



2014 was a busy year in the Monocacy area.



We worked hard...



...we spoke of serious things...



...and we had some fun.



The Monocle Year in Review

By John Clayton

The year began with the Town of Poolesville doing what most of us do when we get the chance: finishing something in a hurry to beat a tax deadline. In this case, it was the installation of a new solar array, as the town helped to reduce its carbon footprint and hopefully reduce its effect on global warming, which probably half of the town doesn't believe in anyway. Either way, it got the local year off to a good start, although not as good as the Poolesville High School girls' basketball team which entered 2014 with eight wins and no losses.

Not long after Poolesville residents were enjoying solar-powered electricity to the envy of all those in the outlying areas, they burned a little of it off in the town hall with a meeting to discuss the idea of Poolesville becoming a county food hub to support regional agriculture in a big way. The meeting was organized by the commissioners and Michael Knapp, a consultant working on behalf of the town. Meanwhile, the town lost a major player when George Coakley stepped down as chairman of the planning commission. Coakley's civic contributions are many and will be missed.

Outside of Poolesville town limits, the county council came closer to a decision on development parameters in Clarksburg to protect the Ten Mile Creek watershed. Back in Poolesville, the town rolled out a new website, a project spearheaded by Commissioner Chuck Stump that would allow texting of town residents, the popularity of which remained unknown.

In late February, Maureen O'Connell wrote about signs of spring, giving us all hope that winter might end sometime soon, regardless of the opinions of Pennsylvania Groundhogs. By March, spring was nowhere to be found as most kids (baby goats) were being born on balmy days with highs of 9° F., and it snowed every weekend; high school basketball came to an end, with the PHS girls forcing three overtimes before going down in a



2014: The year big retail chains came to the Upcountry.

region playoff final. They boys also distinguished themselves in a tough region final loss. The girls won eighteen games on the year; the boys won nineteen. Meanwhile, the PHS wrestling team closed out a successful season by sending four wrestlers to compete in the state meet, impressive achievements for an inexperienced squad.

Later in March, the *Monocle* debuted Volume XI. Any self-respecting NFL fan would know this signifies the beginning of our eleventh year—which could only mean we finished ten years of publishing. We thanked you then and we thank you now.

John Pool Middle School English teacher Jan Lindsay, one of three finalists for the 2014-2015 Montgomery County Public Schools Teacher of the Year, as awarded by the Marion Greenblatt Education Fund, took that next step and won the award.

In May, the Poolesville Community Garden opened on the grounds of Poolesville Presbyterian Church, kicking off an exciting civic venture and attracting two Montgomery County councilmen for the ribbon cutting. Meanwhile, the Republican candidates for governor, accompanied by

Dan Bongino, a Republican candidate for Congress, faced an overflow crowd at the town hall. Candidate Larry Hogan was represented by his running mate, Boyd Rutherford, but, as at least one wag certainly noted, he probably didn't have a chance anyway.

Also in May, the commissioners took over funding the Poolesville Area Seniors Commission (PASC), stepping in as the Am Kolel Sanctuary's Gathering Place had previously operated. Principal Jane Boucher, with local ancestry stretching back generations, retired from JPMS, and the PHS coed volleyball team won a county championship, demonstrating that men and women really can work together effectively.

A story of wide-ranging interest had some local resonance as a circuit court judge, Audrey Creighton, a Dickerson resident, garnered much regional press and our front page with some antics involving her convicted felon boyfriend. This did not end up preventing her from being reelected in November, even with competition from Poolesville attorney Daniel Patrick Connell.

Continued on page 3.

Family Album



Dave and Sarah Ashley, Bill and Shirley Hilton, and Woody and Lisa Hilton at the PACC Holiday Dinner.



Faith and Skip Etheridge, Cathy Bupp, and Billy Jamison at the PACC Holiday Dinner.



Honorees Doris Glass, fifty years of service with the UMCVFD Ladies' Auxiliary, and granddaughter Mollie Bodmer, who completed her firefighter certification.



Former UMCVFD Fire Chief Earl Moore was recognized for over fifty-five years of service at the fire company's annual dinner.



The PHS chorus performed at the annual Winter Concert.



Santa listened carefully to this young man's wish list.

Santa will visit Poolesville again on December 21 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



The PHS orchestra under the direction of David Rogoza at its recent Winter Concert.

