



THE WHISTLE STOP

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A community service project from your local Ruritan Club at no cost for over 30 years, supported by community fundraising

Construction Projects Will Impact Local Community

By Pepper Scotto

The POR Ruritan Club hosted a community meeting on May 14 at the Community Center to hear the public information from Maryland State Highway Administration staff. Far too much information was given to cover here; a more detailed article will be posted online at www.pointofrocks.org and posted on the bulletin board at the community center. Over 30 residents listened, asked questions, and viewed display boards, discussing in detail the following pending projects (contacts listed following each): US 15 at Mountville Road full traffic light (Gus Payne, Project Engineer); US 15 at MD 464 roundabout (Andrew Cadmus, Project Manager); MD 28 at Tuscarora Creek bridge replacement (John Narer, Project Manager); and POR MTA (MARC) parking lot expansion (Herb Weller, MTA Project Manager). Summaries follow:

US 15/Mountville Road This intersection is being updated to a full traffic light. Construction started April 24, and should be completed by June. Warning signals for the upcoming light will be installed. A change of striping to provide a left turn lane, new guard rails, and rumble strips will be installed.

US 15/MD 464 Roundabout The existing two-way stop-controlled intersection will be replaced by a double-lane roundabout, with a 90-foot inside circle. US 15 will be expanding to two lanes in each direction approaching, and taper back to one lane upon exit. MD 464 will remain one lane in each direction.

MD 28 at Tuscarora Creek This new 110-foot bridge is being constructed east of the Tuscarora Gun Club, replacing the existing 60-foot structure. The project will include improved bank stabilization for 700 feet up- and downstream. Road closures should begin mid-June 2007, for a 120-day project schedule. Completion by mid-October 2007 comes with a contractor incentive/penalty—a \$9,000 incentive to complete early, or a \$9,000 penalty if completion is delayed. Detours via New Design Road and Mountville Road will be used.

MD 28 at Washington Run A new bridge is scheduled for 2008 at this location east of town, just past the Butler Wood Product location. The same bridge construction will be used as the Tuscarora Creek project. Bids to contractors will be opened fall 2007. The project will begin March 2008 and MD 28 will be closed for detour in June 2008.

MARC Parking Lot Expansion The scope of this project involves 227 additional parking spaces to the current 276, for a total of 503 spaces for the MARC station at Point of Rocks. This project is in coordination with the reconstruction of part of MD 28 (Clay Street) and has a total contract value of \$4.3 million. The construction has begun with the notice to proceed in December 2006, with the milestone date to have full availability of 350 parking spaces by December 25, 2007. The project completion date is July 12, 2008. Completion as of May 2007 is 19.4%. The work includes curbs & gutters, sidewalks, access road, building foundation demolition (from residences previously in FEMA buyout), crosswalks, stairs, storm drains, underground water management, bio-retention areas, retaining wall, traffic barrier, chain link fence, paving marking and signage. Site work involves clearing, grubbing, demolition, traffic maintenance, utility relocation, lighting, landscaping, and control of invasive species. All parking areas will have upgraded lighting. The community and MARC riders are anxious to eliminate off-street and ancillary parking.

Expect a second 2007 MD 28 closure and detour around New Design and Mountville roads in late September or early October for 3 to 5 days, in order to install crosswalks. Other work will be to resurface and install sidewalks and guard rails. This contract has a completion penalty of \$1,240 per day past December 25, 2008, but no incentive payment to complete before.

POR Community Sign Several grant sources exist for funding for a more appealing Point of Rocks sign at the entrances to the community. This project will be pursued by the POR Ruritan Club.

COMMUNITY NEWS:

Point of Rocks Garden Club Defines Mission, Goals

By Andrea Williams

The Point of Rocks Garden Club met on May 15 to discuss future plans for the club. The Mission of the Garden Club is "To promote a sense of community spirit in Point of Rocks through beautification, education and revitalization." Our first project is for the community to designate a town flower. You are invited to vote on the www.pointofrocks.org website or cast a ballot at the Edward F. Fry Library. The choice is the daffodil, which blooms each spring on the point overlooking the Potomac River or the black-eyed susan, the Maryland State flower, since we are a community on the Maryland border. The club agreed that both would represent the town well so it is now up to the community to decide. Please submit your vote before June 17, 2007. The Garden Club will then count the votes and announce the winner at the next Garden Club meeting.

Our first initiative is to replant and beautify the Point of Rocks Estates entrance. Further information will follow on this project. Meanwhile the Garden Club will be hosting speakers at upcoming meetings and organizing field trips.

