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NEWS

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This Week

- Elementary School Dedicates Outdoor Learning Center
- Publisher's Notes
- GES Science Fair
- Summer Camps
- Miscellaneous Announcements

Weekly Refresher

"Trying to get everyone to like you is a sign of mediocrity."

- Colin Powell

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Guilford Gazette

Guilford ES Dedicates New Center



Dr. Genee Varlack, GES principal and Assistant Principal Connie Stahler sharing a moment on stage before the ribbon cutting begins.

Guilford Elementary School took advantage of perfect weather, recently, to enjoy its ribbon cutting ceremony to dedicate the new Outdoor Learning Center, which was part of a deal struck between Genee Varlack, the school's principal, and the developers of the new Monarch Mills housing development, which replaced the old Guilford Gardens on Oakland Mills Road.

Maria E. Miller, the Senior Development Director of The Shelter Group and her team, worked with Harkins Builders, Inc., and Floura Teeter Landscape Architects to finance, design, and build

an outdoor center where Dr. Varlack intends to use the space as an alternative learning space.

The Center served as the perfect setting for the dedication ceremony where the school's band performed several sets. Two of the elementary students sang with the band to commemorate the occasion.

School board member Ellen Giles performed the ribbon cutting. All of the major players spoke, including Ms. Giles, Dr. Varlack, and Ms. Miller.

Dr. Varlack sent a statement to the Guilford Gazette expressing her gratitude to the team. She said, "The

partnership was tremendous. It was a wonderful opportunity to sit across the table and have input into the project and obtain the necessary details to share with my community. It was both a professional and personal pleasure working with the team from The Shelter Group, [Howard County] Housing, Floura Teeter, and Hawkins Builders."

The structure is set in a shady area. A long path leads to the well-designed concrete circle, with the walk way and circle surrounded by gray, crushed stone. A stone wall with a concrete top welcomes you to sit and relax. For meal times or study, there are several sturdy coated metal picnic tables available.

Ms. Miller quoted the material cost at \$30,000. That cost does not include the labor costs of the teams. The Shelter Group invested time as the developer and construction manager. Harkins Builders served as the general contractor, while For a Teeter provided landscaping.

Ms. Miller said, "We hope that the school finds this new amenity to be both lovely and functional. Our landscape architect (Floura Teeter, created planting beds to allow teachers and students space to supplement existing planting with (Continued on Page 5)

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Featured Neighborhoods

- ⇒ Monarch Mills
- ⇒ Carter's Cove
- ⇒ Guilford Mews
- ⇒ Mission Heights
- ⇒ Heritage Woods
- ⇒ Guilford Square
- ⇒ Oakhurst
- ⇒ Mary Lane
- ⇒ Glenshire Towne
- ⇒ Oak Ridge
- ⇒ Oakview Village

Featured Schools

- ⇒ Hammond HS
- ⇒ Patuxent MS
- ⇒ Lake Elkhorn MS
- ⇒ Guilford ES

The Publisher's Notes

Most of us have an attitude about life that says we want the best. Like many folks, I want the best despite teachings that I should be content with whatever I have. But what I want more than material goods, is peace, and secondly, a charming hometown experience.

I want to know my neighbors, and I desire that my neighbors know me. I would like to walk through my community and experience greetings of respect and acknowledgements of familiarity.

Then on occasion, I would like a block party or a festival right where I live. I want a really cool corner store where all of the fellas hang out, but in a safe, non-threatening way. My dream sounds like Mayberry.

Mayberry is fictional, but Guilford is real. Every week in the Guilford Gazette we try to put a little bit of Mayberry into Guilford. We have Floyd the Barber. I am pretty sure he works at Youngs II in Columbia Junction. There's a great bunch of guys there, with the banter back and forth and maybe even some haircutting going on. We have a great recreation facility on Mission Road, complete with an upcoming bake sale and flea market. What could be more hometown than that?

We have great schools and the kids around town all seem to get along just fine. If you are uncertain about the greatness of our little "town" check out Guilford Gazette more frequently. Not only do we have a weekly newspaper, but our web experience is stretching for a new height. Subscribe and get your social event or fundraiser posted online.

Sit down and chat on the BLOG about what's happening in Guilford. Also we are developing a great new program for your kids called "Ready". This is a safe place for kids to connect, meet-up or find out what local events are set-up just for them.

