

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

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Oh, the fun we had and the stories we'll tell. Live through the Winter of 2014 one more time in our Photo Collage on page 13.



Trent Bateman and Brian Foster picked up the baton from a time-honored local business. Find out who in Business Briefs page 19.



PHS wrestler Brian Truppo and Coach Kevin Dorsey are feeling good about their season, which you can read about in Youth Sports on page 10.



Debbie Peyton Deblock had a ball at her first ball. See more in the Family Album on page 2.

County Council Moves to Protect Watershed

By Kristen Milton

After an extended work session, the Montgomery County Council expressed tentative approval for a Clarksburg master plan amendment it believes will better protect Ten Mile Creek while largely preserving expectations for the area.

The straw vote taken by the council on March 4 saw only council president Craig Rice, who represents District 2 which includes Clarksburg, expressing significant concerns about limitations placed on two major properties—although he indicated he would support the plan as a whole. All eight other councilmembers said they would support the amendment.

“We made promises over and over again to the residents of Clarksburg to move their town for-

ward while also protecting the environment,” Rice said in a press release after the vote. “What is being approved does not live up to those promises.”

In the same release, Councilmember Roger Berliner said, “Yesterday, the council voted to protect the Ten Mile Creek watershed for future generations. I believe our role as public officials is to be careful stewards of the environment while balancing the needs of communities for ample and appropriate growth and amenities...our council achieved that balance and approved a plan that will serve both the people of Clarksburg and the best interest of the county for years to come.”

Clarksburg’s 1994 Master Plan, which is still in force and covers

land on either side of I-270, laid out a four-stage development process requiring specific criteria to be met at each stage. Triggers allowing development to advance to Stage 4 were met in 2008, but work was delayed by water quality concerns.

According to various studies, Ten Mile Creek, which feeds into the county’s water supply, was healthy and high-quality but showed evidence of declining habitat conditions due to increasing development in the Clarksburg area. The council then directed the planning board to look at better protecting the creek’s watershed area.

The proposed amendment, scheduled for formal adoption March 25, significantly limits the

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The Dynamic Duo of Girl Scouting

By Rande Davis

How do you measure public service? By longevity? Passion? Results? By any measure, the public service of Brenda Murtha and Pat Ferris in local girl scouting is most remarkable and highly laudable.

Although never a scout herself, in 1978, Brenda thought assisting with her daughter Karen’s girl scout troop might be a good and enjoyable thing to do. It must have been since she continued to do so long after they left scouting. In fact, she just kept working hard at it, so that today she is the coordinator for the Catholic Diocese Girl Scout faith-based program.

For Pat Ferris, scouting was part of her youth experience and one she wanted for her daughters as well. She started assisting Brenda in 1980, and this public

service dynamic duo have been at it ever since. Pat took over the responsibility of managing Camp Sunshine in Boyds, a week (at times two weeks) of day camp where girls bonded through crafts, games, cooking, and other activities on their way to earning some of the myriad badges given for achievement.

From the early work of these two women emerged the current Poolesville area programs that now consist of approximately ninety girls in nine troops with the assistance of nearly forty adults. Scouting today starts as early as kindergarten and goes through high school. Officially known as Service Unit 3211, these troops of girls are carrying the torch handed over from past girl scouts, learning some of life’s most important

lessons gained from friendship lived, responsibilities learned, setting and achieving goals,



Between them, Brenda Murtha and Pat Ferris have nearly eighty years of leading Girl Scouts programs in the area.

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Family Album



Over fifty citizens packed a bus to Annapolis on March 6 to demand more state funds for school construction. (Photograph by Kevin Schramm.)



Melissa Ohman, Maggie Rose Rook, and Elizabeth Ohman greeted attendees at the PES St. Patrick's Day dance.



Up against high school players, octogenarian Ray Hoewing showed he still had some tricks up his sleeve in making this shot at the Knights of Columbus's 3-on-3 tournament.

Local residents, who traveled to Annapolis to join supporters from all over Maryland demanding more state funds for school construction, were surrounded by a group symbolically wearing hard hats. (Photograph by Link Hoewing.)



The kids of Poolesville Elementary School had a great time at their early St. Patrick's Day dance.

Focus on Business Crafts-A-Plenty— And a Listening Post, Too!

By Susan Early Petro

The Crafts-a-Plenty store has been a familiar landmark in downtown Poolesville for thirty-six years. Although the merchandise has varied over the years to meet the changing hobbies and trends, one familiar face has remained a constant. At the helm for all these years has been longtime Poolesville resident and listener extraordinaire, Reva Hoewing.



Reva Hoewing of Crafts-A-Plenty retail craft shop.

Reva may have opened her store to share her love of crafts, but she stayed because of her love of people. "I really like being with people and talking to people," Reva says, but her real gift is listening to people. Reva says it is not uncommon for customers to come to the store looking for supplies, but find instead a sympathetic ear on which to unburden their problems or worries, too. Reva doesn't try to offer solutions for her customers' personal issues. She believes that what most people really need is just to have someone truly listen to them. That alone makes most of her customers feel better. Reva says her husband Ray calls her a grandma with a glue gun for broken hearts. Reva's daughter, Tammy, says that when she opens the store for her mother when she is out of town or not available, the disappointment on some people's faces

is evident. "Reva's not here?" they say. "I just came by to talk to her."

Reva and Ray raised their family in Poolesville. Their children all graduated from Poolesville High School. Three of her five children and most of her twelve grandchildren are still in the area. They also have fifteen great-grandchildren and another due in May.

After spending thirteen years teaching at Poolesville Elementary, Reva and another teacher, Barbara Chote, opened the Crafts-a-Plenty store in 1978. After the first year, Chote left the business, and since then, Reva has owned and operated the store on her own. "I'm a small business, and it won't make me rich, but I don't owe anyone," Reva said.

Although Reva retired from the classroom when she opened Crafts-a-Plenty, she continued to teach crafts to many local students through the store. Scout groups used to sign up for craft classes in previous years, but as times and trends have changed, Reva discontinued teaching the classes; however, students still rely on the store to carry the much-needed supplies for school and other projects. They don't need to make the long trek out of town for arts and crafts supplies because Reva most likely has what they need right here in town. What she doesn't carry, she can order.

Reva keeps her store shelves stocked with a wide variety of crafting and decorating items like paints, poster boards, beads, Styrofoam balls, ribbons, lace, and a variety of sewing goods. She also keeps on hand seasonal decorating items like wreaths, pinecones, candles, and frames. Reva keeps her crafting supplies current with changing trends. When she first opened shop, hobbies like macramé and silk flowers were popular. Other hobbies like ceramics and candle making have come and gone. Today, beads, balsa wood, ribbons, yarns, and paints are in more demand.

Reva doesn't just sell crafting goods in Crafts-a-Plenty. She also has many home décor items for sale. In the past year, much of her business has come from the sale of

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Commentary

Déjà Vu Again

By John Clayton

This winter I am haunted by familiar, but old, feelings. First, I have been seduced by the Washington Wizards National Basketball Association team. I am watching them play and finding that I actually care about whether they win or lose, beyond just a passing parochial home team preference. I have not felt this way since the mid-1980s, when I lost hope that they (when they were the Bullets) would accomplish anything beyond sustained mediocrity, interrupted occasionally by ineptitude and folly. It has been years since I could name more than two or three Bullets/Wizards without effort, and just as long since I would have had any desire to.