The Garden Club is a place to exchange ideas and information, as well as make new friends while we help beautify the town. Whether you are interested in the topics presented by the guest speakers, or in getting your hands dirty, we would love to have you join us. Please contact Andrea and Ryan Williams at ryandreal@comcast.net or 301-874-2776 if you have ideas for speakers and topics, or future initiatives for the Point of Rocks community. Our next meeting is on June 19 at 7:00 pm in the Community Center.

POR Wants YOU!

2007 Area Graduates and Local Citizens Now Serving in the Military

To honor soldiers in upcoming Whistle Stop issues, submit names to Mike Fauber, 301-874-5716.

Area High School Juniors

To be honored next year by the Women's Club, send names to Linda Hollern, 301-694-5977.

Email Subscribers

To receive the Whistle Stop by email or get breaking news between issues, send your address to CatocinKey@gmail.com.



Photo of rain barrel courtesy of Interstate Commission of the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB).

Garden Club Sponsors Sale of Rain Barrels

*Course Required for Purchase Will Be Held at
Community Center*

By Andrea Williams

The first lecture hosted by the Point of Rocks Garden Club will be on Tuesday, June 12, 7:00 pm, in the Point of Rocks Community Center. Jennifer Willoughby, Communications Specialist from the Interstate Commission of the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) will discuss the use of a 60-gallon rain barrel, which will aid in water conservation and help keep your garden watered. Residents are welcome to sign up in advance for the one-hour lecture and will be able to purchase this mosquito-resistant rain barrel for \$80.00 after attending the class. You must attend in order to get a barrel. If you are interested you can visit the ICPRB page at www.potomacriver.org/about_ICPRB/rainbarrelinfo.htm. To reserve a seat for this lecture in advance, send an e-mail to ryandreal@comcast.net titled "Rain Barrel".



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Local Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Helps Rebuild After Hurricanes

Area Group Has Local and Gulf Region Volunteer Activities Scheduled for Summer and Fall

By Heather Crowell

"Once you do it, you just totally understand."

Point of Rocks resident Jodye Roebuck has a hard time putting into words the kind of experience that volunteering for Habitat for Humanity has given her. But despite her ability to describe her work with the organization, the glow on her face says volumes.

Jodye recently went with about 85 volunteers—ages 21 to 80—from both the Frederick Chapter of Habitat for Humanity and Fannie Mae on a week-long trip to Biloxi, Mississippi. The group worked on close to 20 homes during that week, from beginning framing to finish work, turning homes over to the new owners. "Because of the devastation there, it just felt like we were doing more. It was extremely emotional," Roebuck said, adding that meeting the victims of the Gulf Coast hurricanes who would be living in the Habitat houses made her volunteer work that much more of an emotional investment. She also enjoyed the camaraderie of working with other people from the area on such a demanding, yet rewarding trip. "It was just an amazing bonding experience," she said. "I'm like a Habitat junkie now."

The devastation from the storms that has been widely covered in the media is accurate, according to Roebuck, and the work will need to go on for some time. But she was pleased with the organization of the volunteer efforts and hopes to be able to return in the fall when the chapter plans to go back to the same area for another week.

At the same time, local Habitat projects are expected to ramp up into high gear this year, as the organization has plans to begin five houses in the Frederick County area this



Frederick area Habitat volunteers gather during a spring trip to Mississippi. Photo courtesy of Jodye Roebuck.

summer. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities with both the local projects and trips such as the one to Biloxi. Jodye began volunteering by working donation tables at Lowe's, then moved on to clean-outs and restoration of historic homes in Frederick before taking this trip. She noted that it is important to know that volunteers do not have to have any specific skills or obligate specific blocks of time to be able to give to the community. "It's as much or as little as you want to give it."

If you would like to learn more about Habitat for Humanity and the volunteer opportunities the Frederick County chapter has to offer, please visit the web site www.frederickhabitat.org. You may also contact Jodye directly at jroebuck@sbsgroup.com to ask questions or to be placed on the email distribution list for updates about this fall's Biloxi trip. But watch out—you, too, may become a convert and develop a habit for helping that could change your life as well.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY: Point Johnson, or Point of Rocks

By Pepper Scotto

July 3, 1832 from The Sentinel, Gettysburg, PA

"Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. — Many passengers and large quantities of goods, daily pass on the rail road seventy miles, to or from Baltimore or the Point of Rocks, or the Potomac — at which latter a new village is being built, very rapidly. The entire journey 'out and home,' 140 miles, is now made in 17 continuous hours, leaving ample time to view the Point of Rocks, and the beautiful scenery adjacent. It is, altogether, one of the most agreeable excursions that can be found in our country, and, on many accounts, highly interesting. Niles."

