

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

December 8, 2006

Volume III, Number 17.



It's the time of the year for holiday celebrations. See Family Album on page 2.



This man is hilling-up his grapevines for the winter. The work never stops. Read all about it on Page 16.



It's that time of year; holiday celebrations abound. See Family Album on Page 2.



The holidays are upon us, and WUMCO will need more food than this. Read all about it on Page 18.

WUMCO Toy Drive Falls Short

By Jack Toomey

Every year, the Western Montgomery County Help Inc., in conjunction with the United States Marines, conducts a Toys for Tots campaign in attempt to provide toys at Christmastime for needy families with children. This year, due to a variety of factors, the effort has fallen short. Some of the marines who had participated in the past are overseas, and some of the major chain stores that have participated are now donating toys to children in

other parts of the country as a result of natural disasters. WUMCO is requesting the help of organizations, schools, fraternal organizations, and private



WUMCO toy collection box.

citizens to meet its goal and bring some happiness into a child's life at Christmas. Last year, 266 children received gifts from WUMCO. Cherise Pranievski, a member of WUMCO's board of directors and chairperson of the toy drive, said that donation boxes have been placed in retail establishments in Poolesville and that unwrapped new toys can be placed there. Cash donations and gift cards are also sorely needed. There is just enough time to donate, and WUMCO volunteers will use the donated money to buy toys at stores in the area. Checks and gift cards can be sent to WUMCO, PO Box 247, Poolesville, MD, 20837. If you wish that your donation be used exclusively for Toys for Tots, mark your check accordingly.

Supporting Those Who Support Us

By Skip Etheridge

Ask anyone who has lived in Poolesville for longer than a year if they enjoy the community and the lifestyle in western Montgomery County, and the usual answer is: "I wouldn't want to live anywhere else."

It is easy to say this sentiment is true because we live in a bastion of peace and tranquility which accents its small-town middle-America feel. For all the reasons beyond the picturesque backdrop for the wonderful accoutrements that our town provides, there is another just as important reason, often overlooked, for this being where we want to raise our children and grandchildren. If the pulse for this fine community is its citizens, then the backbone is the small businesses that serve and support our lives here. We should never take for granted the outstanding group of proprietors which serves us in so many ways.

Virtually all our businesses willingly and gratefully come to the aid of civic groups, schools, churches, and all our community organizations through donations and other means to help them in their endeavors. Where would we be without them?

Here are just a few examples to cite, and I start with Selby's to prove my point.

There are big block stores outside the area, but who has a bigger heart than Selby's? Sure, the store provides everything you need in the way of groceries and more. However, it is the "more" part that is so important to us. If you come in early, you might run into Mr. Roy Selby himself who always seems to be in a good mood and knows just about every customer by name. When he is not there, the Selby kids, Lin, Mike, Bruce, and Lisa will treat you as if you were a guest in their own home not just a customer. Generations of Selbys have opened their doors and their pockets to every organization. Don't forget the employment opportunities they provide which enhance the local economy.

The Selbys are not alone. Over and over again, our community has small businesses that have been committed to providing much more than just goods and services. Cugini's is another fine example. Lynn Stillson and her son Chris are willing to provide space for meetings and parties and, like the Selbys, always in the spirit of helpfulness.

Home Depot has a lot but it doesn't have John Speelman and his staff of people who will go the extra mile to get what you need. As cluttered as it is—we like are hardware stores that way, don't we?—they are always there with a smile

to help you.

There is no stopping to this list. It's easy to single out the family-owned business like JD's, Asia Dynasty, Oriental Gourmet, Khalid at L'Nora's, or Kay at Subway, Jo's Frame Shop, and Poolesville Beer and Wine as examples of town business people always ready to make you feel at home and who so often chip in with donations to help all of us in our private groups and causes. In Poolesville, though, even the franchises like Domino's and McDonald's go above and beyond.

When you look at our community and the good things that go on here for our young people and those in need, we mustn't forget that the generous folks who meet and greet us each day fuel these services. Without their support, these wonderful things will go away; and without our support, these friendly, generous proprietors will go away, too. These businesses are another reason why people come to live and stay in Poolesville. This holiday season, and every day for that matter, when you make your shopping plans, think about all the businesses that make this community the place that it is.

Editor's note: Mr. Etheridge asked to write this article solely out of his appreciation for those that give back to the community.

Family Album

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



Topping Off Ceremony at St. Peter's. Henry Nessul places a symbolic tree branch in celebration of the completion of the highest vertical point of construction for St. Peter's new building.



Andy Marchwicki and Edwin Brown at the HMD Holiday Party.



St. Peter's Episcopal Church parishioners gather for a "topping off" ceremony to celebrate the progress of their new construction.



The Tree Lighting Ceremony at Whalen Commons.

WELCOME
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This Holiday Season
SHOP WITH YOUR FRIENDS – SHOP LOCAL

Within our area are many, many retail locations that offer terrific holiday gift ideas of friends, relatives, and business associates. The very unique and have many unique and creative gift ideas that can be found at your neighborhood store.

And, Don't forget the restaurants – Bassett's, Cugini's, L'Nora, The Corner, Subway, Poolesville Beer & Wine, Asia Dynasty, McDonald's all have gift certificates available.

Store	Gift Ideas	Store	Gift Ideas
Poolesville Hardware	Decorations, gifts, toys and especially for Dad	Selby's Market	Poolesville wear and everything you need for holiday foods
Poolesville Beer and Wine	Wines for the Holiday parties, party platters	CVS	Rows and Rows of Xmas things and gifts
M & T Bank	Savings Bonds	Jo's Framing	Framing and more
Healthworks	Work out clothes and gift memberships	Poolesville Veterinary	Pet Gifts
Hearthside Antiques	Antiques, old books	Bodmer's Stoves	Pottery specialties
Hearthside Gardens	Trees & Xmas decor	Poolesville Tack	For the Equestrian
Discovery Toys	Educational Toys	Jon's Video	Videos and certificates
Stephanie's Secret Garden	Surprising interior decoration ideas	John Poole Museum	Antiques, Books, Ornaments, more
Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard	Fine Bordeaux-style wines, produced locally.	B.B. & T	Saving Bonds
Asia Dynasty	Gift Certificate	Bob's Bikes	New, & accessories
Curves	Gift Certificate	Potomac Framing	Frames and Pictures
Crafts of Plenty	Many Poolesville exclusives; gifts		

Big Board

Santa Keeps His Promise, Will Return to Poolesville

With the cost of energy so high over the summer, concerns that Santa Claus might have to cancel his extra visit to Poolesville prior to Christmas were on many minds as we entered the holiday season. Through inside sources, the Monocle has been informed that Santa will be here after all. The sources quoted Santa as saying, "Since I use Upper Montgomery County's Volunteer Fire Department fire engine to get around town, the little extra I use to feed the reindeer to get to Poolesville isn't a real problem. I thought I would have to lower my toy production and cut back on extra trips to pay for the increase in fuel to keep my factory going." Then he added with a big Ho-ho-ho, "Toy production is bigger than ever, the reindeer are well fed, and I not only plan to go to Poolesville to ride around town, but I am also going to be there for the annual Santa breakfast."

So parents tell your kids not to fret, Santa will be here. He's coming on December 9 for breakfast with the kids and to take their toy list. He's looking forward to the breakfast of eggs, pancakes, bacon, sausage, juice, fruit salad, and coffee for the adults. He will be at the UMCVFD fire hall in Beallsville from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Breakfast patrons over twelve years of age will donate \$5.00 to the fire department. Those from three to eleven will donate \$4.00, and for the little ones under three, experiencing their first Christmas, Santa picks up the bill. (Santa whispered it would help him out a lot if people would bring a toy to give to those who didn't send in a list and need a little help.)

Then on December 17, Santa will come back to Poolesville to ride a fire engine around town, a thrill he likes so much, he claims it is second only to riding the sleigh. The elves will be too busy making toys to make it, so the firefighters will help Santa in their place. As he gets started at 5:30 p.m., they will hand out candy along the way through the town. Parents can help Santa by making sure all adults and kids stay on sidewalks and don't get too close to the fire engine, also keep any pets under strict control, too. (Santa hinted that he would be real happy if the kids wanted to give one of the firefighter-helpers some cookies or brownies. We can't be sure, but word is that he would like some of the cookies, too.)

Spectacular Winter Lights Festival – Don't Miss It!

The City of Gaithersburg holds the 11th Annual Winter Lights Festival at Seneca Creek State Park (on Clopper Road) throughout December. (Closed Dec. 25) Winter Lights features more than 380 illuminated vignettes and sixty-five animated displays in a 3.5-mile drive through beautiful Seneca Creek State Park. Theme areas include Winter Woods, Teddy Bear Land, Victorian Village, North Pole, Toyland, and Penguin Cove.

Proceeds from visiting the lighted display go to help area charities such as Dwelling House, a facility for homeless families, Friends of Seneca Creek State Park, Hospice Caring, Identity, a group helping Latino youth, and the Shady Grove Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

The cost is \$10.00 per car for residents of Gaithersburg and \$12.00 per car for non-residents. From Sunday through Thursday they are open from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on Friday and Saturday nights, the hours are from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. For an extra \$6.00 per person, you can ride an open-air trolley through the park.

Gaithersburg Has the Holiday Spirit

The Arts Barn of Gaithersburg has many wonderful performances scheduled for the Holiday Season. You can check our Things to Do List or go to www.gaithersburgmd.gov/artsbarn to find about each of the events. The Arts Barn offers performances by the Children's Winter Repertory Theatre of The Nutcracker and The Snow Queen. There will be a special best of Broadway performance entitled Overtones and Finales on December 15. This event presents performances of favorite Broadway Songs.

Frederick Has the Holiday Spirit, Too

The Weinberg Center for the Arts has its annual professional performance of The Nutcracker featuring guest artists from the New York City Ballet, Suzanne Farrell Ballet, and performers from the Frederick School of Classical Ballet. The performances are from December 8 to December 10. Check the details on www.frederickclassicalballet.net.

