

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

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One of these men was Claggett Hilton, son of the founder of Hilton's Funeral Home and a popular county commissioner. Focus on Business on Page 7.



You thought, or perhaps even hoped, that you knew everything about this building. See Local History on Page 3 for more.



Rocky knows what he likes. See Monocacy Critters on Page 19.



The Clarksburg girls' basketball team is featured on Page 14, and the Poolesville team is on Page 12.

Boys Residents Concerned about Proposed Bridge

By Kristen Milton

More than three years after rallying to defeat a two-lane bridge on White Ground Road, some upcounty residents have continued to oppose improvements to the bridge area as preparations are made for the 2009 replacement of the existing bridge.

In 2004, the Montgomery County Council approved a Rustic Roads designation for White Ground Road that prevented construction of a two-lane bridge there. Up-County residents resisted the bigger bridge on the grounds that it would bring more truck traffic, speeding, and be inconsistent with the area's rural character.

They are the same arguments being advanced now as the county plans to straighten the existing road alignment as it replaces the fifty-three-year-old bridge. The new bridge would also not have the current

34,000-pound weight restriction.

"The current approaches require some slowing down from either direction, and this is a safety plus," Mike Rubin, a Boyds resident and board president of the Montgomery Countryside Alliance, wrote in December. Rubin argued that an improved road would become even more attractive as a shortcut for "soccer moms and others" traveling to Germantown. Rubin suggested a weight limit be imposed, signage changed to redirect traffic elsewhere, and the road alignment left alone.

Melissa Foster, then-president of the Boyds Civic Association, forwarded the letter to residents, a



The bridge on White Ground Road.

half-dozen of whom sent similar letters to the county. Others attended the Department of Public Works and Transportation's December 4 hearing on the matter.

The hearing officer is expected to issue his decision in mid-February, DPWT deputy division chief Holger

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Local Officials Host Discussion Of Woodstock Equestrian Park

By Maureen O'Connell

On Monday, January 28, representatives of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) hosted a meeting on the Woodstock Equestrian Park at the Recreation Building at Owen's Local Park in Beallsville. They invited the community to participate in a discussion about the status of development at the park. Mary Bradford, Director of the Montgomery County Department of Parks, opened the meeting, thanking the approximately fifty people for their attendance. She



Garth Seeley, Mary Bradford, and Tracey Morgan at the Woodstock Equestrian Park meeting.

turned the meeting over to Parks and Planning staff member, Linda Komes, who gave a power point and slide presentation on the history of the park. She began with the inception of the idea, the donation in 2002 of 418 acres of land off Route 28 in Beallsville by Herman and Monica Greenberg and 354 acres by the late William Rickman, Sr. This was followed by the development of a Master Plan by the county and financial contributions from Mr.

Greenberg, Mr. Rickman, Montgomery County, and the state of Maryland. Ms. Komes's slides included views of the overall property, historic buildings on the property, and currently used horse trails and bridges built by park staff and volunteers. Several landscape projects are underway through the financial support of Mr. Greenberg and Mr. Rickman. Garth Seely's young volunteers from Landscape and Nature Discoveries, Inc. (LAND) volunteered plants and labor at the entrances to the park.

Mr. Frank Jamison, who was in the audience, asked to read a letter he had recently received from Mr. Greenberg, who was not able to attend the meeting. In it, Mr. Greenberg expresses his frustration at the slowness of the progress in the park's development. He questioned whether

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Bill Griffith is surrounded by members of his extended family at his ninetieth birthday party at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Photograph by Ed Lunsford.



Cold weather stalled the progress on the new Poolesville town hall, but the foundation was recently poured and completed and very soon the framing will begin.



Poolesville kids savor the snow. Photograph by Tammy Lightcap.



Bill Griffith celebrated his ninetieth birthday surrounded by many friends and family, including his daughter Mary Pat Wilson and friend Doris Lewis.

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Local History

When the Poolesville Bank Failed

By Jack Toomey

The young schoolteacher looked at the clock every few minutes until it was time to walk the few blocks to the bank. She had set aside this day, shortly before school would start for the year, for a trip to Washington to buy furniture for her room. She planned to withdraw some of her money, take the train to Washington, and then shop at one of the city's leading department stores. Even though the country was still in the second year of the Great Depression, a schoolteacher's job was still fairly secure, and her salary was enough that she could afford to buy the dresser and new bed that she had wanted for some time.

Dr. Arthur Woodward, whose family lived in Poolesville from 1922 to 1936, said that the Depression did not affect Poolesville as much as it did some of the larger industrial cities. Bread was ten cents a loaf, milk cost ten cents, and a roast could be purchased for twenty-five cents. A boy could help out his family by doing odd jobs like mowing lawns and painting. Dr. Woodward recalled that he could earn fifteen cents by mowing a lawn and that his family had a large garden where they grew vegetables and some fruit and that they also kept chickens in the rear of the house. He said that in those days, many kids his age only went to school through the ninth grade because they were needed to work on the farms that surrounded the town. Dr. Woodward related that the families who lived south of town near the Potomac River had a hard time getting to school because there were only dirt roads, and when it rained, it was impossible to drive a car on those country roads. Only fifteen students graduated with him from Poolesville High School.

Mary Chiswell, the excited young schoolteacher, set off through the streets of Poolesville greeting her friends and other citizens on this morning of Thursday, September 4, 1931. She thought that it was strange when a friend stopped her and exclaimed, "For heaven's sake, Mary, get your money out of the bank." Ms. Chiswell approached the front doors of the Poolesville Bank, and upon reaching the top step, she tugged at the doors only to find them locked. She thought that this was strange since the bank should have been open for several minutes. Not

knowing what to do, she knocked at the glass doors, but no one answered the door. Just then a passerby called out to her, "Haven't you heard? The bank is closed." Ms. Chiswell had not heard the news and inquired why. The gentleman repeated a rumor that he had heard earlier in the morning. He said that the bank had closed because the bank president, who was under indictment in another matter, had frozen the assets of the bank. Dr. Woodward said that many townspeople were angry because their savings were entrusted to the bank.

The Poolesville National Bank had opened on December 9, 1907. Before that day, storekeepers had been forced to keep large amounts of cash in their stores overnight, and citizens had to rely on banks in Rockville which was very inconvenient in those days when most travel was accomplished by horse and buggy. The bank was built on the site of the old Century Hotel that dated to the early 1800s. The first president was Howard W. Spurrier, and the vice president was William T. Griffith. Elected as members of the board of directors were Messrs Fletchall, Hoskinson, Hilton, Jones, Walling, Trundle, Darby, Pyles, and Bodmer, all who were described in the Montgomery Press as "substantial members of the community." On the day that the bank opened, a total of five thousand dollars was deposited in the bank. During the 1920s, the bank was absorbed by the Central Trust Company of Maryland that had eleven bank branches, most of them in central and western Maryland. The Poolesville branch retained its name as the Poolesville Bank, the only one in Montgomery County to do so, even though it was part of the larger corporation.