New Equine Book by Mary Ann Powell JUST RELEASED!

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Continued from page 1.

The Monocle Year in Review

In June, both the girls' and boys' track teams finished strongly. Monocacy King Lion Josh Maisel had his picture in the paper for the third time this year, three ahead of Larry Hogan; Ike Leggett dropped by the town hall pretty much unconcerned about his reelection, and four at-large candidates for the county council were reelected, leaving the county with "at-large" representation by three people from Tacoma Park and one from Garrett Park. Upcounty candidate Beth Daly came in a strong fifth. In one of the great events anyone holds anywhere, the Poolesville Military Support Group again hosted wounded warriors and raised funds for veterans and their families with a picnic at White's Ferry.

The Poolesville Storm fast-pitch softball team finished its season undefeated. In less savory youth news, two alleged burglars were arrested after their photographs were allegedly taken by some alleged surveillance cameras. Posting their pictures on social media helped them get nabbed. In much better youth news, Harry Vincent, Jr. and Chandler Thornton received scholarship awards from the Rural Women's Republican Club. Development approval for new retail outlets from Tractor Supply Company and Dollar General cleared their last obstacles.

A planned firing range near Sugarloaf Mountain found out that just because people like guns and shooting does not mean they like firing ranges in pristine recreational areas. A public hearing was swarmed by protesters, the beginning of the end for the range. Monocacy Lion and man-about-town Rande Davis was awarded the Lion of the Year's award for his years of service to the club and the community. Josh Maisel appeared again (four), George

Hillard was named Grand Marshal of Poolesville Day, and the *Monocle* editorial staff resumed arguing over the number of Ls in Marshall. The bridge repair was completed, and White's Ferry Road was finally reopened, eliminating the need for those long detours. Poolesville Day happened, and it was awesome again. An ancient elm on Elgin Road crushed a car, but not the driver, thankfully.

The end of September saw the untimely and tragic death of PHS senior Jacob Robert "Jake" Jesuitas, and the community turned out in his memory and to share its grief.

Poolesville Resident John Briscoe was named the 2014 Stockholm Water Prize Laureate, a major international award for issues related to water, proving that you really don't know that much about some of your neighbors. St. Peter's interim rector Kimberly Still left Poolesville for Palm Beach, Florida, although why anyone would do that is a mystery.

Local farmers formed Montgomery Agriculture Producers, Inc. to represent Ag Reserve farmers. The voters spoke up loudly and a little crankily in November, but Chuck Stump and Jim Brown were returned to the Poolesville Commission. Larry Hogan demonstrated that he didn't really need his picture in the *Monocle*, but we've got four years to get him in as governor. Local commentators were shocked to discover the next morning that Dan Bongino did not win his election.

Tractor Supply Company had its grand opening in the old Selby's Market building (not the really old one, the most recent one), and Neville Smith retired as the *Monocle's* premier delivery person. PHS volleyball coach Fran Duvall announced her retirement, and Rande Davis and his ubiquitous camera found thirteen more local Santas for our December 12 issue.

We at the *Monocle* thank everyone for their support, and we hope you have a great 2015.



"Protecting our rural legacy"

How to contact us:

Sugarloaf Citizens' Association

Beth Daly, President

Linden Farm, 20900 Martinsburg Road

P.O. Box 218, Dickerson, MD 20842

Visit our Web site: www.sugarloafcitizens.org

Seasons' Greetings from Sugarloaf Country!

2014 was a busy year for our volunteer team at the Sugarloaf Citizens Association. As an organization dedicated to the protection and promotion of the Agricultural Reserve's rural legacy, Sugarloaf took action and met challenges on many different fronts. Below is a short synopsis of some of our most significant work and achievements this past year:

Global Mission Church — Plans to build a 118,000 square foot mega-church facility—larger than the Nashville Convention Center—on a piece of property in rural southern Frederick County with no public sewer or water are on hold because of legal action brought by Sugarloaf, MCA, and local residents.

Old Arsenal Gun Range — The applicant withdrew its proposal for a gun range when faced with a well-organized campaign that expressed resident and local business concerns. Sugarloaf joined the Sugarloaf Alliance and many others to testify before the Frederick County Planning Board in opposition to the proposed large-scale, high caliber gun range at the base of Sugarloaf Mountain, a designated conservation area.