A Season's Promise

The Frederick Children's Chorus will be performing their winter concert, "A Season's Promise," on Saturday, December 9 at 7:30 p.m. at Gov. Thomas Johnson High School in Frederick. The theme of this year's concert is aptly reflected in the selection of traditional and modern songs and carols performed by the Chorus: the promise of the arrival of Baby Jesus, belief in dreams and their

fruition, anticipation of all the delights of the winter season, and in the case of the song "Al Hanassim" for Chanukah, praise and thanksgiving for God's miracles and deliverance. Ticket prices are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for seniors (65+) and students (18 and under). Tickets are available at the door. For more details, visit www.fredcc.org or call 301-845-2451.

Downtown Frederick is sponsoring a special weekend of activities for children December 9 through 12. The historic city will have breakfast with Santa, toy painting, storytelling, and other festivities to thrill the children.

Mystery Prize Bingo

Hit two birds with one stone, maybe three if you count the fun you'll have: Support the PAA Wrestling Club, a local Poolesville girls' soccer team, and Toys for Tots. On Friday, December 15 at St. Mary's Pavilion in Barnesville, there will be a bingo game featuring Longaberger and Southern Living at Home items, gift certificates, and cash as prizes (the mystery). There will also be raffles, door prizes, and other specials. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; games begin at 7:00 p.m. Food, drinks, and bake sale items will be on sale as well. Admission is \$15.00 with an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots or a \$20.00 regular admission. Contact Dawn Dorsey at 301-515-6360 or Lorraine Jones

at 301-972-6618 for more information. Come support our youth and Toys for Tots!

Fest of Lights

The Hope Garden ballet recital, under the tutelage of Fran Ichijo, will take place at Poolesville High School December 15 at 7:30 p.m. Enjoy the grace and beauty of ballet as presented by the young dancers of our area.

A Christmas Carol

The Charles Dickens classic is brought to life by the Maryland Ensemble Theater/The Fun Company at the Weinberg Center for the Arts December 15 through December 17. Show times and ticket prices vary. For more details, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-228-2828.

Health Event Scheduled at Area Church

Clarksburg United Methodist Church located at 23425 Spire Street will host a Life Line Screening event on Saturday, December 9. Lifeline Screening, a provider of quality health screenings, will offer three medical tests to detect vascular problems that can lead to stroke. The cost for the various tests runs from \$35.00 to \$129.00, and interested persons can call 800-324-1851 or visit lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.



Season's Greetings

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Commentary

Trade Offs

By John Clayton

I had to stop for a skunk on Comus Road the other day. I not only had to stop, but I backed up about thirty feet to get out of range in case I had offended it. The skunk affected indifference and went on his or her way. It reminded me that living out here in the up county is at times a mixed blessing, not only for me but quite possibly for the skunk.

The Montgomery County Council has approved an agreement with Verizon that will bring high tech, fiber optic cable service competition to Montgomery County. The local media has been energetic in their praise, but we in the up county are not so happy. In fact, the Monocle printed a letter from the Town of Poolesville in our last issue expressing great umbrage, based on the fact that the implementation schedule will bring these new services to the up county in about seven years, if then. Why? Because it is expensive to bring the service out such a great distance and to relatively few people, and Verizon is a business, not the government.

Comcast already services Poolesville, but the commissioners are protesting because for the foreseeable future, we will only have one cable service from which to choose. When Verizon comes in, there will be two, and competition for services, and lower prices, and all the benefits of the free market will follow. However, many of us in the up county outside of the population centers of Poolesville or Clarksburg don't even know what cable service is. It would cost too much for a cable company to run cable out to our homes. We can pay for it ourselves to be run, but I believe they would charge us by the foot. Many of us have satellite service, which works fine unless a monster thunderstorm is in the southern sky, or your dish blows off the roof. (However, unlike cable, it usually works when it rains.) At any rate, that is the free market at work. Verizon is paying for the work because they have deduced that they will make a profit for their shareholders. (check your 401(k), you may be a shareholder). They are not going to willingly do anything that would reduce that profit, and why should they?

If this was purely a business deci-

sion, without government purview, Poolesville might not get service even in 2013, and those other outlying areas like Dickerson and Barnesville might not get service...well...ever—but we have a right to expect the government to referee massive infrastructure projects on our behalf. Such projects require the awarding of virtual monopolies (duopolies?), so we count on our public servants to protect the common good.

Unfortunately, someone's ox almost always gets gored. In this case, it's our ox. What is the solution? What is the path to a better deal? The path is: if we want a more expensive solution, someone has to pay. Either we the taxpayers pay, or Verizon's shareholders take a lesser profit, or they fiddle with the fees and everybody else in the county pays a little more to subsidize the up county. Good luck with that one.

The letter from the Commissioners to the Council was well written, cogent, and made a slam-dunk case for why Poolesville (and the rest of us) need and deserve better cable service sooner, but I didn't see much about who they thought should pay for it, except for one reference to USDA grants. Federal money is always an attractive option because after all, much of it gets borrowed from the Chinese, and we only have to pay the interest. I assume everyone around here agrees this is would be an excellent use of federal funds. If they did it in Virginia, we would all agree it was pork.

So that's the deal. The Council looked at all that and decided this was the best thing for the most people, even though the up county got put on a back burner. The Poolesville commissioners have done the right thing, pulling hard for the benefit of their constituents, but there doesn't seem to me much more to be done, except to keep reminding Verizon that we're still out here.

Maybe this is just a tradeoff for living where we live. I love it out here. I haven't met very many people out here who don't love it and who can't appreciate the beauty of the countryside and the unique nature of Poolesville, this small town enclave surrounded by the Agricultural Reserve. Okay, so maybe we don't have everything we would have in a more densely-populated area, but on balance it's more than worth it. Sometimes it's peace and quiet, sometimes it's a red-tailed hawk circling overhead, and sometimes it's a skunk.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

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Rubbish Hauling – Yard and Landscaping Cleanup

Antiques and Collectibles

Willis Van Devanter: When It's Good to Ban Books in Boston

By Rande Davis

While some people struggle many years to find their perfect career path, others seem born for their vocation. Willis Van Devanter is such a person. As you will soon learn, he was also the beneficiary of another time-honored cliché: being in the right place at the right time. Although he has been a full-time



Willis Van Devanter.

buyer, seller, and appraiser of books, letters, and works of art since 1973, his devotion to his life's passion for education, history, and the arts was his chosen field right from the start. He graduated from Yale University in the 1950s receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in American studies and then went to Columbia University for his Master's of Science degree in Library Science.

His interest in book antiquities was evident as an undergraduate as an active member of the Jared Elliot Associates, a book-collecting club named for an eighteenth-century physician who made the earliest bequest for the permanent endowment of the Yale Library. "I helped mount several exhibitions in the Sterling Memorial Library. The first was 'Books Banned in Boston,' which drew wide attention. One of the members even got a girlfriend to disguise her voice as an old crusty dowager of New Haven and call the police to complain that Yale was celebrating indecency

with the most shocking displays of salacious material." The other offbeat popular exhibition was entitled "Books Fatal to Their Authors."

His personal book-collection journey began during an undergraduate cycling trip through Europe where he found a book by George Mikes, *How to Scrape Skies*, recording his visits to the U.S. after World War II. From there, he went on to buy as many books by British travelers in America as he could find. Included in his first collection was a first edition by Charles Dickens, *American Notes*, which he purchased for \$12.50 and now is valued at \$1,500.00. His interest in books earned him the John Hampton Barnes prize for the best undergraduate book collection.

As the Acting Curator of Graphic Arts in the Princeton University Library in 1956 and 1957, he found himself in the right place at the right time since he was hired to be the chief buyer for the Paul Mellon Collection which was first housed in the National Gallery of Art and later at the private gallery and library which Mr. Mellon created in Upperville, Virginia. Today, that collection forms the nucleus of the Yale Center for British Art and British Studies.

Interesting things seemed to come his way such as the time he got a call from someone at the Air and Space Museum in Washington asking who might be able to appraise diaries, reports, and artifacts relating to the Apollo spacecraft mission to the moon being donated to an institution. "That's a tall order," Willis replied. "No one has ever gone to the moon before, so there is no precedent—nothing comparable on which to base a valuation." He respectfully recommended a colleague who specialized in science and thought that was the end of that. However, a few weeks later, after a desperate repeat call, he realized that on one was going to undertake the task, so he did it. Now when he takes visitors to the Washington National Cathedral, he can point to the moon rocks window and honestly say that he held those little rocks in his hand. "I hoped they wouldn't cast a curse on me or make me sterile," he jokes, but all is well: he has three children, a good wife (Carter), and two cats.

How did Willis get into this sort

-Continued on Page 10.



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Barnesville - Stately colonial on 23.5 wooded acs. in the private equestrian subdivision of Conoy. 5 BRs, 2.5 BAs., hwd flrs. on main lvl, spacious kitchen w/island, fam. rm., 2 FPs, sep office on lwr lvl w/ at-grade walk-out. Amenities include a 4-car detached garage w/ studio above, lovely bi-lvl deck, flagstone walkways, stream and pond. MLS#MC6215200.

Offered at \$1,400,000



Poolesville - Broad Run Farm

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Comus - Enjoy spectacular views of the countryside from this unique rancher on 2.3 private acs. featuring 4 BRs, 3 full BAs, hwd flrs, 2 FPs & finished lwr. lvl. w/walk-out. Add'l amenities include a 2-car garage, screened porch, 2 slate patios & gardens galore. MLS# MC6152649.

Offered at \$795,000



View of Sugarloaf Mountain

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Mystery History



The late Frank I. Davis and others. Help us with the mystery!