State Senator Emory Coblentz, the president of the Central Trust Company, attempted to calm the fears of his company's twenty-five thousand depositors who had over fourteen million dollars locked inside the eleven bank branches. He told them that the closure was a temporary matter and blamed his problems on people who wanted to ruin his reputation. The closure of the bank branches had different effects on different towns. In Frederick, people went about their business without much care and were confident that the doors to the bank would open soon. In Myersville, a town festival was cancelled because the townsfolk were described as being too depressed to attend. In Poolesville, there were mixed reactions. Mary Chiswell exclaimed to a friend, "They

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Commentary

Keep an Eye on The Horses

By John Clayton

By the time this issue of the Monocle runs, the so-called Super Tuesday presidential primary will be but a fond memory. As of this writing, we seem to be down to two candidates on each side, and all things being equal, one of these four people will become our next president. The Democrats, in a significant departure from the historic norm, offer the choice of an African-American and a woman. One is a card-carrying member of the baby boom generation, and the other champions a younger generation. As their policies and beliefs are quite similar, this may be all that distinguishes them, although one has a prominent spouse who keeps working his way into the discussion. On the Republican side, we have a senior citizen and bona fide war hero who, being steadfastly contrarian on a number of issues, vexes many in his own party to distraction, but is nevertheless the current favorite to get their nomination. He is opposed by a former moderate-ex-governor of a blue state who reinvented himself practically overnight as a hard core varmint-shootin', illegal-immigrant-thumpin' right-winger. It is an interesting group, but we could do a lot worse than these four, and in fact, occasionally have.

Here in Maryland, we don't get a say until February 12, when we are part of the new Chesapeake Primary along with our neighbors, the District of Columbia and Virginia. With any luck, no one candidate will look too inevitable by Election Day, and perhaps we can do more than just ratify the selection. I think the regional primary idea is a good one, and I hope the idea catches on nationally. I think we give away way too much power and influence to Iowa, New Hampshire, and the other early primary states. Even Super Tuesday, while perhaps the start of a good idea, is impractical because it is literally all over the map. New York, New Jersey, California, and Tennessee in one day, to name just a few, makes little sense for a primary, and certainly no sense at all if we are serious about trying to reduce the frightful costs of national campaigning. Hopefully, we will evolve (sorry, Governor Huckabee) to

a system of regional primaries. Perhaps we could even rotate who goes first, if Iowa and New Hampshire are willing to surrender their "right" to this.

However, this is just a preamble to the big event. In November, the big question in Maryland will be on the ballot, and I don't mean the presidential election. On Election Day in November, Maryland voters will vote yea or nay on a referendum on slot machines. This has been a political hot potato for a number of years. Former Gov. Robert Ehrlich tried unsuccessfully to move slots legislation through a hostile legislature. Now a Democratic governor, Martin O'Malley (who professes to otherwise not like or approve of slot machines), has proposed fifteen thousand machines at five locations throughout the state. This is a big money situation involving the horse racing industry, the gambling industry, and the horse breeding industry. All stand to benefit from this form of gambling. With this much money at stake, you can bet your bottom dollar that we will be bombarded by advertising for and against slot machines. I would suspect that most of the ads will be pro-slot machines, as I would assume they have more money to spend.

One of the arguments for slot machines is that they will help to preserve open land in the State of Maryland. I believe it works like this: Some slot machines will be at race-tracks; I believe two tracks are being discussed for this. The other locations are at places other than tracks, and I believe they are called "parlors," which sounds rather quaint to me, like there will be doilies on all the chairs. Some big dollars from slot machine revenues will go to various other race-tracks in the state, refurbishing their infrastructures and boosting purses and payments to breeders. These actions will help Maryland racetracks compete with tracks in neighboring states, and as horse racing flourishes from the additional moneys invested, more and more horses will be raised to compete at racetracks. Horses need open land, ergo, every time you put a nickel in a slot machine, you are supporting the preservation of open land.

I have always thought it made sense for Maryland to have slot machines, but I plan to park that thought and reevaluate this whole issue. For one thing, I would like to at least be comfortable with some of the logic that is being touted. Does making nicer racetracks really build racing

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attendance? Do people still want to go to the track? Can the family and I learn to enjoy off-track betting in the comfort of our own home, or will we have to drive to Pimlico? If the tracks do become more prosperous, will it really help preserve open space here in the Monocacy region? Are the horses

really happy about this? Will someone want to put a new bridge across the Potomac and a road through the Ag Reserve to get Virginia gamblers to the ICC, I-95, and Laurel Racetrack? I don't really know these answers, but I would like to find out before the ad blitz starts. ♦

School News

Budget Increase Benefits New Clarksburg School

By Kristen Milton

The future Clarksburg elementary school No. 8 would benefit to the tune of \$2.2 million as a result of the budget amendments currently being considered by the Montgomery County Council.

A resolution to add more than \$10 million to the public schools' fiscal 2007-12 Capital Improvements Program was introduced before the council January 22. A public hearing on the move is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on February 12. The council's Education Committee would then take up the amendments on February 19.

A January 14 letter from Superintendent Jerry D. Weast requesting the

budget changes noted that Clarksburg elementary No. 8 was not originally envisioned to use Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards which the county has subsequently required. LEED standards promote environmentally sustainable construction.

For the Clarksburg school, slated to open in September 2009, this means the addition of a geothermal heating system and additional reforestation and storm water management measures. Weast said the recently-completed bidding process revealed a shortfall of \$2,250,000 for the school.

Clarksburg elementary No. 8 will eventually host approximately 740 students on ten acres of land on Royal Crown Drive in Germantown. The cost of the school's construction was estimated at \$22 million before the budget increase. ♦

Garden Vegetable Gardening 101

By Maureen O'Connell

In my last column, I suggested that if your past experiences with vegetable gardening have been less than successful, you might want to reevaluate your enthusiasm, or lack thereof, for such projects, reduce your garden's size, or throw in your trowel and hoe and buy your veggies at Kingsbury's Orchard, Lewis Orchards, or one of the local grocery stores. Before you give up, let's look at some ways you can make this endeavor easier and more manageable, and along the way, you can provide healthy, fresh, delicious vegetables for you and your family. We will also look at what new vegetables there are for 2008.

February is a good month to plan your garden. You might have more time now, as there are few chores to take care of outside, and your mailboxes will be overflowing with the new 2008 seed and plant catalogs.

When planning your garden, it is important to ask yourself a few basic questions. Firstly, how much time will you honestly be able to devote to your garden on a regular basis? Remember, the weather will probably be hot and humid, gnats will be swarming in the air and in your eyes, and the cool, blue water of the swimming pool and the comfortable hammock will be beckoning. The answer to this question will dictate whether you have a garden, or, if you do, its size. Many gardeners plant too large a garden for their needs. A ten by twenty foot rectangle garden can produce enough for a family of four. Once planted, the garden will have to be weeded at least once a week, irrigated during droughts, protected from pests and fungal diseases, and the vegetables will have to be harvested when ripe. Some people love caring for a garden, be it vegetable or flower; for others, it is a chore. If you fall into the latter category, it is probably best to leave this activity to someone else and read no further.

If you are still with me, consider this question: Which vegetables do you and your family like to eat? If your vegetable tastes run to peas, carrots, green beans, and corn, don't plant eggplant, okra, and Brussels sprouts because they look pretty in the catalog

or in the garden centers. They might end up lingering and dying on the vine. Since most of us do have limited space for our garden, try to grow vegetables that are hard to find in the local grocery store, expensive to buy, best when fresh, and offer different varieties than you can buy in the store.

How much space do you have for a vegetable garden? Are there existing garden sites, or will you have to convert existing lawn area into usable garden space? The latter will involve more work to remove the grass and make the soil friable.

Is the garden location convenient to your house and a source of water? You don't want to feel like a member of the fire brigade, connecting four or five hoses, to get water to your garden.

Choose varieties of plants that have traits that make them easier to grow with low maintenance. If you read a plant's information tag or catalog description, the ones to look for have multiple disease resistance, upright and non-sprawling growth habits, and smaller fruits, which when left on the vine past maturity, continue to grow in size, but remain tender and do not take on a bitter taste. If you are short on garden space, choose small-branching plants that could be used in hanging baskets or patio pots.

