickets or information.

Poolesville Girl Is Five Time Award Winner

Lori Defnet, daughter of Mike and Sarah Defnet of Poolesville, was recognized as a five-time repeat Carson Scholar at the fourteenth annual Carson Scholars Awards banquet on April 11 in Baltimore. Originally, named a Carson Scholar as an eighth grader in 2006, Lori was recognized again in 2010 as a repeat Carson Scholar for continuing to meet the highly-selective criteria for academic record, humanitarian qualities, community service, personal essay, and teacher recommendations. Lori is a senior in the Global Ecology Studies Program at Poolesville High School and plans to attend Salisbury University in the fall where she will double major in Business and Management Information Systems, with a minor in Environmental Studies.

Mark Gochnour to Retire

Poolesville librarian Mark Gochnour has announced his plans to retire this coming June.

Mr. Gochnour has been at the Poolesville library since 1991 and with the Montgomery County library system since 1973. A graduate of the University of Maryland with a bachelor's in history, he also received his masters in library science from Maryland. Mr. Gochnour will share some of his memories of Poolesville in a future issue of the *Monocle*.

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Things to Do

April 30
Middle-Eastern Dance Class
Benefit Poolesville Relay for Life
Sponsored by the Jammin' Jazz-ers RFL Team
Dress to work out, bring a scarf to tie around your waste, Suggested Donation \$10.00 to \$15.00
Memorial United Methodist Church
7:00 p.m.

May 1 and 2
SMV's Second Annual Bud Break Festival
Come to the Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard to celebrate the buds breaking out from the grapevines after a winter of hibernation. Enjoy a free wineglass and tastings of select wines, tours of the vineyard and winery, live music, food vendors, and children's activities. You can now purchase advance tickets online at www.smvwinery.com for \$12.00; tickets at the door are \$15.00 for ages 21 and over. Those under 21 are free. Identification will be checked at

the gate. Bring your chairs and blankets. This is a rain or shine event. No refunds.
Noon to 6:00 p.m. each day

May 1
Yard Sale/Bake Sale
Benefit fund for family of fallen Montgomery County Police Officer Hector Ayala who died on duty on Easter Sunday, leaving a one-year-old son and a widow expecting triplets in June. Vendors setting up must give one hundred of proceeds to the FOP fund.
Whalen Commons – Poolesville
8:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

HMAP Reading of Play
The Hyattstown Mill Arts Project will present a reading of the play, A Nymph from Lemons, by Charlie Fenyvesi. In the darkness and gloom of the Before-Current-Era Greece, war brewed and stewed like American coffee in a doughnut shop. Young men were recruited by slick warriors to use their special magic to win glory for Gods and Generals.
7:00 p.m. at the Mill in Hyattstown

May 2
Tuscarora High School - Safe & Sane Bingo
Doors Open: noon. Games: 2:00 p.m. \$20.00
Location: Carroll Manor Fire Co., Adamstown

May 5
Poolesville Library Special Event
Potomac Jazz Project is a modern classic jazz quartet that delights audiences with fresh arrangements of jazz from all eras.
7:00 p.m.

May 6
Poolesville Library Special Event
Master Gardeners Terri Pitts and Pam Hosimer will be on hand at the Poolesville Library to answer all your plant and garden needs. Registration is not required.
7:00 p.m.

May 7 and 8
Shout
The Phantom Players at John Poole Middle School will present Shout, a new musical with singing, dancing, and some other surprises! Tickets are \$4.00 for

students and \$6.00 for adults. Concessions are available. There will be a raffle each night for a Shout hat and t-shirt! All proceeds to benefit JPMS Phantom Players Drama Club.

May 8
Monocacy Lions All-You-Can-Eat Pancake & Sausage Breakfast
Adults: \$7.00
Children Under 12: \$3.00
7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

2nd Annual Haitian Festival by St. Mary's Church
Proceeds benefit St. Joseph's Parish and School of Carasse, Haiti
Featuring authentic island cuisine: Caribbean Basket (hors d'oeuvres), Colombo of Pork (main dish), rice with red beans, slices of fried plantain (sides), and Martiniquan bread pudding with rum (dessert).
Special guest: Father Verdieu of St. Joseph's Parish, Haiti
Live Music and Silent Auction
Adults: \$15.00. Children 5 to 15 years old: \$10.00

-Continued on Page 21.



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"Things to Do" Continued From Page 20.

St. Mary's Pavilion. 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
To reserve seating, send check made out to St. Mary's Church to P.O. Box 67, Barnesville, MD 20838

May 9
Mother's Day Dinner
Benefit for Carroll Manor Fire Department
Fried Chicken, Roast Beef, Cole Slaw, Green Beans, Applesauce, Desserts
Adult: \$12.50 per person. Ages 4 to 12: \$6.00. Under 4: Free
Noon to 5:00 p.m.

