



Be the ball, Danny. Read about Clarksburg High School's Second Annual Snowflake Dodgeball Tournament on Page 5.



Even in this digital age, one must know how to post a letter. More pictures of many important events are in the Family Album on Page 9.



When a Miss Poolesville contestant wants world peace she does more than talk about it. Read about the pageant on Page 9.



Maribeth Hodge has joined the staff at Healthworks in Poolesville. Read all about her in Business Briefs.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

March 5, 2010

Volume VII, Number 1.

Clarksburg's Buffington Building Approved

By Kristen Milton

The Montgomery planning board recently approved plans for a commercial building intended to kick start the Clarksburg Historic District.

During the ninety-minute discussion February 18 of what was called the Buffington Building, planners debated conditions variously described as intending to jumpstart, light a fire, and motivate county officials and others to bring roads, sewer service, and activity to the area.

The building, slated for an approximately one-acre site on Frederick Road near the intersection with Stringtown Road, will host a restaurant and two small retail locations on its first floor and office space on the second. Although the site is currently vacant, it is located in the historic district, and drawings show gables, porches,

clapboard appearance, and a stone veneer base intended to resemble the area's Victorian-era farmhouses.

Questions quickly arose over the best way to integrate the project into the larger historic district and nearby town center as much of its neighborhood is more anticipated rather than substantive.

Gus Bauman, attorney for the property owners and a former planning chairman (1989 to 1993), expressed concern about a proposed condition that created a water and sewer easement through the entrance to the lot's parking area. The extension would bring sewer hook-ups to a half-dozen nearby houses. Old and failing systems in the historic district have been labeled a public health risk.

Bauman said the owners would be unable to get tenants for a building threatened with a "sword of Damocles" such as the easement, which could cut the site off from traffic for the length of the installation process.

"I'm just asking for mercy, that's all," said Betty Buffing-

ton of Buffington Enterprises, the developer.

Planners responded by modifying the condition to say that utility work had to be completed before parking lot construction, or the easement would be invalid.

"I find that a deadline is a healthy thing," said Commissioner Amy Presley, a Clarksburg resident.

Alan Soukup of the county Department of Environmental Protection told the board he accepted the idea of extinguishing the easement once the building was in use. An adjacent county-owned property would likely be used to extend sewer in the future if that happened. "This [building] is going to look great," he said, "but if everything else around it is rundown and empty, that is not the vision for the Historic District."

Pat Darby, president of the Clarksburg Chamber of Commerce, said property owners in the historic district were currently working with the county in hopes of jointly funding water and sewer service. "It's

-Continued on Page 3.

Big, Bold, And Beautiful Hydrangeas

By Maureen O'Connell

In the Lake District of England, not far from the shores of Lake Windermere, lies Hole-herd Gardens, the home of the Lakeland Horticultural Society. Besides supporting several acres of multiple and varied perennial gardens of flowers, trees, and shrubs, it holds three National Plant Collections: Astilbe, Hydrangea, and Polystichum. The

Hydrangea Collection, reputed to be among the most extensive and finest collections in the world, contains around three hundred species and cultivars. The majority of these plants are found in the Hydrangea Walk, a wide, meandering stretch of terraced land just off the main road entrance. It overlooks the gently rolling hills, dotted with grazing sheep, which lead one's eyes to Lake Windermere in the distance. These gardens are unique in being maintained entirely by volunteers and supported by private donations.

Hydrangeas have a unique



Hydrangeas overlooking Lake Windermere.

history. John Bartram (1699-1777), a Pennsylvania farmer of English Quaker descent who is

-Continued on Page 10.

Commentary

One More Strike Against Open Land

By John Clayton

About the time we ship this issue to our printer, the Montgomery County Council will decide whether to make the Building Lot Termination program less expensive for developers in the down county by reducing the amount they must pay for development rights, and making it easier to avoid such payments entirely. Various organizations that work to protect open land in the Agricultural Reserve are strongly opposed to the decision.

The Building Lot Termination program is a recent initiative and a younger sibling to the Transferable Development Rights program. Each of these programs compensates property owners in the Ag Reserve who refrain from developing their properties by providing a mechanism for them to sell their development rights to be used down county. The BLT program charges down county builders based on the density that they add to a project above a certain level, and these fees are used to pay the Upcounty property owners. The BLT program targets larger properties, and the farmland is protected from development in perpetuity. The proposal sets a "density bonus" of five percent for proposed developments in the White Flint area, which Ag Reserve proponents regard as way too low. The measure also makes the payments "optional" by allowing the developer to fulfill other requirements that, while perhaps beneficial to others in the county, do not contribute to land preservation through the BLT program.