Nevertheless, I am a loyal fan. I am not merely a front-runner, that is, I don't adopt out-of-town teams during the lean years and recant when the local team recovers its winning ways. I have tried to remain true during the drought since their 1978 World Championship (seems like yesterday), but I have found it difficult to remain attentive week in and week out, season in and season out. They're the home team, they deserve my support, and the sad fact is Washington teams have, for decades, functioned as perennial doormats in their respective leagues. This was true of the football Redskins and the baseball Senators for many years, the latter even inspiring the quintessentially American doggerel: "First in war, First in peace, and Last in the American League." The 1924 baseball championship, the 1978 basketball championship, and the late twentieth century Super Bowl titles are the exception, not the rule, because when our teams aren't winning it all, we aren't perennial contenders, either. Yes, when we aren't on the summit, we live in the valley. Unfortunately, retaining a cherished place in our hearts in the midst of appalling dysfunction is an allowance bestowed only upon our beloved Redskins. Basketball teams

need not apply; they need to win. Washington Nationals, I hope you understand this.

The Wizards, are, believe it or not, winning, but not outrageously so. They are not yet what one would consider an elite team, and they do not appear to be, by any reasonable estimation, a threat to compete with the elite teams in the playoffs and contend for a championship, but they are, in fact, winning more often than they lose. I find myself watching the games, and I know the players, although the rest of the league is still pretty much a blur. We have a young and awesomely-talented backcourt, Brazilian and Polish strongmen in the frontcourt, and a wave of other players who rain in three-point goals from the perimeter often enough to keep us in the hunt in most of our games. It's fun, and it's taking a severe toll on all the reading I planned to accomplish before baseball season begins.

Second, I am reliving the anger and dread that emanates from the latest in a long string of Soviet/Russian invasions. The last time our basketball team was good, in the late seventies, the Soviet Union was invading Afghanistan. Do these things run together? Now, like the Bullets, they've changed their name, if not their modus operandi. It is especially upsetting following all that bonhomie at the Sochi Olympics, when Putin really seemed to be a swell guy, at least when he wasn't beating up protesters.

So, who lost Crimea? There's a lot of discussion of this, from learned (and not so learned) op eds in major newspapers to the usual online drivel, with all the partisan point and counterpoint from all sides in between. There's been a lot of Obama-bashing, some of which may be justified, but I have yet to hear any responsible suggestion from anyone anywhere that suggests there is anything anyone could have done that would have prevented Vladimir Putin from making his land grab there in his own neighborhood (except from Sarah Palin who, keeping an eye on Russia from her deck, "told us so"). He did this in 2014 with an

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Rande(m) Thoughts

All Things Being Equal, I Am Never Wrong

By Rande Davis

I know what you are thinking. Never Wrong? Boy, Davis sure is one brash and arrogant S.O.B. (son of a boaster). It's just that I can't help it—not my fault. It just comes naturally.

In fact, the really surprising thing is that everyone can be just like me if they incorporate one simple rule before making a decision, offering an opinion, or providing a prediction. Always modify your pronouncement by saying immediately before or after anything you say, "All things being equal (ATBE)."

This is what the experts do and you know you can count on an expert being right, right? The way it works is that using the phrase "all things being equal" is a lot like saying "unless I am wrong" and by saying that,

it really means I am always right. Right?

It works especially well when talking politics. State your case and end it with ATBE. That way, when everything you think you know is not exactly correct or circumstances don't remain exactly the same, being wrong doesn't make you wrong. It's not your fault that things and circumstances changed and didn't remain the same or equal. What it means is you can explain why you didn't get it right and, in so doing, you can explain why in not being right you were not wrong. You got this? Take political experts and economists, for example. They are very good at doing this, as they never miss a chance to use the term ATBE. Economist: Will the stock market rise? Yes, without a doubt, because ATBE and blah, blah, blah. Foreign policy pundit: Will the Russians invade western Ukraine? No, most certainly not because blah, blah, blah and ATBE. Politician: Can I keep my health insurance? Yes, of course, because blah, blah, blah, and ATBE. Are you following me here?

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Town of Poolesville Town Government Report

By Rande Davis

Commissioners Pass Change to Town Zoning

The Poolesville Town Commission approved proposed zoning changes (proposals #197, 198, and 199) at the March 3 Poolesville Town Government meeting. The primary ordinance #198 eliminates the current Commercial Business District and Commercial Zone and replaces it with a new uniform Commercial District centered around the current town hall. This town center concept seeks to serve as a social magnet for residents and visitors to walk, shop, dine, live, and interact in an environment of new and renovated buildings that are designed in an aesthetically-consistent manner.

The new ordinance also changed certain Rural Density Transition zones of less than twenty-five acres into new transition zones that allow reasonable development on two acres or more. These properties are on land now referred to as Transition 2+ Acre Zone or PTR-2+. Jerry Klobukowski was the sole negative vote, basing his vote on concern that the new ordinance might have a negative impact on water supply.

A Role for Town Government in a Senior Center?

Commissioners held a discussion on a request by the Poolesville Area Seniors' Organization (PASO) for the town to assume a role in the group's mission to provide cultural and educational services to senior citizens. The organization had been working in partnership with the Am Kolel Sanctuary Center in Beallsville the past two years in developing an organization for seniors. At the end of June 2014, that formal association will end.

Gene Bennett, chairman of PASO, and its secretary, Ray Hoewing, met with Commission President Jim Brown a few weeks ago to discuss the possibility of increased town involvement with the group.

Brown invited the group to make a formal request for town assistance. The result of the request was the discussion of possibilities for assistance at the March 3 meeting. Brown considers the town participation with the senior citizens' organization to be similar in concept to its current role with youth programs through its Parks and Recreation Department. With the 2015 town budget currently being prepared along with the partnership with Am Kolel coming to a close, Brown believed that a discussion on any potential town role should be initiated.

After a discussion of different scenarios of town involvement, the commissioners decided to consider an incubator program concept as a model for town participation with PASO. Town attorney Jay Gullo along with the town manager Wade Yost will draft a document presenting such a model for consideration at a future town meeting. An incubator program would outline various ways the town could be of assistance to PASO without the group being brought into the formal structure of the town. Incubator programs generally provide a starting and ending date of town involvement with specified goals given as a measurement of success.

Food HUB Concept Prioritized by Commissioners

With four months remaining on a service contract with Orion Ventures to explore and initiate economic development opportunities for the town, the commissioners decided that priority should be given to advancing the interest in food hub services for the area. The commissioners envision Orion representing the town interests by facilitating

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Tidbits

What to Do with Your Old Batteries

Brandon Kocur, a ninth grade student attending Poolesville High School in the Global Ecology Studies Program (GESP), has decided to start a battery-recycling program for our area. As part of the GESP curriculum, students must choose a long-term project.

Brandon has set up multiple drop-off locations in the Poolesville community for residents to deposit unneeded or dysfunctional batteries. Drop-off locations include: all public schools, Poolesville Town Hall, the public library, CVS, the Methodist church, the Baptist church, the Catholic church, and John's Hardware Store. Additionally, he will be available to answer questions and promote his project at Poolesville Green's booth at the upcoming business fair.

Alkaline batteries in small quantities are safe to discard and do not need to be recycled, but the batteries for Brian's project are: rechargeable (cellphones, cameras,

mobile game devices, etc.), button batteries from watches, hearing aids, etc., and lithium, nickel, and lead-acid batteries.

Girl Scout Cookies Donated to Charity and Troops

Girl scouts in Anita Andrade's troop wanted to combine the selling of cookies with community service and decided to ask for donations (boxes or cases) to give to WUMCO. Adding to their service goal, through an inquiry by Jim Dimopoulos, who wanted to donate the balance of their cookie supply to our troops, the girls decided to then send their cookies to them. As it turned out, Brandy Miller sends cookies to troops and offered to help in the packaging and mailing. After all, even our rugged warriors love to get Girl Scout cookies.

Great News for Agnew

Wagner College recently released its academic honor lists for the Fall 2013 semester. PHS graduate Chantal Agnew made the Dean's List, which requires a 3.70 GPA for the semester.



These Girl Scouts, along with Brandy Miller and Anita Andrade, are smiling because these cookies are on the way to some of our troops. Girl Scout cookies, no better taste from home.

