



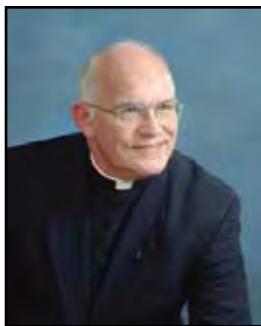
Medical student Megan Turner danced with her grandpa, Junior Lund, to the sounds of crooner Drew Simms on July 19 at Whalen Commons. More pictures are in the Family Album on Page 2.



Mirant Plant Manager Jay Bellingham explains how the Dickerson power station creates electricity. Read more about a tour of Mirant on page 7.



Read all about Poolesville High School Lacrosse. These are the boys; the girls are in there, too, in Youth Sports.



The Reverend Vincent Rigdon joins a local congregation. Read about it in Tidbits on Page 6.

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

July 31, 2009

Volume VI, Number 10.

## No Evidence Of Cancer Cluster Found, Monitoring To Continue

By Rande Davis

State and county health officials reported back with a preliminary update on their investigation as to whether a cancer cluster exists in the Poolesville area. Dr. Clifford Mitchell, the state's director of Environmental/Health Coordination, and Dr. Ulder Tillman, the county's Chief of Public Health Services, appeared before the Poolesville commissioners and reported that the final report will state that evidence of a cancer cluster in Poolesville was not found. The presentation brought a capacity

audience approaching fifty residents as well as County Councilman Mike Knapp to the meeting,

Dr. Mitchell stated that the cancer rate of unusual cancers in Poolesville is not out of the ordinary and is not lower than rates within the state or county.

Officials examined data from the Maryland Cancer Registry (MCR), which comes directly from physicians, hospitals, and laboratories rather than individuals. Information on Maryland cancer patients diagnosed and/or treated in the District of Columbia is also part of the data.

Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) gained the assistance of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



(CDC) in the investigation. The CDC was asked by DHMH to assist with the investigation to confirm and validate cancer cases reported by the community to the MCR. They also were brought in to help determine whether there was an excess of unusual cancer cases in Poolesville in comparison to cancer cases observed in Montgomery County or in the State of Maryland.

The CDC followed its

- Continued on Page 5.

## Questions Raised about Upcounty Events

By Kristen Milton

While there are always good causes to support, some Upcounty residents worry that a zoning clause allowing charitable activities is being trotted out for large-scale events with aims less than philanthropic.

The wide-open spaces of the Agricultural Reserve have made it an attractive location for events that would be harder to hold in the more-confined downcounty. The four-year-old Benefit Performance license allows such activities with the proviso that it

benefits "a bona fide non-profit organization," but a number of area civic groups have become convinced that the law needs to be tweaked to prevent abuses by those attempting to profit rather than fundraise.

Groups such as Sugarloaf Citizens' Association have spoken out about the issue in the wake of revelations that Journey for the Cure Foundation, the charitable choice of the America's Cup of Polo held by the Capitol Polo Club in May, has since been questioned by officials in Virginia. Furthermore, last month, the Mid-Atlantic Classic Soccerfest, held at Muldoon's Farm on Beallsville Road, had to scramble to find a beneficiary after its first choice was rejected.

County officials said the two events met the requirements for

the benefit permit, but that being the case, some activists would like to change the law. "It just seems to be a way for people to get around the rules of the Ag Reserve," said Sugarloaf president Gary Valen. "We just don't have the water or the roads or the everything to be constantly hosting these mega-events."

"We are looking for the provision to be tightened...so that everything comes out fine,"

said Caroline Taylor, executive director of Montgomery Countryside Alliance. "The charities get what they need within reason, and the properties are properly limited and protected." Taylor said that whether or not hosting property owners have good intentions, and she believes

- Continued on Page 9.

Family Album



The Family Album is sponsored by  
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Jennifer Bauer claps to the sounds of a song dedicated just to her, played by the Brian Gross Band.



The Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a networking picnic for chamber members catered by Cugini's Restaurant in a pre-concert Music in the Park event.



Brian Gross (center) and his band: Chris Dominici, Rick Normoyle, Brian, Gus Creedon, Kevin Staten, and Randy Dalrymple (drummer not seen) entertained nearly 200 concert goers with the sounds of the Beatles, Allman Brothers and others on July 26. (More pictures on [www.monocleonline.com](http://www.monocleonline.com))



Summer fun at the Movies in the Park was just the ticket for these students who enjoyed the film Mamma Mia. (More summer time pictures on [www.monocleonline.com](http://www.monocleonline.com).)

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- 8/23 . . . Corn Harvest Festival
- 8/30 . . . Montgomery County Recycling, live music by Dave LaFleur
- 9/13 . . . Live music by Dave LaFleur
- 9/20 . . . Garlic Festival Artisans, Local Artisan Showcase, Shady Grove Adventist Healthcare Blood Pressure Screening
- 9/27 . . . Flea Market, Montgomery County Recycling, live music by Dave LaFleur
- 10/11 . . . Pumpkin Festival Weekend, Local Artisan Showcase, live music by Dave LaFleur
- 10/18 . . . Shady Grove Adventist Healthcare Flu Shots and Asthma Screening
- 10/25 . . . Apple Festival, Montgomery County Recycling, live music by Dave LaFleur
- 11/1 . . . Local Artisan Showcase, Shady Grove Adventist Healthcare Carbon Monoxide and Tobacco Screening

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# Local News

## Frederick Board Delays Decision on Mega-Church Site

by Kristen Milton

Plans to build a large church complex near Sugarloaf Mountain on property that straddles the Montgomery/Frederick county line are being closely reviewed by civic groups and planning boards on both sides.

