



Carolyn Repass was at the Monocacy Garden Club's Flower Show. More pictures are inside.



Wounded soldiers came to White's Ferry for a day. Many more pictures are inside.



Parking your car at the Potomac Hunt Club Races was a snap with the assistance of the Monocacy Lions. More pictures are inside.



Pike & Valega, DDS, feted their patients with an Appreciation Day. Milk Duds and peanut brittle were strictly BYO. More pictures of more events are in the Family Album on Page 2, and elsewhere in this issue.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

May 28, 2010

Volume VII, Number 6.

Citizens Rally For Relay for Life

By Rande Davis

Area Relay for Life Growing

The cause of cancer research, awareness, and fund-raising has grown with the Clarksburg Community Relay for Life having just completed its first annual event on May 23 and the annual Poolesville Relay for Life about to celebrate its fifth anniversary. This year, the Poolesville RFL will have a number of changes. Scheduled for June 19, the event will be held at the Upper Montgomery

County Volunteer Fire Department ball field in Beallsville.

Additional changes include partnering with INOVA Blood Services for an on-site blood drive from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. While not finalized yet, they are hoping to also have a bone marrow drive. Melanie Alnwick from WTTG-Fox 5 will be attending and will be a featured speaker.

The event begins with a survivor's luncheon for cancer survivors and their friends



The Poolesville Relay for Life, 2009.

and family at 11:30 a.m. on the athletic field at the fire station, followed by an opening ceremony at 2:15 p.m. There will be activities, games, music, and

-Continued on Page 20.

Okavango Delta: Life-Giving Water

By Maureen O'Connell

In my last several articles, I talked about biodiversity and the importance of wetlands to the health of the Chesapeake Bay. I recently visited the Okavango Delta in Botswana, and I couldn't help comparing nature's way and the government's programs to protect it with our continuing efforts to clean up the bay.

Let me first tell you some facts about this small country located in the vast continent of Africa. It is a land-locked country bordered by South Africa to the south and south-east, Namibia to the west and northwest, and Zimbabwe to the northeast. It meets Zambia at a single point in the Zambezi River. Before its independence from the British



A frog in the Okavango Delta.

Commonwealth in 1966, it was one of the poorest countries in the world. Today, thanks to a sensible business regulatory environment, an openness to foreign investment and trade, and a strong commitment to education for all its children, Botswana is a shining beacon in a landscape too often rift by

corruption, devastating poverty, and a high incidence of HIV/AIDS and malaria. With its political and economic stability, it has one of the fastest growth rates in per capita income.

Leonardo da Vinci said, "In time and with water, every-

-Continued on Page 8.

Family Album



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



A Crop-to-Cure fundraiser to benefit Poolesville Relay for Life was held at St. Peter's Church on May 15.



Graham Preston is awaiting "the big one" during the twentieth annual Richard S. McKernon fishing tournament at Collier Circle Pond in Poolesville.



The one and only Ronald McDonald came to Poolesville to celebrate the complete renovation, inside and out, of the local McDonald's.



In honor of National Park Day, the all-purpose room at Monocacy Elementary School was transformed into a park. Park Rangers gave examples of the variety of activities available at many parks.

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State Senator Rob Garagiola, Mark Gochmour, and Maggie Nightingale pose with the winners of the Poolesville Library Poster Contest. The winners are listed in Tidbits elsewhere in this issue. (Photograph by John Rolls.)

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Tidbits of the Past

By Jack Toomey

May 2, 1959 Archbishop Patrick O'Boyle of Washington, D.C., dedicated the new shrine of Our Lady of Fatima at St. Mary's Catholic Church at Barnesville. Guests included the Ambassador of Portugal and his wife. The shrine was a gift in memory of Norma Siegel.

May 6, 1958 Local elections were held in Montgomery County. Three commissioners were elected in Barnesville for one-year terms. Mark Jeffers, Harold Cooley, and Elizabeth Warren all received twenty-three votes each.

May 8, 1960 Free polio shots were scheduled to be administered at five sites in Montgomery County including Poolesville High School and Darnestown Elementary School.

May 12, 1958 The Woman's Auxiliary of St. Peter's Episcopal Church conducted its annual tour of historic homes. Among the houses toured was Friends Advice, the home of General and Mrs. Wedemeyer.

At the conclusion of the tour, guests were encouraged to take a drive to the top of Sugarloaf Mountain.

May 16, 1962 A British cattle dealer, made famous by his service to Queen Elizabeth's herd,

visited Montgomery County on his tour of farms in the United States. John Young visited Spring Valley Farm near Poolesville. He had previously imported a bull from this farm.

May 18, 1935 Willie Aud of Rockville High and Francis Cubitt of Poolesville High engaged in a pitching duel that resulted in a 5-1 victory for Rockville. Cubitt only gave up one hit but was not supported by his fielders who made four errors.

May 25, 1935 Miss Ruth Bolton, the executive secretary of the Montgomery County Social Services Office, gave a talk to members of the Poolesville Community League. Miss Bolton spoke about services that were available by her office.