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Local News

Duncan Announces Plan for Ombudsman For Ag Reserve

By Rande Davis

On March 4, Democratic candidate for county executive, Doug Duncan, met with area residents at a town meeting sponsored by the Poolesville Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association. The event was held at the Poolesville Town Hall as the school facilities were unavailable due to a snowstorm. The PES PTA plans to invite all candidates for county executive to attend similar meetings and will be announcing those dates as the other candidates confirm their invitations.



Candidate for Montgomery County county executive Doug Duncan was the first of three candidates to attend Poolesville Elementary School PTA's public candidate forums.

The meeting, which drew attendance of more than thirty people despite the bad weather conditions, was dominated by questions focusing on the needs for school modernization and issues affecting the Ag Reserve.

In response to one question about the Agricultural Reserve, Duncan announced he was considering a plan to appoint an Ag Reserve ombudsman who would report to the county on farming and all the issues and concerns centering on the Agriculture Reserve

and to make sure those concerns are held forefront and addressed by the county.

Duncan, a former Rockville mayor (1987-1993), was Montgomery County executive from 1994 until 2006. He spoke about his departure from politics in 2006 while running for Maryland governor after being diagnosed with major depression. "After dropping out of the race, I took the time to recover, to get healthy, and it worked out real well. I talk about the issue of depression, as I think it is important, especially for men, to talk about it. The Montgomery County Mental Health Association told me that within one week of pulling out of the race, they got over one thousand calls from people looking for treatment and help. While a horrible situation for myself, it turns out it (leaving the race for treatment) hopefully helped a lot of people."

After getting better from depression, he worked for the University of Maryland, started a company, and became a consultant. The lifelong county resident told the gathering that he is running out of concern for the county that he believes requires "more hands-on leadership that can get things done and fight for our county interests in Annapolis."

Before taking questions, the candidate listed his priorities as being quality schools and education, economic development that results in more jobs, and transportation. "When you have good schools everything else gets better—better jobs, better economy, better life."

Duncan accused the county leadership of ignoring the issue of school construction for the past six years. According to Duncan, a major mistake was made in 2007-2008 when the governor called for a special session about gambling, and the county cut a deal that did not represent the best needs of the county. He said no one held the governor responsible when a promise to provide the county with funds fell millions of dollars below his commitment. He expressed the opinion that as a result, Montgomery County has been and continues to be taken for granted.

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Duncan Announces Plan

He then said the second mistake occurred when the county supported the \$600 million package for Baltimore County and City, supported \$200 million for Prince George's County to build a new regional center, and "we got a gas tax."

Duncan states that to pay for the needs of schools, the county economy has to grow. Pointing to problems results from "paralysis by analysis." He said the county lags behind other nearby localities in creating jobs, high taxes, and needs to be more innovative in its approach to business. "We are losing our brand as a center for startup companies, especially as the center for biotech life sciences." As an example, he pointed to the closing of a biotech incubator program that hosts thirty-eight biotech startup companies to replace it with a cyberspace security center.

Barbara Klein, who was the moderator for the event, had more than sixteen questions that had been sent in advance and, after going through them, opened the floor for more questions from the crowd.

On the issue of gerrymandering districts that has divided the Ag Reserve into three districts, resulting in having no representative who has the sole interests of the Upcounty as a priority, Duncan voiced opposition to the redistricting that has been done.

He voiced full support for the Ag Reserve, calling it the jewel of the county and went so far as to suggest it needs to be expanded beyond its current 93,000 acres to above 100,000. He was concerned by a notion for even more restrictive codification of the reserve without better appraising the impact on farmers and the farming industry if such new codes were put in place.

He expressed concern for the challenge of smaller schools being neglected by the county by not having proper resources.

In a public mea culpa, he admits that a number of problems

for the county can be traced to a lack of unity and bickering among county officials, something he regrets contributing to in the past. He stated that he has learned from the past and pledges to be more patient in his leadership style. "Annapolis loves it when we fight among ourselves."

Poolesville Commissioner Jim Brown sought three public assurances from Duncan: First, for Duncan's support through the might and power of the office of county executive for economic development in Poolesville, especially when it runs up against county forces; secondly, for his opposition to a bridge from Virginia; and, finally, to use the power of his position to do all he can to prevent further slippage in plans to modernize the high school. With the caveat of the limitations of the county executive position, he agreed to support the town's economic development, stated he is against a bridge from Virginia other than the one at Point of Rocks, and would do all he can within the confines of the position to push for a modernization plan that stays on schedule.

At the end of the event, Duncan reflected to the *Monocle* on the meeting, saying that he was pleased with the turnout and level of the discussion, and that it was great to see how engaged the residents of the area are in the political issues important to them.

Councilmember Seeks Nominations for 2014 Golden Shovel Awards

This winter season of extensive snowfalls gave Montgomery County residents great need for snow removal. For some, shoveling sidewalks was either an unmanageable challenge or posed a possible danger to their health. Fortunately, throughout the county, there were residents who cleared their own sidewalks—and also helped neighbors in need. To recognize those who helped neighbors by shoveling additional

sidewalks, Montgomery County Councilmember Nancy Floreen is reintroducing the (Sidewalks Are for Everyone) SAFE/Golden Shovel Awards.

The Golden Shovel Awards program was started in 2003 by Councilmember Floreen to honor residents who laced up their boots to help neighbors shovel out. After the program's four-year hiatus due to a lack of significant snow, Councilmember Floreen is again seeking to recognize residents who went "above and beyond" to help neighbors clear ice and snow from sidewalks.

"Our seniors, school children, people with disabilities, and those who walk to work or use mass transit depend on snow-free sidewalks," said Councilmember Floreen. "This goes beyond convenience—it is a matter of public safety. I certainly hope that residents will nominate individuals for a Golden Shovel who put the Golden Rule to work."

Nominees must be county residents and recommended by another person. Those completing the form are asked to describe in

detail why the candidate should receive an award. Nominations will be considered based on efforts to clear snow from sidewalks in the county.

Nominations must be mailed or emailed by March 31. Individuals to be recognized will be honored at a County Council session in April.

Nomination forms are available online at:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Floreen/Resources/Files/2014goldenshovel.pdf.

Nomination forms also are available in the *Gazette*.

Mailed nominations can be sent to:

**Montgomery County Council,
SAFE/Golden Shovel Award,
100 Maryland Avenue,
Rockville, MD 20850.**

To send by email, provide all the information requested in the nomination form to:

councilmember.floreen@montgomerycountymd.gov.



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THE POOLESVILLE AREA SINCE 1983
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Continued from page 5.

Town Government Report

discussion and meetings between private sector firms and public sector entities (county/state) to formulate what a food hub for our area would look like and how it would operate. From those discussions, the commission would be open for consideration on suggested ways for the town to be further involved.

The commissioners also decided to authorize Orion Ventures to arrange a meeting between the Montgomery Revenue Authority (owners and operators of Poolesville Golf Course) and representatives of the Poolesville Athletic Association to explore ways to expand youth sports facilities for town youth. Once these discussions begin, the commissioners do not expect further involvement from Orion on that project.

FY15 Budget Discussions Begin

Town manager Wade Yost presented a draft proposal for a budget for fiscal year 2015 that begins on July 1, 2014. The draft budget process leads to a final approval of a budget by May with commissioners scheduling budget work sessions prior to a public hearing on a final draft proposal. Work sessions are open to the public but do not require allowing public comment. Public comment comes from written statements submitted to the commissioners along with public testimony at the public hearing that will be scheduled at a later date. Copies of the draft budget are available at town hall and online.

Overall, the draft budget anticipates general fund revenue of \$2,651,000 with operational costs of \$2,060,000 while maintaining the Constant Tax Rate. The budget does not increase taxes or fees. This proposed budget also establishes an unrestricted reserve fund of \$820,000.

