

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

July 31, 2015 • Volume XI, Number 9



The Fielding family made it to the Dorsey benefit. See more in the Family Album on page 2.



Kids love tractors. Find out why they were riding this one in Tidbits on page 7.



Jousting is Maryland's state sport. More pictures of St. Mary's 140th Annual Chicken Dinner are on page 9.



Young Piscataways performed a traditional welcome dance. See more on page 13.

UMAC 10U Baseball Team Repeats as State Champions

By Jeff Stuart

On Wednesday evening, July 15, UMAC's 10U all-star team successfully defended its Cal Ripken state title, defeating Hickory of Hartford County, 10-0. "Unlike last year when the 9U championship went into extra innings, UMAC had this one in hand from the outset," said UMAC's assistant coach Drew Woolery. The game was played at Severn-Danza Park in Severn, Maryland.

Pitchers Tommy Roldan and Luke Boyd combined for a no hitter in a five-inning game, striking out eight batters. They allowed three walks. Roldan and Boyd also set the pace for the offense. Roldan hit a three-run homerun in the second inning, and a walk off, bases loaded single in the bottom of the fifth. Boyd went two for three with a walk, and scored twice. Every starter in the lineup got on base.



State champs:
Front: Luke Pearre, Van Rosenbaum, Patrick Brick, Ryan Lacouriere, Tommy Roldan, Noah Ashker. Back row: Oliver Martin, Ian Stuart, Trent Adelman, Ryan Woolery, Luke Boyd, Aiden Butler, and coaches, Jody Pearre and Doug Metz.

"The best part of the tournament for me was when I hit that homerun after flying out and grounding out to second," said Roldan. "My fastball was good. I put some pressure on the ball with my right finger to make it sail and pressure with my left finger

to make it run. It all worked well. I pitched last year, too, but this year was better because I feel like we are more of a team this year. We all like each other and get along. We know each

Continued on page 6.

Warriors at War with Cancer: The Tale of Two Sisters

By Rande Davis

With both sets of maternal and paternal grandparents dying of cancer, sisters Chrissie Harney and Chontelle Hockenbery had good reason to attend their first American Cancer Society Relay for Life (RFL) event in Damascus in May of 2005—which proved to be a life-changing experience—one that gave many in the community a chance to celebrate the lives of people who battle cancer, remember loved ones lost, all the while giving them a sense of power in fighting back against the disease. As that Damascus Relay for Life came to an end, Chrissie immediately wanted to bring RFL to Poolesville, certain it would work. Chontelle was not so sure, but in just a couple of months, their mission vision crystallized when in July 2005 their mother, Glenna Dorrough, passed away with lung and liver cancer. By September, the women, joined by Tara Perry Orndorff and Sue Hansen, took action and completed their first RFL formal training school with a goal of raising \$25,000. Then in November, the Poolesville Baptist Church's Life Center

was filled with family, friends, and neighbors in organizing the first Poolesville Relay for Life event. Through their exceptional leadership and organizational skills, they mobilized the community and came away raising an astounding \$156,000 by the following August.

A decade has come and gone, and this past June, the sisters stepped down as co-chairs of Poolesville Relay for Life after having led the long campaign that ultimately raised over \$875,000 for the American Cancer Society's research to battle the dreaded disease, cover costs for services to survivors and caregivers, and provide educational programs that have been proven to save many lives.

Although this year's event raised just over \$60,000, only about half of the initial few years' annual success, it was still more than double what the two women thought was even possible when they first set their goals.

Poolesville's RFL began at the high school football field, but MCPS charged \$5,000 for the facility; so they



Stepping down as co-chairs of Poolesville Relay for Life, Chrissie Harney and Chontelle Hockenbery at their final morning call at the end of the 2015 event.

moved to the ball field at the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department. UMCVFC donated the field and many of their members also provided individual support and services that included use of its dining hall for the annual survivors' dinner.

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Family Album



Families and friends joined together to help support the Dorsey family.



There can be no real hoedown without at least some farm animals on hand.



Knight Kiplinger and wife Ann perused the fresh veggies that Sadie (front), Johah, and father, Mark Walter, brought from their Plow and Stars Farm.



Some visited the pig at the Dorsey event, others had to kiss it.



Gina Grubb waited forlornly for someone, anyone, to bail her out of jail.



The barn bounce at the hoedown.



Sometimes, to get the job done, you have to shorten the path to your success.



Brian Jamison and the Eclectic Journeymen performed at the Dorsey Benefit in Whalen Commons.



Logan Wilson discreetly positioned his arm as he prepared to put a big kiss on the pig. Oh, what we are willing to do to help the Dorsey family.



Robert Lewis (right), assisted by Robby Lend, donated two big bags of fresh corn to the recent St. Peter's Episcopal Church community dinner.

Local News

Poolesville Man Charged with Sex Offenses

By Jack Toomey

A forty-year-old teacher at a private girls' school in Potomac has been arrested by Montgomery County Police and charged with sexually assaulting two female students.

Police said that the man, Justin Andrew Gordon, age 40, of the 17500 block of Christer Street, was a robotics teacher, provided technical support to the school, and was the moderator to the Technology Club at Connelly School of the Holy Child on Bradley Boulevard in Potomac.

In July, a student at the school revealed that Gordon had initiated and then maintained a personal relationship with her. It began with meetings at social and sporting events and then escalated to daily personal communication. By May of 2015, it had escalated to inappropriate sexual touching.

During the course of the investigation, police learned that another



Justin Andrew Gordon

student, who graduated in 2012, had also been victimized by Gordon.

Gordon was arrested and charged on July 16 with two counts of sexual abuse of a minor and two counts of fourth-degree sexual offense. He was held on a \$35,000 bond.

Detectives are concerned that there may be other victims and ask that anyone who believes that he or she has been victimized by Gordon call the Special Victims Investigations Division at 240-773-5400.