Ten Mile Creek — Sugarloaf was one of the earliest members of the Ten Mile Creek Coalition (TMC). Sugarloaf board members testified in front of the Montgomery County Council and Planning Board; met with elected officials and planning board staff; and, financed scientific research. Thanks to the TMC efforts, there will be hundreds fewer acres of asphalt, making for a healthier creek, sole-source aquifer and emergency drinking water supply for over 4.3 million in the metro area.

Although Sugarloaf remains a volunteer organization, and has been since its inception nearly 42 years ago, it sometimes takes more than sweat to get the job done right. It costs money to employ land use attorneys and environmental researchers whose expertise is invaluable to our past successes. Please check out our website @ sugarloafcitizens.org and consider making a contribution either online or mailed to the above address.

There is more work to be done in 2015, including advocacy for broadband access in the Ag Reserve and a MCPS rural schools policy. Please join us and thanks in advance for your support.

Warm Wishes for the Holiday Season!

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Letter to Editor

An Open Letter From WUMCO

Most *Monocle* readers are very familiar with WUMCO. They know that it provides emergency assistance to needy people in the Upcounty. Many of them support WUMCO generously—with donations of food, monetary support, and volunteer help—and virtually all of them know and revere Jane Stearns who has been the face and driving force behind WUMCO since day one. That's why they will certainly want to hear the big news: WUMCO is moving its offices to Poolesville.

As of April 1, WUMCO, now housed in Jane Stearns's residence rent-free on a back road near Beallsville, will begin operating in the Family Life Center of Poolesville Baptist Church on W. Willard Road, across from PHS.

Most people don't remember that, in 1968, Jane Stearns and her late husband Fred, along with friend Beulah Harper, began sharing food with some neighbors facing bad times. You might not remember it, but that was the beginning of today's multi-service 501(c)(3) charity that has made such a difference in the Upcounty. That's forty-six years that our charity has cared for those among us in need. Despite its relatively small budget, WUMCO is by far the largest help organization in Montgomery County, encompassing Poolesville, Barnesville, Beallsville, Dickerson, Boyds, and surrounding areas.

Its scope of services is impressively broad. In 2013, WUMCO not only supplied over 12,000 pounds of food to hungry individuals and families, but it also provided financial and other kinds of assistance to hundreds of people, including short-term emergency help for utility bills, housing payments, medical procedures/prescriptions, and transportation to

clinics and doctors. With the support of local churches and community organizations, its staff and volunteers provided 136 Thanksgiving baskets, 158 Christmas baskets, and toys and gift cards for 301 children.

The move will not affect WUMCO's scope of services. Another thing that will not change: While WUMCO is leaving Jane's house, Jane is not leaving WUMCO. She may not be in the office forty hours a week, but she will still be involved—providing oversight and sharing her rich experience with executive director Catherine Beliveau.

For several years Jane and the board of directors have recognized the need to move from her home to a place better suited to service its large territory. That's why WUMCO has enthusiastically accepted Poolesville Baptist Church's offer of 467 square feet at a nominal fee. The benefits are many:

- Current facility is remote and often inaccessible in the winter. The new site is accessible year round and more strategically located.
- Current facility is showing its age and is less welcoming than the new site with its attractive area for the office, improved internet service, and more sanitary space for the food pantry.
- Current facility lacks convenient parking and space for future growth, social events, and fundraising; the new site meets these needs in all respects.
- Current facility is more difficult logistically for clients, volunteers, and donors dropping off food to access than the new site.

WUMCO board chairperson Nancy Allnut calls the move a milestone in WUMCO's history. "I can't say too strongly how accommodating and gracious the folks at the Poolesville Baptist Church have been in negotiating our lease." PBC is pretty thrilled about it, too. They have supported WUMCO as long as anyone can

Continued on page 18.

Feeling blue this season?
You're not alone...

The holidays are a hard time for many people.
Whatever your reasons, you are invited for a time of prayer and safe space to struggle or to support those who are struggling.

Blue Christmas Worship

All Are Welcome...

Sunday, December 21st, 5 pm.

Buckeystown United Methodist Church

3440 Buckeystown Pike, Buckeystown, MD 21717

Third Annual Caring Community service offered by Dickerson UMC, Forest Grove UMC, & Buckeystown UMC, serving the communities of Dickerson, Tuscarora, Buckeystown, and surrounding areas.

