

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

May 13, 2016 • Volume XII, Number 4



These girls had a sharp eye for a good deal at the Big Flea. See more event pictures in Family Album on page 2.



This boy's big fish was the big winner in the fishing tournament. Find out more in Tidbits on page 6.



Bassett's got in the historical spirit serving mid-1800s meals during Poolesville in History Day. See lots more pictures of the event on page 10.



Bernie Mihm (using a shovel) and helpers hard at work at another Rebuilding Together project. Read more in Local News on page 12.

The Sugarloaf Citizens Hold Their Annual Meeting

By John Clayton

The forty-fourth annual meeting of the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association was held at the organization's Linden Farm facility in Dickerson in front of a robust crowd of eager and involved devotees of Rural Density Transfer Zoning, aka the Agricultural Reserve.

President Beth Daly opened with her perceptions of down-county attitudes towards the Ag Reserve, which she garnered during her campaign for the Montgomery County Council. She said that many people didn't know that there is an Ag Reserve, "and many down-county residents resented it," saying that some said "we're running out of space we need for affordable housing." Daly reminded the attendees that "our mission at SCA matters," and that it remains imperative to remind people down-county "what's in it for them," and to promote the Ag Reserve whenever possible.

Daly highlighted the year's activities and accomplishments for the year. With regard to Greentree Development, formerly referred to as Barnesville Oaks, the SCA testified before the planning board in opposition to its decision



The PHS Bee Team, won a \$1,000 Piedmont Environmental Award.

to replace the original easement for an equestrian trail with a covenant for the trail. SCA testified in support of new resources for Poolesville High School, which is operating in an extremely old building. Attorneys Michele Rosenfeld and Jim Choukas-Bradley discussed the ongoing battle over the Global Mission mega-church off Route 109 near Sugarloaf Mountain, including a recent defeat in court when it was

ruled that the Frederick County Board of Appeals could not review the decision to allow the construction of the facility. Objections to the project center around the extensive sand mound septic system needed, and the SCA challenged the church's assumptions about the volume of sewage that would need to be treated.

Continued on page 19.

Local Historians Honored with First-Ever Whisper Awards

By Rande Davis

The first-ever Poolesville in History Day event included the inauguration of Historic Medley District, Inc.'s initial selection of honorees named to receive its annual Whisper Award. This award identifies and honors persons who have demonstrated personal dedication to safeguarding the knowledge and appreciation for the heritage of Poolesville and the Upcounty area. The name of the award comes from an observation that recorded history can be like a whispered message lost in the night or like a whisper in the ear from generation to generation. Honorees were chosen for their personal dedication and contribution to ensuring that local history is preserved for the many generations to follow.



Honorees of the first-ever Historic Medley District's Whisper Awards which recognize those who contribute to safeguarding history. Shown are Ed Brown, Winsome Brown, Dots Elgin, and Jim Poole. Gwen Reese was not present for the ceremony.

Continued on page 17.

Family Album



The Big Flea at...



...Whalen Commons

Town Government Report

Budget Attracts Little Attention at Public Hearing

By Link Hoewing

The Town of Poolesville commissioners had scheduled a public hearing on the budget for their May 2 meeting, but the hearing failed to elicit much comment on the issue by citizens. Instead, a number of residents appeared to once again press the commissioners to find ways to help older people and those with disabilities to remove snow that piles up at the end of driveways after snowplows move through neighborhoods.

Conrad Potemra appeared first, and while his comments largely concerned the issue of how to help those who cannot remove snow piled up at the ends of driveways by snowplows, he pointed first to a section of the budget that provided funding for the now-approved dog park. Mr. Potemra remarked that the park would cost \$60,000 to build, and he wondered how much of a priority elderly citizens are if some of that money can't be used instead to help pay for plowing out driveways that are blocked by snow. He proposed more creative methods of plowing in order to minimize the need for returning to individual driveways to remove snow.

Several commissioners and the town manager responded that the town does respond to calls from citizens who say they have physical ailments that prevent them from shoveling out their driveways. The town also has a list from past calls they have received and is always willing to help out citizens with needs who can't do their own shoveling. It was also noted, particularly by Commissioner Valaree Dickerson, that a wide array of citizens volunteer during snow storms to help those who cannot do their own shoveling.

