



Joe Ryba and Ed Rothenberg were hard at work at St. Mary's in Barnesville. More pictures are on page 2.



Pat Hess of Poolesville Physical Therapy enjoyed the CEDC Farmers' Market with her daughter and son. More pictures are in the Family Album on page 2.



Do you know this man? He is the 2012 Poolesville Day Grand Marshal, and there's an article and a better picture in Local News on page 16.



PHS Athletic Director Ed Ross can't wait for the season to begin. See our Fall Preview in Youth Sports on page 12.

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

August 10, 2012

Volume IX, Number 11.

## Body Recovered From Potomac River Identified

By Rande Davis

On July 28, the Montgomery County Police recovered a male body at approximately 10:00 a.m. just south of White's Ferry near the tip of the island closest to Virginia. The body was sent to Maryland's Office of Chief Medical Examiner in Baltimore for identification and autopsy, and on August 3 was subsequently identified as Peter S. Daley, seventy years old, of Leesburg, Virginia.

Mr. Daley had been the subject of a missing person report issued by the Leesburg Police Department on Thursday, July 27, 2012. That report stated that Mr. Daley left the Morningside Assisted Living facility in Leesburg at approximately 7:30 p.m. He was picked up by a taxi from the Red Cab Company and taken to White's Ferry where he was dropped off at approximately 7:45 p.m. It has not been determined whether he crossed the river using the ferry. Mr. Daley suffered from Alzheimer's disease and dementia. He departed from his home without his cell phone or wallet.

Montgomery County Police, with the cooperation of the Leesburg Police Department, continue to investigate the facts surrounding the incident.



White's Ferry

## Global Church Submits Revised Plans

By Kristen Milton

A proposed church on Sugarloaf Mountain that already has a contentious three-year history will make another attempt to gain regulatory acceptance in coming months.

Plans submitted in 2009 by Global Mission Church, an English/Korean Southern Baptist congregation based in Silver Spring, included a 1,160-seat sanctuary as well as sixty-seven meeting rooms, a dining hall, and gymnasium on acreage straddling the Montgomery/Frederick County line. Opponents of the project cited concerns about traffic, the appearance of the eighty-five-foot structure on a scenic mountain, and the impact on area water supplies.

After initially expressing approval, the Frederick County Planning Commission rejected the plan in October 2009 citing concerns over water usage and

emergency access; however, Frederick County's Circuit Court ruled in March 2011 that the church was denied a fair chance to defend its project.

Newly-submitted plans show a building shrunken to an eight-hundred-seat sanctuary and approximately 118,500 square feet. There is also a smaller dining hall and a secondary access road to respond to concerns about Old One Hundred Road (Route 109) serving as a sole access point.

Montgomery Countryside Alliance, one of the opposing civic groups on the Montgomery County side of the line, said in a July 28 website posting that the church as proposed was still too big. Construction in the Upcounty would include a proposed crossing of Little Bennett Creek.

In its last meeting before an August recess, the Montgomery County Planning Board approved a small addition for a well-known Damascus business.

Gladhill Tractor Mart on Ridge Road will add 4,200 square feet to its currently

12,114-square-foot building, which houses sales and service departments for tractors and lawn equipment. The change will allow small equipment now displayed outside the building to be shown indoors.

In presenting the planning staff opinion July 26, Ben Berbert said the modest addition would bring no adverse impacts while furthering the commitment to the agricultural community Gladhill serves. Approval was unanimous.

According to the business's website, siblings, F. Upton Gladhill and Bernard "Buck" Gladhill, opened their first John Deere dealership in Damascus in 1937. Gladhill Tractor Mart moved to its current location in 1994, two years after being granted a special exception to operate on the property.

## Parks Profit From Budget Changes

Clarksburg's Little Bennett Regional Park and Germantown's Town Center Park will each benefit from budget

-Continued on Page 17.

# Family Album



Poolesville's Phymeon Lyles interpreted Nettie Johnson as she spoke of life in the earlier Sugarland community at HMD's "A Tribute to Our African American Heritage" in July.



PACC's July network night featured ice cream at the Twisted Cone. Left to right: Neal Brown (R.N. Brown Plumbing), PACC president Hilary Schwab (Hilary Schwab Photography), Paul Harney (Twisted Cone), Laura Davis, and Colleen Brown.