Wheelbarrow Politics

By Rande Davis

The mystery about the history of the picture (above) of the gentleman in the wheelbarrow has at its foundation a time when politics was quite a bit less confrontational than it is today. We know about gun-barrel diplomacy, we just have never come across wheelbarrow diplomacy. We do know some intriguing information about the picture, but the full details and facts will have to come from others. Perhaps you have information that will enlighten us all, but for now, all we can do is provide some basics. We have to turn to you, astute reader, to help us fill in the missing information. Also, we hope to have the answers by the next issue. As we await your responses to our mystery, here is what we do know:

The gentleman in the wheelbarrow is Frank I. Davis, born in 1885 and deceased in 1960. We do know that he is in the wheelbarrow because he won a political bet with the gentleman pushing it. The loser was to push the winner down the main street of Poolesville in the wheelbarrow giving him flowers (on his lapel) and ice cream. You can see in the winner's right hand that the ice cream cone had not yet been consumed. What we don't know is who the other gentlemen are, when the picture was taken, and the full story of why Mr. Davis is in the wheelbarrow. Mr. Davis owned a farm on Westerly Road, west of the current location of the high school. In the

1950s, he became sheriff of Montgomery County.

Now, my fellow historical detectives, you have seven questions to answer:

- 1.) Did you know Mr. Davis or are you related to him (no, I'm not, so that rules out one person)?
- 2.) Do you know what the bet was about?
- 3.) Can you identify the loser of the bet (pushing the wheelbarrow)?
- 4.) Look at the picture closely, can you tell where they are on main street and what direction they are facing?
- 5.) What is your guess as to the month and year based on the picture, clothing, and automobile in the picture?
- 6.) How about the other gentlemen, can you identify any of them?
- 7.) The third gentleman from the left stands in a light suit, hands behind his back, and just over his hat is a circular sign. Do you know what the sign says?

We think this picture tells us a lot about what is often referred to as the great character of the town. Not surprisingly, great character comes from great people, and based on their light-hearted way of handling political confrontation, we better understand why Poolesville is Poolesville.

Your information (guesses) may be phoned to 301-349-0070, mailed to P. O. Box 175, Poolesville, MD 20837, or e-mailed to rdavis@monocacymonocle.com.

Things to Do

Throughout December 11th Annual Gaithersburg Winter Lights Festival

Open until Sunday, December 31 (Closed Dec. 25)

6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Sun. thru Thurs.

6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Fri. & Sat.

\$10/car – Sun. thru Thurs., \$12/car Fri. & Sat.

Seneca Creek State Park, 11950 Clopper Road

www.gaithersburgmd.gov/winterlights

Through December 15

Best of Broadway: Overtones and Finales

Review of Favorite Broadway Songs
Arts Barn – 311 Kent Square, Gaithersburg

\$12/Gaithersburg residents; \$14/non-residents

301-258-6350

Through December 31

Children's Winter Repertory Theatre Seasonal Arts Barn Performances

311 Kent Square Rd. Gaithersburg

\$12/Gaithersburg residents, \$14/non-residents

301-258-6394

The Nutcracker

Sat. and Sun. 11:00 a.m.

The Snow Queen

Sats. and Suns., 2:00 p.m.

Hans Christian Andersen's tale of separated brothers and sisters

December 8 to 10

Weinberg Center for the Arts The Nutcracker Ballet

Professional performance by guest artists from New York City Ballet and Suzanne Farrell Ballet and from Frederick School of Classical Ballet

www.frederickclassicalballet.net

December 9

Santa Visits UMCVFD

Enjoy Breakfast with Santa
UMCVFD Fire Department
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

12 years and over: \$5

3 years to 11: \$4

Under 3 years: free

Life Screening

Clarksburg United Methodist Church
Cost: \$35.00 to \$129.00

Pre-Registration is required

800-324-1851 or visit lifelinescreening.com

December 9 to 12

Children's Weekend

Historic Downtown Frederick

Entire weekend of holiday activities for children –

From breakfast with Santa and toy painting, to storytelling to holiday shows.

December 12

High School Show Stoppers - FREE

Arts Barn

311 Kent Square Rd. Gaithersburg

7:00 p.m.

High School Performers in Variety Show

December 15

Festival of Lights

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7:00 p.m.

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Doors open 5:30 p.m.

Games begin 7:00 p.m.

Fest of Lights

Hope Garden Ballet Recital

PHS

7:30 p.m.

December 17

Santa Claus to Visit Poolesville

Will Ride through town starting at 5:30 p.m.

Volunteer Firefighters will assist as he rides

Fire engine.



Day Tripper

2006 Holiday Studio Tour

By Dominique Agnew

The season is upon us, the one in which myriad delights tickle the senses, and one of these delights is the Countryside Artisans' 2006 Holiday Studio Tour. While everyone else will be rushing to the malls and wandering aimlessly through parking lots, you can be taking in the sights and wonders of the Agricultural Reserve as you tour the countryside traveling from studio to studio. Whether you choose to stay nearby or desire to drive further afield, the possibilities for unique gifts for friends, relatives, or yourself (if you've been good) will be unmatched and unique. You can't find these amazing items in the malls: beautiful yarns and handmade woolen items, fine arts, handmade jewelry, wood creations, hand-crafted or painted furniture, metalwork, blown glass, and pottery.

This year's tour features fourteen studios and encompasses the slightly triangular geographic area between Poolesville, Laytonsville, and Adamstown. If you haven't been able to pick up a brochure in your area, it can be found at www.countrysideartisans.com. The studios will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from Friday, December 8 through Sunday, December 10. Each studio will have a yellow flag to help you find your way.

Kiparoo Farm is the first stop on the Studio Tour. Annie Kelley runs this rustic and beautiful studio, the home of "beautiful sheep, shiny fleece, and lustrous yarns." As you drive up to the barns, you can greet the sheep that supplied the wool (although the sheep are not anywhere near as colorful as the yarns). To her surprise, children who visit her farm on field trips, still ask where the wool comes from—right outside. Annie and her sheep are located at 2110 D Pleasant View Road in Adamstown.

It's a fourteen-mile jaunt to studio number two, Lindenwood Farmgoods, owned by Claire and Frank Howard. Located at 20415 Westerly Road, the Howards have a variety of gift ideas including wreaths, prints, paintings, barnwood farm tables, and jewelry to share in their Artist's Cottage Studio.

Alden Farms, three miles away

in Beallsville, is a well-known garden shop in the Washington area. Unusual garden sculptures and art created by owner David Therriault make splendid gifts for the home or the garden.

A short three miles brings you to Seneca Creek Joinery at 19701 Peach Tree Road. Chris and Pat Holmgren offer a variety of hand-crafted wooden items. They not only provide you with furniture or motifs for heirloom chests, but they can keep you supplied with firewood through the cold winter months.

Sugarloaf Studio of artist Susan Due Percy is located at 21900 Beallsville Road in Barnesville. Her beautiful paintings, prints, photographs, and cards capture the surrounding countryside like nothing else can. Also featured will be the work of two guest artists: daughter Rebecca Percy creates unique vinyl accessories, and neighbor William Price has inimitable wood bowls and gifts.

Just a hop away is the studio Dalis Davidson, Dancing Leaf Farm, at 21920 Beallsville Road. From yarns to hand-painted silk to fused-glass jewelry and decorative accents, it's hard to leave the studio empty-handed. The studio is a rainbow of "Yarny Goodness."

A skip away is Lahara Textile Gallery at 18101 Barnesville Road. A working fiber studio featuring the work of over twenty artists, Lahara is described as "a walk through an affordable museum filled with beautiful art to wear, enjoy in your home, or to give as gifts."

A jump down the road is Tina Thieme Brown's Morningstar Studio. Acclaimed for her colorful paintings of the surrounding Ag Reserve and her incredible pen-and-ink botanical art pieces, any of her pieces would make a truly memorable gift.

Studio number nine is Stone Wall Farm at Sugar Ridge Terrace in Boyds. Kathleen Balogh specializes in hand-painted usable furniture and glassware. To learn more about Kathleen and her inspirations, check out Center Stage on page 8.

Some may say it's not art, but others would vehemently disagree, Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard and Winery at 18125 Comus Road produces fine wines from French-certified vinifera clones. Tour the winery and taste the chardonnay, merlot, and cabernet while you nibble on cheese. For more about this growing winery, see Focus on Business on page 16.

Ellen Pearl is still at 15500 Comus Road in her PlumStuff Studio. With

whimsical tables and unique gift items, her studio is sure to be a feast for the eyes, as well as the taste buds as she's also offering Christmas chocolate. Special guest artist Lisa Kovatch will be on hand with her pottery on December 9 and 10 only.

The Blacksmith Shop of Bill Allen on 24500 Stringtown Road in Clarksburg is sure to provide those out-of-the-ordinary gifts. Pokers, trivets, hooks, planters, and items on commission, these items are functional and beautiful all at once. Janet Morgan and baskets woven on old tools will also be visiting.

Studios thirteen and fourteen are

a two-for-one deal. Art of Fire and Dancing Pig Pottery are both located at 7901 Hawkins Creamery Road. Should you get the hand-blown glass piece from Art of Fire or the Celtic arts from Dancing Pig Pottery for Mom or Dad? Why not get both? While you shop these unusual studios, enjoy coffee, cider, and homemade cookies.

All these studios are also open either at regular hours or by appointment, and while you're on the tour, remember to follow the yellow flag, follow the yellow flag, follow the yellow flag...



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Center Stage

Stone Wall Farm In the Middle of It All

By Dominique Agnew

Whether you visit Stone Wall Farm as a stop on the Countryside artisans 2006 Holiday Studio Tour (see Daytripper, page 7) or as a result of contacting Kathleen Balogh, resident artist of Stone Wall Farm, the approach to Kathleen’s studio is the same. Park the car in the ample parking near the garage of the house, proceed to the terrace behind the house, take in the view of Sugarloaf Mountain in the near distance on the right, then meander across the lawn, pass the vegetable garden, traverse a gate to walk through the small riding ring, traverse yet another gate, say hello to the chickens, sheep, and goat

on the right, greet the horses on the left, then enter the luxurious shed which houses the studio—in the middle of it all. In walking there, a visitor will have passed through all the things that either inspire Kathleen directly or which represent inspirations.

