

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

February 27, 2015 • Volume XI, Number 23



See more fun in the snow in Family Album on page 2.



This couple has a street named for them. See Mystery History: Streetwise on page 11.



Ground venison for the hungry. See Pulse on page 13.



Some lucky bidder left the Monocacy Lions auction with this, but no one knew what it was. If you do, please let us know at editor@monocacymonocle.com.

2013 PHS Graduate Dies in Car Accident in Georgia

Emily Ann Grubb, 19, a 2013 graduate of Poolesville High School, died in a single-car accident on Saturday, February 21, on Route I-95 in Liberty County, Georgia. Emily, a sophomore at Flagler College in St. Augustine, Florida, was reported to be traveling back to school after visiting a friend in Savannah. The cause of the accident is reported to have been text messaging when the car drifted off the road. She was not wearing a seatbelt.

Emily was a popular and highly-accomplished young woman who was awarded the Girl Scout's Gold Star in 2013. Equivalent to Eagle Scout in Boy Scouts, the Gold Star is the highest award given by the Girl Scouts. Gold Star recipients exhibit superior leadership, organization skills, and a higher commitment to community service. She also received the Silver Trefoil Award, the second highest honor given to scouts.

Emily teamed with classmate and friend Alyssa Nubgaard in projects with Poolesville Elementary School. They identified the need to help

elementary students develop a strong foundation in basic math and reading skills, along with organizational skills. They recruited a variety of high school students to assist with the tutoring and started a Homework Club at the elementary school. This group met twice a week for a year and half with significant success in aiding the elementary students.

Emily was the cherished daughter of Bruce and Tricia Grubb; loving sister of Amy, Chrissy, Megan, and Matthew; dear granddaughter of Dana and Mary Grubb and Richard and Pat Rosser. She will also be sorely missed by her many aunts, uncles, and cousins, and all who knew and loved her.

The family will be receiving friends on Friday, February 27 from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Hilton Funeral Home, 22111 Beallsville Rd. (Rt. 109), Barnesville. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 28 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 18230 Barnesville Road, Barnesville. Interment will follow in the church



cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Service Unit's Girl Scout Gold Award Scholarship Fund, Service Unit 32-11, P.O. Box 384, Poolesville, MD 20837. Please make your check out to "Service Unit 32-11" and reference the scholarship on the memo line.

Vandals of the Four-Legged Variety

By Susan Petro

Recently, a local Poolesville resident and birding enthusiast got a little suspicious when her birdfeeder was vandalized and dragged more than twenty feet away from the mounting post. Occasionally, deer or raccoons have knocked the feeder down, but nothing had ever dragged it away or caused so much damage to the feeder. Another nearby neighbor found similar extensive damage to his own birdfeeder. Both residents reside in the Hunter's Run development and have houses that back to the woods. One resident bought a trail camera and placed it near the feeder, and soon the mystery was solved. The vandal, a black bear, was caught red-pawed raiding the feeder, now strung about six feet off the ground.

As word got out that a bear was helping himself to local feeders, some neighbors worried that its presence



Poolesville's bear may be smarter than the average bear.

may pose a threat to the neighborhood. The Town of Poolesville Facebook page lit up with other possible sightings and calls to have the bear trapped

and removed. Others felt the bear should be left alone. After all, this is the

Continued on page 12.

Family Album



The Wallingford triplets of Stoney Springs worked together to build their snowman.



Martin and Abbey Radigan built a baby hill slide for Maisie.



William Price (pointing), auctioneer extraordinaire at the Monocacy Lions auction.



Charlie Glass and Bill Jamison at the Monocacy Lions auction.



Bette and Owen Laug at the Monocacy Lions auction.



These Brightwell Crossing snow-fort warriors delight that their snowballs hit the target.



The Monocacy Lions Annual dinner auction was a big hit.

Monocacy Lions photographs by Rob Jones



White's Ferry frozen in place, February 2015.

Photograph by Jack Toomey.

Town Government Commissioners Approve Lot Sale and Grant

By Link Hoewing

At its February 17 meeting, the Town of Poolesville Commissioners approved the sale of a single lot the town owns in the Westerly Subdivision as well as a grant for the group operating the local community garden.

The lot in the Westerly development along West Willard Road has been owned by the town for many years and has been used for a variety of purposes, including soccer practice, but it is really not large enough to serve a major public purpose, and as plans moved forward to add new homes to the existing Westerly subdivision, the commissioners decided to sell the lot so it could be used to build a new home. The town would also gain some revenue from the sale of the lot.

There was little debate about the proposed sale on the part of the commissioners. A bid of \$106,000 was received for the lot, and it was deemed to be a reasonable proposal. On a unanimous vote (with one abstention by the commission president Jim Brown who operates a real estate firm), the commissioners approved the sale.

Following the lot sale approval, the commissioners heard from Julie Halstead and Alicia Thomas, representing the local community garden project, who reminded the commissioners that the organizers of the community garden had first approached the town in 2013 about a proposed grant. At that time, they asked for \$1000 to help pay for materials to build raised garden plots, and the town not only approved the request but also provided in-kind services in the form of helping to install water connections for the garden.

Halstead and Thomas remarked that while they were asking for a grant, the group is constantly seeking other types of support in the form of state and county grants and in-kind help and contributions from local businesses. They also said that users of the garden must pay a fee for any garden plots they want to use, and that these fees, while too low to cover much in the way of total costs, help defray some expenses. The project gets some help from Poolesville Green and Poolesville Presbyterian Church, which jointly sponsor the garden project; however, support from these groups is minimal.

The commissioners generally spoke favorably about the community

garden project and what it contributes to the town. Commissioner Brice Holbrook, for example, said he is very supportive and views the garden as a good fit with the town from a green standpoint as well as providing a park-like setting along a main thoroughfare into town.

The only dissenting voice among the commissioners, Jerry Klobukowski, noted that the project had some positive aspects but that the money involved in the grant "is not his—it is the town's taxpayers'." He questioned using taxpayer money for the project, especially given past grants the town had made.

Town resident Bob Roit also spoke against the grant. He agreed that it had positive attributes but said that at the time of the original grant, the organizers of the project promised that it would be a "one-time" request. He urged the commissioners not to approve the grant.

After the commissioners heard the presentation and discussed the proposal, they approved the grant request by a 4-1 vote with Klobukowski voting against the proposal.