As in past years, careful consideration is given to ensure that the water and sewer operating fund remains self sustaining. This year, with the implementation of the WWTP solar array, electrical costs are significantly lower, and no water/sewer rate increases are proposed.

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Continued from page 3.

Crafts-A-Plenty

vintage furniture and collectibles. Her granddaughter goes out and finds unique pieces to sell. She brings them to the store where they are painted or refinished to be put up for sale. She says about half of her current sales are from this side of the business.

Crafts-a-Plenty is also the exclusive seller of the popular Cat's Meow series of Poolesville buildings and landmarks.

Although the interior of Crafts-a-Plenty might easily resemble a Norman Rockwell painting of a down-home store of the past, Reva has added many modern conveniences to the business. Local residents can come to the store to send faxes, make copies, or even have documents notarized. Reva states that offering these services gets people into the store.

At eighty years young, Reva hasn't allowed her age to hold her back from embracing modern technology such as using computer programs for her inventory and bookkeeping. Reva even brought her computer skills to the United Methodist Church when she served for thirteen years as the treasurer. When she started, all of the recordkeeping was done by hand, but she quickly converted them to a bookkeeping computer program. Reva credits her computer-savvy son for getting her up to speed in computer technology.

Reva has no plans to retire anytime soon. She truly enjoys coming to work every day. Although she enjoys gardening, canning, and spending time with her husband, she has no desire to spend her days at home, that alone would not be fulfilling. Reva says people need to have a purpose in life. She fulfills her purpose at Crafts-a-Plenty by being there to meet and greet her many customers and, most importantly, by being there to listen to anyone who may need a sympathetic ear along the way.

Poolesville Presbyterian Church
 PC(USA)
Get ready to Rummage!!
Saturday, March 22nd -- 9am to 2pm
 Toys, clothes, knick knacks, furniture, sports equipment, and more!
 Donations accepted starting Sunday, March 16th
 Rummage sale proceeds benefitting 2014 youth mission trip to Panther, WV
Questions? Contact: Catherine Beliveau
 crbeliveau@gmail.com
 301-452-5318
Need help hauling your donations?
 Contact: Carolyn McFall
 carolynmcfall.is@gmail.com
 301-349-0897
NEW 2014 Sunday Schedule
 www.poolpres.com
 9:15am Classes (Pre-K to Adult)
 10:30am Worship
 11:30am Fellowship & Food
 Noon Bible Study w/ Pastor David
 17800 Elgin Rd. 301-972-7452
 poolesvillepresbyterian@verizon.net

Youth Sports

Girls' Basketball Season Ends In Triple Overtime Thriller, Boys Fall At Century

By Jeff Stuart

The girls 2A West final play-off game needed three overtimes before Century (17-7) walked off a winner over Poolesville (18-6) on Thursday night, March 6, at Poolesville. After the girls had one bad period, being outscored 16-5 in the third, but, trailing by thirteen with four minutes to go, the Falcons staged a nearly impossible comeback of their own.

The Falcons forced eight turnovers, digging into the Knights' lead. CHS missed four of six free throws down the stretch. Meanwhile Whitney Carmack and Anna Murgia each drilled three-pointers in the final minute to keep the Falcons close. Carmack, who finished with a team-high twenty-nine points, tied the score, at 48-48, with four seconds remaining, making the first of two free throws. She missed her second. A Kristen Darragh layup fell off the rim just before regulation ended—so close yet so far.

Murgia sank a three with forty seconds to go in the first overtime, giving Poolesville a 53-51 lead, but Knights' star, Tess Nichols, who scored thirty-two for the game, drove the lane and scored to tie it twenty seconds later.

Nichols hit a jumper with twenty-two seconds to go in the second overtime, and then had a shot to win it coming off a turnover, but it rimmed out.

Century led, 64-57, with forty-nine seconds to go in the third overtime, but the Impossible Girls almost did it again. The Falcons sank a pair of three-pointers and had the ball in the final seconds. With a chance to win, Carmack drove to the basket, drawing contact but no foul. Her shot was just short.

Carmack scored twenty-nine on the game. Rosie Barry had

fourteen, Casey Harkins and Anna Murgia had eight each, and Erin Sparrow had four.

In the boys' 2A West Section II final at Eldersburg, they fell to Century, 60-55. The first half was played at a deliberate pace. Poolesville led, 21-20, going into halftime. The Falcons got some open shots, but nothing was falling. They could have led by more.

The Falcons made it hard for Knights' star Kevin Steadman, denying him the ball after he crossed mid court, but Steadman scored thirteen of his game-high twenty-six points in the final quarter. The Knights took the lead early in the third quarter and never gave it up, though a layup by Andy Baker cut the lead to 40-39, and the Falcons trailed by only three after three periods. With a few Falcons in foul trouble, Century had a twenty-two-point quarter to close the game. PHS scored twenty to keep it close. The Falcons just could not get the defensive stops they needed. Poolesville still had some opportunities in the closing seconds. A three-pointer by Anthony Papagjika closed it to 52-48 with 1:14 left. With a turnover, the Falcons had a chance to cut the lead further but fell short.

Baker led the Falcons with sixteen points. Trevor Stottlemeyer had thirteen, Papagjika had thirteen, and Craig Morton, who sprained his ankle in the game against Winters Mill the night before, had twelve. Morton played with tremendous intensity all night. The Falcons finished 19-6.

This was the second straight year that a superb individual effort by an opponent has thwarted the Falcons. Last season, Oakdale's Zach Thomas scored thirty-two, leading the top-seeded Bears to a, 61-53, victory over PHS in the region final.

In a home playoff doubleheader just the night before, the boys' and girls' teams both won over Winters Mill. The boys won, 54-43, despite trailing, 18-9, after one period. Stottlemeyer led the Falcons with sixteen. Morton had twelve and Hunter Pearre had ten. "Hunter hit a pair of huge threes for us," said Head Coach Kenny Kramek.

The girls won the late game, 44-35. They trailed, 5-1, very early, but led, 11-9, after the first quarter. Carmack, who led all scorers with thirteen, seemed to come up with every loose ball that was anywhere near her. Barry had ten.

Despite the playoff losses, the nineteen wins posted by the boys and the eighteen by the girls were impressive. The unfortunate losses against Century closed out two very exciting and entertaining basketball seasons for PHS.

Poolesville Wraps Up Another Successful Season

By Dominique Agnew

The young Poolesville Falcons wrestling team just finished its season on March 8 at the University of Maryland's Cole

at the region tournament, and was the only wrestler from the 2A/1A South Region to place. Junior Luke Maher (120 pounds) finished second in the region and advanced to the second day of competition at the state tournament but did not place. Seniors Noah Blaker (152) and Leon Tsai (170) both placed fourth at the region and qualified for the state meet—they each only had two years of wrestling experience. "It's an amazing accomplishment," says assistant coach Mark Agnew, "considering the experienced wrestlers they had to compete against to earn this distinction."

The team had a very strong season despite its overall lack of experience and look forward to returning most of its varsity wrestlers for another run at the dual meet championship in which they placed second out of nineteen teams in the region. "This may have not been my best team," meaning it wasn't full of star



PHS wrestlers Luke Maher, Noah Blaker, Brian Truppo, and Leon Tsai.

Field House where the state championship was held. The four wrestlers from the team who placed in the top four at the 2A/1A South Region tournament the previous week qualified for the state meet. Freshman Brian Truppo placed sixth overall out of the sixteen state qualifiers at the 106-pound weight class after finishing third

wrestlers, reflects head coach Kevin Dorsey, "but this was my scrappiest team—which made them the best team to coach in all the years I have been at PHS!"

Visit the Monocle Online at
www.monocacymonocle.com
 See current updates to
 Things to Do

Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Burglary: 17600 block of Kohlhoss Road.

Disorderly conduct: 18000 block of Barnesville Road.

