



The Monocacy MONOCLE


Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper


March 28, 2014 • Volume XI, Number 1

Ten Years of the Monocacy Monocle By John Clayton


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Premiere Issue March 5, 2004 through March 31, 2004 Volume 1, Number 1

Ten Biggest Changes


As The Monocle goes to press for the first time, we see a number of significant new developments that may occur in the coming months. We all take pride in the pastoral beauty and peacefulness of our region, and we can occasionally enjoy a slower pace of life, but we are nevertheless a vibrant and ever-changing community.

From our vantage point, we see the following changes that may be in the not too distant future. Whether they are good, bad or ugly—we'll leave that decision up to you.

We will provide more detailed reports on each one of them in future editions to help keep you ahead of the information curve.

1. Poolesville is considering a new Town Hall. A search committee has been formed, and a number of locations are on the hunt list. Right now, it looks like the committee is targeting the west side of Whalen Park. The discussion and debate is really just beginning.

2. The new Woodstock Equestrian Park is located on Route 28 between Beallsville Road (Route 109) and Martinsburg Road. This site is on both sides of the Rte. 28 and you have probably seen the stone gateway entrances, fencing, filling, and new driveways being put in place.



The Gazebo at Whalen Park.

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The Boatman of Beallsville


A whole new demonstration of the "can-do spirit" has come to Beallsville in the startling endeavor of Daniel Roussin, a European artisan, cabinet and furniture maker. This remarkable and outgoing individual is single-handedly building his own boat in a clearing off Route 109 in Beallsville. Now this is not your standard rowboat or sport motorboat. Dan has much bigger dreams.

Where exactly the notion to build a boat first emerged is hard to say, but in another time and place it probably would have sounded like: "Dan, DAN, build me a boat 40 cubits by 40 cubits." For those not quite up on the cubit measuring system, this boat is going to be 65 feet long. That's right, half the size of an ark—right in our backyard.

After just spending five minutes talking to Dan a natural skepticism evaporates. He's a man with a plan, and it looks like he is just the man to do it. Upon sharing his portfolio of cabinetry, furniture, and complete libraries that he has built over the years, the impression one gathers is that his clients must have included Buckingham Palace or Versailles.

He speaks with a warm smile, unwavering certainty and clear vision, as he describes the dream that is up to four years away from completion. In the mind's eye and with shared imagination, the vision of a four bedroom, three level ship powered by two 300 hp engines begins to take shape. With sleeping berths for twelve and two staircases, this Wave Runner will be ready for horizons unknown. Judging from his portfolio, the wood-working and craftsmanship will be suited for a king.

The Monocle is excited about reporting on Dan as he advances toward his dream and we will periodically give you progress reports that you will not want to miss. His positive attitude and energy are infectious, so expect to be wildly cheering him on from the dock or, in this case, the woods. Will his dream come true? Let's find out together.



Daniel Roussin works on the hull of his 65 ft. boat.

While it barely seems possible, we have been publishing this newspaper for ten years. Like most new endeavors, ten years seemed impossible at the outset, but when one gets there, it seems to have gone awfully fast—like all those years of school: some courses were an eternity, but the whole process seems to go in a blink.

As you can see, the first issue of the *Monocacy Monocle* was dated March 5, sporting a proud eight pages of glorious black and white newsprint. This was more of an accomplishment than you may realize, or that we realized at the time. We started organizing things in November, and probably thought we'd have an issue out by the end of the year, or by the first of the year at the worst. I don't remember if I rationalized that it was the end of the first quarter or not, but that was our eventual accomplishment—getting the issue published in the first quarter of the New Year.

Looking at that issue, pictured on this page, the stone barn in our Mystery History article still stands

on a Martinsburg Road farm, but Agra the donkey, featured in our first profile, didn't quite make it to our tenth anniversary, sadly passing away earlier this month after a long life. The mystery mountain in our quiz remains, although no one found the quiz on page nine of an eight-page issue, a joke we reprised at least once, and that at least one of us considered for this issue. Plans for using bulk mail to get the *Monocle* out to our readers were put on the shelf before the next issue came out, so our little postal address box only made one appearance.

It took a while for advertising revenues to cover our expenses, as we didn't have that many ads in the first issue, but eventually they did, and I don't want to write another line before I thank all the advertisers who have trusted us over the years. Several of our charter advertisers are with us to this very day. This proud (to us) honor roll includes Poolesville Veterinary

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New Documentary Trumpets Local African American Communities By Rande Davis

Heritage Montgomery held the release and official screening of its latest documentary, *Community Cornerstones: African American Communities in Montgomery County, Maryland* at the Universities at Shady Grove in Rockville on March 24. The public interest was so strong that they had to schedule a second screening in the 300-seat theater the following night.

Two years in the writing and planning with six months of filming, the sixty-minute film brings to life the history of forty county

African American churches that were constructed in Montgomery County between the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement. These churches were the cornerstones of their communities that, for generations of black families, created their own spiritual, social, and educational opportunities. This documentary presents individual reminiscences by elders from the select group of historical African American churches. Taken together, their words explain how these communities developed, illustrate

life in segregated times, and convey their pride in the accomplishments of their ancestors.

Because music is such an integral part of the African American experience, the choirs associated with the churches play an important part in this project, and their performances are highlighted throughout the video.

To tell the story of the church communities, the film focuses on six of the forty churches: Poolesville's St. Paul Community Church on Sugarland Road; Emory Grove



Tom Kettler, president of Heritage Montgomery, executive producer Peg Erikson, Sugarloaf Ethno-History Project's (SEHP) Suzanne Johnson, film writer Barbara Grunbaum, and Gwen Reese, president of SEHP.

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Family Album



Girl Scout Troop 4300 recently went on a ziplining adventure overnight trip in Savage, Maryland. Tiffany Ayers, Julia Lyons, Charlotte Vogel, Cookie Magaha, Sienna Grimsby, Brooke Marshall, Jessica Mense, Jenna Repep. Front Row: Faythe Mullins.



Members of the UMCVFD hand out tote bags at McDonald's to promote checking smoke alarms. (Photograph by Peter Gallo.)



The family of Anne Pomeroy celebrated her eightieth birthday at Bassett's restaurant. Her husband James is seated with her. Four of their five children stand behind: Jamie Konsen, Julie Kingsbury, Andy Pomeroy, and John Pomeroy.



George Virkus of Bassett's celebrated St. Patrick's Day 2014 in an entirely unexpected way.



The annual St. Patrick's dinner at St. Mary's Church featured a terrific troupe of Irish dancers.



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Focus on Business Destination: Poolesville for Weddings and Events

By Susan Petro

Several area businesses have combined forces to form a referral network called Little Miss Weddings & Events in order to make the process of planning a wedding or event easier for their clients. The network includes photographer, Heather Soskin, of Heather Soskin Photography; floral designer, Stephanie Egly, of Stephanie's Secret Garden; baker, Amanda Bouchain, of Zaglio's Bakery; and DJ Valaree Dickerson. Several area musicians, businesses, and venues have also joined forces with the network. Each business hopes to use the power of networking to help each other and their clients plan the perfect wedding or event.

farms and other venues perfect for hosting weddings and other events. Rockland Farms and Bretton Woods Country Club are two nearby venue options that were represented at the bridal fair. Additionally, there are numerous local businesses that can provide all the services a prospective client needs to host his or her event.

Planning a wedding can be overwhelming for an engaged couple. They need to choose their venue, a caterer, a wedding cake, entertainment, a photographer, and often a host of other services. Additionally, outdoor venues require a tent, seating, lighting, bathroom facilities, and even a dance floor. Soskin said that many of her photography clients have no idea who to hire for other services. Soskin states that by creating a network of local businesses and services exclusively for weddings and events, each business can both provide and gain valuable referrals from other businesses in the network. The network clients will gain access



A network of local wedding service businesses have aligned to promote the needs of brides and grooms in our area.