Stagger planting times. You don't want to find yourself with too many vegetables which ripen all at the same time. You end up giving them to everyone you can find to get rid of them. We all have friends who every summer generously offer us vegetables from their garden. Very often they are the zucchinis that have grown to the size of a baseball bat with about the same flavor and tenderness. Many people plant their vegetable gardens with a row of one vegetable, then another row of another vegetable, and so on. You should strive to make plantings that will give you a steady supply of vegetables over a long period of time—successive planting. This sounds good in theory, but two factors challenge it. Firstly, many gardeners want to plant their gardens one weekend and be done with it. They want to be able to now sit back and watch them grow, and not have to worry about planting every other week. I can relate to that. Secondly, in our area, very often the window for planting seeds and young seedlings is very short. Our weather often goes

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Local News

Legacy Expanded

By Kristen Milton

Two Poolesville area properties were added to the Legacy Open Space program this month in unanimous votes by the Montgomery County Planning Board—who acted against the advice of planning staff in one case and the request of the property owner in the other.

“The Legacy Open Space designation allows us to look at multiple avenues for protecting these special

cases of extraordinary lands,” program manager Brenda Sandberg said in a release announcing the addition of five sites to the program.

When the planning board discussed nine properties November 15 as potential additions to Legacy, the recommendation was to consider acquisition of a good portion of the Beverly Property, especially the more than three hundred acres along Club Hollow Road desired for the planned Broad Run Stream Valley Park, and to leave alone four-hundred-acre Selden Island. Staff said the Potomac River island, which lies within

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Humble Chef

The Foods of Winter

By Maureen O'Connell

I tend to prefer different ethnic cuisines depending upon the season. In the spring and summer, I usually prefer light, cooler food. During the colder months, I prefer something hot and substantial; something your mother used to say would stick to your ribs. I have had several broken ribs during my lifetime, and I hope there was nothing too heavy sticking to them. Irish stew, French bistro food, English beef roasts, anything Italian, and German food come to mind. We haven't discussed German cuisine lately, so let's take a look at this central European country and see what makes its food special.

Germany is a country of rich foods. Regionally, it is defined by the north, the central, and the south. In the north, food preferences reflect the influence of the nearby Scandinavian countries. In the central part of the country, the food is richer and heavier, while the south is lighter, with strong influences from neighboring Italy and Austria. Whatever region you look at, though, Germany is the quintessential home of meat and potatoes, and, of course, beer. Pork is eaten more often than any other livestock. Sausage is quite a staple on many menus. There is also Wiener schnitzel, bratwurst, sauerbraten, sauerkraut, hot potato salad, dumplings, spiced apples, caraway seeds, mustard, and horseradish. The following menu and recipes come from the kitchen of the Humble Chef. I like it because it is not too heavy and rich, can be put together quite easily and quickly, and it combines many of the flavors of traditional German cuisine.

Pork Roast, Sauerkraut with Apples and Onions, Mashed Potatoes with Rutabaga

3 lb. boneless pork loin roast
5-6 garlic slivers
4 fresh rosemary sprigs
¾ cup orange juice (I use the Tropicana Fit & Healthy – it has half the sugar)
Salt and pepper to taste

Set oven to 350°

Place pork in a medium-sized roasting pan. Use a knife to make gashes in top of pork; insert garlic slivers. Salt and pepper the roast. Lay rosemary sprigs over top of pork. Pour orange juice over roast and place in oven for about 1½ hours, or until the pork is golden brown. Remove and carve into medium slices. Very often, boneless pork roasts can become too dry. The liquid and rosemary in this recipe keep it moist and very flavorful.

Potatoes

Peel and medium dice three russet potatoes. Peel one medium rutabaga (also called a swede) and coarsely dice. Place both in pot and cover with water. Cook until soft, but not mushy; mash with a bit of butter.

Sauerkraut

Rinse and drain well a one-pound package of cold pack sauerkraut—do not use canned. Place in oven pan. Peel and thinly slice two medium size yellow onions. Mix in with sauerkraut. Core and slice into thin wedges two Granny Smith apples. Fold into mixture. Add about 1-2 teaspoons of caraway seeds and mix in with the apples and sauerkraut. Mix 1 teaspoon of ground ginger into ¾ cup orange juice. Pour over the mixture. Cover the pan with a piece of waxed paper, buttered on both sides, cut to fit the pan size. You can also use aluminum foil, but I think the waxed paper works best. You can cook this in the oven along with the pork. Check to see if liquid is not too low, if so, add a little more. You do not want it to cover the sauerkraut. After about a half hour, check again. Remove the cover and let the liquid reduce a bit, and the sauerkraut and apples will take on a touch of brown. Serves six.



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Focus on Business

Hilton Funeral Home

By Rande Davis

Entering the offices of Hilton Funeral Home, even when it is just for an interview, one experiences inescapable thoughts about how life is so temporary, In terms of places in the world not to be, the office of a

funeral home is second only to being "honoree" in the other building—the funeral home itself. Any apprehension dissipates quickly, however, as Woody Hilton warmly welcomes and quickly brings the visitor to ease. The Hiltons have taken care of grieving families for generations, and they hold a place of respect and honor—as well as affection—in the community.

Woody Hilton, along with his wife, Lisa, are the funeral directors and the fifth generation of the Hilton family which has been there to help families during their most dire time of need. The impressive 118-year history of this family-owned business is certainly one of the most unique stories in the area. For the Hiltons, their career is more than just a vocation, it is a heritage—a heritage begun by Woody Hilton's great, great grandfather, William T. Hilton, in 1890.

As the nineteenth century came to a



Woody and Lisa Hilton manage a family business that has been serving the community for more than a century.

close, the funeral home business in America was metamorphosing from its undertaker era. Carpenters and cabinet- and furniture-makers were the natural suppliers of coffins and caskets, by default becoming the town's undertakers. By the way, caskets are four-sided, while coffins are the six-sided tapered boxes.

In 1890, when the roads in the area were all dirt, and the population quite sparse, William T. Hilton began a family business of W. T. Hilton & Sons – Carpenters and Undertakers. The Hiltons were renowned homebuilders, and the house located to the left of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Barnesville (as you face the church) is the original Hil-

ton homestead. This is where the business started. W.T.'s work was so highly regarded that people, upon entering a house, could readily tell by the trim, molding, and other details that the house was built by Hilton. Another example of his work is the Mt. Ephraim home on the Historic Medley District driving tour. It is a Gothic revival house built with local materials by William T. Hilton for Ephraim Harris, a shopkeeper at Sugarloaf Mountain who made a small fortune from trade during the Civil War.

In 1895, Claggett obtained his mortician's degree from the Massachusetts School of Embalming. At the turn of the century, especially in rural areas, embalming was still quite rare. The Civil War resulted in great expansion in the practice of embalming since trained morticians would actually follow troops around from battle to battle experimenting with embalming procedures before sending the killed-in-action home.

The sons in William T. Hilton & Sons were Claggett and Mortimer Hilton. There was also a daughter, Jessie Hilton, later to become Jessie Price. Claggett was very successful in politics in Montgomery County, and he was even elected a county commissioner. In the 1920s, Claggett's son, William Brosius Hilton began to take over the family business. In the 1930s, through his leadership, the

business expanded into the house in Barnesville where the current funeral home is located. While the area had some population growth, the Hiltons still were not able to solely rely on the funeral business. So carpentry, carpeting, well drilling, and furniture-making remained an essential part of their livelihood. It was also in the 1930s that they purchased the old Episcopal Church across from their current location, then in the 1970s they built the carpeting showroom building that now holds the Barnesville Post Office.