The Baloghs, Kathleen with her husband Richard and their four children, have lived roughly twelve years at Stone Wall Farm—so called because of the remnant of the stone wall that

once supported a bank barn where their home now stands. Soon after, Kathleen and a neighbor took art classes from a woman in Clarksburg who taught out of her barn. “She taught us that you can use anything as a canvas,” says Kathleen. Kathleen’s art reflects this as her pieces are all usable pieces—functional art—from bricks to stones to dishes, glasses, and bowls to chairs, tables, and other furniture. “There are paints for all of these,” she adds, “different types of paints for different surfaces.” She also puts varnish on all the furniture, or she bakes the paint onto her glassware. Soon after taking that class, Kathleen began teaching arts and crafts classes to area children in Barnesville, in the studio now occupied by Lahara Textile Gallery (also on the Holiday Tour). She also began painting pieces to give as special, personal gifts. Because the woman from Clarksburg moved out-of-state shortly after Kathleen took

her class, she’s had to learn a lot through trial and error, and some redoing, but she is gratified to see that her paints are holding up as she continues to see pitchers from a decade ago still wearing the original paint.

It was also about twelve years ago that the Balogh family made a trip to visit Richard’s family in Norway. This trip made a strong impression on Kathleen. First of all, it



A pitcher painted by Kathleen Balogh.

impression on Kathleen. First of all, it

-Continued on Page 15.

Youth Sports

Coyote Ladies Kick Back

By Rande Davis

After twenty-three years of teaching and coaching, Coach Sissy Natoli was ready for a new experience. Clarksburg High School fit the bill, but accepting the position as head coach of the varsity field hockey team gave her mixed emotions. Leaving Richard Montgomery High School and a strong record of success, she knew that developing a field hockey tradition at CHS would have some real challenges, but also its own rewards.

This past summer, Coach Natoli sent out four hundred letters to incoming students encouraging them to come out for field hockey. With a little more than a dozen athletes showing up for the first day of practice she was even more concerned. She soon learned, however, that her team was not easily discouraged. Over this past summer, those few girls began to not only develop into a high-spirited team, but they went into high gear to help recruit players, and as each practice came and went, more and more girls joined. These dedicated and determined girls did not let early losses break their spirits. With enough athletes to field both a varsity and a junior varsity team,

-Continued on Page 17.



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**"Willis VanDeventer" Continued
From Page 5.**

of work? "Well," he says, "it all goes back to the time in the 1960s when the library of noted English philosopher John Locke, with his manuscript notes, was coming up on the auction block at Sotheby's in London. Oxford University desperately wanted it, but the price was effectively beyond its reach. So Sotheby's, unable to find a buyer for the whole, was compelled to lot each book for individual sale. I was working at the National Gallery of Art at the time, and its president was Paul Mellon, a noted collector of English illustrated books.

"The big question for me was: Would Mr. Mellon purchase the entire collection? It had to be preserved intact. Then came another crucial question [concerning] its export to a foreign buyer. Under English law, Oxford could block the export of a national treasure."

The Oxford University librarian was, like Willis, a keen bicyclist, and so Willis arranged to be, again, in the right place at the right time by riding to the Bodleian Library just as Bodley's librarian was on his way to work via a bicycle wearing his academic gown. As Willis relates, "We hit it off

rather well. A deal was made whereby Mr. Mellon could buy the Locke Library, retain a life interest, after which the books would go to Oxford."

Willis faced a similar dilemma regarding the papers of Martin Luther King, Jr. Again, Sotheby's was the agent, and once again, the price for the total collection was beyond the financial reach of most. Furthermore, Willis's angel, Paul Mellon, had passed away. Following a meeting with Coretta Scott King and some of her family in Atlanta, it was resolved not only that the collection must be preserved intact, but also that it must include Dr. King's library which contained many, many books with annotations in his hand. Today, it is safely preserved for posterity at Morehouse College in Atlanta.

Willis's vocation is also his avocation, and it "isn't the money, that drives [him]." He rules out any commission or financial interest in anything he appraises or works on. For him, it is "the thrill that you are doing some good in the world, meeting interesting people, and seeing great things."



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Pulpit

Poolesville Presbyterian Church: The Story of Ruth

By Rande Davis



The Reverend Ruth Everhart.

The story of Ruth in the Old Testament is the story of commitment and faith as Ruth and Naomi move to new places. For Rev. Ruth Everhart of the Poolesville Presbyterian Church, her life's journey to ordination shares that sense of dedication. Poolesville Presbyterian is the oldest church in town with a new and growing spirit enriched by its long heritage. The church was closed for a brief period in the 1950s, but through the efforts of dedicated congregants, it was reborn and revitalized, and it welcomed Rev. Ruth Everhart as its pastor five years ago.

Reverend Everhart never entertained the notion of becoming a minister even though she grew up in a very Christian-centered home (the Christian Reformed Church). "It is Calvinist, similar to [the] Presbyterian tradition, very Dutch in its origin," she says. "I grew up going to church twice on Sunday, catechism during the week, and attended Christian education schools my entire life. My dad was a Christian School principal." After graduating from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan where she studied English and religion, obtaining a degree in secondary education, she made a brief detour to reassess her life's purpose and to "get away from the whole Dutch thing" by moving to Minnesota and becoming a legal secretary.

While this move put her in a new, unplanned direction, it proved profound since it was there that she met her husband Doug. She and Doug joined a Presbyterian Church together, and the minister said to her one day, "Ruth, have you ever thought about going to seminary?" While family counseling had been something she had thought about, she had never thought about ordination since she had "never had the eyes to see that." Still, six months after her marriage, she altered her direction again (or got back on track, if you will) and decided to leave her legal secretary position to attend seminary.

Four years later, pregnant with her youngest child, Ruth graduated from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. Her first call came for a small church in upstate New York near Rochester. She, Doug, their two-year-old, and their nine-month-old baby made the move where she became an associate pastor in a church and was given the task of Christian education. Reverend Everhart's workday was typically twelve hours long, so Doug became a full-time stay-at-home dad taking care of the two girls and the home.

When she decided to look for a less demanding position, she accepted a position at a smaller, rural church in Illinois where the Everharts stayed for six years. It was during this time that Doug obtained his master's degree in structural technology and began his teaching career. The church grew from fifty-some families to over ninety, and as she prepared for her next call, she was especially gratified that the congregation had initiated a new building project.

The Everharts next move to Sterling, Virginia was for the benefit of Doug's career where he teaches in the public school system. With their two daughters, Hanna (nineteen) and Claire (seventeen), they joined the twenty-five-hundred-member Vienna Presbyterian Church where she became an interim associate pastor, a position she held just prior to coming to Poolesville.

Reverend Everhart's position at Poolesville Presbyterian is part-time which allows her to pursue her passion for writing; she has already finished two novels about clergywomen. She has a book agent and is hopeful a publisher will soon discover her work. To further support her interest in writing, she has joined two writing groups for women: one for women in general and the other for writing clergy. "It's good to have feedback on your work, and it keeps your motivation up."

Reverend Everhart recently found herself as part of a film documentary about clergy visits to the Holy Land. Filmmaker Brian Ied titled the documentary The Pilgrimage Project which was inspired to encourage clergy to share the transformative experience derived from visiting the Middle East earlier in their careers rather than the usual end-of-career trip. We look forward to sharing information on when and where the documentary is to be

-Continued on Page 15.



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Winterizing Your Horse

By Debby Lynn

Nature's own winterization plan has stood the test of time and is usually your best bet. Horses naturally shed their summer coats and grow a nice warm winter coat just in time for cold weather. If it's kept dry, clean, and brushed out to optimize loft, the natural coat usually does just fine. Wet coats have little insulative ability. If your horse does not have a place to keep dry, a waterproof sheet during turn out time may be necessary. This brings us to the round bale versus run-in shed conundrum. Many people tell me their horses must not mind being wet, as they are eating at the round bale rather than standing under the shelter. If your horse is wet and shivering eating at the round bale in a forty-degree rain, he's as miserable as you would be under those circumstances. He is simply choosing the lesser of two evils. Horses digest fiber via a fermentation process which produces chemical heat. They are considered pseudo-ruminants, that is, they don't quite have multiple stomachs like a cow or a goat, but they have a large

cecum which serves the same purpose. So if they fill their bellies with hay, the chemical heat produced by the digestion process will help keep them warm. If they had their druthers, they would have the round bale in the shelter, so they could stay both dry and full without having to choose. A waterproof sheet is a good solution. A dry horse can stand a great deal more cold than a wet horse.

If your horse is out of work during the winter months or only ridden lightly, a rain sheet for turn out and perhaps a stable blanket for cold nights may be the only change you need to make; however, horses in moderate to heavy work may need to have their coats clipped. This also relates to the dry equals warm equation. If he sweats while working, he will end up with his longer heavier winter coat soaked which will then chill him. Clipping allows him to stay dryer and warmer while working, but you will need to compensate for the loss of his natural insulation by blanketing.

There are several clip styles to choose from. If it's the first year you are clipping your horse, you may want to start with one of the partial clip styles. You can always take more off later, if needed. A trace clip involves clipping the lower half of his neck, his shoul-

ders, and belly, as shown in the illustration. Try this first. If he's still getting wet and chilled during exercise, go to a blanket clip. The hunter clip shown in the illustration is most suited to horses in heavy work, such as foxhunting. Leave the hair on their legs to provide protection from briars and under the saddle area for padding.

Whatever style you choose, start with a clean, dry horse. A dirty coat will dull your blades and take longer to clip. Try spraying your horse with Showsheen before starting. The silicone spray will lessen friction and help keep your blades cool. Having a spare set of blades to change to when your blades get hot saves time. Oth-

erwise, stop and let your blades cool every half hour or so. Be sure to spray your blades frequently while clipping. Use a commercial cooling oil such as Koolube; WD-40 works, also. To make sure the clip is even on both sides, I use a measuring tape and magic marker to draw my cutting lines. Put a saddle pad on his back and clip around it for a hunter cut. A square pad works to define the height of a trace clip. Clip against the growth of your horse's coat. A pair of coveralls will keep you from turning into a human cactus. Finally, if your hair cut is uneven or shows clipper track marks, remember that the difference between a bad clip job and a good one is about two weeks!

