

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

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Construction on the new Dollar General store has stopped. Find out why in Business Briefs on page 5.



Her class was for the birds. The reason why is in Tidbits on page 11.



Andrew Wang rises to the occasion to score one for the Falcons. See more in Youth Sports on page 13.



Bettie's last name is well-known in the area, but the reason is a mystery revealed on page 15.

Town of Poolesville Rolls Out New Website

By Rande Davis

The Town of Poolesville recently unveiled a new, fully redesigned website with added features, mobile-friendly navigation, and a new web address: www.poolesvillemd.gov. With its launch coinciding with the holiday season, many residents may not have had a chance to check it out, but it provides an array of new features that simplifies interaction with the town government for both residents and non-residents, and it smooths the path for businesses dealing with the town.

Last year, during the discovery stages of developing a more aggressive marketing strategy to bolster economic prospects for the town, one of the most noted shortcomings was its outdated website. It failed to meet the expectations of not only prospective businesses, but residents and visitors as well. With the completion of the new website, internet communication is much more of a one-stop experience,

which not only puts a host of town information at the fingertips of residents, but also serves as a friendly, welcoming center for newcomers, both home buyers and entrepreneurs.

In the vernacular of its primary creator, Town Commission Vice President Chuck Stump, "The current site represents the beginning of a larger e-government portal initiative." In other words, doing business with the town is becoming as close to you as your home or office computer. The first step in 2014 was to get the basic site in place and decommission the two old websites. Stump spent over 250 hours of volunteer time last year serving as the point-person for the board of commissioners.

Stump believes that the top new features are Citizen Request Tracker, Stay Notified, and FAQs. The first simplifies reporting by individuals on a wide range of concerns to the town



Commissioner Chuck Stump spearheaded the development of the new town website.

and helps the town manager track response to such requests. The second allows each resident to customize what town reports and information he/she wants to receive via email. As one of its most attractive new features, it allows for user personalization. Users now can create an account and gather information that is most useful just to

Continued on page 6.

Peter Hitchen

Peter Hitchen, of Barnesville, a Joint Master of The Potomac Hunt, 76, died January 12, from complications from injuries sustained in a fall while foxhunting on December 11.

Peter was born in New Moston, a suburb of Manchester, England, on October 23, 1938, to Marion Platt Hitchen and John Hitchen. The family persisted through the relentless German bombing of the industrial city during World War II and was forced to temporarily evacuate Manchester to live in Cheshire until the closing of the war. He attended the Moston Primary School and went to work early in life on the three family farms located around Cheshire and instantly fell in love with farming and the outdoors. This fortuitous introduction to land stewardship and farming inadvertently introduced Peter to riding work horses while making hay and riding to and from the hayfields. Farming and the outdoors quickly overshadowed his interest in school.



Peter Hitchen

The British requirement of two years of National Service in the armed forces accompanied by his thirst for world travel and adventure led Peter to join the British Army in 1956. He immediately signed on for an

additional three years so that he was guaranteed overseas deployment. He spent six years in the Royal Artillery and served in Malaysia during the communist insurrection and later served in Hong Kong fighting the Chinese communists. He achieved the rank of Full Bombardier and was charged with managing the Signal Corp of the Royal Artillery. One of his commanding officers, Lt. Col. H. A. Hardy, MBE, MC, RA, described Peter, "A conscientious and intelligent young NCO. He is completely trustworthy and accepts responsibility willingly. He has the initiative and drive to get things done." He lived his entire life in accordance with this self-imposed doctrine.

After leaving the army in early 1962, Peter briefly worked in a candy factory to save enough so that he could achieve the lifelong dream of traveling to America and made the passage later that year. He settled in the Washington, D.C.-area and put himself through the Ben Franklin School of Business,

Continued on page 9.

Family Album



Lori Gruber (center back) chairs the newly-established Coach Dorsey Fund Committee. With over fifty volunteers ready to go, these eleven will lead the program.



Poolesville Relay for Life recently held its 2015 Kickoff Celebration with themes from various decades. Some participants dressed the part. Chontelle Hockenbery (1920s), Paul Harney, Jordan Burns (1990s), Mike Oden, Megan Harney, Morgan Harney, Dawn Ramos (1950s), Debbie Benson (1920s), Chrissie Harney (1980s), Heather Dice (1960s), and Loran Harney (1940s).



PHS varsity cheerleaders cheering for the Falcons.



Megan Harney and Loran Harney, dressed for the 1930s and 1940s, presented their ideas at the Relay for Life Kickoff Celebration.

The Holiday Shops @ Glad-I-Yoga

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FEBRUARY MARKET WEEKEND

February 6 to 8

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

February's Market is going to be a MUST! We've restocked and refreshed Blue from top to bottom. Plus we've got some surprises coming. Check us out on Facebook for a sneak preview!

Town Government

Vultures, Marketing, and Sewers

By Link Hoewing

Concerns about the large population of vultures roosting in town took up a significant portion of the town commissioners' time at their January 20 meeting. During the open forum segment of the meeting, town residents Robin Carol Winstead and her husband came forward to present information they had gleaned about vultures and their living habits. The January 16 issue of the *Monocle* printed an op ed from the couple regarding their concern about the vulture population in town. Ms. Winstead said that she and her husband are both animal lovers, but the large and growing population of vultures roosting in town can have negative impacts on the town. The vultures are not predatory and don't attack animals or humans, but the large number of the animals can be off putting and unsightly to many. While vultures serve a very valuable biological function by eliminating the remains of dead animals, they also leave large amounts of droppings, and their urine in particular is very pungent. The animals are also territorial and hiss loudly when humans pass by.

Other towns, Leesburg and Germantown, for example, have also had large numbers of roosting vultures. The animals are attracted to populated areas in part because there are large trash bins—sources of food. The feeding of wild cats can also attract vultures because the food left out for the cats is another potential source of food for the birds, and the significant deer population in rural areas around Poolesville provide additional sources of food when deer are hit by cars. Furthermore, Poolesville can boast large areas with trees for roosting making the town a vulture heaven.

Leesburg and Germantown have both spent time and money trying to scare the vultures away from their areas. Loud sounds and lights were used in both jurisdictions to persuade the birds to move. Vultures are not endangered but are protected, and Ms. Winstead was not advocating any actions that would harm the birds. The commissioners thanked her and her husband for the presentation and agreed that there has been concern expressed by some residents about the issue. No specific action was promised in response to the presentation.

After the open forum, the commissioners heard from the marketing

firm, Van Eperen Associates, hired to help market and promote the town. The firm, represented by Steve Simon and Lauren Van Eperen, praised the town's recent efforts to upgrade its website and remarked that it had provided media support to the launch of the site and written information for posting. The media support came in the form of press releases and contacts with local papers and news organizations to promote a number of town activities in the past year, such as the launch of the solar array system at the town sewer plant.

Van Eperen also has produced four videos promoting Poolesville, including one for Poolesville Day, and a series of interviews with local residents called "That's My Poolesville." The videos were shown at the meeting but have not yet been posted to the town website or used extensively in media activities.

In addition to these initiatives, Van Eperen said it has also helped write and distribute a brochure about the town called "Open for Business," promoting the local business climate.