A letter sent jointly by the Audubon Naturalist Society, the Sierra Club of Montgomery County, the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association, and the Montgomery County Alliance has protested the proposal on several points, primarily that the low percentage

will not generate enough money to preserve enough land, and that the optional component may eliminate many payments. They recommend a mandatory density bonus of fifteen percent to ensure adequate funding for BLT purchases.

Another concern expressed in the group's letter is that the more lenient program proposed for White Flint will spread to other areas of the county, severely damaging the desired benefits of the BLT program. One of the strategies to preserve open land in the Ag Reserve and reduce sprawl is to encourage higher density development in areas that are already developed, are centrally located, and convenient to commercial centers and mass transit. The county is clearly encouraging such development as an alternative to tearing up farmland, and it is a serious concern to see the program weakened in this way. Unfortunately, there are numerous ways the county and its citizens can receive legitimate benefits from developers that do not include making payments that help protect farmland from development in this way.

In an article in the *Washington Post* on Sunday, February 28 (Farmers "Shortchanged" in White Flint Proposal, Groups Say), Planning Board Chairman Royce Hanson was reported as explaining that "higher payments on developers ... could backfire by discouraging developing where it is desired and in turn encouraging development where it could lead to more sprawl." This brings up a very good point and highlights one more complexity of such a well-intended program. How does one encourage higher-density development where we want it and generate money to preserve farmland, while still ensuring that developers will participate? We cannot sensibly expect anyone to voluntarily operate against their best interests.

This is an important question that has to be confronted head-on and solved. The goal of the BLT program is to, over time, preserve large tracts of farmland in perpetuity. If the program is designed so that it doesn't generate enough

money from high density development to make a significant difference, and the program is optional and easy to avoid, then it will fall far short of its goals. As the years go by, and more and more land is chopped into twenty-five acre parcels, as it certainly will be, the absolute protection of large tracts of land will be paramount. The county should not be sacrificing this

important program for other priorities.

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The Monocacy MONOCLE
 Keeping An Eye On Local News
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"Planning Meeting" Continued From Page 1.

far too expensive for any of us to do on our own," he said.

Another concern was whether the site would be used as a cut-through between Frederick Road and the anticipated extension of Clarksridge Road. The Buffington Building would be only two lots down from a planned town center road, which is intended to provide such a connection. The board decided a connection between Frederick and Clarksridge would require a site plan amendment, saying they hoped conditions would have changed by the time it was needed.

Correspondence from the Clarksburg Civic Association and others expressed concern about the proposal to reduce the ninety-three parking spaces required by ordinance to seventy-one spaces, fearing the result would be street parking and overflow. However planning staff said they thought the smaller number of spaces adequate since the restaurant's busiest time would be after the building's other uses had closed.

To shrink the building would not allow it to be economically viable, according to the owners. Bauman said they had originally anticipated more retail space in the building but responded to citizen requests in planning the sit-down restaurant space instead. "The community very much wanted a restaurant," he said.

Joshua Sloan of the planning staff said if the building was shrunk, "you're going to lose the kind of jumpstart we're trying to get in the historic district."

Tax Credits Available for Snowstorm-Affected Historic Homes

Owners of historic buildings in Montgomery County may be eligible for local tax credits for repairs related to damage from recent historic snowstorms.

Owners of structures on the county's Master Plan for Historic Preservation may apply for the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Tax Credit for repairs to roofs, gutters, and the like as long as the work does

not alter the look of a building's exterior features.

To qualify, the cost of the repair work must exceed \$1,000. The tax credit, applied toward county property taxes, will equal ten percent of expenses.

The County Council created the historic preservation tax credit program in 1984. The Historic Preservation Commission reviews tax credit applications, certifies that project work is eligible for tax credits, and forwards recommendations to the county Department of Finance for approval. Any unused portion of the tax credit may be carried forward for as many as five years.

For a list of eligible activities, criteria, and to download an application form, visit www.montgomeryplanning.org/historic/instructions/taxcredit.shtm or call 301-563-3400.



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Local News

New Budget Proposals And Decision on Wind Energy

By Rande Davis

The Poolesville town commissioners introduced their projected FY2011 budget and set a public hearing for March 22 prior to approval.