The final business item on the commissioners' agenda concerned the swap of land between the town and the owners of the Westerly subdivision extension, the Jamison family, that has been under discussion for some time. The subdivision plan for the new Westerly homes includes a road that would connect to West Willard Road. As planned, it would cut through part of an existing soccer field. To ensure that the field can continue to serve its purpose, a proposal has been under consideration to swap land the town owns in one section of the subdivision for the land that would be intruded upon by the new road. In effect, the town would be able to keep the road from infringing on the soccer field by giving up land it owns elsewhere so the developer is able to move forward without shrinking the total amount of ground it had planned to use for houses.

The matter has been complicated because Montgomery County is insisting that the property the town will contribute to the Jamisons must be subject to various taxes, such as transfer taxes and fees, that apply to most private property actions in the county. Some of the commissioners wondered why this needed to be the case since the Jamisons were also ceding property to the town and the entire transaction would be a wash.

The town manager and town attorney explained that the county is insisting that the fees be paid as they would be on a normal private property

land deal. The county had offered a valuation for the property on which the fees and taxes would be calculated, but the sticking point to the commissioners is that the valuation appeared to be high, and the calculation of the

transfer tax, for example, appeared to be out of line with typical tax charges.

In the end, Brown tabled the item and said the town will approach the county again in order to try and move towards a reasonable solution.

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Commentary

Driving Quiz

By John Clayton

Since the recent snow made it at times all but impossible to drive, I thought it was a good time to review our knowledge of local driving laws. This is based on the premise, from observations and purely anecdotal evidence, that most drivers around here have no more idea than a penguin regarding some of our driving requirements.

People who have recently received their driver's licenses, or who are working to get their driver's licenses issued, especially high school students, are exempted from this quiz. The leviathan state has trampled your precious freedoms and forced you to suffer drivers' education training. This quiz would be, for you, quite literally, child's play. It is for those of us who have proudly borne driver's permits for many years and whose bad habits and ignorance are deeply ingrained for whom this quiz is written. Yes, I hear you. I know you have not received a ticket or been in an accident since Carter versus Ford; you have also been oblivious to the mayhem you may have caused as you drove blithely off with chaos and destruction in your wake.

Question 1: You are driving on a two-lane road (one lane each way) and approach a stopped school bus with its red lights flashing. **Answer:** You stop. There's no kidding around on this one. If you got it wrong, please shred your driver's license and throw your car keys in a river. In certain Republican states, you may no longer be able to vote, but if you missed this one you probably shouldn't be voting anyway. **Question 1a:** You are driving on a four lane (two each way) undivided highway and approach said same red-light-flashing school bus not from behind, but while going the opposite way. The school bus is way over there three lanes away, and no kids are trying to cross the four-lane highway. **Answer:** You must stop if the highway is undivided; there is no restriction on the number of lanes, even if you are

going the other way. If the highway is physically divided, you don't have to stop.

Question 2: You are driving with your Bluetooth-enabled cellphone, which allows hands-free conversing, and pick it up to enter a number and initiate the call. Then your conversation begins hands-free, and you reach for the phone again to terminate the call. Have you broken any Maryland laws?

Answer: You have not, as far as I can tell. Drivers are allowed to initiate or terminate calls with their hands. I believe this means one can enter ("dial") a telephone number, or I can't find where it is excluded, although looking at your telephone to enter a number sounds functionally like texting to me. I suggest you discuss this with your attorney after you hit your first pedestrian while dialing, or perhaps the judge.

Question 3: Stopped at a traffic light, I read text messages, and maybe even respond. When the light changes and the cars behind me begin honking I drop the phone and move out. This is fine, right? I was stopped. **Answer:** Wrong. Texting is illegal for drivers as long as they are in a travel lane.

Question 4: Ha ha. I win. It was an email, not a text. I'm walking free, baby. **Answer:** Not really. Email falls under texting. Perhaps an activist judge will let you off the hook (telephone pun—get it?), but I wouldn't count on it.

Question 5: You are driving along at approximately eleven miles over the speed limit, which keeps the traffic cameras out of play, and come up on a car pulled over by a police officer. You laugh as you approach because the car passed you earlier and you don't like being passed, especially by cars that are more expensive than yours. As you drive by, you sneak a look at the driver to see if there is anything else you don't like which might add to your glee. Why did you get pulled over immediately afterwards? **Answer:** You violated Maryland's Move Over law. If safe and possible to do so, one must make a signaled move one lane over, or at least slow down, when approaching police or emergency workers stopped on the side of the road. Explaining that you actually slowed down to get a better look at the driver may not help.

Happy motoring.

Do you or someone you know have a special announcement,
or milestone you would like to share with our readers?

The Monocle welcomes your contribution.

Send to editor@monocacymonocle.com

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT:

When Is It A "Good Deal"? Interpreting Energy Costs & Comparing Energy Suppliers' Offers



Cynthia Riely from the Maryland Office of the People's
Counsel will be discussing Energy Cost Comparison,
Energy Brokers and Available Alternate Suppliers.

Come Find Out What's a "Good Deal"

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2015 AT 7:00PM

POOLESVILLE TOWN HALL

19721 BEALL ST, POOLESVILLE, MD 20837

ALL ARE WELCOME!! A FREE EVENT



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Local News

Poolesville's Sean Davis Promoted to Colonel

In a ceremony hosted by Brigadier General Ronald Kirklin, 53rd Quarter Master General, Poolesville resident Sean Paul Davis was promoted to Colonel in the United States Army. Colonel Davis and his wife Camille are both 1989 graduates of Poolesville High School.

The ceremony was held in the Roosevelt Building at the National Defense University at Fort McNair, Washington, D.C. Davis is currently a student in the University's National War College. Davis graduated and was first commissioned an officer as a Distinguished Military Graduate from Valley Forge Military College in Wayne, Pennsylvania and completed his B.A. at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia. Upon graduation from VMI, he was commissioned on active duty as a U.S. Infantry Officer. He holds two master's degrees, a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Military Arts and Sciences. Upon completion of his studies at the National Defense University, he will have earned a Master of Science in National Security Strategy.

Colonel Davis has completed two tours in Afghanistan and four in Iraq. Davis, Camille, and their two children reside in Poolesville while he is posted at the War College. The couple's daughter Alexandra attends Poolesville High School and son Joshua attends John Poole Middle School. Attending the ceremony held in the Arnold Auditorium were friends, family, and military personnel with whom he has served. A particular highlight of the ceremony was the singing of the National Anthem by Alexandra.