Looking ahead, the company said that it was exploring ways to promote Poolesville on community cable channels. A signature event, one focused on promoting tourism, was something that should be considered. The commissioners added that an event promoting the history of the Civil War in the area is one they believe is worth pursuing.

Finally, Van Eperen officials said that they are focused in the coming year on helping the town secure a new grocery store. No specifics on what actions they will take in this regard were outlined.

Town manager Wade Yost closed the meeting by presenting a report about the performance of the town's sewer plant. Data regarding the sewer plant is reported periodically to the Maryland Department of the Environment. The town has a permit from the state to process and discharge 750,000 gallons of sewage per day, which flows into the Dry Seneca Creek.

Even with higher levels of precipitation in recent years, the plant has been performing more efficiently, processing far lower amounts of sewage than the permit allows. This is in part due to the fact that far less sewage is coming into the plant because the town has been sealing leaking pipes over the years and because newer homes use far less water due to more efficient technologies such as better showerheads. In effect, the town has created more than 53,000 gallons of capacity in its plant by reducing the levels of sewage that come for treatment, providing plenty of room for any future development that might be brought online.

Local News

Amber Alert Issued for Poolesville Baby

At 7:00 p.m. on January 27, an Amber Alert was issued for a five-month-old girl from Poolesville. According to police, Drew Marie Denny was taken from her mother's home located in the 19000 block of Hempstone Avenue in Poolesville by force by her father, Deare Denny.



Deare Denny, father of Drew Denny, has been accused of forcible kidnapping of his Poolesville daughter.

Deare Denny attacked his child's mother, pulled a gun on her, and took the baby around 3 p.m.; he fled in a rented SUV. He turned himself into Prince George's County authorities at approximately 8:30 p.m., police said, indicating that the child was safe and being reunited with her mother.

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Commentary

All or Nothing

By John Clayton

An article in a recent edition of the *Washington Post* captured my interest, and one of its primary points stuck with me throughout the week. The article, "End Obamacare and people could die. That's okay," was by Michael R. Strain, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. This means that he is at least a little more conservative than I am and a lot smarter, so I will try to do him proper justice. He discusses the concept of VSL which we all know stands for the Value of a Statistical Life. His basic point is that all sorts of societal decisions—political, economic, or what have you—result in deaths that might have been prevented by other actions. He writes, "In a world of scarce resources, a slightly higher mortality rate is an acceptable price to pay for certain goals—including more cash for other programs, such as those that help the poor; less government coercion and more individual liberty; more healthcare choice for consumers, allowing them to find plans that better fit their needs; more money for taxpayers to spend themselves; and less federal healthcare spending. This opinion is not immoral. Such choices are inevitable. They are made all the time."

He quotes an economist and "leading VSL expert," W. Kip Viscusi, that VSL "serves as the basis for the standard approach used by government agencies to establish monetary benefit values for the predicted reductions in mortality risks from health, safety, and environmental policies." The dollar value that Viscusi says that U.S. government policies place on the value of a statistical life is "between \$6 million and \$10 million."

Strain discusses crime, speed limits, and gun control as examples where our policies reach a balance between the restrictions we accept as reasonable or economically advantageous and a certain number of deaths. He cites, as an example, that if we had sentries and surveillance cameras everywhere, we could probably reduce homicides to almost nothing, but no one would want to pay for or live with such a solution.

His discussion ultimately swings back through the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) with a balanced discussion of what medical insurance should or should not cover—small-scale expenses versus catastrophic expense—which carries him into Republican alternative strategies of which he is in

favor. It's thought-provoking, and he criticizes both sides of the debate for their respective misrepresentations and excesses. It was a welcome break from the Obamacare lament I hear from so many, "It made my health insurance more expensive."

I also heard this week that various jurisdictions around the country are tightening up their enforcement of and penalties for handheld-device-use while driving. It hasn't been long enough since my last rant on this issue and my own *mea culpa* for my own transgressions, but it does occur to me that our tolerance for various smartphone activities while driving suggests that there is a certain level of traffic mishaps we are willing to suffer in exchange for our almighty personal convenience. We all know the prohibition of handheld devices is routinely ignored, and we also know that talking hands-free, while legal because we value it, also qualifies as distracted driving. So what's the deal? Do we put up with it as long as no one we know gets injured or killed? Does something change when that happens? I wonder what the VSL is as it relates to distracted driving?

The next step in this concern will probably be self-driving cars. We've all read about them, and we know they are technically viable. At some point, we will have to wrestle with what constitutes their societal acceptability. I am more than willing to accept that Google or some other developer can drive a car more reliably than I can and certainly better than all those other drivers out there (please, picture the writer rearing up in full self-righteous hauteur). Honestly, I'm fine with the concept. If all of us are hurtling around the beltway watching cat videos on YouTube in cars guided by real-time software and GPS, we are probably safer than we are now. When I get nervous is when I hear the caveat, "Of course, drivers have to remain somewhat aware of their progress as it may become necessary to resume control of the vehicle in certain situations." I don't think that is going to work; there is no halfway here. If self-driving cars are only going to sometimes be self-driving cars, then it isn't going to work. If we are supposed to drive, then we shouldn't be focused on anything else. If the cars are going to drive themselves, then we have to be free to fully disengage because, believe me, we will be totally disengaged, if not asleep. Then again, perhaps I am wrong, and if our 30,000 deaths a year on the roads goes down to 10,000 per year, we'll be satisfied, depending on who makes up the 10,000. What's the value of your life?

Rande(m) Thoughts

I Need a Recommendation for...

By Rande Davis

It probably won't surprise you that I have been thinking about the advertisers in the *Monocle* lately. So many of them have been stalwart supporters of the newspaper over the more than ten years we have been bringing the news and stories of the day (past and present) to our readers in and around town, and we are so grateful. Without them, there simply is no newspaper. Based on the humbling feedback we get so often from readers about how much they like the *Monocle*, we trust that our readers are grateful to our advertisers, as well.

Looking over our list of advertisers, it is not surprising to find they are the Who's Who of the contributing businesses in town. You see them on our pages, but you know what, you most likely will see their names as the sponsors and donors for all kinds of good causes in town from ads in high school play pamphlets to the backs of fundraising t-shirts. Our business community contributes to the town's good causes with cash, discounts, products and services, or other forms of

help. Without them, the civic groups, sporting programs, educational ventures, and community organizations that serve us would be really hurting. In a sense, without them, there really is no community here, just a place for slumber.

I have been on the board of directors of the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce for many years now, and consequently I have come to understand that the organization's call to Shop Local is more than a catchy slogan. It is a vital message for a healthy community.

Every once in awhile, someone on Facebook pipes up with a request for personal recommendations for a business or service. If you are new to the area, you may be uncertain as to whom to call from our list of advertisers, those listed in the PACC phone directory, or on its website (poolesvillechamber.com). As a newcomer you most likely came from a much bigger community where people and businesses can operate more anonymously—not so in Poolesville. Any business in Poolesville that has been around for a number of years is one you pretty much can count on. How come? After being in town since 1976, the way I see it, we are too small and close-knit of a community for a

Continued on page 11.