On Sunday, March 23, Little Miss Weddings & Events held its first official event, the Poolesville Bridal Fair, at the Old Town Hall and Bank Museum. Several local prospective brides attended the event as well as other Poolesville residents.

Members of the network are eager to get the message out that local brides and grooms-to-be need not look outside of town to find the services they need for their impending nuptials. The town is surrounded by beautiful

to an umbrella of services to meet their needs without ever having to look outside the area.

Soskin said she realized the benefit of forming the network of services as a way of businesses helping businesses. Because each business often refers its clients to one or more of the other businesses anyway, forming an official network made sense. She says that as the businesses work together, they learn more about each other and,

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Commentary

A Little History And a Few Tributes At Ten Years

John Clayton

As I peruse the issues of the past ten years, I see subtle changes, but overall we've remained true to our beginnings. It's a small miracle that we got the first issue out at all. We had reasonable ideas about how to write articles, and what we might write about, and what it might look like, but that was about it. Rande Davis already had a mockup of the newspaper he had always wanted to publish, and a lot of his vision went into the actual design. Neither of us had the slightest idea about the ins and outs of actually getting a file to a commercial printer, but, as luck would have it, my wife Vikki Clayton was a graphic artist and knew how to lay out a newspaper in Adobe PageMaker and make it presentable and usable to the good people at the Job Shop, the printing subsidiary of the *Frederick News-Post*. Vikki put up with us for a while, with great patience, but she eventually, and wisely, moved on to other things.

The *Monocle* came to be because Rande and I were both walking around (separately—maybe aimlessly) with an idea that the Upcounty (no, not just Poolesville) could use a newspaper. We knew each other a little from church and from the Monocacy Lions Club, but neither one of us knew of the other's thoughts on the topic. I was actually with my family visiting Steve and Kathleen Hayward at their home in Maine. Steve was the rector at St. Peter's at the time and, I believe, was on sabbatical when we were visiting in the summer of 2003. I was looking for something new to do at the time, and probably idly mentioned I had considered starting a newspaper (with no real intention of ever doing such a thing) when Kathleen told me that Rande had the same thought. It took off from there. Like I said above, he already had ideas galore: a marketing plan, prospective

articles, you name it, and we were off to the races.

Of course, what made the endeavor prosper was the arrival of some very talented people to help us step up to the next level. Maureen O'Connell immediately came on board to write a gardening column, and she continues to write that column to this day, and in this very issue. Maureen not only writes prolifically, but elegantly, submitting on-time columns on fresh topics issue after issue. We have also benefited from her world travels, with relevant and compelling articles from an international perspective submitted from time to time, and yes, on time.

Our other major addition to the *Monocle* fold was Dominique Agnew, another talented writer who also serves as our copyeditor, a title that does not pay nearly enough tribute to what she brings to the paper. She makes all of us better writers, and her arrival spruced up the quality of our product visually and editorially from her first day. She is an integral member of our production team, and I can no longer imagine trying to publish an issue without her contribution.

Jack Toomey wrote many of our Local History articles in our early years, and one of the most frequent compliments we would receive was about those articles. Jack has continued to contribute with his popular Police Blotter and Tidbits of the Past columns. Clearly, we never get tired of reading about the history of this area.

After Vikki Clayton stepped down as our graphic artist, I took over that task for a short period, before yielding to Karie Taylor-Legambi, who performed that function excellently for many years, until the end of last year, when Anne-Marie Thomas of AnyArt Studios, LLC took over. Anne-Marie has applied her creative ideas and talents to the design of the paper, and I think our readers have appreciated her contributions.

I want to thank everyone at FNP Printing and Publishing, a subsidiary of the *Frederick News-Post* which has printed every issue

Continued on page 5.

Rande(m) Thoughts Thoughts on Our Tenth Year

By Rande Davis

Ten years and counting—at least that's the plan. March 2004 seems like yesterday, and as I have learned, the years really do go by faster and faster. My reaction to the tenth anniversary of the *Monocacy Monocle* is quite simple: Can it be?

When I find myself in times of trouble, Deadline Danny comes to me; speaking words of wisdom: can it be, can it be. I whisper words of panic often: Can it be, can it be.

It was the dead of winter, one decade ago, when John and I got together to plan the launch of the paper. This is what happens when skies are gray, the air is cold, cabin fever overwhelms you, and boredom overwhelms your mind with pure fantasy.

We looked at the basic facts of opportunity, analyzed our prospects for success astutely, and still decided to move forward. In

doing so, we joined the ranks of three other media outlets covering the news for our limited market, *Western Montgomery County Bulletin*, *Poolesville Gazette*, and Ray Hoewing's *Poolesville Online*. Talk about a crowded field. The base for retail advertising was small and struggling, reader interest in print was waning and promised only to get worse, and both of us had to do this part-time as personal bills still had to get paid. That was only the part we knew. As Donald Rumsfeld was fond of saying, we didn't know what we didn't know, and if we did, who knows what we might have decided. Maybe we had more drive than brains, maybe we needed more sense than cents, and maybe, maybe we were just simply delusional—or maybe it was just some sort of late-term mid-life crisis.

We started off with front-page stories predicting the ten biggest changes to come to the area and about the Boatman of Beallsville, a story about a man named Dan Roussan who was building

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Local News

Damascus Subdivision Plan Moves Ahead

By Kristen Milton

With a new emergency access road in place, the Montgomery County Planning Board approved four more houses for a small proposed subdivision in Damascus.

A preliminary plan for the Seneca Ridge Development, showing seven home sites on approximately thirty acres located between Damascus and Hawkins Creamery Road, was approved in 2008. The developers were unable to include the additional homes they wanted in the northern part of the property without an access road.

In presenting an amendment for the plan on March 13, senior planner Josh Penn said the logistics had now “caught up” to the original idea as the developer had designed a private street that fulfilled the requirements of the Department of Fire and Rescue Services.

One of the eleven total lots will host the Rezin/Bowman Farm, a property described as “derelict” but under consideration for inclusion in the county’s Master Plan for Historic Preservation. The farm includes a house, corn crib, bank

barn, dairy barn, milk house, and pond on almost ten acres.

The subdivision would be served by public water and private septic systems and would include open space and forested area.

The planning board unanimously approved the amended plan.

Park volunteerism

Montgomery Parks will celebrate April, which includes Earth Day, with volunteer opportunities for Upcounty nature lovers.

A Little Seneca Lake clean-up at Black Hill Regional Park in Boyds is scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on April 5. No reservations are needed, and both individuals and groups are welcome. Meet at the Visitor Center with a water bottle and clothing suitable for getting wet and muddy. There will be sites around the lake for all ability levels and interests. For more information, contact Katrina Fauss at Katrina.Fauss@MontgomeryParks.org or call 301-528-3482.

A trail workday for the Lower Magruder Trail in Germantown will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on April 19. All tools will be provided. Volunteers must wear long pants and closed-toe footwear. Bring water and snacks. Space is limited but signup is available at www.montgomeryparks.org/team/earthmonthvolunteer.

Continued from page 4.

At Ten Years

we have ever published, and who have been valued business partners for all that time. Our appreciation goes out to Will Randall, Nancy George, and all their staff for their professionalism and support. Special mention also goes to their technical wizards, Eric Vogel and Sixton Kadel. Eric in particular gets mention for never even taking a moment for a deep breath when I have presented him with a clueless technical question. That is much appreciated.

Much appreciated as well is Rande, my good friend and partner in this endeavor, who is the heart and soul of this newspaper.

