

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

March 11, 2016 • Volume XI, Number 23



If your name is O'Reilly and you are a priest, what do you do to celebrate St. Patrick? Find out in Family Album on page 2.



Ghostly invasion or art display? Find out in Daytripper on page 6.



A JPMS student and her sister did something very special with bottle tops. Find out what in School News on page 14.



Poolesville may have the most tulips this side of Holland. Find out where in Musings by Mama Boe on page 20.

Road Safety Dominates Town Meeting

By Link Hoewing

Discussion at the Town of Poolesville commissioners' meeting on March 7 was dominated by an item not formally on the agenda: road and pedestrian safety in and around the Town of Poolesville. Two residents, Patrick Ishii and Linda Bergofski, came forward during the open session of the town meeting to offer their views on what they believe are serious safety problems affecting roads and pedestrian crosswalks in town and on main roads leading to town.

Kicking off the discussion, Ishii said he has spent a lot of time looking at signage, lighting, and bumper guards along major roads feeding Poolesville. He focused particular attention on the intersection of Routes 28 and 107 east of town saying that signage in the area denoting turns and other safety issues was weak. There are telephone poles very close by the road, including one that was recently clipped and was dangerously close to falling. Also there are few reflectors placed along the



Road and pedestrian safety was the main point of discussion at the Poolesville Town Meeting on March 7.

roadway or on telephone poles along it, making it harder to note turn areas and swerves in the roadway.

Ishii said a lot could be done to enhance safety along the roads around town including the addition of bumper guards at key locations and the installation of reflectors

along potentially-dangerous sections of road. He emphasized pedestrian crossing areas in front of Whalen Commons, especially the one located by the McDonald's restaurant, as problematic. He asked if there was a

Continued on page 10.

Historic Church Serving the Community for 200 Years

By Susan Petro

On West Willard Road, close to the center of town, a small non-descript building with roots dating back two hundred years stands barely noticed today. It's easy to drive past the two-story, white brick building on the way to Poolesville High School or other destinations south of the center of town without ever giving the building, the former Methodist Episcopal Church and now the home of the Friendly Thrift Shop, a second glance.

Nothing in particular draws attention to the peaceful grassy lot with broken gravestones scattered about, but this former church and cemetery have a rich and storied history to share and were the center of much activity during the formative years of Poolesville.

This initial home of the Methodist Episcopal Church dates back to 1816 when the first congregation was formed. Major George Peter, a prominent



For nearly 200 years this building and the people inside have blessed the community. From its origins as a church to its current role as a thrift shop, it's had a wide variety of uses through the decades.

politician and landowner from the late eighteenth through mid-nineteenth centuries donated the parcel of land which was part of a tract of land called

the Forest on May 15, 1820. The church was completed in 1826.

Continued on page 19.

Family Album

The troupe from the Hurley School of Irish Dance in Laytonsville brought the thrill of River Dance to the party. Two of the school's dancers are headed to Scotland at the end of March to compete in a world tournament of Celtic dancing.



These high steppers performed to a jam-packed room. The other section of St. Mary's Pavilion had even more guests.



The love of the Irish starts early.



Carolina San Martin (green hat) is cheered on by Alexandra Travppso while Lou Chacon photobombs the fans of Ireland.



The Celtic band kept the attendees in the spirit between the food and the dancing.

Wearing celebratory headgear were Rebecca Florczyk, Dolores Ganjian, Peter Florczyk, and Harry Ganjian.



Celebrating St. Patty's together were Mike Sutherland, Gene Murray, Sharon and Harry Bauer, Chip and Tricia Dunn, and Pat Sutherland.



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Town Government Report

By Link Hoewing

In addition to hearing from citizens in the open forum about road safety, as reported on the first page of this issue of the *Monocle*, the commissioners also heard from Faith Etheridge and Cathy Bupp in support of the annual funding request from the Poolesville Day Committee. The committee manages the annual Poolesville Day event, the largest community event on the town's yearly calendar. Etheridge, the chairperson of the committee, remarked that last year's attendance was a little down from the year previous but still amounted to an estimated nine thousand people.

The number of exhibitors was larger than in any previous year, approximately two hundred businesses and groups. In addition, nineteen food vendors came to Poolesville Day, offering the widest array of foods in the history of the event. Plus, there were more entertainment venues than ever, and the children's games and rides have become a major draw.

While asking for a \$15,000 grant from the town, Etheridge explained that the committee had raised a record amount of funding from private sponsors and exhibitors, approximately \$8,000.

While a huge success overall, Etheridge conceded that the effort to extend the reach and audience for the event up to the far western edge of town, where the Blue Hearth, Crafts-a-Plenty, and the Poolesville Hardware store are located, had not proven successful. The committee has made repeated attempts to attract crowds to that area with little success and, given the fact that the sponsors of the car show located in that vicinity are no longer going to participate in Poolesville Day, the likelihood of success is even more remote.

While the commissioners won't vote on the matter until later, the level

of support for the Poolesville Day Committee's work was evident in their comments. They praised the success of the event and said it remains the biggest showcase for the town each year.

The commissioners also considered several business items at their meeting. A project to repaint the interior of the 500,000-gallon water tank near the center of town was presented to the commissioners by town engineer John Strong. Of the five bids submitted that qualified, the best overall came from Ionion Painting, a company based in Baltimore. Strong said that, given the town won't know until the tower is drained the exact condition of the interior of the tank, it was prudent to approve an "up to" \$120,000 project funding level to make sure the project could be completed without delays. The project received unanimous approval.

A parking ordinance change that had been discussed at previous town meetings to allow parking along Cattail Road during specified times of the day in order to smooth traffic flows when parents arrive in the mornings and afternoons at Poolesville Elementary School to pick up their children was approved by a unanimous vote. New parking signs will be installed on the section of Cattail Road that runs alongside the school that would prohibit parking from 10:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m.

Finally, the request from the Poolesville Community Garden Committee for a grant of \$4500 that had been submitted at the previous commissioners' meeting was rejected. Instead, a grant of \$1000 was approved. All commissioners expressed concern that supporting the larger amount was not prudent, some because it would violate a cap in grant funding that the town has instituted, and others because they felt the town never agreed to ongoing funding of the gardens when it made the original grant to the committee several years ago. While rejecting the larger grant request, commissioners Halbrook, Dickerson, and Brown all agreed that the gardens were a valuable community project.

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Commentary

Dirty Jokes, Liberty Valance, and RGIII

By John Clayton

Throughout recorded human history and doubtless way beyond, people of my age have been convinced that everything is worse than it used to be. I would wager that Neanderthals felt the same way for as long as they lasted on our planet. Of course, through ancient times, most people didn't actually live to be my age, but I think the point stands for those crotchety old thirty-five-year-olds in prehistoric Mesopotamia just as well.

The depths of my depression are not helped by the presidential race, with one leading candidate thriving by insulting practically everyone in sight, and the other one thriving with the threat of federal indictment hanging over her head (no names, please) like a dark cloud. One challenger is freely and publicly loathed by his colleagues as a self-centric liar (these are all politicians, mind you), one tells pants-wetting and Johnson (no, not Lyndon) jokes directed as insults, one is a Socialist, and the one who tries to stay out of the muck is dead last. Any encouragement for the state of the human condition must be found elsewhere.

The other night, as I was nursing a cold, my wife suggested we watch a Western—a generous act intended to cheer me up, I am sure. We agreed it should be a classic, and this ran right to John Ford and John Wayne. She called up the Netflix offerings and gave me the choice. *The Searchers* would be an easy pick, but we agreed we both knew it too well, and it's a little heavier than our mood. I was thinking of *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* or *Fort Apache*, but I chose *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*.

I first saw this movie when I was a kid in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and my friends and I would ride our bicycles into town and see a movie at one of the two theaters in town: the Varsity or the Carolina. We usually didn't care when movies began, and joined them in progress, waited ten or fifteen minutes for the next showing, watched until we got caught up, and then left. It seemed perfectly acceptable to us.