With an anticipated shortfall of over \$300,000 in revenues from income tax and state highway user funds, the budget calls for cuts or reductions in the general fund from \$2,696,962 to a targeted \$2,376,588. The current proposal sets a tax rate of .1594 cents per \$100.00 of home value for property tax rates. This proposal balances the budget with \$4,950 in the black which is about the same as previous year projections.

Town revenue comes from various sources with the most

significant categories being: property taxes (45%); income taxes (32% - down 11% from FY2010); State Highway Transportation Funds (1% - down from 10% in FY2010); Montgomery County (9%).

The proposed budget also maintains a rainy day, unrestricted fund of \$950,000 to indemnify against unforeseen events with cash on hand at over \$2.2 million dollars.

Despite last year's changes in the schedule of town water usage rates, \$117,000 is projected to be transferred from the general fund to cover revenue shortages in the water and wastewater budget. This practice continues to be highly controversial and was a major issue in past town elections. The controversy is that county (school and pool) facilities and local churches are exempt from property taxes, and, although they pay for their own water use, their property tax exemption status shifts the burden of water/wastewater capital projects to the other property

owners in the town.

To offset the anticipated reductions in revenue, the town has reduced or cut expenditures in various areas. Much of the reductions come from funds otherwise set aside for future projects until such time that the revenue streams are back to normal. Additionally, reductions come from a salary freeze for employees (the town manager was exempt due to contractual obligations), cutbacks in the town's mini-grant program, planting of new trees, training programs, etc.

Copies of the proposed budget may be obtained at town hall or on the town website at www.ci.poolesville.md.us.

John Strong, town consulting engineer, presented the specifics of an extension of a sidewalk from Wootton Avenue to Tom Fox Run. This project is part of the Town's Master Plan Trail program.

The commissioners also voted to set two other public hearings for March 22 on new

proposed ordinances: Ordinance 180, zoning which makes changes in storage tank requirements; and Ordinance 178.

The newest addition to the Alternate Energy Ordinance #178, which has been under consideration for over a year, now includes restricted use of wind turbine energy systems in all zones; however, the regulations vary from zone to zone with ground-mounted systems allowed in the Commercial Business District (restricted to a traditional-windmill style—four posts with tail) with a height of fifty feet from ground to peak blade height and in the RDT zone (with sixty feet height restriction). Roof-mounted wind energy systems will be allowed in residential zones. Height, sound, and safety restrictions are also established.

All ordinances are available at the town hall.



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School News

Dodgin' the Snow

By Kristen Milton

Not the same without the pain was the verdict of many at Clarksburg High School's Second Annual Snowflake Dodgeball Tournament.

Seven teams of six, both students and alumni, participated in the approximately two-hour event sponsored by the school's athletic booster club on February 20. Co-chair Patty Kelly said the tournament was inspired by the 2004 movie, Dodgeball, and employed National Amateur Dodgeball Association (NADA) regulations, which created a somewhat different game from the rougher version many remember from elementary school.

Players and spectators alike waxed nostalgic for the red rubber balls of yore as blue no-sting balls used at the tournament were criticized as too light and difficult to throw.

"They're like Styrofoam balls," junior Chase Rice said.

"The hard red ones—they'd leave a print on your face," parent Bernie Burke recalled with a smile.

"I remember back in about third grade, we didn't have dodge balls, we used basketballs," sophomore Sam Krupenie said, sitting in the stands shortly after a round with his team. "When you got hit you were grounded...If you were out, everyone knew it."

"Nick [Berry] just got hit in the face, and it didn't even hurt," sophomore Eddie Echard complained of his uninjured teammate.

Nonetheless, Julia Fiedler of Boyds, a seventh-grade spectator, was quick to jump when a blue ball came flying from a practice session during the lunch break. "That freaked me out a little," she said with a laugh.

Fiedler and neighbor Casey Pleasants, a freshman at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School, said they enjoyed watch-

ing the event. "It's interesting because you don't know who's going to win," Pleasants said, "and I like the girls because they're brave."

"Personally, I think it's funny to watch people get hit with balls, but that's my own sickness," Fiedler said. "Plus, it's for a good cause."

"The reason we like to do it is [because] a lot of out fundraisers are geared toward the adults," Kelly said. "This is more a student activity, so it doesn't have to be the biggest moneymaker...It's something different to do and gives them something to do inside while the snow melts."

The approximately sixty spectators was less than hoped for, she noted, but there were plenty of prizes donated by area businesses ranging from medals to coolers to sweatshirts.