Bob Roit appeared next to comment on the budget. He focused on the tax increase proposed in the budget (the second in as many years) and said he understood that infrastructure support has been cited as a major reason for the need for increased revenues. In response to this rationale, he said that the town has known that it has aging infrastructure for some time and should have planned better to address these needs. He questioned why the town would fund the dog park if the need for infrastructure repairs is so pressing. He speculated whether the commissioners are too interested in assuaging a vocal minority pressing for specific projects than they are about the larger majority of citizens

who would benefit from increased spending on infrastructure projects.

In specific sections of the budget, money is planned to be spent on economic development, public relations, and community events. Roit questioned whether citizens know how much benefit they receive from the \$100,000 that is to be allocated to these functions and said he saw no commentary in the budget explaining why the spending is helpful and useful. His overall point is that the town needs to better set its priorities and decide whether some expenditures—such as for the dog park—are as critical as other programs.

Commissioner Brice Halbrook responded that the town received a \$55,000 state grant that can only be allocated to parks, so most of the dog park funding is covered by monies from the state. Commission President Jim Brown said that if the town only authorized programs that served the majority of citizens, many worthwhile projects like some of the parks would never be built.

Lana Bragazinsky followed Mr. Roit and focused her remarks once again on the issue of driveways blocked by snowplowing. She is no longer able to clear her driveway and said her son is able to help out, but she knows many other citizens who are not so fortunate. She did acknowledge that during the blizzard this past winter she called town hall and employees were sent to clear her driveway. She praised the town for its responsiveness but said that a more organized effort needs to be coordinated.

Commissioner Chuck Stump said that the town has helped to sponsor a seniors committee that is active on a number of projects helping the elderly in Poolesville. He proposed that they be tasked with coming up with a list and a system for helping ensure that those who have needs for support in shoveling their drives get that support. Other commissioners supported the idea and noted that the churches and other civic groups also help during snowstorms and could be a part of the project.

Town Engineer John Strong appeared next and presented a report about the RFP (request for proposals) recently released for the building of a concrete pad and sidewalk in the new

Continued on page 9.

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Commentary

No Quarter

By John Clayton

This past week, I attended the annual meeting of the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association which you can read about in this issue. As always, I am impressed by the number of people and the diversity of talents that it takes to keep the Agricultural Reserve alive.

The group passed out a newspaper article from a Florida newspaper, the *Palm Beach Post*, which compared its own version of an agricultural reserve with our world-famous version here in Montgomery County. Needless to say, it served to support the ongoing message of preservation in our area, but that was the point of being at the meeting, so it seemed appropriate. In a nutshell, Palm Beach County has been significantly less successful in defending its open land, and the summary presented in the meeting was the familiar one of fragmentation, where what seem like small and reasonable changes and allowances create precedents for more small changes and allowances. It is a familiar story, and the SCA and other preservation groups have been preaching about the death of a thousand cuts that will result from seemingly innocuous encroachments. We all know the story well. In many cases, groups like SCA or the Montgomery County Alliance must be the curmudgeons that complain about everything. Having the strong curmudgeons on your side appears to work.

The article and some others I accessed online have noted some issues perhaps specific to Palm Beach County, such as the rreserve's closeness to the ocean and tourist areas, its smaller size relative to the entire county, and a smaller lot size requirement. It has been more broken up, and, in general, the push

for commercial development has been more successful.

I do not mean to suggest that evil is afoot here. Certainly different areas are going to reach different conclusions. Without belaboring the details, Florida developers have gained some traction complaining that the rules prevent them from developing anything at all which, of course, some preservationists might say was the idea. Rules that many thought would be more successful in limiting development have been less successful than predicted, and many feel it has undermined the goal of wide open land for agriculture. It would appear that neither side is happy or feels its goals are being satisfied, but the preservation side can make the point that when open land is gone, it's gone for good.