Many years later, while my wife was finishing up at the University of Maryland, she took an elective class on Themes in American Westerns, or something like that. They watched the movies at night, and dates were allowed to attend but not participate in any discussions, which was

no stretch for me in college, I assure you. We saw some great movies, including *Fort Apache*, *Shane*, and *Liberty Valance*, among others, so I can say I have somewhat of a history with the movie and would enjoy seeing it again.

As the instructor had explained, Ford liked stories that highlighted the collision of the Old West and the modern world, and this one is no different. James Stewart's character, an eastern tenderfoot lawyer, is bringing civilization to the town of Shinbone, in some unnamed territory trying to become a state. He is informed by both a terrifying highwayman and all-around sociopath, Lee Marvin, and a rugged alpha male good guy rancher, John Wayne, that problems in the territories are solved by killing your nemesis with a gun. Stewart resists this advice but, as the title of the movie suggests, not altogether successfully. It's a good movie with more to it than I have revealed, and a morally ambiguous ending that sparked a pretty good discussion with my wife.

I could not help thinking that this conflict between the rule of law and violence was being played out by analogy with our presidential primaries as discussions of policy and actual achievement have been almost completely replaced by the need to simply take out an opponent. The game is to discredit and distort everything another candidate ever said or did, hurl personal insults and innuendo, and make snide and smirking attempts at humor at another's personal expense. I realize that this has always gone on to some extent, but even after removing the rose-colored glasses with which I perceive the past, we've come down pretty far. I also realize that there is barely a whit of difference between the candidates' actual policies, and that challenging each other's commitment to those policies may be all there is to differentiate oneself, but the point remains that smearing your opponent and grinding his or her reputation into the mud is the name of the game.

Then there is our fallen local hero, Robert Griffin, III, or RGIII. In the midst of all this squalor, I have to point out how much I admire the way he handled himself this last season in Washington. He was set aside, criticized, and publicly humiliated in different ways, and for all intents and purposes, he put his head down and quietly performed as a good supporting team member for the entire year. He is certainly not perfect and made his own share of mistakes here and there, but such grace under adversity in the bright glare of our information

Continued on page 13.

Rande(m) Thoughts

Explaining The Donald

By Rande Davis

This is the season for new beginnings. There is more than the smell of baseball in the air as the cool warmth of the morning sun fuels us with a sense of hope. It's more than just the air that you breathe. It is an actual feeling of great expectations. It's that promising and tangible sense I got yesterday when I saw that three little yellow crocuses had broken through the ground, announcing that this year the ground hog, after all, was right.

No matter the winter of heavy snow of just a few weeks ago. No matter the weight gained from lack of exercise during the season of holiday party after holiday party. No matter the winter filled with emotionally-charged politics and debates defined by irrational anger (Republicans) and pure fantasy (Democrats). It's springtime!

Maybe, just maybe, this time, spring will truly portend a time of real hope and change, not just as a campaign slogan. After this winter, one thing I am certain of is that the further away from politics I allow my mind to wonder, the closer to bliss I will come,

and at my age, I better not wait too long for more bliss in my life.

Change can be good, and I saw one on the news that may prove to be very helpful, especially to me: the skinny mirror. Yep, it's a mirror that makes you look five-to-ten pounds lighter. The controversy about the mirror is about clothing retailers who have been installing them to boost sales. For me, the controversy is more about the "five-to-ten pounds" part. At my weight, that's peanuts. I tell you when it comes to the weight loss thing, I say, Why go for a smirk when it's a belly full of laughter so strong you can't breathe anymore that I am looking for. Give me a mirror that makes you look thirty pounds lighter! Of course, this skinny mirror might prove motivating. If one could see himself ten pounds lighter, then it might help to stay on a diet. Success breeds success, so as you lose weight, you are constantly seeing what you would look like in another week or two. Hmm, that might work.

The mirror did give me an even better idea, though. Why not a hearing aid that only allows you to hear what you want to hear. I could even enjoy the debates and maybe then I would look forward more to the unprecedented non-stop saturation of media coverage of Donald Trump. You say that could

Continued on page 6.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

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Tidbits

Spring Cleaning Came Early

The hardworking and dedicated Webelo and Tiger scouts from Troop 694 were cleaning up the main street of Poolesville on Saturday, March 5, while most people were only still thinking about the second cup of coffee. The boys policed all around the John Poole House and from there to the end of Fisher Avenue past the CVS store and then all the way back on the Whelan Commons side of the street. After all the snow covered up so much litter, it was wonderful to know the town street was clean and ready for the spring season.



Scout Troop 694 did a great street cleanup recently. Thanks to (front row) Greg Klein, Victor Valasquez, Lily Welsh, Aubrey Savino, Ben Savino, Jack Welsh, Zoe Welsh, Kate Welsh (with baby), and Tim Klein. In the back are Jeff Welsh, Barb Klein, Kathy Savino, and Guadalupe Valasquez.

Fine Earth Landscape Wins Two More Awards

Fine Earth Landscape was once again honored with two landscape awards for local projects this year. The first was a regional award from the Landscape Contractors Association DCMD/VA for Fine Earth's work in residential planting in a residence outside of Potomac. They not only planted hundreds of trees and shrubs, but also added a stunning display of thousands of perennial and annual flowers.

Fine Earth also won an award for the courtyard at the Unitarian Church in Rockville. The team designed and installed the paver walkways which are complemented with beautiful plantings all around. This award was given by Montgomery County in its Keep Montgomery County Beautiful Award competition.

PACC Breakfast Networking Group

The Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce's network breakfast meeting, which is held the first Thursday of the month at 8:00 a.m. in the Poolesville Town Hall, has been regularly drawing a group of a couple of dozen or more. The gathering is designed to have businesses in the area find ways to help each other. The members all get some time to talk about their businesses and express areas where other members might help them grow. That is followed by a guest speaker on a variety of business-related matters. All businesses may attend the first time for free to test the waters, and after that they are requested to join the chamber which has very reasonable annual dues of only \$75.



PACC members give a great big thumbs up for their morning network gathering under the mission of Businesses Helping Businesses.



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Daytripper

Two Great Places to Explore!

By Ingeborg Westfall

To me, this is an awkward time of year, too early to garden outside, too late for most outdoor winter sports, in short, the time of year E.E. Cummings described as “when the world is mud-luscious,” still drying out from snow and rain, the ground squishy and slippery everywhere you walk.

So what better time to explore? I recently treated myself to revisiting a favorite gallery and then discovering a new botanical resource, and I recommend each as a lovely destination for a day’s getaway before life becomes more hectic in warmer weather.

First is the Renwick Gallery in downtown D.C., not far from the White House. Part of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Renwick showcases work by contemporary American artists: highly diverse, inventive, dedicated, all worth discovery and attention. After being closed for renovation for two years, the Renwick has reopened with a stunning (at least to me) exhibit called, fittingly, “Wonder,” on view through July 10. Nine installations—nest-like structures formed from bent willow branches (and large enough that a person can go inside them), very large Malaysian (three inches or so) insects displayed in repeating patterns, large woven works that transform the light, a fabric map of the energy released across the Pacific Ocean during the Japanese earthquake and tsunami of 2011 (with programmable lighting and wind movement), and other site-specific installations—take one’s breath away with their vivid colors, playfulness, pure painstakingness, and yes, the sense of wonder they inspire. I still recall my first sight of the multiple twelve-foot columns of index cards that looked like stone formations. Trust me, they’re awesome! “Wonder” will stay with me for a long time. If

there’s a better example of the transformative power of art, I haven’t seen it.

Children seemed to particularly love this exhibit, but strollers aren’t allowed on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays (the gallery’s busiest times), and I saw adults chasing after children as the children were drawn to the colorful displays. (The restriction is to help protect the artwork, of course, but it’s rough on little ones, so be prepared.)