William B. was a charter member and originating vice president of the Monocacy Lions Club. Both Woody and his dad, Bill, continue the family tradition of community service as members of the Lions Club.

In 1933, Claggett Hilton died from appendicitis. His funeral was one of the largest ever seen in the area, not just because of his substantial political career, but also because of the beloved appreciation for him by his neighbors and friends in the area with special appreciation from the African-American population.

The long line of Hiltons all have the same first name of William. They are distinguished by their middle name which was chosen from each of their mother's maiden names. William "Bill" Chiswell

-Continued on Page 8.

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Local News

Commissioners Reject Traffic Roundabout

By Rande Davis

At the February 4 Poolesville town meeting, the town commissioners voted down a proposed traffic circle at the intersection of Fisher and Wootton Avenues and the use of road-narrowing bump-outs, a device that narrows the roadway using a planter-like structure to slow traffic and add an attractive appearance to the street. Both recommendations were made by the Streetscape Committee (a joint committee made up of the Parks Board and Planning Commission) as part of the master plan called streetscape to create and preserve "a safer and attractive town appearance."

In the unanimous vote regarding the traffic circle, the consensus was that it was too expensive in comparison to other options presented by the Streetscape Committee. In the public forum on January 21, objections made by many area farmers helped to

solidify the decision not to go forward with the traffic circle. The other options presented by the streetscape committee, which remain under consideration, were for a bricked and slightly raised intersection that would cause traffic to slow down or simply making the area a four-way stop sign intersection.

Although the state previously rejected the four-way stop sign concept, Mr. Kuhlman reported that meetings to reconsider that decision were planned in the near future. Although no vote was taken, comments made by commissioners leaned toward approving the raised-roadway design if the state again rejects the request for a four-way stop sign intersection, they.

Commissioner Tom Yeatts summed up his rejection of the traffic circle by stating his objection to its high cost (at a minimum over \$800,000), points brought forward by the agricultural community, and other safety concerns, "For me, it is three strikes and you're out."

In reviewing the proposal to use roadway bump-outs to slow traffic, Commissioner Link Hoewing stated that through the use of speed cameras,

-Continued on Page 17.

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"Hilton Funeral Home" Continued
From Page 7.

Hilton is the fourth generation. He married Shirley Diggery in 1961, and Hilton Funeral Home expanded and flourished through his leadership. Through all its changes and expansions, the key to its progress has always been serving the needs of the families in the community.

The current Hilton-in-charge is William "Woody" Diggery Hilton who graduated high school from Prospect Hall knowing not only what he wanted to do for a living (carry on the family business) but who he wanted to marry. He and Lisa, high school sweethearts, both pursued their degrees in mortuary science, and she even became a registered nurse, as well. Lisa also works with Dr. Saks in Poolesville.

After five generations of family history with almost no females, Lisa and Woody have made up for the distaff disadvantage with their three girls, Brittany (19), Stephanie (17), and Christina (9). Brittany and Stephanie have not shown an interest in carrying on the family business, and it is too early to tell with Christina.

Over the years and generations, there have been many unusual or different circumstances that have arisen, none

more tragic than the murder by hanging of the two young children near Barnesville last year. The special help given by the Hiltons to the mother in such a devastating position is an example of the caring tradition offered by this family business.

Sometimes, even in the funeral business, there is humor with the last wishes of the deceased occasionally taking a bizarre turn. One such incident was that of a woman who owned the plot next to her sister, someone whom she had unfortunately come to despise. To express her displeasure for all eternity, she requested to be buried lying on her side with her back toward the sister.

Dealing, on a daily basis, with the heartache experienced by others from the loss of loved ones is a very special calling of service to others. In a small, rural community, many, many times the people are so much more than mere clients. So often, it is through this special situation that the Hilton family finds its most important role and derives satisfaction from its sense of purpose of being there for those in mourning—clients, neighbors, friends, and family—individuals all in their greatest hour of need.



Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present

Montgomery County Police Chief J. Thomas Manger announced a new partnership with Public Engines, a software development company, to provide the ability to share neighborhood crime incident information on the internet. The service started on February 1, 2008 and can be found at the site, www.crimereports.com. There is also a link from the Montgomery County Police website. The service for Montgomery County will allow the department to publish local crime incident data in near real-time on the website.

The data is presented on a Google Maps interface where residents can review up-to-date crime activity for any location within the jurisdiction of the Montgomery County Police Department. Users may also elect to receive free email crime alerts that are sent when crimes occur close to home or near any other address of interest, such as a business address, school, or community center. Users control the email crime alerts they receive by specifying the address, the crime types, and the distance from the address for which they wish to receive email alerts.

January 5 Residential burglary. 18400 block of Clear Smoke Road, Boyds. Forced entry to a residence, property taken, and a vehicle vandalized.

January 9 Armed Robbery. 19300 block of Mateny Hill Road, Germantown. Two adults were walking their dog on the bridge that spans the railroad tracks next to the MARC station when they were accosted by a lone gunman who robbed them of their property. The suspect was described

as a black male, 21 to 23 years old, 5'6", 120 pounds, wearing a blue and white bandana mask and a hooded jacket.

January 22 Theft from vehicle. 17400 block of Hoskinson Road. Two vehicles were broken into, property taken.

Past

February 9, 1908 Mrs. Jane Bowers was found murdered at her home, Pleasant Walk, Frederick County. Her body had been chopped to pieces and left in a pile. The brother of Mrs. Bowers, who had shown signs of insanity, was being sought by authorities. A neighbor said that the brother had been visiting but acting strangely.

February 11, 1895 Two large locomotives with cabooses attached were engaged in clearing the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad tracks near Rockville when they collided. Wind-driven snow from a recent blizzard had blocked the tracks from north of Gaithersburg to south of Rockville. One locomotive plunged over an embankment, but the crew managed to leap to safety.

February 13, 1957 Four Montgomery County newsstands and drug-stores agreed to stop selling objectionable magazines which were on a list that had been prepared by the county police.

February 17, 1944 The Montgomery County commissioners decided to stand firm on their previous decision to not ask for deferments for members of the county police force.

February 22, 1906 The general merchandise store of Mr. Padgett and Kessler at Adamstown, Frederick County, was destroyed by fire. Only the brick walls of the structure were left standing. ♦

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Things To Do

February 8

Income Tax Assistance
AARP Assistance for Seniors
Poolesville Library
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Battlin' Butler

Weinberg Center for the Arts
8:00 p.m.

February 9

CEDC Family Movie Night
The Bourne Ultimatum
PHS – auditorium
6:00 p.m. Meet and Greet
7:00 p.m. Movie begins
Baked goods for sale to benefit
Poolesville
Relay for Life; Bring canned goods for
WUMCO

The Party

Weinberg Center for the Arts
8:00 p.m.
Making Valentines
Poolesville Library
Elementary School ages
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Poolesville Town Commissioners
Work Session on FY09 Budget
Town Hall
9:00 a.m.

February 12

Primary Election Day

February 13

English Conversation Club
Poolesville Library
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Trinity Irish Dance

Weinberg Center for the Arts
8:00 p.m.

February 14

Cuddleup Storytime
Stories, fingerplays, music
Poolesville Library
Up to 23 months
10:30 p.m.

On the Wings of Love

Air Force Band Concert
Weinberg Center for the Arts
Free
7:00 p.m.

