**Miss Maryland Contestant from Poolesville Needs Your Help**

Poolesville’s Kristyn Kirschbaum has been selected as a Maryland finalist in the 2013 Miss Maryland USA Pageant. In representing Poolesville, she must raise a sponsorship fee of $995. The sponsorship fee goes towards expenses such as food and hotel room for the weekend of the pageant, as well as the cost to put on the entire production and the gifts and prizes awarded to the contestants.

She decided to apply for this pageant because of the involvement Miss Maryland has in different causes. She plans to promote autism awareness. She currently tutors children with autism and hopes to spend her future dedicating her life to helping those with autism so they might live a life as independently as possible. “If I can spread the awareness to the judges, I feel as if I will have begun my lifelong dream of helping people with autism.”

She will need to raise the funds by October 20,so anyone or business firm wanting to help should do so as soon as possible. A donation can be made by credit card by going to www.missmarylandusa.com. Once on the website, under the Sponsors tab, click on Sponsor a Contestant and enter her first and last name in the third category, Other Payments.

**Got Bike, Will Travel**

Three Poolesvillians recently embarked on a Labor Day biking adventure weekend. Despite Hurricane Isaac’s unpredictability, Peter Green, Tom Kettler, and Michael Cameron completed a 186-mile bicycle trip on the C&O Canal from Cumberland to Georgetown.

The first day of the trip, starting from Cumberland at 7:30 a.m., they had to break out their rain gear for light rain, and traveled the last hour in the torrential rain and mud with poor visibility—determined that nothing was going to stop them. Biking through the famous Pawpaw Tunnel was particularly enjoyable due to the relief from the rain. At 7:30 p.m., exhausted, they had arrived in Hanover at the Inn at Decatur and enjoyed a wonderful home-style dinner at Weaver’s Restaurant and Bakery. Their evening was spent drying their shoes with a hair dryer in their room. If the storm had not taken a turn for the better, their trip would have ended that first night. Miraculously, by daybreak, the weather was delightful. They biked through Ft. Fredrick, built in 1756, saw breathtaking views with lots of lively nature, dam, lake, and boating scenes and took lots of photos for a calendar. They also stopped to explore caves in Harper’s Ferry before arriving at the Town Inn for dinner and rest.

The third morning found them back on the trail for another perfect day, through Brunswick, Monocacy Aqueduct, and a destination of Edwards Ferry, Lock House 25, where they were supposed to stay overnight, but the guys “had a burst of adrenaline,” dropped their bags off in the lock house, and headed for their final destination of Georgetown. “We did it!” they all shouted together—and a proud moment it was.