Some other familiar voices are heard in Palm Beach County. People who had agricultural or other commercial ventures that predate the establishment of the reserve find it difficult to continue or expand, or they find access to resources more expensive. A refrain that "this is my land and someone else is telling me what I can or cannot do with it" resonates there as well as it has here. The article quotes a reference to the "unintended consequences" of opening land to limited commercialization, but those who are trying to make a living with the desired agricultural pursuits, also find themselves the victims of unintended consequences.

In the end, or at least where we are now, it seems there's no middle road to preserving open land. The little fights matter. As Beth Daly reminded the annual meeting attendees, and someone reminds them of the same thing every year, if the people who do not live in the Ag Reserve don't value it, then it's a long slippery slope that leads to sprawl. There will be changes as we go on—a little here and a little there—some development is fitting and proper—but protecting the big picture so that it can last for a long time is a fulltime job.

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The Monocacy MONOCLE

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Things To Do

Save the Date: June 4

Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre presents: *Aladdin and His Magic Lamp*. PHS auditorium. 1:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

May 14

8th Annual Sugarloaf Citizens' Association's Plant Swap

Buy, sell, swap, or give away. Learn what grows well locally and share garden wisdom with neighbors. Leafgro available. Rain or shine. *Linden Farm, 20900 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson.* 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

May 15

Focus Music Series at Sanctuary Retreat Center

Next concert: **Ruthie & the Ranglers** (plus open mic showcase). \$12. *Am Kolel's Sanctuary Retreat Center, 19520 Darnestown Rd., Beallsville.* 3:00 p.m.

May 19

Poolesville Library

Special Event: Teddy Bear's Picnic

Enjoy a storytime all about bears with music, rhymes, songs, books, and a craft. After storytime, we will walk to Whalen Commons and have a picnic! Bring your own lunch. The library will supply apple juice, water, and fruit. 10:30 a.m.

May 20

PASC Special Event:

Take Me Out to the Ballgame!

Frederick Keys game and fireworks. Bus transportation and before-game meal. Call 301-875-7701 for more information.

May 20 to 22

Barnesville Baptist Church Revival Services

With Salvation Army evangelists Brian and Loretta Gilliam. Visit facebook.com/barnesvillebaptist church. 17917 *Barnesville Road, Barnesville.* Friday: 7:00 p.m.; Saturday: 10:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.—Breakout sessions and lunch; Sunday: 10:45 a.m. Worship Service.

May 21

6th Annual Springfest at Whalen Commons

Beer- and wine-tasting tent, blues, local artisans, BBQ, and mechanical bull; plus face-painting, climbing wall, and moon bounce for kids. \$20 for twelve tickets and souvenir glass; \$10 buys five tickets and souvenir glass. Rain or shine. 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

May 22

Sanctuary Retreat Center's 10th Anniversary Celebration!

Come celebrate Sanctuary Retreat Center's continuing commitment to interfaith relations, social justice, environment, lifecycle celebrations, spirituality and wellness, and music with workshops, silent auction, world music, kids' activities, fun outdoors, crafts, and more. Food for sale! Join us for a fun-filled and spirited afternoon. Suggested donation \$10; youth 12 and under free. Teens and college students: \$5. *Am Kolel's Sanctuary Retreat Center, 19520 Darnestown Rd., Beallsville.* 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Have an event you'd like to list here?

Send it to:

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Tidbits

PHS Students Rock at History Competition!

The Maryland State National History Day Competition took place at UMBC on Saturday, May 7. Poolesville High School students Claire Jensen and Julia Fisher won first place in the senior group performance category offering their project entitled "Double Crossed by the Double Helix: Rosalind Franklin and Her Role



History Contest Winners: Megan Tatum, Alice Walker, Mackenzie Gross, Claire Jensen, and Julia Fisher.

in the Discovery of the Structure of DNA." The victories for PHS didn't stop there, though. Alice Walker and Megan Tatum won second place in the same category for their project "Running Out of Time: The Forgotten Polish Exchange of Enigma." Then to put the icing on the cake, Mackenzie Gross won second place in the senior individual performance category for her project, "Charlie Chaplin and His Immigration to America." All this means they will all be moving on to the National (and final) competition in June at College Park.

As the old saying goes: You go, girl(s)!

