



This wounded warrior was one of nearly 500 cyclists in the Face of America Challenge. Read more on page 12.



Robert Greenberg cuts the ribbon at the opening of Woodstock Equestrian Park. Read more in local news on page 21.



Team Captain Jim Burton (left) supervises a Rebuilding Together project.



Scouting's founder, Lord Powell, had a few words to say at a recent Eagle Honor Court. Read more in Tidbits on page 20.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

May 10, 2013

Volume X, Number 4

Property Tax Increase Avoided

By Rande Davis

At the May 6 town meeting, Poolesville commissioners awarded a \$2,355,855.50 contract to Humphrey and Sons of Laurel, Maryland for the Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) sewer relining project in the Westerly subdivision. The town received five bids with the highest at over \$3 million and all below the estimated \$4.6 million that was used during the budgetary preparation process. Consequently, the annual repayment amount in the budget for the loan to cover the cost of the project, dropped from an estimated \$300,000 per year to \$175,000 per year. The property tax rate of \$0.167 per \$100 of assessed property value (from \$0.159) keeps the total budget revenue neutral with no new additional income from property taxes versus that in 2013.

To cover the loan cost, rather than increase revenue from taxes, the commissioners made

a series of budget cuts and used \$92,000 from the unrestricted reserve fund. The town has posted on its website a very detailed report on the impact of the budget and challenges facing the town which includes an explanation as to the negative impact of not solving these I&I problems, a history of results from previous relining projects, and a listing of the budget cuts made to pay for the loan for the Westerly relining project.

The significant differential in the estimated cost of the I&I relining project for Westerly resulted from a variety of circumstances: the lateral pipes to be relined were only five to six feet below ground versus the ten to twelve feet used in the estimate, the estimation process was

Floreen, presented an official proclamation, read by Elrich, to the association in recognition of its resolve and many successes over the years in front of a smaller-than-usual crowd, reduced by the ceremonies at the Woodstock Equestrian Park that same morning.

Floreen remarked that the proclamation would "recognize our commitment to you...the bulk of the population doesn't know about you." She said that the goal was to "find the right balance to maintain this beautiful environment." She said that Frederick County was fighting



John Strong, the town engineering consultant, presents the results of bids for the relining of sewer lines in Westerly.

truncated in order to be able to take advantage of financial assistance from the state, and from an anticipated cost ranging from \$1.8 million to \$4.6 million, the highest figure was used for budget preparation estimates.

The relining project will be completed within two hundred days of the initiation of the project contract.

The commissioners voted 4-0 (Commissioner Dickerson

-Continued on Page 24.

Forty Years Old and Still Fighting

By John Clayton

The Sugarloaf Citizens' Association's (SCA) annual meeting contained some extra luster this year as the advocacy group celebrated its fortieth anniversary. Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett, joined by At-Large Councilmembers Marc Elrich and Nancy

development and preservation issues "because they didn't listen to us forty years ago."

SCA President Jim Choukas-Bradley, in his Year in Review, said that the battle for preservation of farmland in the Upcounty "feels like us against them, but it really is not. Maybe part of our challenge is to bring that knowledge to them." He discussed the early days of the SCA, characterizing a fight against "LULUs," or large unwanted land uses, such as

-Continued on Page 23.



This group of seniors enjoyed seeing the cherry blossoms as part of the Gathering Place Senior Activity Center's day trip program.



More than a hundred parents and students joined in the spring spruce-up project for Poolesville Elementary School.



Students from Poolesville and Monocacy Elementary Schools joined together for the schools' annual career day. Officer Kelly Hagen of the Parks Police brought a horse for Show and Tell.



These cub scouts gathered to hear how The Monocle is put together. Front row: Victor Velasquez, Jack Welsh, Moses Vidal, Harrison Peek. Back row: Hannah Vidal with baby Grace, Jeff Welsh, Zoe Welsh, and Rachel Peek.



With a month to go before the annual Poolesville Relay for Life event, Zumba fans came together to raise more funds.



Richie Yarrow and Jessica Li of Richard Montgomery High School present their winning project at the SCA Annual Meeting. Megha Kori is not pictured.

Business Briefs

Artifacts – Beautify Your Space

The Monocle welcomes Poolsville's newest business owner, Alroin Harris, who has opened Artifacts.

The business name and slogan (Beautify Your Space) come from the variety of items that can be used in the home, office, garden, etc., including gift items. "I also sell vintage and antique items that I have been collecting for the past twenty years," says owner Alroin Harris. She also has been hand-painting furniture and home décor since the late nine-

ties and refinishing furniture for the past two years. "I am a social worker, but after working in that field since 1986, I have decided to pursue my dream and open a shop to sell my wares. I hope to take on requests from people who want furniture painted or refinished, as well as doing custom hand-painting for gift items."

Her petite shop is between Hearthside Gardens and Professional Cleaners in Poolsville. One of her unique business plans is to offer theme Sundays where she will bring in items in a specific category such as silver, china, pottery, or even hand-painted items in glass, etc. "I am excited about being in Poolsville,

meeting people, and getting ideas for what items they desire, so I can meet the needs of the community. I am also hoping to have some really fun weeknight classes on hand-painting wood, metal, glass, and pottery."

Artifacts's hours are Fridays and Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Sundays, noon to 6:00 p.m.

LAND – Making Our Area Beautiful

Land and Nature Discoveries (LAND) has been busy this spring sprucing up and beautifying the grounds of our local schools. With donations from his landscape company, Gardens by Garth, Garth Seely has been working with area schoolchildren for years on this annual Earth Day activity.

This community service program began over seven years ago at Monocacy Elementary School and spread to John Poole Middle School shortly after. Two years ago, the project included Poolsville Elementary School.

At the schools, Mr. Seely supervises students as they plant

flowers, mulch, etc. In total, over 650 students participate. It's an all-school project in elementary school, and for the fifth graders getting ready move on to middle school, this work is a parting gift to their school. In the middle school, the student participation comes from a rotation of science classes.

This year at MES, the fifth graders re-landscaped the front entrance, and at PES, they planted two dogwood trees. Covanta partners with LAND in helping to pay for all the supplies for Earth Day.

Garth Seely reports that they "started doing these events so the students can see that being outside is fun, and that when they work together, they can accomplish so much. We hope that beautifying their school grounds gives them a sense of pride and accomplishment."

This effort spans the entire year with roadside cleanups, river cleanups, and planting flowers around town. The LAND clubs at PES and MES even donate toys for WUMCO in the winter.

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Garth Seely of Land and Nature Discoveries (LAND) guides the students of JPMS in their annual Earth Day schoolyard cleanup and beautification.

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Commentary

Move It or Lose It

By John Clayton

One of my favorite events is the annual meeting of the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association, covered elsewhere in this issue. There is always a review of current threats to the Agricultural Reserve and reminders of the most important battle that must be fought, the one that will ultimately decide the fate of a land mass that will support sustainable farming in the years to come. That battle is for the hearts and minds of tens of thousands of voters who live down county and who will need to understand why the preservation of the Ag Reserve is important to them, and not just for those of us who live out here. It is rare that any speaker, either an SCA member or officer, an elected official, or anyone at all will conclude their remarks without at some point exploring this all-important fact. I can't improve on the point here, but it deserves mention.

More locally, during Royce Hanson's keynote address, he gave a plug for a local preservation effort that raises the hackles of many area residents: the Darby Store (please see our story on the opening in this issue). The store is on the corner of Darnestown Road and Beallsville Road (Maryland Routes 28 and Route 109, respectively), and the building, one of many country stores that dotted the area in days of yore, has stood more or less on that spot (more on that in a moment) since the early twentieth century. Other mercantile establishments have occupied the spot since the mid-nineteenth century. The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Montgomery County Department of Parks decided to preserve the building, and with funds from its Legacy Open Space Program, purchased the building, which sits on twenty-six acres that reach

up to the Woodstock Equestrian Park, for \$670,000. An additional \$320,000 was dedicated to stabilizing the structure and moving it back twenty-seven feet from the road, as it had once been struck by a cornering truck. The Planning Commission's goal, as stated upon the purchase in 2004, was to "stabilize the building, then look for a private partner to fully renovate and use both the store and house."