PORCHS notes: Lots started to be sold by Charles and Joseph Johnson as advertised in the Frederick Herald, June 30, 1832: "as Point Johnson, or Point of Rocks." But, by this time, Point of Rocks was the common reference for the village that was already thriving from the railroad and canal construction and river ferry crossing before the new town lots were plotted. Later on August 23, 1835, Charles Johnson, Esq. filed his plat for his portion of the town (between the railroad, Ballenger Creek Pike, and the alley between Clay St/Rt 28 and Kanawha Ave). The town was first incorporated March 3, 1845.

Over \$1,600 Raised for Scholarship on Flea Market Day

By Pepper Scotto

On April 28 our local Ruritan Club successfully completed the second annual Flea Market Day, with net proceeds of \$1,643 raised through the donations, participation, and efforts of Ruritan members and the citizens of our community. Starting with the Flea Market and Redskin Ticket raffle sales in the morning, and ending with the Silent Auction and Italian Dinner with Music by Guiseppi in the afternoon, over 82 hours were spent by volunteers. Donations and sponsorships worth over \$2,800 included the estimated values of the donated flea market and auction items, as well as raffle prizes. The Ruritan club was able to fund the 2007 scholarship award, and make the first community contribution to the Jim Webb Memorial Point of Rocks Ruritan Scholarship Endowment Fund held by the Community Foundation of Frederick County, MD, Inc., to help fund all future scholarships for our com-

munity's education. Thanks go to Karen Webb, Trudy Fry, Sadie Saidotti, Joe Sadiotti, Ron Lichtinger, Katrina Lehker, Frank Scotto, Charlie Crum, Nancy Crum, Marcel Aillery, and the O'Steen brothers, for the many hours of work, cooking, and performing. Of special note to thank is Nancy Thrasher Cherry, who came to volunteer as a member from the Jefferson Ruritan Club.

Our gratitude goes to our donors and sponsors who greatly contributed to the day: the Webb family, Thanksgiving Farms, Butler Wood Products, Antietam Gallery, Point of Rocks Women's Club, Catoctin Key Farm, Giant Eagle Foods, Safeway Foods, Trudy Fry, Heather and Jim Crowell, Katrina Lehker, Kathy and Vince Zarella, Victoria Ross, Nancy and Bill Cherry, Mary Ballard, the Aillery family, and Larry and Sandy Rucosky. Several other donors to the flea market have gone unrecorded, but are not less appreciated. Look for the third annual Flea Market Day next year—and plan to bring your items, buy neat stuff, and have some great food and entertainment—all to help the future education of our community's youth.

Library Celebrates Birthday

By Donna Fauber

Big things have been happening at our library. The Friends of the Library have provided a rocking chair for patrons and staff to use. Stop by and read in it.

On Tuesday, May 15, the library celebrated our founder's birthday. Edward F. Fry would have been 90 years old. Mrs. Trudy Fry, family members and friends celebrated with children and patrons at the library. Everyone sang and enjoyed birthday cake. Remember that story hours are Monday nights at 7 pm and Tuesdays at 11 am.

Library patrons help to celebrate founder's birthday.

Photo courtesy of Donna Fauber.



It's time for kids to sign up for the Summer Reading Program. The theme for this year is Reading Road Trips. You can sign up starting June 1 at the library. There will be a big kick off celebration with the new Urbana Library on Saturday, June 9 starting at 11:00. The activities will begin with a parade from 11:00 to 12:00 and all kids are invited to decorate their bike, tricycle, or stroller and join in. Prizes will be awarded to different age groups. At noon, everyone is invited to bring their picnic lunch and enjoy on the library grounds. At 1:00, Jake the Magician will entertain with tricks and balloons.

Don't forget that there will be a Teen Reading Program kicking off at the C. Burr Artz Library downtown on Friday, June 8 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. There will be art, games and DDR with your friends. For more information on all library activities, check the FCPL webpage at www.FCPL.org or visit the library for brochures.

CHILDREN'S PRE-K PLAYGROUP

Preschool playgroup at POR Community Center meets every Thursday from 2:30-4 pm. We play outside on the playground, weather permitting, and inside if it rains. Contact MJ Pavelko Snyder at 301-874-0050 for more info.

Other preschool activities listed on next page.

RURITAN & COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION NEWS

By Pepper Scotto

Neighborhood Watch Frederick County Sheriff Charles Jenkins is coming to discuss a proposed POR substation on Thursday, May 31 at 7 pm, POR Community Center. All residents are encouraged to attend and present issues or concerns. For more information, please call Rich McDonald at 301-874-3818 or Phyllis Harris at 301-874-5484.