February 15

Income Tax Assistance
AARP Assistance for Seniors
Poolesville Library
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

February 16

Basket Bingo
St. Mary's Holy Name Society
Barnesville Pavilion
\$15.00 Advance - \$20.00 at Door
Doors Open: 5:00 p.m. – Games: 7:00
p.m.

The Seven Samurai

Weinberg Center for the Arts
2:00 p.m.

The Magnificent Seven

Weinberg Center for the Arts
8:00 p.m.

February 17

The Sound of Music
Weinberg Center for the Arts
2:00 p.m.

February 21

PACC Annual Banquet
Izaak Walton League – Poolesville

Twos Storytime

Poolesville Library
Two years old with parents/guardian
Stories, fingerplays, music
10:30 a.m.

February 23

Relay for Life Winter Gala
Double Tree Hotel
Bethesda

Relay for Life Basket Bingo

St. Mary's Pavilion
Barnesville
Doors open 5:30; games begin 7:00
p.m.

February 27

English Conversation Club
Poolesville Library
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Home Game Varsity Sports

CHS – Girls Basketball:

Feb. 8 – Seneca Valley – 7:00 p.m.
Feb. 13 – B-CC – 7:00 p.m.
Boys Basketball:
Feb. 8 – Seneca Valley – 5:15 p.m.
Feb. 15 – Kennedy – 7:00 p.m.

PHS – Girls Basketball:

Feb. 8 – Damascus – 7:00 p.m.
Feb. 11 – Brunswick – 7:00 p.m.
Boys Basketball:
Feb. 8 – Damascus – 5:15 p.m.
Feb. 19 – MD School for the Deaf
– 7:00 p.m.

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Big Board

Battlin' Butler (1926)

It's mayhem as usual for Buster Keaton in this silent comedy, accompanied by the mighty Wurlitzer organ. Screening is February 8 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for seniors, students, and children. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-600-2828.

The Party (1968)

Looniness abounds when Peter Sellers meets Hollywood in Blake Edwards's absurdly funny comedy showing February 9 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for seniors, students, and children. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-600-2828.

English Conversation Club

Poolesville Library, in cooperation with the Poolesville Presbyterian Church, will be sponsoring an English Conversation Club. The goal is to meet twice monthly. The meetings will be from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on February 13 and February 27. Practice and improve your English in a friendly setting. Registration not required and participation is free. For details, contact

the Poolesville Library.

Trinity Irish Dance

Feel the power and experience the passion when the wildly popular Trinity Irish Dance Company kicks up its heels on February 13 at 8:00 p.m.—just in time for a pre-Valentine's Day celebration. Considered the heart and soul of the progressive Irish dance movement, this fifteen-member troupe blends impeccable precision with breathtaking talent, nonstop energy, and a genuine love of the dance to create an unforgettable performance. Sure to be a sellout! Ticket prices range from \$20.00 to \$35.00. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-600-2828.

Weinberg Welcomes Air Force Band

Join the United States Air Force Heritage of America Band for an unforgettable evening of musical entertainment on Valentine's Day—Feb 14, 2008 at the Weinberg Center for the Arts. The program, entitled, "On the Wings of Love," will feature music from famous love stories such as Miss Saigon and West Side Story. Also featured will be Heritage Aire, the band's Celtic ensemble, which recently returned from deployment to Southwest Asia and the Horn of Africa. Admission to the event

is free and open to the public. Tickets are not required for admission and seating will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-600-2828.

The Seven Samurai (1956)

Experience Akira Kurosawa's groundbreaking masterpiece, gloriously restored on February 16 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for seniors, students, and children. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-600-2828.

The Magnificent Seven (1960)

The American remake of The Seven Samurai, starring Yul Brynner, Charles Bronson, and Steve McQueen will be shown on February 16 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for seniors, students, and children. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-600-2828.

The Sound of Music (1965)

Rodgers and Hammerstein's Oscar-winning family favorite will be shown on February 17 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for seniors, students, and children. For more information, visit www.weinbergcenter.org or call 301-600-2828.

PACC Planning Annual Dinner

The Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce has their 2008 Annual Dinner scheduled for February 21. The dinner will be at the Izaak Walton League on West Willard Road as usual. The cost for members is \$45.00 per person. For more information or to register you can visit their website at poolesvillechamber.com or call 301-349-5753.

Poolesville Relay for Life Winter Gala Set

Their Winter Gala is now scheduled for February 23 at the Double Tree Hotel in Bethesda. This will be an elegant, festive evening of dining and dancing. For more information, visit their website at www.PoolesvilleRelay.org.

Relay for Life Basket Bingo

Team Butler and Butler Backup are featuring a Longaberger basket bingo at St. Mary's Pavilion in Barnesville on Saturday, February, 23. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., games begin at 7:00 p.m. There will also be door prizes, raffles, homemade sandwiches, soups, and drinks, plus snacks and beverages. Advance tickets will sell for \$15.00, \$20.00 at the door. For more information, contact Carol Lawson at 301-349-5870 or Terri Winn at 301-349-2050. ♦

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Youth Sports

It's About the Numbers

By Jeff Stuart

"Number 10 – Rachel Stream," said the Poolesville announcer, matter-of-factly, as Stream had made a three pointer with twenty seconds left in the half to give the Falcons' girls basketball team its first lead of the night against visiting B-CC. The Poolesville fans cheered politely, but they have come to expect that sort of thing from Rachel, and not only on the basketball court. She generally does not disappoint. Stream, a senior who also plays softball, will play Division I college field hockey at Old Dominion next year.

Forty seconds after halftime, Stream hit another three-pointer, and junior center Jess Chittenden, Number 35, followed quickly with a breakaway lay up. "Jessica stepped up big for us in that B-CC game," said head coach Randy Berger. "She had a season high twelve points and with that had nine rebounds. She played her best game of the year. It was really great to see, and we needed

that in a big way. I am glad to finally see it pay off for her in the game."

By the time the Lady Barons scored with four minutes left in the third quarter, Poolesville had run off a remarkable string of twenty unanswered points. The Lady Falcons never looked back, defeating B-CC, 49-34. It was their tenth victory in twelve games.

Berger knows it is a team game. The Number 10 is well known, and Stream will draw a lot of attention from opposing defenses. The team will have to take advantage of that in order to continue to be successful. The other seniors, guards Jess Brown, Number 15, and Cori Rosenberg, Number 3, will have to lead—and others will have to step up

"Jackie Winning, [Number 11, junior-forward] is finally coming around for us as well," said Berger. "She missed all of November and December because of mono and is getting back into basketball shape. She plays extremely hard and does a lot of the dirty work. She brings an attitude onto the court and others feed off that. She gives us a great spark off the bench."

After finishing last year with a 17-6 record, the 2008 Poolesville girls are hungry and looking for more after losing to Surrattsville in the 2007 State

Tournament. Losing only one senior to graduation, they opened this season by easily dispatching Northwood, St John's, Brunswick, and Seneca Valley. The lowest margin of victory was twenty-nine points.

On Friday, December 27, 2007 they played their first really competitive game of the year, defeating Walter Johnson at home, 70-65, in the first round of the Sugarloaf Shoot-out Holiday tournament. Stream had a season-high

-Continued on Page 14.



Although down by five points, the PHS Falcons would rally by scoring twenty unanswered points to take command of the game against B-CC.

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Tidbits

The New and Improved Poolesville Day

The Poolesville Day 2008 committee has already begun the process of the planning for the biggest social event of the year. With the accolades on the great success of 2007 still ringing in their ears, the group is not resting on its laurels. There are two very big changes coming for 2008. The first involves setting a new day. In an effort to try to avoid the intense heat of last year and to facilitate more participation by school groups from the area, the date has been changed for the first time since its inception. This year, Poolesville Day will be on September 20, the third Saturday of the month, not the usual second Saturday. Hopefully, this will lower the temperature a few degrees and make for a more pleasant, autumn-like day for the festival.

