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Weekly Refresher

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back tomorrow and I'll give it to you" when you already have it with you. Do not plot harm against your neighbor, who lives trustfully near you.

- Proverbs 3:27-29

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Guilford Gazette

Redistricting Causes Major Shift in PTA Leadership



Guilford Elementary School, located on Oakland Mills Road, will serve Guilford residents almost exclusively, after new redistricting plan is implemented beginning August 2012.

Last year the boundary lines were redrawn for Guilford Elementary School. The families in that area are almost exclusively.

Beginning in August 2012, a projected 140 Guilford Elementary students will move to Atholton and Hammond elementary schools, and 50 students will move to Guilford Elementary from Bollman Bridge Elementary, according to Joel Gallihue, a planner for the Howard County Public School System.

According to Becky McKirahan, a Guilford resident and PTA member at the school, "We are losing 90% of our PTA, since we are

losing the Kings Contrivance neighborhood. Most of the families in that area are almost exclusively. Prior to the change, the school served Guilford and parts of Kings Contrivance. Ms. McKirahan is making a call for increased involvement from Guilford residents. Mr. Gallihue acknowledged the concern and asked that the community not become alarmed over the changes because "people can be cultivated for leadership from any neighborhood." He suggested that the PTA reach out to the PTA Council of Howard

rieties that serve Guilford residents almost exclusively. The process for redistricting did not only affect Guilford. "The entire region was being looked at," said Mr. Gallihue. The process was meant to "improve some things region wide." Although the community of Guilford has been growing recently the school was not over-crowded. "It was just about at capacity, at around 104%. The new redistricting has created bounda-

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The Publisher's Notes

The teaching of America's children and all of the related tasks and extra curricular activities that come with teaching undergird the lifeblood of this nation. The public and private school systems throughout our nation are at the forefront of the battle to sustain this great country.

Here in Howard County, the school board selected a new superintendent, Dr. Renee Foose. Not too many days ago, the citizens removed one school board member and provided four fresh faces the opportunity to garner the soon-to-be vacant seat of Allen Dyer. We do not know to what extent our citizens educated themselves on the issues prior to proceeding into the voting booth. We do not know fully what criteria the board used to select Dr. Foose.

This much is clear: the selection of superintendents and school board members ought to be considered with a high degree of care. Educators and board members help shape the future of this county, and by extension, this country. We need a population of critical thinkers, technological experts, and dedicated service workers to keep Howard County and the nation strong. The children are the future. The adults who presently govern through the ballot box, and those who make important appointments, have our future in their hands.

Ricardo L. Whitaker

Letters to the Editor

We are very proud to have our daughter attend Guilford Elementary School and are very happy with her education, and the staff we work with. This past fall, I watched the development of the elementary school redistricting plan and how it would affect our school. I understand the need for such moves and realize that not everyone is going to be happy. I have great compassion for those making the decisions. It must be very difficult to decide who would go where, and how neighborhoods get divided, and how children would move schools for just one year, until they entered middle school. This can never be easy for The Board of Education to deal with and yet it is inevitable with all of the development in our area.

I currently volunteer as much as I can at our school and with the PTA. With the changes in the 2012-2013 year, due to redistricting, we are losing 90% of our PTA members. These volunteers live in the Kings Contrivance neighborhood of Dickinson and that is what Guilford is losing. This is much higher than we normally would lose and I worry how we are going to function next year as a PTA.

Our PTA helps with such events as our Fall Festival, half-day student activities during parent/teacher conferences, movie night, game night, bingo night, Roller-skating, Fitness night, wellness fair, school staff appreciations, volunteers for classroom and school-wide activities, contributions to school field trips and assemblies. I worry about next year and how we are going to organize and staff such events.

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- ⇒ Oakhurst
- ⇒ Mary Lane
- ⇒ Glenshire Towne
- ⇒ Oak Ridge
- ⇒ Oakview Village

Letters Continued from

As a PTA, we are doing our best to welcome the new families into our school and encourage them to get involved. I have also heard how our administration is also doing the same for the new families. I am very concerned about how our PTA will function next year. I am encouraging everyone with students at Guilford to look at their schedules to see how they can help. It takes a village, and we must work together for the best interest of our children.

Becky McKirahan
Guilford, Maryland

Redistricting from Page 1

County, the regional PTA that represents all schools in the county.

He said that the group can be most helpful with issues like this. Atholton and Hammond have scheduled times for students to visit their new schools before they officially come over in August.

Guilford Elementary has kept students and parents in the loop regarding upcoming move events.

The review process for redistricting was lengthy and public, according to

Mr. Gallihue. A committee of county citizens made up the advisory panel of 12 people that reviewed plans with the Superintendent. The group met through the summer for a total of nine meetings. They tried several scenarios before making a recommendation.

The HCPSS planning staff made revisions to the advisory panel's recommendation.

Public hearings were held, independent emails were considered, and final plans were submitted pri-

or to the school board's deliberations. After the decision was made, an appeal was launched, but later withdrawn.

