



The Daytripper unearths another winner on Page 12.



If you follow the Daytripper's lead you might see Sir Harry, a Devon steer. And that's no bull.



A prominent local artist is profiled in Center Stage, on Page 14.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

January 27, 2006

Volume 2, Number 21

Police Investigate Local Hate Crimes

By Jack Toomey

The Montgomery County Police Department is investigating a series of hate crimes that have occurred in the area that could be the work of the followers of a neo-Nazi group based in California. In the first series of crimes, two menorahs were destroyed at a home in the Kentlands area of Gaithersburg and at a shopping center on Randolph Road in Wheaton. A sign was also damaged at a synagogue at 11520 Darnestown Road.

During the second week of January, racial slurs and symbols were painted on two schools in Gaithersburg and two churches and a historic landmark in the northwest part of the county. Swastikas and the initials, W.A.R., were painted on the outside walls of Quince Orchard High School and Ridgeview Middle School in Gaithersburg. Then, parishioners and local residents discovered swastikas and obscenities painted on the walls of St. Mark's United Methodist Church and the historic Boyds Ne-

gro School on White Ground Road in Boyds and the Seneca Community Church on Berryville Road in Darnestown.

Montgomery County Police Chief Thomas Manger has said that there

tred and attracts the neo-Nazi type of individual. A police spokesperson told the *Monocle* that no suspects had been developed.

A recent visitor to St. Mark's Church observed that the swastikas were still visible on the front walls of both the church and the Boyds Negro School that the church uses for Sunday school. The Reverend Timothy Warner, the pastor of St. Mark's, invited a *Monocle* reporter into his little country church and said, "I think that we need to move past the shock and pain of it. While we are disappointed that it happened in 2006, we realize that there is still hatred present in the world. We know that since it happened in daylight that it was planned." Tammy King, a parishioner, said, "I am appalled that in this day and age that people would have the audacity to do something like this."



Parishioners Betty Hawkins and Tammy King with Chairman of Trustees Richard C. King Sr, in front of St. Mark's Church.

has been no known activity by W.A.R. in Montgomery County in the past, but the recent rash of vandalism was worrisome. W.A.R. is the symbol of a California-based group named White Aryan Resistance that promotes ha-

Ms. King believes that the church and school were defaced during daylight hours because a church member had been at the church earlier on the day of the crime and had found nothing

—Continued on Page 12.

Local History

By Jack Toomey

During the late 1880s, Daniel Baker bought a large parcel of land just west of the railroad tracks in Germantown. He improved the property and added on to the existing house and called his grand estate Ballincara. A new wing was added as well as an impressive front porch, and it became the home of Mr. Baker, his wife, and six children. Mr. Baker died a premature death and his second son, Andrew, turned the place into an impressive country estate, adding bedrooms, porches, a swimming pool, gardens, and an orchard. The estate encompassed several hundred acres. As time passed, most of the property was sold off into lots and only eight acres and

the grand old house remained.

In 1949, Lewanna Dickerson opened a small nursing home in Bethesda but soon realized that the house was too small to care for her patients. She traveled into the countryside and soon discovered Ballincara. Ms. Dickerson purchased the estate, moved her patients to Germantown, and called her new nursing home the Marylander Home of Rest. It housed up to forty-two patients in this country setting and many of her clients came from Washington to live out the last years of their lives. It appears that most, if not all, of her patients were women.

On the bitterly cold morning of December 6, 1954 at about 3:30 a.m., a nurse, making her rounds, discovered

a fire in one of the patient's rooms. She called the fire department and tried to help evacuate the elderly residents. Sgt. James Furlaw and Officer Henry Davis of the Montgomery County Police were on midnight patrol when they were notified of the fire. They were about a mile outside of Old Germantown when they realized that they could see a glowing red fire in the distance. They sped to the scene arriving before the fire department. When they arrived, they could see that flames had already engulfed a sun porch and that the fire was spreading throughout the rest of the building. Sgt. Furlaw and Officer Davis ran into the building and began carrying

—Continued on Page 10.

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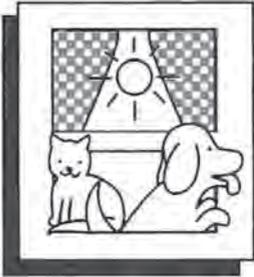







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Editorial

Know Our Real Friends and Neighbors

By Rande Davis

As a reader of the *Monocle*, you are accustomed to our approach of bringing you the news while celebrating life in Upper Montgomery and Southern Frederick Counties. We are happy to be part of this community and so glad to be living here, but we also know that sometimes the news is not always positive. Sometimes, the news makes us sad. Other times, it can make us angry. The news often amazes, shocks, and even confuses us. Once in a while, it can be downright stupid. Then, there are those times it makes us ashamed.

Rarely, however, can just one news story make us feel all of those things at once.

Our headline story about the inexplicable desecration of black churches with the revolting Nazi swastika is precisely one of those rare news stories. Upon hearing about the incident, and then actually seeing the pictures, all of those disturbing emotions come to the surface.

Such an event makes me wonder. Just how does this impact on our black friends and neighbors? It makes me angry, so I can only imagine how angry it must make them. I hope it is not something that they would come to expect. I am afraid it may not be as shocking to them as it is to me. I wonder, even hope, that it might just be one of those stupid things done by foolish kids rather than a deep-seeded act of racism. Then, you consider that it is obviously a planned and time-consuming event, not just a random

act of stupidity. Simple pranksters would be just too lazy to do all this.

I even wonder about the perpetrator(s). We don't know much about them at this point. This much we do know. To be sure, they are ignorant and callous individuals who cannot even take pride in themselves. If they had pride in their prejudice, they would be open about it. Rather, they are more like worms crawling to the surface after an early morning rainstorm.

Perhaps they think it is funny. Most likely, it would not be funny to them if someone had desecrated something they consider sacred. Then again, they are probably incapable of holding anything really sacred.

Finally, I wonder, can anything good come of this? Yes, if the victims of this despicable vandalism are reassured just how strongly the entire community is upset that some pitiful, thoughtless, fools sought to single them out in this hurtful way. This is the perfect time let each other know that we really are glad we are friends and neighbors. We join together as a community to say that the only true outsiders are those with the can of spray paint in their hands.

The *Monocle* welcomes responsible comments for publication.

Please address all comments by e-mail or US Mail to the addresses shown to the right of this announcement.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Memorial Service Scheduled for Fred Stearns

A community memorial service for Fred Stearns of WUMCO has been set for January 28 at the Mt. Zion/Warren UMC Church at 21000 Beallsville Road.

The service will begin at 11:00 a.m.



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Keeping An Eye On Local News

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Local News

Community Continues to Show Support for Wounded Soldiers

A variety of area groups and citizens joined together on January 23 to assist in a new therapeutic program to help those soldiers from Walter Reed Medical Center who have lost an arm or leg through their service to the country.

Circle of Hope Therapeutic Riding Inc., a non-profit organization that has brought the joys of riding horses



Lassoing was one of the activities.

to countless children with disabilities, answered the call from Harvey Narango, Recreation and Sports Program Director from Walter Reed Medical Center.

Mr. Nurango's program is designed to work with amputees to help them return to a fully active lifestyle. "Those soldiers in the program are committed to bringing themselves back to as normal a lifestyle as possible," he told the *Monocle*. "We have programs in skiing, running, fishing, rock climbing, etc. and had been looking at an equestrian program in Pennsylvania before coming into contact with Circle of Hope. This is great since it is so much closer to the hospital."

The event was hosted by Suzette and Angelo Bizzaro at their Pleasant View Farms in Barnesville. Circle of Hope uses the Bizzaros' facilities for the therapeutic riding program. The Bizzaros and Nancy Hughes are members of a national organization, American Quarter Horse Foundation, which helps sponsor the riding programs for the disabled throughout the country. Soldiers and some of their family members came to Pleasant View Farms for lunch, to ride the horses, do some rope lassoing, and to have some fun. The Rural Republican Women's Club was on hand to provide the lunch for the group.

This event was just the start of an ongoing program that will bring soldiers out to the area on a regular basis. Those who would like to learn more may contact Circle of Hope's Leslie Schear at 301-916-2040.