The last Farmers' Market was themed Wellness and Fitness. On hand to promote both were Petr and Lenka Bocek of Allergy and Asthma Clinic in Poolesville, and Catie Patterson of Fitness First Health Clubs in Germantown.



How many total flips of the bird at St. Mary's picnic? Let's see, 137 years times 3000 chickens times 35 flips per bird equals—oh, never mind.



Deacon Dave Cahoon provided live music at the annual St. Mary's Chicken Dinner.



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# Police Blotter Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

### Present Crime

**Assault:** 21200 block of Big Woods Road.

**Theft:** 17300 block of Fletchall Road, 19000 block of Cattail Road.

**Disorderly conduct complaints:** 17100 block of Spates Hill Road, 19600 block of Fisher Avenue, 17600 block of Kohlhoss Road, 17500 block of W. Willard Road, 19600 block of Beallsville Road.

### Past Crime

*This issue, we step back in time to an era when law enforcement in Montgomery and Frederick Counties was handled by a sheriff and a few deputies. The police department had yet to be established.*

**August 11, 1901** Luther Ballenger, a young man who lived in Co-mus, was believed to have been murdered by William White who was said to have struck Ballenger over the head with an ax on the road leading to Urbana. A grudge

between the men was said to have been fueled by a day of drinking. During the dispute, White ran to a woodpile and secured an ax and then struck Ballenger with the blunt end. Ballenger was carried to his house where he failed to regain consciousness. Frederick County Sheriff Troxell came to the scene and arrested White.

**August 12, 1907** Garfield Jett, the man accused of assaulting and nearly killing a Redland school-teacher, was arrested in Washington, D.C. Sheriff's deputies Gott and Mullican went to Washington and identified Jett. Sheriff Gott asked if he could take the prisoner to Redland where the aged mother of teacher Charles Souder lay in bed in the hopes that she could identify Jett; however, District police would not allow the prisoner to be taken to Maryland.

**August 14, 1907** Montgomery County Deputy Sheriff Kennedy was in Washington, D.C. searching for a man in handcuffs. Kennedy had arrested Ike Burton at Glen Echo on a charge of being drunk and disorderly. Kennedy handed Burton off to a nearby

citizen for safekeeping and went to make more arrests. When he returned, he found that Burton had escaped. It was believed that Burton's brother lived in Georgetown.

**August 22, 1901** Sheriff Collier and his deputy Bradley were present at a large picnic at Emory Grove. They encountered twelve men playing craps and tried to arrest them. One man, George Holland, resisted attested and was shot by Deputy Bradley.

The wounded man was taken to Rockville where he was put on a trolley car and then was sent to Washington, D.C. A Washington police wagon met the trolley and took Holland to the emergency hospital. Doctor

Vaughn examined the man and announced that he was not in grave danger but was in considerable pain.

**August 21, 1909** After spending a great deal of time searching for ex-deputy Sheriff Edward Bradley (the same deputy who

shot the craps player in 1901) law enforcement officials took him into custody on a warrant sworn out by Mrs. Ninnian Perry, wife of a well-known Montgomery County farmer. Mrs. Perry alleged that Bradley had entered her home, knocked over a stove, and then had discharged a pistol into the ceiling.

*Some of the material in this article was obtained from the archives of the Washington Post.*

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# Commentary

## August

By John Clayton

Summer is racing by—again—a process that begins around Memorial Day and accelerates into terminal velocity around Poolesville Day. I realize I should leave this particular thought for later in the month, but the blank computer screen and that blinking cursor tell me otherwise. My summer-is-ending depression may also be too intense for casual discussion in two weeks. It is sad to say, but once that last bite of St. Mary's barbecued chicken disappears, you know the back-to-school sales are in full swing. This is not welcome news to me, as I really like the summer, even around here, with the humidity and the thunderstorms—and the rainfall deficits in spite of the thunderstorms.