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In the Garden

Great Gifts for Gardeners

By Maureen O'Connell

The holiday gift-giving season is now here. Let me give you a head start with your list, and offer some suggestions that will delight and surprise your favorite and "special" gardeners. Some are small tokens; some are whimsical; some are practical, and some are "wow" gifts. There are items that I have received and enjoyed, and others are gifts that I would like to receive. No matter what your budget, there is something for every gardener on your list.

Anyone who is serious about his hobby or passion enjoys good tools of the trade. Many years and gardens ago, I received from a good friend a large, canvas garden tote bag with multiple inside and outside pockets. It was filled with all sorts of gardening goodies: goat-skin gloves, trowels, Felco pruners, spades, garden twine, copper plant markers, and much more. There was also enough room for a bottle of water, bug repellent, and my phone. No more searching the garage for your tools; they are all in one place.

Smith and Hawken sells small,

sheer organza bags with ribbon closures in shades of gold, silver, and red. For small gifts, I love to fill them with potpourri, soaps, tiny glass ornaments, or a handful of dried lavender. They also make pretty containers for small stocking stuffers.

Don't forget our birds of winter. When they drop in for a visit, greet them with plain or fancy feeders, birdseed eggs, and ceramic or metal birdbaths. Think ahead to spring, and select some new and interesting birdhouses.

Don't let winter slip by without flowers. White Flower Farm and Smith and Hawken offer many ways to keep our winter homes in bloom. You can buy paper white and amaryllis bulbs and plant them yourself, or you can buy pre-planted bulbs in a varied selection of boxes, baskets, and bowls. A very special gift would be one of their flowering plant series. This is a gift that can be savored a little at a time, every day for three months, six months, or a full year. January will bring spring bulbs; March is for the lily of the valley; June will delight the senses with the wonderful perfume of lavender; and September will host a bright yellow hibiscus. If you really want to impress someone, send twelve months of orchids. Each specimen is selected for

long bloom and easy care. No matter how brown your thumb, you can have a cymbidium orchid in January, a miltonia in March, a masdevallia in May, a white dendrobium in September, and a paphiopedilum in December. Now that is one gift that I would like to receive.

Would you like to give someone a special shrub or tree for spring planting? You can order it now from plant catalogs, and send a gift card announcing its spring delivery. Several years ago, I gave my husband a rare, white tree wisteria. If you love the beauty and fragrance of wisteria, but do not have room for a very vigorous and rampant vine, grow it in the form of a small tree. White Flower Farm offers three-year-old, four-foot-tall, bare-root plants. They are delivered at the proper planting time in spring. If your husband is a gardener, I think he would like this gift.

You might not think that a pair of rubber boots could qualify as a fashionable Christmas gift. They are if they are the original Wellingtons, made in Scotland by Hunter. They are entirely watertight, and are lined with cotton for warmth and a snug fit. Originally, they came only in black or green. Now you can buy them in red, pink, orange, yellow, powder blue, aubergine, and pumpkin. They are the best boots for

wet, muddy work in the garden.

When I was in London in May, there was an article in The Financial Times about the huge success of a pair of ugly, rubber shoes called Crocs, the creation of three people in Boulder, Colorado in 2003. They were originally intended as boating/outdoor shoes, as they had slip-resistant and non-marking soles. I had never seen them in the United States, so I went out shopping the next day to find a pair. I found them at a sporting goods store on King's Road. Now, at size nine, my shoes are not Cinderella size. I tried on a pair in bright yellow—my feet looked like they belonged to Daffy Duck—but they were so comfortable. I switched to the color red; they looked a little less obvious, so I bought them. They are wonderful for the garden! The front part of the shoe has evenly-spaced holes, so water drains easily out. If they get muddy, hose them off. Now here comes their biggest plus: Where else can you find a shoe that comes in twenty-one colors? They range from butter, chocolate, fuchsia, purple, silver, turquoise, lime, sea blue, and more. You can wear them boating, gardening, cooking, or going to the movies. I know one man who wears them to the office. I presume that it is on "casual days."

-Continued on Page 15.



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2006 CHRISTMAS SCHEDULES

BAPTIST

Poolesville Baptist Church
17550 West Willard Road
301-972-8151

December 17

6:00 pm Christmas Musical
The Go-Fers Christmas

December 24: Christmas Eve

10:30 am Sunday Morning
Worship

7:00 pm Christmas Eve
Candle Light Service

www.poolesvillebaptist.com

EPISCOPAL

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

December 24: Christmas Eve

8:15 am Holy Eucharist for the
Fourth Sunday of
Advent

10:15 am Holy Eucharist for the
Fourth Sunday of
Advent

1:00 pm Children's Christmas
Pageant

10:30 pm Holy Eucharist for
Christmas Eve

December 25: Christmas Day

10:30 am Holy Eucharist for
Christmas Day

www.stpeterspoolesville.org

METHODIST

*Memorial United
Methodist Church*
17821 Elgin Road
Poolesville, MD 20837
301-349-2010
E-mail: pmumcmail@aol.com

Every Sunday

9:45 am Sunday School (all ages)

11:00 am Worship

December 17

5:00 pm Potluck Dinner &
Sunday School Program

7:00 pm Live Outdoor Nativity

December 20

6:00 pm Caroling to seniors and
shut-ins

December 21

7:30 pm Longest Night Service
*(a service for those
experiencing loss and/or
sadness)*

December 24: Christmas Eve

7:45 pm Christmas Music in the
sanctuary

8:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
with communion

December 31

11:00 am Worship for Epiphany

www.pmumc.org

PRESBYTERIAN

*Poolesville Presbyterian
Church*
17800 Elgin Road
Poolesville, MD 20837
301-972-7452

December 17

11:00 am Children's Pageant
*The Twelve Days of
Christmas*

December 24: Christmas Eve

11:00 am Sunday Morning Worship
On the Road Home

7:00 pm Candle Light Service

www.poolpres.com

ROMAN CATHOLIC

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17230 Tom Fox Avenue
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December 24: Christmas Eve

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

6:30 pm Vigil Mass of Christmas

12:00 am Midnight Mass

December 25: Christmas Day

10:00 am Solemn Mass of
Christmas with Brass

www.ol-presentation-md.org



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

Romans 12: 5



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"Balogh" Continued From Page 8.

seemed that every family there had a few animals: a goat, a few sheep, maybe some chickens. Second, she was struck by the Norwegian art of rosemaling. This decorative painting style originated in Norway in the 1700s and is easily recognizable by its distinctive decorative flowers. Rosemalers add scrolls to their art through the use of graceful C and S strokes. This artwork is frequently found on utilitarian pieces such as bowls, plates, and furniture.

Kathleen admits that she doesn't use rosemaling in her pieces, but the influence of what she admires shows through in her art. "I tend to paint things that are around me—flowers in the garden," she says. Beautiful flowers adorn many of her pieces. Needless to say, much of Kathleen's inspiration is around her. She looks to the flowers in her garden for ideas on color. She also gets stuck on a color for a time. Right now she's in her cranberry period. She also likes old-fashioned things and likes to paint that way. "Sometimes I try to paint more of a modern thing, and it doesn't work for me."

Kathleen's artistic endeavor is definitely a family affair. "This is something that I would say that a lot of family is involved with," she says. Her mom comes to help when she's getting ready for a

tour. The kids help, Richard helps, and the animals are also part of it. She likes to incorporate the animals into her artwork, as well as yellow houses (so why isn't her house yellow, one wonders). On the flip side, the family part can also be a challenge: "It's hard to paint glassware with three boys and friends around," she adds ruefully. Things have been broken, but, in all, it's worked out well, so far.

When Kathleen is not preparing for one of the three studio tours, she does a lot of work on commission. Clients bring her chairs that have been in the family on which they want something special painted, or clients simply ask her to personalize gifts. "It's fun to paint a lot of different things," she says. "It keeps me busy all year long."

Kathleen has been on the studio for about five years, and there's one thing that she's noticed. It seems that all the artists on the studio tours share a love for the Agricultural Reserve in which they all live and work. "I feel so lucky that we have this area," she says. She and Richard and their family moved to their location on Sugar Ridge Terrace in Boyds because they wanted land and animals. When they began building structures for the animals, they started with one little barn. "I always knew I wanted a studio here," she says, with

a view of Sugarloaf Mountain—and in the middle of it all: the animals, the land, the gardens, and her family.

"The Story of Ruth" Continued From Page 10.

shown soon.

Today, Poolesville Presbyterian is a vibrant community of worshippers who have transformed the church from a focus on survival "to a wonderful energy level which includes youth education and outreach." Their outreach group serves once a month at the Lord's Table in Gaithersburg (a soup kitchen for those in need). An area of particular growth for the church is the youth and young teen group that has had several mission trips over the years. With the help of group leader, Katherine Beliveau, they are currently in the planning stages for a mission trip this coming spring to the Gulf to help hurricane victims. Last summer, the youth mission group went to Camp Joy, a retreat near Philadelphia that ministers to persons with mental disabilities; and before that, they went to West Virginia on a youth mission of service to those in need. The church seeks to find many ways to be involved within the general community and likes to participate in events such as the recent Community Thanksgiving Service that was held at Our Lady of the Presentation Roman Catholic Church.

Reverend Everhart is especially pleased with their choir that, although small in numbers, is very good and truly meets the need for this church with its small sanctuary. A unique witness to the spirit of the congregation is another musical, fun-filled, and entertaining group: Not the Choir. The ensemble is not officially part of the church but is made up primarily of church members and performs regularly at various functions in the area throughout the year. They have been repeat performers on Poolesville Day.