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Business Briefs

The Keys to Successful Networking

The PACC Networking Group, which gathers monthly to expand business opportunities for local companies, will be offering a featured speaker at its next meeting on February 5 at the Poolesville Town Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

The speaker is Susan Bierly, an individual with thirty-five years of sales experience, with twenty-five of those years developing networking expertise. As a networking consultant, she has been a guest speaker at various social and networking functions such as Business Network International, Kiwanis, eWomen Network, and Frederick Community College, just to name a few.

She is also the President of IMC Water Coolers, a woman-owned company established in 1988 by Susan and her husband. IMC Water Coolers is dedicated to providing green alternatives to bottled water.

The monthly meeting is open to all PACC businesses, but non-members are invited as guests on a one-time basis.

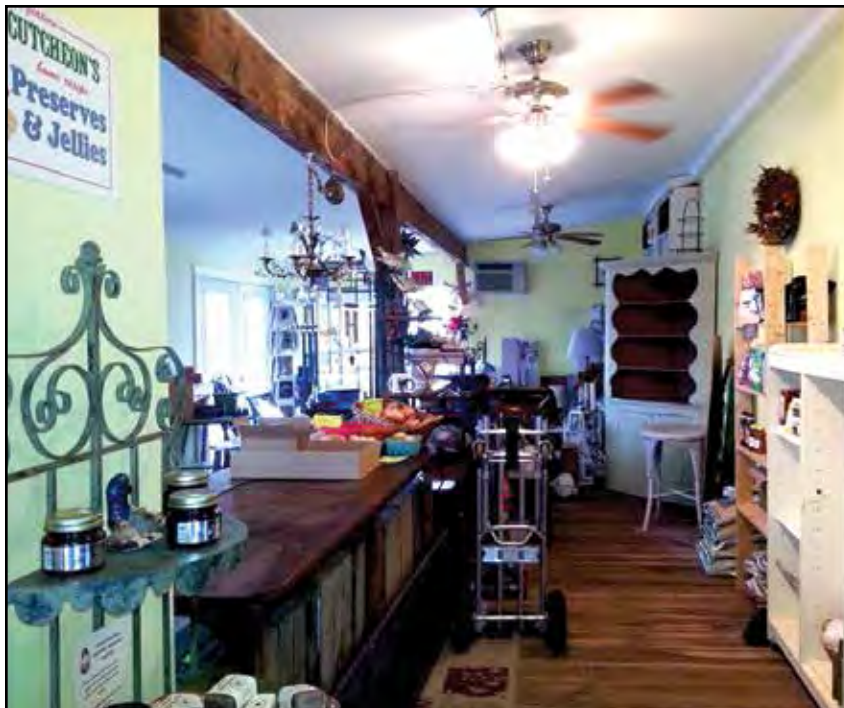
Dollar General Ready to Move Ahead

Construction of the new Dollar General Store (across from the Poolesville Town Hall between Poolesville Beer and Wine and the Verizon building) is on a winter hiatus, and their plan is to resume in March. The company has not scheduled an opening date.

The building will feature a brick façade with a peaked roof that is designed to emulate the town architectural motif, similar to that of Tractor Supply Company or the Poolesville (BB&T) Shopping Center. Dollar General, unlike similarly-named stores that sell products in the under-five-dollar range, is a retailer that offers a wide range of general merchandise at discount prices. It often makes product-buying decisions based on the particular consumer needs of each store.

Mixed Greens Getting Ready for the Warmer Weather!

Be sure to stop by and check out the new digs for Mixed Greens Market in Poolesville. While still very much at the Hearthsides Garden location, they just moved to a much bigger space on the east end of the building. With Groundhog Day just around the corner, it's not too early to start anticipating the better days of spring. In addition to this slight relocation by Mixed Greens, there will be many bold moves that Steve Goldberg had planned. We will keep you posted as they become finalized in the coming weeks.



Mixed Green Markets has recently expanded to a new, larger location.

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Focus on Business

Let's Do Shots Party

By Susan Petro

Have fun, look great, and put your best face forward.

Two local Poolesville businesswomen combined their talents to form a new business venture: Let's Do Shots Party. Contrary to the connotation the name might evoke, these hosted parties for women are not focused on consuming shots of alcohol. Instead, the hostess receives a complete makeover, fashion advice, and a professional-quality headshot photograph that can be used to post to her Linked-In profile, resume, Facebook, business cards, or any other purpose where she wants to look their best. The party guests receive makeup and fashion advice, and a head shot, as well.

Karen Kalantzis, a professional image consultant, and Hilary Schwab, a professional photographer, created Let's Do Shots Party after jointly working together on makeup and photo shoots for several clients. After a handful of successful collaborations together, the two decided that they would like to make this opportunity available to a larger group of women. "We liked working together," said Schwab. "It is a really good partnership—her skills plus my skills... We both liked the idea of empowering women." Let's Do Shots Party was born.

The name Let's Do Shots, a fun play on words, brings a festive atmosphere to a normally mundane task. Clients come away from the party with new makeup and fashion tips, and a professional quality photograph—all done in the comfort of a home, in the company of friends.

Kalantzis always wanted to have a career in fashion from the time she was in sixth grade. In college, while she majored in marketing, she worked at major retailers and got fashion internships with a minor in fashion merchandising. Her career followed a path towards marketing, but recently she decided it was time to reinvent herself and get back to her true love of beauty and fashion. A year ago, Kalantzis became a Certified Color Analyst and representative for Color Me Beautiful, a full-range makeup and beauty products company.

Schwab has been a professional photographer in the Washington, D.C.-area for over two decades. She contributes her longevity in the business to her love of working with people and animals. She describes a successful photo shoot as one in which she captures the essence of the person or the event she is photographing, and the clients are happy with their photos.

By combining both services in a group setting, customers save money over a typical makeup session and photo shoot. Kalantzis said the costs for makeup services and fees for a headshot average around \$300. Women who host a Let's Do Shots

party. If nine guests book, the headshot for the host is free.

Laura Levensgard, president of Starpower Fitness, recently attended the inaugural Let's Do Shots Party. "I enjoyed meeting new women and the networking opportunity," said Levensgard. She thought having other ladies at the party added a fun aspect. "I like the double entendre of Let's

Do Shots with the ice breaker of drinks first," said Levensgard. "Karen and Hilary have a lot of insightful information to share. I love my new picture and currently use it for all my social media."

If interested in learning more or in hosting a Let's Do Shots Party, contact Hilary or Karen at info@letsdoshotsparty.com.

Continued from page 1.

Town of Poolesville Rolls Out New Website

them. The FAQs section offers a large host of information and will expand over the coming months.

Key features of the new website include: Simplified Online bill pay for water and sewer bills; applications for venue rentals; grant and permit applications; agendas and minutes for town commission meetings, as well as meetings of other municipal government entities, such as the Planning Commission and the Community and Economic Development Committee. It also includes an area business directory to supplement the phone book published by the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce.

According to Stump, the coming year will emphasize the training of town staff, both paid and volunteer, on how to use the website's many tools, which will not only allow more people to create and manage content, but will also add more videos, expand social media use, as well as ease access to town documents online. The key factor to success will be keeping it fresh and relevant through ongoing updates. He urges all residents to at least sign up for Urgent Alerts (the town's way to communicate emergency-type situations) and Poolesville Information, direct town-to-resident email communication on non-emergency news.