Global Mission Church of Greater Washington, an English/Korean Southern Baptist congregation based in Silver Spring, first submitted plans in December to build the 137,000-square-foot church on about 79 acres north of Route 109, according to the Frederick Planning Commission.

The site would include 397 parking spaces and a 500-seat dining hall as well as other amenities although no school or daycare is anticipated. The application requests permission

for an eighty-five foot maximum building height, far exceeding the typical maximum. The only access to the site would be on Old Hundred Road (Maryland Route 109), which is a rustic road in Montgomery County. A Frederick planners' memo said attempts to develop alternative roads on the Frederick side were unsuccessful.

Montgomery County residents were a large percentage of the audience July 15 when Frederick planners held what became a four-hour hearing on the project site plan. In the end, the board delayed a decision until Oct. 14 in order to seek out more input from Montgomery officials

Caroline Taylor, executive director of the Montgomery Countryside Alliance, said the decision was a victory for opponents of the plan, who will spend the intervening time looking for deficiencies in the application and trying to build a coalition with potential Frederick allies.

"This is a poster child for why we need to be interjurisdictional in the way we approach

land use, especially as civic groups," Taylor said. "There's a lot of opinions but many hold Sugarloaf Mountain here to be a pretty sacred place itself. The view shed is one that gives people great comfort and great solace."

According to the application, the church would use an on-site well and septic system. Access to the church will necessitate construction of a bridge, an element – along with lighting, signage

and some others – that will need to be coordinated with Montgomery County's planners.

The church's traffic analysis anticipated 780 peak hour trips to the site on Sundays but significantly less, only 132, during the week.

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# Youth Sports

## Upgraded Taylor Field Is the Place to Play Baseball

By Jeff Stuart

With Poolesville and Clarksburg joining the Upper Montgomery County Athletic Club this summer there are now more than 500 kids in UMAC. By summer's end, over 800 will play at Taylor Field in Boyds, where there are new fields, new batting cages, and a new partnership with Cal Ripken baseball "We are the place to play baseball!" says Vice President Mike Souder, who is also an assistant coach for the eleven year-old Travel Team and All Star Team.

UMAC hosted the School's Out Tourney from June 26 to 29. It was our fifth consecutive year UMAC has hosted the tourney for 7/8U teams. A total of 16 teams participated from throughout the state. UMAC also host a 9U and 10U Tournament in the early part of June.

In the second June tournament the 8U UMAC Black's first game was on Saturday, June 27 They easily defeated the Marlboro Mustangs 13-3 thanks to a nine run outburst in the first inning. Not even the unpleasant odor wafting from a nearby truck emptying the portapotties in could stop the

Black, or dampen the enthusiasm of a large crowd on a beautiful Saturday morning. It did, however, get the attention of the UMAC batter at the time, which held his nose and gestured at the umpire for time out. Then the Black battled to a 9-9 tie with the Glen Burnie Patriots, thanks to six run outburst in the bottom of the sixth inning. In pool play on Sunday, they were seeded fifth out of sixteen teams and started the morning with a victory over Broadneck by 16-6. They advanced by defeating their younger counterpart, the 7/8U UMAC Red team, 20-8 in their next game. In the semifinals on Sunday night, The Black lost 14-11 to the eventual tournament champion Mt. Airy Blue Bulldogs. UMAC scored five runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to send the game into extra innings.

The next weekend the team participated in the 8U Cal Ripken State Championships in Elkridge, Maryland. The opening game was a 15-2 victory over Glade Valley. In a Saturday afternoon contest, UMAC defeated the Charles County Youth League 13-12 in a close ballgame. CCYL eventually went on to win the 8U State Championship with their only defeat coming at the hands of UMAC. In a defensive battle Sunday morning, the team lost to the Emmorton Eagles 4-1. In a rematch from the following weekend, UMAC again played Mt. Airy, losing 6-3, and finishing the State Tournament with a 2-2 record. The team was coached by Peter Moyer with assistance from Mike Sofelkanik,

Mark Steinwandel and Tommy Thompson. Players included Danny Cummins, Harold Dotson, Brandon and Joshua Feldman, Jett Jacobs, Harrison Johnson, Logan Moyer, Jared Ng, Colin Savage, Cade Seely, Niko Sofelkanik, Matthew Steinwan-



The 2009 eight years old and under UMAC baseball team.

-Continuation on Page 15.

### The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

Published and Edited by John Clayton and Rande Davis

John Clayton  
Production  
Financial  
301-349-0071

jclayton@monocacymonocle.com

Rande Davis  
Advertising  
Circulation  
301-349-0070

rdavis@monocacymonocle.com

Dominique Agnew  
Copyediting  
dagnew@intairnet.com

editor@monocacymonocle.com  
advertising@monocacymonocle.com  
www.monocacymonocle.com

Monocacy Press, LLC  
John Clayton, President  
Rande Davis, Vice President  
P.O. Box 372  
Barnesville, MD 20838-0372  
301 349-0071 • FAX 301 349-5646

**Contributing Writers**  
Dominique Agnew  
dagnew@intairnet.com  
Carol Rae Hansen, Ph.D.  
Director@EquineTherapyAssociates.com  
Kristen Milton  
kmilton1998@yahoo.com  
Maureen O'Connell  
mafocconnell@usni.com  
Curtis Osborne  
cpto2@aol.com  
Frederic J. Rohner  
fredrj@vegasradio.net  
Jeffrey S. Stuart  
sark10@juno.com  
Jack Toomey  
jackt21262@aol.com