Colonel Davis is the son of Rande and Laura Davis, and the son-in-law of Gary and Janet Hartz, all of Poolesville.



Brigadier General Ronald Kirklin, Alexandra Davis, Colonel Sean Davis, Camille Davis, and Joshua Davis.

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Things To Do

February 27

House of Poolesville Entertainment
Kenny Ray Horton. 8:30 p.m.

February 28

African American History: Community Cornerstones
Please join the Poolesville Library for an encore viewing of Community Cornerstones, a one-hour documentary by Heritage Montgomery which traces the settlement of African American churches in Montgomery County, Maryland since 1863. This program is free and no registration is required. 3:00 p.m.

March 2

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting
Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

March 4

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

Connection Café

Stop by for a cup of coffee and chat, check email, or work on a project. *Poolesville Presbyterian Church.* 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Community Dinner

Corned beef brisket with cabbage, potatoes, carrots, ham, mac and cheese, and homemade pies. Free-will offering. *St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 20100 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville.* 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

March 5

PACC Breakfast

Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce: Businesses Helping Businesses breakfast meeting. *Poolesville Town Hall.* 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Poolesville Green program

What's It All About?: Interpreting Electricity Prices and Alternate Energy Suppliers—What's a "Good Deal"? *Poolesville Town Hall.* 7:00 p.m.

PASC Special Event

Game Day. 17750 W. Willard Road. 1:00 p.m.

March 6 and 7

Holiday Shops at Glad-I-Yoga
Special theme: St. Patty's Day, Irish

gifts, hand-crafted jewelry, makeover products and advice, crafts, etc. 20005 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

March 6, 7, and 8

March Market Weekend

The Blue Hearth Special Weekend Sale welcomes the coming of spring. *Historic Dr. Thomas Poole Home. 19964 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville.* 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

March 7

House of Poolesville Entertainment
Oasis Reggae Band. 8:30 p.m.

March 11

PASC Special Event
T'ai Chi. 17750 W. Willard Road. 1:00 p.m.

March 12

Twos Storytime
Listen to stories, sing songs, and share rhymes. For ages 18 to 36 mos. Registration not required. *Poolesville Public Library.* 10:30 a.m.

PASC Special Event

Poolesville Library workshop on Smart Technology and Library Apps. 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Poolesville

Who will be declared Mr. Poolesville 2015? *Poolesville H.S. auditorium.* 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

March 14

Poolesville Community Garden Event
Spring cleanup and raised bed installation. All welcome (SSL hours for teens). *Poolesville Presbyterian Church.* 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Call for Artists in Frederick County

Heartly House, which serves victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse in Frederick County, is hosting a fundraiser and major community event on Thursday, May 7, titled *Affair of the Heart*. They are soliciting art from county residents reflecting and inspired by this year's theme, "The HeArt of Heartly House: New Beginnings" and the program will include both silent and live auctions of artwork inspired by this theme. For details contact Stephen R. Parnes, Frederick Arts Council, 301-662-4190, or sparnes@frederickartscouncil.org.

**The Holiday Shops
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MARCH MARKET WEEKEND
MARCH 6th to the 8th
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Spring has sprung (at least in our minds) and we're ready to lose the dreary colors of winter! We've been picking and shopping, revitalizing and refreshing tons of new items. Everything from furniture to accessories, gift ideas to one-of-a-kind splurges....come and get it at our March Market!

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Tidbits

Get Ready for the Dorsey Fundraiser Dance

Just a little more than a month away, on March 28, there will be a barn dance at the Calleva Barn at 19120 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson. This is a BYOB party, but water and soda will be available. The evening's music will be provided by DJ Val and by Gina's Soul Party and the Souled Out Horns.

The cost is \$25.00 per person or \$40.00 per couple. This event is limited to persons sixteen or older. Advanced tickets can be ordered at KDBD2015@gmail.com.

Warning about Phone Solicitation for Fire Department

Ross Meem, president of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department (UMCVFD), has been made aware of a phone solicitation occurring in our area that is stated to be for the fire department. This phone solicitation is not sponsored by the UMCVFD, and UMCVFD is not supporting this drive in any way.

Trivia Champs from Cugini's

Every Tuesday evening at Cugini's for nearly a year, two trivia teams, Serenity Now and Team Momo, have battled each other for the top spot at PourHouse Trivia Night at the restaurant. Both teams were invited to the Season Ten World Series of Trivia on January 31 in Hagerstown. Since neither could field a full team for the day scheduled for the event, they decided to combine the talent and compete as one. The results paid off handsomely. Out of eighty-nine teams, they came in second place. Prizes were awarded, including a cool trophy (now on display at the Cugini's bar) and \$800 in cash. Members of the winning team are Bill Purdy, Renee Fisher, Holly Larisch, Maureen Dolan, Paul Foster, Caitlyn Potts, and Andrea Murphy.



Trivia champs: Bill Purdy, Renee Fisher, Holly Larisch, Maureen Dolan (holding money), Paul Foster, Caitlyn Potts, and Andrea Murphy.

A Sure Sign of Spring

Better than a groundhog, the best sign of spring in Poolesville is the PHS Booster Club annual mulch sale. Once again, they are offering brown hardwood mulch (\$4.50 per three-cubic-foot bag) and black mulch (\$4.99 per two-cubic-foot bag). Free delivery is available within ten miles of the high school with a minimum order of five bags. All orders may also be picked up at the high school on March 21, just in time for the first day of spring.



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- Jesus (Matt. 11:28)

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Weekend Masses:
Saturday: Vigil Mass 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 8 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Saturday: 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

OUR LADY OF THE PRESENTATION CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Special Events:

Feb. 27th is the 10th day of Lent - As we continue to prepare for Easter Sunday with Penance & Self-denial.

Lenten Gospel Reflections Monday evenings at 7 pm in Rectory Meeting Room


March 21-22, WUMCO Food Drive - Bring staples to church, such as canned vegetables, canned tuna, rice, flour and sugar. For more information go to WUMCOhelp.org

Stop judging & condemning, start giving & forgiving and you will receive the same. - Luke 6:37-38

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Tidbits of The Past

By Jack Toomey

February 1, 1920 It was announced that the population of Rockville was 1,270, of which 970 were white and 200 black. Compared to the 1910 census, there was an increase in white residents.