Team names varied from groups like F2A, i.e. Failure to Advance, five of whom were on the lacrosse team and veterans of last year's tournament, to The Reapers, whose members were unfamiliar with both each other and the game.

Sophomore Kate Lagoon and junior Julie Shulman, both Reapers, were the only two female players on the teams. "It's just fun," Shulman said.

"It's quality time with the bros," Echard said. "It's been really fun."

Event winners were the green-shirted Latecomers who squeezed onto the roster the morning of the tournament. The event raised about \$2,000.00, Kelly said, which may be used by the athletic department for anything from helmets to stadium electric bills.

Kelly said whether the tournament continues will depend on whether the boosters club itself continues. All board members are parents of graduating seniors, she said.

"We desperately need parents to step up," she added, encouraging parents of current and future students to attend the next meeting at 7:00 p.m. on March 8.

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Mystery History Wright Wasn't Right—Thank Goodness

By Rande Davis

If Frank Lloyd Wright had had his way, Sugarloaf Mountain would have had something more in common with New York City than most of us could even imagine. Thank goodness founder Gordon Strong didn't share his vision. Strong rejected Wright's design for his mansion and turned to Percy Ash, a Philadelphia architect, who was dean of George Washington University School of Architecture from 1908 to 1910.

That is only one of the secrets held within the walls of Strong Mansion.

Our story begins in 1899 when thirty-year-old Gordon Strong took a bicycle vacation through the countryside of Maryland. It was then he discovered

Sugarloaf Mountain, and one of his fondest dreams began to come into focus.

It seems as a very young teenager, when Strong entered Harvard University, the hard-driven young man on occasion depleted his health from over study. At those times, he would turn to the American wilderness and Europe for respite and recovery. In a note to himself on one of his European jaunts he achieved his mundane goal by writing: "Sought hunting, health and beer – found both (sic)." Still it was on one of those "health breaks" that Strong developed a fascination with the castles on the Rhine River and determined such grandeur would one day be his.

During Strong's Maryland vacation, you can almost see him straddling his bicycle at the base of Sugarloaf, gazing up toward the summit, and seeing his castle overlooking the valley. From that moment, he and his wife, Louise, began the process of purchasing the mountain bit by bit, and by 1912, the mansion of today was built. Along the way,

many adjustments were made. For one thing, the site was moved from the top to a south slope. For another, the original plans called for two wings similar to what exists today. That didn't happen. Louise and Gordon were known for sharing a great sense of humor and she is reported to have said at one time "I'm going to take the snobbishness out of him." Uncomfortable with the ostentatious original design, she was able to put a halt to the excess of Ash's original design.

With no children of their own, their notion was a home to share with impoverished children. In fact, the elongated building at the foot of the mountain did become part of their boarding school for sixty boys.

So how was it that Sugarloaf Mountain almost shared commonality with New York City? Well, when Gordon Strong asked Frank Lloyd Wright to draw up plans for a "mountain automotive objective," the famous architect came up with a cylindrical, wedding cake-like building. Not good for Sugarloaf but more suit-

able and similar to New York's Guggenheim Museum on Fifth Avenue.

Ultimately, Sugarloaf became the Strong's gift to us—a gift we share with him as stated in his Latin motto: Fortunatus est ille deos qui novit agrestes (Fortune is he who knows the country gods.)



You'll have to go to NYC to see this: it didn't make it to Sugarloaf.

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Business Briefs

Gaithersburg Free Clinic Wins Award
 Mercy Health Clinic is being recognized by Nonprofit Montgomery in affiliation with Nonprofit Roundtable of Greater Washington as the Nonprofit of the Month. Mercy Health Clinic is a free, not-for-profit, non-sectarian, community-based volunteer organization providing quality healthcare to uninsured, low-income residents of Montgomery County, Maryland. The clinic is committed to seeking new ways to improve and expand the quality of the primary medical care, educational support, and pharmaceuticals it provides free of charge to eligible patients. To view their profile by Nonprofit Montgomery, go to www.nonprofitmontgomery.org.

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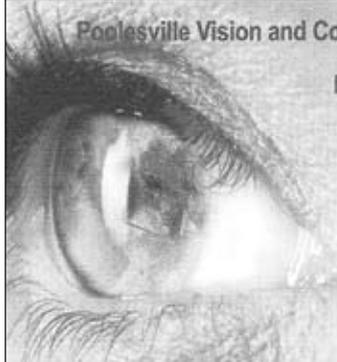
Shear Elegance is already celebrating its first-year anniversary at its new location on Fisher Avenue in Poolesville. Come help celebrate their successful first year on March 7 and enjoy refreshments and a chance to win a basketful of goodies!