Town Government Report

Summer Commission Meeting Has Light Agenda

By Link Hoewing

The Poolesville Commission normally has two meetings each month (the first and third Mondays) but cancelled its July 6 meeting. The July 20 meeting went forward with a very light agenda.

The four commissioners (Brice Halbrook was absent) first heard from a delegation from Montgomery County that provided an overview of plans being developed to overhaul the community pool in Poolesville. The pool, built in the early nineties, needs to be renovated because the plumbing and pumps, as well as the pool surfaces, have aged and are more and more expensive to maintain.

Don Scheuerman, from the Montgomery County Department of General Services, and Jeff Rourke, of the Montgomery County Recreation Department, accompanied by contractors doing the engineering and architectural planning, said that work on the pool would be done in four areas: enhancing accessibility (upgrading the site in large part to comply with disability access requirements); system upgrades (enhancements to the original pool's design); architectural improvements (renovating and upgrading existing facilities); and pool enhancements


(improving and adding features to the existing pool).

Most of the work being done will simply replace or repair existing facilities, but there is one enhancement that would bring new features to the pool. The county plans to replace the existing wading pool with what is called a spray ground. While the old wading pool did have some water features (water cascades falling from overhead pipes), the new facility will have a number of features designed to attract and entertain young children: spider jets (water pulsing out of holes in the concrete through which children can run), a water flower (water spraying out of nozzles that form the shape of a large flower), a spray tunnel (water jets arranged so that children can run through and enjoy cascades of water from all sides), and a water maze (a series of water jets bubbling in tandem that form a sort of maze of water columns through which children can walk).

The county representatives said that they expect to have the work on the pool completed by Memorial Day of 2016.

In response to questions from commissioners, the representatives said

Continued on page 15.



"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest".
- Jesus (Matt. 11:28)

Rev. Vincent J. Rigdon, Pastor

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Entertainment Schedule

July 31: DJ Slim Pickins

August 1: Built for Comfort Band
On the patio at 4:30 p.m.

August 8: The Bobby Lewis Band
On the patio at 4:30 p.m.

August 14: DJ Slim Pickins

August 15: Girls on Top
On the patio at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 6:
HAPPY LABOR DAY WEEKEND
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BBQ outside on the patio with DJ Val Dickerson

Every Wednesday Is Trivia Night
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Commentary

Important Summer Concerns

By John Clayton

One of the stories that has occupied the news hole for way longer than it deserves is the National Football League's DeflateGate Scandal. Like a gawker at a car wreck, I just keep taking it all in, and I read everything I see. I listen to screechy-voiced radio sports talkers rant about it endlessly with no news or insight whatsoever. If you don't already know, the story involves the NFL commissioner, the players' union, the league's flagship franchise New England Patriots, their poster boy quarterback Tom Brady, and whether Brady tampered with the inflation levels of footballs in order to affect his performance throwing said footballs. If you don't know all of this already, you probably think I'm making it up, and that it's really lame. I'm not making it up, but you're right about the lame part.

I subscribe to a conspiracy theory, that the NFL (the commissioner, not the players) orchestrated this for the owners to, one, distract us all from the usual run of player-misbehavior scandals, and two, to keep football in the news during baseball season. The NFL is by far the most popular sport in this country, but that's not good enough—they need to destroy the summer game entirely. It's a very football way of thinking. I realize that no rational person would truly believe that the NFL would pull this off at the expense of the owner of its most successful team, and that it would willingly attempt to besmirch the reputation of their marquee player, a man who has performed and behaved flawlessly on and off the field. I would counter that perhaps you are underestimating the perfidious nature of the individual NFL team owners, all of whom are jealous of New England's success, and that no one who believes in a conspiracy is ever worried about being rational.

Speaking of not being rational, what I really wanted to discuss was

whether Donald Trump and his presidential election effort—in which he is leading all other candidates for his party's nomination—is not a mere candidate, or some kind of bad joke as some might have you believe, but that he is a disruptive political technology that may profoundly affect this presidential election and perhaps even future elections.

A disruptive technology is basically an innovation that businesses have to embrace or they will lose market share and ultimately go out of business. Uber and Lyft, the technology-based ridesharing companies, have the heavily-regulated taxicab cartels in an uproar worldwide. Other examples are the personal computer and its effect on typewriters, or ecommerce and storefront businesses like Circuit City and CompUSA, or music downloading and the recording industry, or—do we dare say it?—online media and print journalism, to name a few. There are disruptive technologies all around us and more are on the way.

A disruptive technology isn't just a little edge that makes one more successful; it transforms a market so that everyone else has to try and embrace similar capabilities or perish. If Trump persists in the polls, begins attracting Other People's Money, and maybe wins a primary or two, will the other candidates decide that they have to start acting like him? Is Trump on to something by virtue of the fact that he is the antithesis of the over-prepared, overly-smooth politician? Are more of us going to find that we're truly looking for someone who insults everyone and—when people scream “foul”—who doubles down and dishes out even more? Where does it end? Will all those other candidates start calling each other names? Who can out-tough Donald on China and Iran? He's cornered the market on total bellicosity. Candidates used to have nightmares about gaffes; with Trump, they're the coin of the realm. Will Hillary call Bernie a doddering old fool if he moves up in the polls? Will Joe Biden dare to run knowing Hillary will call him that or worse? This could really get fun if you think about it, but it probably won't. These are all just summer diversions.

Rande(m) Thoughts

Dog Gone Dilemma

By Rande Davis

It's the dog days of summer, and I have been thinking about the proposal to bring a dog park to Poolesville. There are two reasons why it has come to my mind at this time: First, my daughter is a huge fan of her dog park in Columbia, Maryland and has been raving about it recently; second, it helps keep me from thinking too much about the Redskins. This time of year is usually my hopeful time as a fan, a time of exhilaration and anticipation before the big letdown, usually before the second half of the season. I am using reverse psychology this year. Rather than buy into the training camp hype of how great and improved they are, I am going to sulk and stay negative. Perhaps my negative approach will work better than my usual positive thinking.