Our web advertisers are oriented toward our community. You will find loads of revolving ads centered on education, summer camps, and much more. Check out what they have to offer. You may be pleasantly surprised. And working with Guilford Gazette is so easy. Most times, you ask for it, and you get it. If you are not seeing the type of advertisements that interest you, let me know. We will assign some new categories. If you have to look at ads, they may as well be what you're looking for. Right?

Every day you will have a new reason to check the website. We are planning daily updates and adding information that you do not want to miss.

I am learning that much of Mayberry is right here, we simply have to connect with each other to realize the full potential. With the Gazette you will discover sides of Guilford that you did not realize existed.

In an upcoming issue, I would like to run an honor roll to introduce our active PTA members to our community.

Science Fair: Night of Excellence



Second grader Ashley Escobar is presenting archeology facts at GES Night of Excellence.

Ashley Escobar is an archaeologist at Guilford Elementary School. Ashley is seven years old and only in the second grade.

While she may not have attended any archaeological digs in far away lands, or experienced the excitement of the fictional character Indiana Jones, she is no doubt on her way to something notable in her future.

During "The Night of Excellence" after School Board Member Ellen Giles cut the ceremonial ribbon on the Outdoor Learning Center, and while bands played in the gym, and hundreds of parents, students, and siblings scoured the hallways at

Guilford ES, Ashley stood next to the archaeological exhibits in Maggie Pesseh's science classroom orally presenting the various projects she and her classmates put together.

While Ashley could not be heard audibly above the cacophony of sounds in the room, she was not deterred. She spoke on. At closer examination, and closer proximity, there was no doubt that Ashley had a clear grasp of the basics of archaeology.

When asked if she wanted to become an archaeologist in her adult life, Ashley affirmed quite gleefully that she indeed wanted such a career. She

said, "It is a mystery. If I had created.

you are going to dig up something you have to see what it is. If there are kids you have to see if you can solve [the mystery] and find the body."

At the school there were plenty of bodies. Not dead ones, but those who were alive and well. The halls of school were nearly impassable.

The festivities began at 6:00 pm with the ribbon cutting, speeches, and band music. Great outdoor light was indoors at the Science Fair where families gave up their evening

to see what their children

had created. Inside, plenty of scurry-something was going on. The kids needed to collect a fixed number of stamps on a card to get the ice cream treat. No cheating allowed.

The atmosphere was like a fair or carnival. No clowns or trapeze artists – just education. The mood was electric. Games and musical events going on in the gym, non-stop, while seemingly happy families strolled from one science station to another.

The Vereen family was in transit to another station.

(Continued on Page 4)

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Excellence from Page 3



The Vereen family at GES Night of Excellence. In foreground, Maya Vereen. In back from left to right, Cameron Vereen, Crystal Vereen, and Sand Vereen.

Cameron Vereen, a former Guilford student, now at Lake Elkhorn Middle School, was there to support his sister. Crystal Vereen, the mom and Sand Vereen, the dad, were the side pieces for the evening.

The family was there for eight-year-old Maya, a third grader at Guilford. When asked what he wanted to do for a career, David said, 'I'm thinking of making video games.'

At another science station, Garry Lech lent support to his son, David Lech. David, a fourth grade student at GES had designed "Space Base on Ganymede".

Like many of the exhibits that night, it was not particularly sophisticated, but it was inventive and creative. David enjoys science and programming. He came up with the idea to put man on Jupiter's moon. He used simple household items to illustrate oxygen-rich housing to sustain life. David pointed out that there is no atmosphere on Jupiter. His housing units would be designed to reflect the sun's heat.

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Newspaper Carrier Wanted

The Guilford Gazette is looking for someone, at least 16 years old, to deliver newspapers once weekly in one or more of the following areas: Guilford, Savage, Jessup, Kings Contrivance & Owen Brown. Car preferred, but not a requirement. We pay \$5.25 to start and reimburse mileage for those with their own transportation. Call 410-777-8467 or email news@GuilfordGazette.com to apply.

Dedication from Page 1

species that might tie into school curriculum or class projects." She added, "The space was intentionally designed to be accessible to all."

Dr. Varlack said, "We remain appreciative of their efforts; and my students will benefit from the new space and the new, safe, improved boundary fence."

Check www.GuilfordGazette.com for more news and updates.