The MontgomeryParks.org website states, "The Darby Store is significant as one of the few extant examples of a rural, vernacular general store dating from the early twentieth century in Montgomery County. It is an important contributing element of the Beallsville Historic District."

Presently, the Darby Store site has been in a popularity contest of sorts to determine if it might get a portion of \$1 million from American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation to continue its rehabilitation, and Hanson encouraged meeting attendees to cast their ballots. The additional funds would support restoration of the interior to further its historical and educational value (the voting ends on the date of this issue, so if you want to vote, you better hurry); however, in my experience, whenever someone has mentioned the Darby Store, it has revolved around the sums of \$670,000, \$320,000, and whatever it may take to complete the job. Many people are significantly riled by the money that has and will be spent there. Indeed, it is a lot of money and close to ninety-five percent of it is from our property taxes.

There are other objections. I have heard that the place was a dump and that it was way too much money for a historically unimportant site. For some, the expense of moving the building a short distance seems ill advised if not totally ludicrous. With all of the problems we have, some say, why spend that much money to save a run-down building? Why not bulldoze it and sell the land?

Another concern is that the selection and decision process occurred in a large regional bureau-

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cracy without any discernible local participation. There are those who don't think money should be spent on such projects at all, and probably others think there were more worthy local projects available. This is not, of course, the same objection, but they are cast against the same object.

The funds were, for better or worse, set aside to support our rural legacy. Again, is the objection that the money should have

been spent on some other more worthy rural legacy project, or is the objection that we shouldn't be spending money on any rural legacy project? I hope it's not the latter, because that rural legacy thing is important, and it's hard to get it back once it's gone, just like all that open space.



FROM AUTHOR MARY ANN POWELL

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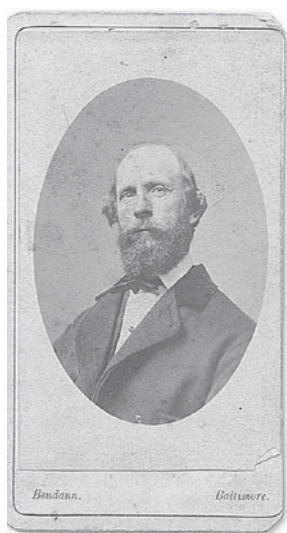
Mystery History

Brewer's Farm: Mystery at Rosehill

By Rande Davis

Editor's Note: In recognition of the April 25 grand opening of the Woodstock Equestrian Park the Monocle is repeating this history of the Brewer Farm where the park is situated.

Soon, horses hooves will kick up the dust and the view of what remains of Brewer's Farm on Route 28 will become a bit obscured from those of us busily commuting across the Upcounty; nonetheless, the imaginative historian might sense the spirit of George Washington, J.E.B. Stuart, and Confederate Gen. Jubal Early galloping their horses along the ridgeline. Those historic legends have since departed and, today, the only occupants of the existing buildings are the pigeons



Dr. William Brewer

that perch in the crib barn on the property of our mystery history focus: the Brewer Farm.

The Brewer Farm is a section of the original 1,102-acre land grant known as Woodstock Manor. It is that parcel of 583 acres of land that was left after 519 acres of Woodstock Manor were sold to George Washington on January 13, 1794. Maddeningly for today's consumer, the property sold for

\$12 to \$15 per acre.

Dr. William Brewer, who held a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, was from a German family originally from Anne Arundel County. He and his wife, Mary Chiswell, had fifteen children.

William George Brewer (pictured) who married Ida White on May 16, 1872, moved into the farmhouse shortly after their marriage. The colonial-style home, which no longer exists, once stood directly in front of the cluster of buildings visible from Route 28. While their family had the house built for their marriage, it was not completed until sometime after the wedding. In fact, when the couple returned from their wedding trip, the Brewer family held the reception in the foundation of the uncompleted house. It is easy to imagine that festive gala today since the reception would have been just in front of the stone buildings that are there now.

The most intriguing structures still standing are two Seneca sandstone buildings. The larger one is referred to as the tenant (manager's) house and the other is a springhouse. The construction date is estimated to be around 1861. These structures are excellent examples of our agricultural heritage and of Seneca stone construction. In the 1700s and 1800s, the Potomac River in Montgomery County near the mouth of the Seneca Creek was rich with sandstone and marble. The Seneca Quarry was located on the C&O Canal near the town of Seneca. This building was used to keep perishables cold by running spring water through a built-in tub.

The largest remaining structure is the decaying crib-barn, a wood-framed structure that had the hay hoisted into the loft above, while keeping animals or goods in the cribs below.

In the 1860s, Charles Johnson, Harriet Carr, and her four children were slaves on the Brewer farm, and some report that log structures, originally located directly east of the manager's house, served as slave quarters.

On the other hand, the descendants always referred to this tenant house as "the quarters" which lends credence to the theory that it was actually the slave quarters. The mystery as to which theory is right will have to continue for now. By 1870, Mary Johnson and her five children were servants on the farm. Interestingly, Mary's husband, Charles, left the farm much earlier to fight in the Civil War.

Walter and Audrey Pritchard, Dickerson residents and the last family to properly care for the home, lived in the farmhouse in the late 1960s and raised their four children there. Back then the crib barn made a terrific basketball court according to Mrs. Pritchard. She also reports uncovering many beautiful rose bushes in the yard which is understandable since the property at one time is reported to have been called Rosehill. After the Pritchards moved out, the subsequent occupants did not take particularly good care of the home, and it decayed and was eventually torn down. Many members of the Brewer family are buried in Monocacy Cemetery in Beallsville just a half mile east of the site. Getting a closer look at Brewer Farm will be quite easy since the county has officially opened the park—and you don't need a horse to enjoy the park as there are hiking trails, as well.



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Letter to the Editor

This is in response to the editor's April 12, 2013 op-ed feature entitled Rande(m) Thoughts.

Please know that I am in no way any type of expert or qualified on the subjects of microwaves, microwave towers, or related health effects. Fact is: I would have to plead ignorance if you were to ask me a direct question.

Fortunately, the subject matter is easily googled. I would encourage anyone interested to just do a little reading. Start with the American Cancer Society and the World Health Organization. Please be vigilant when you are reading. The phrase "most all doctors agree" could just as easily say "not all doctors agree," as an example. Also, please note how frequently the phrase "under normal conditions" is used. I daresay what is on our water tower and the lot it sits on are anything close to normal.

There is a paper trail from me at Town Hall a mile long. Almost all the requests remain unanswered. Many years of politely, patiently, and privately seeking some reassurance about the microwaves: No replies. This, along with many other simple requests for information, has never arrived. Perhaps now we should

day, but as a pitcher, he is 7-1, which includes pitching four complete games in a total of 39.1 innings pitched. He has an ERA of 1.42, and amazingly has struck out 75 of 161 batters. "I'd rather be on the mound than in the outfield," he says.

Junior Chris Convers (OF/SS), who is the cleanup batter, leads the team in RBIs with twenty-two. He is batting .511 and has the only PHS home run not hit by Seely. "Our best game was definitely the first game against Whitman (13-2)," he says. "We were down, 5-1, and came back to win 11-6. That was a big one. That was the best of the season—and we also came back against Blair,

have a public discussion about the health effects? The discussion should begin with: The water tower is a Cash Cow, not unlike the speed cameras. We can all appreciate the effect those Cows have on the vision of our local legislators. I would also suggest we have our highly-rated high school make it a course of ongoing study that explains, explores, and monitors the long-term health effects of the microwaves. I was impressed by the students' recent video on Facebook that exposed some problems at the school. The microwave study program could well be a selling feature of our home—of all our homes.

A late president once said, "When your neighbor is unemployed, it is called a recession. When you are unemployed, it is a depression." Mr. Editor, you may write off the casual every day contact as nothing more than a nuisance; however, when cancer strikes your home like it has ours, you fast become a [] cluster. How ever I may choose to use the words.

