

Scouts tackle tree trimming chore in Olney

On its own initiative, Boy Scout Troop 264 of Olney spent a few hours on a recent Saturday clearing out broken tree limbs along a section of Olney-Laytonville Road (Route 108) that had apparently been torn down by the storms this winter.

A line of pine trees adjacent to Route 108 between Burtfield and Olney Mill roads in Olney was damaged, leaving large branches hanging or spilling over the curb in the far right westbound lane of the roadway. Assistant Scoutmaster Dale Bickel wrote to The Gazette.

The branches were "creating a hazardous situation for traffic in that lane," he said.

To help alleviate the hazards, "Troop 264 scouts and adults removed as many branches as could safely be retrieved, and piled them up for removal by the county a few days later," Bickel said.

Scouts participating in the project were Gavin Mangolas, Jonathan Godfrey, Jim Bickel, Anthony Justus, Holland McCabe and David Light. They were accompanied by Scoutmaster Dennis Bogan, Bickel and several other adult volunteers.

Boy Scout Troop 264 meets on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church. For more information, visit the troop's Web site at www.troop264olney.net.

Project Change puts the pieces together

Project Change, a collaboration of youths and adults working to offer



People and Places
TERRI HOGAN

A new place to call home



MONTGOMERY COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION

The cab of a fire engine is placed inside the new Montgomery County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association recruiting station at the corner of North Washington Street and Beall Avenue in Rockville earlier this month. A \$250,000 federal grant helped the Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association create the county's first recruiting station and open its headquarters in the same building, said Eric N. Bernard, executive director of the association. The station will aid in the recruiting efforts of all 19 volunteer fire departments in the county, he said.

Navigating the bumpy road of parenthood

form.

Also on March 20, Project Change will sponsor a free carnival for children with special needs 1-4 p.m. at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School, 17301 Old Vic Boulevard in Olney.

Sponsored by the Project Change Community Service Club at Good Counsel, the event for elementary school students will feature arts and crafts, music, moon bounce and pony rides. Register by visiting Pro-

Parenting expert Amy Freedman will speak at B'nai Shalom of Olney Nursery School at 7:45 p.m. Thursday.

Freedman, a speech-language pathologist, developmental specialist and co-author of "Is It a Big Problem or a Little Problem? When to Worry, When Not to Worry, and What to Do" will discuss her book and

students from Sherwood High School in Sandy Spring and Our House job training program in Brookeville.

Proceeds from the show will benefit Montgomery General Hospital's Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Dr. Isabella Martire, an Olney oncologist and chair of the hospital's cancer committee, will serve as mistress of ceremonies and is also a featured artist.

After losing her sister to breast cancer in 2005, Martire began painting and has since become a member of the Art League and Bin Gallery at the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria Va.

Another featured artist is Barbara Meade Piegari. Throughout her career as an art teacher, Piegari has produced many works of art in a variety of mediums, though she is partial to oil painting with brushes and palette knives.

A preview hour from noon to 1 p.m. is open to individuals who contribute \$150 or more annually to the Comprehensive Cancer Center.

To learn more about contributing or for further information on the art show, contact Kathy Parry 301-570-7201 or kparry@MontgomeryGeneral.com.

On campus

Erin Schoonover of Olney earned a Bachelor of Science degree in liberal studies from Frostburg State University in December.

Olney residents Holly Badin, a biology major, and Jill Badin, a biochemistry major, were named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Towson University, where they are students in the Honors College. They are daughters of Joseph and Windy Badin.

Stephen Beardsley of Olney was named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Norwich University in Northfield, Vt.

Gaithersburg native to debut play in Derwood

■ Musical version of 'Esther' will open Friday with local high school students

BY NESA NOURMOHAMMADI
STAFF WRITER

New York-based actress and Gaithersburg native Janice Mays is returning home this weekend to stage a production of her original musical "Esther" at Covenant Life Church.

"Esther" is a retelling of the biblical Book of Esther, in which the young Jewish Queen of Persia must prevent the massacre of Jews while keeping her faith secret.

Mays collaborated on the musical with her fiancé, actor and composer Martin Landry. She describes the musical to others such as "Beauty and the Beast" and "Into the Woods."

"It's definitely contemporary," the 24-year-old said. "It's pop, but Martin's a big comedian at heart so there are a lot of comedic moments and big numbers."

The musical features an ensemble of 40-50 actors, all of whom are local high school students.

Mays admits there are slight differences between her production and the original story. She and Landry kept the story's major characters, including Esther's cousin Mordecai and the villainous Haman, but created an original