Anyway, getting back to the dog park. I am biased. I have a dog, Daisy, and I love that dog. I can only imagine how much she would love her own park to go to, especially to be with other dogs with which she

can sniff, jostle and run wild. She's old, however, and I suspect she won't have much time in the park by the time the thing actually gets built.

The reality is that a real town must have parks, so don't mark them down simply as superfluous. Besides, even if you personally don't have great use for one kind of park, isn't thinking of others a good, neighborly thing to do? Why not think about the dog owners in town?

As a resident, I have supported all kinds of parks. I am a big fan of Whalen Commons. Why not? It's practically on my front lawn and even though some of the bands play there way past allowable times and are not always playing my favorite kind of music, what an asset and value to the town it has become. Even Whalen Commons, though, had its detractors in the planning stages. I remember the days when the commissioners were blown off by a bygone newspaper as reckless and irresponsible for building it. Amazingly, we still haven't gone bankrupt.

I was not a fan of the skateboard park at first, but the more I learned

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Editor's Note

Would you like to voice your opinion on an important issue? The Monocle welcomes responsible commentary on a wide range of topics, although Upcounty issues are a lot more likely to get printed. Articles for this page are subject to our discretion and may be edited. No anonymous articles will be considered.

Things To Do

July 31

Fridays on the Common

Wine Down in the Park: Wine, cheese, and bread tasting. Inflatables, glow sticks, and yo-yos. 6:00 p.m.

Concert featuring *Gina's Soul Party and the Souled Out Horns*. 8:00 p.m.

August 1

House of Poolesville Entertainment

Built for Comfort Band. *On the patio*. 4:30 p.m.

August 3

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

August 5

PASC Event

Poolesville Area Senior Center: Zumba Gold. 17550 W. Willard Road. 1:00 p.m.

Free Community Dinner

Hamburgers, hot dogs, and cook-out-style fixings are on the menu for this month's dinner. Starbucks

coffee and homemade desserts will also be served. All are welcome. To request a ride, contact Lori Kocur at 301-349-9670. *Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church*. Dinner offered from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

August 7, 8, and 9

The Blue Hearth Weekend Sales Event

19964 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville. 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday.

August 8

House of Poolesville Entertainment

The Bobby Lewis Band. *On the patio*. 4:30 p.m.

August 12

PASC Event

T'ai Chi. Whalen Commons. 10:00 a.m.

August 13

PASC Event

Bingo with prizes. 17750 W. Willard Road. 1:00 p.m.

Cugini's Special Event

Flying Dog Tap Takeover. 8:00 p.m.

Have an event you would like to share with our readers? The Monocle welcomes your contribution. Send to editor@monocacymonocle.com

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Continued from page 1.

UMAC 10U Baseball Team Repeats as State Champions

other better. I am looking forward to the regionals and having fun with my friends and family."

"The 6-0 run over the whole weekend was truly a team effort," said Coach Woolery. "Every game, someone new stepped up on mound or at the plate. Most of the young men on this team have been playing together for three years now, and it shows on the field. When one of them has an off day, they trust their teammates to pick up the slack."

There was a bit more drama in the semi-final game on Monday, July 13, a 7-6 win over the Elkridge Hurricanes of Howard County. Roldan struck out the first three batters. Then in the UMAC half of the first, centerfielder Luke Pearre and Luke Boyd reached on a walk and a single. Both scored to put UMAC up, 2-0. Roldan struck out two more in a scoreless top of the second, and UMAC scored five more runs in the second. Oliver Martin hit a three-run homer. "When I hit the homerun, the score was 7-0, but the final score was just 7-6," said Martin.

"Up 7-0, the game felt like it was in hand," said Woolery, "so Tommy was pulled to save his innings limit for the potential championship game. Noah Ashker pitched in relief. Noah threw strikes, but the Elkridge bats finally woke up and they clawed back with four runs in the third. Boyd stepped in to pitch the fourth. He gave up two more runs, but he struck out six of the last seven batters to close the door and send us to the championship game."

"I think I am very lucky to be on this team," said Martin who is new to the team this year. He plays first base and the outfield but prefers being a pitcher. "We started out the tournament in group play against Calvert. We won all three of those games. Then in the quarterfinals we beat Walkersville. One of our bench players pinch hit and singled home a run for the walk-off win. That was a highlight of the tournament for me."

Comparing last year's team to this year's team, Noah said, "I think this team is better. I think we have better position players and we get along better. We have more fun together. For me the highlight of the tournament was the walk-off homer by Roldan in the championship. A personal highlight was when I drove in the first run in the quarterfinal game against Walkersville. I enjoy shortstop, and I like to pitch, but I am a utility player. I play wherever the team needs me. I am very much looking forward to the regional."

"Ryan Woolery and Ashker combined for ten innings pitched over the weekend," said Woolery. "Against Calvert, last year's runner up, they allowed three runs (final 13-3), and in our quarterfinal game against Glade Valley of Walkersville, they combined for a shutout (10-0). Those innings were a big part of why Tommy and Luke Boyd were ready to roll in the semi and championship.

"Against Walkersville, two of our bench players, catcher Ryan Lacourciere and outfielder Aidan Butler, stepped up when they got their chance. Lacourciere hit a groundball out that plated a runner on third, and Butler had a single to right that plated the tenth run which ended the game. It's a great example. They put the team first and delivered when they got the opportunity."

"It was a good tournament," said Ryan Woolery. "I think I pitched well. The whole team played well, too. I definitely had fun. The championship game was awesome. We pitched a no-hitter in the championship game. Last year was pretty cool because we won on a walk-off hit in extra innings, so that was more exciting. I am looking forward to the regionals. It is always fun to keep on playing baseball and hang out with your friends."

Ian Stewart at catcher, Patrick Brick at second base, Trent Adelman at third base, and Van Rosenbaum in the outfield round out the UMAC lineup.