Winners of the Holiday Decoration Contest Announced

Poolesville Town Commissioners have announced the winners of the 2005 Holiday Decoration Contest. There are four categories: traditional, contemporary, townhouse, and business. Except for the business winner, there are two winners for each category for the east and the west side of Fisher Avenue. The winners in the traditional category are Robert Cissel, and Richard and Catherine Wyne. Winning the contemporary category were Frank and Louise Austin, and Steven and Tammy Lightcap. The townhouse winners were Tiffany Carswell, and Rodger and Jonnie Ferrell. This year's business winner is Steve Goldberg of Hearthside Gardens and Antiques.

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Lots and Land

Dickerson: Wooded 4 ac. building lot with stream adj. 700 acs. of parkland. County approved perc test. Well on property. MLS#MC5432488. Offered at \$315,000.00

Poolesville: 2.75 ac. lot located less than one mile from the center of town on a quiet rural road within close proximity of the prestigious Woods of Tama subdivision This rolling, partially wooded lot boasts two approved sewer taps. MLS#MC5308569. Offered at \$349,900.

Dickerson: 18.71 acs. currently being utilized as a tree nursery, this property consist of 2 lots with one approved perc. Lovely homesite on a high elevation. Easily accessible to the Frederick area and Gaithersburg/Rockville. MLS#MC5308569. Offered at \$550,000.00

Dickerson: 5.85 ac. non-buildable lot conveniently located off State Route 28. Potential uses include hunting and numerous recreational uses. Offered at \$125,000.00

Poolesville: 25 ac. building lot with County approved septic system for a 5 bedroom residence. Surrounded by farmland, this level lot is within and mile of State Route 28 and approx 7 miles from White's Ferry and the C & O Canal. MLS#MC5389405. Offered at \$750,000.00



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Big Board

Memorial Service Scheduled for Fred Stearns

A community memorial service for Fred Stearns of WUMCO has been set for January 28 at the Mt. Zion/Warren UMC Church at 21000 Beallsville Road. The service will begin at 11:00 a.m.

Planning for 2006 Program to Support Music Program is Getting Underway

Through the extraordinary talent of Sandy Cameron, a fundraising concert is being planned to benefit the music program for the Poolesville School Cluster. The Benefit Concert Committee is in its initial planning stages and they want to alert past sponsors and new contributors about this highly successful concert which will continue the Cameron Music Fund. More information will be forthcoming, and those who would like to help or sponsor the event may contact Pam Green (301-349-2403), Roger Hayden (haydenrd@erols.com) or Heidi Rosvold-Brenhotlz (hrosvold@aol.com).

Les Choristes

Finally, we don't have to go to D.C. to see a French film! Rated PG-13, *Les Choristes* is the film debut of Christophe Barratier. Set in the 1940s, the story of a boy in a strict boarding school where the new music teacher brightens up the place and discovers the boy's musical talents is told from the point of view of the now-adult boy through the diary of the music teacher. January 27 at 8:00 p.m., tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. Call the box office at 301-228-2828 or visit www.weinbergcenter.org for more information.

February is Library Lovers Month

Poolesville Library has a number of events scheduled through February with the theme, "Library Lovers Month." There will be an adult raffle with five winners chosen to get gift certificates from area restaurants and movie tickets to Regal Theater. For each visit to the library, with a book checked, the book borrower will be able to enter a raffle ticket for the free drawing. This raffle is open only to high school age and up. Children will be given a "Passport" at their first visit in February. For each visit in the month, their passport will be stamped

and with ten stamps they will qualify for a \$5.00 coupon at McDonald's. This program starting February extends through June. Throughout the month the library will be giving out Hershey Kisses and Hershey Hugs.

"It's Showtime!"

Catch 1979 Academy Award winner *All That Jazz* February 3 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. Call the box office at 301-228-2828 or visit www.weinbergcenter.org for more information.

A Birthday Toast to Mozart

The Maryland Symphony Orchestra, founded in 1982, will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth with a concert featuring two of Mozart's most famous works, *Overture to Il Re Pastore* and *Symphony No. 41*, also known as *Jupiter*, on February 10 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children, seniors, and students. Call the box office at 301-228-2828 or visit www.weinbergcenter.org for more information.

Free College Financial Aid Workshop

Is your child filling out the college applications? If so, get a head start on paying for college by planning

to attend a fee college financial aid workshop. It will be held at Farmers and Mechanics Bank, 110 Thomas Johnson Drive in Frederick on February 7 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Call Stacy Collins at 301-644-4440 for more information.

JPMS Looking for Volunteers for Career Day

The highly successful annual Career Day at John Poole Middle School will be held February 27 and the administration is seeking individuals within the community who will volunteer to speak to the students about their particular career. The event is for eighth grade students and would be presented in ten- to fifteen-minute increments several times as the students rotate from speaker to speaker. The event will be from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Those willing to participate should call Diane Kitts at 301-972-7980.

Lori Defnet Ben Carson Scholarship Nominee

Congratulations to Lori Defnet who was nominated for the Ben Carson Scholarship. She was nominated because she was the eighth grader with a 3.75 to 4.0 grade point average and the highest number of Student Service Learning hours.

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The Humble Chef



By Maureen O'Connell

Several weeks ago, my toaster died. He was not a fancy model; he came from the hardware store many years ago. He had two slots and he knew his job; you dropped a piece of bread in his slot and it popped out golden brown. But toasters don't last forever, so I went to Strosniders Hardware in Potomac to buy another toaster. Well, toasters have come a long way from my old one. Thinking I'd go a little up-scale this time, I selected a large stainless steel one with four wide slots. It proclaimed that it could toast muffins, bagels, slices of pizza and bread slices as big as a half of loaf. That it did; I never had a better toasted bagel. But, could it toast an average slice of white bread? No. I would drop the slice into the slot and wait and wait. Finally, it popped up. It was completely anemic on one side and pale tan on the other side. It would be lunchtime by the time I perfectly toasted all sides. I returned it to Strosniders.

A Toaster Oven Goes Uptown

The following week I was in Bloomindale's and I wandered into the small appliance section. An eagle-eyed saleswoman spotted me and swooped in for the retail kill. She told me to forget about a "mere toaster." What I needed was a toaster oven, but not any toaster oven. It had to be a high-end one by Cuisinart, Krups or DeLonghi. The saleswoman said she had a DeLonghi and couldn't live without it; it did everything. I had a toaster oven (I think everyone did) years ago, and I hated it. All it could adequately do was grill a cheese sandwich, and it was a pain to clean. We've all known people who have a dirty little toaster oven stashed in a corner somewhere. No one wants to eat food made in a dirty little oven. Well, I must have been in a vulnerable mood that day. I bought the \$200+ DeLonghi. I am happy to say that the little Italian oven has made a believer out of me; I love it. It bakes and broils things for breakfast, lunch, dinner, deserts and snacks. It even toasts bread! Cleaning is a cinch with its Teflon-like walls and it doesn't heat up the whole kitchen to make one hamburger or steak. It is ideal for a small household. You can broil or bake a whole chicken for two people. What I like most about it

while broiling something like a steak, there is not hissing grease flying all over the oven walls, as there is in the large oven's broiler. It takes up a very small amount of space on the counter.

I wanted to do more with my little toaster oven, more gourmet items. When I was in Williams-Sonoma last week browsing in the cookbook section, I came upon *The Gourmet Toaster Oven* (Lynn Alley); it was just what I was looking for. In this beautifully photographed book, the author offers fifty gourmet breakfast, lunch, appetizer, side dish, dinner, and desert recipes. I tried the following recipe for meatloaf. It is a little different, very easy and delicious. Give a toaster oven another try. I think you'll like it and use it for many meals.