**Contributing Photographer**  
Hilary Schwab  
hilarly@hschwabphotography.com

**Graphics**  
Karie Legambi  
WhipSmart Graphics  
Karie@WhipSmartGraphics.com

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**"Cancer Cluster" Continued From Page 1.**

established protocol for determining if there is an excess of cancer by compiling cancer cases in Poolesville and for residents with a 20837 zip code. They evaluated the number of cases, and rate of cases for all cancers as well as for specific types of cancers, including types of cancer with known possible environmental causes. There was also a determination if there is an excess in overall cancer cases or specific types of cases. Finally, there was also a close examination of types of cancer that are too few in number to be valid in the statistical analysis but were part of the investigation and its conclusions.

Standard Incident Ratios (SIR) of age, sex, place, and time of diagnosis were typical criteria calculated in the investigation. Dr. Mitchell acknowledged that while these criteria are not perfect comparisons, they do provide a very good basis in establishing ratios that might be out of the ordinary. "Nothing jumped

out as far as an environmental cause of cancer."

Dr. Tillman emphasized that the monitoring process does not end with the final report and that screening and educational actions need to continue. She also pointed out that Montgomery County will be a participant in a national study of childhood cancers which have impact in the long term.

Dr. Clifford Mitchell will be preparing a draft of a final report which will be vetted by the MCR, CDC, and other state county agencies responsible for the data reviewed. The final draft also needs to be reviewed to ensure that privacy rights regarding individuals are not violated in making the paper public. While he was not able to provide a specific timeframe as to when the final report would be available, he offered, "It should be completed within in months, possibly six months." He cautioned, however, that unanticipated health issues within the state (i.e. during flu season) could delay his report if he is forced to alter

his scheduled for the final draft due to unforeseen circumstances. Resident Robert Pierce suggested that a draft of the final report also be provided to citizens prior to finalization so that observations could also be part of the review process

In emphasizing that continued monitoring is advisable, Dr. Mitchell encouraged the attendees and residents to feel comfortable in asking for periodic updates. On that recommendation, Commissioner Kuhlman suggested that it might even be

better for the town to schedule periodic updates in the coming years. The answers to additional questions raised from the prior meeting which were not previously available are now posted on the town website at [www.ci.poolesville.md.us](http://www.ci.poolesville.md.us).

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# Tidbits

## Welcome to Father Rigdon

The parishioners of Our Lady of the Presentation and the Poolesville community welcomed the Reverend Vincent Rigdon to the area this month. Father Rigdon, who was ordained in 1977, replaces Father Paul Herbert and comes to the Upcounty from Our Lady Queen of Peace Roman Catholic Church in southeast District of Columbia. He is familiar with Poolesville since, as a classmate of Father David Brault, the founding pastor of Our Lady of the Presentation, he visited the parish during dedication ceremonies and at other times. He is a graduate of Columbia University where he majored in Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and has a Master's degree in Theology from Mt. St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. He also has Licentiate of Canon Law (J.C.L.) which is a graduate degree in canon law of the Catholic Church and occasionally serves as a judge on its court deciding church matters. He is a member of the Society for the Propagation of Faith, which is an international association for the assistance through prayers and alms of Catholic priests and nuns. A personal highlight for him was meeting Pope John Paul II in 1988.

Father Rigdon retired as a lieutenant colonel from the air force reserve after serving as a chaplain for twenty-six years.

## Two Years Later, No Sign of Missing Poolesville Man

The Maryland Missing Persons Network is reminding all media outlets that John Morris is still missing from Western Montgomery county after two years. On July 30, 2007, Mr. Morris left his home on White's Ferry Road in Dickerson at about 11:00 p.m. after breaking up a twelve year relationship. He has not been heard from since.

John Morris is thirty-eight years old, six feet tall, 185 pounds. His birthday is November 7, 1969. He has a large tattoo of a snake on his right forearm and a tattoo of a scorpion on his left shoulder. He has graying brown hair and light brown eyes. He is very outgoing and makes friends easily and can be very sensitive at times. John is a talented artist who paints in oils. He may be working as a landscaper or as a handyman. He is also a glazier who can fix broken car windows.

Anyone who has seen Mr. Morris should call Detective Rod Stephens at the Montgomery County Police Department in the Germantown District at 301-840-2650. Pictures and further information on Mr. Morris can be found at: [http://www.theyaremissd.org/ncma/gallery/ncmaprofile\\_all.php?A200705489S](http://www.theyaremissd.org/ncma/gallery/ncmaprofile_all.php?A200705489S).

The Maryland Missing Persons Network is a volunteer organization that assists family and police in locating missing persons, generates public awareness of cold-case missing persons, and profiles Jane/John Does for public recognition. Its web site is [www.marylandmissing.com](http://www.marylandmissing.com).