February 3, 1920 It was learned that the Circuit Court stenographer, Virginia Darby, was painfully injured when her machine overturned while she was motoring on the Darnestown Pike. Mrs. Darby was trapped under the machine until passersby were able to free her.

February 4, 1920 The Board of Education approved a bond issue to be used for the construction of a school at Dickerson to replace the Rockville Negro School that had recently been destroyed by fire. It would also be used to complete construction at the Poolsville School and to pay off the mortgages at Woodside and Sandy Spring. Superintendent Broome asked for some monies to increase teacher salaries.

February 10, 1920 There was much talk about the marriage conducted at the home of the Rev. Wagner of the Baptist Church at Rockville. The groom was Frank Chase of Washington

who wedded Miss Grace Foxwell of Mount Holly, West Virginia. The age of the groom was listed as 59 while Miss Foxwell was 17.

February 15, 1920 Fifteen ladies were elected as delegates to the Daughters of the American Revolution convention at Baltimore at a meeting held at the home of Mrs. Bullard at Rockville. Fifteen other women were chosen as alternates. The delegates planned to travel by train to the convention to be held in March. Mrs. Harry Meem of Dickerson would be one of the delegates.

February 19, 1920 James Pulliam appeared at the Circuit Court and filed suit for divorce from his wife Anna Louise. He stated that the couple lived in West Virginia until 1919 and moved to Rockville in 1920, until a day when Mrs. Pulliam told him to leave the house and never come back.

February 21, 1920 In a closely-contested contest, the seconds of Rockville High defeated the Georgetown Preparatory school junior varsity, 13-10, at basketball. In the feature game, Rockville beat Georgetown, 20-14. The game was played in Georgetown's new gymnasium.

February 22, 1920 J. R. Crawford, the superintendent of the fairgrounds, abruptly resigned and announced that

he was taking his string of trotters and pacers (horses) to Philadelphia. He gave no reason for his resignation.

February 23, 1920 Pneumonia caused the death of Mrs. Grace Moon, aged 42, at her home at Germantown. She had been ill for several days. The same disease claimed the life of newly-wed Anna Ray of Rockville who had only been married a few weeks. It was also reported that young Forrest Muldoon, age 9, of Kensington had succumbed to influenza.

February 27, 1920 Twenty-five lovers of the baseball game met at the county

courthouse for the purpose of forming a county league. It was decided that Rockville, Gaithersburg, Silver Spring, Kensington, and Bethesda would have teams in the league. The other slot would be filled by either Poolsville or Buck Lodge. It was decided that games would be played weekly, starting on May 30, and that admission would be 25 cents for persons over twelve years old.

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



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Local News

Saving Marine Life, One Bottle Cap at a Time

By Rande Davis

Sophia Mense, a tenth grade student at PHS in the Global Ecology Studies Program, has been a girl scout for eight years and is currently seeking the highest achievement in girl scouting, the Girl Scout Gold Award, which is similar to the Boy Scout Eagle. Open only to girls in high school, this prestigious award challenges young ladies to change the world. By the time the seven-step project is completed, the objective is to have at least one community problem ameliorated and not only in the short term, but for years into the future.

Sophia's project, "Don't Drop the Top," combines art and science to educate and raise awareness of the harmful effects of plastic bottle tops on marine wildlife and to promote the recycling of bottle tops.

Her project is developed in two parts. The first part is an electronic media campaign including developing an educational website (which can be accessed at dondroptop.weebly.com) and a Facebook site (www.facebook.com/dondroptop).

The second part is a bottle cap mosaic mural that Sophia and her team have organized to help the students of Poolesville Elementary School (PES) design and assemble. Her goal is to have the mural, which will be displayed in the PES all-purpose room, dedicated at an Earth Day Celebration on April 22. The mural will demonstrate the huge negative impact such a small thing like a bottle cap can have on marine life.

The school group assisting in the mural development has used the occasion as an educational opportunity as well and has learned about the problems of plastics in the ocean via the book *Pesky Plastic: An Environmental Story* by Leticia Colon De Mejias. They learned how long various items of trash take to decompose in a landfill and what each of us could do to make a difference. They also went around the school and placed stickers in classrooms reminding everyone not to waste water or paper and to turn off lights. Recently, they made and placed posters around the school to raise awareness about environmental issues. They hung them around the school.

As described on the Don't Drop the Top website, under the heading Girl Scout Gold Award Project, Sophia developed the project after a spring break trip to the Florida Keys which

brought to her attention the pervasive problem of plastics in the ocean. She discovered that plastic bottle tops are one of the top ten items found when cleaning a beach and are the second most littered item after cigarette butts. She also learned that over 100 million marine animals are killed each year due to plastic debris in the ocean.

Sophia's project has struck a chord. People are getting the Don't Drop message with Facebook likes from 371 persons in seven countries and twenty-two states. To create the mural, Sophia needed bottle caps. She placed collection bins around the community and asked for donations on her Facebook site. Her goal was 10,000 caps. She received close to 40,000. The local Lowes store in Gaithersburg donated plywood and paint for the project. Some community residents supplied old paint, and the PES PTA sponsored the Don't Drop the Top afterschool group which grew to include twenty-four students and provided financial support for the balance of supplies needed for the mural. Local high school and middle school students as well as parents volunteered to help PES students handle the power drills used to screw bottle caps into the wood base.

The mural project has been a huge success with the students of PES. Sophia received over 131 design submission ideas from PES students. The PES administration even plans to include the project in its Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) application to become a Maryland Green School.

The project has inspired Sophia to become a certified scuba diver. She has completed the written course and pool work for certification and is planning on completing the ocean water portion during a spring break trip to Grand Cayman in April. Scuba diving will enable her to get a close-up view of the ocean animals she is hoping to protect.

In scouting, Sophia has completed her Bronze and Silver Awards, and last year she served as a delegate to the council's annual meeting and will serve as an alternate to the annual convention this April. Additionally, in October 2013 Sophia was one of thousands of girl scouts that headed to Salt Lake City, Utah for the Girl Scouts of the USA's 53rd National Council Session and Convention. She went as an alternate delegate representing the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital (GSCNC). For readers wanting to know more about local girl scouting, their website is poolesvilleareagirlscouts.weebly.com.