Turkey, Tarragon, and Apple Meatloaf

Preheat toaster oven to 350 degrees

6 allspice berries

4 peppercorns

1 pound lean ground turkey

½ cup fresh breadcrumbs

½ large onion, finely chopped

½ Granny Smith apple,

unpeeled, cored, and chopped

¼ cup fresh parsley

1 egg, slightly beaten (I used Egg Beaters and it was good)

2 tabl. Chopped fresh tarragon

1 tsp salt

¼ cup ketchup

2 tsp prepared mustard (I used Dijon)

Apple Jelly Glaze

¼ cup apple, or red currant jelly (I used apple mint)

2 tbl ketchup

pinch ground allspice

pinch ground cayenne pepper

Crush allspice berries and peppercorns in a mortar with a pestle

Place turkey, bread crumbs, onion,

apple, parsley, egg, tarragon, salt,

ketchup, mustard, and the crushed

peppercorns and allspice berries in a

large bowl. Combine all the ingredients with your hands.

Spray bottom and sides of a small loaf pan with oil or Pam.

Place the mixture in the pan, or hand shape it and place on a baking tray.

To make apple jelly glaze

Combine all ingredients and brush the glaze mixture over the meatloaf.

Bake the loaf for about 25 minutes, until nicely browned on top. During

cooking, brush tops with more glaze.

Serve with a mountain of mashed potatoes or scalloped potatoes.

To Drink – Gewürztraminer - the spiciness of this wine will complement

the apple and spices in the meatloaf.

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“Local History” Continued From Page 1—

patients to safety. Davis was overcome by smoke and heat and barely escaped with his life. Soon afterwards, Officers Fred Pearson and Marion Nicewarner arrived on the scene and Pearson made repeated trips into the home carrying out at least six elderly women. He was eventually found nearly unconscious and admitted to the hospital suffering from burns and smoke inhalation. For his actions that night, he was later awarded the Medal of Valor. Over a hundred firemen from Gaithersburg, Damascus, Rockville, Beallsville, and Bethesda eventually arrived at the scene and were able to extinguish the blaze.

Four women, Sally Turpin, 94, Dora Ward, 86, Mathilda Koehcer, 84, and Yates Duke, 74, all died that night. Twenty-one other patients were hospitalized. The next day three other

women died at local hospitals. It was one of the largest fires causing loss of life in the history of Montgomery County.

The investigation soon focused on a gas heater that was in the room where the fire started. Tests were conducted and it was thought that one of the beds, which was on canisters, had rolled too close to the heater catching the bed covers on fire.

The state ordered a series of sweeping changes in nursing home safety after this tragedy. Mrs. Dickerson sold the property in 1962. The Marylander Home of Rest finally closed

its doors for good in 1976, and the property sat vacant until 1980 when the estate was burned to the ground by the fire department after a series of arsons. The property was sold to a developer. A townhouse development now occupies the land where the grand estate, Ballincara, once stood, and where, on a cold December night in 1954, seven elderly ladies lost their lives.

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In the Garden

By Maureen O'Connell

It is now almost the end of January; how are you doing with your New Year's resolutions? Have you been seen more regularly at the gym? Have you cut out your after dinner, mid-evening ice cream and cookies snack? Trying to maintain a healthier life style is very admirable and good for you, but I'm talking about your resolutions for a healthier, more manageable and more beautiful garden. I will start with mine, and then I'll get to yours. Or, I should say, the ones I've decided for you.

For over five years, I have waged a battle in my backyard with The Tree and The Grass. Our house was built thirty years ago. The majority of the trees and shrubs have been growing for about the same length of time. As I have repeated many times, gardens live in a state of constant evolution. They go through life's cycles as all do in Nature. Many of my plantings are now well past maturity. As this happens, gardens take on a whole new look, and one must look at them with a more critical eye. The once sunny areas are now deeply shaded, tree roots greedily go in search of moisture, surface roots spread and become thicker and eliminate growth of plants and grass. My primary resolution for Garden 2006 is to face and correct this problem. The main culprit is the tall sugar maple tree behind the house. I will call him The Tree. As he grew taller and wider the grass at his feet became thinner and thinner, until this summer it completely died, leaving behind a muddy, soggy patch in wet weather and a dry, parched, cracked surface in dry weather. I sought the advice of several landscape designers. They all had different ideas. One suggested planting 1,126 pachysandra root cuttings, rhododendrons, and assorted small shrubs and perennials. Meandering through this awkward space would be flagstone and mulch pathways. It seemed very complicated and labor intensive, and I was dubious that the plants would survive, since they lay in the major run lane of Max and Sam. I hated to admit it, but the most logical solution was to cut down The Tree, the large sugar maple tree which held court in this contested locale. It had to go if I wanted grass to grow and survive in this area. Now, I have a problem with cutting

down or disposing of any plant, tree or shrub that is alive and well. But, this year I'm doing it; The Tree must go. This Tree is no mere sapling. He is about forty feet tall with a spread of forty feet in diameter. Many a new homeowner with a barren, treeless backyard would love to have this Tree. Sitting on the adjacent patio, sipping an iced tea with a sliver of lemon on a blistering hot July day, one is shaded from the sun's scorching rays by the canopy of leafy, green boughs of The Tree. All year long the birds dine at the four feeders suspended from its slender, lower limbs. The squirrels use it as their jungle gym, and in the winter snow gently covers its cold boughs. I have vacillated about this decision for many a month, but I know It must go. Years ago, before The Tree grew too tall, it and the surrounding grassy area provided a green transition zone between the house and the middle perennial garden. It was part of the sense of unity which played along and contributed to the larger scheme of the garden But now it contributed to turning this once lush, grassy lawn into a backyard scar. No, the die is cast. The tree care company will soon come and cut down The Tree. The ground will then be cultivated and made ready for Spring grass seed sowing. I will plant a more manageable specimen tree, and have green grass again. The life cycle of the garden will start again. Change will win out.

Now forgive me my presumptuousness, as I tell you what resolutions I have picked out for you.

How could you love a plant named funkia. You would probably recognize it by its name today, hosta. To paraphrase Shakespeare in *Romeo and Juliet*, What's in a name? That which we call a funkia, By any other name would smell as sweet. In our grandmother's day, hostas were considered very mundane plants. They were plunked here and there as accents when you ran out of ideas. Or they ended up on a sunny bank, where the foliage would start to scorch by the end of June. As one of your resolutions, I would like you to take a second look at hostas. They have come a long way since grandma's day. Let's look at them as individual plants and how they can be used to complement other kinds of plants in the garden.

Hostas are the finest ground covers for shady areas and one of the easiest for a long term and carefree

A Garden of New Year's Resolutions

garden. Mass plantings of several different varieties of varying height, color, texture and flower look cool and comfortable at the feet of trees. This genus of shade lovers has seventy species, all of them from China and Japan. Wayside Gardens and White Flower Farm offer several that I have growing in my garden and I would heartily recommend.

Hosta "Spring Fling" is considered one of the best hostas of the



"Little Sunspot" hosta.

last decade. It has deep green leaves edged in bold creamy-white. Lavender flowers emerge in early spring to complete the picture. It will mature to seventeen inches high and forty nine inches wide. Hosta "Patriot" is similar

in color, but the foliage is deep dark green with pure white splashes, which can really light up a shady corner. Moving along the color spectrum, we have "Orange Marmalade", a must-have hosta. The leaves are bright gold edged in dark green. They are very vigorous and elegant. In this grouping of hosta, let Hosta sieboldiana "Supernova" reign as the star of the show. Its deeply puckered foot-long leaves of gold are edged in wide bands of blue. It is a majestic giant of a plant at two feet high and four feet wide.

If you have never grown blue hosta, you are missing one of the most elegant of plants. To give its description justice I shall quote from Wayside Gardens 2006 Spring catalogue. "Simply the best powder-blue hosta in the world today, this Eric B. Smith creation is highly prized in Europe, but scarcely known here! Hardy to minus thirty degrees Fahrenheit yet very tolerant of heat and humidity, its rich blue leaves refuse to green out even in the dog days of August! Elegantly veined leaves give mature plants a quilted look. Large clusters of two-inch lavender blooms

—Continued on Page 16.



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**“Hate Crimes Investigated”
Continued From Page 1—**

amiss. Later in the day the damage was found.