A great part of midsummer is finally getting tomatoes from the garden (for more on this please read Maureen O'Connell's *In the Garden* column on this very topic in our July 27 issue—now online—I dare you to read it and not want a tomato garden next year), and we're doing fairly well this year. I hesitate to mention this because most people, I have found, started harvesting tomatoes weeks before I did, and they were bigger, better, and probably picked themselves and just walked into the house. Bully for them. In our case, we're doing a little better with the weeds this year (gardening tip: it's called "weeding") and most of our modest efforts have been acceptable. We do have too much zucchini, and I seem to be unable to rescue them before they reach the dimensions of medium-sized house pets. Bigger is not necessarily better. My wife is an adventurous and creative (and good) cook, but I think she is tired of being creative with monster zucchinis. We also have an abundance of cucumbers, but she makes a mean gazpacho, so that isn't a problem. Perhaps I will surprise her with some zucchini gazpacho. Worth a try, I suppose. Then again, a

Facebook friend posted a picture of a small herd of zucchini bread loaves. This might be a safer path. Sugar be damned—zucchini bread sounds healthy, like oatmeal cookies and carrot cake.

As a side note, whether you have a garden or not, I hope you are loading up at Lewis Orchards and Kingsbury's Orchard this month. There are many reasons for living out here in Monocacy Country—here are two of them.

I'm not sure how we will observe August and the impending end of summer in our household. Some years, we encounter yellow jacket nests about this time, and my wife already got a head start with a nasty poison ivy rash (from weeding), but one never really knows how events will unfold. I know that we probably won't waste any time talking about the presidential election. Honestly, I think we all know for whom we are going to vote, but do you know anyone who is really bragging about his or her choice this time around? I don't, and I'm pretty sure I don't even want to hear from such a person. Hating the other guy and all he stands for isn't the same thing, so I don't want to hear about that, either. Our local congressional race should be more interesting, with Buckeystown incumbent Roscoe Bartlett running in his unfriendly new district against that Potomac guy with all the postcards who beat Rob Garagiola in the primary. I can't recall his name for the life of me at this particular moment (summer, okay?), but I'm sure the cards and telephone calls will start arriving any minute (yes, from John Delaney's campaign) and this will cease to be a problem.

That's one thing to look forward to, and there are also three significant Maryland veto referendums in November that will merit consideration: the Maryland In-State Tuition Referendum (Dream Act), the Same Sex Marriage Referendum, and the Redistricting Referendum. I assume this will involve postcards and telephone calls as well. I wish there was some way to let them know I've already made

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Keeping An Eye On Local News

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up my mind, but I suppose there isn't. Maybe I'll cover myself with stickers on Poolesville Day which, in case you were wondering, is coming up on September 15.

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## Town of Poolesville

### Town Government

By Rande Davis

#### No Comments Offered at Public Hearing

There were two public hearings scheduled for the August 6 Poolesville commissioners' meeting.

No residents came forward to make public comments at either hearing, but the record for written comments was held open until August 10.

The first hearing was on proposed Ordinance 187- Ethics that adjusted town ethics regulations to meet state requirements for local governments.

The second was for a series of charter amendment resolutions that made adjustments to the Poolesville Town Charter that fall under the category of house-cleaning changes. For example, two resolutions allow the town tax collection to be handled by Montgomery County which has been the case for many years now. Another removed language that called for individuals to be committed to the county jail for failure to pay certain fines and introduced language to properly address the collection of fines and penalties.

The commissioners will vote on the ordinance and resolutions at the August 20 town meeting.

#### FY 2012 Budget Closeout Presentation

Town manager Wade Yost provided a presentation on the final closeout of the FY 2012 town budget.

The presentation was in three parts, covering: final results of the town expenditures and revenue for General Funds, and the Water and Wastewater Budget, and funds for Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) that is itemized within the General Fund.

Overall, the town closed out in the black by \$103,000.

Some highlights of the presentation showed that town revenue closed out \$226,683 above anticipated income. The

town received more revenue than budgeted from: income taxes (\$123,977), highway user fees (\$35,496), development fees (\$26,496), building permits (\$25,959), and community events (\$9,547).

The largest areas of expenditures are: salaries (37%), trash (23%), administrative (8%), and parks, streets, and sidewalks (9%).

The budget closed out with cash on hand of \$882,096 in unrestricted funds, accumulated CIP funds of \$989,183, and Water and Wastewater CIP funds of \$1,073,116 and \$98,370 in restricted funds for a total of just over \$3,000,000.