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Mystery History

Streetwise—Brown, Oxley Farm, Butler, and Cubitt Court

By Rande Davis

Brown Road

Brown Road, located in the Westerly Subdivision of Poolesville, is named for the Brown family whose roots go all the way back to 1826 when John William Brown was born. His son William Clifton Brown was born in 1853 and died in 1894 and was buried in Monocacy Cemetery. He married Mary George "Mollie" Darby in 1874 and they had six children. The fifth son, John Herbert Brown was born in 1885, married Elizabeth Oxley, lived in the Barnesville area, and together they farmed in the early years of their marriage.

In 1923, the couple moved to Poolesville into a house east of the current high school and opened up a mill which they ran until his death in 1929. The old mill stood directly across the old, old town hall, now known as the Friendly Thrift Shop, on West Willard Road.

J. Herbert and Elizabeth had three children, Thomas C., who resided in Jefferson, Maryland, until his death this last December, R. Edwin Brown, currently residing on Peach Tree Road, and Erwin E. Brown, now deceased.



*The William Clifton Brown family.
John Herbert is the young man to the left.*

R. Edwin is well known as Ed and is the owner of White's Ferry, still an active attorney, and he married Winsome, his World War II bride from England. She is one of the founders of the Historic Medley District, the guardian organization of the John Poole House.

Son Malcolm who recently retired as owner of White's Ferry, son, Neal, owner of

RN Brown Plumbing, and son, Herbert Brown, all still reside in the area.

Oxley Farm Road

Located in the Westerly Subdivision of Poolesville, it's named after Mr. Thomas Oxley (see photo on page 1) who was born on January 1, 1889 and married Emily Williams in 1829. They bought a farm south of the high school and Thomas built the farmhouse as a wedding gift to Emily. The home still stands south of the high school just past Spurrier Avenue. A good part of the Westerly Subdivision is built on the Oxley Farm.

Butler Road

The namesake of Butler Road is Charles Martin Butler (1843-1918) and he married Frances Thomas Spates (1847-1918). Mr. Butler served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, as did many young men from the surrounding Poolesville area.

After the war, he farmed, did blacksmith work, and at one time ran a store at Edwards Ferry. The Butler children and grandchildren continued to farm in the area, and one of them, Gorman Lee Butler, served as a Poolesville town commissioner in the early 1950s. Lee Butler and his wife Lucille ran Butler's Restaurant for many years on the site of today's Bassett's Restaurant.

Cubitt Court

George Washington Cubitt married Mary Christine Monard and moved to Poolesville in the late 1800s. He enlisted in the Union Army during the Civil War on February 16, 1865 as a private in Company A, 1st Potomac Home Brigade Infantry. He was in this company when it was redesigned the 13th Regiment, Maryland Infantry. He may have been Montgomery County's last living Civil War veteran at the time of his death. A great-granddaughter, Bobbie Cubitt Evans, is currently the Town Clerk of Poolesville.

Police Blotter

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Liquor violation: 22100 block of Dickerson Road, 19700 block of Fisher Avenue.

Past Crime

February 26, 1908 The president of the Montgomery County Anti-Salon League called an emergency meeting for the purpose of addressing the proliferation of unlawful establishments that had opened on the Conduit Road (now MacArthur Boulevard). It was alleged that speakeasies, gambling dens, and other undesirable establishments had sprung up along the road. It was also said that gangsters and gamblers from Washington City frequented these places. Sheriff George Mullican promised to investigate the allegations.

February 27, 1907 In a case that reminded some of a novel, two Washington girls were detained after an adventure into Montgomery County. It seems that Sadie O'Connor and Florence Cochrane had left their school on Pennsylvania Avenue and boarded a Kensington trolley car and eventually got off in the small Montgomery town. They spent the evening wandering around the unfamiliar town until they came to the stable of Lehart Gotthardt where they took his gray horse. Mounting it, the two girls set off on a wild gallop south towards the city. At about the same time, the motorman of the returning Kensington car reported that he had seen two girls astride a gray horse on the trolley tracks near Sauls. A small posse was formed that included a

ballplayer named Krouse, Deputy Sheriff Jones, and the owner of the horse. Realizing that they would be caught, the girls jumped off the horse and tried to run through waist-deep snow but were headed off by baseballist Krouse.

It was determined by Deputy Jones that the girls should spend the night at the home of Farmer Ray. The next morning, their parents appeared at the mayor's office in Kensington where it was decided to release the lasses without charge.

March 4, 1906 Louis Jackson was arrested by Deputy Mulligan for breaking into the railroad cars on the Gaithersburg siding. Jackson admitted that he had been doing this for over two years.

March 7, 1900 When Sheriff Williams learned that John Braxton was at the Boyds Station, he went there immediately and arrested Braxton who had been the object of a large search. Braxton had been wanted in connection with the shooting murder of Moy Sing a Chinese laundryman who had been killed in Washington City. Detective Muller of the Washington police took a train to Rockville to examine Williams; however, he could not locate the sheriff, any of his deputies, or the defendant. Muller took at room at the Rockville hotel and hoped to find out more the next day.

March 7, 1905 Ninian Perry, one of the most prominent citizens of Montgomery County, sued Deputy Sheriff William Embry for false arrest. Perry alleged that Embry falsely arrested him at the Cabin John Hotel for participating in certain illegal games. Perry claimed that Embry served the warrant on a Sunday and demanded that a jury award him \$95.00.

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School News

Three Cheers for PHS Poms—County Champs

The PHS Poms team won the county competition on Saturday, February 14, at Richard Montgomery High School, with their dance tribute to women and men in uniform. The Poms also won the previous two invitational competitions. The team remains unbeaten and likely will advance next season to Division 1 competitions.

Continued from page 1.

Vandals of the Four-Legged Variety

Agricultural Reserve, and Poolesville is surrounded by woods, fields, and prime habitat for wildlife. Calls were made to wildlife officials to report the sighting.

Ken D'Loiry, a manager from the Department of Natural Resource's (DNR) Wildlife and Heritage Service, says bear sightings are actually quite common in Montgomery County. Typically, the bears are young males traveling during the summer months from Western Maryland in search of new territory. They usually stay for a few weeks before moving on to a more suitable bear environment. D'Loiry states that there have never been any negative encounters with black bears in the area, even in areas with established bear populations. Most often, the bears will flee at the first sight of humans. The vast majority of a bear's diet is vegetarian, so they are not interested in preying on humans or pets.