No names were used in accordance with the directions of the editor—until now.

I am Tom Orr.

Editor's Note: You can comment on Rande Davis's commentary and this letter at www.MonocleOnline.com

we were down, 2-1, and won, 4-3." His biggest moment this year? "Pulling out a win against Gaithersburg (15-3) in twelve innings, 4-3. I had a suicide squeeze in the twelfth inning to score the winning run. This year, I've been a lot more patient at the plate. Instead of swinging at bad pitches in the dirt, I have been swinging at strikes that I want to hit."

Senior Dorsey (2B) is batting .349. "In that first game against Whitman, we were down, 5-1, and we didn't let it affect our game, and we came back to win. I think that really showed how

Youth Sports

Falcons Baseball Flying High

By Jeff Stuart



Falcon ballplayers Hunter Pearre, Chris Convers, Thayer Seely, and Cody Dorsey.

Winning ten straight games has made for an amazing start to the season for the 2013 Poolesville High School baseball team. During that streak, the Falcons

defeated several traditional powers and currently high-ranked opponents. Coach Steve Orsini's team has been ranked as high as second in the county by the *Gazette* behind only Georgetown Prep (18-4).

For Thayer Seely, Chris Convers, Cody Dorsey, and Hunter Pearre, who have all played together on the Upper Montgomery Athletic Association select teams and have won championships, success is nothing new for them. We asked them about the high-lights for them so far this year.

"I thought our best game was against Seneca Valley," said Seely (OF/P), a junior. "We just shut them down, and they are a pretty good team, I think." PHS beat Seneca (10-4), 7-0. "I think we are playing a lot better as a team this year. We have a lot more experience." Thayer, batting .333, has four of the five PHS home runs this year. At a home game, he hit a two-run shot over the right-field fence with one out in the bottom of the first inning against Seneca Valley. He was in centerfield that

Local News

Allergies Are Here, But You Do Not Have to Suffer

By Dr. Petr Bocek

The season of flower buds, blooming trees, and layers of pollen on the streets is upon us. If you happen to be one of the millions of people with seasonal allergies, it also means the start of sneezing, congested/runny nose, itchy, swollen eyes, and sleepless nights, among other troublesome symptoms. Seasonal allergies can make your life quite miserable. The same substances that trigger your allergies, pollen, pet dander, and molds, may also cause asthma symptoms such as shortness of breath, wheezing, and chest tightness, called allergic asthma or allergy-induced asthma, and

may result in serious health issues. Allergies represent the most common acute and chronic disorders affecting about twenty percent of adults and children.

In seasonal allergies, airborne pollen from various seasonal plants enters the body through the eyes, nose, or throat and triggers an allergic reaction. Normally, the immune system does not respond to innocuous substances like pollen and mold, but in sensitive individuals, the body's immune system views these allergens as harmful and mounts an attack. That leads to a release of numerous chemicals (histamine and other compounds), resulting in eyes and airway inflammation accompanied by irritation, discomfort, and health problems. Allergies commonly develop in childhood, but they can strike anytime. It usually takes two to three years to become sensitized after you have changed climate. Like other problems that involve an abnormal immune system response, allergies tend to run in families and do not discriminate between men and women or eth-

nic backgrounds.

Now, as the weather becomes warmer, seasonal allergies are here to stay until the first frost in the fall. The culprit is pollen of trees, weeds, or grasses. Perennial allergies refer to allergens present all year such as pet dander and house dust mites. Since molds are found both indoors and outdoors, they can cause allergies and asthma seasonally and all year. When pollen season starts and how long it lasts vary throughout the country. In our area, trees usually start pollinating in March, and grass can start as early as the end of April. Late summer and early fall is the weeds and ragweed season.

Allergic symptoms that come with the start of pollen season are a good indication that you may be suffering from seasonal allergies. Itchy, watery eyes, tickling on the roof of the mouth or in the back of the throat, sneezing, and a runny, stuffy nose may be well familiar to you. Some also experience congestion, headaches, wheezing, coughing, poor sleep, and irritability, but it does not

have to be this way.

Since May 2012, local residents and their children have been getting expert allergy care from Dr. Bocek and his staff at Allergy and Asthma Clinical Centers (AACC) in Poolesville. Dr. Bocek is board-certified in both pediatric and adult allergy/immunology. Among many services offered at AACC, the allergy skin testing identifies with precision all the allergen types responsible for triggering patients' allergy symptoms. That allows Dr. Bocek to individually formulate allergen extracts, which are then used for weekly injections to successfully desensitize his allergy and asthma patients. These injections are administered at his office on a walk-in basis. For more information, please visit AACC's website at www.allergycarecenters.com.



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Local News

Beallsville's Darby Store Hopes to Win Vote for Funds

By Kristen Milton

Hoping for a bigger portion of a million-dollar prize, parks officials let area residents peek into Beallsville's century-old Darby Store Sunday — displaying bits of the landmark's past and raising hopes for the future.

The store was one of twenty-four metro-area historic sites competing for a portion of \$1 million offered by Partners in Preservation, a program funded by American Express in partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Each site was required to host an open house as part of the competition, and at the Darby Store, visitors were urged to log

their names into laptops and pick up an "I Voted" button after recording support for the store since grants will be awarded in part based on popular support received before May 10.

"[We hope] to get more than the \$5,000 consolation prize, which won't go very far," said parks Cultural Resources Planner Julie Mueller, who spent the three-hour open house repeatedly telling the history of the store and performing with the Jug Band whose repertoire included a song about the Darby Store written as part of the social media campaign.

Mueller estimated that over fifty people attended Sunday's event at the corner of Routes 28 and 109, and she expected to hear the results of the grant decision on May 13.

Plans presented at the open house are largely dependent on funding, Mueller emphasized, with no set timeline for completion otherwise; nonetheless, she repeatedly assured questioners that the building would eventually be offered for lease and reopen as some

kind of store. "It's going to depend on somebody's vision," she said. The beams supporting the store's second floor were reinforced in hopes of a possible tenant use as office space, and the two-story home next door, built in 1921, is undergoing renovation for lease as either a residential or commercial site, Mueller said.

That all sounded wonderful to Eric and Brita Cronquist, who said they voted daily online in support of the Darby Store and had solicited relatives from as far away as California to do the same.

"Anything that would make Beallsville alive again," said Eric Cronquist, who purchased his Beallsville property in 1987 to escape the "hustle and bustle" of Washington but now fears his "rural hamlet" has become too quiet.

Brita Cronquist has watched as Beallsville lost Staub's Restaurant, its post office, and other local businesses. She hoped activity at the Darby Store location would attract new visitors. "Today we came just to make sure people notice this and do something," she said.

Stewart Collins, who moved to Barnesville in 1974, also supported a "practical" use for the building. A grocery store would be especially welcome, he said, since the closure of Poolesville's Selby's Market in January 2012.

Nancy Zanner Correll of Gaithersburg was less enthusiastic. "I'm a little disappointed to hear it's not going to be a museum; that they're going to bring a store in, and that means it's going to be messed with," said Correll; however, she said she understood the economic benefits of leasing the structure and was glad for restoration of any kind. "Over the years, I've seen it crumble board by board, so decrepit," she said. "I'd



Rob Gibbs, Natural Resources Manager for county parks, performs "The Darby Store" with the Jug Band on the porch of the Darby House adjacent to the store in Beallsville. Gibbs wrote the song to promote the historic building in a grant campaign.

like to see it restored to as close to the original store as possible."

Mueller said whatever the site's eventual tenant, "a small front corner" would be reserved for exhibit space. Examples of artifacts found during a 2009 archeological dig, ranging from coins to a glass Yoo-hoo bottle to a cat skeleton, were on display Sunday. The store's ledgers reveal a wide variety of merchandise, she said. "You name it; he sold it here."

Built in 1910, the Darby Store served Upcounty residents until its closure in 1958. The Montgomery County Department of Parks purchased the twenty-six acres encompassing the general store with Legacy Open Space funds in 2004. In 2011, the store was moved twenty-seven feet to a new foundation further off the intersection where its porch was once torn off by a passing vehicle.