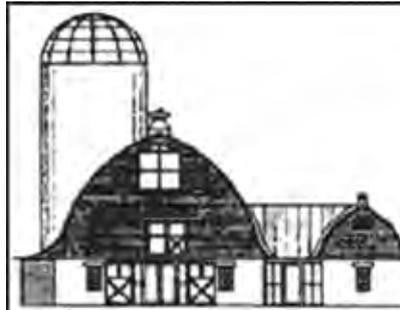
#### Looking to Prepare for Future Emergencies

As a result of the issues raised after the heavy rains of this summer, town manager Wade Yost reported on actions taken and planned to improve town-to-resident communications. First, since Verizon is the only cell phone and internet provider with a backup generator for its antenna located at the water tower in town, the town switched to Verizon from Comcast. They are also looking into various services for emergency text messaging, bolstering of its current email Public Notification System (PNS), and the purchase of extra generators, including one to fully power town hall (residents wanting to be included in the PNS Emergency Alert System need to send their email addresses to town hall). Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski also recommended introduction of a town emergency siren system as not all residents have cell phones, have them available at key moments, and storms can also take down standard phone lines.

#### New Water Rate Adjusted Process Approved

Commissioners unanimously approved the proposed Ordinance 192 allowing up to a two percent increase in water rates annually to be included in the

-Continued on Page 15.



## SUGARLOAF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER August 2012

"Protecting our rural legacy"

How to contact us:

Sugarloaf Citizens' Association

James Choukas-Bradley, President

Linden Farm, 20900 Martinsburg Road

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Visit our Web site: [www.sugarloafcitizens.org](http://www.sugarloafcitizens.org)

### Renewed Threat to AgReserve

In Sugarloaf Country we are the beneficiaries of extraordinary work by people with a vision. Throughout the 1970s, these people worked to refine and implement a vision of preserving farming and farmland in Montgomery County before working farms and rural open space were lost forever to development. In the 1980s this work came to fruition with the adoption by the Montgomery County Council of the Master Plan for the Preservation of Agriculture and Rural Open Space, the establishment of the Agricultural Reserve, the adoption of 25-acre zoning, and a program of transferrable development rights.

At the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association (SCA) in 2012 we will continue to work to preserve the rural character of the AgReserve as we have for almost 40 years. For us it is a labor of love. Threats to the character and the integrity of the agricultural vision never end. The desire of some interests to develop the area will not abate.

Over the last couple of months, we have faced renewed cries from certain interests on the Virginia side of the Potomac (but not necessarily the people who live there) for a new "study" of the supposed need for another bridge across the river, one that would be linked to a super-highway through the AgReserve. This is a true threat that has resurfaced from time to time and which we can expect to resurface again and again. **However, nine studies over time have drawn the same conclusion—a new Potomac crossing would not relieve traffic problems on the Beltway or the American Legion Bridge but would adversely affect Maryland's economy.** We must again make sure that officials in Maryland remain vigilant in resisting the spending of any of the public's money for a new "study" of the need for such a bridge. During June and July, SCA representatives held successful meetings on this subject with members of Governor O'Malley's Administration and other interested officials.

As always, at SCA we seek your input, your insight, and your involvement. Please feel free to contact me at [president@sugarloafcitizens.org](mailto:president@sugarloafcitizens.org), or call us at (301) 349-4889.

## Things to Do

### August 10 to 18 Sixty-Fourth Annual Montgomery County Agricultural Fair

Carnival rides, 4-H exhibits, nightly entertainment, crafts/sewing/baking/quilting exhibits.

Carnival rides open at noon  
Fair hours: 10:00 a.m. to midnight

### August 10 Summer Concerts in the Park

Featuring: Doug Bell  
7:00 p.m.

### Cugini's Entertainment Night

Featuring: Ron Kemp  
8:30 p.m.

### August 11 Movies in the Park

*The Muppets*  
8:30 p.m.

### August 13 Reed Cantler Memorial Golf Tournament

Reed Cantler was a young boy from Boonsboro who was killed in a car accident in 2010 and much of his family live in Poolesville. The cost is \$80.00 and there are team and corporate sponsorships available. The outing will be held at the Black Rock Golf Course in Hagerstown, Maryland. Interested persons may call 301-514-2973 or email rememberingreed@gmail.com.