May 26, 1935 Mrs. Sprigg Hays entertained the Dickerson Round Table. Mrs. Betty Edmonston was host to the Poolesville Tuesday evening Bridge Club.

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Commentary

The Heart of Poolesville: Got Milk?

By Rande Davis

Over the years, one of the most oft-repeated comments by newcomers is the delight and surprise when dealing with local businesses. Historically, it has been the very friendly, bend-over-backwards-to-please service of local businesses that has been one of the town's trademarks. Decade after decade, no business has earned such glowing accolades more than Selby's Market. You know the ones: Forgot your check-book? Oh, just take the groceries and pay us the next time you are in. Another one comes from this past winter. With the town snowbound and delivery trucks not able to make it here, the Selbys got in their own truck, plowed through the drifts at risk, and picked up crates of milk, fresh produce, and other items of necessity. One consumer was amazed: "I don't know how you got milk, Harris Teeter didn't have any." Got milk? Yeah, Selby's got milk—sixty-four years' worth.

A business like Selby's Market has defined what makes Poolesville Poolesville. Through a combination of things both in and out of its control, Selby's has reversed its role and has now asked us for help—no, not the charity and community service kind we are so used to receiving from them. Their call for help came with an acknowledgement, that although many of the attributes that have endeared the market to the residents are still there, Roy Selby knows recent times have not been their best. With the grit that comes from running a small business amid big, block-store competition, he stepped up to the task to regain more of your grocery budget and has asked to hear from you on how he can regain or expand

your patronage.

He is already hearing messages from hundreds of people. So we don't need to give any advice here. He told the *Monocle*, "We're going to take a couple weeks to get all the suggestions in, and then we're going to work on making the changes and improvements."

Perhaps you are of the mind that it doesn't matter. Really, who cares? You should care because a boarded-up Selby's would be devastating to the community and your home values. If you think Giant or Safeway will come to town, think again. Our limited population will not attract such a retailer. Another, smaller grocer might eventually fill the space, but they will not fill the vacuum left in the community spirit of Poolesville.

To give the Selbys time to rebuild, there is one thing we can all do which is quite simple. Take a look at your grocery budget. How much do you spend at Selby's and how much

outside of town? If the core 2200 homes within Selby's Market found a way to shift \$50.00 a month (ten percent?) from the competition to them, the family would gain the time and assets necessary to earn or regain even more of your hard-earned dollars.

Good relationships deserve second chances during troubling times. The Selby's relationship with this town has more than earned them a second chance. If Selby's succeeds, we succeed, and Poolesville will remain Poolesville.

Local News

Clarification

In the May 14 *Monocacy Monocle* (Local News, Maryland Delegation Attends Poolesville Town Commission Meeting) the article states that District 15 State Delegate Brian Feldman "spoke on the shift of teacher pension cost from the state to the counties with fifty percent of those costs going to the counties by 2015." While there was a proposal to make this shift, the bill was defeated in the House as a result of the unified opposition of the Montgomery County Delegation. This shift, if it had passed, would have cost Montgomery County \$70 million by 2015, and we certainly didn't intend for any of our readers to think that the proposal passed when it did not.

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The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

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Local News

**Poolesville
Neighborhood
Crime
Awareness
Group Forming**

By Rande Davis

Nineteen concerned residents met at the Poolesville Town Hall on April 18 to hear representatives from the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) give advice on developing a community anti-crime group.

The attending residents have all experienced frustration in dealing with various forms of vandalism, trespassing, and other non-felony misbehavior. Concerned that such behavior, left unaddressed, will eventually expand to more serious crime, the group, under the name of Poolesville Watch, is organiz-

ing to assist the police reduce such incidences and put in place a neighborhood-based support group to minimize the potential for more serious crime.

MCPD community services officer, Marcus Dixon, talked to the group about ways to best organize and make their reporting of incidences more effective to the police.

Modeled after the better-recognized Neighborhood Watch group, the MCPD approach is to emphasize the strength of a caring community in formulating the MCPD Neighborhood Awareness program. Officer Dixon pointed out that in communities such as Poolesville, which have a relatively low incidence of serious crime, it is the awareness, or ongoing observations, by residents of actions in their neighborhood that is most useful. The patrol approach would not be as effective as the awareness approach. By noting unusual or suspicious activity on

your street, near your homes, or property around you and calling the police in a timely fashion, awareness groups can begin to have an impact on soft crime or unwanted behavior. Dixon noted, "People in this area know their neighbor, their kids, the times they are home, and times they are not. When persons not usually around are acting strange, looking in cars or windows, for example, take note, observe their appearance and clothing (especially shoes, unlike shirts or jackets which are not easily discarded), and call the police—the sooner the better. The community services branch is often better positioned than the patrol officer to do follow-up on issues that, although not necessarily criminal, are disturbing or threatening nevertheless."

Lieutenant Ron Hardy explained that the 5th District,

which includes Poolesville, covers nearly 230 square miles. He also explained the various ways to effectively communicate concerns of suspicious behavior to the police. "If you are willing to do your part, the police are willing to meet you halfway."

The MCPD has a Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) that convenes to bring input from various communities about issues and concerns of those communities. Willis Van Devanter and Steve Vaughn, the Poolesville area representatives of the CAB, were also present to introduce themselves to the group.