After church services, a *Monocle* reporter was welcomed into the comfortable home of the Driver family who live near the Seneca Community Church in the secluded community of Berryville. Roland Driver, a parishioner, spoke for several generations of the family who were present and said, “Like

everyone else at the church, I am disturbed. We don’t know if it was a prank or not, we just [want them identified].” He added that several individuals and other churches are contributing

to the reward fund. A neighbor who did not want to be identified for publication commented, “We haven’t had this before; everyone gets along great down here.” This reporter, familiar with the back roads of Montgomery County, noted that both churches are in secluded communities about ten miles apart, both churches accommodate predominantly African American congregations, and that several other churches in between the two churches were not vandalized.

Daniel Shea, the principal of Quince Orchard High School whose school was defaced with ugly racial graffiti, told the *Monocle*, “On behalf of Quince Orchard, these crude and profane scrawlings are a slap in the face to the hard work accomplished daily to make things better in our community. We will cooperate fully with the investigation and look forward to [quick arrests].”

A source close to the investigation told the *Monocle* that leads were being pursued, and that the public was supplying helpful tips.

The police are asking for the help of the public to identify the persons who were responsible for these

crimes. The Hate Crime Tipster Fund has been activated and anyone who has information about the incidents can call Crime Solvers at 1-866-411-8477. The Hate Crime Fund will pay a cash reward of up to \$2,000 for information leading to the arrest of the persons responsible. An additional \$2,000 reward was offered by a Gaithersburg church. Citizens can also call the detective office at 301-840-2347.



The vandalized Boyds Negro School.

Day Tripper
Gunston Hall

By Dominique Agnew

Gunston Hall, the home of George Mason, author of America’s first Bill of Rights, stands as a beautiful testament to the colonial plantations that were the backbone of the nation and the classical thinking of the founders of the United States. Located south of Washington, D.C. in Mason Neck, Virginia, the mansion is the focal point of the grounds of the property which overlook the Potomac River like its contemporary, Mount Vernon, to the north.

Upon arrival at Gunston Hall Plantation, visitors enter through a modern building called the Ann Mason Visitor Center. Inside, visitors can take in a short film and visit the Museum Shop. The walk from the Visitor Center to George Mason’s home along the magnolia-lined path takes visitors back in time. While much of the plantation is designed for self-guided tours, every half hour, a docent offers an informational guided tour of the mansion.

The guided tour speaks on many levels and time periods: how the Masons lived, the uses of the rooms during George Mason’s residency, the changes that have occurred over the past two centuries, and what is being done now to restore and authentically refurbish Gunston Hall. Naturally, many interesting comparisons are made to Mount Vernon, and, of course, between George Mason and George Washington.

With the substantial grounds and the numerous outbuildings, Gunston Hall Plantation makes an appealing



The gardens at Gunston Hall.

outing for visitors of all ages, even if it means a gentle walk through the unspoiled woods or through the boxwood gardens to the river. Children frequently find it interesting to see how their peers lived centuries ago, and George Mason raised his nine children in the home, so children’s lifestyles are an important part of the tour.

Throughout the year, special events occur of varying interest. For example, on Monday, February 20, Presidents’ Day, admission is only \$1.00 per person. The website offers information on the calendar of events and a printable online coupon for a discount on admission. A few of these require advance registration. Know anyone looking for that unique venue for a wedding or other special event? The grounds at Gunston Hall could be the place. Visit www.gunstonhall.org for more information.

—Continued on Page 20.

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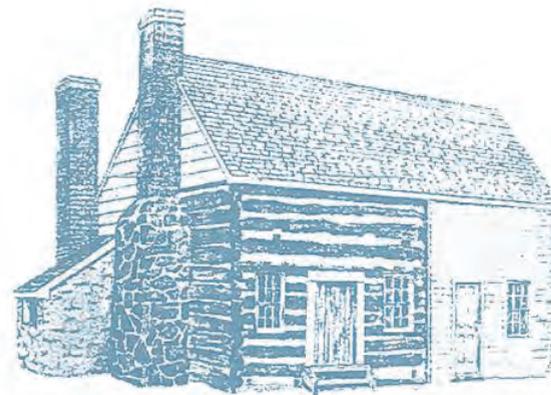
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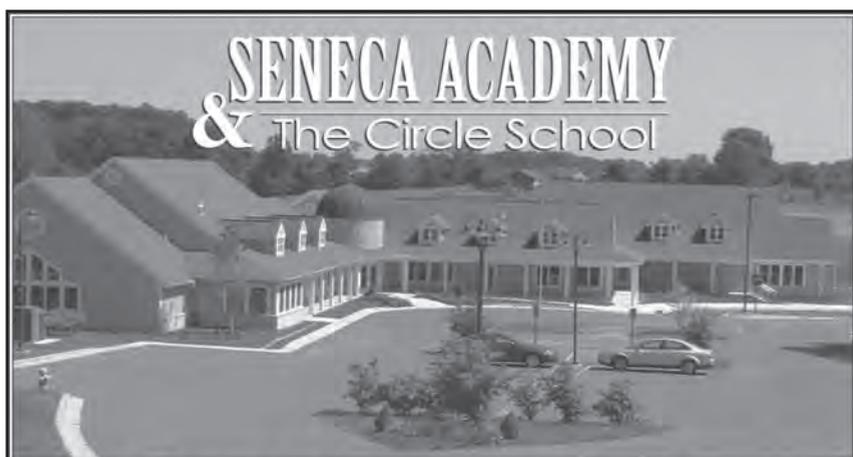
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A Snapshot of Our Lives



Photograph by Hilary Schwab Shapiro

Center Stage

Variety Is the Spice of Art

By Dominique Agnew

More than likely, anyone who has been around Poolesville for any length of time has seen a painting by Dean Wroth. If not a painting, then some of the frequent subjects and inspirations for Dean's works can certainly be found in and around Poolesville. Ever popped into Healthworks or peered in through the large windows? It's hard to miss the colorful murals—they're her work. Checked out a book in the Poolesville library? The watercolor on the wall behind the copier was painted by Dean. Had to have your car serviced at Total Automotive and Diesel (the new location)? Yep, those are her watercolors, and the painting of the old location was commissioned by Tad and Lynne Bodmer for Dean to paint from a 1952 photograph. "Her

paintings are just incredible," says Lynne Bodmer who hopes to some day have Dean do a mural on the walls in their new waiting area. Lynne adds that many people who enter the business are simply drawn to them. Older customers who have lived in the area for a long time especially recognize some of the old structures that no longer exist. "It sparks a lot of conversation," says Lynne.

Like the Bodmers, Dean Wroth was born and raised in Poolesville, and her family has been in the Poolesville area for generations. She always loved to draw, "ever since I can remember," she says, and she claims it must be in the genes. One of her grandmothers used to write and illustrate little stories for the grandchildren, and her siblings are also artistic. Of course, the genes were passed down to her daughters, although they chose to express their creativity through dance: Sarah dances for the Boston Ballet and Mary Kate is now attending the Indiana University Ballet Theater. Both daughters love to do artwork, but Dean says they're not



One of Dean Wroth's works which is displayed in Total Automotive and Diesel Service.

passionate about it.

After Dean graduated from Poolesville High School, she attended Marietta College in Ohio where she earned a degree in fine arts. From the time of her return to Poolesville after earning her degree until she became pregnant with Mary Kate, nearly twenty years ago, she worked for the Montgomery County Recreation De-

—Continued on Page 15.

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“Center Stage” Continued From Page 14—

partment. In charge of the countywide class program, she hired teachers for the whole county and procured materials for the classes.

When she left that position, she decided to freelance. Since then she has received commissions in all sorts of media and has really enjoyed the variety. “I take what comes my way,” she says. Some of the things that have come her way include calligraphy, portraiture, mural work, decorative painting in homes, book illustrations, bas relief, and sculpting. “It keeps it interesting,” she adds. “No two projects are alike for me.”

Dean’s first mural is seen every year by thousands of visitors to the Montgomery County Fair. In 1990, Dean and a few volunteers painted the mural on the Ag Center. Painted on cinder block to a very large scale, it was a bit of a challenge. After it was designed in pen and ink, it was then drawn on the wall using overhead projectors one night. The whole mural was done in two weeks.