Poolesville partnered with CivicPlus, a company that specializes in local government website development and design. With the launch of the website, Poolesville is also showcasing the new town slogan, "Small Town Character, Down Home Charm," which was determined based on a survey of town residents who voted on a variety of suggested phrases.

The site has five key categories of service: **Your Government, Our Community, Doing Business, Things to Do, and How Do I**—the last being a quick answer guide to many of the basic questions the town gets. With expansive initiatives including blogs, social media, and video, the town site promises to be a highly-vibrant tool.

"Our new website is all about making sure that the Town of Poolesville can better serve our residents, our businesses, and our community, as a whole," said Stump. "Our hope is that we will provide more opportunities for increased engagement among residents and our municipal government. We look forward to getting feedback on the new website so that we can continually improve the way we communicate with each other."

For more information and to view the new website, visit www.poolesvillemd.gov.



Karen Kalantzis and Hilary Schwab joined together in a new business venture: Let's Do Shots.

"We felt like there is a real need out there for women to put their best face forward now," said Kalantzis. "Visual communications are more important than ever." Kalantzis recalled how she previously had her headshots taken in a business environment or office where the atmosphere felt stiff and a little uncomfortable.

Party pay \$99 for both a complete makeover and a headshot. Each guest also pays \$99 and receives both makeup advice and a headshot. The host and guests have the opportunity to purchase additional photographs, if desired. The host also receives a discounted price if she books a minimum amount of women to join



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Things To Do

January 30

PHS Varsity Home Game

Girls' basketball. Churchill. 7:00 p.m.

February 2

PHS Varsity Home Game

Wrestling. Senior night. Wheaton. 6:00 p.m.

Poolesville Library Special Event: Science and Math (STEM)

Get your Goldberg on and learn how to create a system of small mechanisms to accomplish a simple task, such as rolling a pair of dice or flipping a coin. LEGOs, K'NEX, and other construction materials will be used during this night of family fun for young and old alike. 7:00 p.m.

Town Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

February 3

PHS Varsity Home Game

Girls' basketball. Damascus. 5:15 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Game

Boys' basketball. Damascus. 7:00 p.m.

February 4

PASC Special Event: Poolesville Area Senior Center: *Zumba Gold*. 17750 West Willard Road. Gym. 1:00 p.m.

MUMC's Free Community Dinner

Tacos with all the fixings, homemade desserts, and Starbucks coffee will be served. Gluten-free available. Come and enjoy a free meal. All are welcome. To request a ride, contact Lori Kocur at 301-349-9670. *Memorial United Methodist Church*. 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

February 5

PASC Special Event: How to make a bird seed wreath, materials provided. Bring Bundt cake pan if you have it. Registration required, call 301-875-7701. Free. 17750 West Willard Road. Café. 1:00 p.m.

February 6

PHS Varsity Home Game

Boys' basketball. Damascus. 7:00 p.m.

February 6, 7, and 8

The Blue Hearth Market Weekend

The Blue Hearth is restocked and refreshed from top to bottom. 19964 Fisher Avenue. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Holiday Shops @ Glad-I-Yoga

A variety of vendors with great gift ideas for Valentine's Day and everyday occasions: bracelets, necklaces, earrings, glassware, and much more. 20005A Fisher Avenue. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

February 7

Community Cornerstones on MPT

Heritage Montgomery's documentary film, *Community Cornerstones: African American Communities in Montgomery County, Maryland*, will air on Maryland Public Television (Channel 22 for most local cable providers). This hour-long documentary, presents reminiscences by elders from five historic Montgomery County African American churches. Because music is such an integral part of the African American experience, choirs associated with each featured church perform on the soundtrack. 6:00 p.m.

February 11

PASC Special Event: Tai Chi. 17750 West Willard Road. Café. 1:00 p.m.

February 12

Twos Storytime

Listen to stories, sing songs, and share rhymes. For ages 12 to 36 months. Registration not required. *Poolesville Library*. 10:30 a.m.


PASC Special Event: Healthy Cooking with Leni Barry of Suburban Hospital. 17750 West Willard Road. Café. 1:00 p.m.

PASC Special Event: Tai Chi. 17750 West Willard Road. Café. 6:00 p.m.

February 14

The Holiday Shops @ Glad-I-Yoga

A variety of vendors with great gift ideas for Valentine's Day and everyday occasions: bracelets, necklaces, earrings, glassware, and much more. 20005A Fisher Avenue. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



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Continued from page 1.

Peter Hitchen

working nights at the original Clyde's in Georgetown and earning a CPA degree. During this time, he was introduced to the sport of foxhunting by a friend and also met his future bride, Nancy Tilton Orme of Leesburg. She encouraged his involvement with hunting to hounds at the Loudoun Hunt, and the sport became his lifelong passion.

He married Nancy in 1965 and they had three children. The couple later divorced. His second marriage to Janet Goldberg Holloway also ended in divorce.

In 1971, Peter was recruited by Buster Day to work at his Francis O. Day Company, a paving and excavating company located in Rockville, Maryland. Peter would spend the next thirty-five years assisting the Day family in running the prestigious and successful paving and development business. He achieved the title of vice president and chief comptroller of the Day Companies and retired in 2007.

Peter never let anything interfere with his maturing love and passion for foxhunting, and after many seasons of whipping in at the New Market/Middletown Hounds and later at the Potomac Hunt Club, Peter joined Irvin L. (Skip) Crawford as Joint Master of the Potomac Hunt in 1987. With Huntsman, Larry Pitts, they oversaw the development of what is arguably one of the premier packs of

American foxhounds in the United States, giving good sport to their members year after year. Peter was also heavily involved in the organizing and running of the Potomac Hunt Races every May, one of the most respected and popular meets among steeplechase horsemen. He was also a successful steeplechase owner whose good luck brought him many winners, most notably Daily Desire, who won him the title of Maryland Steeplechase Owner of the Year in 1991. R. B. Billy, co-owned with Skip Crawford, won the Maryland Steeplechase Timber title several years later.

Peter had a legendary, compelling, and commanding presence which naturally attracted people of all walks of life. He was an intuitive and cunning businessman, a natural horseman, a devoted father and friend, and faced his last challenge as bravely as he had faced every other challenge in his life.

He is survived by his loving family, daughter Hilary Luttrell Hitchen Bateman, sons Peter Orme Hitchen and John Bradford Hitchen, granddaughter Madilyn Nancy, brother Stanley Hitchen, and his devoted companion of fifteen years, Anne Ragland Finney.

Per the wishes of Master Hitchen, services were held Saturday, January 24 at the Potomac Hunt Club, commencing with a stirrup cup and followed by the memorial service.

Memorial donations in Peter Hitchen's memory may be made to The Potomac Hunt Club, 21315 Peach Tree Road, Dickerson, MD 20842.

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Tidbits

Dorsey Fundraising Group Off to a Great Start

Chairperson Lori Gruber was pleased with the initial attendance at the first organizational meeting for the Dorsey Fund Drive, a charitable program to aid the family of PHS wrestling coach, Kevin Dorsey, as he travels through the challenges of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease). There were eleven people in attendance including Kim Smith, vice president of the Patty Pollatos Fund, an organization through which funds for the Dorsey Drive can be managed and dispersed and officially recognized as a 501(c)3. On the table for consideration for events in 2015 are dances, bingo nights, poker tournaments, a 5K run/walk, wrestling tournament, pig roast, and assistance from area restaurants.