### August 15 Connection Café

Free WiFi  
Stop by for coffee, a chat, to check your email, or to work on a project.  
Poolesville Presbyterian Church  
2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### August 20 Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall  
7:30 p.m.

August 24  
**Summer Concerts in the Park**  
Featuring: Stone Age Rhapsody  
7:00 p.m.

August 25  
**Cugini's Entertainment Night**  
Featuring: Felix Soho  
9:30 p.m.

August 25 and 26  
**Poolesville in the Civil War**  
Attention history buffs: HMD special two-day event at the Old Town Hall. Featuring a collection of Civil War artifacts found in the area and rarely on public display. Guest speaker Jim Poole will present on the town and its role during the years of the war. Mr. Poole is in the process of writing a book from his research on the war. Also, local metal detectorist Greg Shores will

display many of his artifacts and share his expertise on the Civil War. Continual showing of the film: *Life in a War Zone, Telling the Story of Montgomery County during the War.*

On Sunday: Free hot dogs and drink sponsored by the American Legion.

Open: noon to 4:00 p.m.  
**John Poole General Store and Museum**

The General Store Museum, built in 1793, has furnishings based on authenticated period inventories. The museum features Civil War artifacts on display, Native American tools and toys, and antiques, collectibles, linen, notepaper, pottery, toys, books, and local art.

Behind the Old Town Hall on Fisher Avenue  
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## Remembrance

### James Michael McCollum

By Rande Davis



James Michael McCollum

The short life of James Michael McCollum was remembered and celebrated at a memorial service at Poolesville's Memorial United Methodist Church on July 28. He was born on February 25, 1989 and passed away on July 6, 2012 after a long, hard-fought but courageous battle against osteosarcoma, a cancerous (malignant) bone tumor that usually develops during the period of rapid growth that occurs in adolescence, as a teenager matures into an adult.

His family and friends nearly overwhelmed the capacity at MUMC as they came to celebrate a life marked by the many friendships he developed and to share the joy and lessons on living that James gifted them throughout his ordeal.

Understanding what he was facing, James lived his short life to the fullest as a self-taught and talented graphics designer and as someone who showed compassion and a delightful sense of humor to those he encountered. It seemed that making oth-

ers smile was a calling for him. He had a way of making every holiday count bringing presents and cheer even on the less formal holidays.

His "calling card" in visiting friends was the loud sub-woofers from his car's music system. Friends knew James was coming from the thunderous bass beat preceding his arrival. Reverend Pat Dols, in recalling this passion, expressed the thought that she will think of him often whenever she hears thunder across the sky, and that friends and family should consider it his sub-woofer call from heaven.

The Make-a-Wish Foundation sponsored a trip for him to a football game between the Atlanta Falcons and the New Orleans Saints where he joined many of the players in a post-game party.

Friends recalled how he courageously dealt with the struggle against cancer: never complaining. The young man had a perspective on life far beyond his age. He lived with a philosophy that he expressed thus: It is not the number of years in one's life, but the life one has in the years he gets.

In life, he opined "don't be afraid of death, be afraid your life never really begins," and "what doesn't kill you, makes you stronger." Once he stated that he "didn't consider himself a cancer survivor because he never allowed himself to be its victim."

His determination to live this hopeful and positive philosophy inspired his friends and family, causing smiles to cross their faces even as they mourned his passing.

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# Local News

## Grand Marshal Selected for Poolesville Day

Jim Brown has been selected as the Grand Marshal for the 2012 Poolesville Day festival and parade.

His list of community service is as extensive as it is long. Since the late 1990s, Jim has been an active member of the Poolesville community, dedicating his time, energy, and personal resources to the promotion of youth sports, the local arts, economic development, and civic pride.

Best known as town commissioner and the director of the Poolesville Basketball Association (PBA) since 2000, Jim has overseen a program that

fostered the development of thousands of boys and girls in the skills and confidence of athletic competition. Many of these young people have moved on to play in the upper levels of the game. Jim has also coached and been a member representative for the Poolesville Athletic Association (PAA) which oversees several divisions of youth football and baseball teams.