Another series of murals, visible to the public, was done with Donna Bonovia who is no longer in Poolesville. At the professional center in Quince Orchard, under Fuddrucker’s, there are a half dozen murals de-

pecting various country themes, some of which are inspired by Poolesville. “I love the pastoral scenes around Poolesville,” she explains. “I think [that] during our lifetime, it will be gone.” Sugarloaf Mountain ranks as one of her favorites. She has also used old photos of Poolesville scenes that no longer exist for her paintings, taking artistic license with the colors of buildings. She is grateful to Dorothy Elgin for having given her the photos.

The illustrations she painted in watercolor for children’s books are especially beautiful and vivid, but this time they’re not about Poolesville. The children’s books Dean has illustrated center around Charleston, South Carolina. The author, Ruth Paterson Chapell (along with her sister Bess Paterson Shipe on one of the books), was a friend of Mary Ann Kephart from the University of Maryland. Says Mary Ann Kephart, “I’ve known [Dean] all her life.” In one of the books, *The Mysterious Tail of a Charleston Cat: A Tour Guide for Children of All Ages*, the cat was modeled on Mary Ann’s cat. “That’s of great significance,” Mary Ann adds. “Dean photographed the cat in all these poses—he was a real ham.” Interestingly, the Kepharts live in the house that belonged to Dean’s paternal grandmother, where she grew up, and Dean has lived in her other grandparents’ home, just down

the street, since a little while after marrying. Says Dean, “My life is so rich from having my grandparents so close.”

Of illustrating, Dean remarks on how interesting it was to work with the publishers and what a great learning process it proved to be, but then she adds that everything she does ends up being a learning experience. She frequently researches subjects before painting whether it be a biblical scene or a mural with a Wizard of Oz theme. She works with a design consultant, Arlene Vlastic, out of Germantown for whom she usually does decorative painting and murals or painting furniture in clients’ homes.

While Dean is busy, she’s not so busy that she’s unable to help care for her mother who is in an assisted living facility in Frederick. “I’m pretty much busy all of the time,” she explains, “if I’m not busy, it’s for a reason.” Likewise, she has found the opposite to be true, “If I have a need, then I just pray.”

There are still some subjects she has not yet painted that she hopes to do in the future—ballet pictures, for example. She also hopes to do more portraiture, but nonetheless, she is pleased with the variety of all the projects that have come her way. “Variety is the spice of life,” she laughs.

Things To Do



January 26

Storytime – Three to Six

Stories, finger play, and music Children ages three to six

10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Mid-Winter Blues

Tarara Winery – Leesburg Blues/Jazz 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

January 30

Book Discussion Poolesville Library

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini 7:30 p.m.

January 31

Storytime

Poolesville Library

Family Storytime Stories, finger play, and music. 7:00 p.m.

February 9

Storytime – CUDDLE UPS

Poolesville Public Library

Stories, finger play, music

Babies to 23 months

10:30 a.m.

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"Resolutions" Continued From Page 11—

top the foliage in early summer." Now that sounds like a plant that would enjoy Monocacy summer weather. It is called Hosta "Camelot." Blue has a cooling and relaxing effect in any garden setting, but in shady areas, it provides a refreshing tingle. Another good blue hosta is "Blue Angel." It has huge heavily textured leaves and tall blue flower spikes. You'll never see a prettier hosta than "Fragrant Blue." This winner of four major awards from the American Hosta Society offers very wide yellow-green to cream margins on bluish-green leaves. To complete this all hosta shade garden, intersperse along the front of the border these two diminutive hostas, "Little Aurora" and "Little Sunspot." Aurora has finely-cupped and puckered golden leaves with pale lavender flowers. Sunspot, a sport of Aurora, brightens the border with clear butter-yellow foliage with irregular green margins. Each grows six inches high and eight to twelve inches wide and they neatly tie together the front of the border.

If you would like to scatter some complementary plants amongst the

hosta, the following would be suitable companions. I find that perennials of pink or mauve tint look the best against the deep greens and golds of the hostas. The taller cranesbills, the true geraniums, offer several that would look smashing. 'Patricia' is a compact, vigorous grower that produces magenta flowers from late spring to fall. 'Johnson's Blue' would be another good choice. I have also placed astilbes, ferns, white bleeding heart and digitalis in the hosta garden with wonderful effects. Stick to colors of white, shell pink and strawberry for a soothing, cool look.

For your second resolution, I want you to take a good look at your garden with a critical eye. Pay particular attention to shrubs and trees. Have they become too tall and wide for their location? Are they more a distraction than an attraction? Would your garden look better without them? Now in this time of lull in the garden, start thinking about what you would like to see in your garden this spring.

Next issue, we'll take a look at the 2006 Spring Garden catalogues and see what is new and exciting for our Monocacy gardens.



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Police Blotter Past and Present



By Jack Toomey

Present

Police are reminding citizens to take these crime-fighting hints during the days of early darkness and inclement weather: If you are out for the evening or traveling, make your house look like someone is home by leaving on lights, getting an automatic timer for lights, keeping a car in your driveway, and asking a neighbor to watch your home. If it snows, ask a trusted neighbor to shovel your walk and driveway, and make sure you have your mail and newspaper delivery stopped.

Thefts from parked vehicles are occurring again in southern Frederick County. The Frederick County Sheriff's Department has issued these safety tips which can be used by citizens anywhere:

Always lock your car doors and take the keys.

Never hide a spare key on the vehicle.

If you have a garage, use it.

Park in well-lighted areas.

Do not leave valuables in plain sight.

Montgomery County Police detectives are investigating a series of hate crimes that have occurred in the county lately. Two menorahs, one in Kentlands and the other on Randolph Road, were vandalized, and a sign at a synagogue at 11520 Darnestown Road was damaged. In addition, swastikas were painted on the walls of the Seneca Community Church on Berryville Road, St. Mark's Methodist Church in Boyds, the old Boyds Negro School in Boyds, Quince Orchard High School, and Ridgeview Middle School. Police do not know if all of the crimes are connected. A reward of \$2,000 is being offered for the identification of the culprits. People with information can

call Crime Solvers at 1-866-411-8477.

Residential burglary. 15500 block of Suglarland Road, Poolesville, between December 18, 2005 and December 31, 2005. Forced entry to a home, property taken.

Past

January 24, 1930. William Dorsey, 69, the father of twenty-five children, was charged with failing to support his children. When officers went to arrest him, they found a twenty-five gallon still on his property near Gaithersburg, Maryland.

January 30, 1909. Fire broke out about midnight at the livery stable and barn of Benjamin F. Hicks near Boyds. It was reported that the entire structure was burned down with its contents – tons of hay, barley, six vehicles, and two driving horses. Where the fire originated, oil was found to have been poured on the boards, right at the mangers of the valuable horses. The motive for the fire is believed to lie in the fact that Mr. Hicks is a strong supporter of the local option law, and it is known that he has been threatened.

January 31, 1930. Forces numbering more than one hundred men continued work throughout the night after a busy day in keeping the main roads of Montgomery County clear of large drifts of snow, although various back roads offered considerable handicaps to motorists and pedestrians.

February 4, 1906. William Davis has been lodged in the Rockville jail to answer a charge of horse and buggy stealing. William White, a well-known farmer in the vicinity of Buck Lodge, is the victim of this thievery.

February 6, 1969. Kenneth William Clark, a fifteen-year-old high school student, was indicted by the Montgomery County grand jury on four counts of murder in the slaying of his mother, brother, and two sisters at their home in Rockville.

February 7, 1953. Fire department officials revealed that they were investigating the possibility of arson in the \$20,000 fire which leveled two buildings and damaged several others in the business section of Poolesville, Maryland.



School News

Parents and School Administration Meet to Discuss New Magnet Program

One hundred and twenty-six parents attended a meeting at Poolesville High School on January 17 to be advised of the process and prospects for the development of a new Whole School Magnet Program (WSMP) program at PHS.

This parent meeting followed testimony by Upcounty High School Magnet Group representative, Enrique Zaldivar, recommending the program to the Montgomery County Board of Education on January 12, 2006. Representing the Commissioners of Poolesville at this meeting, Jerry Klobukowski spoke in support on behalf of the town government for the new magnet program. "As I have stated in the past, the real purpose of these budgets and meetings is to help prepare our students for the future by the opportunity to succeed. I would

ask that the board recognize, support, and implement this recommendation."