Currently there are fifty people signed up to assist, but more is always better. If you want to assist with any of their events, plan an event, or help in other ways, contact Lori Gruber at lorigruber09@gmail.com.

PASC Seniors Learn about Bird Watching and Taking Pictures

Photographer Susan Petro and birding-watching hobbyist Jane Harris gave a two-for-one photography and bird-watching presentation and discussion to an enthusiastic group at the Poolesville Area Senior Center. The presentation began with tips and advice on how to produce frame-

worthy photographs on any type of camera with just a few simple steps. A collection of local bird photographs taken by Susan was shared before Jane began her bird-watching presentation. Jane provided tips and advice on how to attract and identify local birds, their favorite types of feed, binocular basics, local viewing areas, and helpful websites, books, and guides. The program concluded with a lively discussion period. All had a great time.

Your Chance for Free Trees And Helping a Good Cause, Too

The Arbor Day Foundation has a special offer for supporters to get ten free blue spruce tree saplings for just \$10.00. The free trees are part of the nonprofit foundation's Trees for America campaign. The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting, between March 1 and May 31, with enclosed planting instructions. The six- to twelve-inch trees are guaranteed to grow, or they will be replaced free of charge.

"The blue-green hue and distinctive shape of Colorado blue spruce trees will help beautify Maryland for many years to come," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "The trees will also add to the proud heritage of Maryland's existing Tree City USA communities."

To become a member of the foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to Ten Free Colorado Blue Spruce Trees, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by February 28, 2015, or visit arborday.org/february.

Police Blotter

By Jack Toomey

Current Crime

Assault: 19000 block of Beallsville Road, 17500 block of Kohlhoss Road, 19200 block of Hempstone Avenue.

Theft from vehicle: 17200 block of Spates Hill Road.

Stolen Auto: 18800 block of Martinsburg Road.

Theft: 17100 block of Spates Hill Road, 17300 block of Hoskinson Road.

Past Crime

January 31, 1948 Six Rockville boys were arrested and charged with stealing \$85 from March of Dimes collection boxes at Rockville Elementary School. Police were alerted to the thefts when the boys were seen spending large amounts of change at various stores.

February 2, 1948 A family of six was homeless after a fire destroyed their tenant house on the W. R. Winslow farm on Avery Road. The tenants said that they were eating breakfast when they smelled smoke. The parents ran upstairs and saved a two-month-old infant and four other children. The infant was taken to Montgomery General Hospital by police. The fire started when a mattress was placed too close to a wood-burning stove. Damage was assessed at \$5000.

February 3, 1948 A Damascus farmer was arrested and charged with starving his herd of cows. Police went to the farm after a complaint of a dead cow blocking the entrance lane was lodged. Captain Roy Bodmer found eleven cows in a snow-covered field and twenty-two in a barn. He said that they appeared to be "half-starved." The owner said that he was doing the best that he could but had run out of money. The only feed visible was a fifty-pound bale of hay. The Maryland State Animal Rescue League promised immediate aid.

February 4, 1948 A county road foreman was arrested on a charge of running a lottery. Police said that the employee was accepting bets while on the job. The county commissioners, who were in session at the time, were told of the arrest and ordered the immediate firing of the employee.

February 7, 1948 A Montgomery County Police officer was in Suburban Hospital recovering from a deep stab wound under his arm. He and another officer had responded to a domestic fight between a maid and her husband. When the officers tried to intervene, they were attacked by the husband who was armed with a knife. The officers opened fire, killing the man.

Some of the material in this column was obtained from the archives of the Washington Post.

Continued from page 4.

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business with bad products or service to survive. Here, word gets out even without the internet. That's not to say people don't have preferences. Tastes do vary, and no one can please everybody all the time. It is to say, however, that if they have been in business a long time in our area, they have already passed through a strong filter of broad customer satisfaction. You want references? Trust me, they have references. Just ask them. At the very least, they deserve your call.

With that in mind, I want to alter the PACC slogan a bit. From now on, I think it should be **Shop Local First**. When you give a local business a chance first, you not only initiate a relationship with a business that has proven to please most in the area over time, but in a very real way, you are helping your community by ensuring services and jobs. By the way, forgive me for being a bit self-serving, but when you call one of our advertisers, let them know you are calling because you saw their ad in the *Monocle* and that you appreciate their support of your local hometown newspaper. As I always say when people tell me how much they appreciate the *Monocle*, "Thank you and be sure to tell our advertisers."



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School News

News from the Poolesville Cluster

By Heidi Rosvold-Brenholtz

Full Four-Year Scholarship Awarded to PHS Senior

Congratulations to Poolesville High School (PHS) senior Karina I. Culqui for being one of only thirteen Montgomery County students to be awarded a Posse Foundation, full-tuition, four-year college scholarship. Karina will be attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The Posse Foundation program identifies public high school students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential that may have been overlooked by traditional college selection processes.

Fifty-one colleges and universities offer full-tuition scholarships to students who create multicultural teams, called Posses, on each campus. These student-teams receive professional guidance before and throughout college and provide support to one another. On campus, these students serve in important leadership roles.

PHS Ranked First in Maryland As Best Public High School

Niche Rankings has designated PHS as the best public high school in Maryland out of one hundred schools in the state. The Best Public High Schools ranking provides a comprehensive assessment of the overall experience at public high schools in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Data is reviewed from government and public sources; Niche's own proprietary data; and opinion-based survey

responses, including statistics from the U.S. Department of Education. Factors considered in the assessments include: academics; health and safety; student culture and diversity; survey responses about overall experience at the schools; teachers' grade; resources and facilities; extracurricular activities; and sports and fitness. Thomas S. Wootton High School was ranked second; Walt Whitman High School ranked third.

PHS Varsity Wrestling Team Wins Tournament

The PHS varsity wrestling team placed first among nineteen teams in the Charles H. Flowers High School Winter Blitz Tournament on January 17 in Springdale, Prince George's County. A sixteen-man bracket, double elimination tournament, all of the fourteen PHS wrestlers won their first matches and advanced to the second round together undefeated. Individual team member successes in their weight classes included: first place: Brian Truppo, by decision, David Frenlich, by decision, and Dmitri Agnew by technical fall; second place: Luke Maher, Ryan Lentz, and Kyle Wilkens; third place: Chris Danna and Justin Budd; fourth place: Sam Dodds and Chase Garrett; fifth place: K.J. Wilkens; and sixth place: Sam Garrett. "This win will give us momentum to finish strong at the upcoming county, region, and state tournaments," says PHS wrestling coach Mark Agnew. Currently, the team is comprised of twenty-eight wrestlers: eleven seniors, four juniors, three sophomores, and ten freshmen. The team will be wrestling against Wheaton High School on Monday, February 2 at 6:00 p.m. at PHS. This will also be Senior Night for the Falcons, an event to recognize the seniors as they wrestle in their final high school meet at home.

Here Comes Kindergarten

Poolesville Elementary School is scheduling appointments for 2015-2016 Kindergarten Orientation. Students must have turned five years old by September 1, 2010 to register.

Orientation dates are: Friday, May 1, 2015 and Monday, May 4, 2015. Please contact Mrs. Harney, 301-972-7960 starting February 2, 2015, to schedule an appointment.