We have often agreed that two of either one of us wouldn’t be enough to get it all done—it takes both of us with our complementary skills to get it all done, with a lot of help from others.

Last but not least, while Rande mentions this more in detail in his column, I have to thank Ray Hoewing for almost knocking us out of business before we started. Ray’s *Poolesville Online* came out while we were trying to get that first issue out. Great, someone came out on the web with pretty much what we were trying to do—and doing it very well. Ray, you not only gave us second thoughts, but you made us try harder to do a good job. Thanks for that.

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Assault: 19600 block of Fisher Avenue, 18000 block of Edwards Ferry Road.

Past Crime

March 27, 1958 A Washington man was arrested by Montgomery County police officers after a rape in a Rockville apartment building. Police said that two officers were dispatched to the area for a report of a woman screaming. When they arrived, they were flagged down by a twenty-five-year-old man who mistook their cruiser for a taxi cab. When the woman viewed the man, she identified him as her assailant.

April 1, 1957 Montgomery County Police were investigating a fatal accident on Barnesville Road. They said that a seventeen-year-old Boyds youth had been lying in the roadway when he was run over by a car driven by a twenty-three-year-old Dickerson man. The driver told police that he was returning home at about 2:30 a.m. when he struck the boy. The driver then left to find a phone and returned with rescuers. After an investigation, no charges were placed.

April 2, 1958 An eighteen-year-old Washington youth was sentenced to ninety days in the county jail for assaulting a Montgomery County police officer. The teen had been ejected from Glen Echo Amusement Park for cursing and fighting

but then returned and started another fight. When police were called, they arrested him. While being led to a patrol car, the man turned and struck an officer in the head. Judge Christensen said, "We are not going to have hoodlums from Washington coming out here and assaulting our police officers." The young man begged for mercy saying that he "did not like jails."

April 3, 1957 Eight hundred students filed out of Richard Montgomery High after a gruff-sounding male voice warned of a bomb threat. A student was answering the telephone in the main office when the male called and said, "It's set to go off at 12:45, better get everybody out fast." The assistant principal ordered that the fire bell be rung, and the school was evacuated. Every police officer in the Rockville area was sent to the scene as well as the police chief.

April 5, 1958 A four-hour search for a four-year-old boy ended happily at Fox Den Farm on River Road. Forty police officers, 150 firemen, and scores of volunteers were called to search the wooded property after the boy wandered away from his cousins with whom he had been playing. In the end, the boy was found by two teenagers who had heard the news on the radio and came to help. The boy was wet and cold but otherwise in good shape.

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

Musings from Mama Boe

Soccer Mom Blade Runner

By Pamela Boe

Today I walked my first mile since my prosthetic knee was surgically implanted. As I power-walked on the treadmill at Healthworks to Def Leppard's "I Want to Be Your Hero," I was in my twenties again, where I could exercise without excruciating arthritic pain. I was on the treadmill facing the window, the sun was out, high school students were streaming in for their healthy lunch choices, people from all over the community were chatting and laughing... it was nothing short of awesome.

My knee was clicking audibly, but it didn't hurt because it's metal and has no nerves! How great is that? I just tried to keep it in stride with the beat of the music ... which got difficult when I hit Bon Jovi's "Wild In The Streets." I even tried to jog a little, but ended up gallumping (I just made that word up) rather more like Frankenstein's Igor, than streamlined like Jesse Owens. I envisioned myself running like Oscar Pistorious, the Bladerunner, sans murderous weapons. The kind staff and patrons of Healthworks politely averted their eyes and tried not to cringe every time my weak leg hit the tread with heavy thuds.

They really are nice people. It's no wonder they are so popular with the entire town of Poolesville.

All was going swimmingly, as I finished the cardio portion of my workout and moved to my upper body weight lifting, until I suffered a technical malfunction. You see, I'm borrowing My Captain's iPod, since my children have forbidden me from using my decades-old CD Walkman in public, but I have no place to put it when I'm doing lat-pulls or chest-presses. So I slid the slim, bright-red iPod under the shoulder strap of my super-heavy-duty-commercial-grade-Kevlar-lined-rebar-supported sports bra. By the second set of lat-pulls, it had slid through the strap, travelled through my arm pit, and was dangling perilously close to my second roll of fat.

Something had to be done. It wasn't MY iPod, after all, and I didn't want to have to explain to My Captain how I lost his music in the crevasses of my back lard. Gloriously, oblivious to the shocked and appalled workout peers around me, I thrust my left hand rather spastically into my shirt via the V-neck, and dug elbow-deep, until I found the wayward electronic device. But when I pulled it out, it was all tangled up in my bra strap. And rather than take the smart road, and unplug the earplugs from the iPod to disentangle it, I worked both hands into my shirt to untangle the knot, which by this time was rivaling anything Rubik ever created.

The good news is that I got it out, without any injuries to me or innocent bystanders, or damage to the unit itself, though it was a bit sweaty and smelled like Secret Asian Pear deodorant. And the other bonus from this episode is that My Captain has already ordered me a special sports armband that holds his particular iPod, which was nice of him, if not completely altruistic.

So tomorrow when I go to Healthworks for my daily dose of community bonding and healthy exercise, I'll look cooler than a soccer mom whose arms are elbow-deep down her shirt fishing for lost equipment.

Which is nice.

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Tidbits of the Past

By Jack Toomey

March 9, 1954 Margaret Gray, a sixty-year-old grandmother from Poolesville, became the first woman to be elected as foreperson of the county grand jury. She was a former school teacher, and Judge Prescott described her as an "outstanding woman from a handsome family." Before 1947, women were prohibited from serving on juries in Maryland.

March 11, 1954 The principals of all Montgomery County elementary schools were briefed on the upcoming polio vaccine program. They were told that 7,500 students would be inoculated with the actual vaccine while the others would be given a nutrient solution. After several weeks, all of the students were to have blood tests to determine the effectiveness of the new vaccine.

March 13, 1954 A crowd of 3,000 witnessed the Maryland state basketball playoffs at Ritchie Coliseum on the campus of the University of Maryland. In Class C action, Poolesville lost to Perryville, 38-35. John Roberson had twelve points for Poolesville. Oddly, during the third period, a collie dog walked into the arena and onto the playing floor. Officials escorted the dog back outside.

March 18, 1954 Students at Montgomery County high schools were asked to refrain from wearing tight sweaters (girls) and tight jeans (boys). Dr. Daryl Shaw said that he was not advocating students to buy expensive clothing but said

that some students "were careless about their dress." He noted that such a dress code had been in effect at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High, and a marked improvement in conduct and grades had been seen.

March 25, 1954 A suspected case of parrot fever caused Montgomery County health officials to order that all parakeets that had been exposed to a certain diseased bird be destroyed. A twenty-three-year-old county man who had been affected with the disease had fully recovered. He had purchased a diseased parakeet from a Silver Spring pet store.

March 30, 1954 The county council was presented with a 125-page report prepared by the Civil Defense Association. It detailed the proper response by Montgomery County officials in the event of a thermonuclear attack on Washington. Members were told to expect 400,000 refugees from Washington in the event of an attack.

March 31, 1954 Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas and fifty other hikers were bused to Poolesville to spend the night. The group had been hiking on the C&O Canal and had covered fifty miles by the time that they had reached White's Ferry.

March 31, 1954 Mass inoculations began at Poolesville Elementary School where forty students and teachers had been sickened by jaundice. The Montgomery County Health Department said that there were probably more cases in the community that had not been reported. Six hundred students and forty teachers received the shots.