Since 2007, Jim has been the vice president of the Mid-Maryland Boys' Basketball League and, since 2004, has been a director of the Mid-Maryland Girls' Basketball League, both Maryland State accredited youth sports programs. He also directs various youth summer camps in basketball and soccer.

In addition to sports, Jim has been a supporter and sponsor of the Sandy Cam-

eron fundraisers, the Poolesville Youth Symphony Orchestra, and the Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre.

In 2007, Jim was elected as one of the Poolesville Town commissioners and, since 2010, has been vice president. He is currently a member of the Parks Board, overseeing the development of Dr. Dillingham Park, the Poolesville Town Skate Park, and he was, along with Wade Yost, co-designer of the Whalen Commons bandstand.



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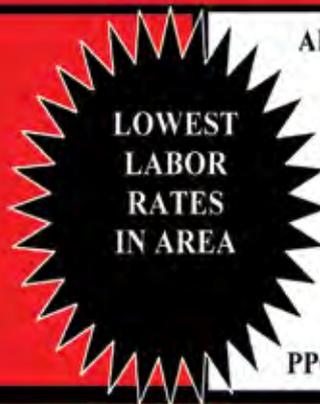
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## Youth Sports

### PHS Fall Athletic Teams Returning to The Practice Field

By Jeff Stuart

It has been a hot summer, but fall is not far away, and the Poolesville fall athletic schedule will soon be in full swing. Here is a quick look at team prospects and perspectives from coaches.

#### Football

"The Poolesville football program is looking to improve on its 4-6 season (most wins in six years)," says Head Coach Will Gant. "The team will be led by quarterback Kirby Carmack (threw for 1136 yards and seven touchdowns last year; also rushed for four touchdowns). Running back Nikolay Henze also returns (778 yards rushing and four touchdowns). On the offensive line, we return seniors Stanley Snowden and Tyler Giarratano, along with junior Sweekar Shrestra and sophomore Jon Bateky. We have several kids that will compete for the fifth offensive line spot. Senior kicker Josh Womack returns as well."

The team has been working out during the summer in preparation. The Falcons open the season at home against Watkins Mill on August 31.

#### Field Hockey

"At this time, with not having had tryouts yet, I cannot give you a good rundown," says Head Field Hockey Coach Regina Grubb. "We lost many seniors including our honorable mention All-Met goalie, Amy Defnet. We have a great group of juniors coming back to continue our success. I am very excited about the upcoming season and look forward to developing each of the players to play together and trust one another as a team." Seniors Kelsey Carnahan, Kelly Hughes, and Jocelyn Bodmer return on defense, and senior forward Allie Greene, who scored the winning goal in last season's state semifinal double overtime 2-1

win over Century is back on offense. Carnahan's goal with 8:51 left in regulation tied that game. The Falcons open their season at home with a 10:00 a.m. game versus Magruder on September 1.

#### Volleyball

"I will have a lot of new blood this year," says Head Volleyball Coach Fran Duvall. "Some key returners are Sarah Kenneweg, Rosie Barry, Alice Xie, and Haley Davison. There is a lot of work to be done; however, I believe this group is up for the challenge."

#### Cross Country

"Cross country team looks okay for the upcoming season, still too early to predict anything," says Head Coach James Vollmer. Vollmer had his largest team in twenty-one years of coaching last season, fourteen girls and thirty-one boys. Standouts are senior Emily Murphy, juniors Chase Weaverling, Chelsie Pennello, and Patrick Krisko, and sophomore Denise Larson.

#### Girls' Soccer

Senior midfielders Hannah Patton and Victoria Yee bring a lot of experience to Christina Mann's girls' soccer team. Senior forward/midfielder Tara Beaton, senior defender Megan Capozzi, and junior defender Annie Gillespie will help as well. The girls finished 5-4-1 last season.

#### Boys' Soccer

Sophomore Brian Galfond, senior goalie Christopher Comfort, and senior Chris Carney will lead the boys' soccer team. In a spirited playoff run, the boys reached the region final last season with a 2-1 overtime win over third seed Liberty after beating the two seed Williamsport, before losing to South Carroll, 4-2.