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Photograph by Keith Wilkens



The PHS varsity wrestling team celebrated its first place victory at the Winter Blitz Tournament.

Youth Sports

PHS Poms' Winning Tribute to Uniformed Men and Women

By Heidi Rosvold-Brenholtz

With a dance tribute to women and men in uniform, the PHS poms team won its first overall Montgomery County high school Division 2 invitation competition January 17 at Damascus High School against four teams representing other Montgomery County high schools. PHS senior Priya Shukla won the first place team captain award, and the team scored a Spirit Award for the most enthusiastic fans.

The competitive season for poms consists only of two optional invitation competitions and mandatory participation in the county poms competition. PHS poms have won the last two Division 2 county competitions. If the squad wins again this year, it will move to Division 1 for future competitions.

Five seniors, nine juniors, three sophomores, and two freshmen comprise the 2014-2015 PHS poms squad. According to PHS senior Sally Miller, the team has three captains and two co-captains who share responsibilities for the squad, with the exception of individually competing for the Team Captain award.

The dance components and the routine's theme don't change throughout the season, rather the team works hard to fine-tune its presentation in response to comments from the seven judges who observe and score the

routines. Many rules govern how the poms execute their performance. Five judges focus on the overall team performance, while one judge observes and scores only the team captain while she dances with the squad and performs a thirty-second solo performance after the squad leaves the floor. The team captain is scored for knowledge of routine; difficulty; grace and coordination; presence; energy; and execution of technique. Another judge is dedicated to scoring how well the team follows safety rules.

"One important thing to know about poms is that it really is a team sport," explains Miller. "In other sports, you have star players and extra team members on the bench. With poms, the entire team is on the floor for six minutes, and we have nineteen girls working together to get it right the first time."

Tanya Ventura, PHS poms coach, spent the summer brainstorming a unique theme for the squad's performance. "I wanted it to be a routine that's remembered," she says. "The judges see so many routines. I wanted this one to stand out and stick in their minds. Our performance tells the story of going to war and returning home using military cadences and sound effects.

"Ninety percent of this team had no dance experience before practice started. Other teams have years of experience and a large group of girls who try out. In Poolesville, we have a small group of dedicated and hard-working girls starting from scratch eager to learn new skills. We spend months practicing for only three chances to compete."

The next invitation competition is Saturday, January 31 at Northwest

High School; the final competition is at Richard Montgomery High School on February 14. Poms also perform at PHS basketball games the night

before competitions to practice their routine. Spoiler alert: Word has it that the routine will take your breath away. Don't miss it!

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February 7: DJ Slim Pickens at 8:30 p.m.
February 13: DJ Slim Pickens at 8:30 p.m.
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Youth Sports

A Win at Damascus

By Jeff Stuart

When sophomore point guard Stephen Lang sank two free throws with just over a minute remaining in the game at rival Damascus on January 8, it gave the Poolesville boys' basketball team an eight-point lead, sealing a 44-35 victory. The Falcons had been outscored by the Hornets in each of the first three periods, but the game remained close. Victory came when the Falcons scored eighteen points in the final quarter, the most they had scored in any quarter this season.

"It was pretty intense," said senior forward Sean Parker, who led the Falcons with a season-high sixteen points. "We wanted to start the new year off right. We moved the ball around, and shots fell. At the end of the day, we got it done." What was his part in the win? "I tried to get as many rebounds as I could. That helps us both offensively and defensively, to score in the paint.

This was the first win of my senior year, so after all those losses, it was good to get a win."

"It was a great win," said senior forward Steven Morningstar. "It was really a back-and-forth game, and then we kind of took over in the fourth quarter. We were defensively sound. We held them to five points. We just hit the shots."

"We didn't have a win coming in," said senior guard Andrew Wang, who is tied for the team lead in scoring average with Parker at 9.6 points per game. "We knew if we rebounded well that we had a good shot against Damascus...We were defensive minded, and we were able to handle the pressure really well in the fourth quarter. At the end, we hit our free throws, something that we had been struggling with the last few weeks. We were up by four late in the fourth and when we got a rebound by Sean, I told him to pull it out and use the clock. He eventually went in and got a layup. At that point, I knew we had it. It was nice to get back to the locker room after that first win."

"The first half of this season has been all about having the players find and understand their role," said head Coach Kenny Kramek. "When you graduate ninety-eight percent of your scoring from the year before, you have to look for a whole new group of student athletes to step up. Prior to this season, no one on the roster had a ton of varsity basketball experience, so each player has been working on finding the strengths and understanding his weaknesses. We are getting better each

game and learning how to win games. Despite a 0-8 record in December, we were within a couple possessions late in the fourth quarter in almost every one of our games. We were just coming up a little short, missing that big shot, making a critical turnover, or missing free throws.

"Against Damascus, everything came together. We were able to control the pace of the game and to keep it close, giving us a chance to win at the end. Sophomore Jake Drissell hit a big three-point shot with four minutes remaining to put us up, 31-30. We were able to eliminate the mistakes we were making early in the year. A lot of different players stepped up and filled the roles needed to get a victory. Lang was six for six from the foul line in the fourth quarter. Parker had fourteen second-half points, and with help from Morningstar, Wang was able to control the boards on the offensive and defensive end. Logan Rocco (senior guard) gave us great defensive effort containing their best player, Duane Davis. Everyone on the floor understood his role and executed near flawlessly. When we do that, we will have a chance to win every game."



PHS senior basketball players:
Andrew Wang, Steven Morningstar,
and Sean Parker.

Other seasonal stats include: Sophomore guard David Esser scoring seven points against South River in a holiday tournament game on December 29. Lang, the nephew of former PHS basketball coach Tom Lang, scored thirteen at Gaithersburg on December 8. Through the Damascus game, he was a perfect ten for ten from the free throw line. Rocco scored seven against Gaithersburg. Senior forward John Siegrist scored four points against Gaithersburg. Senior guard Cori Riggs scored three against Blake. Forwards Tony Parker and Michael Vetter and guard Joey Cartwright are also seniors. Senior night festivities are on February 23 when the Falcons host Walter Johnson.

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Mystery History

Streetwise— Wootton Avenue

By Rande Davis

The third most recognizable road in Poolesville bears the name of a near-legendary individual of distinctive achievement, Dr. Edward Wootton. Born in December of 1839 in Rockville, Dr. Wootton lived his seventy-one years boldly, achieving success in nearly every endeavor he pursued. His bigger-than-life story would have had a much greater historical significance in Montgomery County and throughout Maryland except for one fateful decision he made in 1862: Dr. Wootton chose to fight for the South.

In 1860, nearly one third of the population of Montgomery County consisted of slaves. Many of them worked the farmland in the Medley District, the mid-1860s voting district we call home. While Maryland teetered on the verge of joining the South, its governor, Thomas Holliday Hicks, an anti-secessionist despite his pro-slavery stand, held the state within the Union. Nevertheless, on August 13, 1862, forty men (many the sons of slave owners) from Poolesville and surrounding villages crossed the Potomac to join up with Poolesville's Col. Elijah Viers White's 35th Virginia Cavalry, brazenly nicknamed the Comanches. The assistant surgeon for the Comanches' Company B was Dr. Edward Wootton. Only twenty-three years old, he had graduated from Georgetown College in 1858.