Past Crime

March 1, 1951 Louis Fultz was arrested by Montgomery County Police after he gunned down his cousin near the Rockville train station. Fultz told detectives that he had brought his cousin from Kentucky to live in his home but then became upset when he found him "fooling around with my wife."

March 2, 1951 The sixth Montgomery County police officer was called to active duty as a result of the Korean War crisis.

March 4, 1951 Two Rockville men were wounded in a shooting incident in the Lincoln Park section of Rockville. Police said that a twenty-eight-year-old man had been involved in an argument with a neighbor when he produced a shotgun and fired a blast that critically injured the neighbor and also wounded his own brother.

March 5, 1951 Police were investigating a hit and run incident near Norbeck. A sixty-five-year-old woman had been crossing Norbeck Road near Smith's Store when she was run down by an automobile which then continued on. Two police officers later located a car with its headlights broken out. They questioned the owner who admitted to being in the vicinity of the store, but he claimed that he thought he had hit a box.

March 5, 1945 Montgomery County detectives continued to investigate the murder of Pearl Corens, a War Department secretary, whose severed head was found in Fairfax County. Police were working on the theory that she had been killed in her house in Bethesda after finding a hacksaw blade and blood inside the house. (Her husband was eventually charged with her murder).

March 12, 1951 A seventeen-year-old Bethesda-Chevy Chase student was wounded when she accidentally shot herself in the leg. Police said that the girl and six other students were taking target practice at Gobblers Knob on River Road near the Congressional Country Club. The girl said that when she lowered her pistol, she slipped on a wet patch of ground, causing the gun to fire.

Continued from page 4.

Déjà Vu Again

American president who is perceived by many to be halting and indecisive in international affairs, and in 2008 he (under the guise of then-President Medvedev [we knew who was calling the shots]) invaded Georgia when we had a president who was perceived by many to be purposeful and decisive, and who had even invaded a country himself under questionable circumstances, so it doesn't seem to make a whole lot of difference who our president is when a Russian strongman decides to expand his borders and his influence over his neighbors a tad. It will be interesting to see if he has miscalculated the price of such an action. It will be interesting to see what our European friends and other world market players are willing to endure to deliver an economic blow. It will be interesting to see where the supposedly resurgent left wing of the Democratic Party falls on this issue, and equally interesting to see how Rand Paul and the insurgent Libertarians, who have a strong isolationist bent, affect the discussion on the Republican side. I plan to pay close attention to all of this whenever the Wizards aren't on TV.



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St. Patrick's Day Celebration: March 15 to 17:
\$2.50 Guinness Draft
\$2.50 Harp Bottles
\$4.00 Irish Car Bombs
\$5.00 Irish Trash Cans



March 19: JPMS Drama Club Fundraiser
10% of sales from 5:00 p.m. to close

March Madness Specials:
\$1.50 Miller Light and Bud Light Draft
\$2.00 Yuengling Draft



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Announce
It's time again to Celebrate our 6th annual



St. Patrick's Party
Dinner / Ceili Dance / Irish Entertainment

Live Irish Band
Great Irish Food and Beer
Saturday, March 22, 6:30 - 10pm
St. Mary's Pavilion, Barnesville, MD

\$15 per person / \$35 per family
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11 AM TO 10 PM
Sun: 9 AM to 9 PM

CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK MARCH 14, 15, 16, & 17

Appetizer:

Pot O' Gold

Loaded potato skins,
Filled with bacon and cheddar,
topped with sour cream and scallions

Entrées:

Corned Beef Salad

Tender corned beef brisket and Swiss cheese over
mixed greens, tossed with horseradish vinaigrette

Irish Stew

Tender lamb stew with carrots, celery and potatoes,
served with Irish soda bread

Corned Beef and Cabbage

The traditional St. Patrick's Day entrée:
tender steamed corned beef, cabbage, carrots and red
potatoes, served with Irish soda bread

Smithwick's Fish and Chips

Fresh Smithwick's beer battered tilapia
served with French fries and coleslaw...a classic

**ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY
GUINNESS ON TAP**



Bar Specials

Smithwick's...\$2.00
Guinness Bottles... \$3.00
Irish Car Bomb...\$7.00
Irish Coffee...\$5.00
Corn Beef (2) Sliders...\$5.00
Plus, Happy Hour All Day
Saturday, March 15th!

**JOIN US AT THE
POOLESVILLE
WEDDING FAIR
MARCH 23
OLD TOWN HALL
BANK MUSEUM
Noon to 4:00 p.m.**



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Invites You to Join Us

Visit our Church

The Official Archdiocesan Shrine to Our Lady of Fatima and
 see the World Apostolate of Fatima Statue, March 28 at 7 pm
 and March 29 at 9 am

Fridays of Lent

Family Spaghetti Dinners 6 - 8 pm \$5 per person / \$20 per family
 March 21 - H.S. Youth Sponsored Soup & Salad Bar Dinner (same pricing)
 Stations of the Cross at 7:30 pm

Confessions

no experience necessary
 Fridays at 7:00 pm & Saturdays at 9:30 am (excluding 3/14&15)

Bible & Faith Studies - Come Explore!

Sundays at 7 pm & Tuesdays at 10 am

Daily Mass Monday - Saturday at 9 am / Sunday at 8, 9:30 & 11 am

All are Welcome!

House of Poolesville

Chinese & Japanese Restaurant - Dine in or Carry Out

AHOP Entertainment Schedule

March 14: DJ Mickey and Karaoke - 8:30 p.m.

March 15: DJ - 8:30 p.m.

March 14, 16, 17

St. Patrick's Weekend Party Time

March 14: DJ - 8:30 p.m.

March 15 and 16: Karaoke - 8:30 p.m.

March 17: DJ - 8:30 p.m.

March 21: PES PTA Fundraiser - Movie & Date Night

Drop the kids off at PES for movie night, then come to AHOP for a buffet dinner of soup, salad, and six dinner dishes including rice, chow mein, vegetarian, beef, pork, and chicken with DJ - Slim Pickins - at 7:30 p.m.

March 22: DJ Slim Pickins - 8:00 p.m.

March 28: DJ - 8:00 p.m.

Every Wednesday is Trivia Night

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

DJ Entertainment starting at 9 p.m.

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Snowflake, an albino deer at Edwards Ferry

Photograph by Dr. Chet Anderson

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Three size cuts to fit all appetites

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Southern Cuisine Family Style

With seconds on us – it is all you can handle!

Sweet Potato Biscuits with Molasses Butter

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Fried Green Tomatoes

Chicken and Barbeque Platters with Sides

Adults: \$15.00 Children Ten and Under: \$9.00

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WINE NIGHT: 50% OFF ALL BOTTLED WINES

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Destination: Poolesville Community/Business Fair 2014

Saturday, March 29 • 10am-2pm • Poolesville Baptist Church

Arrive in our community! FOOD · PRIZES · SHOP LOCAL

Stop outside to dispose of your confidential documents at the **shredder truck** sponsored by Corporate Network Services and clean your house of old electronics at the **Electronics Recycling truck** (drop off at the high school parking lot). Then, head inside to get your passport and visit the vendor booths. Submit your stamped passport for \$25 raffle prize drawings.

VENDORS

A Guy that Can, ACS Relay for Life (soup ladies), Artifacts, The Blue Hearth, Brightwell Crossing (kids crafts), Capital Fence, Calleva, Corporate Network Services (shredder truck), Dirty Dog Wash, D.R. Hartman Construction, E Z Fit, Franklin Press, Gail Lee Homes, Gathering Place Senior Center, GladiSparkle.com, Historic Medley District, Homebridge Jeff Stempler, Hope Garden Ballet, Jamison Real Estate, Karen Alegi, LLC, Kicks Karate, M&T Bank, Maryland Insurance Administration, Old Oaks Tea Parlor, Paoletti Construction, Pooles Funnel Cakes, Poolesville Green, Poolesville Liberty (food), Poolesville Library, PES PTA, Rockland Farms, Star Gazing Farm, The Wooly Queen! Plus More!