The Whole School Magnet means that classes will be provided for students at all levels. Unlike the Engineering Academy and the Teaching Academy, testing to get into the PHS Magnet Program will be required. However, students who have not tested to get into the PHS Magnet will have the opportunity to take some of the magnet courses offered if they are otherwise qualified.

The parents were cautioned to understand that while MCPS is proceeding to develop a program and budget, they should not confuse this for approval. That will come with the budget approval in April. Through January, staff will hold meetings to outline the development of the program. The BOE received an official presentation by PHS cluster coordinator, John Leach, on January 17.

The new magnet program is targeted to begin in the 2007-08 calendar year. It will feature special educational programs that concentrate on math, science, computer science, humanities, and global ecology.

The advantages for this new program to be at Poolesville are tied to the high quality of existing programs, a transportation system already in place, and an acknowledgment that PHS is projected to have a decline in student population without this program.

A goal is for a parent and community steering committee to publish program offerings and a capital budget feasibility study. This will take place from February through April so that it will be ready in May to begin the budget approval process.

The question and answer period helped to enlighten the parents on many of their concerns. The parents were assured that the budgeting for the Global Ecology Studies Program (GESP) would not be affected although there may be some slight changes to the program. The parents were further reassured that staff commitment to GESP would be there to maintain its quality. The Engineering Academy may be combined with some of the math/science/computer "pathways."

The issue of overcrowding was addressed, and there was an acknowledgment that in the short run portable classrooms may be needed.

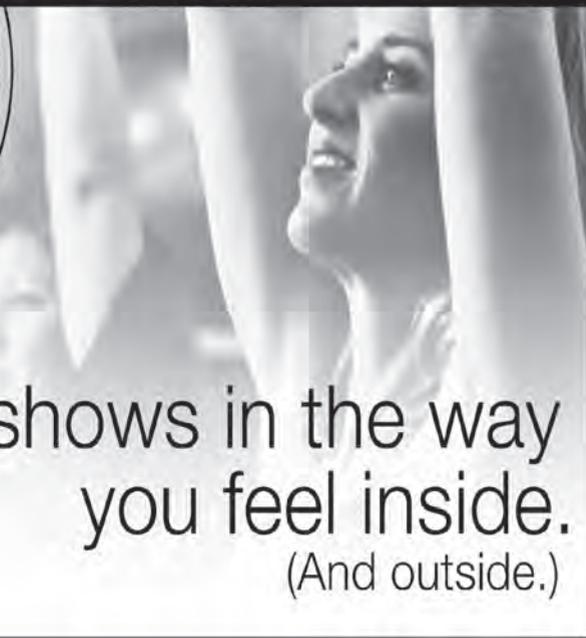
PES PTA Proposes Playground

Since the beginning of the 2005-2006 school year, the Poolesville Elementary School PTA has been diligently working to raise \$20,000 for new playground equipment to replace equipment that has been in use since the construction of the school in the 1950s. Presently, the playground is generally used by the third, fourth, and fifth graders as they have recess at the same time as the younger grades who play on the playground near Cattail Road. The obvious question centers around the notion that Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) should replace the equipment. Well, they will – in 2014. According to PTA president Lisa Dominici, MCPS has a set budget for playground equipment of \$65,000 per year to be disbursed over more than 125 elementary schools in the county – that doesn't go very far, especially if there is new construction where the need is greater.

At this point, the PTA has raised \$11,000 since September in its efforts to come up with funds. "We have done a lot," proclaims Lisa Dominici.

—Continued on Page 19.

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**“School News” Continued From
Page 17—**

Apart from the usual fundraisers of selling wrapping paper and the book fairs, the PTA has organized a sale of Yankee Candles, a yard sale last October, a family movie night, a family fun night, and an unusual one called REACH week. In REACH week, students sent out letters to people outside

of the community to garner pledges for reading. Students were encouraged to read three hundred minutes during the week. One student sent a letter to Greece for help in the fundraising.

On Monday, January 9, Lisa Dominici came before the Commissioners of Poolesville asking the Town of Poolesville to provide the remaining \$9,000. Says Lisa Dominici, “They

seemed interested in why we were there, but I do not have an answer from them.” She said they wanted to look into the issue of possibly reducing the cost of the installation by having the town put in the equipment because presently, MCPS only allows construction of playgrounds by its own contractors. MCPS also requires that playgrounds be selected from what its contractors have to offer.

Lisa Dominici also has a deadline: “If we have the money by March 1, the playground could be installed by the end of this school year.” That would make the kids happy. The kids, after all, would be the beneficiaries of the playground. “These kids,” adds Lisa Dominici, “that’s what they want. They want a playground out there.”



The Barnesville School Names New Head of School

After an exhaustive national search, The Barnesville School recently named John Huber as Head of School effective July 1, 2006. He will be replacing Jaralyn Hough, who has held the post for the past 22 years and will be retiring this June.

Mr. Huber, a graduate of Cornell (B.A., magna cum laude) and Villanova (M.A.) Universities, comes to The Barnesville School from the highly respected Wyndcroft School in Pottstown, Pennsylvania where he was most recently the Assistant Head of School. In accepting the



John Huber

position, Mr. Huber said, “I am very excited to join Barnesville and serve this wonderfully positive community of learners. In all my conversations with Barnesville’s teachers, parents and board members, I witnessed a school dedicated to its mission of joy, support and excellence. Barnesville provides an outstanding educational program for its diverse student body. The school combines

personal attention with high academic goals, all within a beautiful country setting. I am greatly looking forward to bringing my family to Barnesville.”

In discussing the selection of Mr. Huber, School Board Chair Claudia Pleasants said, “Through this exhaustive head search process, we met with dozens of highly qualified candidates who each would bring unique strengths to this important role. But in the end, Mr. Huber was the unanimous choice of our Board because of his extraordinary compassion and insight, his history of strong academic leadership and accomplishment, and his desire to lead The Barnesville School in its ambitious goals for continued excellence and future growth.”

The Barnesville School (www.barnesville-school.com), a Pre-K through 8th Grade independent, coeducational country day school located in Barnesville, Maryland, prides itself on its sense of community, social responsibility and personal values, and its focus on the whole child’s development that comes from a low 9-1 student-teacher ration. The Barnesville School has prepared its graduates

for many of the area’s best secondary schools, and under Mr. Huber’s leadership, Barnesville is committed to strengthening its position as the up-county region’s premier independent elementary and middle school. The school is a short drive from Frederick, Urbana, Clarksburg, Germantown, Gaithersburg, and Potomac.

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Equestrian

Horses: Pets or Livestock?

By Debby Lynn

Whether you consider your horse a pet seems like a trivial question. After all, we horse people love them, or we wouldn't spend an unconscionable percentage of our income on them, and risk our necks to drive out and see them in travel advisory weather.

But "pet" is a legal designation, as opposed to "livestock." Maryland horses are currently classified as livestock. Some people are unhappy with this designation, and would like to see them reclassified as pets. Here are a few of the reasons horse owners may wish to keep horses designated as livestock.

Most importantly, the state oversees and manages disease outbreaks in livestock, but not in pets. This brings important resources, such as the services of the state veterinarian, to bear on the problem. We have had several outbreaks of a herpes-related form of Equine Rhinotracheitis in Maryland, including the now famous Poolesville outbreak. Because horses are live-



stock, horse owners had immediate access to cohesive and coordinated in-

formation which helped to contain the outbreak and minimize the number of equine deaths. The state veterinarian can order quarantines when necessary. Since many horses travel and commingle more than the average pet cat or dog, state-ordered quarantines are vital to help prevent an isolated disease incident from becoming an epidemic.

Horses and land go hand in hand. Land is an imperative if you wish to keep or ride horses. The question of whether horses are designated as pets or livestock can affect the availability of precious land resources. Fully a third of our county is reserved for agricultural use. This use includes the keeping of livestock but certainly not the keeping of pets. Defining horses as livestock and designating land for agricultural use are two pieces of symbiotic legislature which help assure there will be land on which we can keep horses.

Finally, as much as we'd all like to,

you just can't count your pet dog as a dependent, but under certain circumstances, you can write off the expenses your horse farm incurs.