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## Local News

# Mysteries of Mirant Revealed During Tour

By Rande Davis

The Monocle shared a tour of the Mirant power generating plant in Dickerson on July 25 with a group from Sugarloaf Citizens' Association and other guests, including Delegate Charles Barkley of the 39th District in Germantown and Montgomery Village. With its towers rising to 700 feet in the air and the boiler/generator plant rising more than seven stories high, the plant is situated within its 1063 acre borders mysteriously beckoning our interest. The enigma of the facility has held the interest of residents ever since it was first built in 1959. Mirant acquired it in 2001 and they are currently expending 1.6 billion dollars to install a new wet flue gas desulfurization (FGD) system to "scrub" sulfur dioxide from the coal utilized at each of Mirant's three Maryland electric stations. The total air quality improvements expected at the Dickerson station include the reduction of nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) emissions by ninety percent, sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) by ninety-five percent and mercury (Hg) by at least ninety percent... The upgrades bring a commercial benefit to the plant by expanding the types of coal that may be used in the future.

Misty Allen, Mirant Director of External Affairs for Mirant Mid-



A group of area citizens got a special tour of the Mirant power station in Dickerson.

Atlantic, LLC said that Mirant will open the facility to more educational tours sometime in 2010, once the renovations are complete and the company is better positioned to host guests. Mirant employs 150 people on a regular basis and often goes up to as many as 300 during times such as the renovation of their systems.

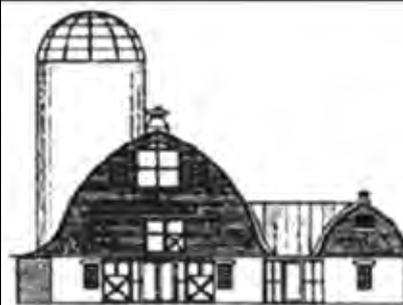
Upon arrival at the facility the austere industrial atmosphere outside was warmed and personalized upon meeting the professionals responsible for the operation of the facility. Plant Manager Jay Bellingham, a twenty-nine year engineering veteran of the power industry, took the attendees through a highly understandable one-hour slide presentation on how electricity is made, how the boiler system in Dickerson works, and the role Mirant plays in the electric power industry.

After the slide presentation, the one-hour tour of the facility began. The seven story turbine-generator room ignited one's imagination with visions of a James Bond Dr. No movie-set.

The "brain" of the entire system is the operations room with plant personnel monitoring its many computer displays. Mr. Bellingham gave an explanation of what the operators do and the importance of their skills and experience.

The last stop of the tour was on the roof. Here the view is rivaled only by the one from atop Sugarloaf Mountain.

The tour was thoroughly entertaining and educational, filled with all those neat fun facts typical of any good tour. Fun facts like learning that the boiler system is not "bolted to the floor like a water heater" but is actually suspended in the air by bracing structures above. Or, that the railroad coal cars are unloaded by pulling them into a tunnel-like structure which then completely turns the railroad car over to drop its load into a holding bin. There were other, non-energy plant points of inter-



## SUGARLOAF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER July 2009

"Protecting our rural legacy"

### How to contact us:

#### Sugarloaf Citizens' Association

Gary L. Valen, President

Linden Farm

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

### A Huge Church Complex Straddling the Ag. Reserve?

Religious institutions that serve the needs of local residents are cherished aspects of any community. However, the Global Mission Church of Washington D.C. is seeking permission from Frederick County to construct a **church building with a footprint of more than 3 acres and a 1,160 seat sanctuary** on the southwest side of Interstate 270. Only access will be from **Old Hundred Road in Montgomery County**, a designated 'rustic' road providing major access to the Agricultural Reserve and Sugarloaf Mountain.

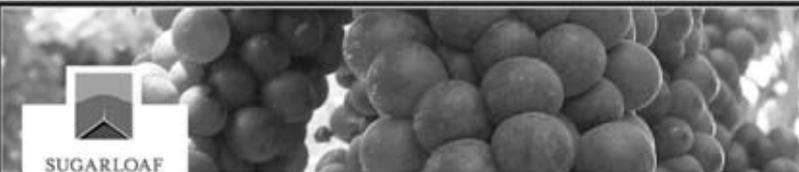
It is eminently clear that a church of this size is out of scale with the needs of the local community. Technically, the complex meets the letter of the building code for agricultural land in Frederick County and the access road the requirements of the Maryland Highway Commission. While residents of Montgomery County have not been officially informed about these plans, it seems that the Montgomery County Executive has given his endorsement.

Several concerns come to mind about the narrow interpretation of the building code for a complex this size in a rural area. Should such a church be built here forcing members of the congregation to drive miles when the official policy is to reduce highway travel? This aspect of the traffic impact should be part of the permitting process, including the fact that the expanded use of a 'rustic' road must not be so easily dismissed.

Given the several initiatives to protect agricultural land in the two counties, a decision to grant the required permits would be a first step toward erosion of farm land preservation on the Sugarloaf side of Interstate 270.

The matter was to be decided on July 15 by the Frederick County planning commissioners but a last minute appeal by residents of both counties raised enough issues to delay the decision for 90 days. **Sugarloaf Citizens Association hopes that planning officials of Frederick and Montgomery counties will now find ways to address the larger issues of such proposals beyond building codes and the size of septic systems, as well as finding ways to involve all impacted residents on both sides of the County line.**

-Continued on Page 15.



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"County Event Permitting"  
Continued From Page 1.

some do, the resulting traffic, litter, and noise negatively impact the area's quality of life. In addition, there is no limit on how many benefit events a property may host. "It is, I think, reasonable for residents of the Upcounty to ask the county to assure at the front end...that the money is actually going to charity," Taylor said.

Susan Scala-Demby, zoning permitting services manager, said her staff checks out the charities for

benefit events, generally getting IRS paperwork that verifies the non-profits' status. "If someone wants to do something and they get a charity to sponsor it, that's our obligation under the law," Scala-Demby said. "We go by the laws and the zoning ordinance as it applies throughout the county; it's not just something that applies in the Agricultural Reserve."