Entertainment

10:30 am - 11:00 am Zumba Demonstration
11:00 am - 11:30 am Denise Shores Dance
11:30 am - 12:00 pm Kicks Karate
12:00 pm - 12:30 pm JPMS Phantom Players
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm Hope Garden Ballet

Admittance is free!

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

Things To Do

Notice: Spring Clean up at Monocacy Cemetery in Beallsville

On Saturday, March 29, 2014, there will be a cleanup at the Monocacy Cemetery. In order to maintain an aesthetically-beautiful cemetery and to eliminate hazards to the staff, please remove all decorations except those in the approved vases by March 28. Please remove all canes, solar lights, and memorabilia from gravesites. These items not only can cause injury to our staff but also make it difficult to trim around the memorials. Monocacy Cemetery: 301-349-5176.

Poolesville Area Senior Organization Special Event

May 30 – Reservations Required
Reservations must be made by March 15 for a seniors' day trip to the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, Pennsylvania for the performance of *Moses*. Total cost per person is \$109.00, includes lunch before show. For more information or to reserve a ticket, call 240-812-2368.

Monocacy Elementary School Wants You to Know

The annual Kindergarten Orientation is coming up on April 4. Is your child turning five by September 1, 2014? This is a very exciting time for the family and for those parents and children in the Monocacy and Poolesville areas, and it is important to call the school to make a reservation. Don't wait until the last minute as it might be difficult to accommodate times best suited for you. 301-972-7990.

St. Peter's Rummage Sale

Donations will be accepted at the church on 20100 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville, from March 22 to March 31. The sale dates are Thursday, April 3 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Friday, April 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

March 14, 15, 16, and 17

Bassett's Special St. Patrick's Weekend

Special Irish menu and drinks.

March 17

Rural Women's Republican Club Welcomes Dan Bongino

Come and meet the 6th District congressional candidate and attend his book signing for *Inside the Bubble*. Home of Sharon and Hap Bauer, 18600 Barnesville Road, Barnesville, 10:00 a.m. to noon.

6th Annual St. Patrick's Party

Great Irish music with Irish food and beer. Dinner, Celtic dance, and entertainment. \$15.00 per person, \$20 per family. 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. St. Mary's Pavilion, Barnesville.

Poolesville

Commissioners' Meeting

Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

March 19

Free Zumba Gold

Just for seniors. This free demonstration shows how Zumba can be helpful for the health goals for senior citizens. Poolesville Baptist Church Family Life Center (across from Poolesville High School). 1:00 p.m.

JPMS Phantom

Players Fundraiser

Cugini's will donate 10% of sales from 5:00 p.m. to close

March 20

March's National Nutrition Month

For senior citizens: Food for Thought program presented by Leni Barry, RN, BSN, MA from Suburban Hospital. Discussion on strategies and recommendations for using food to stay well and prevent illness. Poolesville Baptist Church Family Life Center. 1:00 p.m.

March 21

PES PTA Dinner and Movie Date Night

Fundraiser for the PED Community Service Project. Drop the kids off at the PES movie night in the all-purpose room and then enjoy an Asian buffet dinner at the Asian House of Poolesville with donations to the PTA. The dinner includes soup, salad, and six dinner dishes including rice, chow mein, vegetarian, beef, pork, and chicken.

Cost: \$20.00 per person in advance, \$22.00 at door (call 510-673-5310 for more information). 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

March 22

Rummage Sale

Toys, knickknacks, furniture, sports equipment, and more.

Proceeds to benefit 2014 Youth Mission Trip to Panther, West Virginia. Poolesville Presbyterian Church, 17800 Elgin Road, Poolesville. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Preparedness Fair

An educational and fun fair that presents ways to help people be prepared for an emergency. The classes range from cooking, gardening, financial, bomb survival, identity theft, first aid from the American Red Cross, making candles, fire safety, storing water, nutrition, seventy-two-hour items of need home kits, CPR, etc. Karen Alegi (Poolesville lawyer) will also be talking about powers of attorney. 18900 Kingsview Rd, Germantown, MD 20874. Free. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

14th Annual St. Pat's Poetry

Reading and Pot Luck Dinner

This free event features local poets and musicians. Between readings, enjoy homemade food and great conversation with fellow guests. Hosted by Washington Grove's resident poet, Luther Jet. Historic Hyattstown Mill Arts Project, 14920 Hyattstown Mill Road, Hyattstown, Maryland. Refer to hyattstownmill.org. 7:30 p.m.

March 23

Poolesville Wedding Network Spring Wedding Show

Meet with local wedding vendors for all your wedding needs. Photography, flowers, venues, catering, entertainment, wedding cake, and more. HMD's Old Town Hall and Bank Museum and Exhibit Hall. Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Breast Cancer Bingo

Carroll Manor Fire Station, Adamstown. Doors open at noon.

March 26

Health Seminar:

Seniors and Supplements

Just for seniors. Presented by Melanie Polk of the Montgomery County Health and Human Services nutrition program. Room 128, Poolesville Baptist Church Family Life Center. 1:00 p.m.

March 28th

Super 7 Bingo

Carroll Manor Fire Co. Auxiliary. Doors open 5:30; games start 7:00 p.m.

March 29

Annual Business Fair

Over forty local business vendors, food, entertainment, prizes. Featuring demonstrations by Zumba, Kicks Karate, and performances by Denise Shores Dance Studio, Midnight Players, and Hope Garden Children's Ballet.

Continued from page 1.

County Council Moves to Protect Watershed

amount of land that can be developed, imposing a six percent cap on impervious surface on one property and a fifteen percent cap on two others.

Councilmember Nancy Floreen, who presented the proposal as the chair of the council's Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee, acknowledged that the lower cap on the Pulte property, 538 acres west of MD Route 121 (Clarksburg Road), was "beyond any analysis that was performed by the scientists, honestly." Nonetheless, Floreen said since this portion of the watershed was currently the most pristine and sensitive, caution was warranted. Councilmember Roger Berliner agreed, saying that the area currently has only two percent impervious surface. "The notion of going from where we are now to six percent is a big deal," he said.

The change would allow up to 538 housing units to be built with eighty percent of the land remaining open space. In May, representatives of Pulte Homes appeared before the planning board with a conceptual plan that envisioned 1,007 homes on the property they claimed already represented a more than \$60 million investment.

The Miles-Coppola and the Egan/Mattlyn Enterprises properties, which received the higher development cap, are part of the 635-acre Clarksburg Town Center District. The zoning imposed would concentrate commercial development in acreage close to the town center area.

Continued from page 1.

Girl Scouting

experiencing adventure, and having a whole lot of fun along the way.

For Brenda and Pat, the decades of involvement make it difficult to select highlights from so many wonderful events. There are just too many to narrow it down to a few, but certainly a trip to Tennessee in 1986 for an Opryland Jamboree produced special memories to last a lifetime. Not only did the girls get to see many performances, but also they got to go backstage, and many of the performers came out to their campsite and shared one-on-one time with the girls.

Then there were a couple of times when they assisted with the Presidential Inauguration parade and festivities, first for Reagan, then George H.W. Bush. They not only got to see the president and vice president up close, but a special thrill was in meeting Shirley Temple Black when the girls handled seating in the Foreign Ambassadors' section of the parade.

Most of their campsites were within a couple of hours of Poolesville, and they ventured outside twice a year, sometimes even in the snow. As the girls got older, the job got easier and easier for Brenda and Pat. "They just took over at camp from years of doing it. We could just kind of relax and enjoy the outing, supervising but not being overwhelmed, since they had gained so much camping experience in camping over the years," said Pat.