Finders Keepers, Losers—Sometimes Win, Too

The woman approached the man with the microphone at the recent Poolesville in History Day telling him that she had found a sizable amount of money and could he make an announcement to find who lost it. The announcement was made and no one came forward. That would have been enough for most people, even the most honest, but this woman held a lot of empathy for the one who lost the money. She went to the teller at the BB&T bank in whose parking lot the money was found. The woman turned it over to teller Cara Fleming hoping that perhaps the owner would inquire there.

No one came forward that day, but two days later, Greg Shores, who knew the person who had lost the money, happened to make note of the incident to Cara, and lo and behold, one thing led to another, and the money was returned to the owner.

An honest person may have decided just to keep the money once no one came forward. The finder, though, was even more than simply honest. She was deeply concerned for the loser of the money and had gone a step further. We don't want to embarrass anyone, but this woman is a reassuring example of honesty and goodness in these sometimes uncertain times. We think you should know her, and her family should be proud of her. Thanks, Margaret Beliveau, for giving us back a nice piece of faith in the goodness of humankind.



Mr. and Mrs. Wolfe

Announcing Mr. and Mrs. Wolfe

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Doug and Rhonda Wolfe who were newly wed on Saturday, April 23. The bride is the daughter of Teresa and Ross Meem, and the groom's mother, Nancy Wolfe, is from Easton, Maryland. Ross is the president of the Board of Directors of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department (UMCVFD). The couple were wed at Dickerson United Methodist Church, and the wedding reception was held in the reception hall at the UMCVFD firehouse in Beallsville.

Big Plans for Poolesville Area Senior Center

Members of the Poolesville Area Senior Center have been busy planning wonderful events for those over fifty-five living in the region. Next up, though, is a great event for all the members of a senior's family: an evening at the Frederick Keys stadium!




This good ol' fashioned take-me-out-to-the-ballgame outing is scheduled for May 20. As a bonus to the wonderful evening of watching the nation's pastime and some up-and-coming major leaguers, the \$35.00-per-person fee includes a light meal on the bus and being treated to fireworks after the game. Email pvilleseiors@comcast.net to join in. Oh, did we mention there will be peanuts and Crackerjacks available at the concession stand, too?

Annual Town Fishing Tournament Is Another Big Hit

Through the hard word and dedication of Preston King, Cathy Bupp, and Bobbi Evans, along with other town staff, the 26th Annual Richard S. McKernon Fishing Tournament at Poolesville's Stevens Park was another rousing success. Brody Leibrand was the overall winner, reeling in a twenty-one incher to take top prize.



The winners of the 26th annual Richard McKernon fishing tournament.

			
	6-8-year-olds		
1st	Connor Noonan	18¼-inch channel cat	
2nd	Laney Franklin	18-inch channel cat	
3rd	Madison Phillips	most fish caught	
	9-11-year-olds		
1st	Lana Noonan	18¼-inch channel cat	
2nd	Patrick Jeffers	17¼-inch channel cat	
3rd	Jackie Stoliker	most fish caught	
	12-13-year-olds		
1st	Isaac Feny	18½-inch channel cat	
2nd	Jaylen Riggs	15¼-inch channel cat	

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Local News

First-Ever Poolesville in History Day a Success

By Rande Davis

Despite heavy rains preceding the weekend, the skies cleared, and the first-ever Poolesville in History Day launched with fourteen exhibitors, including a spectacular full-sized Civil War military observation balloon, the type used by Prof. Thaddeus Lowe at Edwards Ferry in December of 1861 to monitor Confederate movements from Leesburg to Chantilly. Movie buffs may also note that Professor Lowe was the conceptual model for the balloon-traveling professor in the *Wizard of Oz*.

Kevin Knapp (U.S. Army Captain, retired), pilot of the balloon who portrayed Professor Lowe, with the aid of an able assistant and over twenty local residents, raised his full-sized replica with the passenger basket unattached to the balloon, which was kept to the side rather than under the balloon.

The event was a fundraiser on behalf of the Historical Medley District, Inc., the guardians of the local historical sites that include the John Poole House, the Old Town Hall Bank Museum, and the living history Seneca Schoolhouse.