Residents who want to join or learn more, should email www.poolesvillewatch.com.



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Poolesville residents met to initiate a Neighborhood Watch anti-crime program. Advising the group were Lt. Ron Hardy and Officer Marcus Dixon.

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Local News

Security Camera For Skateboard Park Rejected

By Rande Davis

At the May 17 town meeting, the commissioners voted to reject a Parks Board recommendation to add web-based security cameras to the new skateboard park scheduled to open June 26. While the added cost was estimated to be \$37,000, funding for the system was suggested to come from the \$40,000 insurance payment to the town when the Whalen Commons gazebo collapsed under heavy snow this past winter.

The security camera option was unanimously voted down since the park has security fencing, will not be open at night, has adequate lighting from commercial parking lots nearby, and the park is in a highly-prominent location; h

owever, on a 3-2 vote, the

commissioners approved extending electrical service to the park at an additional cost estimated to be \$28,000. Commissioners Kuhlman and Klobukowski voted against adding the electrical service at this time.

The skateboard park is located in the new Dr. Thomas Dillingham Park on Wootton Avenue behind McDonald's restaurant. The town purchased the 3.77 acre property for \$507,844, using a State Project Open Space land grant of \$288,000. Future use of the park beyond the newly-constructed skate park has not been determined, but current ideas on the table for discussion include a tot lot, town parking lot, dog park, and community center. Infrastructure development for the Dillingham Park (electrical service, curbing, sidewalks, parking lot, storm water drainage, etc.) is budgeted for \$170,000.

The skateboard park itself has a price tag of \$239,150 with \$175,000 of that cost coming from another state grant through the assistance of Senator Rob Garagiola.

The commissioners voted to award two capital project contracts. The Fisher Avenue sidewalk/trail contract for \$179,000 was awarded to HMF Paving out of Frederick, Maryland. Upon completion, the project will extend the town sidewalk from Wootton Avenue to Tom Fox Avenue. A lower bid of \$142,000 was not accepted because Arlington County references on the bidding contractor produced concern, the town does not have past experience with that contractor, and HMF Paving has a proven track record of satisfactory service. The third bid was for \$230,000.

The town also awarded a \$68,000 contract to Metropolitan Exteriors to replace the waste water treatment plant roof.

Jack A. Gullo, Jr., the newly-hired Poolesville town attorney, attended his first commissioner meeting. He is from New Windsor, Maryland and presently represents the towns of Taneytown and the Town of Rising Sun. He has also done legal work for other Maryland municipalities

such as Thurmont, North Beach, and Hagerstown.

A cum laude graduate of Widener University Law School, he is also a graduate of the Senior Executive Program, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

Mr. Gullo was a councilman and mayor of the Town of New Windsor, and President of the Maryland Municipal League and Maryland Mayors Association.



New sheriff in town? No, a new Poolesville town attorney.

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*"Okavango Delta" Continued
From Page 1.*

thing changes." He described water as the "vehicle of nature... water is to the world what blood is to our bodies." For Botswana, water defines its existence. It is its blood, and the Okavango Delta is the jewel in its crown. It is dominated by the Kalahari Desert, which covers seventy percent of its land surface. From March to June, the Okavango River drains the summer rainfall from the Angolan highlands, and this seasonal flooding sprawls out to form a vast inland delta, one of the world's greatest wetlands. The water fans out into a maze of hundreds of channels that slowly meander between forested islands. It supports lush vegetation and a rich ecosystem. These channels are alive with fish, hippos, crocodiles, and aquatic plants.

I stayed at a camp which was on a remote island in the Okavango Delta. It was accessible only by a very small prop plane that took off and landed on a dirt runway and a one-hour boat ride

in a small, aluminum motor boat which zipped through the narrow water channels. I was astonished at the clarity and purity of the water through which we were gliding. How was this possible? Permanent swamps at the head of the delta filter out most sediments, clays, and nutrients from the incoming water. Peat beneath the swamps store large volumes of nutrients. If a few particles of nutrients are washed into the Okavango River, dense barriers of aquatic plants, such as water lily, phragmites, papyrus, and bamboo reeds trap any unwanted materials. To better understand the purity of this water, its conductivity is 1520 times lower (i.e., better) than what would be classified as ideal water for drinking and about forty times better than water of acceptable quality as established by the Botswana government.

The Okavango Delta is a superior example of the value and importance of wetlands to protect our waterways from pollution. How many years have environmentalists in our country preached to us about the importance of wetlands found in the Chesapeake Bay watershed? Like those in the delta, wetlands such as the one at the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge provide critical habitat for hundreds of species of fish, birds, mammals, and invertebrates. The Okavango Delta is the largest body of water in Africa that is so well protected, pristine, economically valuable, and well-known internationally.

Plants fulfill the role of producers, filters, and distributors in the delta. They act as engineers in causing channels to switch direction, sieving out mud and clay, and discharging water into the atmosphere which helps maintain the freshwater of the delta. Most are grasses, sedges, asters and daisies, and water lilies. While plants and life-giving floodwaters help to keep the water pristine, maintaining it is not a one-time job. The delta faces local threats from chemical contamination, invasive aliens, the clearing of channels, and a growing population of elephants.