Poolesville has a proud agricultural heritage and a very active farming community. This year, the Poolesville Day committee will hopefully introduce a farming exhibition that will conclude with a livestock auction at the end of day. The details are being ironed out, but through the strong leadership of parents such as Rinnie

Magaha and David MacKenzie, and through the cooperation of other individuals such as Dee and Billy Willard, we may very well be treated with an ag display of cattle, sheep, and swine raised and groomed by area youth. They hope to have the usual awarding of blue ribbons and recognition for the effort of the young people. This group, under the tentative name of the Poolesville Livestock Club, will begin the planning and organization of the event.

The Poolesville Day committee looks to new people to join in with help and ideas. If you are interested, you may contact the committee at their website, www.poolesvilleday.com.

History Fans Rejoice

We often hear how much the readers of the *Monocacy Monocle* enjoy the history articles. We are happy to report that Dots Elgin's *The History of Poolesville* by Heritage Books, Inc. has recently gone back to press and is available again. Highlights of the book are chapters on the town's early years and Civil War years, an 1865 town map, and more recent history through the year 2000. The heart of the book is a house-by-house, building-by-building history of many of the buildings in the area. The book is currently available at the John Poole General Store Museum

bookstore and gift shop.

2008 PACC Scholarship Applications Now Being Accepted

Applications are now available for the 2008 Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce (PACC) Scholarships. Up to three \$1,400 scholarships will be awarded to Poolesville High School (PHS) seniors who are residents of Montgomery County and who will graduate from PHS this June with the plans of furthering their educations through two- and four-year colleges, technical schools, and vocational schools. Interested students may obtain applications from the guidance counselor at PHS or at www.PoolesvilleChamber.com. Applications must be submitted no later than April 28, 2008.

Congratulations to Barnesville's Kathryn Cooley

Kathryn Cooley recently was surprised to learn she was the grand prize-winner in the Prilosec

OTC Victory of a Lifetime National Sweepstakes. NASCAR driver Jeff Burton personally presented Kathryn with the No. 31 Prilosec Monte Carlo and NASCAR prizes for winning the grand prize. In winning the contest, she also was awarded four tickets and VIP passes, first-class airfare, and \$700 stipends for twenty races. ✦

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It's All About the Finishing

By Jeff Stuart

The Clarksburg girls' basketball team did not expect to start the season 0-3. Coach Sissy Natoli thought she had laid the foundation for success during a 7-15 first year, but going into their first home game against Northwood, on Friday, December 14, that was the situation in which they found themselves—inexplicably. Everyone was back, including the dependable inside tandem of Turquoia Johnson and Nicole Cunningham. The girls had been competitive in fall and summer league action, making the playoffs. Even in the home opener they trailed the Gladiators by five points after three periods, but Natoli is, by nature, a very positive person. She patiently rallied her troops. "We had played three competitive games and hadn't won any of the three. We went fifteen of forty at the foul line when we lost to Walter Johnson (3-5), and we go to Northwest (7-1) up seven in the fourth quarter," said Natoli. "We stepped

it up a notch." Indeed they did. The Coyotes scored twenty points in the fourth period to defeat Northwood, 52-43, overcoming strong performances by Northwood forward Flora Amayo (nineteen points and eleven rebounds) and freshman guard Kenia Cole (sixteen points). On the outside, guards Page Harris, Ricia Brown, Courtney Clark, and Tia Johnson forced numerous Gladiator turnovers, combining for twelve steals. Inside, Cunningham, a sophomore who led the Coyotes in scoring a year ago, made several clutch free throws in the fourth, finishing off the night and the Gladiators with twenty-three points and fourteen rebounds, despite being double and triple teamed.

The Coyotes followed up that first win with a 29-28 win at Rockville (3-3) on December 21. "We were up by six late in the fourth," said the coach, "but they pressured the ball and caused several steals to close to within one. They had the ball out underneath the basket with little time left but we managed to deflect the last shot."

The Clarksburg girls evened their record by dominating Heritage High School (1-7), 71-44, in the first round of

-Continued on Page 15.

"PHS Girls' Basketball" Continued From Page 12.

twenty-seven points. Then on Saturday, Stream scored twenty-one more to lead the Falcons past Quince Orchard, 50-44, in the championship game.

At 6-0, the Poolesville girls stumbled at Rockville on January 3, losing 40-39. Rockville, with just two previous wins, rallied from an early fourteen-point deficit, but Shaday Doyle's half-court shot at the buzzer put Rockville up 23-22 at halftime. The Rams trailed by six after three periods, but closed out the game on a 13-6 run to beat Poolesville for the first time in six years. "They have played us tough in the past," said Coach Berger. "They just seem to match up well against us. We got in foul trouble and had our worst shooting game. We were down by one at the half. We made no field goals in the fourth quarter."

That defeat stung a bit, but the Falcon girls took it out on neighboring Clarksburg, striking early and coasting to a 45-26 win on January 8. They followed that with a 63-27 pasting of Watkins Mill on January 11 to run their record to 8-1.

An anticipated match-up on January 18 at Damascus (6-2) followed. Stream had seventeen points and senior guard Jess Brown had seven, but it wasn't

nearly enough to subdue the Hornets who won 47-35. The Falcons played the Hornets even in the second half, pressuring the ball, creating turnovers and holding Damascus to just eight points in the third period, but they missed numerous lay up opportunities and could not cut significantly into the Damascus lead.

Berger's team rebounded again at Tuscarora on January 22, winning 54-43. This time, Jess Brown took the lead scoring all thirteen of her points in the fourth quarter to help the Falcons improve to a 9-2 record. She also had six assists and four rebounds.

On Monday, January 28, the Falcons lost at home to Howard County's Atholton (12-3), 57-46. In their third game in five days, on Tuesday, January 29, Number 35 Jess Chittenden led the way to a double-double, eleven points and a career high fourteen rebounds; Number 10 Stream had twenty-one points; and Number 3 Rosenberg had eight. Once again, the numbers added up, resulting in a 55-47 win at Seneca Valley.

As the *Monocle* goes to press, the Falcons are 11-3 on the season. ♦



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"Clarksburg Girls' Basketball"
Continued From Page 14.

the Second Annual Howl-A-Day Basketball Tournament at Clarksburg. The Coyotes lost to a strong North Hagerstown team (8-2) in the championship game, 53-41, but Turquoia Johnson was selected to the All-Tournament Team. There were also strong performances by Page Harris, Ricia Brown, Courtney Clark, and Nicole Cunningham.

Returning to league action at Watkins Mill (1-7) on Thursday, January 3, the Coyotes played a strong first half, leading the Wolverines by seven at the break. A determined Watkins Mill team made a strong challenge in the third period, closing to within two, but the Coyotes had a spurt with about six minutes left to play that gave the fourth quarter and the game to the Coyotes. Back-to-back fast break lay ups by Turquoia and Courtney Clark followed quickly by two free throws by Ricia Brown gave Clarksburg a ten-point lead, at 34-26. The Wolverines closed to within three, but a Cunningham lay up at the three-minute mark put the Coyotes up, 36-31. A put back by Tia Johnson with a minute left and a lay up by Cunningham with ten seconds left finished off the game. Clarksburg evened their record at 4-4.