The church has a special focus on their young people and offers Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. every Sunday and further supports this program through its vacation bible school during the summer. Reverend Everhart describes the congregation as attractive to those who desire a more tight-knit church experience. "You can't get lost in the back row of our church, and we always encourage members to join in the robust fellowship gathering for coffee after each 11:00 a.m. Sunday service."

"Great Gifts" Continued From Page 12.

You can find them at Nordstrom's, Hudson Trail Outfitters, and sporting goods stores. Crocs are ugly ducklings no more.

After you have spent hours seeding, fertilizing, weeding, and mowing your grass lawn, enjoy it with a game of croquet or bocce. You can buy sets at Smith and Hawken and sports shops.

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These are just a few ideas. Visit some of our local garden centers to see what is new or old, that might interest and delight your garden friends.

Local News**Suspect Caught in Restaurant Defacing**

Daniel A. Herbert, 18, of Poolesville has been arrested for the vandalism at L'Nora's Restaurant and Subway in Poolesville.

This past November, the restaurants had their establishments defaced on the fronts and backs of their stores with ethnic slurs, and that act was followed up a week later by bricks thrown through the doors and windows of the businesses. The bricks used were taken from McDonald's restaurant after the perpetrator rammed his car into a brick sign.

Mr. Herbert, a former employee of Subway, has admitted to the breaking of the windows but as being only part of the ethnic defacement of the property. A court case is set for early January when final determination on the case will take place. Khalid Shahin of L'Nora's and Kay, owner of Subway, have been grateful for the expressions of support and sympathy given by customers. "I am just disappointed that we have gotten no apology or offer of restitution from the young man or his parents," stated Mr. Shahin.



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Focus on Business

Making Wine the Family Way

By John Clayton

There is no wine tour in Montgomery County, but if Mike McGarry and his partners at the Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard and Winery have anything to do with that, there will be one in the future. The vineyard is now on the Countryside Artisan's 2006 Holiday Studio Tour (see Daytripper on page 7), and the Monocle suspects this will be a particularly popular stop.

There is more to making wine than meets the eye, and that may be particularly true for someone who is trying to make wine in the Agricul-



Mike McGarry, working hard and enjoying it.

tural Reserve of upper Montgomery County. Not many have tried, in part because of pesky rules that used to make it hard to sell wine, but also because the terrain and the weather are not so accommodating to the fragile grape vine.

The Monocle visited Mike McGarry on a blustery November day, distracted him from his efforts to put the vineyard to bed for the winter, and discussed the birth, care, and feeding of Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard. We discovered right away that

this is a family operation.

The land on which the winery is located was bought by Daniel and Polly O'Donoghue in the 1960s, and then passed on to their four kids: Carol, Dan, Lois, and Phil. The four siblings and their spouses, Mike, Randy, Jim, and Kathy, respectively, are the owners. When they inherited the property, they considered it sacred ground; no one wanted to allow it to be developed. "We could have built some homes," says Mike, "but we just didn't want to. We took a trip to California, and the idea came up to start a vineyard. Several of the siblings said, 'Great!' and several of the siblings said, 'Are you nuts?'" Before becoming vintners, Mike McGarry was an attorney in Washington D.C., and Jim McKenna was a circuit court judge in Montgomery County. Dan O'Donoghue, an engineer, was a builder and now works in the State Department, and Phil O'Donoghue is a practicing lawyer in Montgomery County. Carol McGarry is a retired accountant and takes care of all the books. Lois McKenna and Randy O'Donoghue manage the food and supplies for the tasting room, and Kathy O'Donoghue helps in the fields and the tasting room.

Working with Lucie Morton, their consultant, they planted twenty-four plants in 2002, "just to see what it was like." Mike summed up the first planting like this: "Deer, Japanese beetles, weeds, drought, groundhogs, raccoons..." The are-you-nuts camp won the first round. They ordered nineteen thousand vines in the fall of 2002. The vines were grafted to rootstock resistant to phylloxera, a voracious pest, and shipped to the vineyard and planted in April 2004. "We had our first harvest in 2005 in our second year of growth, which you generally shouldn't do, but Lucy Morton told us we could. So 2006 is our second harvest, and it is terrific." This harvest yielded thirty tons of grapes. Mike said, "We're plan-

ning [to plant] another acre next year, and over time we will plant an additional ten acres, which will result in twenty acres of grapevines." They have ninety-two acres total to work with,



Wilfredo Parada and Manolo Gomez at the Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard and Winery.

eighty-eight in Montgomery County and four in Frederick County. Currently, they buy some of the grapes they use to make their wine. Eventually, they will produce all the grapes they need in their own vineyards.

Mike said one pleasant surprise was the soil which is equal parts clay, shale, and sand. As any local gardener knows, we generally have heavy clay with very little of the drainage that sand provides. Mike said, "There is something mystical about Sugarloaf Mountain." A meteorologist confirmed that the presence of the mountain helps cool them off by interrupting the flow of air from weather systems on the other side of the mountain. When he works in the field, he can feel the cooling zephyrs that work their way around the mountain cooling the grapes on the site. This is, he says, a "cold site," their own peculiar terroir, which is what the grape growers call the combination of climate, soil, and the aspect of the sun or how the sun hits the vines.

The group agreed from the beginning that the quality of their wines would be a priority. They wanted to "raise the bar for local wineries." They learned from the experience of all the local wineries that preceded them — "they're the pioneers and the heroes." He observed that France has been growing wines for thousands of years, and in Napa, they've been growing wines for a hundred years, and there are few mysteries remaining in either region. Here on the east coast, large scale winemaking is a remarkably new phenomenon. "What we know now compared to twenty years ago is vast." When Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard opened, they were the sixteenth winery in the state, and just in the past year the state is up to twenty-three wineries.

The Maryland wine industry was given a boost from new legislation which allows wineries to sell directly to consumers. Mike testified before both the state house and senate on distribution issues, stressing how local wineries would contribute to agricultural green space and support small business creation. Both houses unanimously passed the legislation, and Mike noted that District 15 Delegate Brian Feldman was particularly supportive. As a result, marketing manager Debbie Stallings is able to self-distribute to every Maryland county except Montgomery, where sales to distributors have to go through the County Liquor Board which is their biggest customer.

Success isn't going to come easy, but hard work and dedication will be the keys to the future of Sugarloaf Mountain Winery and Vineyard. Mike's almost faded-beyond-recognition John Deere cap attests to his commitment to the vineyard. Debbie confirmed that he "spends every waking minute here," and added that he calls in to check on "his babies" when he isn't at the vineyard. Between the blood, sweat, and tears, the cooling zephyrs, and that essential, if mystical, terroir, maybe everything will turn out...Great!

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Police Blotter Past and Present

Present

Recently, the Montgomery County Police arrested a man who allegedly had stolen items from homes while he was performing home improvements inside the homes. Police issued the following warnings for citizens to protect their homes and property.

Never leave a contractor alone inside your house for any extended period of

time unless he is a trusted and long-time employee.

Never deal with any door-to-door contractor. Deal with licensed contractors only.

Before agreeing to hire any contractor, obtain at least one other estimate for the planned work.

Ask for references from contractors with whom you have no previous experience.

Police are also reminding residents to keep residence doors, garage doors, and windows locked at all times. Recently, in the Rockville area, five homes were entered by means of an unlocked door and valuables were stolen. Burglar-

ies typically increase at this time of year especially with the shortened hours of daylight, holiday travel, and the enticement of holiday gifts inside homes.

Past

December 8, 1954. Members of the Montgomery County Council voted to review fire and health regulations that apply to the forty-six rest homes in the county. Their action came as a result of the fire at the Maylander Home of Rest in Germantown which killed seven elderly ladies.

December 10, 1937. A Washington mine employee was in the custody of the Montgomery County Police after he allegedly thrust a pistol against his head while being questioned in connection with the death of a fellow gold miner. The body of the miner had been found in

one of the gold mines near Great Falls.

December 10, 1897. George Anderson, of High View, West Virginia, was assaulted by two tramps on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad tracks between Gaithersburg and Boyds.

December 12, 1982. A fire in a house trailer killed one man and seriously injured two others in Poolesville.

December 14, 1936. Elwood Matthews, a prosperous farmer of the Four Corners area of the county, was found murdered in the Northwest Branch near the Boy Scout camp. Matthews had been missing from his home for three weeks.

December 15, 1958. An eighteen-year-old youth, who lived in Germantown, was killed when the car that he was driving struck a brick wall on Route 117 a mile south of Boyds. Three of his companions were seriously injured.

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"Coyote Ladies Kick Back" Continued From Page 8.

CHS went into the playoffs with twenty-two players. With no seniors and only four juniors, the players turned to their coaching staff for the experience they lacked. The girls selected sophomores, Samantha Amberg, Kritishma Shrestha, Jenna Smith, and Delaney Tenca, as team captains.

Coach Natoli observed, "When you have a new program, and you are playing teams in [the] county that are very, very strong teams, you have to fight for every game, but having the confidence to know you can win is a big thing, and it took almost the entire season to be able to develop that. When your defense is struggling and your offense has no experience, it puts an awful lot of pressure on the goalie. What I like about these kids is that they are very resilient, they bounce back, and they play hard and competitive every game."

"As we progressed in the second half of the season, games got closer—one- or two-goal games. The first half of the season, we were losing 5-1, 4-0, 7-0. We were taking our licks. Then we played Kennedy on a rainy Saturday, and kids felt good about that game. It was a 1-0 game. It could have been anybody's game, we

were knocking at the door consistently."

That game gave their confidence a big boost. "Having a winning attitude is a huge, huge thing. When you are not used to winning and the expectation is that you are a new team and you're supposed to lose, I don't think the kids accept that very well. They started to become more competitive as the season progressed. The coaching staff is pretty competitive, so we set the precedent and standards high." Coach Natoli is assisted by JV Coach, Jennifer Hoffman, a Montgomery County police officer. Barb Saxton and Kate Snyder are the assistant coaches. Jennifer and Barb have been with her for six and ten years, respectively, after starting with her at RMHS.