Scala-Demby said events held in past years have not drawn the attention of this summer's Cup of Polo and SoccerFest, but that in all cases, the charities have checked out.

That is in spite of the fact that on May 13, days after the polo tournament, Virginia's Office of Consumer Affairs issued a statement warning would-be donors that Journey for the Cure Foundation had not "registered with or been granted the appropriate exempt status."

Nonetheless, Scala-Demby said the group was qualified as a beneficiary under county law. "Just because they don't have one in another state doesn't mean they don't have one here," she said.

Valen said he worries that the permit is issued "pro forma" with little attention given to either verifying the charity or creating a dialogue with neighbors. He'd like to see more notification to the community and perhaps even some civic oversight or requirement of local ties. "It just seems to be growing," Valen said. "We didn't realize it was going to get to this level."

Taylor said she believes "there are no bad actors" in permitting services, but she'd also like to see the law incorporate more limitations on the types and number of events allowed at any one property and

more specific credentials. She hopes such changes can be discussed by the County Council after its summer break.

Councilmember Mike Knapp (District 2), who represents the Upcounty, said in a phone interview that he sees potential issues in communication about and number of events but does not think it is currently a problem. In addition, no one has yet approached him about amending the law, he said. "It's something I'll continue to watch," Knapp said July 23. "If there were a plethora of events that would be something, but two is not a plethora."

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## Police Blotter: Present and Past

By Jack Toomey

### Present

Assault – 17600 block of Kohlhoss Road

Thefts – 17600 block of Kohlhoss Road, 19800 block of Westerly Avenue, 19200 block of Walters Avenue, 19100 block of Peachtree Road, 20500 block of Beallsville Road.

Disorderly Conduct complaints – 17400 block of Hughes Road, 19600 block of Fisher Avenue, McDonalds, 19630 Fisher Avenue,, 17500 block of Hoskinson Road.

### Past

**August 2, 1896** A posse had been formed in the Potomac District of Montgomery County and was said to be in pursuit of Edward Thompson who is charged with felonious assault on a neighbor. It was reported at the time that

Thompson had followed the woman into her house, locked the door, and then attempted to rape her. Authorities suspected that Thompson had fled to Washington or across the river into Virginia.

**August 3, 1911** The son of a wealthy Montgomery landowner retracted his report that he had been kidnapped and taken to Richmond, Virginia. C. Willard Barnsley had disappeared and relatives and authorities had searched for him without success. Barnsley's father then received a letter from his son, postmarked at Franklin, Virginia, in which Barnsley asked for help. When Barnsley reappeared in Montgomery County he told the sheriff that he had been held against his will for over a week. He later admitted that he had gone off with two men and had a good time.

**August 4, 1929** The proprietor of

a lunch stand on the Colesville Pike told the Maryland State Police that two gypsy women had robbed him of \$20. He said that the women had stopped at his stand and after they left he discovered that his money was missing.

**August 6, 1899** John Hawkins, a farmer living near Clarksburg, was arrested and charged with trying to kill his son. It was said that Oscar Hawkins failed to obey his father's order and then cursed his father. John Hawkins then picked up a large gate hinge and struck the son over the head. Deputy Sheriff Gibson took John Hawkins to the Rockville Jail.

**August 6, 1935** Two brothers were seriously injured when their car overturned on the curve in front of the Darnestown Presbyterian Church. John Parkins, from Dickerson, suffered a fractured skull.

## Local News

### Recent Planning Board Actions

By Kristen Milton

#### Baseball Miracle in Boyds

The Miracle League of Montgomery County passed its first hurdle to building a handicapped-accessible baseball field in Boyds when county planners gave the idea their enthusiastic support. The planning board voted unanimously July 20 to establish a public/private partnership with the group, whose local chapter is an outgrowth of the Kiwanis Club of Bethesda, with the hopes of eventually building two fields in the South Germantown Recreational Park located in Boyds. "Montgomery County will be better for this," Commissioner Jean Cryor said.

The Miracle League is a non-profit with the goal of providing access to baseball for the disabled. While the group has fields throughout the country, this would be the first in Maryland.

Plans called for the construction of one Miracle field in the near future with a second to be built when funds were raised. The two fields, along with a county-funded standard youth

-Continued on Page 12.

## Local News

# Poolesville Town Commissioners Discuss Blight, Speed Cameras, And Parking

By Rande Davis

### Possible Additions to Blight Ordinance

Following the report from state and county health officials, the commissioners reviewed a number of new business considerations during the regular part of the July 20 town meeting.

Due to citizen complaints and concerns of residents who do not take care to properly maintain their properties, the commissioners are reviewing options that could enhance the enforcement capability by the town on issues that are considered to be blight or having a negative impact on property values. The town already has a 1998 "Blight Ordinance" (Town Ordinance #138), but the town manager believes that it could be strengthened and improved by adding more specific descriptions of that which is considered offensive. Blight is considered unsightly property conditions such as broken windows, unpainted or damaged siding, poorly maintained lawn and yard conditions. It could also include fully visible stacking of materials or items as to create a cluttered appearance.

The commissioners asked town manager Wade Yost to prepare a draft of proposed changes to the current Town Blight Ordinance for review and possible changes. Upon further clarification from the town manager, the commissioners will consider adopting the changes. Should they make changes to the ordinance, a public hearing will be scheduled to advise the public and obtain their opinions prior to a final vote.