Then there was a letdown. On Tuesday, January 8, back at Clarksburg, the Coyotes were decisively beaten by Poolesville (7-1), 45-26. "We are young and we have our ups and downs," said Natoli. "We played terribly! You cannot have twenty-nine turnovers and expect to win. We can be explosive off the break, but we have to catch up to our speed, protect the ball, and cut down on turnovers." Turquoia Johnson led the Coyotes with eleven

points. Cunningham scored four.

On January 11, the Coyotes lost 48-47 to the visitors from Damascus. They outscored Damascus by seven in the final period but could not come all the way back. At local rival Seneca Valley (2-10) on January 18, Nicole and Turquoia combined for twenty-three points and nineteen rebounds to help Clarksburg pull away from the Screaming Eagles in the fourth period. The Coyotes won, 52-46. On January 22, they crushed visiting Wheaton (1-8), 67-30, holding the Knights to five points in the first period and just three in the third.

On Friday, January 25, the Coyotes visited Northwood (0-11) and defeated the Gladiators, 57-46. Clarksburg, at 7-6, had a winning record for the first time all season.

Tuesday, January 29, brought the Coyotes a loss, at Rockville, 46-37. They had defeated the Rams by a point in December. Zamica Gage led the scrappy Rams with thirteen points, six rebounds, and five steals. Cunningham led the Coyotes with nine points and Tia and Turquoia Johnson each had eight.

"There are no easy games on our schedule," said the coach, "but we expect to be competitive and win more games. We will rely on our speed to play an up tempo game and on the leadership and experience of Courtney Clark and Page Harris, returning team captains." Courtney is averaging three steals a game and Page is leading in assists with four a game. That's at the start. If all that goes as planned, Turquoia, averaging ten rebounds a game, and Nicole, averaging fourteen points a game, will still be there at the finish.



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*"Vegetables" Continued From
Page 5*

from wet, cool spring days to hot, humid, rainless summer days.

When designing your garden plot, lay it out with easy access to each vegetable. You don't want to have to step over the pepper plants to reach the tomatoes or green beans. Vegetables grow best if they are protected from strong winds, and make sure that they receive enough sunlight. They should get at least a half day of sun. Also, keep in mind how vegetables will affect each other's sun exposure. Plant tall and trellised crops on the north side of the garden, so they won't shade the shorter vegetables.

What's new in the vegetable garden this year? By "new plants" I mean ones that are widely available for the first time in 2008. In some cases, these plants were introduced earlier but in very limited numbers. Look for them this spring in catalogs and garden centers.

Cauliflower now comes in colors. Five award-winning cultivar—'Cheddar,' 'Nessie,' 'Emeraude,' 'Graffiti,' and 'Gitano'—offer a range of tastes, textures, and nutrition. Each cauliflower is high in vitamins and antioxidants, and the aptly named 'Cheddar' has two

and a half times as much beta-carotene as white cauliflower.

Do you like eggplant but you would prefer a smaller size? The miniature eggplant 'Hansel,' an All-American selection, is only three inches long. As an added bonus, fruit that is left on the vine after maturity grows bigger, but it remains tender and non-bitter. 'Hansel' is a perfect choice for patio containers, and it is great on the grill.

Now you can get snow peas and snap peas in one plant. 'Snow Sweet' produces three to three and a half inch pods that are tender and sweet. Leave them to mature and they fill out like snap peas.

There is a new zucchini on the market that is very popular in Italy. 'Portofino' has a unique flavor and texture and a long, slender shape. While small, they would do well steamed or grilled whole. Larger fruits, which look star-like when cut widthwise, are great for stir-frying, sautéing, and baking.

Zucchini is not the only summer squash. If you want something different this summer, grow some patty pan squash. Burpee offers 'Sunny Delight,' a scallop-type patty pan, and 'Peter Pan' hybrid, a miniature variety that is meatier than most of its kind. It is a bush-type plant, so it will take up little

garden space.

As many tomato connoisseurs will tell you, the tomato occupies a different stratum in the vegetable world. With well over two hundred varieties, they are a garden unto themselves. They have traveled a long way from the South American Andes, a region that now makes up parts of Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador. They were planted in Central America and Mexico, where Spanish explorers found them growing in Montezuma's garden in the sixteenth century. After that, the Spanish introduced them to the world. Once the Europeans and American colonists got over the fear of the tomato's association with the deadly nightshade family, the tomato became widely accepted. It is not surprising that the Italians were the first among the Europeans to add it to their cuisine.

In the beginning of this article, I mentioned that one criterion to use in selecting vegetables to grow in your garden is whether they are best when freshly picked. There is no argument that the tomato falls into this category. The tomatoes we see in our markets in the winter have no right to be called tomatoes. There is nothing better than a bright red, plump tomato plucked right from the vine, still warmed by the rays

of the sun. As you bite into the sweet, tender flesh, its juices run down your chin and neck. The tomato captures the taste and flavors of summer.

As tomatoes have a long history, they also have a long list of varieties. The oldest variety is probably Brandywine, first offered by a Pennsylvania seed man in 1885. It is still available today. The legendary Jersey tomato was introduced in 1934 and is unequalled in flavor. Newer varieties are Beefsteak, Early Girl, Better Girl, Better Boy, Big Beef, and many more. Burpee Seed Company has always been in the forefront of introducing old and new tomato varieties. This year they have introduced the Tomato Best of Show Collection. It includes 'Razzle Dazzle Hybrid,' a unique deep raspberry slicer with great texture and flavor, 'Tangerine Mama Hybrid,' the new bright orange counterpart to 'Golden Mama Hybrid,' the first yellow paste tomato to keep its bright hue when cooked, 'Italian Ice Hybrid,' a sweet and extra mild cherry tomato, and 'Honey Bunch,' a honey-sweet miniature currant tomato.

Vegetable gardeners—old timers, neophytes, and wannabees—take heart. With a little bit of planning, honesty, and some work, you can grow vegetables to stock your larder all summer long. ♦

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"County Reps in Poolesville"
Continued From Page 8.

we now have an "effective technology" to solve the concerns about speeding that we did not have before. With speed concerns abated through the use of the proposed permanent cameras, the costs and inconveniences of the bump-outs was rejected by a 4-1 vote. Mr. Klobukowski being the sole vote to approve the bump-outs.

In other news from the meeting, Commissioner Hoewing presented a proposed process by which the town could award grants for groups requesting financial assistance. Mr. Hoewing stated that the objectives of his proposal were to establish an "equitable process" if and when such town grants are made. Commissioner Jim Brown requested that the proposal include a two-tiered concept: awarding both a budgeted grant as well as small unanticipated ad hoc grants. The grant process recommendations will be posted on the town website for residents to view and to make known their opinions.

The commissioners had previously sent a letter to the county Department of Public Works and Transportation protesting DPWT's failure to notify the commissioners on its proposal to move aspects of the Public Safety Training Center to its recently purchased site on Elmer School Road.

In response, Al Roshdieh, deputy director of DPWT, and Diane Schwartz, administrative assistant, came to the meeting to present the general plans for the changes regarding the training facility, as well as the proposed usages for the Elmer School Road property. President Kuhlman

"White Ground Bridge" Continued From
Page 1.

Serrano said in a January 30 phone interview. Meanwhile, the bridge design, due in May, is going forward. No "artificial weight limit" will be set on the bridge, Serrano said.

The community reaction is "pretty much what we see on most bridge projects," whether in rural or more urban areas, Serrano said. "People have the belief that if a bridge is widened or redone, people are going to go faster. What people need to realize is a bridge is only about thirty feet or so of the road, and people are going to do what they are going to do."