The Monocacy
MONOCLE
Keeping an Eye on Local News

Published and Edited by
John Clayton and Rande Davis

John Clayton
Production
Financial
301.349.0071
jclayton@monocacymonocle.com

Rande Davis
Advertising
Circulation
301.509.9232
rdavis@monocacymonocle.com

Dominique Agnew
Copyediting
dqagnew@gmail.com

editor@monocacymonocle.com
advertising@monocacymonocle.com
www.monocacymonocle.com

Monocacy Press, LLC
John Clayton, President
Rande Davis, Vice President
P.O. Box 372
Barnesville, MD 20838-0372
301.349.0071

Contributing Writers

Dominique Agnew
dqagnew@gmail.com
Susan Petro
bsusan424@gmail.com
Pam Boe
pamboe@intairnet.com
Kristen Milton
kmilton1998@yahoo.com
Maureen O'Connell
mafoconnell@msn.com
Jeffrey S. Stuart
sark10@juno.com
Jack Toomey
jacket21262@aol.com
Ingeborg Westfall
ingeborg560@comcast.net

Contributing Photographer

Hilary Schwab
hilary@hschwabphotography.com
Jonathan Hemming

Layout and Graphics

Anne-Marie Thomas • AnyArt Studios LLC
Anne-Marie@AnyArtStudios.com

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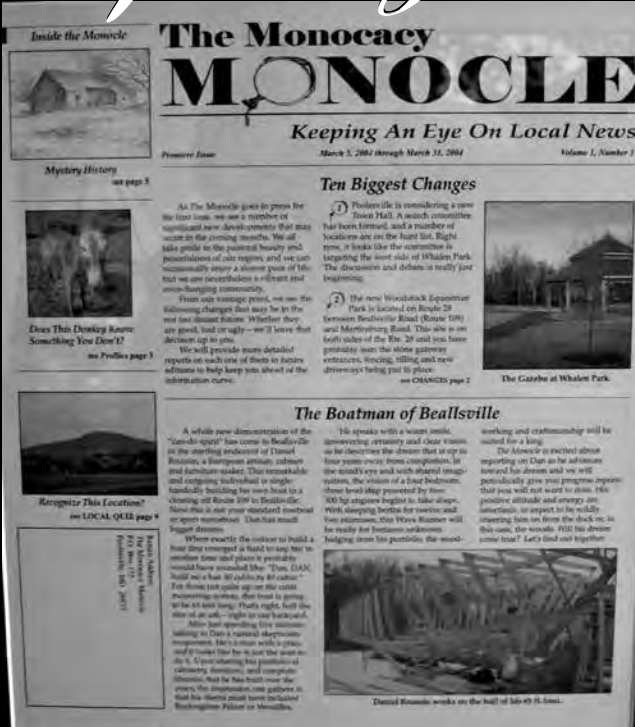
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Top News of the Year



The Monocacy Monocle celebrated its tenth anniversary!



The commissioners and visiting dignitaries celebrated the grand opening of the Poolesville Solar Array.



With more than sixty years of leadership in the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department, George Hillard was named Grand Marshal of Poolesville Day.



Tractor Supply Co. filled the empty retail location that was once home to Selby's Market.



The Montgomery Agriculture Producers, Inc. was launched to bring political unity of purpose to farmers in the county.



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Brian Jamison's home in Point of Rocks was a total loss after a fire started by an electrical problem.



JPMS teacher Jane Lindsay was named Montgomery County Teacher of the Year for 2014.



The winter of 2014 had an unusual amount of snowfall.




Patsy Dillingham threw her hat into the ring, but Jim Brown and Chuck Stump won reelection by a significant margin.

Heavy winter snow brought high water to the Monocacy aqueduct.



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20100 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville, MD

Religious Groups...



The Congregation of Barnesville Baptist Church at a youth bonfire event.



Members of the Poolesville Baptist Church take a Sunday nature and prayer walk through town.



Some real Irish dancing at St. Mary's annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner.



Vacation bible school at St. Peter's Episcopal Church



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Dickerson Methodist's Jay Lipp counting completed healthcare kits for homeless shelters.



Sunday school at Poolesville Presbyterian Church.



Games during vacation bible school at Memorial United Methodist Church.



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Civic Groups...



Leaders of the Poolesville Military Support Group presented their donation to the Yellow Ribbon Project and Fisher House at Whalen Commons.