May 14
2nd Annual PES PTA Spring Carnival
Inflated activities, rock wall, dunk tank, games, and plenty of food
Rain date: May 21
Poolesville Elementary School
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Carroll Manor Fire Co. 3rd Annual Golf Tournament
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Local News

Sixth Annual Walter Reed Injured Soldiers Outing at White's Ferry

It's hard to imagine, but the Poolesville Military Support Group (PMSG) has its sixth annual outing for injured soldiers coming up on May 15. This special day not only combines a wonderful day of fishing, barbeque, music, and fellowship in the country for soldiers (and families) recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC), it also serves to raise important funds for the Fisher House.

The Fisher House, located at WRAMC, is a residence for family members of injured soldiers where they can stay free while visiting their loved one. When recovering from an injury, it is so helpful to have the family of the soldier visit,

but the cost of flights, hotel rooms, and food often prevents them (or at the very least minimizes) from making such visits. Last year alone, the Poolesville Military Support Group was able to donate \$10,000 to Fisher House.

The group is hoping that more people will come out to White's Ferry this May 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to show support for the injured troops and families, to join them in making it a relaxing and fun day, and that many will make a donation to offset the cost of the day and to support Fisher House. Anyone interested in helping or making a donation, may contact any one of the committee members: Roger Strippey, Richard MacKnight, Carl Hobbs, Buddy Pollen, Paul Kelly, Kenny O'Leary, and Donald and Mary Lou Hoffacker.

If every family in the greater Poolesville area were to donate \$5.00, what a wonderful thing this would be. Checks can be made payable to Fisher House and mailed to Fisher House, C/O Richard MacKnight, 19600 Seymour Court, Poolesville, Maryland 20837.



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The Pulse

**St. Mary's
Continues Good
Work in Haiti**

By Dominique Agnew

After the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti this past January, the first civilian flight to Haiti from the D.C. area flew out on February 20; parishioners of St. Mary's of Barnesville were on that plane to make their way to St. Joseph's of Carcasse, Haiti, St. Mary's sister parish.

Since the twinning of St. Mary's to St. Joseph's roughly two years ago, two mission trips per year have been made by St. Mary's parishioners and other area residents to Carcasse to help determine problems, which ones to be tackled first, and the most feasible solutions. With each mission trip, there is always a medical aspect because the need is so great. The communica-

tion obstacle was the first to be overcome in 2009, then the school construction was begun. If all went as planned, the grand opening of the school occurred on or around March 19, 2010—seven classrooms and an auditorium.

In this last trip, parishioners, Jack Reid, Francis Mackie, Tony Chmelik, and his fourteen-year-old son Sam Chmelik, helped with the rewiring (the necessary tools did not arrive with their flight last October) of the school, installing conduit to install the wire under the auditorium floor, hauling sand and gravel from the beach for the concrete, and the finishing of the school. All that remained when they left one week later was the completion of the painting of the building. "We were all left with mixed feelings in regard to the almost-finished project," says Jack. "The school is a major accomplishment for this village, but we also recognize that the quality of the project could have been better. Our challenge is to increase the quality of future projects while teaching

better construction practices to our friends in Carcasse." Besides constructing the school building, St. Mary's supports the school by paying the teachers' salaries, hoping to expand from a primary to a primary and secondary school, one grade at a time.

The next big project St. Mary's plans on undertaking is the construction of a rectory for Father Verdieu, the parish priest. "The parish priest is the center of stability for the village," says Jack. "All disputes, mediations, and distribution of supplies and medical aid are coordinated through this man... We envision this residence to be built in such a way that it can be expanded to house visitors to the community."

In the meantime, solutions are being sought for potable drinking water (many children suffer from dysentery), and opportunities are being explored for the farmers to learn better practices and find viable markets.

This was Jack's fifth visit to Haiti since the twinning.

"Neither words nor pictures can adequately depict the contradictions of that life," he says. "Hopelessness and hope, environmental degradation and beauty, sadness and happiness, squalor and contentment are all a part of Haiti. The same people who come to church dressed as fine as many in the States, go home to abject poverty... Haiti is so much more than a cause. It is also a gift of common purpose that renews our hope in humanity."

St. Mary's will hold its Second Annual Haitian Festival on May 8 at St. Mary's Pavilion in Barnesville from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Outstanding, authentic Caribbean cuisine, live music, and a silent auction will round out the evening. To make a donation or to reserve seats at the dinner, send a check made out to St. Mary's Church to P.O. Box 67, Barnesville, MD 20838.

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