"It looks good," said John Belferman of Barnesville. "I'm glad they've kept it up for the architectural heritage."

Many at the open house Sunday were associated with historical preservation, but other visitors included firefighters from nearby Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department and a handful of children treated to hula hoops and potato sack races.

More about the Partners in Preservation program, including the song written for Darby Store, video, and personal testimonials, can be found at www.votedarby.org.

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School News

Monocacy Elementary School's 2013 All-School Spelling Bee

The 2nd Annual Monocacy Elementary All-School Spelling Bee was held on January 25. The third, fourth, and fifth grade classes sent finalists from individual class spelling bees to the All-School Bee. Those finalists battled for the championship title during this year's Monocacy Elementary School Spring Showcase. Words for the spelling bee were chosen from a National Spelling Bee list. The final winning word was: perfectionism.

The 2013 Monocacy Elementary School All-School winners were: First place: Benjamin Broady, second place: Garrick Boe, third place: A. J. Poore.

Class winners were: Third grade, Benjamin Broady; fourth grade, Colin Donovan; fifth grade, Jenna Stroud.

The PTA-sponsored grand prize for 2013 was a \$100 gift



Spelling Bee winners: A.J. Poore, Garrick Boe, and Benjamin Broady.

certificate to Barnes and Noble. Second and third place winners received medals and a free book of their choice from the school book fair, courtesy of the MES PTA.

All children who made it to the final rounds received three books of their choice from the school's book fair.

Kim Elected as Student Member of Board of Educations

His peers have selected Justin C. Kim, a junior at Poolesville High School, as the next Student

Member of the Montgomery County Board of Education (SMOB). His term begins July 1. All secondary school students were eligible to vote in the SMOB election and more than eighty-five percent cast ballots. Kim received sixty-five percent of the vote.

Kim has been active in student government at the school, district, and statewide level. He currently serves as an executive board member for the Maryland Youth Advisory Council, deputy chief of staff for the Montgomery County Region of the Maryland Association of Student Councils, and as the student government association vice president at Poolesville High School. He previously served as Poolesville's class president during his freshman and sophomore years. T

The SMOB is a voting member of the Board of Education who can cast votes on all items, with the exception of boundary changes, the capital and operating budgets, collective bargaining, negative personnel matters, and school closings. The SMOB

receives a \$5,000 college scholarship, student service learning hours, and one honors-level social studies credit.

PHS Student Awarded Gates Millennium Scholarship

Poolesville High School student Nusrat Molla has been named a recipient of the Gates Millennium Scholarship. These good-through-graduation scholarships can be used at any accredited college or university in the United States. Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the amount of the scholarship is based on the cost of tuition, fees, books, and living expenses for the 2013-2014 academic year, as well as the availability of grants and other scholarships. The Gates Millennium Scholars Program was established in 1999 to provide outstanding low-income students who are African American, American Indian/Alaska native, Asian Pacific Islander American, or Hispanic with an opportunity to complete an undergraduate education in any discipline they choose.

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Things to Do

Every Wednesday Special Events:
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Connection Café
 Free computer and Wi-Fi access, and help with computer technology questions and internet usage. Free coffee and snacks. Poolesville Presbyterian Church. 2:00 pm. to 6:00 pm.

May 10
Special Performance: Music Man, Jr.
 Presented by John Poole Middle School Phantom Players. Come enjoy a show filled with dance, singing, and laughs for the entire family. Performed for the first time at the Poolesville High School auditorium. Concession and silent auction proceeds to benefit future Phantom Player presentations. Adults: \$7.00. Students: \$5.00. 7:00 p.m.

May 11
23rd Annual Richard S. McKernon Youth Fishing Tournament
 Stevens Park Pond, 17301 Seneca Chase Park Road. Registration: 8:30 a.m. Tournament begins: 9:00 a.m.
5th Annual SCA Plant Swap
 Buy, sell, swap, or give away — your choice. Seeds, seedlings, plants, divisions, flowers, shrubs, veggies, heirlooms, pots, garden gear, etc. Open to all! Come with or without plants. Sponsored by the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association. Linden Farm, 20900 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

May 11 and 12
HMD Special Event: Saluting Those Who Served
 In conjunction with the American Legion, this is a very special and unique private collection on exhibit of military memorabilia including dress and fatigue uniforms from various eras, shoulder sleeve insignia from the army, marine corps, navy, air force, and coast guard. Free. Noon to 4:00 p.m.

May 14
Gathering Place Senior Activity Center Spring Picnic
 Everyone who attends will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate. If a friend is brought, a second raffle will be held which contains a gift certificate for \$100 for any business of your choice in the Poolesville and surrounding areas! Don't wanna miss this one! Picnic, games, tour of yard and garden. 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

May 15
Annual Global Ecology Senior Project Poster Session
 All seniors in the program are required to complete a hands-on environment-related project prior to graduation, and each student will be available to explain and discuss the details and results of his or her project. You are invited to come to view these projects, watch the student-produced environmental documentary films, and engage with the students as they share their projects. Poolesville High School's Media

Center. 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

May 16
Cugini's Entertainment Night
 Comedy Extravaganza Fund-raiser for Relay for Life. Come for dinner, stick around for the laughs! Advance ticket: \$20.00 for show. At-door ticket: \$25.00 for show. Show time: 7:00 p.m.
AHOP Entertainment Night
 Featuring: Jay Summerour. 8:30 p.m.

May 17
Monocacy Elementary School Spring Festival
 With special event honoring the retirement of teacher Nancy Baker. Lots of activities. Families invited. Refreshments available for purchase. 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Cugini's Entertainment Night
 Featuring: Sooky Jump. 8:30 p.m.
AHOP Entertainment Night
 Mott Squad. 7:30 p.m.

**"Things To Do" Continued
From Page 10.**

May 18
**Annual Poolesville Springfest:
BBQ, Beer, and Blues**
Four barbeque food vendors, funnel cakes, and a host of product and service exhibitors. Cornhole tournament with cash prizes. Musical entertainment: Smoke N' Mangos (2:00 p.m.), Bobby Lewis Blues Band (3:00 p.m.), and headliner Mary Shaver Band (5:00 to 7:00 p.m.). \$20.00 for entrance to beer tent. Whalen Commons. 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

May 18 and 19
**John Poole General Store and
Old Town Hall Bank Museum**
Open: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

May 19
Annual Potomac Hunt Races
To benefit the Yellow Ribbon Fund for wounded military personnel. A wonderful tradition of steeplechase horse racing in the country. Food, artisans, and fun for the whole family. Gates open

at 11:00 a.m. General admission: \$30.00 per car. Reserved rail side space: \$200.00


May 20
Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting
Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

May 23
Pre-School Storytimes
Stories, songs, rhymes, and more plus helpful early literacy tips. Poolesville Library. 10:30 a.m.

May 24
Cugini's Entertainment Night
Featuring: Tony Grasso. 8:30 p.m.
AHOP Entertainment Night
Featuring: Paul and Holly. 8:30 p.m.

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 - ◆ Enter the amateur BBQ cooking contest
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Local News

UMCVFD Hosts Lunch Break for 500 Cyclists

Nearly five hundred cyclists from thirty-nine states set forth from the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia on the morning of April 27 on bicycles, hand cycles, and recumbent bicycles. Eight hours later, these individuals arrived in Frederick, Maryland as a cohesive and supportive team of friends looking forward to the next day's challenge: the ride ending in the battlefield at Gettysburg.

For the fifth year in a row, the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department hosted the lunch break for the Face of America ride from World T.E.A.M. . Each April, the group rides the two-day, 110-mile route from Arlington to the historic

battlefields of Gettysburg. Created in 2000 as a cross-country ride of two teams of veterans who met in St. Louis, the Holbrook, New York-based nonprofit organization redirected Face of America in 2007 to honor and acknowledge the substantial sacrifices veterans with disabilities take in serving their country.