A different experience—and wondrous in its own way—and welcome after winter’s dull colors, is the Howard Peters Rawlings Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Baltimore City. Founded in 1888, it features the Palm House, the Orchid Room, and Mediterranean House, the Tropical House, and the Desert House, boasting an array of almost four hundred plant species. A tour of this lovely Victorian brick and glass structure, the second-oldest municipal glass conservatory in America, provided, on the day I visited, a welcome respite from the dreary cold. Here the breathtaking factor was orchids in bloom, glorious in their riotous color combinations—and to see kumquats and lemons growing happily, cactus blooming, and coconuts hanging from a palm tree reminded me there would be summer. I was also charmed to see plants for sale at reasonable prices.

Incidentally, the Rawlings Conservatory is in Historic Druid Hill Park, also home to another Baltimore attraction, the Maryland Zoo. The two combine to make a very nice (very full) day’s outing, although I haven’t been to the zoo in several years and so can’t give an up-to-date recommendation. As I recall, it was an informative, child-friendly place, slightly more suitable for summer rather than a late-winter visit.

The Renwick is on Pennsylvania Avenue, at 17th Street; its website is renwick.americanart.si.edu. It’s open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and the phone number is 202-633-7970. The Rawlings Conservatory’s website is www.rawlingsconservatory.org and its phone number is 410-396-0008. It’s open Wednesdays through Sundays, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Continued from page 4.

Explaining The Donald

never work? Well, now, I beg your pardon, but it appears to me that a big proportion of both political parties have already been wearing one. I don’t know where they got it, and I don’t know what it costs, but I can say this: When all political conventional wisdom and normative logic have seemingly gone the way of the winter wind, I cannot explain it any other way.

Do you have some local history or points of interest you would like to share with our readers? Send it along to editor@monocacymonocle.com

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St. Patrick's Day All Weekend!
March 17, 18, 19, and 20

Appetizer:

Pot o' Gold: Loaded potato skins, filled with bacon and cheddar cheese, topped with sour cream and scallions

Entrées:

Irish Stew: Tender lamb stew with carrots, celery, and potatoes, served with Irish soda bread

Corned Beef and Cabbage: The traditional St. Patrick's Day entrée: Tender steamed corned beef, cabbage, carrots, and red potatoes, served with Irish soda bread

Smithwick's Fish and Chips: Fresh Smithwick's beer-battered tilapia, served with French fries and coleslaw—a classic!



St. Patrick's Day Weekend
Bar Specials



For March 17, 18, 19, and 20

Smithwick's...\$2.00

Irish Car Bomb...\$7.00

Irish Coffee...\$5.00

Corned Beef Sliders...\$5.00

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Saturday, March 19th!



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March 27

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Things To Do

March 12

7th Annual Knights of Columbus 3 on 3 half-court basketball tournament

Open to both males and females, ages 6 to 99. Refereeing provided by Young Life. Entry fee is a non-perishable food item per player to be donated to WUMCO. To ensure a bracket, sign up early by contacting Donald Patti, at nash Rambler@yahoo.com or call 866-478-8080. Poolesville Baptist Church. 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

March 16

Poolesville Area Senior Center (PASC) Special Event

T'ai chi at 10:30 a.m.
Zumba Gold at 1:00 p.m.
Both at 17750 W. Willard Road.

March 17

St. Patrick's Day

Get your green on in the spirit of St. Patrick at our local restaurants: Cugini's, AHOP, and Bassett's. Bassett's is offering its special St. Patrick's Day menu from Thursday through Sunday.

PASC Special Event

St. Patrick's bingo and lunch. Bring a soup to share. Bingo called by Jim Brown. *Café* at 17750 W. Willard Road. 12:00 p.m.

March 19

Madison House Autism Foundation's Barn Sale

Featuring antiques, furniture, clothing, and much more. Rain or shine. *Madison*

Fields barn at 19300 Mouth of Monocacy Road, Dickerson. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Flower Arranging Workshop

Flower arranging demonstration and workshop for altars, weddings, and special events. *St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 20100 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville.* Please reserve a place in advance with the church office at 301-349-2073 or stpeters@saintpetersnet.org. \$20 payable at the door. 9:00 a.m. to noon.

March 21

PHS Varsity Home Games

Baseball and softball. Blair. 3:45 p.m.
Boys' tennis. Whitman. 3:45 p.m.

March 22

PHS Varsity Home Game Girls' lacrosse. Damascus. 7:15 p.m.

March 23

PASC Special Events

T'ai chi at 10:30 a.m.
Zumba Gold at 1:00 p.m.
Both at 17750 W. Willard Road.

PASC Special Event

Homeowner 101. Town Hall. 7:15 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Games

Track and field with Watkins Mill at Quince Orchard. 3:30 p.m.
Volleyball. Walter Johnson. Boys at 5:30 p.m., coed at 7:15 p.m.
Girls' lacrosse. Magruder. 7:15 p.m.

March 24

PASC Special Event

Follow Your Heart: Free health screenings by Holy Cross nurse Debra Wylie. 17750 W. Willard Road. 1:00 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Game

Boys' lacrosse. Magruder. 7:15 p.m.

School News

PHS Student On Crusade to Encourage Use of LEDs

Josh Flitter, a senior in Poolesville High School's Global Ecology Magnet Program, had to do a senior project related to making the community more ecological. He chose to study energy-efficient lighting and the impact it could have for local residents. His lesson learned and message to the community is simple: "With the dropping cost of LED bulbs and long-term savings afforded by LED lights, there is no reason to ever buy another incandescent bulb, so, come on, Poolesville, do your bank account and the environment a favor and switch to LED lights now."

If you haven't looked into LED before, here is what Josh's research determined.

There are several types of energy-efficient light bulbs on the market: Halogen incandescent bulbs are slightly more efficient than regular incandescent bulbs and cost about twice as much as a regular incandescent; compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) also cost about twice as much as regular incandescents but only use about a quarter the energy; LED light bulbs are the most expensive type of light bulb, but the price has come down considerably in the last few years. Prices can vary significantly with a 60-watt equivalent LED (actually uses about ten watts) costing \$15 or more although Home Depot carries 60-watt equivalent LED bulbs for less than \$4 per bulb.

Since the LEDs are more costly to buy, does that mean that only the really ecologically-minded should buy them? Josh says it does not. To fairly compare the bulbs, one must consider not just the up-front cost of

a single bulb but also the replacement cost of bulbs over time and the energy cost of operating the bulbs. A typical incandescent bulb may last 1000 to 1200 hours. A halogen incandescent might last about twice that. CFLs can last about 10,000 hours, but LEDs can last 25,000 hours or more. To match the 25,000 hours of an LED bulb operation, one would need twenty-five replacement incandescent bulbs, thirteen halogen bulbs, or three CFLs. Electricity in Poolesville is provided by Potomac Edison and costs about eleven to twelve cents per kilowatt-hour (KWh). If you factor in the cost of electricity to operate the lights and the cost of replacement bulbs over a 25,000-hour period, the costs of incandescent, halogen, CFL, and LED lights are, respectively, about \$209, \$161, \$47, and \$35. LEDs are by far the most cost-efficient choice, and, unlike CFLs that contain small amounts of mercury, there are no negative environmental impacts or special recycling requirements in using LEDs. A good way to see a quick return on investment is to focus on the most frequently-used bulbs in a home or business. If ten incandescent bulbs that are used an average of 3.5 hours per day over a year are replaced with LEDs, \$89 per year would be saved.

The town of Poolesville has a Green Team looking at ways to make Poolesville a more sustainable community. The town has already made some changes such as installing solar panels for its water treatment plant and installing LED streetlights. The impact if all Poolesville residents switched all of their lights from incandescent to LED is staggering. Using some notional values for bulbs per household and bulb usage, it is calculated that a wholesale switch to LEDs could cut Poolesville energy use by almost 1.5 million kilowatt-hours per year. Now that's a sustainable community!

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Youth Sports

Boys' Lacrosse Leads PHS into Spring Season

By Jeff Stuart

The four players with Division I and II college scholarships in hand, Jonathan Hetrick, Jake Armstrong, Adam Branscome, and Reid Patton, plus fellow senior and multisport star Trey Willis are excited as they head into their final lacrosse season at Poolesville High School; there is great potential.