Community Center Parks & Rec. summer pre-school activities scheduled at the POR Community center: **Little Lulu**—Wednesday 6/6, 2:00–3:00 pm; **Medieval Times**—Thursday 5/31, 1:00–2:00 pm; **Little Scientist**—Thursdays starting 7/5, 11:00 am–Noon; **Treasure Adventures**—Tuesday 6/12, 11:00–12:00 pm. Activities are for ages 3–5 and each event requires an admission fee. For other Frederick County Parks and Recreation activities, call 301-600-2936 or visit the “Recreator” link at www.co.frederick.md.us/index.asp?NID=25. The Point of Rocks Recreation Council also meets at the center on August 27, October 22, and November 26 at 7:30 pm. For more information contact Beth Marcotte at 301-874-2980.

Point of Rocks Commons Park This park will be the future development of former old town lots bounded by the MARC parking lot, Potomac River Bridge, railroad tracks, and MD 28. If you have comments, suggestions, or want to be a part of ensuring this heart of our community is developed into an appropriate, meaningful interpretation of our town’s history, please contact Pepper Scotto 301-834-9907 or Marcel Aillery 301-874-2652 of the Point of Rocks Environment—Parks Committee. Plans are being made to discuss and formulate suggestions to the county in June.

POR Women’s Club meets on the third Thursday of each month. Any woman who wants to meet other women and help make a difference in the community should call Emma French at 301-874-2312.

POR Ruritans meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7 pm. If you are interested in coming to see what PORR—now in their 51st year—is about and learn how you can become a part of the community’s leaders, call Pepper Scotto, Secretary, 301-834-9907.

Jim Webb Memorial Point of Rocks Ruritan Scholarship 2007 The winner will be announced at the Brunswick High School’s Senior Awards Night on June 5 and presented by President Karen Webb.



To Do ...

Call Kevin:

- If you are thinking about selling, to receive a free market analysis
- If you are thinking about buying, for buyer representation
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Point of Rocks Ruritan Business Directory As a public service, PORR will be publishing to all residents in zip codes 21777 (POR) and 21790 (Tuscarora) a printed directory with business advertisements and contact information for local non-profit groups. A brief history of our community, historic photos, and an abbreviated list of community resources and information will be included. This will be a great opportunity for all local and regional businesses to provide advertising that informs and supports community projects through Ruritan. The proceeds from this project will be used for local communications such as *The Whistle Stop*.

See PORR Business Directory, next page



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PORR Business Directory, continued

Sponsorship levels under consideration are: \$25 Friend; \$50 Sponsor; \$100 Silver Patron; and \$200 Golden Patron. Space and pricing will be finalized shortly, including: phonebook-style (business type, name, address, phone, email, website); business card; 2x4, 4x4, 4x7, 7x9 ad spaces; special back page, inside front and back pricing on a first-come basis. It is our hope that this publication will be kept by the community as a reference by their phone. Copies will also be distributed to the library, local newspapers and media outlets, area Ruritan Clubs, Parks and Recreation Departments, and to the Board of County Commissioners. It's a great opportunity for any business or individual wanting to show community support. Interested in helping or advertising? Please contact Ron Lichtinger at 301-874-0363, HikingHuckster@yahoo.com, or Pepper Scotto at 301-834-9907, CatoctinKey@gmail.com.

PORCHS The Point of Rocks Community Historical Society is asking for participation from our community to help document our rich history. The list for volunteer work

includes: cataloging over 1,400 newspaper articles that range from the 1830s to present; assisting in research and editing an historical timeline for our community; participating in a joint effort with the Ruritan Club to document, photograph, sketch, and map historic or significant sites between the POR B&O Train Station (1875) and the C&O Canal Catoctin Aqueduct (1834) for a published walking guide called *Catoctin to Catoctin—Path Through Transportation History*, and researching, documenting, and writing on specific topics, beginning with Point of Rocks Flood History. PORCHS is honored to have Hood College student Mary Rodgers, from Jefferson, MD, who has chosen our Potomac River bridges as her research topic. This paper will be presented to the community in December for our current bridge's 70th birthday. The next public lecture for PORCHS will be in August while PORCHS members may participate in walking tours of the area. "Old Newspaper Reading Mornings" will be scheduled during the summer for anyone interested. For more information on programs or how to become a member, visit www.PORCHS.org or call Pepper Scotto, President, 301-834-9907, CatoctinKey@gmail.com.

The Sheriff is Coming! The Sheriff is Coming!

If you would like to speak with the Frederick County Sheriff about a POR substation or other concerns, don't miss **this Thursday's** Neighborhood Watch meeting. See inside for details.



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The Whistle Stop

Point of Rocks Ruritan Club
PO Box 135
Point of Rocks, MD 21777



Your Community Newsletter—to Keep You In Touch!

A community service project from your local Ruritan Club at no cost for over 30 years, supported by community fundraising