A large part of girl scouting is community service, and, although at times quite challenging, it can be life changing. The girls often did

service work with the elderly, and one time, as they went to place Halloween decorations on one floor, the only way in or out of the elevator was by using a key since the mental capacity of the residents on the floor was very limited at best. Witnessing this can be hard, but very maturing at the same time.

Leading scouts over a long period of time has its own special rewards, especially in simple ways. One time, when Brenda ran into one of her former scouts in a supermarket, and the girl expressed such overwhelming gratitude for her and the scouting experience she had shared through Brenda and Pat. Another rewarding way is to see just how much the girls mature over the years and then learning later on about their success as adults, knowing that being an active girl scout was so important in the development of their characters. Brenda and Pat watched them become active and responsible mothers, successful businesswomen, teachers, career professionals, and one who even became a helicopter pilot for the coast guard. Watching the girls grow in every way has been their greatest reward.

There is no way Brenda and Pat can add up all the girls who participated in scouting over nearly forty years, nor can they calculate the number of hours and the amount of time given in service to girl scouting. They really don't see any reason to try to measure it that way, anyway. For them, the experience was about gaining the lifelong friendships of the girls and the other leaders who came by time and time again. Besides, as Brenda put it with a self-satisfied smile, "It's a great way to stay young!"

Continued from page 4.

I Am Never Wrong

What's my point about never being wrong? Simply this: The more sanctimonious you are about anything, the more likely you are going to need ATBE. Don't look around here. I am talking to you.

Okay, so I guess you may be right and I might be wrong after all. Maybe the ATBE thing doesn't really work every single time. Maybe being wrong is just that—being wrong. So, I guess I will drop it and from now on just cross my fingers behind my back when making a statement, making a decision, or offering an opinion and hope for the best. Actually, I think crossing the fingers will work even better and I bet I will be just as right as I used to be because, all things being equal...

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Musings from Mama Boe

You Need To Know Why You Are Standing

By Pam Boe

I was at the Poolesville High School Basketball game last weekend. Yes, I actually got out of the house! I was free as a jaybird for one glorious evening! It was me, My Captain, and the hospital-grade ice pack that follows me constantly for my newly replaced knee. The three of us. An unholy Trinity of sorts. Out to cheer during a fun game of local sports, and then maybe share a drink or two with good friends at Bassett's afterwards.

I love the corny campiness of an evening like that. Maybe it's the time of life I'm in; maybe it's the fact that I truly appreciate the Mayberry, pure old-fashioned Americana in which we are lucky enough to live. Maybe I'm just an uninspired, lack-luster dork. Any or all of those are possible, but whatever the reason, I was in heaven.

The game was fairly well-attended; the bleachers seventy-five percent filled. The PA turned on with a pop and crackle, and all were asked to rise for our National Anthem.

This is where the trouble started.

I was near the top of the bleachers, and a few rows down from me were some high school-aged, good looking young men group of them, sans parents. You might even refer to them as a "pack." They were eating pizza and laughing amongst themselves, enjoying the evening much like I was. But when the announcement for the National Anthem came, and everyone stood up, the young men *eventually* did so, but one young man didn't put his pizza down, and another continued to talk to his friend, with his back turned to the flag.

Now, you see, I have a family history rich in patriotism. One of my brothers attended the Naval Academy and became a Navy

pilot. My father paid a brief stint in the army in the fifties. My step-father was a colonel and retired in the eighties. I have ancestors listed in nearly every war going back to the French and Indian War. What I'm saying is that my family has paid its dues to keep our nation together. Our freedom was won partly on the backs of people whose blood courses through me and my children. So facing the flag respectfully with your hand on your heart during the National Anthem? Taking an ever-so-short moment out of my day to consider the people who died so that I can enjoy a campy evening of high school basketball unhindered by communism or socialism, or any other ism that would come and take my hard-won freedom from me and my family... Yeah, it's a big deal to me.

I didn't clear my throat. I didn't give a polite "Ah-hem." I leaned forward on my newly-built knee, snapped my fingers in front of their faces, and jerked an angry, pointed finger at the flag. The two, who had the courage to look back at me, received a most disconcerting stink-eye, not only from me, but from every ancestor who sacrificed, or ultimately died for that flag, and everything that it stands for. I could just imagine the sadness those dead men and women would feel, having been forgotten so quickly, having been rendered irrelevant, for even the moment of a song, by the children who live in the very spoils of their past battles. Friends, I was peeved.

Critter, who had come to the game with his father and Varmint, arrived in time to witness the whole, and asked me later why I had done that. I looked at him with an "Et Tu, Brute?!" incredulousness, and his innocent eyebrows told me all I needed to learn about my own shortcomings.

Those boys had not had respect for the depth of meaning of a flag and its anthem because no one had told them everything that went into it, past a textbook story. My own son could easily have been one of those young men, had that exact moment not shown me my own negligence in teaching him about our family's sacrifices, our country's sacrifices. My son could

have been the kid noisily chewing the pizza during that quiet minute of selfless respect we are asked to take out of our day. Holy Cow.

We talked. I tried to draw a picture of life as it could have been for him. I attempted to illustrate life as it is today in other, less fortunate countries. I tried to tell a story of sacrifice and the gift of freedom paid for with blood, or health, or ultimate happiness. How do you tell this to an eleven-year-old boy during a basketball game? You can't. So when I started to lose him, I gave up and concluded with, "...

and if I EVER see you not take your hat off, or not put your hand on your heart, or eat pizza when the anthem is being played, so help me God...," because as any good parent, we default to the unfinished threat.

Obviously, my son has the movie *The Last of the Mohicans* in his near future, and maybe an evening sitting on the couch with his Grandma Jane going through the 200-year-old family bible. And the next time that anthem is played, by gosh, he'll know WHY he is standing.



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Business Briefs

Do You Have a Wedding in Your Future?

A group of local providers of services for weddings (and other festive events) have established a network to facilitate the process of planning and having a wedding. On March 23, the group will come together to host their first local wedding show at the Old Town Hall Bank Museum and Exhibit Hall, from noon to 4:00 p.m.

This is a unique opportunity to meet many of the local wedding providers in one location all at one time. There is no better way of getting answers to your questions than face to face. The representatives on hand are: Heather Soskin Photography (wedding album), Stephanie's Secret Garden (florist), Zaglio's Bakery (cake), Bretton Woods (venue), Valaree Dickerson (DJ), Rockland's Farm (venue), High Point Events (catering), Chris Doto (musician), Patti Bohr (bridal gowns), Glad I Sparkle/Maria Briançon (jewelry), Bassett's (catering), Franklin Press (invitations), and Historic Medley District's John Poole House and Old Town Hall Bank Museum (venues).

Master Farmer of the Year

Congratulations to Charles "Jamie" Jamison for being honored as a 2014 Master Farmer by Mid-Atlantic Master Farmers' Association. Jamie learned farming from his father and namesake as a young man while he worked with his him as a cattle dealer. He got serious in farming after, as he put it, coming home from an all-expenses-paid trip to Vietnam.

Today, the farm works 500 personally-owned acres and another 4,500 acres of rental land. Jamison, a long-time leader in America's agriculture field, has served as treasurer of the Maryland Grain Producers' Association, chairman of its Commodity Classic. He has also served as Maryland's delegate for the National Corn Growers' Association and served as committee chairman of NCGA's Production and Stewardship Action Team. In 2009,

he received the Maryland Grain Producers' Association Dr. James Miller Award for his leadership. He has also been president of upper Montgomery Country Farmers Club. The Mid-Atlantic Master Farmers' Association covers Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Delaware, and Pennsylvania.

Home Builders' Association Awards Fine Earth Landscape, Inc.

Fine Earth Landscape was recently selected as a winner of a 2013 Community Service Award, presented annually by the Home Builders Care Foundation (HBCF). The award was presented at the Meeting of the Maryland-National Capital Building Industry Association.