"I try not to put too many expectations on our season," said Coach Stuart Orns. "I think that what we ought to do is get better every single practice and every single game, then things will take care of themselves, but those four guys will bring a lot of skill. We are a small school and sometimes we lack the depth that bigger schools have, so everyone has to contribute. The best part of coaching for me is watching the boys grow as players and men from their freshmen until their senior years. These four guys have been great. They have really matured. They play at a really high level. Conditioning and hard work has really paid off for them."

The season opens at Damascus on March 22, always a big game for Poolesville. "We are looking forward

to having a season like maybe the school hasn't seen before and maybe to go farther than any team in Poolesville history," said Branscome. "We would like to see a lot of people at the games because that helps us to play our best."

"We just want to want to have a tremendous season, to make some memories and have fun together one last time," said Hetrick.

"We have a real good group," said Armstrong. "A lot of good players came out this year. We will take it game by game. Hopefully, we are going to put together a good season."

"I am looking forward to spending this last season with my brothers," said Willis. "We have played together on club and with the high school for a fair amount of years. We definitely have a strong team, and we are looking to do the best we can."

"We are really excited to get out on the field and play hard," said Patton. "We are looking for some new guys to step up for us. There should be a great atmosphere at the games."

Girls' Lacrosse

"Being in a new division this year," said Coach Brittany Hilton, "we have set out a goal of winning the division title and making a strong run at playoffs through preparation, teamwork, and dedication. We will not waste any opportunities."

The first game is home opener against longstanding rival, Damascus. Players to watch include seniors Casey Harkins and Christina Hilton, both midfielders, junior Sophia Mense on attack, and sophomore Hannah Bush at midfield. Freshman Rachel Bupp is a promising newcomer.

Baseball

We have nine returning players," said Coach Steve Orsini. "We have key pitching back in Brady Pearre, Cole Carmack, and seniors Justin Souder and Jordan Cissel. We have our starting catcher back in Matt Convers. I believe we will be strong defensively. We have more speed when we get on the bases. We will be more of a contact hitting team than the power team we had in the past. Moving up to 3A will be different and more challenging, but I believe we will be competitive."

Souder leads Poolesville on offense. He hit .409 last season and led the team in RBI and doubles. Pearre hit .326, Cissel .312, and Matthew Convers hit .267.

Newcomers to watch are Cooper Myers and Colin Metz.

Outdoor Track and Field

"Moving up to 3A is a challenge," said Coach Mike Trumbull. "Our kids did very well at the indoor region meet. The point scorers for the Falcons

were Andrew Lent for sixth in the 1600-meter, Yamuna Satsangi for eighth place in the 1600-meter, running the second best time of her career, and the girls' 4x400 (Anjali Kalra, Rachel Kitchen, Juanita Jaramillo, Manisha Sunil) placed fifth, running their best time of the season by eight seconds. Kitchen was sixth overall in the 500-meter."

For the outdoor season, many talented athletes are returning: senior Sayaka Vaules, juniors Sertac Er, Meher Kaur, and Michael Payne, and sophomore Charlie Brill in the sprints; seniors Jonathan Garagiola and Kyle Wilkins in the jumps and throws; senior Fiona Whitefield in the 1600 and 3200; Sunil just missed states last year in the long jump; and freshman Nandini Satsangi will be joining the track team after a great cross country season and swimming in the winter.

Softball

"I expect to do better than last year because we have a core of girls with loads of experience," said Coach Laurie Wohnhas. "Our schedule is harder this year because we have added Blake, Wootton, Clarksburg, Blair, and Whitman, but that will only make us a better team as we prepare for playoffs." Players to watch include Samantha Goldsborough, Kellie Dahlin, Liesl Green, and pitcher Taylor Behrens.

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Wednesday, April 13th - Northwest V 7:15pm/JV 5:30pm

Monday, April 18th - Quince Orchard V 7:15pm/JV 5:30pm

Monday, April 25th - Rockville V 6pm

Saturday, April 30th - Northwood V 12pm



School News

Johnson Appointed Head of School at Barnesville

The Board of Trustees of Barnesville School of Arts and Sciences unanimously approved the appointment of Susanne Johnson as head of school. Johnson has been serving as interim head since July 2015, and she previously served as the school's director of institutional advancement.

At Barnesville's annual board-parent gathering, board chair, Jeff Donohoe, said, "Susanne continues to do a tremendous job leading the school. She has earned the trust, admiration, and confidence of the entire community, and we believe there is no one more qualified and committed to leading Barnesville forward."

Donohoe credited Johnson and her leadership team with instituting new cross-curricular programs, bolstering advancement and enrollment



Barnesville School board chair, Jeff Donohoe; head of school, Susanne Johnson; and new board member and alumnus, Jon Mullen.

efforts, and strengthening financial controls, all while leading the day-to-day efforts of Barnesville's extraordinary faculty and staff.

"The school's mission of joy, support, and excellence continues to serve as my leadership compass," said Johnson. "It guides our program, defines our culture, and is the essence of a Barnesville education. It is an honor and privilege to work every day to fulfill that mission."

goals, he said, was to force changes so that the town has more control over what happens along roads and in pedestrian crosswalks where safety issues are especially persistent.

Linda Bergofski said that she believes the town needs to take a more "holistic" approach to the problem and not be so focused on any one specific safety issue. She was appearing before the commission because she was concerned that "we are on the verge of a possible fatality" and wanted to heighten attention to road safety issues.

Brown thanked the witnesses for raising the safety issues and said the town was very aware of the importance of addressing them. He noted that not only the commissioners but the Parks and Streets Board had been focusing on these issues in their ongoing review of the Streetscape Plan which has long been under consideration.

Continued from page 1.

Road Safety Dominates Meeting

special committee or group looking into these issues in the town.

Jim Brown, commission president, said the town has been very aware of many safety issues along roadways and in pedestrian crossings. Most of the traffic safety problems that were brought up by Ishii were along roadways that were under the jurisdiction of the state or county governments. Despite that fact, the town has been focused for some time not only on long-term solutions (i.e., ensuring that permanent solutions are found) but also on raising public awareness in the short-term regarding specific safety issues such as at the pedestrian walkways. The short-term focus is intended to pressure state and county authorities to act. One of the most important long-term

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Holy Week Schedule:
Holy Thursday March 24th, @ 8 PM
Good Friday March 25th @ 8 PM
Easter Vigil Mass March 26th @ 8 PM
Easter Sunday Masses March 27th @ 8AM, 9:30AM & 10:45 AM
Stations of the Cross, March 25 @ Noon

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School News

PHS Seniors Chosen for National Competition

By Rande Davis

Scholars from Poolesville High School have done it again. This time, nine student finalists and two alternates have been recognized for being at the top level of academic excellence. These students participated in a national challenge by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's INSPIRE competition. The acronym stands for Inspiring the Nation's Students to Pursue Innovative Research in the humanities, arts, and social sciences.

This is only the second year for MIT INSPIRE, which has a large team of expert volunteers give their time to evaluate the submitted research projects. The expert judges ranged from MIT department heads to esteemed faculty members, professionals, MIT alumni, doctoral students, and specialists from several universities.

Approximately only one hundred students nationally have been chosen to be in the final round.

INSPIRE draws out the passion for original inquiry in a variety of unique topics and connects students with similar interests from throughout the United States. It also allows the students an opportunity to display their research capabilities, obtain expert feedback on that research, and have a terrific pre-college experience.

Finalists will join in the final round of judging and opportunity as they compete for prizes on MIT's campus from April 3 to 5, 2016. Alternates will be invited to attend as some finalists find they are unable to make the April event.