Right after the Magruder Tournament, their first win came against Northwood just five games into the season. It was the final playoff game, however, that really gave the girls a sense of their abilities and progress. "During the last playoff game against Walkersville, they were down two goals in the first half, and they bounced back and scored two goals in the second half, and the game went into overtime. Although they lost, they finally knew then they were a competitive varsity team."

-Continued on Page 23.



The Pulse

WUMCO

By Jack Toomey

A visitor to the office of the Western Upper Montgomery County Help, Inc. (WUMCO) noticed that, at times, things resembled a military command post. Phones were ringing, computers were humming, and supplies were everywhere. This location, actually the home of Mrs. Jane Stearns, is hidden in the hills between Beallsville and Barnesville and has served as an organization on which the needy, the elderly, and misfortunate of northwest Montgomery County have learned to depend since 1968.

WUMCO was founded by the late Beulah Harper in 1968. At the time, Ms. Harper kept a small pantry of food for low-income people. Jane Stearns was a friend of Ms. Harper and helped her by providing transportation to clients in need. Once, during the early years, she put over sixty-five thousand miles on her car

driving clients to doctor's appointments and on other errands. In 1973, Mrs. Stearns and her late husband moved from Boyds to their current residence and took over the management of WUMCO. During the thirty-eight years that WUMCO has been in existence, it has provided help to thousands of county citizens in ways too numerous to count. Among the many things that WUMCO does is provide food to families who are without funds, provide funds for rent or mortgage, help pay utility bills and prescriptions, and drive clients to doctor's appointments. No money is ever paid directly to clients. WUMCO also supplies a complete meal for the needy on Thanksgiving and Christmas and provides toys to children at Christmas. During the 2005 holiday season, WUMCO provided meals to over 800 people and toys to 266 children. Last year, volunteer drivers took 230 clients to appointments, logging over nine thousand miles, and three thousand hours of time.

Of course, none of this could have happened without Jane Stearns, the executive director of WUMCO, Renee Brooks, the executive assistant, a board of directors, and the

volunteer drivers who are on call to provide transportation and to deliver food when the need arises.

Mrs. Stearns was born in Missouri and came to the Washington area to work for the government. She met her husband, the late Fred Stearns, on a blind date and after marriage, moved to Boyds in 1968 at which time she began her involvement with WUMCO. Stearns said that in the early years, WUMCO was involved in an attempt to preserve rural villages in the upper county such as Big Woods, Jerusalem, and Martinsburg because government officials were trying to break up the communities and move the residents to the middle and lower parts of the county. Little did she know that after meeting many of the residents of this area that the scope and responsibilities of WUMCO would grow over the years. At one time during the 1970s, WUMCO actually operated a credit union, and Stearns showed a visitor an old safe where funds used to be kept. Residents of the upper county, when jobless or in need, could apply for loans and cash would be distributed from the house. Stearns

said, "People could take out small loans because the banks were not over-friendly to low income people." When Fred retired in 1972, it allowed him to become more heavily involved in WUMCO affairs and, sadly, his passing a year ago left a void that has not been filled.

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Books for Cooks

By Maureen O'Connell

All cooks, from the novice to the professional chef, appreciate a good cookbook. You never outgrow your need to learn new techniques and new recipes. There are hundreds of cookbooks in Borders, Barnes and Noble, and other bookstores. Picking one or two out of the stacks can be daunting. I have picked three books that I think will appeal to a wide variety of cooks.

I usually read two cooking magazines: *Bon Appétit* and *Gourmet*. The first one is carefully and beautifully illustrated. It depicts everyday cooking, party menus, and scenes of real people entertaining in their homes. It describes table settings, wines, and food-related books. The recipes are relatively simple and easy to follow. *Gourmet* covers a broader range of culinary topics, with special emphasis on travel. The recipes are a bit more involved and complicated than those in *Bon Appétit*, but none are too laborious and time consuming for the average cook. I hate to throw away my old issues of both magazines, so I have a large and growing stack in my

cupboard. In September, I was glad to see that *Bon Appétit* had put together a cookbook, *Bon Appétit*, covering recipes from many issues of their magazine. It is their first comprehensive cookbook and it is big—more than eight hundred pages, more than twelve hundred recipes scanning decades of delicious cooking. It contains foolproof recipes for everyday meals and for parties, big and small. I found it a welcome addition to my cookbook library. The color photography is gorgeous, and there are extensive illustrations of tips and techniques from the *Bon Appétit* Test Kitchen. If you are looking for a good, user friendly, general cookbook, this is it. It can also give you some special, upscale menus and special dishes. I highly recommend it.

In 2004, Ina Garten, the Barefoot Contessa, came out with her latest cookbook, *Barefoot in Paris*. Ina is well known for her Food Network show and her three previous best-selling cookbooks. She describes her latest book as "Easy French food you can make at home." If you are reluctant and intimidated to cook French, this book might change your mind. It takes the mystery out of attempting such cozy, French bistro foods such as mussels in white wine, pissaladière, Provençal vegetable soup, beef burgundy, salmon with lentils, potato celery purée, and crème

brûlée. To read her cookbook is to take a trip to Paris. It glows with Ina's love of the city, of the outdoor markets, the bakeries, fromageries, and charcuteries that one finds on every street corner in every neighborhood. My daughter lived in Paris for five years, on the Left Bank across from the Louvre; I was a frequent visitor. Her neighborhood was packed with wonderful food markets. I loved to prowl the many shops, and come home laden with fresh vegetables, cheeses, meats, seafood, and pastries. Ina's book brought back many fond memories. If one loves to cook, Paris is a cook's dream. Buy the book, not just for its recipes, but for a look into the culinary delights of Paris.

This last book, *My Life in France*, is not a cookbook per se; it is a memoir and a love story. On one level, it chronicles the years (1948 to 1954) that Julia Child spent in France with her husband Paul Child. It was written with her husband's great-nephew, Alex Prud'homme, before her death at age ninety-one in August 2004. On another level, it tells a poignant love story: Julia loved her husband Paul, ten years her senior; she loved everything about France — its culture, its people, its food, and its cooking. Listen to her: "The sweetness and generosity and politeness and gentleness and humanity of the French had shown me

how lovely life can be if one takes time to be friendly." Her book is a charming and touching merci for all that France gave her.

She and her life story should be an inspiration to all people, not just cooks. When she arrived in Paris in 1948, she was recently wed, did not speak a word of French, and could not cook. With her usual gusto for living, she resolved to correct these two problems. She studied at L'École du Cordon Bleu; after two attempts, she received her diploma. She did not have a five-star culinary upbringing. She struggled for years in Paris, experiencing difficulty in establishing herself in the male-dominated world of cooking. From these humble beginnings, she went on to write, with Simone Beck and Louisette Bertholle, *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* (1961) which is considered the masterpiece work of culinary arts.

Even if you are not interested in cooking and you are not a Francophile, read this book. It captures the charm, warmth, and robust spirit of a "six foot-two-inch, rather loud and unserious Californian"—her words—who discovered the fullness and richness of life in France. William Grimes of *The New York Times* described her as the most successful American export to France since Benjamin Franklin.



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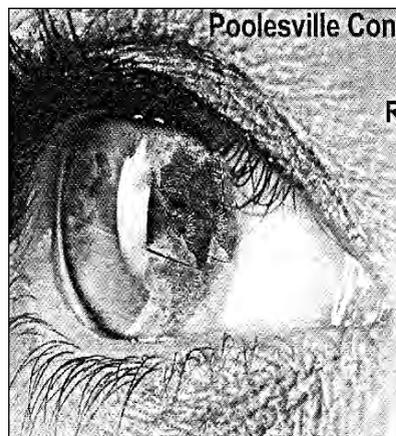
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Tidbits

Hole in one at Poolesville Golf Course!

Golfer Dave Doroff aced the Par 3, 191 yard eighth hole at Poolesville Golf course, using a 3-Wood.

More Than Two Tons of Food Collected by Scouts

Cub Scout Pack 694 distributed food collection bags on November 4 and, along with Pack 694 second year Webeles, picked them up on November 11.

The scouts put in 178 hours of community service that resulted in 4,803 pounds of food collected to be distributed locally through WUMCO to those in the area in need. Volunteer Joseph Betz reports that the scouts were impressed by so many people going out of their way to help. John Speelman of Poolesville Hardware contributed bins for the food transportation to WUMCO. Neighbors got up early to leave bags on doorsteps and drove the scouts around, picked up boxes, got lunch for the crews, and, in general, did whatever they could to help out. The scouts hustled and picked up the food in record time, got it to Jane Stearn's house, and neatly packed it away. The packing in itself was a big task since items needed to be sorted by food type. The hard work and steadfast dedication of the scouts was very impressive. The scouts learned the value of helping others and learning about the generosity and cooperation of those in the town in their mutual effort to make sure the food supply at WUMCO stays adequate.

Topping Off Ceremony Celebrates Important Milestone

St. Peter's Episcopal Church celebrated an important milestone in the building of their new parish facilities. The new building now has now reached its highest point of construction, and in celebration, the congregation held a Topping Off Ceremony to mark the occasion. The Topping Off Ceremony is a long tradition of placing a tree branch on the roof of the building to symbolically return to the forest the gift of the wood used in its construction. Father Charles Hoffacker,

interim priest of St. Peter's, presided over a special blessing of the branch and led prayers of thanksgiving and praise. Congregants in attendance then signed a beam that will be placed later to remember, for posterity, some of those responsible. Construction on the building has progressed well this fall, and the church hopes to move in by early spring.

Update on PHS News Science Building and Eight-Period Day Proposal

PTA President Diane Hayden sent an update on the new PHS addition (science building) and the eight-period day proposal and raised some concerns about possible consequences. At the last open community meeting, it was presented that the new science building will be built where the existing tennis courts are now. Various locations for the new tennis courts are being considered and a final decision is still pending. There is concern that if the placement of the tennis courts is not determined prior to construction that they may not remain a priority.