Climate change, food and energy prices, and tourism demands will also influence the future of the Okavango Delta.

What lessons can we learn from the delta that can help us better manage the Chesapeake Bay? We all face similar problems of pollution, chemical contamination, and a continually growing human population which stresses the entire bay. Every year, the Chesapeake Bay Program sets deadlines for the cleanup of the bay, and every year we fall short. In May 2010, the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science gave the bay a health grade of C. The bay's health improved last year to its highest level since 2002, but we can't become complacent; there is still much work to be done. Our everyday ac-

tions—from fertilizing our lawns and flower gardens to driving our cars—have an impact on the bay. The plants, trees, and shrubs in your yard do not live in isolation. The runoff from these enters the streams and the wetlands in the watersheds, and it eventually enters the Chesapeake Bay. Nature in the Okavango Delta provides the perfect balance of an ecosystem. Man should observe the animals on the Earth and learn, as they have, to be better stewards.



An Okavango Delta water lily

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Youth Sports

Clarksburg Boys Lead Area Spring Volleyball Effort

By Jeff Stuart

On Wednesday, May 5, Clarksburg High School hosted its first home playoff game and made the most of it by posting its first playoff win, sweeping a three-game set from Paint Branch. They won the right to host that quarterfinal by finishing on top of the white division standings in the regular season and earning a seventh seed in the tournament.

On senior night, April 30, the boys finished the regular season, beating Einstein 25-15, 25-21, and 25-17. "We were able to play everyone and try to run a lot of our new plays," said head coach Dawn Dickinson. The team saluted nine seniors: Kevin Gu, Bibu Jijo, Philip Kem, Gerel Hall, Jon Ko, Cyril Jacobs, Sam Kem, Teddy Kwende, and Brian Bojorin.

Gu, Jijo, and Kem were four-year players who remember that first year of existence when they didn't win any matches. Coach Dickinson took the helm of the team in its second year. "The boys had a year experience under their belt and we finished .500," she says. "With a little determination, extra work in the off-season, things really started looking up in the third season." Senior Gerel

Hall joined the team that third season and became the team's top hitter, leading the team to a 10-2 season.

"The boys played together throughout the winter, determined to make an even bigger difference and leave a mark their senior year," says Coach Dickinson. "The Coyotes started the season with a few goals in mind. By the end of the season, Clarksburg had finished 11-3." The Coyotes were co-division champions. In the playoffs, they won their first game against Paint Branch, then lost to the team that would be the county champions, Sherwood High School.

"We played well in the playoff win against Paint Branch," adds Dickinson. "We beat them 25-17, 25-22, and 25-20. As usual, we were led by the setting of Andrew He and the hitting of Gerel and Teddy. Bibu, Kevin, and Philip had their usual consistent passing, serving, and hitting. Every member of our team played in this match."

The Clarksburg coed team, led by four-year seniors, Alexa Walker, Cynthia Alfaro, and Matt Setiawan, opened its senior night festivities by sweeping Einstein. The first two games were decided by scores of 30-28 and 27-25, with the Coyotes rallying from behind in both games. "We had four new guys on the team, and they came along nicely," said Head Coach Terry Tippett. "Anna Williams, Jenetta Beckley, and Connor McCune were returners. This was the first year on the coed team for Shannon Skellchock and Susan Yang, but they played on the varsity girls' team in the fall."

The Poolesville boys' and



The CHS Boys' volleyball team.



The CHS Coed volleyball team.

coed teams visited Wootton on the Patriots' senior night, Monday, May 3. In the first game of the coed match, Poolesville won, 25-21, but Wootton won the next three, 25-19, 25-22, and

25-22. In the last two games, big Poolesville comebacks fell short.

Senior Alex Pfister, the tallest player, at 6'5", led the team in

-Continued on Page 10.

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**"CHS Volleyball" Continued
From Page 9.**

hitting. He will be attending West Point next year. The setters were junior Lauren Rocco, from the girls' fall team, and sophomore Noah Schwartz. This was senior Logan Wilson's first year with the coed team. He spent three years on the boys' team. "Wesley Johnson really improved this year," said Head Coach Tara Smith. "He made a huge difference on the front line with blocks and kills. He is a hard player to block. Ashley Zahn was a big asset to the back line. If I could have used a libero, she would have been it." Ashley played on the girls' team the last three years, but this was her first year with the coed team. Lena Stypek also contributed and played with the girls' team in the fall, as did Alice Xie and Liya Ai.

The match with Damascus was a season highlight. "We took them to five games at Damascus," said Coach Smith, "and we were without two of our top players for the last two games. Logan and Eddie Wayne had to

leave after the first three games. Damascus was one of the top teams in the county and lost only to County Champ Sherwood." Coach Smith had coached the boys' team the last few years. "I love coaching the coed team," she says. "We had eight seniors and I am going to miss them."