The PHS finalists and their category and topic of inquiry are:

Mira Tash: Cultural Studies
How knowledge can dispel the stigma attached to food allergies

Anuj Mehta: Cultural Studies
Ethics of Marketing Culture:
Respecting Culture in the Fashion Industry

Kaylee Zou: Cultural Studies
The Ambiguity of

Affirmative Action:
Institutionalized Racism in America

Kylin Milisits: Cultural Studies
Socioeconomic Levels and Academic Achievement

Manisha Sunil: Cultural Studies
Political Bonds: How the interplay of "current" and "classic" in the James Bond film series reflects changing geopolitical landscapes

Yoon Seo Hong: Comparative Media Studies

Scientology: From Fiction, to Cult, to Religion?

Anne Hundertmark: History
The War of the Roses: How the Red and the White Divided Ireland

Ryan Carroll: Literature
Truth, Justice, and Godhood: The Thematic Resilience of the Comic Book Superhero

Michael Frank Quaranta: Political Science
The Terrible Two: The Influence and Implications of Political Polls and Campaign Donations on Elections in the U.S. House of Representatives

Alternates:
Jeanyoung Kim and Lilly Huang

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MARCH 20

Palm Sunday

8 am
Holy Eucharist Rite I (with music)
10 am
Holy Eucharist Rite II (with special music)

MARCH 23

Wednesday

7 pm
Service of Prayer and Healing with laying on of hands, followed by Individual Reconciliation

MARCH 24

Maundy Thursday

6 pm
Table Liturgy with dinner and foot washing followed by stripping of the altar.

MARCH 25

Good Friday

12 pm-3 pm
Last Seven Words with friends at Memorial United Methodist Church
4 pm
Family Stations of the Cross at St. Peter's
7 pm
Good Friday Liturgy

MARCH 26

Holy Saturday

7:30 pm
Easter Vigil Service

MARCH 27

Easter Sunday

8 am, 9:30 am & 11 am
Holy Eucharist Rite II with festive music
Easter egg hunt to follow the 9:30 am service (bring your Easter baskets)



Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Assault: 19000 block of Wootton Avenue.

Robbery: 19700 block of Wootton Avenue.

Theft: 19500 block of Fisher Avenue.

Past Crime

March 11, 1905 One of the most well-known citizens of Montgomery County was run down and killed by Train 56 near the Junction just west of Silver Spring. John Williams had left his house near the Chevy Chase Lake, presumably to visit his farm at Colesville, and somehow ended up wandering on the railroad tracks near Woodside. It was said that the body was not identifiable and had been mangled beyond recognition. It was thought that Williams had been attacked by an affliction of the brain from which he had suffered in the past. Coroner Loughborough held an inquest at the scene, and the ruling was an accidental death.

March 11, 1906 A man, suspected of being Issac Winder, a murderer who had escaped from the jail in Towson, was captured on the railroad tracks near Boyds. A resident of Boyds, who was aware of the large reward for Winder, came upon the suspect and tied him up with a length of rope. The suspect was quoted as saying, "I am just out for a little jaunt. I intend to return to the jail on Saturday night and show them that it is just as easy to get in as to get out." Winder was taken into custody by the authorities.

March 11, 1907 Deputy Sheriff Quinter greeted a visitor at his home near Wheaton and was told by a young

man that he was afraid that his grandmother had been murdered. Quinter went to the house and found that an aged woman had been horribly mutilated. Her hand had been cut off, and her head had been crushed by heavy blows. Quinter had no trouble finding the suspect as William McKay, the son-in-law of the victim, was in the house and immediately confessed to the crime. The boy said that McKay had been talking to himself, drinking heavily, and acting strongly in the days leading up to the murder. Justice of the Peace McConeny convened an inquest over the body, and it was ruled that the lady had met her death at the hand of McKay. Quinter then conveyed him to the jail at Rockville. After a few days, Deputy Quinter returned to the death house and found a meat cleaver that had been buried in the snow. It was presumed that the cleaver was the murder weapon.

March 17, 1905 A barn on the Heritage Farm near Kensington was burned to the ground at 11:30 p.m. the previous night. The fire was thought to have been incendiary in origin and Deputy Sheriff Green was placed in charge of the investigation. Sixteen cows worth \$100 each and hay and grain were destroyed. A strong effort to save the animals had been made, but the fire had made a headway before firefighting efforts had started.

March 24, 1908 Harvey Trotter and Randolph Little were indicted for manslaughter. They were the conductor and motorman of the car of the Washington and Rockville Electric Railway that wrecked near Rockville, killing Mrs. George Smith.

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

Continued from page 4.

Dirty Jokes, Liberty Valance, and RGIII

age is a rare thing indeed. While I rant about the loss of civility and substance among those who want to stay in Washington, let us acknowledge the character of one who has to leave.

In closing, I cannot discuss *Liberty Valance* without a respectful nod to the character of Dutton Peabody (played by Edmund O'Brien) who in his own words is the "founder, owner, editor [of the *Shinbone Star*], and I also sweep out the place." He stands tall for the freedom and power of the press, and also stands a little wobbly as he plays that loveable and entertaining alcoholic that was once a staple of so many movies—not everything was better back in the day. Nevertheless, I've been cribbing his line for years; when asked what I do for the paper, my own list usually ends with "...and I take out the trash at night." My gratitude to the screenwriter is complete.

Would you like to announce a meeting, club or upcoming event in **Things To Do**? Then send it along to editor@monocacymonocle.com



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March 20, 10:45 a.m.:
Worship Service: Bell Choir Concert

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School News

Mense Sisters Selected as Prudential Spirit of Community Award Local Honorees

Sisters Sophia and Jessica Mense were selected by their schools as Prudential Spirit of Community Award Local Honorees. The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program is the largest youth recognition program in the United States based exclusively on volunteer community service. The program was created in 1995 by Prudential in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NAASP) to honor middle and high school students for outstanding service to others at the local, state, and national level.

Sophia was selected for the honor by Poolesville High School principal Deena Levine for her work over the past year on her Girl Scout Gold Award project, "Don't Drop the Top!". This multi-media project educated people and raised awareness of the harmful effects of discarded plastic bottle tops on marine wildlife and promoted the recycling of bottle tops. The first part of the project was an electronic media campaign including an educational website dondroptop.weebly.com and a Facebook site



Prudential's Spirit of Community Award was given to PHS student Sophia Mense and her younger sister, JPMS student Jessica, for their creative art murals promoting the awareness of the dangers of plastics to marine life.

www.facebook.com/dondroptop to highlight the problem of marine debris and to let people know what they can do to help. The project's Facebook site has 426 "Likes" from people in twenty-two states and seven countries. The second part of the project was a large ocean-themed mosaic mural made out of recycled bottle tops that Sophia and her team helped the students of Poolesville Elementary School (PES) design and assemble. Sophia created an after-school club at PES and, for six weeks, met with them to

screw each top into the mural.

The Poolesville community collection drive for bottle tops for the mural yielded forty thousand caps—four times Sophia's goal. To educate the students of PES and invite design proposals for the mural, she created a YouTube video www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0mq0XOyPzM that resulted in 131 submissions. The finished six-by-nine-foot mural hangs on the front wall of the school's cafeteria and will be permanently on display. It was unveiled during a school-wide Earth Day celebration/assembly. The plaque she designed that is next to the mural has a Quick Response (QR) code that will take those with the smartphone application right to the Don't Drop the Top! website.

John Poole Middle School (JPMS) Principal Robert Sinclair, Jr. selected Jessica as a local honoree for her Girl Scout Silver Award Project, "Timberwolves Protect the Earth." To educate the JPMS community and raise awareness of Earth Day at JPMS, Jessica created and edited an online publication in celebration of Earth Day and asked for submissions from staff, teachers, and students of JPMS: jpmsearthday.weebly.com. Jessica was inspired by Sophia's project at PES. For the second part of her project, with the help of some friends, Jessica created a large mosaic mural made out of thousands of recycled bottle tops, each screwed in by hand. It shows the JPMS mascot, the Timberwolf, howling in front of the Earth. The finished six-by-nine-foot mural made up of six panels is installed on the wall in the school's main hall. The plaque that is hung next to the mural also has a QR code that will take those with the smartphone application directly to the online Earth Day publication and Jessica's article that describes the harmful impact discarded bottle caps have on marine life.