More than one hundred disabled veterans traveled to

Arlington from across the continent to participate in the 2013 ride, many for the first time. Participating veterans included the seven-member Soldier On team from Canada, riding in their initial Face of America. They were joined by teams from the navy, coast guard, and air force. Walter Reed National Military Medical Center also organized a team of injured veterans.



Soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division out of Ft. Drum, New York participated in the Face of America Challenge. Here are double amputee Michael Frazier (left) and single amputee Christopher Levy (center) joined by fellow soldier Taylor Clayton.

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Current Crime

Burglary: 19900 block of Fisher Avenue.

Theft: 17300 and 17400 blocks of Hughes Road, 19200 block of Beallsville Road.

Disorderly conduct complaints: 17400 block of Soper Street, 19600 block of Fisher Avenue, 19600 block of Gott Street, 17400 block of Anita Court.

Past Crime

May 13, 1944 Juvenile Court Judge Frank Procter recommended that the county police pay closer attention to pool halls, dance halls, beer taverns, and theaters. He said, "A more careful patrol of streets at night" would prevent loitering and loafing by juveniles which was a constant problem. The judge also noted that there was only one probation officer to cover the entire county. He said that the most common cases were stealing by boys and

"sex delinquencies" by girls.

May 14, 1949 Two construction workers were killed when they were buried in the collapse of a trench. The men were working on a construction project on Greentree Road in Bethesda when the trench collapsed, burying them. Fellow workers worked frantically to find them until the arrival of the rescue squad. When the men were found a half an hour later, they were dead.

May 20, 1949 Clifford Yokley of Germantown was arrested for the murder of his brother-in-law. Police had responded to the Yokley residence in rural Montgomery County and found that Yokley had stabbed James Lowe in the chest. Yokley claimed that he had acted in self defense.

May 21, 1948 A Montgomery County jury deliberated for five minutes before finding Johnnie Smallwood guilty of running a numbers racket. Detectives, disguised as construction work-

ers, had seen Smallwood accept a 25-cent bet from a fellow worker. Judge Prescott said, "The Maryland courts are going to keep you Washington men out of Montgomery County. By pleading not guilty, you have wasted a half day of the court's time."

May 22, 1948 Police Chief Orme announced that the Montgomery County Police would open an investigation into bingo games that were offering a cash

payout. The matter came to his attention when it was found that bingo games were being held at the Congressional Country Club. Orme said those who run bingo games for profit were on a par with bookies and numbers writers.

Some of the material in this column was obtained from the archives of The Washington Post.

Local News

Here Today, Gone Tomorrow

By Rande Davis

You probably have never noticed, but seventy-three quiet treasure hunters have slipped into Poolesville, one or two at a time, most every weekend since January looking for a special stash of items hidden in secret caches. With a GPS app, these sleuths never leave town without finding their hidden prize. As a group, state-wide, they number into the hundreds, and the number of these day trip travelers and enthusiasts of this fast-growing outdoor activity which is popular among men and women, young and the not-as-young, is growing rapidly in Maryland and around the country. They are the members of the Maryland Geocache Society.

Geocachers, as they call themselves, travel throughout the state visiting towns that have hid-

den boxes filled with a notebook to record their visit and simple prizes from which to choose to take home with them. To keep the box full, each visitor is required to leave a prize as well.

The program, as designed, was encouraged by the Maryland Municipal League to bolster visitation to the state's smaller towns and to help improve commerce in them.

Poolesville has two sites in town and, due to the popularity of this area in the Agricultural Reserve, there will be three more sites added in the coming months.

One reason for its popularity is that this outdoor activity can be done alone or in groups, and participants especially like the notion of traveling to an area they are not familiar with, finding the geocache treasure, and then exploring all the local treasures—the restaurants, shops, historical sites, parks, nature walks, etc.—that are found in small towns all

-Continued on Page 15.



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"Geocache" Continued From Page 14.

throughout the state.

One site for the geocache is near the John Poole House, and in appreciation for allowing the Maryland Geocache Society to use the site for their outdoor hobby, a team of twenty-nine people volunteered to clean and spruce up the grounds of the historical site as part of their annual Earth Day contribution. On Sunday morning, April 21, what they did in just a few hours was amazing, completely eradicating the moribund herb garden of its weeds and overgrowth, removing a large pile of dead branches and limbs, raking debris and placing mulch to improve the appearance of the parking lot area, even moving one tree to a preferred location. Afterwards, many of them went to lunch at Bassett's

and other restaurants in town. Maureen O'Connell, president of the Historic Medley District, was ebullient in her characterization of the work and contribution made by these volunteers. "They were just so friendly and willing to help us out in any way they could. They did everything we wanted and more. We cannot be more grateful." If you are interested in joining them, they can be found at mdgps.org.



Nearly thirty good-hearted folks from the Maryland Geocache Society came to Poolesville on Earth Day just to help spruce up the property around the John Poole House.

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Now We're Cooking

Quiche

By Dominique Agnew

The other night:
Professional Taste Tester One: Maman, what are we having for dinner?

Moi: Quiche.

PTTOne: What's in it?

Moi: Bacon.

PTTOne: Bacon, yeah!

As a child, I always thought quiche was a treat when guests would come for a Sunday *déjeuner*, then as I started to cook, I learned it was an especially easy and versatile treat at that.

Perfect for an entrée before the main course in an elegant dinner, quiche can also double as the main meal in a casual family dinner with a salad. With Mother's Day right around the corner, we thought a quiche or two should make its way into an Mother's Day brunch.

I'm offering here a recipe for

Quiche Lorraine passed down from my maternal grandmother. It's simple, direct, and uses bacon as the flavoring ingredient, allowing it to be called Quiche Lorraine. Quiche Florentine, for example, has spinach. The great thing about quiche is the unlimited variations on a theme. Some possibilities of ingredients to use in place of bacon or spinach: cheese, ham, broccoli, fish, shrimp, potatoes, caramelized onions, and any variety of combinations. Quiche is also a great way to use up leftovers since the flavoring ingredients are usually cooked beforehand.

Quiche Lorraine

½ pie crust (recipe below)

4 eggs

1 c. heavy whipping cream

1/3 pound of bacon, cooked

Salt and pepper to taste

Note: It's easy to make a crustless quiche. Just grease your pie pan well (I like to use olive oil), and pour the egg mixture

into prepared pan, and bake.

Pie crust (makes top and bottom crusts for pie or bottom crusts for two quiches)

2 c. flour

½ c. lightly salted butter, cold, cut into pieces

1 tsp. salt

¼ c. cold water

Pie crust: The key to a flaky pie/quiche crust is to keep everything as cold as possible before baking. The butter never gets smaller than tiny beads, and when it bakes, it melts and creates air pockets. In a food processor, pulse the first three ingredients until they look like cornmeal. Then run the food processor while adding the water. Ingredients should quickly form a loose ball. Gather dough into a disc and refrigerate immediately. If preparing by hand, mix first ingredients in a large bowl by gently rubbing with the fingertips until it looks like cornmeal. Then add water little by little, still rubbing with fingertips until the dough can come together into the loose ball as above. Refrigerate.

Quiche: Preheat oven to 375° F. Roll out half the dough on a floured surface with a floured rolling pin. Lay out rolled dough into pie pan, creating a nice shell. Pierce the bottom of dough in pie pan with a fork all over, then bake for ten minutes.

While crust is baking, mix together the rest of the ingredients for the quiche. Pour into prepared crust when it comes out of the oven. Bake quiche for about 30 minutes. Top should be golden and set. Knife inserted into quiche should come out clean.

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May 23 and June 6: Cornhole Tournament

May 24: Paul and Holly at 8:30 p.m.

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Local News

Ghostbusting At Poolesville Presbyterian Church

By Rande Davis



Poolesville Presbyterian's Rev. David Williams supervises the ghostbusting work of sons Samuel and Elijah.