Poolesville American Legion Post #247 meets monthly at the Old Town Hall Bank museum.



The monthly breakfast network gathering of the PACC members met at Cugini's.



Volunteers from Rebuilding Together, an organization that helps those in need with upkeep of their homes, combines good-works with fellowship.



Poolesville Green with support of the Poolesville Presbyterian Church opened its community garden in 2014.



Monocacy Lions Gary Burdette and Pete Gallo get ready to distribute holiday gifts and food for those in need in the area.



Woody Hilton was an instructor at an educational seminar for Poolesville Area Senior Center members held at town hall.



Friends and members of the Monocacy Countryside Alliance gather together at its annual meeting at the Izaak Walton League in Poolesville.



Odd Fellows Lodge #97 raised funds on Poolesville Day to continue its traditional mission of helping widows and widowers.

Christmas Eve Worship

7:30 pm

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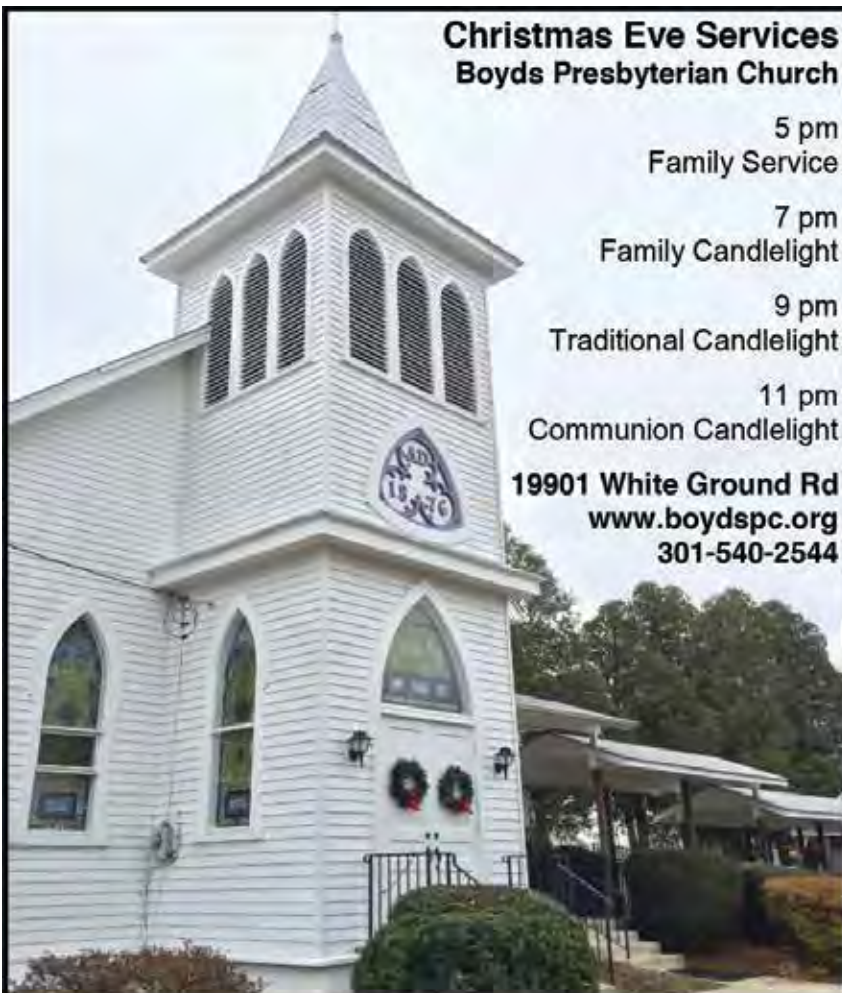
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9 pm
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Poolesville Military Support Group entertains wounded warriors each year at White's Ferry and raises money for Fisher House and the Yellow Ribbon Project.



The WUMCO Fall Festival raised funds to help those in need in the area.



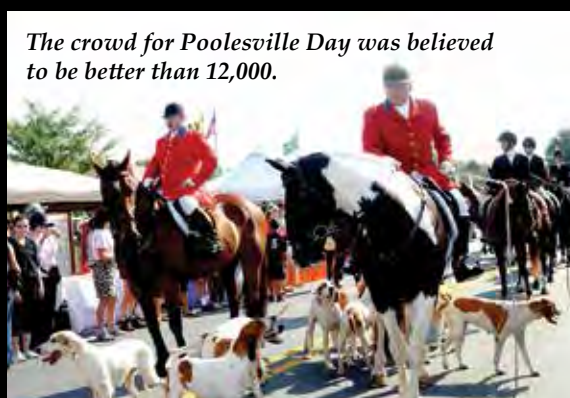
The Big Flea had big sales in 2014.