#### Golf

Last fall, the PHS golf team came up short in its bid to reach the 2A-1A state final for the first time, carding a 386 at the University of Maryland Golf Course in the semifinal round. "We will be returning most of the team from last year including the top seven scorers, so we have high expecta-

-Continued on Page 13.



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**"PHS Fall Athletics"**  
**Continued From Page 12.**

tions," says Coach Dave Gillespie. "Our main goal this year will be to qualify for the second round at the state tournament."

year before, but they've graduated four seniors, so this is a new beginning. Juniors Ashley Chang and Eki Olumese return as singles players. Junior Ana Vlajnic and seniors Shriya Gupta and Lucy Tan are also back.

Junior Andy Baker, senior Anthony Caputo, junior Craig Morton, and junior Whitney Carmack all return for the Falcons.

**Girls' Tennis**  
 Coach Holley Dacek's girls' tennis team finished 3-6 last year after jumping up to Division 1 the

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## Tidbits

### Two Graduate Pre-School

Maya Priya Rai and Sutton Malling Wetcher graduated from the pre-kindergarten program for Sunny Day Child Care in Poolesville, Maryland. Teacher Christine R. Rai donned her master's robes and mortarboard for the ceremony. The graduates were presented with bouquets of peacock feathers and listened to the commencement address, in which Ms. Christine exhorted the graduates to be "proud as peacocks" of all their hard work and learning. Maya and Sutton were presented with diplomas, and friends and family in attendance applauded and cheered with zest. Maya will go on to attend Poolesville Elementary and Sutton will be attending Monocacy Elementary.

### Local Man Is New Leader of National IWLA

Poolesville resident Robert E. (Bob) Chapman was elected national president of the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA)

at the 2012 National Convention held in July at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Founded in 1922, the Izaak Walton League is one of the nation's oldest and most respected conservation organizations.

Bob is a member of the local Bethesda-Chevy Chase (BCC) Chapter located on West Willard Road, as well as several other chapters. The BCC Chapter is a proud and active sponsor of many conservation and youth initiatives in the Upcounty, notably its ongoing support of Poolesville High School's Global Environmental Studies Program. The IWLA invites the public to learn about its work and to join in supporting its efforts.



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"Town Government"  
Continued From Page 5.

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## In the Garden

### Mistletoe Myths

By Maureen O'Connell

With the heat, drought, Japanese beetles, black spot, and powdery mildew, there are not a lot of beautiful things happening in my gardens right now. I will say, though, that my roses are doing considerably well considering the weather, my dahlias are tall enough to need staking, and my 'David' white phlox are more florescent than ever. With that said, allow me to skip ahead a few months and talk about a plant you normally think about in December: mistletoe.

Did you ever wonder why some plants and insects exist, what their *raison d'être* may be? What immediately comes to my mind with this question are ticks and poison ivy. You could also throw into this discussion cockroaches, Virginia creeper, house flies, and crab grass. The prevailing answer to this question is that they do serve a purpose in the scheme of things, even though it is not evident to the average person.

Let me add to this list mistletoe. The plant is not particularly ugly; it does not have a bad odor; and it does not cause a rash if you

touch it. So, again, why? Simply put, mistletoe is a parasite that can damage trees, and it is highly toxic to children and pets. Several years ago, I had two Siamese kittens; they ingested some mistletoe berries and died soon afterward. Mistletoe grows on trees, particularly hardwood trees like oak and apple. Its roots invade a tree's bark, which allows it to absorb the tree's nutrients. It is a one-sided symbiotic relationship. It can also cause deformities in a tree's branches. It usually does not kill its host, but if the host tree dies, the mistletoe dies.

In spite of these properties, mistletoe evokes attention and love by many. At Christmas time, you don't stand under a poinsettia plant waiting to be kissed. In pre-Christian Europe, mistletoe was seen as a representation of "divine male essence." (What, may I ask, is that?) The fans of Astérix, the hero of a series of French comic books by René Goscinny and Albert Uderzo, know that he got his superhuman strength from a magic potion containing mistletoe brewed by the local druid Getafix (Panoramix in the original French).