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See current updates to Things to Do



School News

Princes of Poolesville

By Dmitri Agnew

When March finally rolls around, it brings one of the most entertaining spectacles of the school year: Mr. Poolesville. The 2014 show opened with a video in which the ten nominees, Craig Morton, Vinay Sriram, Mitchell Poe, Trevor Stottlemeyer, Connor Monroe Lugo-Harris, Alex Kendrick, Jacob Fusco, Chase Weaverling, Justin Kim, and Isaac Jackel, all were portrayed as famous Disney princes. They each received a scroll in which there was a challenge they were supposed to accomplish in order to advance into the Mr. Poolesville contest. They each heroically accomplished their challenges with whatever strengths, wiles, tricks, and means they could.

Then began the casual model wear as each contestant displayed his casual style swag symbolizing his extracurricular activities and hobbies. After the Model Princes strutted their stuff, the audience, with breath bated, watched each contestant do a medley of talents whether it be fantastic singing, Broadway-worthy dancing, a hilarious skit, a series of vegetable and farm puns (looking your way, Isaac Jackel), or in Trevor Stottlemeyer's case, a display of his basketball prowess with basketball "trick shots." After the talent portion came an intermission followed by a slideshow of adorable baby pictures of each contestant. Formal wear came next in which the contestants were escorted on stage by a close friend, significant other, or a family member. The audience was shocked when contestant Trevor Stottlemeyer had a question for his escort, "Will you go to prom with me?" Her answer was lost in the ensuing roar, but from her actions, we'll have to hazard a guess that it was a yes.



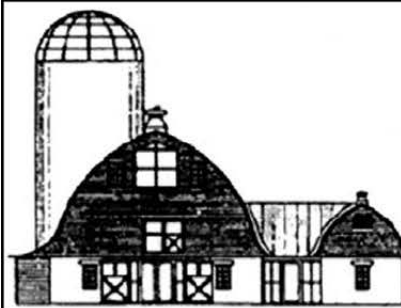
Mr. Poolesville Connor Monroe Lugo-Harris and Miss Poolesville Annie Gillespie.

At this point in the competition, somehow, the overwhelmed judges were required to narrow the field to the top five, but to the shock of the crowd, for the first time ever in Poolesville history, there was a top six: Vinay Sriram, Mitchell Poe, Trevor Stottlemeyer, Connor Monroe Lugo-Harris, Alex Kendrick, and Isaac Jackel. From the top six, the judges named the second runner up, Mitchell Poe, with his skit. The runner up was Trevor Stottlemeyer with his "trick shots" video. Finally, the Mr. Poolesville 2014 winner was revealed.

Connor Monroe Lugo-Harris wowed the crowd and the judges with his performance in which the first half was a video of him singing "Happy" with various teachers and students dancing along, and during his second half of the talent, he came onto stage with an accompaniment of singers to finish the song "Happy" as a live performance. Congratulations to all the contestants of the Mr. Poolesville 2014 performance, and especially to Prince Connor.

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SUGARLOAF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER March 2014

"Protecting our rural legacy"

How to contact us:

Sugarloaf Citizens' Association

James Choukas-Bradley, President

Linden Farm, 20900 Martinsburg Road

P.O. Box 218, Dickerson, MD 20842

Visit our Web site: www.sugarloafcitizens.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sugarloaf Citizen's Association invites you to attend its **Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 5, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in the Barn at Linden Farm, 20900 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson, MD.** Featured speaker this year is Ms. Francoise Carrier, outgoing chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board, who will address the recent Zoning Rewrite, with a focus on elements affecting the Ag Reserve. The Piedmont Environmental Council has invited three of their 2013 Grant Recipients to present their projects. **A continental breakfast will be served, and after the meeting, bags of Leafgro will once again be available.**

The Annual Meeting provides the opportunity to share information about projects and issues that have been on Sugarloaf's agenda. There will also be time for you to share your concerns and experiences to help Sugarloaf set its goals for the coming year. The annual election of Board members and officers will also be held at this meeting. All Sugarloaf members are entitled to vote. A member is defined as anyone who has contributed to SCA for 2014. If you responded to the December 2013 membership letter or you have made a donation since then, you may vote.

You are also invited to a very special upcoming event at Linden Farm. **For the FIRST TIME EVER, Monocacy Garden Club's Spring Flower Show and SCA's annual Seed and Plant Swap will be held together at Linden Farm on Saturday, May 10.** The Flower Show is scheduled from 2 to 6 pm and the Plant Swap from 2 to 4 pm. Please come and invite your friends and neighbors to swap or sell seedlings or plants and to enjoy the beautiful floral designs and horticultural specimens in the Garden Club's flower show. **Visitors will be invited to vote for their favorite arrangements, and winners will be announced at the wine and cheese reception beginning at 4 pm. Refreshments, live music and area vendors will all be part of the day.** As always, Leafgro will be available. Be part of history and join us for this Celebration of Rural Montgomery Saturday, May 10, 2-6 pm.

Paid Advertisement

Daytripper

American Visionary Art Museum: Leaving Comfort

By Ingeborg Westfall

I'm old and set in my ways, always coloring within the lines, definitely not rocking any boats, staying firmly in the background. I embrace the familiar, the known, the easily outlined. If it's new, unknown, or without clear boundaries, I'll need those anti-anxiety meds now.

I doubt I'm unusual in that. Even so, sometimes it feels good to try something new, unfamiliar, something that causes discomfort. Of course, the choice is yours: learn public speaking and give a talk in front of a group? Write up something memorably good (or bad) from your life and share it with your family? Or do what I did: take a class in pastel drawing and then one in watercolor (or whatever inspires you and makes you afraid). The irony doesn't escape me that I'm still drawing inside the lines, but the art wasn't the challenge. No, the challenge, the terrifying part, was being with a group of strangers, but if I'd confined myself to learning from books or the internet, what's the fun in that? I mean, of course it's fun, as any learning is, but I admit I get fond of the scary edge to doing something that makes me want to run from the room I'm about to enter.

So this week, when I spent a late-winter afternoon at the American Visionary Art Museum (AVAM) in Baltimore, Charm City's wondrous mirrored fantastic-land, I was once again astonished, uplifted, yes even transported, by the glorious inventiveness, creativity, and boundary-exploding art created by those who never thought outside the box because they never knew there was a box. One of the artists whose work "Not Plain Jane" is on display, Steve Heller, expressed it far better when he wrote, "The one thing I never studied was art. For that, I am very grateful." His Jane has a toaster for a head. Another artist (Devon Smith) fashioned what he named the "World's First Family of Robots" from scavenged junk items.

As always, some works made me smile, some were almost too full of pain to look at, some were whimsical, etc. I admired works by an artist who combined watch parts with insects, another who fashioned human faces out of spare piano parts, and another who'd made an exuberant life-sized self-depiction in multi-colored telephone wire (Stanley Wright). This is definitely not folk art, not reflective of a tradition in that way, but highly individualized art and self-expression, using materials at hand or created for the purpose. Another artist, institutionalized since her teens, painted on used paper plates and cigar boxes. That's what she had; that's what she used.

The exhibit on Neil Harbisson, born with a condition that caused

him to see only in black and white, is fascinating. In 2003, according to the museum information, "He took part in the development of the 'Eyeborg,' a cybernetic eye permanently attached to his head (on a small stalk that extends over his head to his forehead; it's not creepy in the least) that allows him to hear the frequencies of colors through bone conduction." He started "to feel like a cyborg, a union between his organism and cybernetics, when he started to hear colors in his dreams." I hardly understand what I'm writing.

Suffice it to say, it's quite fascinating, and the imagery stays with you for a long time.

Today's lesson? Visit the AVAM, whether for the first time or the tenth. The staff is always friendly and welcoming, and from its SMILE toothbrush mat to its bathroom displays of humor, the AVAM will always surprise you. To quote Dave Barry: "Never be afraid to try something new. Remember that a lone amateur built the Ark. A large group of professionals built the Titanic."