The PACC Business Fair had vendors, entertainment, and refreshments for the whole family.



Music concerts, farmers' market, and movies in the park were popular summertime events.



The crowd for Poolesville Day was believed to be better than 12,000.



Music, vendors, and wine and beer tasting drew the largest crowd yet to the Poolesville Springfest.



The PACC 5k on Poolesville Day honored PHS cross country coach Jim Vollmer who passed away in 2013.



Fourth of July was a great time for kids and adults.



Poolesville Relay for Life



Poolesville Elementary School's annual fair has grown since moving to Whalen Commons.



Families gathered for the Holiday Lighting Festival, which included the placement of a new town menorah.

Festivals and Events...

House of Poolesville

Chinese & Japanese Restaurant - Dine in or Carry Out

Entertainment Schedule

December 18

HAY WAGON RIDE THROUGH POOLESVILLE

View Christmas decorations, sing carols with guitarist Brian Jamison.

Starts at AHOP at 6:00 p.m.

\$10 per ticket plus canned food donation for WUMCO

Brian Jamison Band at 8:30 p.m.

December 19 and 26: DJ Slim Pickens at 8:30 p.m.

December 27: Chris Compton at 8:30 p.m.

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Christmas Day: 9 am / 11 am

New Year's Eve: 4:30 pm

New Year's Day: 10 am

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Mama Boe's Musings

Cranberry Sauce from Hell

By Pamela Boe

I don't ask for much in the way of affirmation. As Mama, one of the many responsibilities expected of me is exhortation of the clan. I am the "Jack Handy" of our home and family. Feeling low? I've got a lap and a hug for you. Achieve something noteworthy? I've got a high five and a celebratory dinner for you. Angry at your sibling? I've got an admonition of patience for you. Have an aspiration or dream? I've got the push to keep you trying. I'm all about support.

And in return, all I ask is a little grace.

Like, when I attempt to make a low-sugar version of homemade cranberry sauce to go with a fantastic chicken and stuffing dinner, and it is maybe a little on the sour side, that you don't have to turn it into a dare at the table.

I'm not saying that you have to fall over with untruthful flattery about it. And heck, you don't even have to eat it. But I don't think it is necessary for each person at the table to challenge the person next to them to see if they can "man up and eat a bigger spoonful" than the person before them. And no, the extra credit for seeing if you could hold it in your mouth longer before you swallow it was not cute.

And I don't think it's necessary to compare my culinary attempt to Warhead Candy (the one with the triple 'X' on the wrapper).

And the jokes about burning ulcers in your esophagus are unwarranted.

And the selfie you took with your cranberry-puckered duck face is not attractive.

I'm not asking for much, you don't need to ask for the recipe, as if you want to make it too. And you don't have to lie to me that you are allergic to Cranberries. But the crack about your urinary tract never having been healthier was uncalled for.

And no, I won't make a batch for you to take to the firehouse as a prank.

But I know some people who, when opening their lunchboxes at school and at work tomorrow, will find NOTHING BUT jars of homemade, low-sugar Cranberry Sauce from Hell.

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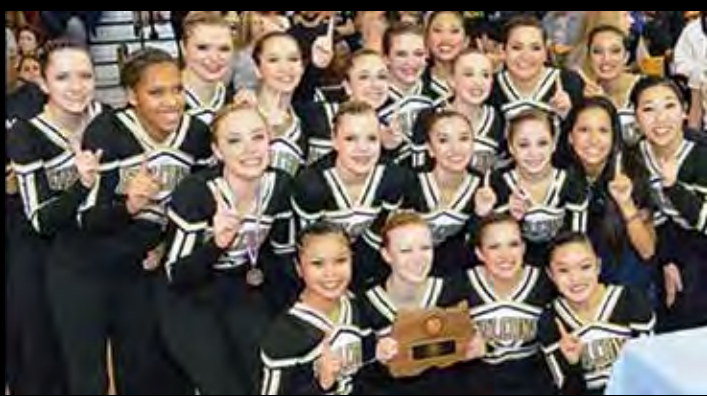


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Continued from page 4.