### Brown Seeks Speed Camera Revenue

Commissioner Jim Brown spoke of his personal frustration that the town has not obtained any revenue from the tickets generated from the speed cameras in town which would help defray the cost of pedestrian safety improvements. A discussion of the situation resulted in a request from Mr. Brown to Commission President Ed Kuhlman asking that the county establish a revenue-sharing process with the town. There is a bill working its way through the process that would eventually enable the town to get up to ten percent of the revenue from the cameras to offset public pedestrian safety issues. While the commissioners discussed the limitations and extensive processes required to establish their own speed cameras, further discussion in this regard was set aside until after Mr. Kuhlman's conversation with County Council President Phil Andrews.

### Commission Considers New Parking Ordinance

In response to the county's recent revision of the county parking ordinance restricting commercial vehicles using public streets for parking, the town is considering adopting the same or a similar ordinance for Poolesville.

New county parking regulations for heavy vehicles, including recreational vehicles (RVs, campers, boats, trailers, etc.) has been restricted as of July 1 to commercially-zoned areas only or to private property. Farm use vehicles will be exempted from the new regulations. Violators can be fined \$75.00 and charged with the costs of towing and storage. The county specifies the restrictions to be on large commercial vehicles of ten thousand pounds or more with a length of twenty-one feet or greater, or recreational vehicles.

## Youth Sports

### High Expectations For Lax Boys Division Champs

By Dominique Agnew

The Poolesville High School boys' lacrosse team won the Montgomery County Division Championship for the second year in a row under the direction of third-year coach, Ed Zacharek. Showing steady improvement since Zacharek began coaching in 2007—the team's record has improved from 5-9 in 2007 to 8-4 in 2008 and 2009—he has been very pleased with the team's progress and the success of the season. "I think the guys played really well, especially since we were a very young team," he says. "It's pretty impressive" to be the top team in the county with only three seniors, Andrew Gardner, Dylan Haas, and Connor Kraegel. Haas was named First Team All Division, First Team All County, and

First Team All American. Zacharek also plans to do well in 2010 with nine returning juniors. "I expect to be at least 8-4," he adds. He also hopes to be first seed at playoff time. He looks to juniors Jonathan Bostin, Doug Hamburger, and Ben Hessels to lead the team, the latter two, at least, will be senior captains. They're not the only ones. Most of the team plays in the off-season with nearly everyone going to lacrosse camp; this, Zacharek emphasizes, is a big asset. The players will have formed a cohesive unit before the beginning of the season, they will have "built an esprit-de-corps," bonding, meshing, and molding together. The boys have had good seasons, but they want more. "We've had a great run these past three years, and we look forward to another great season this coming spring," Zacharek adds. "The guys are looking forward to getting ready to play."

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Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyards  
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Summer Movie Nights  
Featuring: Paul Blart in Mall Cop  
8:30 p.m.

UMAC-Movie Night Fundraiser  
Sandlot – Rated PG  
Popcorn, drinks - family event  
Taylor Field – Boyds, Maryland  
Admission: \$5.00  
8:00 p.m.

The Hyattstown Mill Art Project features its annual Summer's Day Poetry Reading, Open Mic, Pot Luck Feast, and Art Exhibition. This literary, artistic, and culinary event will be held in their arts mill in Hyattstown at 14920 Hyattstown Mill Road. The evening begins at 7:30 p.m. and the art exhibit will open that evening and run through September. Go

to [www.hyattstownmill.org](http://www.hyattstownmill.org) for more information.

### August 2

Music in the Park  
Whalen Commons  
Featuring: Right On & Far Out  
Justine Hoewing and Corey Ahearn  
7:00 p.m.

### August 3

Commissioners of Poolesville  
Town Meeting – Town Hall  
7:30 p.m.

### August 5

Poolesville Parks Board Meeting  
Town Hall  
7:00 p.m.

### August 9

Music in the Park  
Whalen Commons  
Featuring: Bill Euler  
7:00 p.m.

### August 9-13

Vacation Bible School  
Poolesville Baptist Church  
6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

### August 12

Poolesville Planning Commission

Meeting  
Town Hall  
7:30 p.m.

### August 13

Poolesville Public Library  
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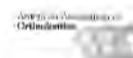
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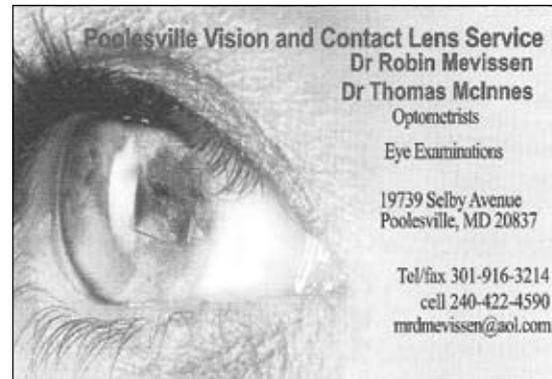
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*“Planning Board” Continued From  
Page 9.*

field, would be constructed around a central plaza in an area currently used as a soccer field at the intersection of Schaeffer Road and Germantown Park Drive.

The Miracle League is not requesting exclusive use of the soft-surface fields, which would also be constructed with shade and sun direction in mind, so they would be available to seniors or others in the community. Nearby Spark Matsunaga Elementary, for example, hosts programs for special needs students.