Among some of the congre-

gants at Poolesville Presbyterian Church, the notion of being alone in the 1827 building next to the sanctuary — the manse, as it originally served as the pastor's residence—is a bit unnerving. Stories of footsteps fumbling around upstairs in the empty building, lights going on and off at night while unoccupied, even cabinets with glass doors inexplicably shaking and rattling, only serve to support a theory of an unwanted phantom presence in the building. The manse is worthy of a ghost story or two based on its long history alone, especially its possible role in the Civil War as a mobile surgical hospital following the Battle of Balls Bluff. Adding to its mystique, the structure has a peculiar layout which includes a strange staircase off the kitchen that leads to a dark, low-ceilinged room cut off from the rest of the house. Was this a servant's or slave's room?

A discarded TV and over-stuffed couch are evidence that it was a teen's den in the 1960s but not really used since. No one goes there much at all, a terrific spot for a ghost to call home undisturbed.

Rev. David Williams let the *Monocle* examine the cabinet that mysteriously shakes and rattles, wherein were found a very old church bell and hand-written notes recording a session meeting in the late 1800s (a session is an administrative meeting of church leaders). One note recorded some concern that the Presbyterians were not especially liked by everyone in town. Is this evidence of a lost disgruntled soul or maybe a spirit just looking for friendship? If there is a ghost, maybe it's Casper-lite.

Rev. Williams offered to dispel or prove the ghost tales once and for all. At a church auction to raise some needed funds, he promised to the highest bidder that he and his two boys, Samuel and Elijah, would spend an entire night in the house with appropriate ghost-detection equipment that measures electrical magnetic fields, odd temperature changes, and unexplained voice-like sounds.

The night got off to a harrowing start when haunting female laughter was heard at what seemed like a distance. This turned out to be nothing more than some teens sitting in the gazebo next to the church. As the night got darker, the rooms got colder, and the expecta-

tion that a ghost might appear grew with every passing minute.

After spending the whole night in the drafty domicile, meticulously recording data, the team of specter sleuths came up with a unanimous ruling on the question: Is the manse haunted? They found the house eerie, creaky, and inexplicably odd at times. But haunted? As Rev. David reported from his night-long blog posting, "There were no events, no responses. The sensors picked up nothing that wasn't explicable, and although the Gauss meter's freakout was a bit off putting, it was probably just a manufacturing defect. The consensus among the team is that it's not likely haunted. This house is clean—paranormally speaking, anyway."

Note the "not likely haunted" and "probably just a manufacturing defect" comments, which seem to sum up the teams' true conclusion—not haunted until proved otherwise.

For an hour-by-hour report on the investigation, visit Pastor David's blog: belovedspear.org.

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Local News

Many Hands Helped at Rebuilding Together



This Rebuilding Together Team made up of Connor Kraegel, Steve Kocur, and Bill Kraegel placed a handicap rail leading to the home.

It was the last Saturday of April, so that had to mean Rebuilding Together in the Upcounty, and sure enough, by 8:30 on April 27, over forty local volunteers could be found beginning repairs and renovations at two local houses. It was the third year in a row that Helping Hands Poolesville sponsored the annual effort to remedy health, safety, and quality-of-living issues faced by low-income homeowners. This local effort was, of course, part of a national program that encompassed work on several thousand homes on April 27.

Issues tackled at the two houses, one in Jerusalem and the other on Big Woods Road in Dickerson, included faulty plumbing, interior painting, rebuilding of a deck, installation of a wrought-iron front porch railing, and roof repairs. Safety at both houses was high on the to-do list: debris was removed, safety hazards repaired, and bathroom safety bars and smoke detectors installed.

-Continued on Page 24.



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Local News

Beallsville's Morgan Wins National Equestrian Championship

In early April, Tracey Morgan of Beallsville and her pony, Fuego 88, drove to victory in the U.S. Equestrian Federation's National Combined Driving Single Pony Championships in Southern Pines, North Carolina. The pair will now represent the United States in October in the World Combined Driving Championships in Pau, France. Combined driving is an internationally-recognized discipline where a single horse or pony, or pairs and four-in-hands of horses and ponies, pull a carriage and participate in three different events to prove the versatility, training, and talents

In the Garden

In Praise of Hydrangeas

By Maureen O'Connell

In my last couple of articles, I recommended plants for your gardens that I have found hardy and reliable for our Monocacy gardens. My regular readers know that I love roses, but I can also sing the praises of hydrangeas (*H.*). They are a genus of seventy species of flowering plants native to southern and eastern Asia and the Americas. They are vigorous, long-lived shrubs that produce flower heads in the most gorgeous colors. I have over twenty-five of them in a variety of types, sizes, and colors. Many of them are over twenty years old and are still thriving. They are not bothered by pests and diseases, and are ignored by deer. Our hot, dry summers don't seem to overly affect them; if they get a

of both horse and driver. One of the tests is a demanding, timed course of more than ten miles, which includes water crossings, bridges, and intricately-designed gates. Morgan is a multiple national and international champion. She works the ponies on her sixteen-acre equestrian farm on West Hunter Road or at Woodstock Equestrian Center on Route 28 six days a week.

Jim Steele, Chairman of the Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB), a program within the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and MHIB board member, Ron MacNab, presented the agency's April Touch of Class Award to Tracey Morgan and Fuego 88 at the grand opening of the Woodstock Equestrian Park in Beallsville.

"It is really appropriate that we present Tracey with this award at Woodstock's grand opening," said Steele. "Her farm is adjacent to Woodstock. She trains her pony over the park's sixteen miles of trails, and also helped build and design many of these trails. The Woodstock

little droopy in July and August, a long drink of water bounces them back.

Where should you locate them in your garden? You can be fairly flexible. I have some in full shade and some in half shade/half sun, and they all survive and flower. Too much shade will somewhat reduce flowering, and too much sun might challenge them. *H. paniculata* 'Limelight' and 'Little Lime' are exceptions. They are woodier than most other hydrangeas and can withstand the heat of the sun better.

Hydrangeas have been around for many years, but in the last decade, we have seen an explosion of new varieties in a wider range of new colors, shapes, sizes, and extended bloom times. They have two flower arrangements. The most familiar type is the mophead; its flowers are large and round, and they resemble pom-poms. Lacecap flowers bear round, flat flower heads with a center core of subdued, fertile flowers, surrounded by an outer

facility has now produced its first national champion."


Montgomery County Chief Executive Ike Leggett and Director of Montgomery County Parks Mary Bradford officiated at the

Woodstock grand opening.

MHIB established the Touch of Class Awards in 2011 to honor Maryland horses and people who achieve national and international recognition.



Driver Tracey Morgan was given the April Touch of Class Award by the Maryland Horse Industry Board at the grand opening of Woodstock Equestrian Park.



**Flags were lowered
In honor of:**

**May 2 and 3: Firefighter Gene Kirchner, a seven-year
veteran of the Reisterstown Volunteer Fire Company, who
died as a result of injuries suffered in the line of duty.**

ring of showy, sterile flowers. I prefer the extravagant, grandiose flowers of the mopheads.

People often ask me how I get my hydrangea flowers to be pink or blue. Well, that depends upon the variety that you have. As the leopard cannot change its spots or the tiger its stripes, many hydrangeas cannot change their color, no matter what you add to the soil. In most species, the flowers are white, but in some others, such as *H. macrophylla*, the flowers can be blue, red, pink, and light or dark purple. Color is affected by soil pH. An acid soil (pH below 6) will usually produce flowers closer to blue, whereas an alkaline soil (pH above 6) will produce closer to pink. In spring and in the fall, I fertilize my hydrangeas with Espoma's Holly Tone. It is environmentally safe and gives the plants an overall energy boost.

There are five different types of hydrangeas. *H. macrophylla*, also called French, big leafed, or florist's, is the most common

type. I recommend the following varieties: 'Endless Summer' (if you buy only one this year, this is a must-have; it produces big, blue flower heads all summer); 'Cityline Mars' (demure and compact; perfect for a smaller garden); 'Let's Dance Big Easy' (light lime-green maturing to vibrant medium-pink); 'Blushing Bride' (good rebloomer); 'All Summer Beauty' (compact); 'Twist-n-Shout' (lacecap rebloomer). *H. arborescens*: 'Annabelle' and 'Incrediball' (another must-have; flowers are ten to twelve inches across); 'Invincibell Spirit'; and 'Bella Anna.' *H. paniculata*: 'Bobo,' 'Little Lime,' 'Limelight,' 'Pinky Winky.' 'Vanilla Strawberry,' 'Fire and Ice' (all great.) *H. quercifolia*. This Oakleaf hydrangea is very different from the other types: Its leaves are large and leathery-looking. In the fall, they turn a rich burgundy color before dropping to reveal the peeling russet-brown bark of the branches. 'Snow Queen' is simply

-Continued on Page 24.