The Poolesville boys' volleyball team faced an unbeaten Wootton team that won the division championship and eventually lost to Sherwood in the county final. They lost 25-10, 25-10, 25-18, but the effort was there. There were a few hotly-contested volleys early in the first game where the Falcons recorded several impressive blocks.

The team had seven returning players from last year and relied heavily on the leadership of Senior Captain Matt Hunt (setter) and senior Emanoel DeJesus (senior, all around). "The rest of the team really respects both these players and looked to them for leadership," says Watson. When Emanoel was out for ten days, the team was impacted.

During that time, they played an equally challenging Gaithersburg team. "We went the full five games with Gaithersburg," adds Watson, "and a lot of the team felt that if Emanoel [had been] there, we would have won."

The highlight of the season came when the Falcons beat Northwest. "The guys really came together and played like a team," says Watson. "We had consistent passing from Khanh Nguyen (sophomore, all around) and hitting from Emanoel DeJesus and Jacob Aley (sophomore,

setter and right side hitter)."

The team will be losing seven seniors this year, making for a very young team next year as there were only two juniors and four sophomores on this season's team.

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School News

The Poolesville High School Global Ecology House had its awards banquet at the B-CC Izaak Walton League Chapter House on Izaak Walton Way in Poolesville on Monday, May 24.

Joyce Bailey, teacher and head of the Global Ecology House at Poolesville High School, has been recognized as one of five finalists for the National Education Association Foundation's inaugural Green Prize in Public Education. The Green Prize was created to recognize outstanding public school educators or programs that are promoting social awareness and environmental stewardship in their classrooms.

Through the Global Ecology program, seventy-five seniors recently undertook projects of research in seven different categories of environmental concern: Educational Outreach, Engineering, Environment and the Arts, Global Green Thumb, Humanitarian Aid and Animal Rescue, Original Research, and Stewardship and Advocacy.

The projects were started last fall, with each student working individually or with partners through months of study, investigation, and preparation to complete their research. The projects were varied and impressive: an outreach program designed to aid in educating elementary school children, an investigation of problems in nature such as Chestnut tree blight, loss of bees and pollinators, or research into crabs in the Chesapeake Bay. There was an educational campaign to improve recycling while another used film in the area of humanitarian aid to help raise funds to educate girls in Mali. Mathew Kierce and Kevin Sustani used their interest in marine biology to actually design and build an underwater robot for water quality research. The device was named ARETE (meaning excellence in Greek) for Automated Research Environment Tethered Explorer.

Cuellar and Acosta Chosen as Distinguished Scholars

The Hispanic Employees Association (HEA) of Montgomery

-Continued From Page 12.



Carlos Cuellar of PHS was selected by the Hispanic Employees Association of MCPS as a Distinguished Hispanic Scholar for 2010. Pictured are Mr. and Mrs. Cuellar, Carlos, Carlos Cabrera, president of HEA, and PHS assistant principal Richard La Rocca.

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June 11 - 8-11



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"School News" Continued From Page 11.

County Public Schools sponsors a scholarship program for Hispanic high school seniors through its Distinguished Hispanic Scholar Program. Carlos Cabrera, president of the HEA (and a teacher at Poolesville High School), presided at the award ceremony. Karfa Sylvestre, Community Liaison, Office of Community Partnerships, Montgomery County

government was the evenings keynote speaker. Among the students recognized as Distinguished Hispanic Scholars were Carlos Cuellar of PHS and Enid Acosta of CHS.

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Need Date for dance: You don't have to dance or acknowledge you even know me. Just wear the corsage, and hang around a bit.

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Carole Johnson
Best in Show - Creative Design
Ella Atwood Award



Colleen Brown
Best in Show Underwater Arrangement



Winsome Brown, Kathy Viessmann, Betsy Lyman . Kathy won Best in Show - Horticulture



Global Ecology Projects at the B-CC Chapter of Izaak Walton League



Poolesville Elementary School Carnival



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Things to Do

May 31
 Memorial Day, 11:00 a.m.
 American Legion #247
 Brief Wreath-Laying Ceremony
 Whalen Commons, Poolesville

June 1
 Farewell Reception for Librarian
 Mark Gochnour
 Poolesville Library, 7:00 p.m. to
 8:00 p.m.
 Cake and refreshments

June 3
 Plant Clinic
 Poolesville Library – Master
 gardeners Terri Pitts and Pam
 Hosimer will be on hand for your
 gardening questions.
 7:00 p.m.

June 7
 Poolesville Commissioners Meet-
 ing
 Town Hall
 7:30 p.m.

Book Discussion Group
 Poolesville Library
 7:30 p.m.

June 9
 Parks Board Meeting
 Poolesville Town Hall
 7:30 p.m.

June 10
 Spring Concert
 Poolesville Elementary School
 7:30 p.m.

Plant Clinic
 Poolesville Library – Master
 gardeners Terri Pitts and Pam
 Hosimer will be on hand for your
 gardening questions.
 7:00 p.m.

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MCPD officers are investigating the defacement of the Poolesville water tower.

Local News

Town Water Tower Defaced

Montgomery County police are investigating the graffiti on Poolesville's water tower, an apparent prank since reference to the Class of 2010 was made in bold letters.