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April Scholarship Deadlines Approaching

John T. McCraw Scholarship

The National Federation of the Blind of Maryland will include two scholarships in the amounts of \$2000 and \$1500, which will be awarded to legally blind students who exhibit academic achievement and community involvement. Applicants must be legal residents of the State of Maryland, or is pursuing post-secondary studies in the State of Maryland, and will be enrolled as a full-time student at any post-secondary institution. Applications are available in the counseling center and are due on April 20, 2012.

Barbara Balter Entrepreneurial Spirit Scholarship

The Baltimore Regional Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners will award two \$1000 scholarships. Applicants must be female high school seniors planning to attend a university and have demonstrated entrepreneurial talents and live in the state of Maryland. The application can be downloaded at http://www.nawbobrc.org/committees_scholarship.php. The deadline to apply is April 20, 2012.

Blinded Veterans Association (BVA)

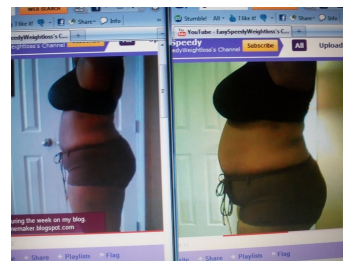
The BVA offers merit-based scholarship programs for spouses and dependent children of blinded Veterans to assist them with their higher education tuition. This year, six scholarships of \$2000 each will be awarded as part of the Kathern F. Gruber Scholarship program and one \$1000 scholarship will be awarded under the

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Scholarships from Page 4

Thomas H. Miller Scholarship program. Students can apply online at www.bva.org/services.html. The application deadline is April 20, 2012.

Howard County Professional Firefighters Association

The \$500 scholarship is geared to help the “average” student who displays exceptional qualities and effort. Applicants must have attained a 2.5 grade point average in their senior year and a minimum SAT score of 1350 should apply. Applications are available in the counseling center and are due by April 27, 2012.

Elizabeth Ann “Libby” Frist Memorial Scholarship

The purpose of this scholarship is to recognize selected high school seniors for their activism and leadership among their peers in the fight against tobacco use. Maryland high school seniors who are tobacco-free and have demonstrated a commitment to anti-smoking advocacy are encouraged to apply. All applications must be received by April 27, 2012. Each recipient will receive \$250 or more. One outstanding candidate will receive \$1000 scholarship. Applications are available in the counseling center or at www.gramspromisefoundation.org.

The 2012 Gerald “Cooter” Stronsnider Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Pratt Street Patriots Camp #2143 is pleased to announce this
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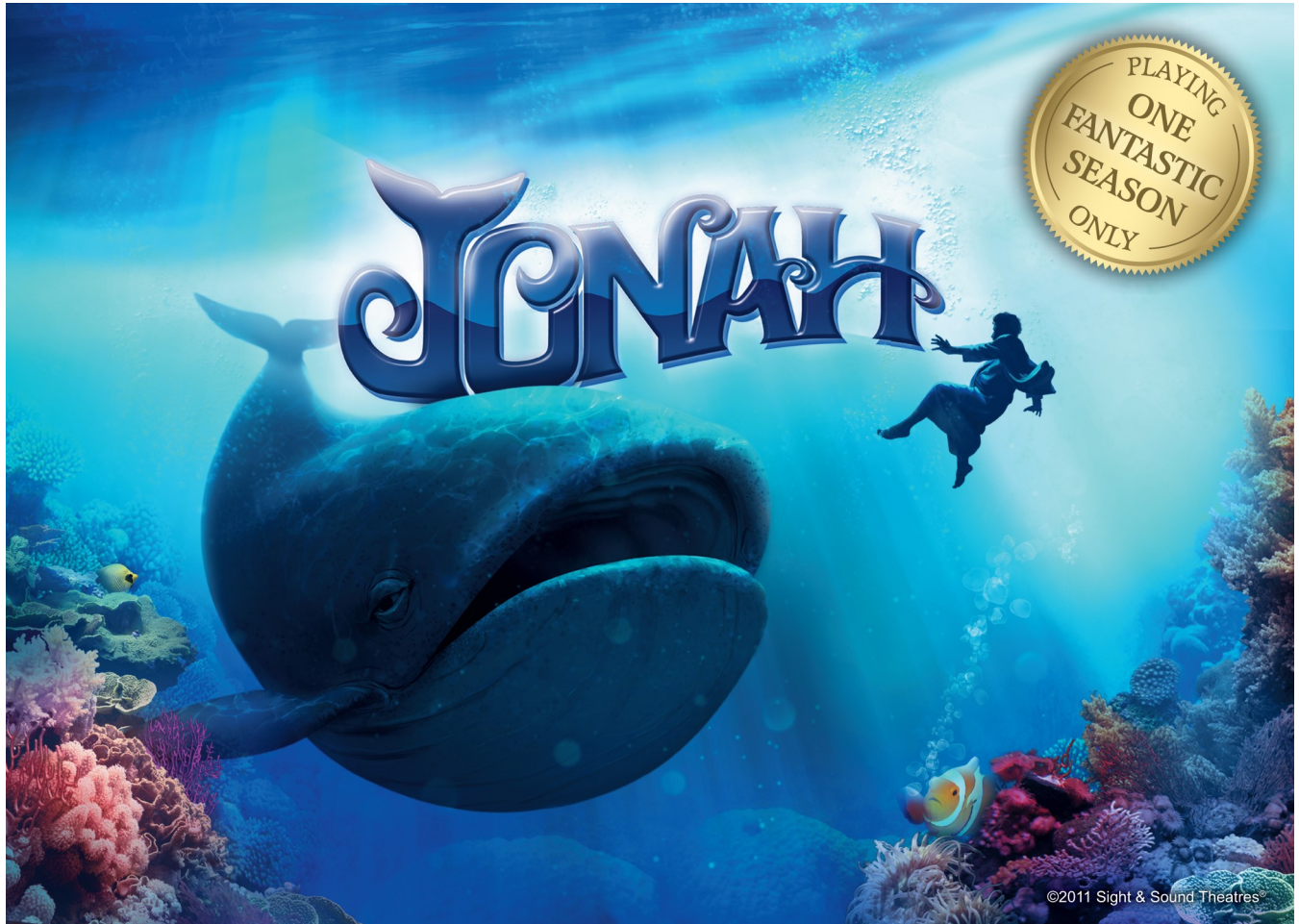
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Scholarships from page 5