His military career got off to a rough start as only three months later, on November 29, 1862, he was captured by Federal troops and sent to prison. Although the records I reviewed do not clarify how he left the prison, he did manage to re-up with the 35th Cavalry's Company D and served until February 3, 1865 when, once again, he was captured in Loudoun County. He was paroled that June in Winchester, Virginia.

Choosing to stay in Virginia immediately after the war, Wootton met Elizabeth Dagg O'Rear, and they married on November 8, 1866 in Fauquier County, Virginia. He and his beloved Bettie had twelve children, eight boys and four girls. We told you the man was bold.



Dr. Edward Wootton made a fateful decision in 1862.

After the war, Dr. Wootton continued his friendship with Colonel White, joining him in various business ventures including warehouses and mills along the C&O Canal. One business venture in which Dr. Wootton partnered with White is sure to be of interest to our readers, though: In 1866, Colonel White bought Conrad's Ferry. Dr. Wootton was not only an owner of White's Ferry, but he was it's last Postmaster. John T. Elgin held Postmastership from 1893 to Christmas 1900. It is only fitting that Wootton ended-up being the last Postmaster.

The good doctor eventually came home to Montgomery County and went on to have a successful political career in Maryland, being elected in 1887 to the Maryland House of Delegates and to the State Senate in 1889.

At 2:00 p.m. on the afternoon of April 3, 1910, Dr. Edward Wootton passed away at his home in Poolesville. The Rev. Walter P. Griggs of St. Peter's Episcopal Church presided at the funeral. Although Dr. Wootton hailed from this small town of barely 350 people, over 3,000 people attended his burial at Monocacy Cemetery.

On a marker in the cemetery giving tribute to Wootton and all the soldiers from this area that fought for the South is this epitaph:

Bugler sound boots and saddles

They answer not, let them rest

Their warfare over, they are sleeping

And, perhaps 'tis for the best.

This article, in part, was prepared with gratitude to Glenn Wallace and his Monocacy Cemetery Project.

Tidbits of The Past

By Jack Toomey

January 6, 1953 Ninety-one war veterans filed a lawsuit against the builders of the Wheaton Park subdivision. Through their attorney, they claimed that they were promised first-class homes with superior craftsmanship. Instead, they alleged that their homes had buckling roofs, leaking basements, sagging floors, improperly-installed appliances, cracked walls, and the use of green lumber.

January 7, 1952 County officials announced that the first Bookmobile would start service. The vehicle, which carried 2,400 books, serviced Upcounty residents in areas where no libraries existed. The Bookmobile made its first stop at the Darnestown School where it remained for an hour and a half. It then went to Barnesville, Sellman, and Comus. The next day, it started the day at the Clarksburg Negro School and then went to the Clarksburg White School. After those visits, the vehicle went to Clements Market in Boyds, then to Beallsville and Dickerson.

January 21, 1953 The board of directors of the Farmers Banking and Trust Company agreed to issue 3,500 shares of stock at \$25 per share. The bank was located in Rockville with branches in Poolesville and Kensington.

January 25, 1953 The county health department reported that over 24,000 x-ray pictures were taken during the previous year. They revealed 221 cases

of tuberculosis as well as 168 cases of pleurisy, cancer, and lung abscesses.

January 26, 1953 The first five-mile section of Washington's superhighway opened; however, the state's most important politician and scheduled speaker was absent. Governor McKeldin said that when he woke up in Annapolis, it was raining so hard that he was sure that the ribbon cutting would be cancelled, so he did not travel to Urbana where the ceremony was to be held. The new highway, named the Washington National Pike (Route 270 today), was to feature two twenty-four-foot driving lanes separated by a green strip of grass. Another section of the highway was under construction near Clarksburg.

January 29, 1953 Montgomery County was being affected by an influenza epidemic that reduced attendance in the public schools by twenty-five percent. At some schools, half of the students were absent. A basketball game at Montgomery Blair High was cancelled due to the players being ill.

January 30, 1952 Rockville High School soundly thrashed Poolesville, 51-32, at Poolesville. Griffith, Atkinson, and Morgan led the Poolesville squad with twenty-eight points between them.

January 31, 1953 Poolesville defeated the Maryland School for the Deaf, 55-51, at the Poolesville court. George Welker scored eighteen points for Poolesville while Dederick added eleven.

Material for this column was obtained from the archives of the Washington Post.

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The County is interested in parties who are qualified proposers for agricultural tenant farming in Dickerson, Maryland. The available properties are comprised of three (3) parcels, totaling 623 acres, more or less, of farmland in Dickerson, Maryland. The long term lease is ten (10) years and it will include farming and property maintenance responsibilities of the three parcels. The Real Estate Expression of Interest detailing requirements and instructions may be obtained from www.montgomerycountymd.gov, Department of General Services, Office of Real Estate website or picked up from the address below.

An optional site tour will take place on Tuesday, February 18. Instructions for attending are found in the solicitation document.

An optional pre submission meeting will take place on February 20, 2015 at the below listed address.

There is no commitment expressed or implied by Montgomery County, Maryland in soliciting proposals. Montgomery County may, in its sole discretion, accept or reject any and all proposals received. The proposal deadline is Friday, February 27, 2015.

Montgomery County Government
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Office of Real Estate
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Rockville, Maryland 20850

Please contact Steve Batterden on 240-777-6063 with any questions.

Musings from Mama Boe

The Art of Self-Importance

By Pamela Boe

Today I sat in a waiting room from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. kicking my heels until the doctors were finished with Critter. All. Day. Long. Just me, my laptop, my Kindle, and an entire bag of Sugar Free Jolly Ranchers.

Quick, but important note: Never, ever, ever eat an entire bag of Sugar Free Jolly Ranchers in one day. Never. Just trust me on this one.

My life is one of action, with anything terribly cerebral usually being relegated to my time off (between the hours of Midnight and 12:15am). My current job as Mama is filled with DO-ing... laundry, dishes, shopping, sorting, cleaning, fixing, maintaining, nurturing... that kind of thing. It's not glamorous, but I know my role in this family is important, and I love being the support system for the amazing souls who surround and depend on me.

It's the life I chose. It's the life I wanted. I'm fairly good at it. And there is certainly no shame in doing your chosen life task, as humble as it may be, and doing it well.

So when another Mama entered the waiting room and plunked herself down to share my table, plugging in all of her devices, I was at peace with myself. And then she began her cell phone conversations. Apparently she is a lawyer and her work is extremely important. I know this because of her tone and volume. Both were impressive.

When she began furiously typing at her laptop while carrying on a legal argument, I felt a surge of power in the room. My own cheeks tightened in empathy for the butt-kicking the other side of her phone conversation was getting. And then she picked up her gilded Cross pen. Never have I felt sorry for an inanimate object before, but her poor legal pad was taking a beating.

To be in a room with such power... anyone would have been impressed, if not daunted. I glanced down at my old, clunky, scratched metallic purple Dell laptop, with cat hair and bread-crumbs stuck in every crevice, and felt a need to slouch apologetically.

I started to type something in my blog, Mamaboe.com, figuring that I, too, could be filled with such purpose and drive. But the screen just stared back at me, and type as I would, I could

not find a sense of self-importance as great as the one sitting next to me.