The town was surprised that anyone could do this since access to the tower would require a large ladder to reach the bottom of the tower ladder that ascends the side of the 159-foot tower. The cost to the town to repaint the tower has not been estimated yet, but town employees, who will be subjecting themselves to a risky task, will have to spend many hours repairing the damage. The cost of repainting the

tower when the school mascot was changed was around \$30,000. The incident is being considered very serious due to its cost and the mortal danger inherent in climbing such heights. The town or police would like to hear from anyone who might help identify the culprit(s).

Equestrian

Land: How Much Do You Need?

By Carol Rae Hansen, Ph.D.,
Director, Equine Therapy
Associates

Paradoxically, how much you need is often more than you want, given the overwhelming demands of a horse farm. Because we are organic, conscientiously following our Nutrient Management Plan to protect the Chesapeake Bay, means that we hand-dig buttercups that arrive via purchased seed, bird distribution, or the wind. Organic or not, spring pasture management requires reseeding, covering those seeds with compost, straw or grass clippings, liming after soil testing, fertilizing (manure spreading when the ground is not frozen),

controlling weeds through digging, chemicals, and/or mowing, rotating pasture grazing (only after pastures reach six to eight inches, removing equines when they drop to three inches), fixing fences, muzzling equines to minimize laminitis, frequent mowing, and the daily use of sacrifice lots for twenty-two to twenty-four hours to maximize pasture growth and to minimize field stress and obesity.

Four key factors determine how much land you need: available time, what state your fields are in, how many equines you have, and available funds and the cost of farms. As a general rule, one person with a good work ethic and ample energy, who also has family and professional responsibilities, can manage ten acres, assuming that person has family, friends, or hired help at peak times (e.g., putting up hay). Horse farming can be done without high levels of mechanization, most usually with a wheelbarrow and a twenty-two horsepower garden tractor.

Fisher Avenue. For more information, email the Poolesville Piranhas Head Coaches, Katie Stamm and Tracy Craemer, at thecoach@poolesvilleswimteam.us.

Club Officers Elected for Monocacy Lions Year 2010-2011

The election of the new club officers was held at the April 12 meeting. The club members in attendance unanimously elected the following slate of officers to lead the club during Lions year 2010-2011: President Dennis Davis, First Vice President Kitty Ayers, Second Vice President Norm Ayers, Secretary Gary Burdette, and Treasurer Peter Gallo.

American Legion Elects Officers

American Legion Post #247 elected their leadership for the coming year. Congratulations to: Bill Poole (commander), Bob Hernandez (adjutant commander), Leon Carlin, Pam Hernandez, and Rande Davis (vice commanders), Arthur Virts (judge advocate), Joe Hardwick (service officer), Steve Gibson (treasurer and chaplain), Edgar Peden (historian), and Steve Robillard (sergeant-at-arms).

The type and condition of your fields is vital in determining how much land you need. Because equines destroy up to forty percent of pastures each year, even on a well-run farm, we all need to work to become what the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) calls Excellent Producers. The SCS recommends appropriate stocking to ensure success: one to six acres per equine depending upon the percentage of weeds per field, drainage, and soil quality. The most recent Montgomery County Horse Survey notes that the "stocking rate seemed to have the most significant impact on pastures." The findings of this government-sponsored study were clear and unambiguous: "When two or more acres per horse are used, the quality of the pastures improves significantly. When fewer than two acres are reserved per horse, pasture quality declines...the number of 'poor' pastures plummets as the acreage per horse increases and the number of 'good' pastures more

than doubles." Excellent pasture management will not trump the laws of nature. Even with evidence of well-managed pastures (i.e., those that are fertilized, limed, and rotated), the stocking rate was the key determinant of pasture quality. "Fifty-six percent of the responders described their pastures as fair, and forty-two percent described their pastures as good." Because three fourths of the responders said that the "main purpose" of their pastures is a "source of both nutrition and exercise," and almost ninety percent of Montgomery County horses spend at least twelve hours a day on a pasture 365 days a year, with fifty-five percent spending twenty hours at least a day on pastures (contravening the Nutrient Management legislation!), at least two acres per horse is essential if ruinous over-grazing, hay costs, and a possible deterioration in equine health are to be avoided.

-Continued on Page 20.

Tidbits

Calling All Swimmers

This summer, the Poolesville Piranhas Swim Team will once again compete in the Montgomery County Swim League (MCSL). The league sponsors competitive swimming and other activities among the swimming pools and organizations in Montgomery County, Maryland. The goals of the program include helping young people establish a love for the sport of swimming, advanced aquatic skills, teamwork, and the principles of good sportsmanship.

The Piranhas are looking for new swimmers in each age group. No experience is necessary! Everyone is encouraged to bring a friend and enjoy the fun. Besides swimming, the team will be going on several field trips during the season like movies, bowling, berry picking, and hiking on Sugarloaf Mountain.

Sign-ups for the Poolesville Piranhas Swim Team will be held on Tuesday June 1, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Western County Outdoor Pool located on 20151



Volunteer Captain Walter "Joe" Brown

PHS Grad Wins Award for Valor

Joe Brown, a former Barnesville resident and Poolesville High School graduate, was recently awarded the Gold Medal of Valor in a ceremony in Prince George's County. Mr. Brown is a captain in the Prince George's County Volunteer Fire Department in Kentland, Maryland.