The team began playing in the Cal Ripken Middle Atlantic Regional Championship in Warrington, Pennsylvania on July 25. The UMAC 10U team is coached by Jody Pearre and Doug Metz.



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Tidbits

Live Music, Blankets in the Grass, and a Pleasant Sunset

Montgomery Countryside Alliance and the Menare Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Underground Railroad history and historic sites, hosted a "Preserve the Reserve" awareness event on July 25 at Button Farm Living History Center. The turnout to this first-time festival was quite large for what is hoped to become an annual fundraising event for both organizations. The evening was perfect for



Smoke N' Mangos performed at Montgomery Countryside Alliance's Ag Reserve celebration.

families and supporters of all ages. The youngsters seemed enthralled by farm animals and historical games, while their parents sat on bales of straw listening to Smoke N' Mangos offer selections from their latest album, *Reflections from Home*.

As the pleasant evening turned to twilight, a showing of *Growing Legacy*, a film that promotes the value of the Ag Reserve and its agricultural past and future, closed the event.

Mary Ann Powell Leaving Poolesville

After sixty years of living and loving Poolesville, Mary Ann Powell, known so well to so many for her decades as a counselor at PHS and as a local equestrian author, has decided to live with her son and his wife in Frederick until she moves to Sunrise, a beautiful retirement home in Frederick. She is pleased with her decision, telling us, "It has a pool and lots of good living."

For those wanting to stay in touch with her or who simply want to get one of her books, she can be reached at mapowell6@comcast.net. Many of her books will be available for sale at the Poolesville Library on Poolesville Day.

Local News

Local Girl Scouts Bring Pet Waste Stations to Poolesville

Would you believe there's something oozing on the green grass of Poolesville that's right up there in the same category as toxic chemicals and oil? It's something that can leach into the water supply, carrying diseases and parasites, and when the people of Poolesville drink the water, they could get sick from those contaminants.

Dog poop is the culprit, and two Girl Scouts from Poolesville Troop 4300 have decided to take on this danger to the community. Julia Lyons and Charlotte Vogel installed dog waste stations in Whalen Commons, Stevens Park, and Halmos Park, after receiving a grant from the town of Poolesville to purchase the stations.

The scouts first identified the problem as they began to search for ideas to complete their Silver Award, the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette can earn. Walking around Whalen Commons on Poolesville Day, Spring Fest, or Movie Night, they would often run across dog poop. "It's not only gross to step in, but it can cause real problems for the environment and put people's health in danger," Vogel said.

The two scouts began researching the effects of dog waste and found some alarming facts: A third of all water contamination is caused by dog poop. When it's not properly disposed of, it can get into the drainage system or leach into underground well water. Dog waste can carry diseases and parasites, so if that gets into the water, it can harm not only aquatic life, but also people or animals that drink from the contaminated water source.

Also, contrary to popular belief, dog waste is not a fertilizer. Indisposed dog waste damages the grass it lies on and takes a long time to break down. Even after the waste disintegrates into the ground, the parasites and diseases are still there. When people step where



Julia Lyons and Charlotte Vogel placed dog waste pickup bags at various park sites for their Girl Scout Silver Star Award project.

the waste once was, they can catch the diseases.

"We thought the best solution would be to set up dog waste stations in Poolesville," Lyons said. "Having bag dispensers nearby will make it easier for people to pick up after their pets."

Lyons and Vogel, rising seventh graders at John Poole Middle School, took their case to the Town of Poolesville. They delivered a presentation to the Parks Board which endorsed their project. The scouts then went before the town commissioners who voted to approve their project and to award a grant to cover the costs. The scouts also set up a booth at Bark in the Park, with a large display board and flyers, to help educate the public about their project. Finally, the scouts installed the waste stations in Whalen Commons, Stevens Park, and Halmos Park. Two stations can be found in each of the parks; they are marked by green signs and green boxes that dispense waste bags.

Marilyn Mense, leader of Troop 4300, said she is proud of the scouts for their hard work. "They identified a real need in the community and worked to address it," Mense said. "They put a lot of hard work into this project, and I'm really excited about it. I hope that people will see the stations and make use of them."

Tidbits of The Past

By Jack Toomey

July 4, 1940 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Perry entertained a large number of guests at their annual Independence Day party at Briarley, their summer home near Poolesville.

July 11, 1940 Mrs. Edith Middleton, chairwoman of the Red Cross War Relief drive, announced that \$10,891 had been collected so far. Districts that had exceeded their quota were Bethesda, Clara Barton, Kensington, Olney, Poolesville, and Potomac.

July 12, 1940 Doctor Byers reported that there had been three cases of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever in Montgomery County. One individual, J. T. Lynch of Damascus, died as a result of contracting the disease. The numbers compared favorably with the past year when seven cases and two deaths were confirmed.

July 16, 1940 Montgomery County's battle against Japanese beetles had netted 31,000 so far that summer, said Harry Rhodes of Poolesville, the county supervisor of the Japanese beetle eradication program. Ten county youths on bicycles tended to the traps, and after counting them, they

disposed of the beetles by either burning or crushing them.

July 21, 1940 Plans for a vigorous enforcement of the fish and game laws were formulated at a meeting at the Izaak Walton League near Seneca. Attending were all of the non-salaried game wardens of both Frederick and Montgomery Counties.

July 24, 1941 Teenagers in the rural sections of Montgomery County were scouring fields and ravines for discarded pots and pans made of aluminum. Boys and girls on bicycles were visiting farms asking for discarded aluminum items "because Uncle Sam needs them for airplanes." Mrs. Julius Hall donated an old German coffee pot and said that she "was sending it back to Germany on wings." Sidney Lust's theaters were showing matinees, and anyone who brought two items to turn in was admitted for free.

July 25, 1942 In its first year of operation, Montgomery County made a profit of \$83,000 on beer sales. Total sales of beer amounted to \$903,000.