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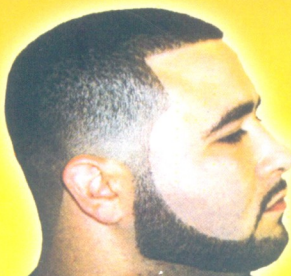
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Summer Camps for 2012

Lady Eagles Basketball Camp for the week of July 16-20 from 9a.m. - 12 p.m. at Centennial HS. 410-630-1345.

This is a camp for girls ages 8-14. Cost \$125. If interested, you contact Coach Bobby Macheel at macheelr@gmail.com or visit the CHS Booster Website at centennialboostersonline.com/default.php for a copy of the camp brochure.

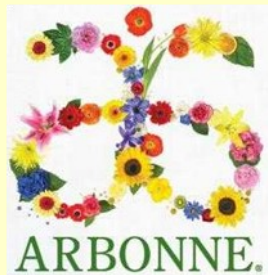
2012 Wilde Lake Lacrosse Camp Session 1 June 4-7 Grades 3-9 from 4:30-7:00 pm.
Session 2 July 24-27 Grades 3-9 from 8-11a.m.
 Fee \$100 a session Call: 410-313-6866 Email if interested Jonathan_Robinson@hcpss.org

Soccer Dome Academy, is registering boys and girls ages 4-14 now for all weekly sessions as well as summer camps, clinics for coaches. Programs are being held at Soccer Dome I in Jessup and Soccer Dome II in Harmans. Register online at <http://www.soccerdome.com> or John Dingle at john@midsoccer.com or 443-851-0844.

HC Elite Summer Basketball offering Individual Skills Camp June 25-29 9 a.m.-12 p.m. For girls entering grades 3-9. and **Specialized Development Camps** June 25-29, 1-4 p.m. For girls entering grades 6-9. Both camps will be at Howard High School 8700 Old Annapolis Road Ellicott City.

Capitol Debate, a business partner with HCPSS will be hosting Summer Camps in debate, public speaking, mock trial and leadership from July 31-Aug 10 at Loyola University in Columbia. For more details/times and to apply, go to www.capitoldebate.com Contact: Ronald Bratt,

These camps are being offered under the direction of Howard HS Girls Varsity Basketball Coach Scott Robinson and his staff. For more information and to download form www.hcelitebasketball.com and click on camp tab or call 410-258-4189 or Scott_Robinson@hcpss.org



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Announcements

President and Vice President needed to lead Hammond High School's PTA. All other positions are filled. Interested parties should contact Sally Frekot at bfrekot01@comcast.net or Marcy Leonard at marcy_leonard@hcpss.org for more details.

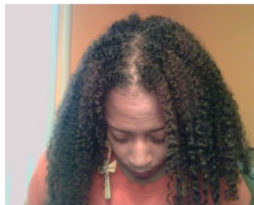
Summer School is fast-approaching – June 25 through August 3, 2012. To register prior to deadlines go to <http://www.hcpss.org/summer/comprehensive.shtml> to get more information.

Last day of school is June 8, 2012. Hammond graduation sis et for May 29, 2012 at 8 pm.

End-of-School Youth Dance – Elkridge Volunteer Fire Dept – Saturday, June 2, 7-10 pm

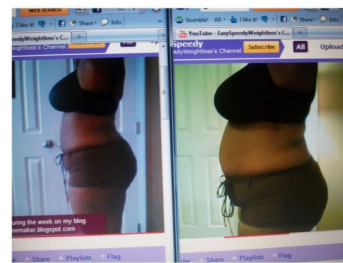
Tickets are available at the door for \$10 per person with a maximum of 200 tickets sold. Food and beverages, which include pizza, corn dogs, and nachos will be for sale. The Department has a “no exceptions” policy on appropriate behavior and dress code for its youth dances, and enforces a strict adult sign-in / sign-out procedure. For more information, call 410-761-6633 (select option 5), or go to www.ElkridgeVFD.org.

The UMBC Swim Lesson Program has taught thousands of children how to swim in the community over the last 24 years. Their Swim Lesson Program offers lessons for swimmers of all abilities, from novice to beginners to advanced swimmers. Their instructors will guide each swimmer through the various levels to increase the swimming skills of your child. The utmost safety and attention will be given to your child. Cost is \$10 per half hour lesson. Contact Rob Bellamy at 410-455-2716 or bellamy@umbc.edu for registration/information, or visit www.umbcretrievers.com.



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