New Personal Trainer Joins Healthworks

Healthworks Fitness Center has hired Maribeth Hodge as a new personal trainer. Maribeth is an American College of Exercise certified personal trainer with a B.S. in Recreation from Slippery Rock University in western Pennsylvania. Maribeth has been an active sports and fitness participant all her life and plans to share this healthy passion with others through personal training.

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Family Album



The Family Album is sponsored by Selby's Market Your IGA Hometown Food Store



The nursery school from the Barnesville School visited the Barnesville Post Office, and Postmaster Maureen Dolan gave them a tour.



Crop to Cure drew a big crowd to St. Peter's Church in Poolesville to benefit Relay for Life.



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Sponsored jointly by the Community and Economic Development Committee and Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce



School News

Miss Poolesville 2010

By Chantal Agnew

The 2010 Miss Poolesville competition featured ten seniors from Poolesville High School's class of 2010. This year's theme was Disney princesses, with each of the girls dressed up in her respective costume as one of the princesses. Dakota Bierly was featured as Cinderella, Mary Beliveau was Esmerelda, Jessica Grimes portrayed Belle, Marlene Haggblade became Princess Arielle, Maura Hogan was transformed into the lovely Princess Jamine, Kelly Rosenberg, the new Princess Tiana, Kaitlyn Scott channeled Snow White, Abi Stefanelli, the fairy Tinkerbell, Hillary Templeton awakened as Aurora, and Fay Yu as Pocahontas. After a comical video depicting these girls in their various costumes, the competition continued on to the casual wear portion in which the girls strutted their stuff across the stage in their favorite or most comfortable outfits. Next, each competitor displayed her various extracurricular activities and sports by wearing or sporting objects related to all of their numerous activities. Finally, came everyone's favorite part: the skits. Each young lady had the opportunity to display her talent, wit, and humor in a variety of different skits showing the diversity of personalities and individualities. This was followed by a brief intermission.

The ladies then emerged from fairy tale land elegantly and beautifully dressed for the formal wear section during which some of their life goals were announced as they lined up on the stage escorted by either family members, friends, or boyfriends. Next, the girls were separated as the judges chose six of the girls to be finalists: Dakota, Marlene, Kaitlyn, Abi, Hillary, and Fay. After this announcement those six girls were asked the Final Question, the last thing the judges take into consideration before choosing the winner. After a dramatic and excruciatingly suspenseful pause, the final tally came in. Second runner up was Hillary Templeton, the first runner up, Marlene Haggblade, and the winner of the 2010 Miss Poolesville competition, the young princess who would wear the crown with dignity, respect, and honor for a full year, was Fay Yu! Congratulations, Princess Fay!



Hillary Templeton performed at the Miss Poolesville pageant.

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*"Hydrangeas" Continued From
Page 1.*

water vase. This is not a reference to the plant's love of water, but rather to the shape of the plant's seed capsule. Fossils show hydrangeas grew in North America forty to seventy million years ago and up to twenty-five million years ago in Asia. It is astonishing how much history there is in many of our present-day plants and shrubs that we take so much for granted.

While there are approximately twenty-three species of hydrangeas, only five are commonly known in the United States. They are: *Hydrangea (H.) macrophylla* (big leaf, French, garden, or florist's hydrangea), *H. arborescens*, *H. paniculata*, *H. quercifolia* (Oak Leaf), and *H. anomala petiolaris* (climbing hydrangea). Hydrangeas have three types of flower blooms: Mophead, large, globe-shaped flower clusters; Lacecap, a flattened cluster of tiny immature buds surrounded at the edges by typical four- to five-petal flowers; and Panicle, large, somewhat cone-shaped flower clusters (particularly in Oak Leaf Hydrangea). I prefer *H. macrophylla* for they have more varieties with very large, showy flower heads.

People often ask me: how I can I get my hydrangeas to be pink or blue? Hydrangeas can be quite the chameleons. Many gardeners believe that all hydrangeas are alike, and that if you want different colors, you merely apply different chemicals which affect color. Actually, *H. macrophylla* is the only species that can change color, but there is also a wide range of *H. macrophylla* where the color is ultimately determined more by variety than by what you do to the soil in which they grow. *H. macrophylla* 'Nikko Blue' will always be blue, but if the soil is neutral, both pink and blue flower heads will appear. *H. macrophylla* 'Endless Summer' will be blue in acid soil or pink in alkaline soil. It is interesting to note that hydrangeas will normally lose their ability to produce good blues when in their first year of growth or when newly transplanted. Be patient; if you

know that your soil is acidic, and you have added some supplemental aluminum sulfate, they will eventually turn blue. I had to wait over two years for several of my best-blue-now hydrangeas to attain their beautiful shade and color.