A display from the American Visionary Art Museum.

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Youth Sports

At the Heart Of Club Soccer

By Jeff Stuart

Rod Nubgaard has coached girls' soccer for nearly two decades. He is stepping down as a coach after this season after a very successful career. He has spent the last nine years leading the Montgomery Soccer Timberwolves.

"I found the club soccer experience to be a positive one," said parent Paula Dimitriadis, "mostly because of Coach Rod's enthusiasm and dedication. I found him to be a great coach for my daughter and the other girls, primarily because he takes the time to get to know the girls as individuals. He builds on their strengths and weaknesses based on the individual and how he can help them and the team. He wants to understand them and builds a bonding relationship. He demands a strong work ethic both on and off the field (scholastically and in sports). He wants the girls to show respect to one another and to him. That respect is earned, by all parties.

He explains why he wants the players to do the things he is asking of them. He also values the player's input. He never makes the player feel that they cannot question or suggest tactics with him. He loves the dialogue. I think this works to his advantage because so many coaches feel they are above listening to the players. He realizes that not one package fits all players."

Current Poolesville multi-sport

varsity players on the Timberwolves are seniors Alyssa Nubgaard, his daughter, Whitney Carmack, and juniors Anna-Marie Murgia and Po Coulibaly. "I have coached Alyssa and Whitney since the fall 2001," said Coach Nubgaard.

"I got to make friends that I would have never met any other way," said Alyssa.

"Three words: Nothing but support," says Julia Doody (Damasus High School) of her club soccer experience.

"My experience through the Timberwolves has taught me to step up and become a leader and a team player which means so much to me because it is something I have been unable to learn anywhere else," said goalkeeper, Cristina Guillen (Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School).

Many other high schools are represented on the team: Clarksburg, Seneca Valley, Richard Montgomery, Churchill, Sherwood, Covenant, Sandy Spring, and Watkins Mill.

The MSI team has been successful during Coach Rod's tenure. There were nine outdoor championships. In 2011, the Timberwolves won one of Virginia's top tournaments, and they played in several high-end tournaments where MSI teams rarely play, but the coach has it all in perspective. "When you lose the fun, the rest has no meaning. Winning is just a byproduct. Focus on working hard. With desire and passion, the winning will come."

Nubgaard, who works for the U.S. Coast Guard, has coached and played at all levels of soccer from preschool through college. He spends ten to twenty-four hours a

week on practices, game planning, and continuing education, and he takes coaching very seriously. "Coaching has been the best thing for me," he said. "It's an incredible responsibility because of the influence you can have on the players—good or bad."

He has developed strong ties with experienced coaches from the United Kingdom. "The girls really enjoy it when I bring a guest coach from England to teach a session or two," he added.

Some youth soccer programs forbid players from playing with their high school teams. Others do the opposite and take the high school seasons off. "My players have chosen to play both," said Nubgaard. "In order not to overtax their health, I drop to one practice a week. The players are fit through their school practices and games." Nubgaard focuses on fitness training to avoid chronic and long-term physical damage. "I coached high school varsity (Seneca Valley 2000 to 2002) and at the travel club level. I have seen the good, bad, and the ugly of the soccer world. Bottom line for me: It's about the player. Their health, academics, and experience is number one, not the trophies."

As the last season begins, Coach Nubgaard is preparing for difficult goodbyes. "I will have a stack of towels for me at the last game as I bid them farewell and good luck!" he lamented. "This will be a very emotional time for me as I treat and care for the kids I coach as I would my own daughters. When you spend time helping them through soccer or other personal issues, help pay for expenses they cannot pay for, etc., you can't help but treat them as you would a member of your family. They are graduating and heading off to their next phase of life. I will be sad, happy, and proud at the same time." After nine years of coaching these girls, he has forged strong bonds with them. "They have been an incredibly hardworking group. I have been privileged to have coached them. They and their parents have been and are my family. I will still be there for them. This is the best group of kids I have coached on and off the field."

The new season opens April 5.

Continued from page 4.

Thoughts on Our Tenth Year

a sixty-five-foot yacht in a field across from the fire department with no notion as to how he would get it to water once finished. Unfortunately, the ribbed frame collapsed like a row of dominoes and our local Noah's ark was no more.

As I pause in wonder at the last ten years, I am moved by an overwhelming sense of gratitude—gratitude to all those who have advertised with us so that we could bring a vibrant and lively chronicle of the lives of our readers. Without them there is no paper or readers. Gratitude for you, our readers, and your overwhelming support and appreciation for what we do. Your support is the fuel that motivates and makes it all worthwhile. It is you, the subject of our stories, your lives, your passions, and your talents that make the *Monocle* the positive, uplifting publication it has become.

Gratitude to our talented writing staff: Maureen O'Connell, Jack Toomey, Kristen Milton, Jeff Stuart, Ingeborg Westfall, Pam Boe, Susan Petro, and others who came and went along the way. Gratitude for our production partners: the *Frederick News Post* and the creative Anne-Marie Thomas of *AnyArt Studios*. I have special gratitude to our copy editor and writer extraordinaire, Dominique Agnew, without whom I would not dare to write at all. Without a doubt, I have great gratitude to my wife, Laura, who was a believer right from the start and who came up with the *Monocle* name. Finally, I have immense gratitude for my partner John Clayton. He fills in for all my shortcomings of which there are too many to mention. If I am the sails, he is the bow and rudder who keeps this ship moving forward with direction and purpose.

As I look out at the distant future, the sound of a printer is stirring me: can it be, can it be. In the face of internet and online pressures, crystal words of wisdom come to me: it can be, it will be.



The 2014 Timberwolves are ending over a decade of playing together.

Tidbits

Scout Obtains Grant to Place Reflector Bands on Hydrants

Boy Scout Bryce McKenney approached the town commissioners at their March 17 meeting to request financial support for his planned Eagle Scout project to place a reflective band on all town fire hydrants.



Scout Bryce McKenney presented his Eagle Scout project to the Poolesville commissioners.

Fire Chief Mike White endorsed the project as being a great aid in making it easier for the fire department to find hydrants at night. The band is placed around the neck of the hydrant and held together by a stainless steel tie cable, which can be removed when the hydrant needs painting. McKenney expects to complete the placement of the bands within a three-week time frame. The cost to place the bands on all of the town hydrants is around \$1000.00. The commissioners approved the cost for the project, and McKenney will install them in April.

Churches Join Together to Bring Community Dinners

St. Peter's Episcopal Church and Memorial United Methodist Church have agreed to share the

responsibility of bringing a free community dinner once a month. Each church will alternate hosting and preparation of a meal on the first Wednesday of each month billed as an evening of food, fun, and fellowship. The meal is an outreach effort to make sure families in need get a meal at no cost to them but is open to all in the community. At this time, United Methodist will feature a taco dinner with sides, including a gluten-free alternative. At St. Peter's, the menu will vary each time.

Do Your Own Thing Contest

The Poolesville Library Association has come up with a twist on the traditional poster contest with a multimedia contest entitled: Do Your Own Thing. Submissions could include a poster, video, song, poem, or whatever motivates students from kindergarten through fifth grade. This year's theme is: Your Favorite Book. Entries are accepted at the library until April 25. The *Monocle* will keep you posted, pun intended, on the results of this fun event.

Think! – Globally

Girl Scout Troop 4300, all fifth graders at MES and PES, recently joined seventy-nine other girls in Service Unit 32-11 in celebrating World Thinking Day on February 23. On World Thinking Day, girls participate in activities and projects with global themes to honor their sister Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in other countries.