Visitors were treated to various exhibits presenting information on local historical sites and groups in the region including the C&O Canal and Monocacy Aqueduct, Monocacy Cemetery, and Sugarloaf Regional Trails. Poolesville's Jack Toomey presented a display and answered questions about the integration of Poolesville schools and the great fires of downtown Poolesville. Heritage Montgomery representative Sarah L. Rogers was on hand to present information on the county organization that does so much to preserve and present our county's history.

The history of Seneca Schoolhouse was presented by Emily Ware and Laura Davis with help from John Poole Middle School students Peri Chalk, Eileen Lee, Sophia Gavril, Aria Grimsby, and Sienna Grimsby.

Visitors also were treated to displays about the Ship's Company, the crew of the U.S.S. Constellation permanently docked at the harbor in Baltimore, and a display by Rico Newman from the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. Docents representing the Battle of Ball's Bluff offered displays about the battle which occurred just a few miles south of White's Ferry landing. A Confederate encampment was built by a group led by

Poolesville's Steve Krasner. The Hess family from Poolesville, Pat, Larry and son Dan, authenticated the day in mid-1800s apparel with Pat handing out homemade cookies to visitors. Dan, while portraying a Union soldier, provided musket-firing demonstrations. Poolesville's Gregg Shores, attired as a Confederate military doctor, presented lectures about Poolesville's role in the Civil War in the Bank Museum.

Upon arrival, visitors were greeted by historically-attired Sally and Bill Lermond along with Joyce Woo. Downtown in the Old Town Hall Bank Museum was hosted by student Kaley Fisher and docent Susan Petro. Susan is the author of the historical downtown tour guide which was provided to visitors to the town historical sites. Suzanne Tallia hosted the John Poole House attired just as the real Mrs. John Poole, Jr. would have been dressed.

Members of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department, along with a fire engine provided by Eric Fessenden of First in Fire Company, a company that rents a real fire engine for festive occasions (weddings, parades, parties, etc.), thrilled children with a chance to hop aboard a real firetruck. Of course, they were there to honor the history of our local volunteer fire department. Dan Carr of Beallsville Garage loaned his fully-restored horse-drawn school bus carriage on which kids enjoyed having their picture taken. The staff at Bassett's Restaurant really got in the historical mood by offering a menu of mid-1800s selections including the soldier's staple, hard tack (think oversized brutally-hard saltine cracker) and goober peas (known today as peanuts in a shell). The staff graciously served the luncheon crowd in historical attire.

Due to the death of John Robert Johnson, a beloved member of its community, the Sugarland Ethno History Project, which interprets the lives of the African-Americans of Poolesville from the days of slavery to early twentieth century life, had to withdraw from the day's festivities.

Morning and afternoon onstage presentations included lectures about the Native American life in our area, especially of the Piscataways (Rico Newman), the nearby Battle of Ball's Bluff by Bill Wilkens, the role of the U.S.S. Constellation by Commander Larry Bopp and its re-enactment crew, the Ship's Company, and a brief history of the C&O Canal and Monocacy Aqueduct by Park Ranger Breana Athey. Attendees came from as far away as Olney, Germantown, Gaithersburg, and Potomac to join local

Continued on page 9.



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Local News

A Renewed Poolesville Relay Life

By Sarah Hau Eisen

Kim Hawkins is no stranger to cancer. After seeing multiple family members and friends afflicted with the disease, she knew the toll it could take on patients and their families. It wasn't until she heard a doctor tell her husband, "It's cancer," that she truly understood the weight of a diagnosis. "I can't remember what our lives were like before this because this has become the norm. Cancer wasn't new to me, but it was a new experience being a caregiver." Upon hearing about the diagnosis, Kim's mother-in-law invited her to the Poolesville Relay for Life, a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society that celebrates survivors of cancer and encourages communities to fight back against the disease. "It was like a family reunion," Kim recalls.