Although at first glance, it may seem irrelevant whether we call them

pets or livestock, there are real issues attendant upon the designation. Keep abreast of legislative developments (via the Maryland Horse Council website: mdhorsecouncil.org), so you can make an informed decision.

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"Daytripper" Continued From Page 12—

For those who would like to make a day of it, adjacent to Gunston Hall Plantation are Mason Neck State Park and the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge just to the south, and Pohick Regional Park to the north. All these parks, along with Gunston Hall, are located on a peninsula formed by Pohick Bay on the north, Belmont Bay on the south, and the Potomac River on the east. The whole peninsula is an active heron rookery. Mason Neck State Park covers a little over 1800 acres, much of which is forested with mature hardwood trees. It also boasts a few wetlands. There are many activities possible including fishing, hiking, and interpretive programs

that study various natural aspects of the park. Adjacent to the State Park is the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge, one of the top ten locations in the country for viewing bald eagles. In 1969, it was the first federal refuge established for the protection of the bald eagle. Slightly larger than Mason Neck State Park, the refuge consists of over two thousand acres of forest, freshwater marshes, and shoreline. Finally, if you want to spend the night or get some golf in, the nearby Pohick Regional Park offers many outdoor activities on the water of Pohick Bay (frequented by George Washington), camping, rustic cabins, golf, and miniature golf. All on one peninsula: history, nature, and golf! What could beat that?

Tributes

The Wind Beneath Our Wings

By Rande Davis

The post-holiday time is a busy time for Dots Elgin.

It's January, and the dining room table is cluttered with newspaper clippings piled high, the Elmer's glue is uncapped, the scissors are nearby, and the scrapbooks are being pasted up. These are not your typical quaint and pretty scrapbooks that easily fit in the dresser draw. These are the awkward, massive kind. They stretch out to two



Dots Elgin

feet by three feet when opened up to show two pages at a time. Through her diligent work of maintaining the scrapbooks, Dots has lovingly chronicled the days of our lives for over the past fifty years.

If a story about the community was in print, then it is in one of her many scrapbooks. It is through these

home archives that the news about the people and events of Poolesville, Barnesville, Dickerson, Boyds, and the surrounding area is kept. She also has special scrapbooks just for the churches, the fire department, and for civic clubs.

Dots Elgin has not only been keeping tabs on the news over the past five decades, but she also wrote a book entitled *The History of Poolesville*. It's a great little book, and everyone in town should have one at home. She has copies available, and it also can be found at the John Poole General Store and Museum Gift Shop.

Married for fifty-five years, the Elgins were a real team. When it came to public service, Charles had the more public profile, but we think he would be the first to express the sentiment that Dots was the wind beneath his wings. Although her service has been more subtle, their combined contributions to the community have been profound.

Charles Elgin contributed to the community as postmaster in Poolesville for thirty-three years and as a founding (charter) member of both the Monocacy Lions Club and the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer

Fire Department. Of course, he is best remembered in the area for his town leadership as president of the Commissioners of Poolesville for seventeen years.

It was no accident that his leadership of community groups always coincided with very important changes to the community. He was chairman

of the Poolesville PTA's Building and Grounds Committee during planning and initial building stages of both the high school and the elementary school.

He served on the governing body (vestry) of St. Peter's Episcopal Church for fifteen years. The end of his time as its Senior Warden culminated with the construction of its present parish hall.

During his tenure on the town commission, the water and sewer systems were built, and both Westerly and Wesmond came into existence. He was a founder of the predecessor to the current Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce (then called the Poolesville Board of Trade), on the Board of Directors of Monocacy Cemetery, and a member of the Montgomery County Historical Society.

The Elgins are representative of a generation that valued community service as highly as employment. It's not that Dots's work was less important than her civic contributions. She was, after all, a nurse prior to marriage and also spent seventeen years working for the administration at Poolesville Elementary School. Get her talking about the things that were most important in her life and her jobs do get mentioned, but only after she has warmly reflected on her experiences in her church, times with friends, and the times she and Charles spent devoted to members of the family. Much of her time years ago was spent taking care of various elderly aunts and relatives so that they were able to remain living in their homes. Dots is still a key "chauffeur" and "gofer" for many of her friends who no longer can easily get around in the community.

For many, many years, Dots was chairperson for the St. Peter's Community Bazaar committee which raised tens of thousands of dollars over the years in support of church projects. Back then, this group would meet weekly to knit and crochet arts and crafts for the annual bazaar. Those who have lived in the area for many years must have at least one Christmas tree ornament on their tree made by one of these ladies.

While she no longer chairs the big bazaar, she devotes many hours to the now-famous semi-annual rummage sales. She remains an active member of the Women of St. Peter's. She was, for many years, active with the Ladies Auxiliary of the UMCVFD and also participated in the area's Homemakers Club. The Homemakers brought together women from the community to share their interest in baking, crafts, and things relating to the home. They had lecturers on food topics and demonstrations in cooking and baking.

Dots was a volunteer for the Monocacy Cemetery, and through that experience, honed her interest in genealogy. She has traced not only the intricacies of her family tree but also



Dots Elgin, Helen Pumphrey, Peg Showers, and Boo Davis.

has done so for many people in and outside the area.

Now in her eighties, Dots hasn't slowed down. To this day, you can find her baking pies and making relishes to sell after church services to help the church with its new building project. After Charles died, she renewed her interest in bridge. At the time, she really hadn't played much bridge since she left her bridge club over forty years before. Amazingly, the same club was still in existence when she got started again. While everyone except Florence Van Emon has since passed away, the other members, Barbara Griffith, Mabel Davis, and Connie Hilton are well remembered by many in the area.

Dots still lives in the house she and Charles built in 1947 located on Elgin Road in Poolesville. She attends as many of the social events of the Monocacy Lions Club as possible. Known as possibly the best baker in town, we don't think anyone would object if, after all this time, we recognize her officially as the First Lady of Poolesville.



Youth Sports

Falcon Boys Basketball: The Heart of Victory

By Rande Davis

As the Poolesville High School boys' varsity basketball team enters the last half of its season, the Monocle presents its game against Seneca Valley as an example of what makes this team so special. Facing a faster, bigger, and unbeaten opponent, the level of their effort illuminated the strong character of this team.

When the Screaming Eagles of Seneca Valley High School came to PHS with their unbeaten record, the Falcons knew that the game was going to be one of their toughest. Though they had been through some disappointments early in the season (they lost their first two games), they learned how to handle the tough times, and now they were ready to meet one of their biggest challenges to date.

The stats and the tape measure did not give the Falcons any comfort. Seneca Valley was 12 - 0 and this opponent could boast significant height and speed advantages. However, the Falcons did not let that get them down. PHS had just won its fifth game in a row and the players' improvements, game after game, brought enough confidence that they felt ready for this one.

The hometown crowd was boisterous and hopeful, and they came to support and cheer their team on to victory. They did everything a group of fans could do to try to help their hoopsters stay motivated throughout



Coach Hurd refocuses his team after they gave up seven points in one minute.



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the game.

Seneca didn't get to their unbeaten status by underestimating their opponents, and they knew better than to take the Falcons for granted. The well-coached Falcons came off the bench in a disciplined defensive posture executing a full court press right from the tip off. "We went in the game knowing our best chance to win was to follow the coach's game plan to slow the game down," said the team's leading scorer, point guard Jay Lowe.

Both teams were having trouble hitting their shots, but both were willing to be patient in trying to find just the right shot. The Falcons tried to break Seneca's full court press with a full court "Hail Mary" pass, but it failed to reach the right player down court. The Falcons weren't getting a lot of their own shots off, but they were very successful in frustrating SV's offensive effort. While they were behind as the first quarter came to an end, the low score (Seneca 8, Falcons 4) showed they were following the game plan. Seneca Valley didn't give up its lead through the first half, but neither team was scoring big anyway, and at halftime, their lead over PHS was only 22-14.

"The coach gave us confidence at half time by telling us that if we continued with our plan, the game could come out all right," said Lowe.

The players took the coach at his word, came out of the locker room fired up, and stayed, determined to carry out the plan. Through most of the third quarter, they got in their rhythm, they hustled, and they stayed focused. Just as the coach had told



Leading scorer Jay Lowe makes a shot that sparks a two minute run and brings the Falcons to within two points of Seneca Valley.

them, the plan began to work, and with just a little over three minutes remaining in the third quarter, they finally closed the gap to just two points (Screaming Eagles 29, Falcons 27).