Where in the yard should I plant my hydrangea? That can be a little confusing. The general guideline is that it needs two conditions to thrive: moisture and shade, but too much of either is not a good thing. Then here are some species that say that they can be grown in full sun or partial shade. I have sixteen hydrangeas of several different species and varieties in my gardens. Some of the same species and varieties are in full shade, partial shade, full sun, and partial sun, and there is no difference in their performance. Most hydrangeas do not tolerate drought, but here again is another example of their resiliency. As much as I try to keep my hydrangeas well watered in the heat of summer, some of them are well beyond the reach of my hose or my desire to lug buckets of water to them. By about mid-July, several of them are totally, sadly wilted. But as soon as I water them well, like the Phoenix, they snap back to their upright, healthy frame.

Pruning of hydrangeas is another debatable issue. For many years, most hydrangea species would only flower on old wood. Thus, new wood produced from pruning would not produce flowers until the following season. In the past several years, horticulturists have introduced cultivars that flower in the spring on old wood, and then in the summer on new wood. Two years ago, someone, who was taking care of my gardens in the fall when I was away, cut all of my hydrangeas to the ground. When I returned and saw what he had done, I was sure that they would never flower the following spring or maybe ever. To my delightful surprise, they all flowered better than before. Now, I selectively prune my hydrangeas. I remove dead stems or those that are very old. If I have time, I remove the dead blooms. If the plant is get-

ting too large, I cut it back to my desired height and shape. Moral of story: don't worry too much about pruning rules. Hydrangeas are very hardy, and most will survive your pruning mistakes.

Here are some of my favorite hydrangeas that do very well in our area: *H. macrophylla* (m.) 'Endless Summer,' *H. m.* 'Blushing Bride,' *H. arborescens* (a.) 'Annabelle,' *H. a.* 'Incredible,' *H. a.* 'Invincible,' *H. m.* 'Nikko Blue,' *H. quercifolia* 'Snow Queen,' and *H. paniculata* 'Little Lamb.'

If your garden does not have

any hydrangeas, make the effort to plant some this spring. If you already have a few, look at the exciting new ones on the market. You won't be disappointed. I have already ordered eight more for my hydrangea garden.

I will be in London for the next couple of weeks. I have several new gardens I am going to visit (I am hoping that spring will come early to London), and I will let you know about them in my next column.

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Youth Sports Poolesville's Cara Chuang: The Lady in the Water

By Jeff Stuart

One suspects you would not join a high school swim team to draw attention to yourself, but if you are excellent, you will get noticed. Poolesville senior Cara Chuang is excellent. She has reset almost every school record and even holds a few county records. "Cara has done a great job this year winning all individual events during the regular season," says head coach Jonathan Leong. "She has reset some of her personal records including the 100 fly and reset her county record in the 100 backstroke." She is the Washington Metropolitan Interscholastic Swimming and Diving Championships record holder in the 100 backstroke, winning the event for the fourth time in a row on February 24. Though she did not make the team, she qualified for the Olympic trials in 2008. She is a three time All-Met and has signed a letter of intent to attend the University of Illinois.

"Her older sister swam here at Poolesville, and I was hoping Cara was going to come here her freshman year, but sadly she went to Richard Montgomery," says Coach Leong, "but thankfully she

transferred back to Poolesville. She is a wonderful, energetic, and dedicated student. She volunteers during her week to help the kids at Poolesville Elementary School with reading skills." One of the more exciting moments in Chang's career at Poolesville may have been winning back-to-back 100 backstrokes at Metros. She has been swimming since she was in elementary school and participates in the Junior and Senior National Swim Meets for her club coach, Jim Williams, of the Rockville-Montgomery Swim Club.

As a team, the Falcons finished fourth in their division. "We had some difficulty getting our meets with the snow storms," says Leong. "Our boys' team has continued to develop. Seniors Tyler Mumford turned in powerful performances and Sam Weber finished first in division two diving. The girls have some high-power individuals that continued to compete and delivered their best. Senior diver Alexandra Contreras placed sixth at the



Poolesville's Cara Chuang

county championship and did not lose a single match. She hopes to make the All American Standard at the Metros Swim Meet. Freshman Diana Hanson looks to take charge of the team once Cara graduates. She placed sixth in breaststroke and

the 200 IM. Although losing Cara and Alex, we have many girls who are eager to step up and continue the high level of performance. Next year, also watch for Cameron Mackail, Siobhan Kibbey (diving), Cynthia Jih, Mary Gillespie, and others."