Did you know that the top award in the junior girl scouts program is the Bronze Award? Troop 4300 has a bunch working hard for that award: PES students

Jessica Mense, Brooke Marshall, Jenna Repep, Chelsea Ohmen, and Faythe Mullins, and MES students

Charlotte Vogel, Cookie Magaha, Sienna Grimsby, and Julia Lyons.



Dressed as the Maori, native to New Zealand, during World Think Day are Girl Scouts: Charlotte Vogel, Julia Lyons, Jessica Mense, Sienna Grimsby, Brooke Marshall, Chelsea Ohmen, Faythe Mullins, and Jenna Repep.



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Parish Mission - April 6 - 9, 2014

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Fresh house-cut salmon glazed with the chef's Pommery honey mustard sauce, baked to perfection; served with garlic-mashed potatoes and the vegetable of the day.

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Things To Do

Spring Cleanup 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 can not only cause injury to our staff but also make it difficult to trim around the memorials. Monocacy Cemetery: 301-349-5176.

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.

March 28

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.

PHS Varsity Home Game

Boys' lacrosse versus Quince Orchard. 7:00 p.m.

Volleyball versus Clarksburg. Boys: 5:15 p.m., Coed: 7:00 p.m.

Super 7 Bingo

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

March 29

Destination Poolesville: Annual Community/Business Fair

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

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 \$25.00 raffle prize drawings.

PHS Home Varsity Sports

Baseball versus Damascus. 1:30 p.m.
Softball versus Damascus. 1:30 p.m.

March 31

PHS Varsity Home Sports

Boys' tennis versus Rockville. 3:30 p.m.

April 1

PHS Varsity Home Game

Boys' lacrosse versus Bethesda-Chevy Chase. 7:00 p.m.

April 2

PHS Varsity Home Game

Volleyball versus Northwest. Boys: 5:15 p.m., Coed: 7:00 p.m.

Free Community Dinner

An evening of food, fun, and fellowship. Tacos and fixings with sides of corn and fruit, plus dessert and Starbucks coffee. Gluten-free selection offered. Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church. All are welcome. 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

April 3, 4, and 5

Annual Spring St. Peter's Rummage Sale

Clothes, appliances, furniture, sports equipment, household goods, toys, computer and electronics, and much more.

Thursday: 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

April 3

PHS Varsity Home Games

Baseball versus Wheaton. 3:30 p.m.
Softball versus Wheaton. 3:30 p.m.

American Legion Post 247 Meeting

All veterans invited, refreshments. Old Town Hall Bank Museum and Exhibit Center. 7:30 p.m.

April 4

PHS Varsity Home Game

Girls' lacrosse versus Damascus. 7:00 p.m.

April 5

Sugarloaf Citizens' Association Annual Meeting

Featured speaker is Ms. Françoise Carrier, outgoing chair, Montgomery County Planning Board, who will address the recent Zoning Rewrite, with a focus on elements affecting the Ag Reserve. Continental breakfast will be served. Barn at Linden Farm, 20900 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson. 9:30 a.m.

April 7

PHS Varsity Home Game

Boys' tennis versus Northwood. 3:30 p.m.

Boys' lacrosse versus Watkins Mill. 7:00 p.m.

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

April 9

PHS Varsity Home Game

Baseball versus Einstein. 3:30 p.m.

Softball versus Einstein. 3:30 p.m.

Volleyball versus Seneca Valley.

Boys: 5:15 p.m., Coed: 7:00 p.m.

Free Community Dinner

An evening of food, fun, and fellowship. Tacos and fixings with sides of corn and fruit, plus dessert and Starbucks coffee. Gluten-free selection offered. Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church. All are welcome. 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Free Zumba Gold Class for Senior Citizens

Poolesville Area Seniors Organization. Poolesville Baptist Church gym. 1:00 p.m.

WUMCO Board of Directors' Annual Meeting

Community invited to hear a wrap-up of WUMCO activities for the past very active year. Highlights will be report on status of WUMCO's goal of relocating its headquarters to Poolesville. Board members will explain the rationale for the relocation, discuss specifications of a new facility, and update progress in their search to date. Questions and input from the public will be invited. Questions? Call 301-972-8481. Old Town Hall Bank Museum and Exhibit Hall, Poolesville. 7:30 p.m.

April 11

PHS Varsity Game

Girls' lacrosse versus Seneca Valley. 7:00 p.m.

Save the Date

Candidate Forum Poolesville Town Hall April 14: 7:00 – 9:00 pm

The Republican Women's Clubs of Rural, Potomac, and Upper Montgomery, and Republicans of Legislative 15 will sponsor a Candidate Forum. Come, meet, greet, and hear the candidates talk about their platforms.

Candidates for Delegates

Flynn Ficker
Christine Thron
Ed Edmundson

Candidates for
State Senate

Robin Ficker
Pat Fenati, with LD-14

Jerry Cave will be the moderator for the event.

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Pulse

WUMCO Seeks To Relocate to Poolesville

By Rande Davis

WUMCO Help, Inc., the forty-six-year old charity that provides emergency assistance to hundreds of individuals and families in upper Montgomery County each year, is preparing for its upcoming annual meeting with one of the key agenda items being the hope to relocate in the future. All concerned citizens are invited to the annual meeting on April 9 at Poolesville's Old Town Hall Bank Museum and Exhibit Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Founded by Executive Director Jane Stearns and Beulah Harper in 1968, the organization has evolved from an ad hoc emergency food operation operating out of a kitchen to a multi-service agency that also helps those facing difficult times with assistance on utility payments, transportation to clinics, prescription drugs, rent and mortgage payments, and other needs, including holiday food baskets and toys for children at Christmas. For many years, it has operated out of the family home owned by Jane and her late husband Fred rent-free to WUMCO.

Nancy Allnut, WUMCO president and owner of Nancy's Day Care in Boyds, has been a volunteer for the organization since 1988. She told the *Monocle* that finding a location more central to the needs of the clients in Poolesville with easier

access is ultimately very important and will become critical at some time in the future when Jane will no longer lead the group. "We've been concerned and have talked about it for a long time. This winter is a perfect example of the kind of problems that can arise. The back road and driveway can make it very difficult to get food in or out."

This issue is not a new one for WUMCO, and was one of the recommendations that came out of a three-person committee from the board of directors who studied the mission and programs of WUMCO and assessed its readiness to meet the demands of its many clients. Other issues addressed included a set of bylaws with provisions that had become obsolete, sections that were confusing and conflicting, the absence of a succession plan for the day when Stearns steps aside, and inadequate planning for resources and programming for a changing constituency.

In addition to the concern of finding an heir apparent for founder Jane Stearns, the organization can always use more volunteers as drivers for persons, most often elderly, in need of transportation to their doctors. Students can get volunteer credit helping out at the distribution center or during some of the key events each year. Poolesville Day and the Fall Festival Walk-A-thon are perfect opportunities for the young folks to pitch in.

During the past two and half years, the board has approved a new charter (bylaws); approved a plan of succession; brought on to the board a certified public accountant as treasurer to improve financial reporting and systems; overseen adoption of technology for key operations and processes; and identified some of the likely changes and challenges facing the organization in coming years.

The last item being addressed by the board is the exploration of possible options for relocating its base of operations. The need to relocate is based on several considerations about the present facility. It is not centrally located for either volunteers or clients (and is often inaccessible several times every winter); it is in need of substantial renovation and repair (e.g., not handicap-accessible and the food

pantry needs upgrading); and it has virtually zero visibility that a more central location would provide, thereby attracting more food donations as well as volunteers.

A subcommittee of the WUMCO board has had exploratory discussions with Memorial Methodist representatives regarding the possibility of acquiring space in the old parsonage located

on the church lot; however, there is no certainty that these discussions will bear fruit, and the board welcomes the opportunity to discuss other options. Organizations that have space that they might make available to WUMCO should call the WUMCO office at 301-972-8481 to obtain a set of specifications that lay out the requirements for a building.