Volunteer Firefighter Timothy McCloskey was also awarded the Gold Medal of Valor for his actions in the same incident, and was also named Fireman of the Year. Cap-

tain Brown and Firefighter McCloskey were cited for facing "extreme personal risk and [exhibiting] the highest degree of judgment, zeal, and ingenuity."

The firemen's actions took place during an early morning Kettering, Maryland house fire in April 2009, that nearly claimed the life of Fire Fighter/Medic Daniel McGown. After attempting to exit a burning home, McGown fell unconscious and, without the protection of his face piece, sustained critical burns to his face and airway. Firefighters heard a loud audible firefighter's distress signal emitting from McGown's breathing apparatus, tracked the distress sound, and removed him from the nearly untenable conditions. Paramedics assessed and treated his injuries and successfully maintained an open airway under extremely challenging conditions while transporting him to the burn unit.

Captain Brown grew up in

-Continued on Page 19.

Police Blotter

By Jack Toomey

Present Crimes

Assault: 17500 block of Kohlhoss Road, 17600 block of Kohlhoss Road, 20900 block of Big Woods Road.

Burglary: 16600 block of West Willard Road, 20000 block of Peachtree Road, 25000 block of Old Hundred Road.

Theft of Vehicle: 17600 block of White's Ferry Road.

Theft: 17500 block of Hoskinson Road, 21800 block of Dickerson Road.

Complaints of drug use: 19100 block of Dowden Circle, 17400 block of Collier Way.

Disorderly Conduct: Stevens Park, 17311 Seneca Chase Park Road.

Past Crimes

May 28, 1952 Montgomery County police officers asked the county council to reconsider its refusal to allow officers to work a five-day week. At the time, officers worked six days a week.

May 30, 1978 Twenty-three Montgomery County Public School students were arrested for selling drugs on school property. An undercover officer purchased drugs at Seneca Valley, Wootton,

and Churchill High Schools. At the time, a police spokesperson said that the officer had to stand in line to buy LSD at Churchill while teachers and administrators walked by.

June 4, 1972 A seventeen-year-old Gaithersburg boy was killed when the car he was riding in careened off Route 109, struck a tree, a bridge railing, and landed upside down in a creek.

June 10, 1948 What was supposed to be a leisurely bicycle ride to Texas ended on the Frederick Pike just north of Gaithersburg. Mrs. Eileen Webb and her husband had just started out on their journey when Mrs. Webb was struck by a truck driven by a Boyds man. Mrs. Webb was taken to the Georgetown Hospital with serious injuries.

June 11, 1964 A ninety-one-year-old Poolesville man was committed to Springfield State Hospital after pleading not guilty by reason of insanity in the shooting death of his forty-one-year-old grandson.

"Tidbits" Continued From Page 18.

Barnesville and started out volunteering in high school at the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department in Beallsville. He has also been a volunteer firefighter at Kentland 33 in Prince George's County for nine years, which he said is the nation's busiest all-volunteer station. He was a career firefighter for five years in Washington, D.C. at Truck Company 17, which he described as "the busiest truck in the city." In addition to his job as a volunteer fire

captain, he also runs a land and wildlife management business. Captain Brown's mother, Bonnie Brown, still lives in this area.



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"Relay for Life" Continued From Page 1.

demonstrations throughout the day, culminating in a Luminaria Ceremony at dusk in honor of those who died from cancer. A final ceremony and award presentation will be at 6:30 a.m., Sunday. Food and drinks will be available for purchase, and some activities may cost money.

It's not too late to get involved. Heralding their motto, Celebrate, Remember, Fight Back, the Poolesville Relay for Life welcomes anyone who has not yet joined a team, volunteered, or made a donation. You can contact Chontelle Hockenbery through www.PoolesvilleRelay.org, by phone, 301-972-7867, or by email chockenbery@verizon.net.

"How Much is Enough" Continued From Page 18.

Lastly, the cost of farms and your savings will help determine if you can acquire the land you need (emphasis on need). Purchasing small acreages set up for equestrian use can be extremely expensive, even in a depressed market, as the price per acre tends to increase for smaller, close-in parcels, especially if all the amenities are in place. You can reduce your costs by going further out (although the tradeoff in commuting time, cost, and psychic damage to yourself, your family, and the planet may argue against it), organic farming more intensively with less land, and buying raw land and developing the most efficient amenities you actually need over time with a development plan. Balancing these tradeoffs will help ensure success.