A recent experiment conducted in Australia shed some new light on this plant. The study was conducted by Dr. David Watson and Dr. Matthew Herring of Charles Sturt University in Albury, Australia. They found empirical evidence that mistletoe does indeed have wondrous properties. When the plant was removed from its home environment, many other species vanished, too—but this fact is only part of the experiment's story. The study focused on a section of woodland in Billabong Creek, New South Wales. They broke down this area into two sites:

one where mistletoe was present and another where it was absent. The scientists then broke down these areas further: They cleared of mistletoe the patch where it had formerly grown, and in the area where there was no mistletoe growing, they left untouched. They then waited to see what would happen. The outcome of this experiment was influenced by another incident. Before Dr. Watson and Dr. Herring began the mistletoe experiment, they surveyed the bird population in the entire selected woodland every season for two years. Then three years after the removal of the mistletoe from a selected patch, they did another bird survey. The results were both expected and intriguing. The most obvious result rang true: The one bird species that feeds almost exclusively on mistletoe berries, the aptly-named mistletoe bird, vanished from the woodlands. Other birds that made their nests in mistletoe branches also disappeared, but what was almost more intriguing was the fact that lots of other birds disappeared, too, roughly a fifth of them, compared with the bird population in the culled area before the culling. Another interesting fact was that in the woodlands where the mistletoe was left in place,

the number of birds increased, but this information was skewed. It probably occurred because of the end of a long drought in the area. The most important and far-reaching result of this experiment showed that "Compared with the species diversity in these selected areas when the final count was made, the number of species in the culled area of woodland was down by about a quarter. Mistletoe is thus acting as what ecologists refer to as a keystone species: It supports an entire ecosystem, and removing it has drastic effects for the whole. The plant did this in two ways. First, as mistletoe weakens its host trees, it opens up decaying wood as food for a wide selection of insects. Secondly, as mistletoe sheds many leaves, it adds a layer of leaf litter which provides food for insects and birds."

The next time you wonder why rats, stink bugs, or crab grass exists, remember that everything on Earth has a purpose, even if it is not evident to us.

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**“Planning” Continued From Page 1.**

changes approved by the Planning Board late in July.

Mitra Pedoeem, chief of park development, said small changes like those she requested at the July 23 planning board meeting were typical, although the parks department Fiscal 2013 Capital Budget was only recently approved.

One amendment, which will need final approval by the county council, allocated a \$200,000 state bond for construction at Little Bennett. Pedoeem said the matching funds had already been appropriated, but the grant was unintentionally left out of the budget. “What this grant allows us to do is to go a little bit beyond [at Little Bennett],” parks project manager Carl Morgan said.

Work will include a vehicle entrance and parking lot, signage, and a picnic area. The construction is expected to begin in fiscal 2013 while other facilities in the park are not funded until 2017 at

the earliest. The amendment was unanimously approved.

The board also approved a transfer of more than \$602,000 from nearly-completed projects to the account for an urban park to be constructed on the library property in Germantown Town Center. Pedoeem said the money would allow “for contingencies for unforeseen changes” since nearly the entire current budget was to be consumed in construction at 19840 Century Boulevard.

The board, which had final say on the transfer, also approved it unanimously.

**New Farmers for Reserve?**

At deadline, Montgomery County was scheduled to announce the launch of a pilot program to create new sustainable agricultural businesses locally.

According to releases from county government and Montgomery Countryside Alliance, County Executive Ike Leggett was expected to speak about the New Farmer Pilot Project August 6 at Red Wiggler Community Farm on Ridge Road. Funding for the

first year of the project will come from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Two Countryside Alliance board members, Dolores Milmoie and Mike Rubin, will provide the land hosting the first of the farm start-ups, aimed at attracting sustainable-practice farmers and horticulturalists.

Web and Facebook pages, established by the county’s Department of Economic Development with information on the application process for producers and mentors, were expected to

be available soon after Leggett’s announcement.

The program was developed by the county’s Office of Economic Development with input from the Countryside Alliance and area farmers Woody Woodroof and Wade Butler, according to the press releases.

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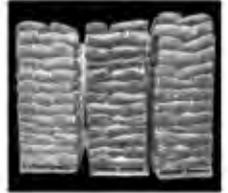
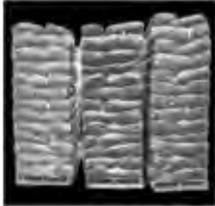
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