Police Blotter

By Jack Toomey

Current Crimes

Assault: 19900 block of Martinsburg Road.

Theft: 19600 block of Fisher Avenue.

Theft of Vehicle: 19800 block of Beatriz Avenue.

Drug offense: 19630 Fisher Avenue.

Past Crimes

March 8, 1950 George Pumphrey, age 40 and of Poolesville, was reported to be in satisfactory condition at the Frederick Hospital after his automobile was struck by a train at Monrovia.

March 9, 1945 The former president of the Poolesville Bank was sentenced to a year in prison for stealing money from the Kensington branch of the Farmers Banking and Trust Co. George Smith told the court that

he had stolen \$3800 over a period of five years.

March 13, 1908 Hirman Cutsall of near Frederick was struck in the head by the tongue of a stump puller. He died about fifteen minutes later.

March 18, 1939 Two gamblers were convicted at the Rockville courthouse in the opening drive against gambling in Montgomery County. Joseph Hillary of Washington and Randolph Brice of Bethesda were found guilty after officers testified that they had placed numbers bets with the defendants.

March 19, 1948 A nine-year-old Boyds girl accidentally shot her six-year-old brother after finding a loaded gun in her home. Edna Braxton told her father that she had never seen a real gun before. Her brother John was reported to be in good condition at Suburban Hospital.

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Tidbits

St. Mary's Plans Special Honor for Father Reid

When Father George Reid retired as the priest at St. Mary's Church in Barnesville after more than forty years of service, he requested only two things from the parish. He asked that they help provide transportation for him to return on special occasions, and he wanted a Celtic cross to be placed in his name at St. Mary's. The transportation assistance continues, and now the church wants to make his cherished wish for the cross come true.

Over those four decades of priestly service, Father Reid also served as the "chaplain to the community" in so many various ways: chaplain of Monocacy Lions Club and the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department, co-founder (with Lib Tolbert) of the Barnesville Bipartisan Inaugural Ball, teaching at St. John's School in Frederick, to name just a few. This year is the fifty-fifth anniversary

of Father Reid's ordination and perhaps beyond the fond recollection of his congregants. He is probably most noted for his friendships with his fellow pastors in the area as well as his close personal friendships with so many non-Roman Catholics. Pastor Merrill Ednie of Boyds Presbyterian Church recalls this ecumenical servant as one who taught him the importance of being a pastor to the whole community, not just his parish. "His flock reached throughout the area, not just in Barnesville."

St. Mary's Holy Name Society is donating \$1,500.00 toward the estimated \$9,500.00 cost. In addition, they will have a basket bingo on April 9 with profits going toward the project. The monument selected is befitting the man and reflective of his dedication, but since it is beyond the financial capacity of the church or St. Mary's

-Continued on Page 13.

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"Tidbits" Continued From Page 12.

Holy Name Society, Father Reid's many friends are invited to help cover its cost.

Donations may be made to St. Mary's Holy Name Society with notation for Father Reid Celtic Cross and mailed to Garland Johnson, P.O. Box 402, Barnesville, Maryland 20838. Mr. Johnson can also be reached at 301-349-5797.

Poolesville Park to be Named in Honor of Tom Dillingham.

Poolesville will honor former Poolesville commissioner Dr. Thomas Dillingham by naming the new skateboard park after him in recognition of his more than two decades of elected service as a town commissioner. He continues to be of service to the community through his leadership position as Grand Noble of the Oddfellows Lodge #97, corporate member of UMCVFD, and

his ongoing work with the Hands of Love Mission. Dr. Dillingham received special recognition by the Maryland Municipal League in 2007 when he was elected to the MML Hall of Fame. The park, located on Wootton Avenue to the west of Selby's Market, is scheduled to open this spring with an official dedication ceremony to be scheduled soon.

Wolz Named Midshipman of the Month

Charles Wolz, PHS class of 2009, has been honored as a Midshipman of the Month at the United States Naval Academy. The institution cited his role in assisting in his Brigade's cyber defense exercise sponsored by the Computer Science Department. "Without the help of Wolz, this academic training evolution would not have been as successful nor run as efficiently. He continues to grow as a leader through his dedication to his role as a mentor to fellow students, always eager to share his insight in getting through the everyday

struggles of midshipman life."