Serrano said if all went as planned construction of the new bridge would begin in February 2009. The current

expressed his strong disappointment and objection to the plans, expressing his concerns over environmental issues, water and sewer use, and increased traffic through the town. The primary use of the site will be for a driving track for fire, rescue, and police. There will also be structures for classroom training as well.

Mr. Kuhlman objected to the governmental usage of the Ag Reserve for down county purposes as an infringement of the nationally recognized 93,000-acre Agriculture Reserve. He pointed to the county's restrictions on the private sector while at the same demonstrating through practice their willingness to use the reserve for any purpose the government wants. Mr. Kuhlman voiced his opinion that the objective of the county was really to sell valuable land where the training center now stands for revenue-enhancing town homes at the expense of those living Up-County. He pointed to the Up-County incinerator, shooting range, expansion of Mirant, as examples of other county decisions disregarding the Ag Reserve mandate. Commissioner Klobukowski protested the extensive use of the track by police jurisdictions beyond the county and opined that a more centrally located site in the county would be more reasonable. Mr. Yeatts used the example of the concern raised over the introduction of mega-churches in the reserve as being similar to the proposed county government usage

The meeting ended with a commitment by the county representatives to keep the town informed and to carry the commissioners' concerns to other county officials. ♦

twenty-eight-foot-long bridge will be lengthened by about twenty feet at an estimated cost of \$1.3 million. The two-lane bridge suggested in 2004 would have qualified for federal funding. Current plans call for the bridge remaining one-lane. The budget project description calls the present bridge, which spans Buck Lodge Branch, "structurally deficient and functionally obsolete." ♦



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"Poolesville Bank Failed" Continued
From Page 3.

got me." Dr. Woodward, who was about twelve years old at the time, had about two hundred dollars in the bank, a huge sum for the time. Dorothy Elgin chuckled when she recalled that she had deposited the contents of her piggy bank in the bank. Her father, John E. Jones, was an early member of the board of directors and had purchased some cattle and owed money on a promissory note and could not pay his creditor because of the bank closure.

Eventually, Coblenz was indicted for operating the bank and continuing to accept deposits while knowing that the bank was insolvent. He was brought to trial in Frederick in 1933. Testimony revealed that Coblenz and several of his partners had used bank deposits to invest in real estate in Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C., including the Wardman Park Hotel and several other buildings on Connecticut Avenue. Coblenz testified that he was afraid that news of his indictment in another matter and the country's problems would have caused a run on the bank so he closed the bank branches. Coblenz was found not guilty of the charge after convincing the jury that he did not know that his investments

in the real estate properties had decreased in value because of the Great Depression. Coblenz was also indicted in Montgomery County on charges related to the closure of the Poolesville Bank, but eventually the charges were dropped due to unfavorable court decisions elsewhere in the state.

In 1934, many of the bank branches were reorganized by the state, and the Poolesville branch reopened in May of 1934; however, depositors were reimbursed only a fraction of what they had lost. Citizens of Poolesville, who had hoped to build a cistern in town after a disastrous fire in 1923 that had destroyed most of the commercial district, lost the money that they had saved. The Monocacy Cemetery's perpetual care fund was lost. Many other private citizens lost their life savings.

Eventually, the Poolesville Bank merged with the First National Bank of Maryland. In 1967, the bank moved to a new location in a shopping center on the north end of town. The old bank building, then sixty years old, was sold to the Town of Poolesville and was used as a town hall for almost forty years until it was sold to the Historic Medley District. ♦

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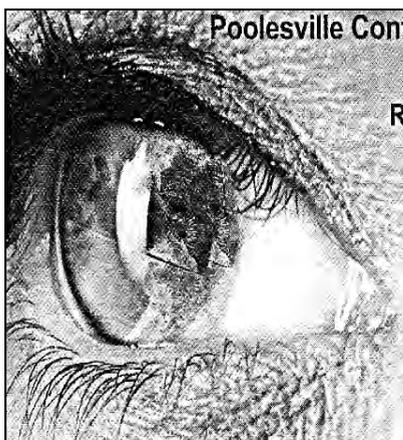
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"Woodstock Equestrian" Continued
From Page 1.

or not the community and the county shared the same vision for the park as he. Mr. Greenberg commented that he had hoped to see more work on the park completed during his lifetime. On the park's website, it states that Mr. Greenberg's original version of the park is that of an Olympic-class equestrian center, complete with competition-sized outdoor arenas and an indoor arena. The County Master Plan envisions the completed park to include trail riding, dressage, hunter jumper eventing and western competitions, endurance riding, fox chasing, team penning, carriage driving, equestrian clinics and seminars, jousting, and outdoor polo.

David Tobin, the County Equine Resources Coordinator, in response to questions regarding the scope of the fully operational park, emphasized that Woodstock Park is in the early stages of

development. Further progress is dependent upon more ecological and geological tests, community input, and fund availability. County Council President Mike Knapp reiterated the importance of keeping the progress of the development schedule in perspective. There are many more feasibility studies ahead, and the community will be fully involved in the process.

Mr. Tobin opened the meeting to questions. Many people in the audience expressed frustration at the park's progress and scope of activities. They questioned the location and size of an indoor arena and the logistics of hosting events that could attract, by county estimation, almost 55,000 people. These two concerns prompted debate about the implications of the impact of such a facility in regard to added traffic to country roads, food and lodging needs, adequate well and septic systems, and the appropriateness of such a widely encompassing devel-

opment within the boundaries of the Agricultural Reserve.

Mr. Eddie Kuhlman, President of the Poolesville Town Commission, expressed very serious concerns about the park's impact upon the people and businesses of Poolesville. He said that he had come to this meeting hoping to find more information and answers to many of his questions. He said he was disappointed with the lack of information presented at the meeting. A number of other people in the audience also expressed concerns, stating that there seems to be too many unknowns and not enough studies completed on this project.

Mike Knapp and Ms. Bradford acknowl-

edged their concerns, but they stated that the Master Plan is not cast in stone. It represents ideas for the larger picture, which may or may not become a reality. As more money becomes available, more studies will be conducted, and yes, there could be significant changes to what is on the drawing board today. Feasibility studies and community input might mandate a more passive type of park. One gentleman in the audience added that while we all support the idea of an equestrian park, we must guard against it becoming a commercial, soccerplex-like horse facility. Ms. Bradford and President Knapp encouraged people to call their offices if they have any further questions. ♦

"Legacy Expanded" Continued From
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county borders but is accessible by vehicle only from Virginia, was undesirable due to the logistical problems.

Nonetheless, the board voted January 17 to bring both into the Open Space fold, although additional easements rather than acquisition will be the most likely route to protect what Sandberg called "high quality forest" on the Beverly land.

Members of the agricultural community, including the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board, had opposed acquiring the property through Legacy Open Space, noting that the land was already protected under the Rural Legacy Program and that the property owners, Charles Beverly and a sibling, retained the right to build six homes under that agreement; however, board members remained concerned that the property's current easements would allow timber to be harvested.

Charles Beverly testified before

the January 17 vote saying that it was "unlikely" the six homes would be built and that timbering was not in his economic interest. "I really don't see much danger to that forest," he said, "[and] I feel that another easement just complicates and reduces the value of the property." Beverly asked planners to "drop the recommendation to do anything."

In voting to add the land to the open space program, board members said that the forest was too valuable of a resource to ignore. Purchase of the timbering rights would be the main goal, they said.

The board also decided to place Selden Island on the Legacy list in spite of the concerns of its staff, recommending protective archaeological easements be pursued for the island's prehistoric archeological site. The property is currently owned by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and hosts a turf farm. ♦

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