July 26, 1942 Montgomery County officials warned citizens not to be alarmed if they heard a wailing air siren at noon. A countywide test of all sirens was to be at that time.

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

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Focus on Business

A Family Tradition For over 165 Years

By Susan Petro

Morningstar Welding LLC, a family-owned business, is the oldest continuously-operated business in Poolesville. The business, originally named Morningstar Blacksmith Shop, was opened in 1920 by Murrel "Mike" Morningstar. Murrel was the town smithy who built wagons and wagon wheels and provided farrier services for horses. He worked six days a week for ten to twelve hours a day and was an integral part of the Poolesville community. Murrel also worked as a school bus driver.

Ninety-five years later, Murrel's grandson, Patrick, is at the helm. Over the years, the scope of the metal work has changed from the blacksmith trade to fabrication of metal projects, mostly for the commercial construction industry. High-tech welding and fabrication equipment has replaced the original anvil, forge, and blacksmith tools. The Shop, as the family calls Morningstar Welding, has grown considerably over the years.

Murrel lived in a white clapboard house on the property which is still located at the original location on Elgin Road, near the center of town. Most of his customers were primarily local farmers that came to him, so Murrel was never far from his family. Murrel's son, Dick, began helping his father at a young age by operating the forge with a hand crank. When Dick first started out in the shop, he had to stand on a box just to reach the crank.

In later years, Dick saw an opportunity in welding which was also as a means of crafting metal. In 1952, his sister, Dorothy, bought him his first welder, and Dick taught himself the trade. He primarily built truck bodies and hay wagons for farmers. When Murrel died in the shop at age seventy in 1954, Dick took over the shop operations. Dick's father had discouraged him from becoming a blacksmith because of the long hard hours. Murrel had felt the trade was a dying industry as horses were being used less for farming and more for pleasure riders and horseracing.

By 1960, Morningstar Blacksmith Shop was renamed Morningstar Welding. Before long, Dick purchased his first portable welder and ventured into the commercial construction industry. He traveled to locations as far away as Ocean City, Maryland to work on buildings and projects. As



Patrick, Karri, and son, Kyle Morningstar, with Dick's original welder, purchased in 1952.

the Washington area experienced a building boom, the business grew, and new employees were hired and trained. Dick always made sure that he imparted the same values of hard work, excellent craftsmanship, honesty, and integrity that had been a family tradition for generations.

Even though his work took him all over the tri-state area, Dick never forgot and always made time for the local farmers and residents who brought smaller jobs into the shop, a practice that continues today. Dick's wife Nancy was also an integral part of the business as the bookkeeper. She helped change Dick's antiquated billing system of sometimes-hard-to-decipher pen-and-paper scribbling to a more modern system. Back in the original days, farmers were billed just once a year with no interest added.

In 2006, after more than fifty years of working long hours and at the request of Nancy, who wanted to enjoy their retirement years in Florida, Dick turned over the business to his son Patrick. Like his father before him, Patrick began working in the shop at a young age of eight or nine. He is the fifth generation in his family to work in metal crafting. Patrick rode his bike from their home on Peachtree Road to help out. He and his sister, Julia, used to paint the hay wagons that their father built. "I was always into something, like beating something with a hammer," said Patrick who clearly relished his time learning the trade alongside his dad.

Patrick never met his grandfather, who passed away before he was born, but he learned a lot about him by listening to the stories some of the old-timers would tell. Many of Murrel's friends continued to come by the shop to help Dick, chat, and tell stories of the past. Clearly, these men had a special

fondness for both Murrel and Dick and enjoyed the camaraderie of the shop. Sadly, Dick passed away in 2014.

Today, Morningstar Welding has nine employees and four trucks. Patrick does everything from writing estimates to traveling to jobsites, hauling materials, and installations. Patrick's wife, Karri, is the full-time office manager. Their son Kyle is the sixth generation of the Morningstar family to try his hand in the field of metal craftsmanship. He has worked in the shop on and off since the age of thirteen and enjoys welding. Kyle is taking classes at a local college to learn Computer-Assisted Drawing (CAD), blueprint reading, and other coursework related to the commercial construction industry. Patrick and Karri also have a daughter, Kaysie, who is entering her senior year of high-school.

Although the original weatherboard building complete with dirt floors that once housed the original blacksmith shop is gone, the cinderblock building that replaced it in 1947 remains in use along with more modern buildings. Murrel's original anvil, Dick's first welder, and his original office space all remain on site as a testament to almost over 165 years of metal craftsmanship that has spanned multiple generations of the Morningstar family.

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St. Mary's Annual Chicken Dinner



These down county visitors came out to enjoy the annual tradition of St. Mary's Chicken. Diners: Helen Offutt Maczuga, Mary Reid Dominique, Mel Washington, and Joan Waters Brauning.



William Price and Bob Ward cookin' the chicken. After 140 years, that's a lotta chicken.



The hits of the fifties were the hit of the day at St. Mary's 140th Annual Chicken Dinner.



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Police Blotter

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Assault: 17600 block of Kohlhoss Road, 20000 block of Fisher Avenue, 19500 block of Wootton Avenue (two cases).

Burglary: 17400 block of Hoskinson Avenue (two cases), 23300 block of White's Ferry Road, 22500 block of Club Hollow Road.

Theft from vehicle: 20300 block of White's Ferry Road, 19800 block of Westerly Avenue.

Theft: 16600 block of Elmer School Road, 19800 block of Darnestown Road, 19400 block of Jerusalem Road.

Disorderly conduct: 17600 block of Cobb Avenue.