Continued from page 1.

Ten Years of the *Monocacy Monocle*

Clinic, William N. Price, CPA, CFP, and Jones Premium Builders & Remodelers, Inc. Many others came in very soon after that first issue, and are gratefully with us to this day, but charter issue honors and ten years of every-issue loyalty is a cozy club occupied by those three alone. Thanks for the confidence or patience you have shown. I should also note that long-time occasional advertiser Gail Lee also took the leap of faith and placed an ad in our inaugural issue. Gail was a regular advertiser for many years and still makes an appearance periodically, which we appreciate very much.

When my long-suffering colleague and business partner Rande Davis first showed me his mockup of his idea of a local newspaper (I still have it somewhere) the "Ten Biggest Changes" front-page story was already brewing in his overactive imagination. He virtually wrote the entire issue (this has happened many times), I edited, we collaborated on an editorial, and, by some miracle, we agreed to do a second issue in spite of our artistic differences (we each elaborate more on such topics in our respective commentaries on page four). The changes that were on the way are fun to look at ten years later, and you can do the same, as the issue is posted on our website, www.monocacy-monocle.com. Indeed, Poolesville has a new town hall, the Woodstock Equestrian Park is a reality, Barnesville renovated its old town hall, St. Peter's Episcopal Church expanded, the Comus Inn, a long-time advertiser (hey guys, we're still here!), was extensively restored and remodeled, Poolesville is still working on that historical tourism thing, the Farmers' Market exists, luxury homes were not built on the old polo grounds property, and we're still here. That opening editorial promised an absence of political partisanship, based on our almost total political incompatibility, and I think we've stuck to that pretty well. We've had some commentaries that point out some contradictions and ironies of the larger world around us, and expressed some opinions, but we have steadfastly avoided telling people what they should think, and I think we've always left room for the other side of an issue.

Our second issue rocketed us up to twelve pages, and some present-day regular and occasional advertisers such as Jamison Realty, Our Lady of the Presentation, Bob's Bikes, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Bassett's Restaurant, Absolute Auto, Poolesville Hardware, and Poolesville Tire and Auto joined in.

A mere six months later, our Poolesville Day edition, the brainchild of Rande Davis, was up to a princely sixteen pages, and several more of our long-time advertisers were included: Lewis Orchards, Cugini's, Drs. Pike and Valega, D.D.S., and R.N. Brown Company, Inc. Many more of you came in and stayed over the years, and we love you for it. You're why we're still here.

I realize as I have worked on this issue that as much as things change, not much changes at all. To some extent, we just move from issue to issue—finish one, start another. We are very grateful for our readers as well as our advertisers and all our contributors, and above all, we are grateful for the warmth that you have shown to us and to our local newspaper. Thank you very much.



President of WUMCO, Nancy Allnut, has been with the Upcounty help organization since 1988.

Garden

Gardening in a Changing World

By Maureen O'Connell

This issue of the *Monocacy Monocle* celebrates the tenth anniversary of its founding by John Clayton and Rande Davis. Congratulations for "Keeping an Eye on Local News" and presenting news, community information, and human interest articles with journalistic objectivity and adherence to the rules of good writing.

I have written my "In the Garden" column for the *Monocle* for those ten years. During that time, I have focused on such varied horticultural issues as new plant varieties, garden maintenance and plant care, gardens throughout the world, Colony Collapse Disorder, pesticides, and global warming. Today, what issues are still in the news for their impact on the world of agriculture and its subdivision, horticulture?

I began gardening in 1972. Since then, there have been many new horticultural developments and the birth of new varieties of plants. W. Atlee Burpee started his seed company in 1876, and he changed seed production and selection for the United States. Up until his time, gardeners used old European varieties of seeds which had trouble adjusting and growing well in our different summer climate. Today, horticulturists spend millions of dollars in research to produce new plants that have great visual appeal, interesting foliage, new colors, increased blooming time, and resistance to drought, pests, heat, humidity, and cold weather—but the classics will always be with us, in spite of their flaws: hybrid tea roses Mr. Lincoln and Peace; the old rose 'Comte de Chambord'; the perennial daylily 'Stella De Oro'; and the white phlox 'David.'

In the past decade, there has been a significant increase in interest and concern about the use of pesticides and their effect on the environment. Rachel Carson was a strong advocate against their use, and she brought the issue to world attention in her book *Silent*

Spring (1962.) Several events in the past years have brought a new awareness to this issue. One is Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), a phenomenon in which worker bees from a beehive disappear and never return to their hive. Such disappearances have occurred in the history of apiculture, but, in 2006, there was a dramatic rise in their numbers. This has an immense impact on the agricultural world which depends upon bees for pollination of fruits and vegetables. The workings of CCD and the reason for its existence are unclear, but there is strong evidence pointing to pesticides, in particular those of the neonicotinoid class. A second concern involves the decline of the number of butterflies. Since last year, the migratory route of the Monarch butterfly from Canada to Mexico has drawn attention. Their numbers have decreased. Is this caused by loss of habitat in Mexico or the widespread use of pesticides?

The impact of pesticides and fertilizers on our wetlands and waterways has garnered increased interest and a demand for more protective measures in the past ten years. Close to home, our treasured Chesapeake Bay has sustained heavy damage from pollution runoff. The bay's "dead zones," hypoxic waters depleted of oxygen, are unable to support life, resulting in massive fish kills. The bay's crabs and oysters are also being threatened by loss of water grasses and overharvesting. I used to rely heavily on insecticides to protect my flowering plants, especially my many roses. After seeing the harm that this practice was doing to the environment, especially to bees and other beneficial insects, I stopped using them completely. My garden exists on the motto of: The survival of the fittest.

Global warming is a very sensitive issue for discussion, and it is subject to much controversy. There is a long queue of believers in this phenomenon as well as a queue of skeptics. Global warming—or as some call it: climate change—has been discussed for decades, but in the last ten years, the increase in disastrous weather worldwide has caused an intensified focus on its

Continued on page 20.



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Continued from page 3.

Destination: Poolesville for Weddings and Events

as a result, they work well together to help the weddings or events come off seamlessly.

Valaree Dickerson also recognized the value of forming the network. "We have enough people in the community to partake in a natural group of its own," Dickerson said. "Why not just form the group so people understand it's all encompassing, as a package," Dickerson added. "It's important for people to know that they don't have to reach outside of town to find the services they need."

One of the newest members to the community, Amanda Bouchain of Zaglio's Bakery was thrilled to be invited to join the group. She is already well-regarded by Poolesville residents in her craft of designing and baking all types of cakes. Bouchain attended culinary school in New York and worked for a variety of country clubs and bakeries. She spent the past four years exclusively baking wedding cakes before moving to Poolesville.

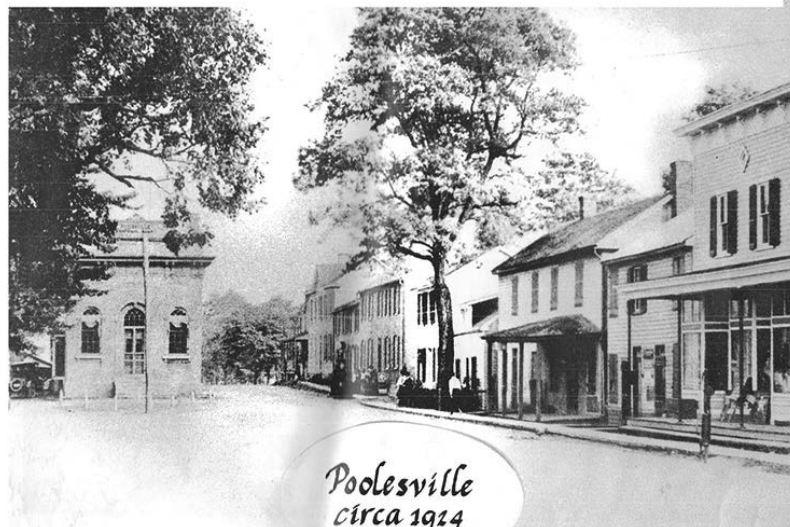
Like Bouchain, each member of the network has years of valuable

experience in his/her field. Soskin has worked as a professional photographer for the past four years after many years of pursuing photography as a hobby. Florist, Stephanie Egly, opened Stephanie's Secret Garden nine years ago, but has been doing floral arrangements for much longer. Valaree Dickerson has been a DJ for twenty-one years. Many of the network members have already worked together at various events and look forward to combining their talents and services for future events as a team.