An Open Letter from WUMCO

remember and to be able to help in this very tangible way couldn't make them any happier. "We know WUMCO belongs to everyone," Pastor Jace says, "but we are excited to play this special part. After all, WUMCO does what we churches try to do: love and bless those in need." Pastor Jace is certainly right about that.

WUMCO belongs to everyone. WUMCO hasn't converted to the Baptist faith, it will simply be enhancing its capability to better reach all those in need, regardless of whether they are Baptist, Catholic, Moslem, Jewish, agnostic, atheist, or even Jedi. As has been true since the first neighbor in need received food from Jane and her friend Beulah, the doors of WUMCO will be open to anyone and everyone in need.

On behalf of your WUMCO board of directors, we look forward to continuing and expanding on WUMCO's legacy in the coming years.



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Important Considerations Before Getting a Pet for the Holidays

Peter H. Eeg, DVM
 Poolesville Veterinary Clinic

The holidays are right around the corner and, once again, some people will think a pet is the perfect gift for a family member or friend. A pet may represent many wonderful things in life, but it is important to emphasize that the gift is a live animal whose welfare is the most important consideration. This requires thorough and careful planning, rather than acting on impulse.

- **A pet is for life—not just the holidays.**
- **A pet's transition to a new environment can take time and should not be rushed.**
- **Do the recipient and the animal a favor by asking beforehand if a pet is wanted.**
- **If there is already a pet at home, a "meet and greet" is recommended before introducing a new one.**

Pet's Age:

A young pet requires dedication and patience, which must be impressed upon potential owners or gift givers. Days and nights can be long because of housetraining challenges, inappropriate chewing, scratching, and biting, and whimpering. On the other hand, older pets likely have some training, they know what is expected, and they often fit right into families and live very comfortably; however, they can present their own sets of challenges (unknown histories, unresolved medical conditions, unwanted behaviors).

Recipient's Age:

While pet ownership can enrich anyone's life, the recipient's age must also be considered; for example, children and the elderly can have limitations. Young children may not be responsible enough to adequately care for their new pet, so the parents must be willing to accept the responsibility. Older adults reap many benefits from pet ownership, such as companionship, but they may be limited physically (driving restrictions, impairing medical conditions).

Recipient's Lifestyle:

Successful gifting of a pet includes matching its lifestyle with the owner's. Pets usually need daily exercise as an outlet for their energy and possibly to decrease undesirable behavior, and even well-intentioned parents may have busy lives that do not include time for exercising the family dog. Older owners may not physically be able to walk any dog, small or large. What follows—the guilt he or she feels because he or she cannot provide proper care—is even worse; however, keeping a pet that someone cannot care for adequately is unfair for both the person and the animal.

Life Span:

A pet is a lifelong commitment. A dog's average life span is roughly 8-16 years; for indoor cats, it is 13-17 years. Children grow up and move away from home and sometimes cannot take their childhood pet. Elderly owners, though we hate to think about it, often pass away, leaving their pet behind.

Living Space:

Pets need space for themselves and their belongings (a yard for safe play, a bed, toys). Keep in mind that some apartments and rental homes will require extra fees for pets and may have breed restrictions.

Budget & Investment:

Pets can be costly. Cost estimates for quality veterinary care, food, toys, and a license are \$420-\$780 annually for dogs, depending on size. This does not include other recommended services such as neutering and micro-chipping.

Schedule:

A pet's transition to a new environment can take time and should not be rushed because spending time to bond, train, and set expectations is crucial. During the holidays, it is especially important to think about schedules, which may be so busy that there is no time to acclimate a new pet to its environment. On the other hand, some people may have more time during the holidays. Future events such as a new baby or travel plans that may conflict with the addition of a new pet should also be considered.

Other Pets:

Just like humans, not all pets get along. If there is already a pet at home, a "meet and greet" is recommended before introducing a new one. This should be considered before giving a new pet as a surprise that cannot be returned.

No matter the time of year, an open, honest discussion between those involved should take place before a pet is added to a household. **Do the recipient and the animal a favor by asking beforehand if a pet is wanted**—a donation to the local shelter or a volunteer opportunity may be all the recipient really wants. Gift certificates for a shelter pet are increasing in popularity because they allow the recipient to choose a pet when the time is right.



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