As local honorees, both girls were awarded the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. PHS Principal Levine presented it to Sophia on February 29. Principal Sinclair and JPMS counselor Peg Arnold presented Jessica her award on Friday, February 26 during the JPMS honor roll assembly.

Poolesville's Got Talent

By Dmitri Agnew

The year 2016 once again began with the usual flurries of resolutions and big dreams; however, this year, one dream was achieved. On February 23, the annual Miss Poolesville competition was held to determine the new Princess of Poolesville. This year's theme was: Poolesville's Got Talent. The ten talented contestants, all seniors, were Mercedes Blankenship, Kristen Darragh, Casey Harkins, Kara Huff, Rachel Kitchen, Megan Koutsandreas, Julia Link, Sarah Tivoli,

Emily Wang, and Cathy Xie. There was an opening video that showed how each one of the contestants had to showcase her various singing abilities and talents, in the style of "American Idol," in order to be Poolesville's most talented contestant.

After the humorous opening video each one of the contestants was introduced to the judges and the audience in her Casual Wear. The ladies walked onto the stage displaying their favorite outfits to wear casually. Following this was the Active Wear segment. Nearly all the contestants are involved in one hobby, sport, or another, and they wore articles of clothing to represent these activities. This is a pretty big part of the show because often these interests of the contestants represent a big part of their lives as well as many of those in the audience.

Next up was the part everyone waits for: The Talents. Like every year, there was a wide variety of different talents. Some of the ladies sang, some rapped, some danced, and others did improvisation. Everyone was extremely talented and gave the judges a really hard time narrowing the field down to the top five. After the talents, there was the Formalwear segment where the ladies came out in their favorite dresses escorted by their handsome dates. After the Formalwear segment, the judges had to winnow the field to the top five: Kristen Darragh, Casey



The Talented Miss Poolesville, Kara Huff, with her best friend, Ivy Mandere, to the left, and her proud mother, Wendy Huff, to the right.

Harkins, Kara Huff, Julia Link, and Cathy Xie. To determine the winner, each contestant was asked a final question: "If you had to choose any song or genre of music to describe yourself, what would it be and why?" Each contestant then answered the question to the fullest extent of the truth.

To keep the suspense alive, the third place winner was announced. Casey Harkins had performed a skit based off of *Saturday Night Live*, and the second place winner was Julia Link.

Finally, the winner was announced. The judges voted for, drum roll, Kara Huff! Kara won with a self-choreographed dance to the song, "Crazy in Love (Kid Koala Version)" originally by Beyoncé. Kara has been dancing since she was four years old, and she was extremely happy to have won.

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Fridays, March 11 & 18 at 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 19 at 9:30 am

Friday, March 25 at Noon

Stations of the Cross for Lent Fridays 7:30 pm



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All are Welcome!

Continued from page 5.

Tidbits: Poolesville Day Committee at Starting Gate

For those many fans of Poolesville Day, it may surprise you to know that the project preparation is a six-month challenge for the dedicated people who have volunteered for the September 17, 2016 festival. The committee met on March 3 and welcomed some new members among the many stalwarts who have done this year after year. One of the challenging jobs is finding a great headliner band. Gina Beck leads that effort, and if anyone is in for a round of bar hopping to check the musicians out, we are certain she will welcome those willing to take on this very difficult task.



The 2016 Poolesville Day Committee: John and Lynne Rolls, Gina Beck, Cathy Bupp, Christina Nanof, Faith Etheridge, Lori Gruber, Gayle Partain, Sandra Hudnell, Joyce Breiner, and Link Hoewing. Standing: Skip Etheridge, Alex Markoff, and J. D. Taylor. Not pictured: Bernie Mihm, Kevin Schramm, and Rande Davis.

Have something you'd like to share in Tidbits? Then let us know!
 Send your details to: editor@monocacymonocle.com

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Join us for Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday, March 20

Mass at 8, 9:30, & 11 am

Outdoor Procession for 11 am Mass

Holy Thursday, March 24

Morning Prayer at 9 am
 Mass of the Last Supper at 7:30 pm
 Adoration in the Repository 8:30 - 11 pm

Good Friday, March 25

Morning Prayer at 9 am
 Confession at Noon
 Living Stations of the Cross at 3 pm
 Service of the Lord's Passion at 7:30 pm

Holy Saturday, March 26

Blessing of Easter Food at 1 pm
 Easter Vigil at 8 pm with the Solemn Easter Fire



Easter Sunday, March 27

Sunrise Outdoor Mass at 6:30 am
 (bring your chairs, blankets & maybe a flashlight)

8, 9:30 & 11 am - Mass
10:30 am - Easter Egg Hunt

All are Welcome!

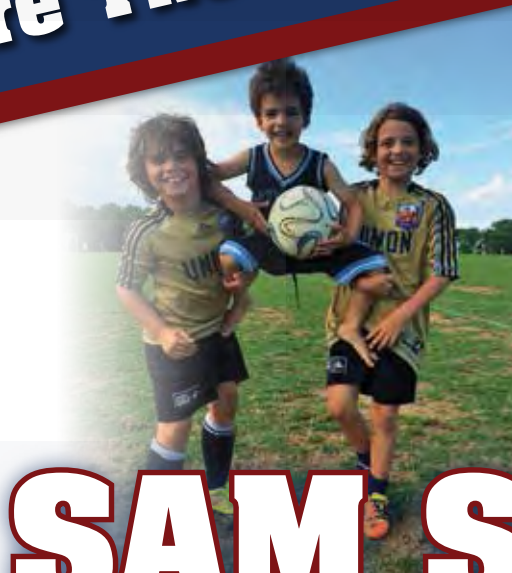


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Garden

Spring Is in the Air

By Maureen O'Connell

Garden catalogs have started to fill our mailboxes, so spring cannot be too far away. I discard most of them, but I particularly like those of White Flower Farm (WFF) and Wayside Gardens. They are full of good, useful information, and their color photographs of plants and garden equipment are beautiful. This is good marketing on their part, as many of us envision our gardens to look equally as brilliant. At this time of the year, I have a tendency to overestimate my ability to take care of my gardens, so I must be careful not to overbuy. I enjoy seeing what is new on the block, but there are some old favorites that never lose their appeal.

In my last article, I spoke about the difficulties of growing roses in our Monocacy country. There is one species, however, that stands out as exceptionally hardy and low maintenance, the rugosa rose (*Rosa rugosa*). It is native to eastern Asia, northeastern China, Japan, Korea, and southeastern Siberia. These roses have received renewed interest in the past several years since they are highly disease resistant and are easy to love. With unparalleled hardiness, they are unfazed by bitter cold, ice storms, and heavy snowfalls. Their amazing perfume is not subtle; it is powerful. When in bloom, I can smell my rugosas as soon as I come out the front door. Rugosa is the only rose on most xeriscaping plant lists. The birds will thank you for the hundreds of rose hips, one of nature's richest sources of vitamin C, that appear in the fall and feed the hungry birds throughout the winter. The rugosa rose might just be the perfect rose.

Thirty-five years ago, a friend gave me three 'Roseaie de L'Hay' rugosas. I call them my phoenix roses, for like the long-lived mythical bird, they are reborn every year. From old wood, new growth takes its place to produce hundreds of rich wine-purple elongated buds on bushes about seven feet tall. I also have four white rugosas, 'Blanc Double de Coubert,' which are equally hardy and zero maintenance. I noticed in this year's spring WFF catalog two rugosas that I have not seen before: 'Rugelda' and 'Therese Bugnet.' The first one sports deep rosy red and yellow blooms with rosy pink edges against rich, glossy green foliage. The latter rose, with large pink blooms and a spicy fragrance, was bred to withstand cold Canadian winters. I have ordered two of each and look forward to expanding my phoenix garden. Rugosa roses belong in your garden.