“Although we cannot change or cure the medical issues that life has dealt these children, what we can do is provide them the opportunity to experience the joy and the benefits that come from playing our national pastime, baseball,” architect Grace Fielder said of Miracle League. “Every child deserves to play baseball.”

The proposal involved resolving several issues, including changing the park’s master plan and money in the budget. The approximately \$500,000 cost of the miracle field and its maintenance will be covered by the non-profit, which expects to seek donations as well as use money provided by a Kiwanis club endowment. The need for the county to access park funds for its field and other amenities means the next step will lead to the County Council, which will need to approve the expenditure.

According to its website, the ten-year-old Miracle League has 200 chapters, 100 completed rubberized fields, and another 100 under construction. Program rules include allowing all players to bat once each inning and permitting every player to score a run. Both adult and youth vol-

*- Continued on Page 15.*

# Remembrance

## Richard "Dick" G. Yokum, Sr.

By Rande Davis



Mr. Richard "Dick" G. Yokum, Sr., 62, of Poolesville, died July 8, 2009. He was born February 16, 1947 in Mill Creek, West Virginia.

He is survived by his loving wife, Paula, two sons, Richard G. Yokum, Jr. and Steven W. Yokum, both of Poolesville, and loving granddaughter, Ashley Yokum, of Hagerstown.

He is also survived by his mother, Etheleen Daniels of Beach City, Ohio, brothers David and wife Joyce of Sterling, Virginia, Keith and wife Lorraine, Douglas (Speck) and wife Angie both of Mill Creek, West Virginia, Ronald Daniels of Beach City, Ohio, and sister Carmel and husband Jeff of Navarre, Ohio.

Richard served in the United States Navy on the USS Everglades, a navy support destroyer nicknamed "Big Mamma." He retired from Coca Cola after eleven years and started his own company nineteen years ago. His company supplied cleaning items to industrial and commercial

businesses.

Paula and Richard met while young folks out on the town and were together for forty-two years.

Richard was a hunter, fisherman, and golfer, but after a shoulder injury sidelined him from those interests, he found going to Charlestown Races a great pastime. Because of his interest in animals, especially racehorses and his beloved dog, Radar, the family suggests that donations may be made in Dick's name to Canterusa.org, a certified 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing retiring racehorses with opportunities for new careers after the finish line.

lage, Gaithersburg, Maryland on June 18, 2009, at the age of 90.

She was the loving wife of the late Deaneer K. Lawless whom she met when both were serving in the United States Navy stationed at the Bethesda Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland.

She was a former resident of Barnesville, Maryland for thirty-five years where she was a dedicated parishioner at St. Mary's Catholic Church. She enjoyed sewing and quilting for others and volunteering for many related projects. She worked twenty-four years in the medical technician field with Dr. G. Rosenburger in Rockville, Maryland.

She will be lovingly remembered by her family, Deaneer Law-

less II and wife Sheila of Virginia Beach, their two children, Deaneer III, Tiffany and husband Scott, and their two children Kirsten and Landon; Jim Lawless and wife Janet of Gaithersburg, their two children, James and wife Lindsey, and Juli; Karen Lawless of Gaithersburg, Don Fink of Gaithersburg, and Jeanne Lawless Snyder and husband ELLS of Pasadena, their two children, Bryan and wife Julie, and Gregory. A third great grandchild is on the way!

The family requested that in lieu of flowers, mourners should celebrate her memory with an act of kindness and a prayer.

## Margaret Lawless



Mrs. Margaret Collins Lawless, born in St. Joseph, Missouri, passed away in her home at Asbury Methodist Vil-

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## Youth Sports

### PHS Lacrosse Girls Division Champs: So Close Yet So Far

By Dominique Agnew

The Poolesville High School girls' lacrosse team won yet another Montgomery County 1A/2A/3A Division Title this past spring, finishing with a 6-0 divisional record and a 9-1 record overall. Their only setback was a season-opening loss to Churchill High School which finished undefeated in the regular season. "That's one game we would love to have again," says first-year coach Mark Agnew. "We were just not able to finish down the stretch, and we let that one get away. I think if we played them at the end of the season, it would have been different."

Winning a divisional title has not been a difficult task for the Falcons, having won the title each year since 2006 and once before in

2002. Although the team finished its season with a loss to Liberty High School in the playoffs, there is much optimism for the future of the program. Poolesville only graduated three seniors who shared the role of captain for a very close-knit team: Grace Jackson, Kelsey Montgomery, and Megan Patton. The team will miss these talented players but returns a lot of speed and young talent which should make it an even better team next year.

Before the season began, Coach Agnew had the seniors over for dinner at his house to talk about the season and to discuss team goals. The team also had a team bonding day at Manidokan Camp in West Virginia, the day after their season-opening loss to Churchill. Seeing that they won the rest of their regular season games, it apparently worked pretty well. From the beginning of the season, the coach emphasized team play, and this was evident in the girls' improvement as the season progressed. The team averaged over fifteen goals per game while only giving up an average

of just over six goals per game. The team also had a season-defining win against Bethesda-Chevy Chase on April 24. Poolesville won 13-9, avenging a loss from the previous year which had marred its undefeated season.