Past Crime

July 31, 1911 Taking a lead from the officials in Frederick and Washington Counties, Sheriff Viett and thirty deputies cracked down on merchants who kept their establishments open on Sunday. At dawn, the squad fanned out across the county and made sure that grocery stores, drug stores, and amusement parks were closed. Viett and Deputy Bradley visited Glen Echo Park to find the front door nailed shut. They went on to the Cabin John Hotel and found that only food was being sold; men could not even buy cigars. Many Rockville residents had skimpy lunches and dinners because their usual plan of buying provisions on Sunday morning was foiled. Men who usually bought a cigar and the newspaper at a newsstand were turned away. Residents of the lower county either took the trolley or walked into Washington to have dinner.

August 3, 1910 Before a crowded courtroom of spectators, Judge Reading heard two cases involving arrests made by Deputy Carr. In the first case, Mr. Sholes of Washington was charged with running his machine at eighteen miles per hour which was above the speed limit at the time. Deputy Carr testified that he thought that

Sholes was running between sixteen and eighteen miles per hour. Judge Reading gave Sholes the benefit of the doubt and dismissed the case. In the second matter, Mr. Edwards was charged with driving his machine in Maryland without the required Maryland tags. Edwards testified that he was not even aware that he was in Maryland. Judge Reading took into consideration his excuse and fined him one dollar.

August 10, 1911 Sheriff Viett and States Attorney Waters had sworn to tighten the marriage laws. It seemed that many young couples had come to the Rockville courthouse and falsely sworn that they were of proper age. In one case that had garnered headlines, Rueben Ross was under indictment after he and Bena Virginia Polling had come to Rockville from Washington to get married. Ross swore that Miss Polling was eighteen years of age. After the wedding, Miss Polling's parents came to Rockville and told authorities that their daughter was just fourteen. After hearing of his indictment, Mr. Ross took off for Michigan, and Sheriff Viett made efforts to locate him.

August 13, 1911 Sheriff Viett announced that he had purchased a pair of bloodhounds. They were to be in the care of Deputy Cissel who kept them at his house and was in charge of training them. Soon after, Cissel went to the Virginia mountains to assist in the chase for kidnapper Edward Hartlett. Cissel said that the dogs were hot on his trail until they were thrown off by a field of pennyroyal into which the wanted man ran.

August 12, 1912 Apparently, some residents did not learn their lesson in 1911. In a continuation of the enforcement of the blue laws, Sheriff Howard visited the Glen Echo Park and made four arrests. Cissell Hubbard, the owner and operator of the carousel, Oral Smith, ticket taker, Henry Hill the proprietor of the phonograph gallery, and Miss Violet Collins, a candy seller, were all arrested and taken to Rockville where they were released on bond.

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

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Garden

A Challenging Garden

By Maureen O'Connell

Not everyone has a Goldilocks garden site, which is not too sunny, not too shady, not too wet, not too dry, and not too rocky, but just right. All gardeners face challenges with the weather, the soil, and topography, but two of my friends, Juanita and Ron Breland, faced more than the average gardener's problems on their fifty-three-acre property. When Ron bought the house and land in 1994, he knew that the house and land were in a very poor condition after many years of neglect. The cedar shake roof was covered in moss; the house's exterior walls were rotting from the inside out; much of the area around the house was covered with concrete; and the rest was heavily wooded. For years, the land was used as a local dumping ground, but the view—the view of the sunset in the west—sold it.

Ron gutted the house and slowly began its complete renovation. Eight years ago, Ron and Juanita turned their attention to the outdoor area; it was time to put in a proper garden with flowering plants, shrubs, and healthy trees. Here came the challenge. Ron said, "I can't think of a worse place, other than hell, to start a garden." Everything was one hundred percent against a garden, but that did not stop them. I asked Ron if he had any professional help or if he had past gardening experience. He said that the closest he came to gardening was two flowerpots on the terrace of his apartment in Dupont Circle in D.C.

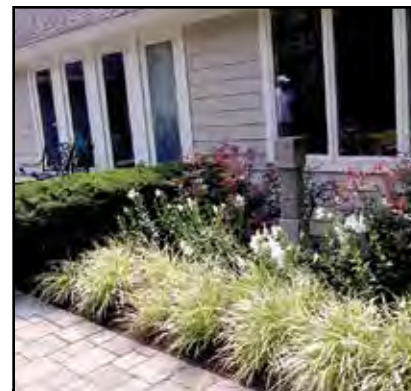
Where to start? First, Ron had to remove many dead or diseased trees from the whole property. The thick canopy of the trees shut out any sunlight to the ground and prevented any grass from growing. The soil, if you could call it that, was home to tons of glass and metal debris from its days as a dumping ground. All of that had to be removed. The next step was to re-grade eight acres of the lawn area to make it more amenable to landscaping and to recreate a good soil. Ron knew that great drainage and good soil structure were critical to his garden's success. A friend recommended that he use pine fines to amend and condition his new soil. This product is not to be confused with pine bark mulch, which is composed of large pieces and is intended for use as mulch on top of the soil. Pine bark fines work as a soil conditioner if properly prepared; they must be very finely ground. They work because they help the soil retain

moisture and add pore space into the soil while supplying needed nutrients.

Now that the trees were pruned and thinned out and the soil was ready to receive plants, the next challenge was to locate good planting sites for the right plant selections. Some plots received full sun; some enjoyed shade; and some lived in dappled sunlight. Goldilocks would find Juanita and Ron's gardens "just right."

The sunny areas now bloom with spikes of soft lavender-blue flowers atop the silvery fine-cut foliage of Russian Sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*), the brilliant white Shasta daisy 'Becky' (*Leucanthemum*), coneflowers (*Echinacea*) 'Powwow Wild Berry,' the extravagantly-fragrant and lusciously pink *Lilium* 'Stargazer,' roses, *Dianthus*, coreopsis 'Moonbeam,' *Achillea* 'Paprika,' many daylilies, and Siberian irises. That is just to name a few of the flowering sun-loving plants.

The semi-shaded plots are home to many varieties of hostas, oakleaf hydrangea 'Snow Queen,' *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Endless Summer,' and English ivy. Near the house is a beautiful pergola covered with white clematis blooms, a wedding gift from friends.