A perennial in both Wayside Gardens and WFF catalogs caught my attention, *Heliopsis* 'Asahi.' WFF describes it as "like sunshine on two stalks." This native plant survives heat, drought, pests, and diseases while producing brilliant golden-yellow double blossoms that attract pollinators from late-June into fall. Sounds like a winner to me.

For years, I have grown only one variety of phlox, 'David.' As lovely and fragrant as phlox can be, it can be bedeviled by powdery mildew. 'David' was the most mildew resistant on the market. In 2013, a new variety of phlox was introduced, 'Glamour Girl.' It claims to have exceptional tolerance to heat, humidity, and powdery mildew. It comes in a gorgeous shade of vivid pink and would look smashing with 'David.' You must remember though that even with phlox with mildew resistance, it needs good air circulation to stop the advance of mildew, so don't crowd these beautiful plants.

Are you looking for a ground cover for a shady spot that has

minimal maintenance and maximum coverage? A new plant on the market this year that can fit the bill is *Mukgenia* 'Nova Flame.' Funny name, but this remarkable hybrid features gorgeous, dark-pink flowers with leathery, jagged-edged, colorful leaves. It will thrive in sun, part-shade, or full shade and grows to a height of eight inches with a fourteen-inch width. I have just the spot for it at the edge of my upper garden.

There is a small perennial flower that I believe does not get enough attention. It is the geranium (cranesbill),

the true one, not the ubiquitous annual that is synonymous with Summer Flowers. There are two new ones this year: 'Delft Blue' and 'Fay Anna.' Geraniums are very low maintenance and disease free. I have several varieties that are over fifteen years old and are still producing flowers all summer in both sun and part shade. They are not bothered by heat, drought, or pests.

Don't throw out all your garden catalogs. Take a closer look and see what is new and old that could invigorate your garden this summer.

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Where: Memorial United Methodist Church

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HOLY THURSDAY – March 24th Worship Service at 7:30 pm

GOOD FRIDAY – March 25th, noon-3:00 pm at Memorial UMC

*You are invited by Memorial UMC and St. Peter's Episcopal Church
 to reflect upon “The 7 last words of Christ” (drop in any time)*

EASTER SUNDAY – March 27th

*Worship Services at 8:30 am and *10:30 am*

COMMUNITY DINNER – Wednesday April 6th 5:30-7:00 pm - FREE!

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17821 Elgin Road, Poolesville www.pmumc.org

Sunday School for Children and Adults – 9:15 am

*Sunday Worship Service – *10:30 am*

Contemporary Worship Service – 3rd Sunday of each month at 8:15 am

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Continued from page 1.

Historic Church

The first pastor was Rev. Thomas W. Green. In 1833, he was buried beneath the pulpit after his death. In 1839, the first burial took place on the grounds outside the church when Ruth Eagle was buried. She was only twenty-seven years old according to her partial headstone, one of many that were recovered in later years and now sits in a small dedicated plot of land, along with other engraved stones, and a memorial plaque showing the names of thirty-one soldiers who were known to be buried on the grounds.

These soldiers came from as far away as Maine, Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania. After the Civil War, some families retrieved the bodies of their fallen family members in order to bury their remains in their hometowns, but their first graves were in the church cemetery. Many of the bodies were buried with only an unmarked stone to mark their final resting spots.

When upwards of fifteen thousand Union soldiers came to Poolesville in 1861 to protect vital Potomac River crossings located nearby, most of Poolesville's residents were staunchly aligned with the South. Many encampments were located in the fields directly to the south and east of the church on lands where Poolesville High School and area homes and businesses have since been built. The membership of the church was said to be divided between northern and southern sympathizers. Many of the town's men crossed the river to join southern forces as the Union occupiers used martial law to maintain law and order in town.

Many local buildings were used by the Union troops and leaders, including the Methodist Church which was used as a Union signal post, a telegraph office, and a hospital.

When the war ended, twenty-four members of the congregation split to form the Methodist Episcopal Church South. They worshipped at Poolesville Baptist Church until their new brick building was completed. The congregation, which grew steadily, voted to build a new church rather than repair the old one. They constructed a new sanctuary on Elgin Road, and the original church was sold to a chapter of the Y.M.C.A. Many social events took place in the building. A well-known black musician and fiddler named Steve Williams often played there for dances. Masonic meetings also were held at the former church.

The cemetery fell into disrepair after the congregation relocated. A few

broken headstones lay scattered on the grounds, invisible to passersby. Nothing remained to indicate that dozens of soldiers and former congregants of the church were buried on the site.

On January 31, 1896, the Poolesville Town Hall Association bought the building. National, State, and local elections were held there. Other uses for the building included: use as a classroom from 1905 to 1906 while the new public school was under construction, a practice hall for the Poolesville Band, and Sunday school classrooms and a nursery for the nearby St. Peter's Episcopal Church. In later years, the building was home to the Poolesville Drug Store and a veterinary office.

In 1995, when the property was being used as the Town Hall, the Town of Poolesville conducted an archaeological study of the land when they were deciding whether to expand the building. Twenty-one additional burial sites, previously unknown, were found around the building. In 2002, the remaining headstones were gathered, and a list of names was compiled of who was thought to be buried there. The town hall soon relocated to the Old Town Hall Bank Museum building located in the center of town. The old church finally became the Friendly Thrift Shop.

Today, the historic church building looks much the same as it did in the 1800s, although the original brick wasn't painted white until after the church was sold. At some point in time, the front windows and a large arched window in the rear were bricked over. If one looks closely, one can see where the former openings are filled in. Just a small front door remains where patrons of the Friendly Thrift Shop can come in to find bargains or to drop off their donations.

Visitors can learn more about the historic church and cemetery by visiting the small memorial site next to the building. Town staff members and Boy Scout Troop 496 installed fencing, an exhibit sign, a bench, and an oak tree in the cemetery.

Almost two hundred years after this little church was formed, it still serves an important role in our community: as a thrift shop that helps local churches and community members, and by providing a quiet, peaceful resting ground for some of Poolesville's earliest residents and the soldiers who lost their lives while serving our nation while encamped in Poolesville.

This article was completed with special appreciation of Dots Elgin and her book *The History of Poolesville*.

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A MONOCACY MOMENT Lost in Time



Former Poolesville mayor Howard W. Spurrier, in an old, undated newspaper clipping, points to the tombstone of the Rev. Thomas W. Green. It was embedded in the wall of the Old Methodist Episcopal Church (now the Friendly Thrift Store). Green was the church's first pastor who died in 1833, and it is reputed that he is buried under the space formerly occupied by a pulpit.

Read much more about the church and its history in our front-page story in this issue.

Musings by Mama Boe

Listen, Honey

By Pam Boe

We live in a little Sears Craftsman Kit Cottage, cute as a button, and tiny by today's home standards. This is a good thing because it's easy to keep neat, it's less expensive to heat, and it's got unique charm out the ying-yang. Listen Honey, if I'm going to have *anything* coming out of my ying-yang, I'd rather it be charm.

My husband and daughter built a winding paved brick path to my garden, and my son helped tamp our new sunken patio. It's been a family work-in-progress as long as we've lived here. We've graded and regraded our modest piece of land, and we've loved and nurtured it through many environmental crises. We've lost a lot of old trees, planted three times as many new ones, and last but not least, I've planted tulips, a *ka*gillion of them, all over my yard, especially up front by the road here on Peach Tree, in Dickerson.

Three autumns ago, I planted six hundred tulips. Two autumns ago, I planted another thousand. Last autumn, I planted *another* thousand! Listen Honey, when your husband buys you a super-duper, bulb-planting auger bit for the drill, you have to honor that! Some people honor with a "thank-you." I honor with ridiculously excessive overkill. Overkill is bold, yes, but if you make it ridiculously excessive overkill, not only are you redundant, but you make a STATEMENT that cannot be mistaken. Sure, I could go with thanks in moderation, but what if it wasn't

enough? I couldn't live with that, Man! I just couldn't! (Sorry I called you "Man.")