Online Donations Available for Fundraiser at PHS

The National Honor Society Pennies for Patients Fundraiser for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society is running through the first week of March at Poolesville High School. Last year, the National Honor Society raised over \$1,500.00. This year, they hope to double their donations through teacher dares and bake sales, in addition to the online donation page (<http://nca.syllsevent.org/PHS>). Students can donate change (or bills!) at Pennies for Patients collection tables in the Falcon Foyer and at the Senior Bench. As the total amount grows, teachers and staff members will be performing various dares: eating bugs and dog food, dying their hair, singing disco tunes, etc. Please support the Leukemia Lymphoma Society by making a contribution through PHS's National Honor Society. All proceeds will benefit the Leukemia Lymphoma Society.

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Things to Do

March 5 and 6

Spring Shopping Social
 Nine Local Crafters, Home and Personal Care Enterprises
 Benefit for Poolesville Relay for Life
 Kitchen and Bath Express
 19716 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville
 Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

March 7

1St Sunday WUMCO Canned Food Drive
 Area churches accept food donations for WUMCO the first Sunday of each month.

Presentation by Kristi Hardy on Eternal Hope Orphanage in Haiti
 Poolesville Baptist Church
 For more info, call 301-831-8471
 6:00 p.m.

Constituent Meet and Greet
 Senator Rob Garagiola
 Meet and ask questions, raise concerns to Senator Rob Gara-

giola
 Selby's Market
 11:00 a.m. to noon

First Year Anniversary Celebration
 Shear Elegance Hair Salon- Fisher Ave
 Refreshments and prizes
 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

March 10
 Poolesville Planning Commission Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Town of Poolesville Special Storm Damage Pick-up
 Place in either paper bags or reusable containers not exceeding 45 pounds/32 gallons, or brush, shrub, or tree trimming (branches less than four inches in diameter) bundled in twine. Bundles should not be longer than four feet nor wider than thirty inches in diameter.

March 11
 PACC Annual Dinner
 Comus Inn
 Cocktails: 6:30 p.m., Dinner: 7:30

p.m.
 Couples: \$70, Individual: \$40

March 12
 Super 7 Bingo
 Benefit for Carroll Manor Volunteer Fire Department
 Cash, Longaberger baskets, coach purse - \$20 for 21 games
 Held at the Point of Rocks Fire Station
 Doors Open: 5:30 p.m.
 Games: 7:00 p.m.

March 14
 Daylight Savings-Spring Forward

March 15
 Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting- Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

March 17
 Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Town of Poolesville Special Storm Damage Pick-up
 See above entry for details.

March 18
 Twos - Storytime

Stories, fingerplay, music
 10:30 a.m.

March 19 and March 20
 Used Book & Media Sale
 St. Peter's Parish, 20100 Fisher Ave., Poolesville.
 Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 Come browse from a wide selection of inexpensive used adult and children's books, videos, DVDs, CDs, audio tapes, records and computer software. Enjoy a cookie from the bake sale while stocking up on some excellent reading material. Why pay book store prices when you can shop at St. Peter's? Donations are welcome - drop off at St. Peter's any time.

March 20
 Basket Bingo
 Benefit Poolesville Community Preschool - St. Mary's Pavilion
 Cost: \$20.00
 Doors Open: 5:30 p.m.; Games: 7:00 p.m.

-Continued on Page 15.

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"Things to Do" Contined From Page 14.

An Irish Night
 St. Thomas More Academy will hold its 8th Annual Holiday Celebration Fundraiser from 5:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. This new Irish-inspired event in Frederick will proudly feature performances by the Celtic band O'Malley and Mates as well as the Ring of Kerry Irish Dancers. Sligo Creek, an acoustic Irish/Scottish and American folk band that proudly features classics with a twist, will open the event. Guests will enjoy Irish-inspired dishes such as corned beef and cabbage while playing exciting games, raffles,

and silent and live auction events. Proceeds from the multi-draw raffle that night will benefit the Patty Pollatos Fund—an independent and community-based non-profit that educates and assists local families and individuals in Maryland about economic opportunities to raise funds for families during the temporary financial strain caused by cancer, spinal cord injuries, heart, liver or kidney transplants.

Tickets are \$65 each or \$480 for a table of eight. To purchase or reserve tickets, send an email to fundraising@stmamd.org, or call 301-874-9014.

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