The challenge of gardening includes planting around the foundation, too.

Scattered around the neatly-edged flower beds are the shrubs *Deutzia*, *Viburnum*, varieties of dogwood and lilac, and a stunning dwarf Japanese maple.

Juanita and Ron do all of their garden chores themselves. Living in a heavily-wooded area, deer are a constant problem. Last year, the deer almost devastated the English ivy. I believe that one cannot be a gardener and not believe in climate change. You see evidence of this in your garden every day in every season. You may explain what you may about the extreme cold of our recent winters and the extreme heat and drought of our recent summers, but every year has brought dramatic changes to all gardens. In the winter, the deer in our area are starving and this forces them to eat plants

Continued on page 18.




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Continued from page 4.

Dog Gone Dilemma

about it, the more I learned to like it. It gets great use. The kids love it. Many of the kids using it are the ones who need it the most. In this day and age, anything that will get any kid off of the couch—away from the tech gadgets and outside—has my support. Although, I must admit, we do have a serious and growing problem with non-skaters abusing the site. Using and selling drugs near there is a serious concern and one that needs much more attention to prevent its growing. Our local police are aware of the issue, though, and they have my full confidence that they can take care of the problem.

In the end, I favored the skateboard park and have supported every other park in town even though I won't be using any of them very much. I don't fish, shoot hoops any more, play tennis, and my senior citizen status leaves me more in favor of the parks for others' use than for mine. I have become a bench man.

I admit it is not that simple. There is a down side. The construction of the dog park will cost an estimated \$64,000.00. The questions come down to whether or not all residents not just dog owners, would accept paying about \$40.00 each to build the park. It will have maintenance costs, too. Who will pay for this?

I mentioned the dog park in Columbia. They charge a \$35.00 annual fee for residents and \$40.00 for nonresidents. They license dogs which can cost hundreds of dollars depending on the health and need for shots per dog.

I am not sure there is an accurate accounting of how many dogs are in the area, so it is difficult to evaluate usage. Perhaps the town needs a dog permit for residents and non-residents to help cover costs of the park and maintenance. As a dog owner, I have no objection if the town did so and required all dogs to wear a permit tag on the collar. I bring all this up since there is always more to any decision than what may first appear. As I have indicated, I support all the parks in town, though my use is very, very limited at best. The questions to ask, therefore, are not necessarily just for ourselves: Would you accept a dog park—if not for yourself, for your neighbor? Would all of us gain in property value somewhat if a dog park were viewed as an attractive asset for many persons considering moving here? There is much to think about, and just as importantly, much to convey to your commissioners.

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Traditional dance to honor ancestors.



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President Mervin Rice of the Piscataway-Conoy conference with Chet Anderson and Peg Coleman of Sugarloaf Regional Trails, sponsor of the event dedicating a new Native American trail.



Francis Gray, Tribal Chairman of the Piscataway-Conoy Tribe answered questions.



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Mystery History

Streetwise: Whites Road, White's Ferry Road, Soper Street, Bruner Way, Dowden Circle, Hickman Street, and Hickman Way

By Rande Davis

Whites Road and White's Ferry Road:

Benjamin White and wife Rebecca Odell Chiswell White came from Prince George's County in the late 1700s to a large tract of land in the Boyds area. This area back then became known as Whites Ground.

In 1824 their son, Stephan Newton White married Mary Viers and bought Stony Castle Farm on Westerly Road. One of their sons, Elijah Viers White married Sarah Gott of Gott's Mill in Dickerson. Elijah attended a Baptist Seminary and later, as a colonel in the Confederacy, organized the 35th Virginia Calvary, nicknamed the Comanches. An astute businessman, White partnered with Dr. Edward Wootton (Wootton Avenue) in a large grain house along the C&O Canal (remains still stand near the Monocacy Aqueduct), and he purchased Conrad's Ferry in 1866, renamed White's Ferry. Elijah's brother Benjamin had three sons who settled in Poolesville. Benjamin, Jr. was a cashier/manager of the Poolesville

Bank, Harvey was a member of the Maryland House of Delegates and Montgomery County Board of Commissioners. The third was Dr. Elijah Wootton White, who, like his father, became a doctor who's home is now owned by Gail and Tom Lee in Elizabeth's Delight. There are many descendants of the White family in Poolesville.

Bruner Way:

The descendants are from Joseph Brunner of Schifferstadt, Germany. In 1746, Joseph and Katherine Thomas Brunner bought a 303-acre farm in what is now Frederick City. The home they built in 1756, named Schifferstadt, is the headquarters of the Frederick County Landmark Foundation. Brunners' descendants married into many local families in the area including Pyles, Staubs, Fawleys, Trundles, Butlers, Whites, and Offutts. Dots Elgin is a great, great-granddaughter of Joseph and Katherine.

Dowden Circle/Dowden Way:

John, Jessie, and Mary Dowden of Poolesville are listed in the Maryland, Colonial Census of 1776.

Hickman Street/Hickman Way:

There were seven Hickman families in the Poolesville area in 1776. By the 1930s, because of families moving away, there were only two families left. These two families owned farms west of town. The last survivors of these families were Hazel and Carolyn Hickman who graduated from Poolesville High School in 1931.

Monocacy Moment

Reminder: Poolesville Day 2015 is only two months away. Did you send in your vendor or parade application?



1998 Poolesville Day Committee

Front: Carlos Cabera, Pat Hermans, Pete Gallo

Back: George Kephart, Jr., Dennis Minor, and Cathy Downs

MONOCACY CRITTERS

*Mountain Goats, Sure,
but Tree Goats?*



Photo submitted by Ann Kiplinger

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Continued from page 3.

Summer Commission Meeting Has Light Agenda

that there currently are no plans to enclose the pool to make a year-round facility. No final decision has been made on the issue, but as of this juncture, it does not appear that enclosing the pool is likely.