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Tidbits

Behrend Becomes Eagle Scout

Congratulations to Kevin Behrend in becoming the sixty-fifth scout from Troop 496 to reach the highest scouting rank of Eagle Scout. Kevin, the son of Kurt and Deborah Behrend and, successfully organized a transportation service for those needing help getting to the grocery store after Selby's Market closed. Helping to make this Honor Court induction ceremony special were the appearance and speech made by England's Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of worldwide scouting. The actor, who portrayed Lord Powell, being true to the role, did not wish to divulge his true identity.

Montgomery County Police Gun Turn-In Day

The Montgomery County Police Department has scheduled a gun turn-in day in an effort to keep the county safe. Unwanted guns that might be stored in the house can be turned in to the

police.

On Saturday May 11, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., citizens can turn in ammunition and guns anonymously with no questions asked at three locations: Police Headquarters at 100 Edison Park Drive, former National Geographic Building; Montgomery County Fairgrounds; and East County Services Center, 3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring.

For each gun turned in, a donation will be made to the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center.



Newly-inducted Eagle Scout Kevin Behrend pins a parent support pin onto his father Kurt with mother, Deborah, watching.

Local News

Woodstock Equestrian Park Opens

By Rande Davis

The over-ten-year wait for the grand opening of the Woodstock Equestrian Park in Beallsville drew an enthusiastic group of supporters on April 27. The park boasts 872 acres of rolling farmland and forests that have sixteen miles of equestrian and hiking trails. The ceremony overlooked a 230' x 360' outdoor riding rink. Nearby was a six-acre beginner-novice cross-country course that includes bank jumps and a water jump.

The park land was provided by Moritz Greenberg and Dr. William Rickman. The west side of the park is officially named the Moritz Greenberg Equestrian Center and consists of approximately 470 acres with more than eight miles of trails, including a mile-long hiking-only trail called Meadow Trail. The east side of the park is dedicated to Dr. Rickman and consists of 354 acres, including six miles of trails. George Washington originally owned a portion of the land on the eastern side which he oversaw for farming and used for hunting. Montgomery Parks took care to restore several outbuildings dat-

ing back to the 1860s which were part of the historic Brewer Farm (a Mystery History on the Brewer Farm is included in this issue).

Moritz Greenberg's son, Robert, was on hand for the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony and noted the pride his father would have felt at the opening as his parents often promoted the importance of being a contributing part of the community to the family.

Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett stated, "Certainly all of Montgomery County recognizes the importance of the Ag Reserve and the opening of this park and its setting make that statement clear." In reviewing the importance of the equestrian farming and sports to the county, Mr. Leggett said, "There has been a lack of public space for horses until today." Now horse owners "may take the same pride as others—supporters of soccer, ball parks, etc.—in having this park, and they deserve a place of their own."



County Executive Ike Leggett called Woodstock Equestrian Park a statement of support of the Ag Reserve by county residents.

Remembrance

Jane Karen Zwemer Koeser

By Rande Davis



On May 1, Jane Koeser, 71, of Poolesville passed away while on her way home from the hospital to begin home hospice care. Her husband, Ross Koeser, was with her at the time. The couple, married for forty-seven years, had recently returned from a short spring stay in Florida when she took ill and was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Born in Englewood, New Jersey, she was the daughter of the late Dorothy and Raymond Zwemer. She is survived by her children and their families: Ken and Kathy Koeser of Poolesville, Karen and Andy Shields of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Douglas Koeser and fiancée Jessica Early of Alexandria, Virginia, Gregory and Rebecca Koeser of Atlanta, Georgia, and especially her five loving and dearly-loved grandchildren, Kevin, Kristian, Sam, Megan, and Natalie.

Jane, a well-beloved member of the community, had participated in school groups and activities when her children were young and was active with the Poolesville Presbyterian Church, a member of a few local bridge clubs, and the Poolesville Dinner group, a social group of current and past neighbors who annually get together to celebrate their friendship and shared love of Poolesville.

Jane spent her years just prior to college in Paris, France and

graduated from college with a teaching degree in elementary school education, minoring in both French and Spanish. She was employed for many years as an executive secretary in the field of spinal cord injury reproductive health.

It was neither the world travel nor the medical industry career that defined Jane, though. She was defined first and foremost as a most loving mother, and dear and caring friend to so many people, especially in the Poolesville area. Her love of music and pure singing voice led her to be active in the Poolesville Presbyterian Church voice and bell choir. She taught Sunday school, was the church secretary, and at one time, the clerk of the church's session, its administrative lay leadership council.

For this writer who was her friend and next door neighbor and for all who had the great privilege to know her, Jane will be remembered and missed for the loving, gentle, generous and very gracious friend she became to all who met her. The gift of Jane was a gift especially appreciated by youngsters and the elderly as she was never in a hurry to pass someone by. She loved to send hand-written notes and cards to persons for every occasion, and it is most likely that almost all who knew her at one time or another became the recipient of her soft, delicious chocolate chip cookies, made special not by recipe, but by the loving spirit that delivered them. Whether you knew her for just a few minutes or for a lifetime, she was always the same: a soft-spoken positive person unable to complain, who would humbly accept a compliment by giving credit to someone else.

The Koeser family and friends will celebrate her life at a memorial service on May 18 at 4:00 p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church in Poolesville. The Rev. David Williams of the Poolesville Presbyterian Church will administer the service. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Poolesville Presbyterian Church.

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**“SCA 40th Anniversary”
Continued From Page 1.**

incinerators and landfills. In the current environment, “while large public facilities are always a threat,” the battle is more against the “death of one thousand cuts,” and the pressures felt from a larger population. He noted, “Forty years later, we are still here unbowed and undaunted. That’s a good thing. Hopefully, forty years from now, the same challenges may be there; that would be a good thing.”

Choukas-Bradley ran through a list of the current SCA concerns, including changes in zoning that bring commercial activity into the Agricultural Reserve (AR), such as camps and large-scale landscaping firms, and “the enforcement of existing rules not taking place at the executive level,” an issue that was discussed more thoroughly in the previous year’s meeting. The long-discussed outer beltway (“a big LULU”) and fears of a bridge across the Potomac River bringing new roads through the Ag Reserve were deemed “not a realistic threat now...but pressure to do so from the Virginia side is present.”

The ongoing fight to prevent the construction of the Global Mission’s “large convention center” was also noted in light of recent setbacks before the Frederick County Planning Board.

The featured guest speaker was Royce Hanson, formerly the chair of the Montgomery County Planning Department, “architect of Montgomery County’s Ag Reserve” (from the meeting agenda), and chair of the Farming at Metro’s Edge (FAME) conference held in January. Hanson presented a robust overview of familiar Upcounty issues, moving effortlessly through the past, present, and future of county farming, and discussion of the recent FAME conference. Frequently, he highlighted the core threat to the Ag Reserve: fragmentation of farmland. He reminded his listeners that we must “continue to show compelling reason to protect the AR” from the “impermanence syndrome,” as “fragmentation

will accelerate...we have to maintain the critical mass of land.” He ran through a number of specific preservation issues, such as effective land trusts, conservation easements, the Building Lot Termination Program, Transferable Development Rights, covenants against farming in new developments in the reserve, and the ongoing battles concerning Clarksburg development and the Ten Mile Creek watershed.