In addition to attracting local residents to use the services of Little Miss Weddings & Events, Soskin hopes that events like the Poolesville Bridal Fair will attract outside residents to consider the Poolesville area to host their events. The Poolesville Bridal Fair is just the first step in drawing attention to everything the Poolesville community has to offer. She hopes that by holding future events or setting up booths at popular attractions like Poolesville Day, that the network will get the word out that Poolesville and the surrounding area are the perfect place to host a wedding or event.

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Continued from page 1.

New Documentary

United Methodist Church, Gaithersburg; Jerusalem-Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church, Rockville; Pleasant View Historical Site, Darnestown; Fairhaven Methodist Church, Quince Orchard; and Sharp Street United Methodist Church, Sandy Spring.

Emmy-winning producer Peggy Erikson reflected on the release of the film, "This project has been so rewarding. It is so important that we do not forget our history.

It was only in the mid-1960s that the county was completely integrated. I have met the most inspirational people. Hearing people like Pearl Green who is ninety-six years old recall her life was fantastic. From the strength that people have, like Gwen Reese in rebuilding her church so as to tell the story of St. Paul to visitors or to learn of the history of Sharp Street, our oldest African American church in the county, and to hear the music, this was just a great experience."

The film is a love story—the story of strong, dedicated, caring, and loving communities centered in their faith, devoted to their families, strengthened by their personal character, proud of their achievements in the face of adversity, and fervently supportive of each other as an extended family.

The story is told through the words of descendants who have a wonderful sense of optimism, joy, and often, humor, and, of course, a whole lot of rousing music to stir the soul.

In telling the history of St. Paul Community Church on Sugarland Road, Gwen Reese, the president of the Sugarland Ethno History Project, Inc., who grew up in the community and attended the church, said, "The film really captured essence of life in the community. I was struck with the similarity of experience shared by each community. Even as slaves, it didn't affect their relationships with each

other and the Lord. Rather, it caused them to triumph over all their problems. They used their experience of living in opposition by others as a way to know how to treat each other. Taking care of each other was their way to provide security for each other. It was like communal living. Everybody was helpful to each other, everything they did they did together: canning, butchering, quilting, hunting, trapping, even building their homes together."

Gwen was born and raised in the house her great-grandfather built. His work was in cement finishing, so he even made the cinder blocks that were used by him and neighbors to build the house. Gwen lived in the basement while they finished the house. The love and care for each other extended to child raising. "The adults stuck together in raising their children. All adults were responsible for the children. No matter what house you were at, the adults in the home had authority to keep behavior in check by teaching manners and proper behavior."

Still, the most fundamental message of the film from Reese's view was that "the church was the center, the pulse, of the community, a part of the culture which resulted in the most natural thing to do on Sunday was to go to church and Sunday was a big day event often with a huge meal shared as a community."

Executive producer Erickson teamed up with Barbara Grunbaum, the project manager, writer, and interviewer for this film. The duo last worked together on the 2011 Emmy-award winning documentary, *Life in the War Zone: Montgomery County during the Civil War*.

Both films are available at the Old Town Hall Bank Museum and Exhibit Center in Poolesville and Sugarland Ethno History Project, Inc. Funds from sales locally go to support the building project of the historic St. Paul Community Church and museum on Sugarland Road. Email gwenreese21@msn.com to reserve a copy of the DVD set.

Continued from page 18.

Gardening in a Changing World

cause. In 2012, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) unveiled a new Plant Hardiness Zone Map, the first update since 1990. This sparked a new debate about the existence of global warming. There was criticism as to whether the USDA used too much or too little reliance upon the tenets incorporated in climate change. The map does show that planting zones have been shifting northward as our winters have become milder (of course, this past winter's temperatures will provide cannon fodder for the skeptics). This map is an invaluable help as it sets the standard by which gardeners and professional growers judge which plants can do well within the climate of their zone.

Genetically modified (GM) crops are a hot issue today in the agricultural world. While there is a broad scientific consensus that food on the market from GM crops poses no greater risk than conventionally-produced food, there are broad differences of opinion from Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund on the questioning side to other environmental groups such as The Nature Conservancy who support the use of GM crops as beneficial to the environment. The first GM crops were grown more than thirty

years ago, but today more of our food comes from this source. The food industry has started to weigh in on this issue. Whole Foods has pledged that by 2018, it will replace some foods containing GM ingredients and label others. Trader Joe's proclaims: "No GMOs Sold Here" (GMOs being genetically-modified organisms). General Mills announced in January that it will stop using GM ingredients in Cheerios (what about its other cereals?).

These are just a few of the topics that I have discussed "In the Garden" over the past ten years. In my travels to different parts of the world, especially to less-developed countries, I have tried to describe for you the beauty of the people I have met and the landscapes I have seen, but I have also seen great poverty, poor or non-existent healthcare, inadequate educational opportunities, and people trying to exist on very little with total dependence on subsistence farming. There have been many wonderful advances in agriculture that can help alleviate or improve the numbers of people living in poverty worldwide. I shall continue to write about what is happening locally as well as in other parts of the world—In the Garden.

So happy tenth birthday, *Monocacy Monocle*. May you have many more to celebrate. The Gardener.

Continued from page 13.

The Who's Who of "Everyone everywhere reads the Monocle!"

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- #4 Lions' Board of Directors • #5 BB&T • #6 Poolesville Day Committee • #7 JPMS Main Office • #8 PACC Board of Directors
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Number one: Eating. Be sure you know if their habits at feeding time have changed. Have there been any days when they were not interested in food? Have you had to add "human" food to get them to eat? Are you noticing any changes in the way they chew their food?

Number two: Sleeping. Does your pet sleep more, less, or at different times than they used to? Does your pet wake in the middle of the night? Are they more vocal at night? Are they having to go to the bathroom in the middle of the night?

Number three: Movement. Have you started to notice any lameness or increase in existing lameness? Have your pet's active hours declined? Does your pet seem to have more trouble getting up after resting? Has your pet started to self-limit walk amounts, or refuse to go for walks? Is your pet vocalizing when they get up or walk long distances? Has their breathing pattern changed?

Number four: Interaction: Has your pet started to interact less with the family? Is your pet starting to forget where they are in the house? Have your pets stopped playing with or seeking out their toys? Is your pet waking you up at all hours of the night?

Number five: Behavior: Is your pet now not interacting with other pets in the house or starting to act differently to other animals on the daily walk? Is your pet starting to seem more anxious, fearful, or irritable? Is your pet exhibiting unusual vocalization (e.g., yowling for no apparent reason)?

Any of these changes could by themselves be nothing more than age related, but let your veterinarian discuss with you your concerns along with giving your friend a physical. Sometimes changes warrant a blood panel or radiographs. Other times only behavior changes are needed and dietary reevaluations considered.

Keeping these questions in mind for your next visit to your veterinarian will increase the chances of keeping your pet healthy and active for years to come.



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