After the county's presentation, Tom Kettler came forward on behalf of the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce (PACC) to announce that the PACC had just revised, updated, and printed a map of the town of Poolesville that it first started issuing some years ago. The map includes a list of landmarks and businesses in the town and includes a comprehensive street map as well. The PACC supports the publication of the map via advertising.

While the PACC could offset the costs of printing the map through advertising, it is vital to ensure that the maps are put to good use and distributed as widely as possible. The PACC installed large, full-color,

weather-proof map boards some years ago along with map holders where paper maps can be stored and accessed by visitors and residents alike. Maps and holders are now located at Homestead Farm, Dickerson Market, Lewis Orchards, Whalen Commons, and at White's Ferry. Most of these locations help ensure that the maps are made available especially to people coming from out of town.

Kettler said that the maps and holders are aging and need to be replaced and requested, on behalf of the PACC, a grant of \$1000 from the town to help offset the estimated total cost of \$2500. The PACC would like to expand the sites where the maps are made available, including the possibility of putting a supply of maps in the high school and possibly at other locations. One suggestion offered by commissioners was to consider putting maps alongside other brochures that are offered in down county public facilities such as the county council office building.

The commissioners approved the grant request unanimously.

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Flood of September 1996
The flood of January 1996 was even higher. That one rose above the snack bar sign. The 1972 flood rose above the second floor windows.



Continued from page 1.

**Warriors at War with Cancer:
The Tale of Two Sisters**

A few years ago, RFL came to the high-visibility site of Whalen Commons in Poolesville. This was important since the overnight event raises a significant portion of the annual revenue through various contests between RFL teams and special sales and games offered by competing teams. It also provided a perfect walkway for the twenty-four-hour walk-a-thon, where at least one member of each team is required to be participating at all times.

The purpose behind the method of maintaining constant, through-the-night vigilance is to allow participants to experience, in a symbolic yet physical way, the challenge faced by those who battle cancer, battling on with no relief, at times in exhaustion, yet battling on nevertheless with determination to succeed. Cancer never sleeps.

Ninety-eight percent of the population is touched by the ravages of cancer either as patients or as a relative or friend of someone who is diagnosed with cancer. The sisters had to deal with their father Robert Dorrough contracting and eventually dying of cancer in 2012. Chrissie's husband,

Paul, came down with skin cancer but today is cancer-free. Sue Hansen, one of the four pioneers of Poolesville RFL, lost her husband, Eric, to breast cancer in 2014. Cancer never sleeps.

For Chrissie and Chontelle, stepping down from leadership is not the same as stepping away from RFL. Their hope is to continue as participants along with and as mentors to a new team of leaders, who may come forward to maintain the momentum and tradition of an event that for many has become the second Poolesville Day.

Through trials and challenges, through good weather and storms, through good years and fair years, through the camaraderie experienced by laughter and tears, and through the shared dreams and hopes of reaching victory against cancer, Chontelle Hockenbery and Chrissie Harney, along with their many friends and family, have modeled perfectly the strength of simple but powerful determination.

With their final year as co-chairs ending by August 28, there is still time to make a donation in recognition of and appreciation for their leadership and efforts by donating online. Google relayforlife.org/Poolesville and type Poolesville in the search option.

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Continued from page 11.

A Challenging Garden

and shrubs and trees that they never before bothered. Plants that are usually drought- and heat-tolerant are having a difficult time surviving. Ron and I both agreed that today we must look to selecting plants that fall into the survival-of-the-fittest category.

What are Juanita and Ron's future plans for their gardens? To borrow the title of Katherine White's 1958 *New Yorker* article, it is "Onward and Upward in the Garden." Every day presents a new set of challenges and new levels of excitement. This might discourage some gardeners, but it keeps the Brelands energized. They have not finished their garden design plans. They are envisioning more garden plots with more flowers, shrubs, and trees for their Goldilocks garden.

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Toads and Their Toxins

Dr. Peter Eeg, DVM

Poolesville Veterinary Clinic

It is not uncommon for our companion animal friends to want to investigate and potentially mouth or bite a toad. Exposure to smaller toads can cause signs of gagging, profuse drooling, and pawing at the face.

Exposure to larger toads can be life threatening.

True toads from the genus *Bufo* are represented by 18 species in the continental United States. *Bufo marinus* and *Bufo alvarius* have been reported to cause the majority of serious signs after oral exposure by a pet.

Some of the larger toad species are kept as pets by people that also have companion animals (sorry, toads are not considered companion animals) in the mid-Atlantic region. Smaller toads that are often seen around moist regions of the yard or barns can also be problematic for our companion pets.

Parotid glands that can be seen on the sides of the toads' heads are the primary location for the toxin that they produce. The smaller raised "warts" that can be seen on the backs of toads also have some toxin-producing cells. They produce a compound known as Bufogenins. These compounds are very similar to cardiac glycosides (heart medications) and have the ability to change the sodium, potassium ATPase activity in the myocardial cells' (heart cells) membranes. These can result in arrhythmias and cardiac arrest in high concentrations. Other toxins are also produced by these parotid glands and can produce signs consistent with seizures, depression, tremors, hyperactivity, vomiting, diarrhea, and hyperthermia (high fever).

The general class is called Bufotoxins. The gastro-intestinal tract best absorbs these toxins. So licking or grabbing a toad usually only causes the milder signs. Chewing and ingesting toads can produce the more severe signs.

It is very important that you rinse the pet's mouth out with warm water immediately upon seeing it lick, grab, or chew a toad. If your pet does swallow a toad, seek veterinary help ASAP. Your veterinarian can induce vomiting in your pet to help expel the toad, then administer medication and binding agents to help reduce the uptake.

Toads are very beneficial to the environment, so eliminating toads from your yard or surrounding areas is not recommended. Keeping a watchful eye on your furry friends' playtime and whom they choose to play with are your best defense against this potential problem.



Poolesville Veterinary Clinic



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