The people who use our little country road, vehicles and bicycles alike, love to pass by The Little Cottage in the spring. The profusion of flowers is just so beautiful. It makes all of those passersby smile. It makes me smile. It keeps me busy, and out of my husband's hair, so it makes *him* smile. It's a win-win-win. I didn't think it could get any better, frankly, until this Christmas. Grandma Janeyou remember Grandma Jane, right? Everyone knows Grandma Jane. If you don't know her, get *with it* already. Grandma Jane left a little package under the Christmas tree for me.

She made me, with her very own hands (and a soldering torch, glass pinchers, sandpaper, and a few other tortuous looking tools) a window charm of tulips. Listen honey, if you don't think this made me cry, you are sadly mistaken. The hours, and the thought, and the love it took to make this went far beyond the fleece socks I bought her from Walmart, I promise you.

The southern sun pierces through this sweet little charm every day, and I can't help but feel warm and fuzzy inside every time it catches my eye. And as we wait for the thousands of sleeping bulbs to awaken in the next couple of weeks, I find I'm not impatient as I used to be for their color to arrive. It was a heck of a gift, I tell you.

But now I have a new conundrum. How in the world am I going to adequately honor THIS gift? I'm baffled. Should I plant a few thousand tulips in *her* yard?

And about those Walmart socks....

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Remembrance

Douglas W. Cooley, Sr.

Douglas Ward Cooley, Sr., 49, died on February 21 from natural causes at his home in Barnesville. Doug had suffered for many years from an incurable disease called Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS). Doug was born on July 22, 1966, in Frederick. He owned and operated Cooley's Welding for many years until his illness. He is survived by his father and mother, Jack and Kitty Cooley; his sons Douglas Ward Cooley, Jr. and Jacob Carson Cooley; his sister and brother-in-law Lisa and Luke Fedders; his niece and nephew Megan and Zack Fedders; and his special Aunt Connie Scoggins.



Douglas W. Cooley, Sr.

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Top Ten List of Pet Toxins

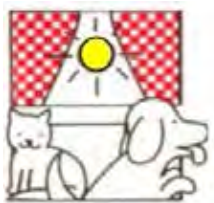
Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF, FASLMS

March is National Animal Poison Prevention Month. Last year, these top ten toxins were reported to the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center. Of great interest is that, for the first time, over-the-counter medications and supplements surpassed prescription medications to take the top spot on the 2015 list.

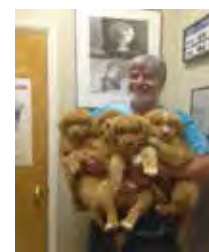
Here is a synopsis of the full list as reported by the ASPCA.

1. **Over the counter medications:** These include herbal and natural supplements which many people do not realize have toxic potential if given in excessive amounts. Over 28,500 cases were reported.
2. **Human prescription medications:** This group represented 16% of all cases. The types of medications to which pets were most often exposed correlated with the most popular medications prescribed to humans.
3. **Insecticides:** Insect poisons accounted for nearly 9% of all toxin report calls. More than 15,000 cases were reported. It is important to talk to your veterinarian before self-applying or spreading insecticides in an area pets inhabit, especially carpeting and bedding areas.
4. **Human foods:** Yes, human food ingestion to excess was number four on the list. The list was dominated by dogs over cats. The most common foods reported as toxins were onions, garlic, grapes, raisins, alcohol, and xylitol (sweetener in many gums). There were more than 14,600 cases reported.
5. **Household items:** These include cleaning products, fire logs, and paints. Over 14,000 cases were reported.
6. **Veterinary medications:** Overdoses of veterinary-prescribed medications represented 7% of the total cases reported. Chewable medications topped the list. Clients changing the amounts given without consulting their veterinarian was also a factor in many cases.
7. **Chocolate:** A pet over-ingestion favorite. No matter how much we talk about chocolate toxicity, pets and humans never learn. In order of toxicity, bakers' chocolate, dark chocolate, and milk chocolate are the main tasty dangers. White chocolate does not have any real chocolate in its recipe. This group averaged more than 30 cases per day in 2015.
8. **Plants:** Indoor and outdoor plants represented nearly 5% of the calls to the poison hot line. Most of the calls involved cats and houseplants. It is so important to learn about the potential toxic effects of a new plant in or around your home before you plant or bring inside.
9. **Rodenticides:** Rodent poisons are just as toxic to pets as to mice and rats. Over 8,100 cases were reported. The new generation of rodenticides can have toxic implications to normal blood clotting for extended periods (up to one year). It is very important to keep the label of any poison you use in a file so you have it handy to show to your veterinarian or to read off the label to poison control.
10. **Lawn and garden products:** This group includes herbicides and fungicides. This group made up 3% of all reported intoxication cases. Unfortunately, these products are often not stored in secure locations. While most pets will not eat these products directly, if the products get wet and leach into standing water sources, ingestion can easily occur.

Your veterinarian can be a valuable source of information before you consider using over-the-counter medications or other products on your pets. Pets and people do not always react to the same amount or kind of medications. Do not believe Dr. Google or your well-meaning neighbor. Trust your veterinary professional.



Poolesville Veterinary Clinic



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GET MAIL-IN REBATES UP TO \$140

DONE DEAL

Goodyear Visa® Prepaid Card by Mail-In Rebate with the purchase of a set of four select Goodyear tires on the Goodyear Credit Card between March 1 and May 31, 2016.

All offers with the Goodyear Credit Card are subject to credit approval. Mail-In Rebate paid in the form of a Goodyear Visa Prepaid Card. Get an up to \$70 Prepaid Card when you purchase or replace your tires up to \$140 when the purchase is made on the Goodyear Credit Card. Offer is \$10. Offer is available only on purchases between 03/01/16 - 05/31/16. One Goodyear Visa Prepaid Card per qualifying purchase. Prepaid Cards are issued by Citibank, N.A. pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. and managed by Citicard Services. Prepaid Cards will not have cash access and can't be used everywhere Visa debit cards are accepted. Base portion of rebate offered by Goodyear and double portion of rebate offered by Citibank, N.A. Rebate form must be postmarked no later than 06/30/16. Get a \$40 Prepaid Card or \$80 if purchase is made on the Goodyear Credit Card when you purchase a set of four of the following tires: Assurance Fuel Max, Assurance Fuel Max, Assurance All-Season, Eagle Sport All-Season, Wrangler Duratrac. Get a \$50 Prepaid Card or \$100 if purchase is made on the Goodyear Credit Card when you purchase a set of four of the following tires: Assurance TripleTred All-Season, Assurance TripleTred All-Season. Get a \$70 Prepaid Card or \$140 if purchase is made on the Goodyear Credit Card when you purchase a set of four of the following tires: Assurance ComfortTred Touring, Eagle F1 Asymmetric 2, Eagle F1 Asymmetric 3, Eagle F1 Asymmetric 3, Wrangler All-Terrain Adventure with Hinder, Wrangler MT/R with Hinder*. Additional terms and conditions apply. Ask participating retailer for complete details and rebate form.

Get a **\$70**
Rebate on a set of 4!
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Rebate on a set of 4!
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Get a **\$100**
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OR
Get a **\$80**
Rebate on a set of 4 with the Goodyear Credit Card!



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Offer expires 05/31/16. Mail-in rebate coupon to get this offer. Most vehicles. No other discounts apply. Will be deducted from participating retailer's price at the time of purchase. Up to 5 quarts of conventional oil for standard oil change. Premium oil change savings off regular price and includes up to 5 quarts of synthetic blend and full synthetic oil plus a filter for standard. Cartridge/washer filter and diesel oil extra. Fluid/Miles disposal charges may apply. Additional charge for shop supplies, up to 7% or \$15 maximum, may be added. Rebates at participating Goodyear Retailers only. See store for complete details. Special state exceptions: FL - Waste oil filter for reuse apply. CA - 12.99 fluid filter disposal fee applies but no additional charge for shop supplies applies. TX - no fluid disposal charges apply. NY - no fluid disposal or additional charge for shop supplies applies. Cash value 1/10¢.

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