As bear territory gradually expands to include the Agricultural Reserve of Montgomery County, the goal of the DNR is to teach people how to coexist with bears rather than relocating them. Birdseed, trash, or even grease from an outdoor barbecue is fair game for a hungry bear. D'Loiry recommends that anyone who sees evidence of bears in his or her yard should remove any food sources. If there is nothing for the bear to eat, it will move on.

Poolesville employee, Preston King, has received many wildlife reports during his years working for the town. King states that raccoons and skunks, which both can carry the potential for rabies, pose a much bigger threat to local residents than the bear. King found evidence of a solitary male bear on the outskirts of town in the vicinity of the vandalized bird feeders. A lack of food sources in

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.



Town Parks Director,
Preston King, came across bear
prints in Poolesville.

the wild at this time of year made the birdseed in feeders at the edge of the woods an easy target. In the spring, the bear will have an abundance of natural food sources in the wild and will most likely move closer to the Potomac River where a favorite diet of skunk weed and other vegetation is readily available.

Although most bears spend most of the winter lying low because the food supply is limited, they do not actually hibernate throughout the entire winter; especially in areas where winters are milder than the mountainous areas of Western Maryland. The cold temps and lack of a ready food supply will encourage the bear to head away from the community, and hopefully, back to sleep.

"The town has no plans to remove or promote the removal of the bear," said King.

Since the residents removed the marauded birdfeeders, there has been no further vandalism by the bear; however, bear tracks have still been sighted in the area. Residents should continue to keep birdseed and other food sources out of reach in order to discourage future visits and to encourage the bear to return to natural feeding grounds outside of the town.

To report problems with bears or other wildlife around your home, contact the Maryland Wildlife Information line at 877-463-6497.








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February 28: DJ Slim Pickens at 8:30 p.m.

March 6: DJ Slim Pickens at 8:30 p.m.

March 7: Oasis Reggae Band at 8:30 p.m.

March 13: DJ Slim Pickens at 8:30 p.m.

March 14: DJ Slim Pickens at 8:30 p.m.

March 17

St. Patrick's Day:

Brian Jamison Band at 8:30 P.M.

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Youth Sports

Seniors Beautz, Psaltakis Lead PHS Indoor Track Effort

By Jeff Stuart

Senior Claire Beautz finished fifth in the girls' 1600m run at the 2A West Region Indoor Track and Field Championship hosted by Oakdale High School in Hagerstown on February 7. She also ran the first leg of the 4x800 meter relay team that placed second. Freshman Maria Phelps ran the second leg, junior Fiona Whitfield ran third, and senior Denise Larson ran anchor. Last year, after finishing second in the region, the 4x800 relay, including Beautz and Larson, finished first in the state, missing the state record by just a second.

On the boys' side, senior Matthew Psaltakis finished fourth in the 1600m.

Head coach Mike Trumbull was quite pleased with the results of the region championship. "We only got a few people into states this year, but there were a bunch of personal bests...The 2A West region is very competitive. I like to call it mini-states because many of the top athletes from our region will go on to finish very well at the state meet as well."

Beautz was a standout at the region competition. "She was able to get into three events. She has been solid for us all four years now. It is great to see her still be successful as a senior as well." Claire set a season record in the 800m at the County Championships on January 20, and

had personal bests in the 3200m on December 9 and in the 1600m on December 30. In December, she received honorable mention in Kevin Milstead's Mocarunning Half Decade Cross Country Team.

"Matt ran the best race I have seen him run in the four years I have known him," continued Trumbull. "He works extremely hard, and it is nice to finally see it pay off for him." Matt ran a season best in the 800m at the County Championships, and he posted a personal best in the 3200 on December 9.

"Denise and Fiona both ran tough in the 3200m. It is not an easy event to run. They also did a great job with Maria and Claire in the 4x800. We were not expecting to have a chance to win the race. We just wanted to run to get in and worry about that come states."

After two weeks spent focusing on her starts coming out of the blocks, sophomore Meher Kaur ran a personal best in the 55m dash, placing sixth, and qualifying for states. "She wasn't even seeded in the top ten going into [the region competition]," declared Trumbull.

Larson and Whitfield both ran season bests in the girls' 800m in the region. Freshman Ryan Lockett ran a season best in the 1600 at the Montgomery County Championships, and senior Nancy Morgan also putted a season best in the shot put.

In the 2A State Meet at the Prince George's County Sports Complex in Landover on February 16, with the top eight finishers scoring points: the girls 4x8 relay finished sixth; Beautz placed seventh in the 1600m; and on the boys' side, Psaltakis finished ninth in the 1600m.



Some speedy indoor track runners. The PHS indoor track 4x800 team: Denise Larson, Claire Beautz, Maria Phelps, and Fiona Whitfield.

Pulse

Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry

At a February breakfast meeting of the St. Mary's Holy Name Society, the featured speaker was Dave Riordan, a volunteer coordinator for the Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry organization. The topic of the day's event was the Venison for the Poor Ministry, a 501(c)3 charity that processes deer in Frederick County and other counties for donation to local food banks that accept fresh meat.



Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH) is a nationwide mission organization enabling hunters and landowners to feed their hungry neighbors. Deer, elk, and livestock are donated to inspected and approved butcher shops that participate in the program. The meat is then distributed to local food banks, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and other feeding ministries. FHFH raises financial support to pay the meat processing bills so that hunters, farmers, and feeding programs can participate free of charge.

Total meat donations nationally to-date for the 2014-2015 hunting season include over 4,700 deer, elk or livestock, which amounts to over 236,000 pounds of meat feeding nearly 934,000 people.

While there are no participating butchers in Montgomery County, there are two in Frederick County, Clint Cuts and Shuff's Meat Market, that work with this charitable program. For readers wishing to participate by donating money, deer, or livestock, their website is fhfh.org.



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Garden

Nitrogen: Who Needs It?

By Maureen O'Connell

By March 1, I shall have to submit the 2014 Nutrient Management Annual Implementation Reports to the Maryland Department of Agriculture for the fields on our farm where we grow crops. This program was established in 1989 as a cooperative effort between the University of Maryland Extension and the Maryland Department of Agriculture to address issues of nutrient management planning. The specific plan is a document that combines soil test results, yield goals, and estimates of residual nitrogen field-by-field recommendations. It helps producers reduce nutrient population by balancing nutrient inputs with plant nutrient requirements while helping to optimize farm profits. If you have \$2500.00 in gross annual income from your agricultural operation or eight or more animal units, depending upon the species, you need a nutrient management plan.