Hanson sprinkled his address with factoids such as, “In 1959, there were one hundred dairy farms in Montgomery County, now there are five,” and “there used to be four USDA extension agents in Montgomery County alone, now there is one for three counties.” He also tweaked Frederick County, noting that, on land use management, they “are where we were forty years ago,” with the “opportunity to preserve a large mass of farmland.” He said that Frederick County participated in the FAME conference, “but not as much as we hoped.” Hanson didn’t give Montgomery County a pass either, noting later that he and other county representatives can tend to be “very self-satisfied,” but that “we may be behind the curve in some areas.”

District 1 Councilman Roger Berliner reminded everyone that, as a result of redistricting, he was pleased to represent Poolesville (Poolesville Town Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski was also in attendance), and that it “was better to have so many that represent (the AR) in the council.” Previously, the reserve was in one district, now it is spread across three. Elrich discussed the Ten Mile Creek controversies over Clarksburg development and protecting the watershed, and urged everyone to “get involved and get loud on this,” criticizing the plan as an “outlet mall posing as a town center.” Burnishing his preservation credentials, he said, “Nobody needs to be sacrificed... except developers.” District 3 Councilmember Phil Andrews (Darnestown area), who is actively running to succeed Leggett as county executive, echoed Elrich’s

Ten Mile Creek remarks, and spoke to “the competitive edge of the AR...one of our strengths.”

As always, everyone was upstaged by the presentations of local high school students who won Piedmont Environmental Council grants, as introduced by Jim Brown, President of the Piedmont Environmental Foundation. Emerald Shen, Mina Tran, and Diana Hanson (Royce Hanson’s granddaughter) of Poolesville High School, discussed their Chesapeake Bay Oyster Restoration Project. Jessica Li and Richard Yarrow (also representing Megha Kori, who had a scheduling conflict) of Richard Montgomery High School presented details of two awards: for a three-dimensional art exhibition and school-wide art, film, and essay contests centered around Earth Day, and the creation of a rain garden on school property which also included the participation of the school’s Robotics Club.

Mr. Brown also pointed out Joyce Bailey of Poolesville High School, and Head of House for the Global Ecology House magnet program, who will retire at the end of this year, leaving many past students, parents, and members of the community grateful for the world-class program she helped develop and nurture.



Richie Yarrow and Jessica Li of Richard Montgomery High School present their winning project at the SCA Annual Meeting. Megha Kori is not pictured.

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**“Tax Increase” Continued
From Page 1.**

was out of town) to approve the FY14 operating budget and tax rate.

The commissioners passed resolutions to allow repayment of the Westerly relining project through a loan and another resolution to do so from revenue in the General Fund. They also approved a third resolution to accept the responsibilities for administering hardship exemptions by residents to state-imposed fees for the Chesapeake Bay Restoration. All three resolutions will be voted on during the May 20 meeting.

The town will also hold a public hearing on May 20 for proposed Ordinance 193 covering the changes to the requirement of Fire Marshall Inspection at the time of permitting properties in the Commercial and Central Business District. The county only provides such inspections when the permit is initially requested, and the town previously required an inspection not only at the time of permitting but also at the time of change in use by the business. The town is dropping the change in use requirement providing the fire code inspection was properly made at the time of issuing the town business permit.

The town manager announced that the FCC Approval Survey process governing the use of cell phone antennas in the town will be obtained at an estimated cost of \$4000 and the survey is due to be completed within six weeks.

The RSI Corporation will

conduct on-site Hazard Safety Assessments, record field readings, and supply written reports outlining the results of the assessments for the Radio Frequency (RF) sites. A general RF site hazard assessment, including an electromagnetic energy emissions measurement and a corresponding report, will be also issued by RSI.

Assessments will detect and document whether electromagnetic emissions fields present at the sites are above FCC standards for human exposure to radiofrequency radiation. Assessments also determine what areas should be defined as hot zones, or areas that contain RF levels above occupational/controlled limits. The report would include recommendations for mitigation of existing potential or real industry safety and health hazards at a site that may include violations of the Code of Federal Regulations or other applicable regulations.

Tony Clifford (CEO), Lee Bristol (Commercial Channel Manager), and Mike Hartley (Director of Structured Finance) from Standard Solar returned for a presentation on the proposed sun power array for the town which was originally made last year. The proposal had been tabled for further investigation into the estimates of future cost electrical power from utility companies, clarification on ongoing management and maintenance of the array, and resolution of the cost of removal of the array if that should be deemed necessary at some point in the future.

A decision to go forward with sun-powered energy will

need to be determined within the next six weeks to take advantage of government incentives. Failure to obtain these incentives renders the proposal null and void. The greatest roadblock to moving forward appears to be the future costs of utility company energy rates versus solar rates, and while Standard Solar believes those energy company rates will continue to rise and be higher than solar rates, this prospect is not universally held by all investors, and the commissioners will need to decide one way or the other prior to moving into final negotiations with Standard Solar.

The commissioners also received a presentation from Rosie McCray-Moody from the Montgomery County Office of Landlord/Tenant Affairs and Cynthia Gaffney of Montgomery County Licensing Department on their departments’ functions relating to disputes between landlords and tenants. The town does not have a judicial body to assist in such situations of dispute and the county cannot currently involve itself in assisting in these matters within the town limits. The purpose of the request for the county representatives to come before the commissioners was to initiate an investigation into whether the town should write a new ordinance to allow such county involvement. That research process will continue prior to any final decision.

**“Hydrangeas” Continued
From Page 19.**

the best Oakleaf. I have two that are twenty years old, and they are still magnificent. This year, I bought two ‘Sikes Dwarf.’ It is more compact than the Queen, but it has the same ivory-white bloom heads and interesting foliage. *H. serrata*, or Mountain Hydrangea, is very hardy and re-blooms on new wood until frost. Look for ‘TuffStuff’ and ‘Blue Billow.’

Today’s hydrangeas are not your grandmother’s plants. Refresh your appreciation of this tough, beautiful plant and find a place or two in your garden this year for it. You won’t regret it.

**“Rebuilding Together”
Continued From Page 18.**

Helping Hands Poolesville is the three-year-old Christian community service organization composed of representatives of the five Poolesville churches: Memorial Methodist, Our Lady of the Presentation, Poolesville Baptist, Poolesville Presbyterian, and St. Peter’s Episcopal. All the volunteers and most of the \$3,000 sponsorship fee for the project came from the five churches. Several local businesses also donated funds or provided in-kind services, including Hilton’s Funeral Home, the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce, Fine Earth Landscaping, and Morningstar Welding.

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“Baseball” Continued From Page 6.

good of a team we are. We are pretty much the same team as last year. We just play better together after practicing together for the last three years. I am looking forward to the Northwest game. We had a pretty good game against them last year and they won the States (4A Division).” (On April 27, the Falcons beat Northwest, 5-1).

For junior Pearre (SS/OF), the team’s best game was against Blair. “We got down. We weren’t playing our best ball, but we came back and grinded one out. As a team, we started hitting the ball well—a real team effort. In the beginning of the sixth inning, we got the lead off man on to start the comeback and added on a couple of runs to take the lead.” As a pitcher, Hunter doesn’t scout opposing batters, but he does notice things once the game starts. “I watch their first swing when I go through the order. I will see how they set up on the plate. If their hands are high, they are probably going to be late on the inside fast ball. If they are up on the

plate, I will jam them inside. Most hitters at this level don’t like to see a curve ball early in the count.” Who does he consider the toughest team? “Definitely QO. They’ve been a tough team, good coaches, good program. They have a good ball club over there. Solid pitching—they’ve got a kid over there they will probably throw against us, Dick Fishback, probably one of the best pitchers we’ve seen to this date.” In fact, Fishback did defeat Poolesville, 5-4, pitching all seven innings and allowing just two earned runs. PHS took a 3-2 lead with three runs in the second inning and tied the game in the fourth.

In losing to Bethesda-Chevy Chase, the Falcons gave up a close one. They played well against B-CC (13-3) on May 2, “but lost it in the bottom of the seventh, 5-4,” says Orsini. “We are back on track in playing good baseball against good baseball teams.” In considering the playoffs, Orsini cautions, “We must play error free in order to be successful in the playoffs. We need to battle, which we have done on the past three games. We need to stay sharp and stay focused.”



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