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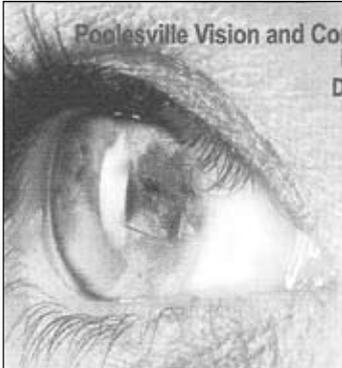
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Youth Sports

The Tale of Two Seasons

By Dominique Agnew

It was the best of seasons; it was the worst of seasons. The Poolesville High School girls' lacrosse team completed another spectacular season, finishing the regular season 11-1 and winning its fifth straight divisional title. This season, the team averaged about sixteen goals per game while giving up an average of six goals per game. Led offensively by junior Chantal Agnew (44 goals, 10 assists), junior Katelyn Keese (39 goals, 14 assists), senior Meggie Hotard (30 goals, 1 assist), sophomore Allyson Dahlen (26 goals, 17 assists), sophomore Gina Lee (25 goals, 5 assists), and senior Britt Miller (15 goals, 6 assists), the Falcons were able to spread the scoring, making it difficult for opposing teams to key on any one player. "We have a bunch of girls who know how

to take it to the net," says second-year coach, Mark Agnew. "If any team tries to double us, we know how to distribute the ball and make them pay."

It was on defense, however, that Coach Agnew thinks his team made the most improvement. "We spent a lot of time on both individual and team defensive drills, and I think it showed." Seniors Dakota Bierly, Stephanie Boulter, Marlene Hagblade, and junior Emily Moore anchored a defense that was tough all season. "Many of the goals were scored against us after the game was over," says Agnew. Senior goalie Shelby Dahlen had an outstanding season for the Falcons as well recording forty



The 2010 PHS Girls' Lacrosse Team. (Photograph by Hugh Flick.)

saves. Despite a large number of seniors set to spread their wings, the future remains bright for the Falcons as sophomore Bonnie Giovanetti will take over in goal with a lot of experience, having played in all but three games this season. Bonnie recorded an outstanding sixty-three percent save percentage and thirty-two saves. The current senior class also has three girls who are four-year varsity players, Dakota Bierly, Meggie Hotard, and Britt Miller. Together, they have a career county record of 43-3. "We are going to miss this group of seniors," says Agnew. "They have done everything I have asked of them and more over the past year."

The team had a tougher schedule this year than in the past but still managed to do very well. The first two games of the season were against Walter Johnson, the reigning 4A/3A regional champion, and perennial Montgomery County powerhouse, Damascus. Poolesville beat WJ, 9-

6, then had an impressive victory over Damascus, 13-8. Poolesville was the only county team to hold them under ten goals all season. Another impressive victory came on senior night against a very good Blake team with the Falcons going up, 17-5, with about five minutes to go in the game and settling for a 17-10 victory.

The season actually started the week after the disappointing loss to Carroll County's Liberty High School last year during their playoff run. The team started a number of new activities to improve for this year as well as to build a stronger program for the future, including: pick-up games during the summer at local parks, lacrosse camps, and fall and winter leagues. The team also started having clinics for the elementary and middle school teams to get girls playing before they get to high school. The team came to the 2010 season better prepared,

-Continued on Page 23.

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*"The Tale of Two Seasons"
Continued From Page 22.*

with their eye on the prize, the playoffs and a possible regional championship win.

Unfortunately, the worst of times came upon them in a playoff game against North Carroll. The Falcons fell behind early and could not get the offensive results they needed. "I felt like we played hard and well after I took a timeout early in the game, but we could not quite get it done," says Agnew. The team outshot the Carroll County team, but North Carroll was extremely efficient in shooting and played tough defense to prevent the Falcons from mounting any comeback attempts. "We will keep working harder and harder, and next year we will give it a better run. I want the seniors next year to win their last game."

School News

A Prom to Remember

By Chantal Agnew

Prom is traditionally a very big affair, the seniors and juniors of Poolesville High School get all dolled up for the big event, investing in extravagant formal wear, purchasing elegant ball gowns, and renting dashing tuxedos. They hire out limos and party buses to go to dinner and the big event; high excitement fills the air.

This is what occurs every year; however, what was exceptional about this year was the prom itself. Thanks to Junior Cameron Mackail, Poolesville High School received a \$20,000 grant for decorations. This additional money turned a run-of-the-mill prom into a spectacular event. The dance floor was encircled by fancy decorations and was enhanced by an additional elevated stage—also for dancing.

Food was provided, and each person was allowed a free picture with friends or a date. Illuminated by candlelight and decked out with couches and tables, the whole place was cool and classy. Daisy and Jay, eat your hearts out.

It was in this stylish atmosphere that the Prom King and Queen were crowned: the lucky and glamorous Timmy Del Vecchio and Marlene Haggblade. After their coronation, they danced the customary King and Queen's slow dance while everyone surrounded them cheering and taking photos.

After the prom, there was the post prom party (quite self explanatory); it was the party following the prom dance which, hosted by the school, was actually in Germantown, as opposed to its normal location at the high school. This year, even the post prom was extra special with amazing prizes, such as iPods, DVD players, and gift cards to different locations; and fun events, such as videogames, a money machine, poker, and a

moon bounce. It was even catered by some of everyone's favorite restaurants, Chick-fil-A and Taco Bell. Needless to say, both the prom and the post prom were a smashing success with all attendees having a fun and safe time.



Presenting: the 2010 PHS Prom King and Queen, Timmy Del Vecchio and Marlene Haggblade.

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