The HBCF Community Service Awards are given to an individual, group, or company for outstanding contributions to the community through unselfish efforts and dedication in support of shelter-related projects. Fine Earth was recognized for a contribution of expertise, labor, and materials to the renovation project at Adventist Behavior Health Boys Cottage, a Montgomery County-based therapeutic group home for teenage boys.

Colony Supply Finds New Owners and Home

Colony Supply was recently sold to new owners who have brought the locally-popular garden and landscape supply company to a new location at the corner of Route 28 and Route 109 in Beallsville. The new owners, Brian Foster (PHS 2003 graduate) and Trent Bateman (PHS 2006 graduate), officially opened shop on March 1, offering the wide selection of shredded hardwood mulch (both bulk and bagged), topsoil, wood chips, and a selection of garden equipment. They are open Monday through Saturday, and they offer delivery of bulk or bagged mulch, topsoil landscape products. On Saturday, April 5, they will have a customer appreciation day and welcome the public to join them in celebration of their new enterprise with free refreshments, including barbeque. To learn more, call the office at 301-972-7666.

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Garden

Welcome Spring

By Maureen O'Connell

With the arrival of spring in one week, we can hopefully bid adieu to the past winter months. It is not yet time to bring out the trowels, shovels, and mulch, but it is a good time to walk around your property to assess any winter damage to your trees, shrubs, and flower gardens. Over the past several months, they have been exposed to record-low temperatures, harsh, drying winds, heavy snow and ice, road ice runoff, and freeze and thaw cycles. Some damage, especially to trees, will be instantly recognizable, but more winter injuries may be more subtle. Damage can be manifested as delayed bud development and slightly reduced growth, or you can have the worst case scenario with extreme desiccation, die-back, and the loss of last season's growth. Ice is probably the cruellest thing that can hit your garden. Resist the temptation to knock ice off branches, which can cause limb breakage, and allow the ice to melt naturally. Snow, especially the fluffy kind, will not hurt plants; it acts as an insulator against chilling temperatures and drying winds. Heavy, wet snow creates another problem and can cause extensive broken branches.

I recently drove around our Monocacy area, and I noticed many downed tree limbs, some from very large trees. I had damage to many of my white pine trees, which are all twenty to forty years old, and to several old oak trees. The ice storms were their downfall. Small clean-up jobs can usually be handled by a homeowner, but large tree damage should be handled by a professional tree specialist.

Now that the damage is done, what can you do to avoid problems in the future? Any plant can be affected by the vagaries of winter weather, but you can help mitigate damage if you remember "the right plant for the right place." Plants that are well suited to their site will more easily establish

themselves and develop a healthy root system. Like Goldilocks who did not want to eat porridge too hot or too cold or sit in a chair too big or too small, plants survive better and withstand the ups and downs of their environment when everything is Just Right. You don't plant something that is susceptible to wind damage in an area where the wind whistles through the trees or use a plant that doesn't like Wet Feet in a low, wet spot.

This spring, if you are thinking of replacing damaged trees or shrubs, or of adding new ones to an existing landscape, do some homework now to see what plants are recommended for your area and which would be compatible with your garden environment.

What trees or shrubs should you grow? A lot depends upon your likes or dislikes. Evergreens can be particularly damaged by high winds and heavy ice and snow loads. Any plant with multiple leaders, such as arborvitae, junipers, and soft wood trees like birches and ornamental pears, are very susceptible to winter storm damage. I am recommending the following plants as I have had success with them.

Thuja 'Green Giant' (Arborvitae, from the Cypress family: Cupressaceae). This genus of six evergreen conifers native to North America and East Asia is valuable for timber and ornamental uses, but it is also a wonderful, hardy, low-maintenance small tree for your home landscape. Three years ago, I planted fifteen of them as a hedge; they are doing great. This fast-growing evergreen with a natural pyramidal to conical form with dense, rich green foliage was introduced by the United States National Arboretum. It is tolerant of a wide variety of soils and grows well in sun to part shade. Its biggest plus for our area is its ability to handle heavy ice and snow loads, unlike many other arborvitae. It grows up to three feet a year and will mature to fifty or sixty feet with a spread of twelve to twenty feet.

My most favorite conifer is the Norway Spruce. When we moved to Barnesville in 1980, we planted twenty-four, very small Norway

Spruces up our steep driveway. Now, thirty-four years later, they are about forty feet tall and the healthiest trees on my property. Except for a small blight of mites years ago, they have survived many wind, ice, and snow storms with almost zero damage. I highly recommend them, as they are also more tolerant of hot, humid weather than many conifers. Every Christmas, the Norwegian capital city Oslo gives New York, London, Edinburgh, and Washington, D.C. a Norway Spruce as a sign of

gratitude for the aid of those countries during World War II. If you are ever in London at Christmas time, notice the beautiful, large tree in Trafalgar Square; it is the Norway Spruce from Oslo.

There are many other hardy trees, shrubs, and plants that can handle our winters, among them the American holly, many hydrangeas, the pin oak, roses, and perennials. Experiment this spring. Do your homework and be better prepared for what winter 2015 might throw at you.

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Allergy conditions are becoming much more non-seasonal for both our pets and ourselves. There are over 100 potential allergy producing agents in the environment. When humans have allergic reactions to something, our noses run, our eyes run, and we have varying degrees of difficulty breathing or swallowing. Sometimes, in more severe reactions we develop hives and severe itching. Only rarely are our allergic reactions to various things life threatening. When our pets develop allergic reactions they most often develop skin itching, ear itching, hair loss, ear discharge, inflamed ears and skin, diarrhea, or other allergy aspects of the skin or intestinal tract. Pets also can develop hives and more significant allergic reactions, but again, as with us, this is rare, and only rarely life threatening. There is no way to go through life without interacting with many agents that can potentially be allergic.

If you think your pet is having an allergic reaction, it is important to make a list of the places, things, and foods that they have been exposed to in the last 48 hours. This quick review on your part can be very valuable when you discuss the situation with your Veterinarian. It is also very important to be as proactive in treatment as possible when an allergic event occurs with your pet. The sooner you seek help, the less severe the damage to the skin and sometimes intestinal tract will most often be to your pet. Do not give any over-the-counter allergy medication to your pet without first discussing the situation with your veterinarian. Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) is generally considered very safe, but there exists a potential for dangerous drug interactions for pets that may be taking other medications at the same time. So it is critical that you discuss any desires you have about giving over-the-counter medications to your pet with your veterinarian first. You can and should consider giving your dog or cat a bath in room temperature water (no soap unless recommended by your veterinarian). A good rinse with clean water can remove topical allergic agents. Soaking a clean sponge in distilled water (available at the drug store and grocery store) and then wiping your itchy pet's hair and skin liberally can also reduce topical allergens (this is especially good for cats that may find a full bath unacceptable).

There are a host of medications that can be used to reduce and stop the allergic event. The newest and most impressive is a just released *Janus Kinase inhibitor* called "Apoquel" manufactured by Zoetis Animal Health. I was fortunate to have been asked to be in the early use trial for this revolutionary allergy medication. I was extremely impressed by the positive results this medication produced in a number of our severely allergic patients. It is very effective, works rapidly, has limited side effect issues, and does not cause any of the potential significant negative metabolic effects that traditional steroid use can produce both short and long-term to your pet. This medication works directly at the receptors that trigger itch and inflammation in the skin. This limits any systemic effects and maximizes the reduction in the clinical conditions that produce the itching and redness seen in your pets during allergic reactions.

The best way to avoid allergic conditions is to be gradual with any additions of new things to your pet's environment. This goes for adding new toys, objects, treats, or foods.

If your pet does develop an allergic reaction consult your veterinarian as soon as possible. There are very effective diagnostic tools available to help identify the allergy agent responsible.



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