In addition, the school is proposing an eighth period. This is initially for those students in the magnet programs and is to be optional. However, the curriculum for the magnet students has become more rigorous each year, and many electives may be eliminated. Diane Hayden also reports concern that PE classes may be cut next year. Mrs. Hayden encourages parents sharing these concerns to get involved at upcoming PTA meetings.

Beautiful Baby Boy

Proud parents, Jesse Burton and Katie Antonelli of Dickerson, are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Eli Christopher Burton, on November 7, 2006. He was born at 1:08 p.m. at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, weighing seven pounds five ounces.

How Santa Helps the Oddfellows

For groups, companies, and individuals planning a holiday party, the I.O.O.F. Poolesville Lodge #97 can get Santa to come to your party. A donation to the Oddfellows for sponsoring Santa's visit would be a wonderful way to have Santa on hand while helping such a

duty-bound community group. These gentlemen do such wonderful charitable work throughout the year including sponsoring the Widows, Widowers, and Orphans dinner (last December 2), you will be happy to know that having Santa come to your party can do such good things. Call 301-972-8007 to schedule his visit to your home or business. Of course, after December 23, he will be too busy to do parties.

Town of Poolesville Has Openings for Volunteers

There are openings for volunteers on the town's Planning Commission and the Community and Economic Development Committee. The Planning Commission handles planning and zoning requirements and development compliance for the town. The CEDC has the mission of strengthening the town's commercial sector through cooperation of business, government, and residents. The committee needs one business and one resident representative. Call 301-428-8927.

Poolesville's Wroth Girls Stay Busy over the Holidays

Ballerina Sarah Wroth started performing the Nutcracker with the Boston Ballet the day after Thanksgiving and will continue until December 30th. She's been asked by the Boston Ballet to do a diary that's being published periodically on their website: <http://www.bostonballet.org/nutcracker/nutcrackerdiary.html>. Sarah is performing roles as a Party Parent, the Grand Mother, Snow, Flowers and Marzipan in various performances.

Mary Kate Wroth is also getting ready for her Nutcracker at the Indiana University Ballet Theatre. She'll only be doing four performances, though. Mary Kate had a rough start to rehearsals as she got ill just before the casting started. She'll be performing in Snow, Flowers and a Mouse in all four performances, and proud parents Ted and Dean drove up to IU in early December to see her. The Maryland Regional Ballet, where Mary and Sarah got their starts, will perform the Nutcracker in Frederick December 8 through December 10.

School News

Monocacy Elementary School

Students to Be Commended

Rebekah Chittenden and William Durr have been selected through auditions to sing in the Northern County Elementary School Honors Chorus. The chorus consists of fifth graders from all north county elementary schools. The chorus will give a performance on Wednesday, May 16, 2007 at 8:15 p.m. at Seneca Valley High School. Congratulations Rebekah and William.

Poolesville Elementary School The Relay for Life Committee is sponsoring a Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the all-purpose room.

Poolesville High School

PHS Winter Concerts

On December 14 prepare for a very special performance by the Poolesville High School musical department as it presents the Winter Concert from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Admission is free. A rousing holiday show featuring the school band, guitar ensemble, symphonic band, concert choir, orchestra, and jazz band will be heard under the direction of Jim Laster, the enthusiastic maestro, who promises an evening of musical delight.

Mr. Laster also announced that for the first time in over twenty-four years, there will be a Cluster Concert on January 25 at the auditorium featuring the music departments of the high school, John Poole Middle School, Poolesville Elementary School, and Monocacy Elementary School. This event will help raise funds for the music departments, and you can be sure it will sell out early. Tickets of \$7.00 will go on sale starting the night of the winter concert.

Clarksburg High School

For those in the Clarksburg area, Clarksburg High School's Winter Concert is also on December 14 and starts at 7:30 p.m. They will feature their chorus, orchestra, percussion band, and jazz ensemble in their ninety minute program.



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Youth Sports

In a Whirlwind Season, Cyclones Win Division

By Dominique Agnew

The Cyclones, an under-12 boys' soccer team that plays in the MSI Classic League, won its division with a record of 5 wins, 1 loss, and 2 ties. The team ended the season with 22 goals for and 8 against, with 4 shutouts. The team lost only its first game, then

won or tied every game after that, including a thrilling 1-1 tie against the second place North Potomac Panthers. This forced a final game where a victory was necessary to secure first place. The Cyclones came through with a commanding 5-0 victory to win the division. The team consists of boys from the Poolesville, Darnestown, and North Potomac areas. This successful season will allow the team to move into Division 1 for the spring soccer season. The team prides itself on excellent sportsmanship, great teamwork, and unselfish play.



Back row : U.K. Elite trainer, Barry Lynch; Coach, Mike Wills; Coach, Rob Dutcher.
Back Row : Erik Dutcher, Ben Rahimi, Chris Rahimi, Tony Clements, Tyler Maroulis, Brandon Myers, Chris Comfort. Front row : Andrew Wills, Austin Zachrel, Sean Dahlen, Dillon Kress, Kirby Carmack, Brian Dillon, Niko Micheals

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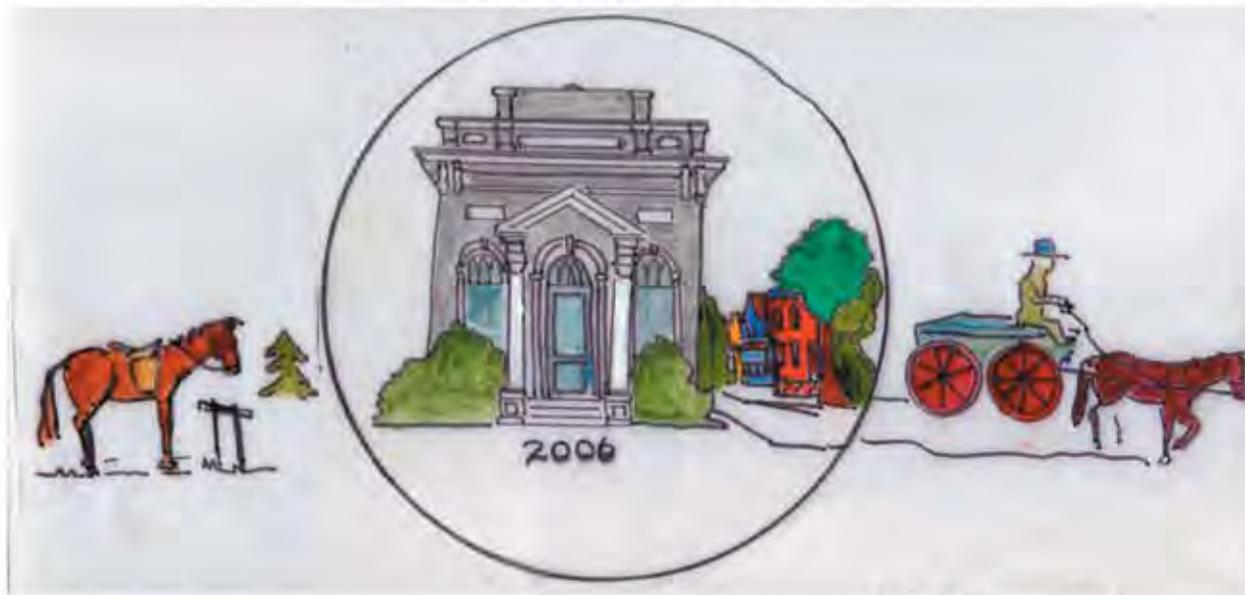
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**"Coyote Ladies Kick Back" Con-
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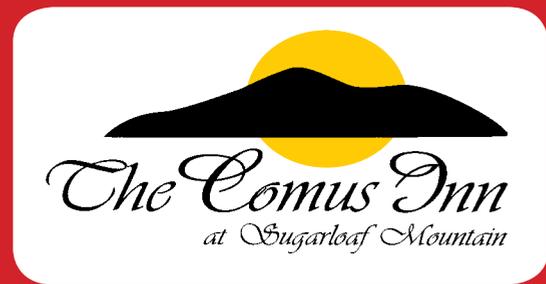
Although it was their final game of the season, it felt like the season was just getting started. "The players were pumped and wanted to know if they could practice the next day. The girls were still into it, and they wanted to be around the coaching staff, and the coaching staff wanted to be around them. They are interested in some off-season play, and they want to do some indoor hockey training, and they plan to go to team summer camp together."

In recapping the season, she said, "The support here is incredible. We have

a great administration supportive of one another. While we know we are not expected to win, it doesn't mean that you have to roll over and be a door mat."

The future looks good for the Coyotes. "We are not losing anyone, and positions are more settled. You take a look at what you have and you try to work your numbers into seeing where the players will play best and come up with a starting lineup, and you tweak it all season to find out what works." What works for Clarksburg is a spirited team with newfound confidence anxious for next year's season to arrive.

The Holidays



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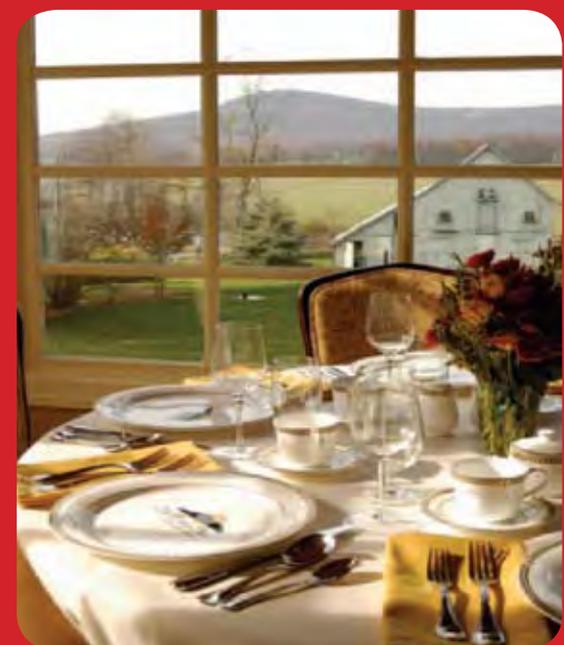
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