\$1000 scholarship, which is available for a high school senior from Maryland or Pennsylvania. Financial need is not a requirement and the applicants must plan to attend college, university or trade school in the United States. Applications are available in the counseling center and are due by April 30, 2012.

Schwallye Family Scholarship (administered by the Organization for Autism Research)

This program awards three scholarships of \$3000 each to support individuals with Autism or Asperger Syndrome who are living in the US and are pursuing post-secondary education. Students can apply online at www.researchautism.org/news/otherevents/scholarship.asp. The deadline to apply is April 30, 2012.

Robert H Gross Memorial Scholarship

These three scholarships are in honor and memory of former Hammond High School alumni and teacher Mr. Robert H. Gross, and they were created to recognize areas that Mr. Gross was passionate about: Theatre, Dance, and Special Education. If you are interested in applying, applications are available with Ms. Tobiason, Ms. Kuhl, Mr. Hawkins, or in the counseling center. Only seniors can apply and applications are due on April 30, 2012.

The Angie M. Houtz Memorial Fund

This \$300 scholarship was established to honor Angie's devotion to and enthusiasm for education and community service. Applicants must be enrolled in or planning to attend a public college or university in Maryland, have an un-weighted GPA of 3.0, and be committed to community service. Applications can be downloaded from www.theangiefund.com and are due by April 30, 2012.

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Hammond News

Teacher Wins Educator of Distinction

Social studies teacher Jody Zepp has been named a Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction by the National Society of High School Scholars.

Sophomore Wins Scholarship

Sophomore Jason Smithery received scholarship to attend BLUR: The Blue Ridge Summer Institute for Young Artists. Jason has been admitted to the visual arts studio where he will join a diverse group of ten promising young artists from several different states. They will spend three weeks in the dorms of Sweet Briar College in central Virginia studying art and will receive two college credits.

Summer Leadership Opportunity

These are the last two weeks to qualify for the early bird discount for Maryland Leadership Workshops' Senior High Workshop at Washington College in Chestertown, MD (90 minutes from Hammond) from July 22-28. All Hammond students qualify for a \$100 scholarship, and additional scholarship funds are available from MLW. More information and applications are available at www.mlw.org or contact Ms. Leonard at marcy_leonard@hcpss.org.

Dancing with the Teachers - April 14

The popular scholarship fundraising Hammond Dance event returns Saturday, April 14 at 7 pm to Hammond's auditorium. Come out to support your favorite teacher-company pair as they take on a dance style. Hear the judge's entertaining comments as they critique each duo as scores are awarded. Who will win this year? Proceeds benefit The Robert H. Gross Scholarship awards in Dance, Theater and Special Education and Hammond Dance Department. Tickets are \$8.00 (\$7.00 for senior citizens).

Director of Music Position

Valley Brook Community Church is seeking a part-time Director of Music. We are located in Columbia, Maryland with our offices in Burtonsville. We are a non-denominational church and strive to have a diverse worship set each week to include genres from hymns and spirituals, contemporary praise and worship selections, and gospel. The Director of Music will work closely with the pastor, worship leaders and staff in planning for each Sunday's set. The Director of Music will be responsible for the leadership, development and growth of our praise team through weekly Wednesday night rehearsals as well as the day to day management of music related administrative duties.

The qualified candidate must have made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ. A degree in music is preferred but not required. Previous experience in directing choirs or ensembles is a must. The Director of Music must be able to play piano, read music, play by ear, sing when needed and transcribe vocal parts off of recordings as well as possess a basic knowledge of Word and Excel for administrative aspects of the job. This is an hourly position for now (approx. 20 hours per week) with the possibility for more as experience and circumstances warrant.

Resumes can be mailed to Valley Brook Community Church, Attn: Mary Wierick, 3333 Spencerville Rd, Burtonsville, MD 20866 or emailed to maryvbcc@verizon.net.

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