Despite their outstanding season, Coach Agnew is looking to improve. "We have already set the machinery in motion for next season." Some girls are playing in the Washington Women's Summer Lacrosse League which is made up of college and high school players from the area, exposing the players to an extremely high level of play. In addition, four girls are playing club lacrosse which is extremely competitive and will improve their skills for next season. The team is planning to play in fall and winter leagues to further improve their play. "We have to have more players playing outside of the season in order to move to the next level. Liberty has their whole team playing club, so we have to find ways to compete. We have the athletes, we just need to match their stick skills, and then we can bring a

regional and state championship to Poolesville." The team is also planning to do some clinics in the fall for middle and high school students to get them interested in lacrosse. Most of the players at Poolesville do not start playing lacrosse until they reach high school. "If we can get sticks into our girls' hands at a younger age, then we will get to where we want to be. Right now, I feel like we are so close, but yet so far away."

In all, nine players received recognition. Megan Patton made the second team of the Gazette. Voted to the All-Division team by the Montgomery County coaches were: seniors, Jackson and Patton, juniors Dakota Bierly and Shelby Dahlen, sophomores Chantal Agnew, Marlene Haggblade, Meggie Hotard, and Katelyn Keese, and freshman Ally Dahlen. Of these nine, six were voted to the All-County team. Jackson and Patton were voted as First-Team All County. Haggblade and Hotard made the second team, and Agnew and Shelby Dahlen received honorable mentions.

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*"Mirant Open House" Continued From Page 7.*

est. Many in the public may not know that a 900-by-30-foot canal on the property is fed by water released from the plant after it cools steam condensers, and is a year-round training destination for Olympic canoeing and kayaking hopefuls. Jim Brown, former president of Sugarloaf Citizens' Association, also brought attention to Mirant's community outreach by thanking them for helping to sponsor the SCA's Piedmont Foundation

During the Q&A, Jay Bellingham was asked what the consumer might do to help with energy issues. "Look for ways to drive the electrical load down from peak times to off-peak times. Off peak is from mid-night to 6:00 a.m. Run your dishwashers, clothes washing, and other appliances in off peak times. I alone might not make a difference, three of us in the room might not make a difference, but if everybody found ways to run those appliances more often on off peak times, it will help you,

*"Planning Board" Continued From Page 12.*

unteers serve as buddies to help players participate.

**Gas station approved**

Plans for a gas station at Germantown's Henderson Corner advanced this week as the board approved a site plan. The proposal, for a 7-Eleven convenience store and twelve-pump station, was far from a surprise to the board when it appeared at the July 23 meeting. The concept was presented earlier this year when the applicant had to obtain a special exception for the use. The gas station replaces a bank with drive-through at the location, overlooking the intersection of Henderson Corner Drive and Ridge Road.

The planning report on the site plan noted that brick materials and a clock tower were being incorporated into the design as a "civic gesture" although there has been no community objection to

it will help level the electrical grid, it will help control costs, and it will help reduce the carbon footprint.

"The Monocle wanted to get a reaction some of two people on the tour. We asked Delegate Charles Barkley from the 39th District what his impressions were from the tour. "I have never been to a plant before so it was interesting just to see it. I guess I was amazed of the size of it and I was also amazed just how much coal we are still using. We're just trying to figure out as a state what direction to go and the whole de-regulation issue is still floating out there so I am not certain what direction we will go."

Finally from perhaps the most important person in the room that day, the Monocle heard from Allie Taylor. She will enter John Poole Middle School this fall, and as someone from the next generation she reflected that "I had a lot of fun but I also thought about some of the people who have to work in the hot area and I kind of felt bad for them and I found it very informative and was very glad I came."

*"UMAC" Continued From Page 4.*

del, Jacob Thompson and Trey Wilson.

The 7/8U UMAC Red team members were Chase Aldous, Bailey Arensmeyer, Khalil Brown, Nicholas DeGirolamo, Max Fisher, Brandon Hurt, Ryan Hyman, Jacob Kasten, CJ McKee, Eamon Murphy, Brian Ropelewski, Will Walsh, and Eric Wong. They are coached by Jim Ropelewski.

In other UMAC action, the 2009 12U Travel Team won the Rockville 4th of July Tournament. They also competed in the 2009 Cal Ripken State Tournament, hosted by Charles County Youth League in mid July. The 12-U squad finished runners-up in last year's Cal Ripken State Championship. For more information go to [www.leaguelineup.com/umac-baseball](http://www.leaguelineup.com/umac-baseball).

(The Monocle thanks UMAC's Peter Moyer for providing information on UMAC and the 8U Black team for this story.)

**Local News**

**Police Investigate Fatal Collision In Poolesville**

Detectives from the Montgomery County Police Collision Reconstruction Unit (CRU) are investigating a single-vehicle collision that occurred in the early morning of July 12 in Poolesville.

At 6:32 a.m., 5th District officers and fire/rescue responded to the 14600 block of Hughes Road in Poolesville for a vehicle that was overturned. Upon arrival, they found a vehicle off the road. The twenty-year-old driver was pronounced dead at the scene.

Through the course of investigation, it was determined that the green 2001 Honda Civic was traveling south in the 14600 block of Hughes Road. For reasons still under investigation, the Honda left the road, struck a tree, and

came to rest on its side.

The driver has been identified as Ni'Keem Malik Banana of the 19600 block of Wootton Avenue in Poolesville. He was not wearing a seatbelt. The young man was the son of Jeffery and Lisa Banana of Poolesville. He is survived by his sister Ashley, step-sister Brianna, stepmother, Abenet Banana, and godmother, Mikschal Johanison.

Anyone who may have information about this collision or Ni'Keem Banana's whereabouts after 8:00 p.m. on the night of July 11 is asked to contact the Collision Reconstruction Unit at 301-840-2435. The investigation is continuing.



*Ni'Keem Malik Banana*

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