Now, what is the responsibility of a homeowner in nutrient management? To answer that, let us look at some important statistics. Between 1960 and 2003, Maryland lost 1.67 million acres

of farmland, while at the same time the population increased by over two million people. Today, population growth is showing no signs of slowing, and farm acreage loss continues. There have been some success stories in some areas of Maryland and other states. In our own area, the Agricultural Reserve highlights the success of agricultural preservation programs, and it is one of the best ones in the country.

Maryland's overall use of fertilizer has shown an upward trend, even as farm acreage decreases. There are several reasons to explain this. First, farming practices are becoming more efficient. Using scientifically-established nutrient standards, farmers have learned to grow more on less land. Secondly, there is an increased use of fertilizer by the general populace. Between 1990 and 2004, total Maryland fertilizer use was about 485,780 tons. In 1990, non-farm fertilizer use averaged thirteen percent of the total; by 1999, it was up to thirty-seven percent; by 2001, it jumped to forty-five percent; and it continues to rise. Who uses all this fertilizer? We all contribute: golf courses, public parks, cemeteries, lawn maintenance companies, and Harry Homeowner with his envious super-green lawn, huge, luscious garden vegetables, and blooming flowers. If you believe that your gardening practices

on your small corner of the planet do not impact the health of the environment, especially the Chesapeake Bay, you are wrong. Over seventeen million people who live in the Chesapeake Bay watershed affect its health in ways they don't even realize. Every action you take on your land affects our local streams and rivers, and eventually the Bay. It is up to us to take our responsibility seriously to help, rather than hurt, an already-degraded ecosystem.

Fertilizers: Do you really need them? When you walk down the aisle of the garden supplies section at any garden center or home improvement center, you are overwhelmed with the variety of insecticides, pesticides, fungicides, fertilizers, and a thousand gadgets and equipment you supposedly need to maintain your plot of land. Many people think that fertilizer can cure all the ills of their lawns, vegetable gardens, and flower gardens: poor flower production, yellowing foliage, leaf drop, wilted leaves, stunted vegetable growth, browned lawn patches, etc. If a little fertilizer is good, more is even better. More often than not, the problems come from many other sources: ground too wet, too dry; incorrect soil pH; viruses; lack of water; diseases; wrong garden location; too much, too little sun; wrong plant for the wrong area. The primary

guideline before applying fertilizer is to test the soil to find out what the soil needs regarding nutrients. Use only what you need and avoid spring applications. A soil test will tell you how much (if any) nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P), and potassium (K) fertilizer your lawn needs. A fertilizer label's analysis of 5-10-5 means five percent nitrogen, ten percent phosphorous, and five percent potassium. Be selective, if you don't need any P or K, buy just buy a nitrogen fertilizer. For most flower gardens, a complete fertilizer is necessary to supply the plant with the three major elements they need to thrive, N, P, and K, but be careful how much you apply.

While walking down the garden center aisle, the terminology can be very confusing: What is the difference between chemical fertilizers and organic ones? The words have been thrown around so freely that their meaning is often meaningless. In the case of fertilizers, organic does not refer to the standards of process associated with foods. Organic fertilizers mean that the product is only minimally processed and the nutrients remain bound up in their natural forms. It is usually made from plant or animal waste or powdered minerals. Chemical

Continued on page 15.

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Musings from Mama Boe

A Real Girl Scout

By Pamela Boe

My Captain and I were traveling to Montana last week for some business related to our land out by Glacier National Park, and My Captain told me—under no uncertain terms—that I was NOT to pack like I usually do. I was not allowed to stuff a carry-on bag to the point of zipper failure with my normal “essentials”. Obviously his idea of Maslow’s Hierarchy, and mine are vastly different. And, to make matters exponentially worse for me, he was only allowing us ONE checked bag for the entire trip for both of us! What the heck, man?! I’ve got needs! I’ve got basic, essential, mandatory items that MUST be packed on every trip.

But he stood his ground, and I was forced to scale back to all but the most primitive supplies. It was nothing short of archaic that I couldn’t bring my own pillow, my own fleece snugly, my own scent diffuser, and my own limited edition of *Mittenstrings For God*. And my carry-on? It actually had clothes in it for once. Oh, he was smug in his “I told you that you could handle packing light” holier-than-thou-ness. He condescendingly assured me that I would not go without food and chocolate during our travels, that we would be able to find those things at any airport in which we found ourselves.

Fast forward to this past Sunday. We were flying from Kalispell to Denver to Dulles, and we were beginning this journey at the very butt-crack of dawn. By the time we had returned our spiffy four-wheel drive to the rental agency, and gotten me through security (they ALWAYS pat me down... assuring me it’s the prosthetic knee that sets off airport security alarms, but I have a theory that they just can’t keep their hands off of me. It’s a curse, really) we barely made it to the gate on time. We had to pass every stinkin’

food option that Kalispell airport, with its whopping *two* gates, had to offer. By 12:00 p.m., all we were going on was a couple of sugar-free jolly ranchers I’d found deep in the lint of my coat pocket, and bad airline coffee.

When we got to Denver, we nearly missed our connection, so there was no time to stop for food there, either. My tummy was grumbling, my head was pounding, my attitude was growing, and the tiny seat the airline had wedged me into with a lubricated shoe-horn was so far back on the plane, every time someone flushed the toilet, my hair lifted from the negative cabin pressure. Mama was most emphatically NOT happy.

Finally, the food cart made its way through first-class, business class, economy class, and was wobbly-wheeling up to our seat in Riff-Raff class. I had been studying the menu harder than any college exam I’d ever crammed for, and when the flight attendant wearily asked me if we’d like anything, I cut her off with an excitement like none she’d ever witnessed in her career, I promise you. Friends, if you could only have seen my distress when she informed me that, aside from the crackers and hummus platter, they were out of everything, you would have wept with me. And if you could have seen the fear flicker in My Captain’s usually strong and courage-filled eyes, you would have quaked with him, too.

When we landed at Dulles, we made a Bee-line for the nearest Five Guys burger joint, and he wisely kept his hands away from my mouth as I inhaled my burger and fries with the voraciousness of a seventeen-year locust. It took only a moment, sanity returned, and My Captain sighed in relief as his Beloved returned to him. But let me tell you, it was touch and go for a moment there.