I mentally checked off the differences between us. She in her power suit, and I in my oversized, rainbow-colored sweater and stretchy yoga pants. She with her perfectly blown hair, and me in my hastily placed pony tail made with one of my daughter's discarded hair bands. She, with her manicure, and I with torn cuticles and chewed hangnails. She with her Rayban progressives, and I with my CVS foldable readers. She with her well-kept muscle tone, and I with my neglected soft and squishy bits.

How low I had sunk all these years! How utterly rustic I had become. Turns out that a life solely dedicated to nurturing others leaves little time and energy to take care of oneself, and in doing so, I had failed to keep myself up. How horribly I had let myself go.

I shut my laptop dejectedly. I'm not one to spend time comparing myself to others; it's always a waste, rarely affirming, and never fulfilling. But this was one of those times when I was not prepared to deflect the implied societal expectations being radiated towards me.

About the time I could feel my ears burning, a sure sign that tears were imminent, my son burst out of his appointment and launched himself at me in the chair.

"OH MOM. It was awful." He snuggled deep into my old sweater and breathed me in, wrapping his thin arms around my soft and squishy bits. I hugged him tightly, and stroked his head with my unpolished hands. Shutting his eyes, he dropped his head heavily onto my shoulder with tremendous drama. Sarah Bernhardt would have had nothing on this kid.

I glanced up to see the Mama beside me looking annoyed at Critter's intrusion, grinned at her with a newly elevated sense of self and purpose, and laughed to Critter, "Can we go home now?"

He took a deep breath, and sighed, his eyes still closed on my shoulder, "I already am."

And we left, hand in hand. A young boy charging forward with his extremely important, powerful, and absolutely essential... Mama.

To the other moms out there, do not EVER doubt your significance. And remember, a soft and squishy, unconditionally loving lap is as essential to the betterment of this world as any high-powered career tool. I would even venture to bet that it's MORE important.

Just ask Critter.

Remembrances

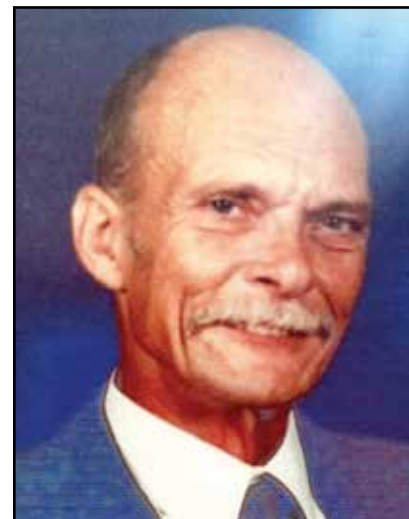
Harrison James Dutton

Harrison James Dutton, born May 18, 1945, passed away from health complications on January 8, 2015.

Harrison is survived by his mother, Aileen; three sisters, Sandra, Judy, and Rozelle; two brothers, Dave and Dock; three sons, Allen, Clayton, and David; and their mother, Linda.

In his later years, Harrison lived in Poolesville with his loving partner of twenty-eight years, Mary Ann Powell. He also partnered with her by editing her books.

Harrison was born in Haysi, Virginia, and, although he lived in many places, he often said his heart remained in Haysi. He was famously funny, honest, direct, loving, and hardworking. Often working two or three jobs to support his family, Harrison was a loving father, partner, husband, and sibling. He was a larger-than-life character that everyone loved, and he will be both remembered well and dearly missed. Rest in peace, Harrison, and we hope to see you again.



Harrison James Dutton

Joseph R. Mills

Joseph Raymond Mills passed away peacefully on January 10, 2015 at the age of 74.

His home was Dickerson although he spent the past few years in Frederick and Maryville, Tennessee.

Joe helped his father build the family home in Dickerson while he was still a teenager, and he lived there for most his life. He was a member of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department with forty-six years of active service. Joe slept with the dispatch radio turned on and his boots beside his bed ready to jump up and move quickly if there was a call during the night. He was an Emergency Medical Technician, a Rescue Captain, and a Master Firefighter.

After serving in the United States Army for three years, Joe spent thirty-one years with AT&T. He worked with business phone systems and installing equipment throughout the area. Joe personally knew "the coldest phone pole in Montgomery County." He read extensively with special interests in the military, railroading, firefighting, and shooting.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph Mason Mills and Agnes Zeaman Mills of Dickerson. He will be missed by his brother William Mills and wife Liz of Maryville, and his sister, Martha Mills of Centreville, Virginia.


A funeral service was held on January 16 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Barnesville. Interment was in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Joe's name to a charity of your choice.

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February Is National Pet Dental Health Month!

Pets Need Dental Care, Too

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

Poolesville Veterinary Clinic

Have you ever gotten a sniff of your dog's or cat's breath and wrinkled up your nose? Stinky breath in your pet can be a sign of problems. All too often, dental care is something that is overlooked in our pets. Imagine how your mouth would feel, taste, look, and smell if you NEVER brushed your teeth!

The cause of dental disease in pets is basically the same as in people. The difference is that people take care of their own teeth, usually several times daily. Bacteria in the mouth combine with saliva and food debris to form plaque. As layers of plaque accumulate, dental tartar is formed. Over time, more layers of plaque combine with bacteria atop the tartar, mineralizing and resulting in calculus. While plaque is soft and can be brushed away, tartar and calculus are hard, and must be scraped off or removed with a special instrument called a dental scaler. Tartar and calculus trap bacteria in and under the gum line, which leads to irritation of the gum tissue (gingivitis) and then periodontal disease. Periodontal disease means sickness of the supporting tissues of the teeth, the ligaments that attach gum to tooth and jaw bone. The American Veterinary Dental Society estimates that 85% of cats and dogs have periodontal disease by age four!

Signs of tooth and gum disease in pets include bad breath, excessive salivation, refusing to eat or dropping food, rubbing or pawing at the face, loose or broken teeth, and red, inflamed gums. Many pets never show symptoms beyond bad breath, however. Without regular veterinary exams, much of our pets' dental disease isn't detected until it is really bad. Lift your pets' lip and gently pull back towards their cheek and take a look; if you see red or puffy gums, brown debris (dental tartar) or yellow build-up (calculus) accumulating on the teeth, then your pet has enough dental disease to warrant veterinary evaluation.

Beyond these problems in the mouth, pet periodontal disease can lead to systemic problems. Bacterial infection can spread from the mouth to the heart and heart valves, kidneys, and liver.

The best way to prevent tooth and gum disease in your pets is to regularly brush their teeth. Though it may sound silly, it is actually something that most dogs and cats will readily accept given the proper technique and some patience and persistence. Because most owners do not have the time or inclination to attempt this, other home dental care options have been developed. Special diets and treats are made that will help minimize plaque build-up. Oral rinses or water additives can help control bacteria. None of these replaces brushing and having regular dental checks with your veterinarian. A full dental prophylaxis or professional dental cleaning is the best way to keep your pets' mouth healthy and comfortable. Dental prophylaxis is a bit more involved in pets than in people. Since they won't voluntarily open wide, general anesthesia is usually required to allow a complete dental exam and thorough cleaning. Without full sedation, it is impossible to truly address all problem areas, especially the areas under the gum line.



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