Maybe the Falcons' push came a bit too soon since SV came to realize that this game was not going to be an automatic win. The Falcons' hustle proved they were a team that would not just lie down and play dead. The defensive pressure and tenacity of Seneca Valley finally began to take its toll. For a period of six minutes, Seneca took control and the result was thirteen unanswered points before the Falcons would put something up on the scoreboard again. The Falcons tried to bring the game back, but it ended with a 58 to 48 victory for Seneca Valley.

After the game, we met with Coach Hurd to get his reaction to the game. "They are extremely strong, playing a very good and quick defense. When we dictate the pace, we can compete in any game," he said. About the five game winning streak: "We didn't allow teams to dictate the pace. They just wore us down tonight," stated Coach Hurd as he sat alone in his office after the game. "We'll learn from tonight."

Senior Luis Mejia was exhausted after the intense game but not discouraged. "Going in, we were ready for this game," he said. He was optimistic about the season and felt confident that the team was ready to get back to its winning ways going into the last half of the season.

With a rematch against Paint Branch coming up (the Paint Branch game was being played as this issue was going to press) guard Lowe was anxious to rectify their first loss to them. After losing the first two games of the season, the team gained its discipline. "Looking at the last half of the season, we just have to be able

to execute the coach's game plan," said Lowe. Compared to last year "we are much more disciplined and we really have come together now as a team."

Senior Eni Eboda, who is new to the team and the school this year, reflected on what he thinks about being on the Poolesville team. He seemed to be speaking for all the players when he said, "I love the game, I love the coach, and I love this team."

Coach Hurd was asked to give us his thoughts about the team and the prospects for the last half of the season. He told us, "Our team is clearly improving each and every time out on the floor. Our young men come to compete every night. We may not be the fastest or biggest in Montgomery County, but we have the most heart. We are 7-5 at this point but 7-3 in the regular season against much bigger opponents. We are excited about our start, and we hope that the season continues to go well."

Watching this team in action, we can only verify what the coach has said. This is certainly a team with a lot of heart. We will wait to see how the season winds up, but it really doesn't matter since these boys have already proven themselves through their heart, hard work, and determination to be true winners.

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Focus on Business

Potomac Framing and Brown's Gallery

By Jack Toomey

When one walks into Brown's Gallery, it is like taking a step back in time. The shop is located in the Frederick Poole House at 19960 Fisher Avenue in the heart of Poolesville's

fought in the Korean War. After the war, Brown took advantage of the G.I. Bill and went to photography school. Originally, Mr. Brown was a photographer in the Silver Spring area and eventually opened three framing and art stores in Bowie, Woodbridge, and Silver Spring. He came to Poolesville about twenty years ago and opened his store at its present location. Mr. Brown said, "I'm semi-retired. I just

and got out of some classes, I've been an artist all of my life."

About ninety percent of his business is framing, but it is obvious that he loves to paint. Brown does paintings on consignment and most of those works are of horses; however, he also paints Civil War scenes, streetscapes, animals, and outdoor scenes. Brown remarked, "If I don't enjoy it, I don't do it." Two of his proudest accomplishments were painting a wonderful street scene of Poolesville, circa 1870, which sold within one day. He also recalled a beautiful painting of a pelican done in three-dimensional style. Usually it takes from two to four weeks to do a painting, and once he worked on a project for a year. Among Brown's customers have been United States senators, congressmen, Vice President Spiro Agnew, Goldie Hawn, and Muhammad Ali, for whom he framed a pair of boxing gloves. He also does the framing work for NOAA and the Nuclear Regulatory Agency.

Some of the things he does are custom framing, restoration of old photographs and oil paintings, and mirror and needle art framing. Brown also offers a large selection of wood and oval frames. He said, "I don't consider this work, I used to knock myself out with my three stores."

Brown mentioned that all in-stock framing material is always fifty percent off and that when he paints a horse or a pet, his usual cost is around three hundred dollars which is considerably less than other artists. "I just like to paint."



Robert Brown

old commercial district. Paintings of almost every genre adorn the walls, and framing material is everywhere. A Civil War painting caught the eye of a visitor and brought back memories of the history of this house which was built about 1820. After the Battle of Balls Bluff, the body of Union Colonel Edward Baker, who had been killed in action, was brought back to this house and very well may have been laid out in the space now occupied by Potomac Framing and Brown's Gallery.

Robert Brown, the owner of Potomac Framing and Brown's Gallery, was born in Grafton, West Virginia and came to Montgomery County about forty years ago. His wife, Rosa Brown, is a nurse at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, but she is frequently in the shop helping out with book-keeping and other duties.

Robert Brown is a graduate of the New York Institute of Photography and attended the art school at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. He is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and he

wanted to open an art gallery, a little framing store, and to paint." When asked how a combat veteran who saw the worst of the fighting in Korea became an artist, Brown chuckled and said, "I started painting in high school



A sample of Robert Brown's work.

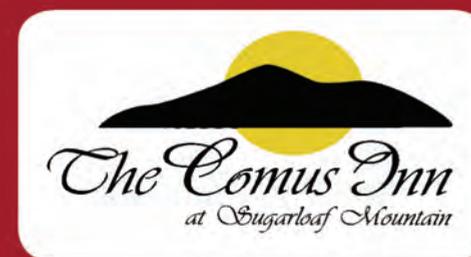
Local News

Eastalco Donates Twenty-Seven Acres to Carroll Manor Athletic Association

In its last meeting with the community of the Eastalco Citizen Advisory Board, plant manager, Brian Dahlberg, presented the local Carrollton Manor Volunteer Coalition with a gift of over twenty-seven acres located on Adamstown Road beside the current Carroll Manor Elementary School. The Coalition had approached Eastalco about a year ago for land that could be used for additional ball fields for the Carroll Manor Athletic Association, additional parking for the Elementary School, and a future site for a swim center. President Ed Arnold of the Coalition praised Eastalco for the donation. Mr. Arnold had been working with Eastalco Public Affairs Manager Earl Robbins to obtain the land. "This is a great day for our community, our youth, and everyone that will use the future facilities," President Arnold said to the crowd. "Eastalco has been a great neighbor to our community, and a great contributor to our community and county. We all hope the plant will be back in operation very soon."

The Carrollton Manor Volunteer Coalition is a group formed by active volunteer groups within the community. Its current president is Ed Arnold who is also the president and assistant chief at Carroll Manor Fire Company, Station 14 in Adamstown and Station 28, located in Point of Rocks. Suzanne Fiorvanti, Vice President of the Coalition, is also president of the Carroll Manor Elementary School PTSA. Other member organizations include Carroll Manor Athletic Association, Carroll Manor Grange, Carroll Manor Lions Club, Carrollton Manor Land Trust, Adamstown Village, Greenhill Manor HOA, US SaddleRidge HOA, and New Design Acres HOA.

Valentine's Week at Sugarloaf Mountain



The Comus Inn's Valentine's Week Menu

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- Duck Confit Salad Served with Sunny Side Egg in Brioche \$16
- Oysters Gratinee Served with Wilted Spinach, Tomato and a Champagne Sabayon \$18

Entrees

- Pan Seared Sea Bass Served with Braised Baby Bok Choy and a Mandarin Sauce \$29.00
- Grilled USDA Prime New York Strip Steak Topped with Porcini Butter Served with Fava Beans and Parisian Purple Potatoes \$31.00
- Marinated Giant Malaysian Prawns Served with Clarified Butter Sauce and Asian Slaw \$39.00
- Herb Dusted Grilled Rack of Lamb Served on a Warm Mixed Pepper Rice Cake and Drizzled with Coffee Infused Demi-glace \$32.00

Desserts

- Steamed Chocolate Timbale with Dark Caramel Sauce and Fresh Raspberries \$9.00
- Honey and Apple Entremets Served with Thyme Sorbet and a Pecan Tuile \$9.00
- Pear and Pistachio Pave Served with a Bittersweet Chocolate Sorbet \$8.00

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