Be prepared. That is the lesson here. Even if it means you have to cram your pockets full of your wife’s favorite Lindt Salted Milk Chocolate truffles, it is worth it. This wisdom can be applied through every avenue of your life. Just trust me.

Continued from page 14.

Nitrogen: Who Needs It?

fertilizers have been refined to extract nutrients and bind them in specific ratios with other chemical fillers. Which one to choose? If you asked a plant, he would not know the difference; nutrients are nutrients. There are advantages and disadvantages to both types. If I were to make a choice, I would select an organic one. You might not have the most blossoms, the biggest tomatoes, or the greenest

lawn, but you are consciously trying to protect the earth under your feet.

Actually, in line with my new garden practices, I do not use any chemical fertilizers; I try as much as I can to use natural compost like Leaf Gro. There are other products out there; experiment and see what works best for you. How you take care of your little patch of Earth can make an important and lasting improvement to our ecosystem.

To learn all you need to know about soil testing in Maryland, visit Extension.umd.edu/hgic/soil-basics.

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Remembrances

Michael A. Clements, Jr.

Michael A. Clements, Jr., 31, of Poolesville, died on February 1. Born on February 10, 1983, in Rockville, he was the son of Jo Ann Clements and the late Michael A. Clements, Sr. Surviving besides his mother are his two children, Nevaeh and Eviana Clements both of North Carolina; two sisters, Malissa Clements of Frederick and Regina Clements of Poolesville; one nephew, Xavier Clements, and one niece, Taylor Brumbaugh, of Barnesville. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the family to help with funeral expenses.



Michael A. Clements, Jr.

John F. Windolph, III

John F. Windolph, III, "Raoul," died January 16, 2015 suddenly of a heart attack at age fifty-six. He attended Poolesville High School and was a graduate of Shepherdstown University, West Virginia. He was a beloved son of Catherine "Samla" Windolph and John F. Windolph, Jr. of Knoxville, Maryland; and a much-loved brother to Gwen "Cara" Fleming, Victoria "Ella" Grandi, Maria "Arene" Windolph, and Angela Windolph.



John F. Windolph, III

A memorial service will be held on the forty-ninth day following Raoul's passing, a Buddhist tradition. The day falls on Chotrul Duchen, the Tibetan Buddhist Day of Miracles.

The service will be held on March 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at KPC Buddhist Temple, 18400 River Road, Poolesville. All are welcome.

Dennis M. Davis

Dennis M. Davis, 71, of Poolesville, died suddenly on February 15, 2015. He was the husband of Leighanne Davis, father of Heather D. Scheid (Dwayne) and Michael Davis, stepfather of Sarah Neal, Lauren Healy (Chris) and Charlie Dixon (Hope) and brother to Debby Kelsey (Rick). He will also be missed by his six grandchildren.

While he lived in this area for many years, he was born in Hollywood, California. His father was in the navy, so he moved around a lot as he grew up as his father's career dictated. He met his wife, Leighanne, in a doctor's office where she worked, when he was a patient and she was at the front desk. They were married six months later.

Denny retired in 2005 after thirty-nine years in the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, which included a stint as supervisor of juvenile services in Hagerstown from 2003 to 2005. He was also an active member of the Monocacy Lions, serving as the club's president (King Lion), vice president, and on the club's board of directors. He had said that if given the chance, would have loved to have started a foundation for juveniles.

Denny attended St. Lawrence University, where he played lacrosse, soccer, and hockey. He later channeled his love of sports into rugby, which he played and coached for many years. He coached the Uniformed Services Fighting Docs Rugby Team of Bethesda, a team of doctors, and was also a member of the Old Red Rugby Club, a travelling team with which he played rugby in Australia and New Zealand, among other places.

Funeral services were held on February 20 at the Hilton Funeral Home in Barnesville. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Monocacy Lions Foundation, Inc., c/o Peter Gallo, 21925 Peach Tree Rd., Boyds, MD, 20841.

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The 10 Symptoms that Require Emergency Medical Emergency

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

Poolesville Veterinary Clinic

The key to avoiding visits to the emergency room is prevention. Training, appropriate behavior management, and proactive veterinary care will reduce the chances of being faced with an emergency. But prevention isn't completely foolproof; accidents can, and do, happen despite the very best in pet care.

Emergencies are handled most effectively by pet hospitals equipped to handle urgent care situations. Pet ERs specialize in emergency and urgent care procedures and are open during nights and weekends when most family veterinarians are closed.

While there is always the possibility that your regular veterinarian may be able to help, it is important to have the contact information for emergency veterinary hospitals in your area in the event that one of these facilities might be the best choice for your pet's care.

Listed below are the top 10 symptoms that require emergency medical intervention:

Intestinal or urinary blockage – an inability to urinate or defecate. Male cats that experience a urinary blockage could die without immediate treatment.

Breathing difficulty – gasping for breath and/or an inability to breathe properly could indicate heart, lung, or throat problems. Urgent care is necessary.

Bleeding – wounds, both deep and superficial, can bleed a great deal making it difficult to determine the need for urgent care. Rule of thumb: If a wound doesn't stop bleeding within 2 minutes or the bleeding is pulsing, wrap a clean towel over the area at once and seek immediate medical care.

Lethargy/listlessness – if your pet will not move, seems depressed, or will not eat, prompt care is necessary.

Inability to walk/collapse – pets who have difficulty walking or collapse unexpectedly may have broken bones or more severe neurologic injuries. Prompt care is necessary.

Swollen face/allergic reaction – pets can experience allergic reactions to insect bites, chemicals, medications, new foods, and many other things. Prompt care is necessary.

Heatstroke/Frostbite (Hypothermia) – this can develop quickly and often results in brain damage or even death. Emergency care is required.

Vomiting/bloody diarrhea – bloody stools, diarrhea, or the inability to keep food down indicate possible severe gastrointestinal disease, a blockage, or another significant problem. Urgent medical attention is necessary.

Poison exposure – if you suspect that your pet has ingested a toxic substance, bring him and the container that held the substance to an emergency veterinarian immediately. Poison control hotlines will offer advice over the phone but require a credit card to access the service. The ASPCA Poison Control Hotline is: 888-426-4435.

Car accident or blunt force trauma – a blow to your pet's body can result in internal injuries that are not obvious to the naked eye. Be proactive and utilize emergency veterinary care. To wait might mean the loss of your pet's life.



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