Gathering up the baton of concern passed by the previous leadership, Kim, its new chair, and her team of dedicated volunteers are busy planning

the 2016 Relay for Life, being held at Whalen Commons the first weekend in June. Devoting every moment of spare time to planning the event, the Relay committee works tirelessly to raise funds, increase community participation, and find support from local businesses and organizations. Although many committee members have been with the event from the beginning, every Relay is different, and this year is no exception. The committee is focusing on getting the word out that RFL is an inclusive event. They stress that you don't have to be a survivor, caregiver, or even to have known someone with cancer to be a participant. Relay is also about supporting friends, neighbors, local businesses, and the Poolesville community as a whole. Although the committee encourages interested community members to sign up online prior to the event (registration is free), day-of walk-ins will also be welcome to enjoy the entertainment, food, and community at this year's Relay for Life, including local talents Zack Etheridge, Donnie Wood and the Front Porch Boys, Jason Hawkins, and Smiles for Miles face painting. As Kim puts it, the event "comforts your soul."

Continued from page 3.

Public Hearing

dog park. A number of bids had been received and the lowest came from Hispania Paving. The company is reputable and often does smaller projects like the dog park. The pad would support a pavilion that will be part of the park and added that the pavilion is slated to be erected in mid-June. The bid from Hispania Paving was approved on a 4-to-1 vote with Commissioner Klobukowski, who has consistently opposed the construction of the park, voting against the proposal.

In the town manager's report, Wade Yost pointed out that town engineer John Strong had, after many weeks of phone calls and contact efforts, finally spoken to a deputy in the District Engineer's office for the State of Maryland about the town's interest in improving the safety of its crosswalks as was made plain to state officials who toured the town almost a year ago. The assistant said in response that she had put in a request for some improved signage

recently, but it appeared little headway had been made in procuring needed funds for better crosswalk protections and signage.

Concerning the possibility of the town taking over control of Fisher Avenue (Route 107) through the middle of town, the assistant said that the town would have to assume control of the roadway from the intersection of Routes 107 and 109 all the way out to Route 28.

An exasperated Jim Brown said that he "could not think of a bigger slap in the face from a state or county official" than the manner in which the town has been treated on both the issue of crosswalk safety and the possibility of transferring control over state roads to the town. Strong said a meeting must be arranged between the town and Brian Young, the district engineer for state roads. Commissioner Klobukowski suggested that the town contact the governor's deputy for intergovernmental relations to help expedite a meeting, and the suggestion was accepted.

Continued from page 8.

Poolesville in History Day a Success

residents, resulting in an estimated attendance of around seven hundred.

Local historians, Dots Elgin, Gwen Reese, Jim Poole, and Ed and Winsome Brown, were honored in recognition

for their role in maintaining the historical record of our area by receiving the first ever Whisper Award, which is and will be presented to individuals who pass on local history from generation to generation, ear to ear.

The plan is to develop the festival into an annual event.

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POOLESVILLE IN HISTORY DAY

A Journey through the Timeline of Our Past



Photograph by Terri Pitt



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Local News

Rebuilding Together Completes Another Mission

By Ray Hoewing

Saturday April 30 was a misty and gray day, but the spirit of the thirty-eight volunteers who assembled on the lawn of a Poolesville townhouse was bright and sunny. They came together under the auspices of the local Christian service organization, Helping Hands Poolesville, Inc. (HHP), to renovate a residence that had fallen into a state of disrepair of an income-qualified family. It was the annual Rebuilding Together project that has occurred almost every year in the Upcounty since the early 1990s.

Balancing cups of java and fresh donuts in their hands, they began with a briefing by House Captain Joe Hetrick of Chrisler Homes who identified a range of tasks that needed to be completed by the end of the day, including an almost-complete rebuilding of the kitchen (new cabinets and countertops, replacement of dishwasher and various plumbing and electrical repairs), replacement of several screens, and repairs on windows and doors.

As a crew of carpenters and helpers began grabbing their tools, a larger group of volunteers began the makeover of landscaping in both front and back yards, including sod laying, and planting and mulching of various shrubs and flowers. A father/son combination, Jim and Danny Burton of Poolesville Presbyterian Church, tore down and rebuilt a backyard storage



Joe Hetrick gives the volunteers their marching orders for another successful Rebuilding Together project.

shed, and another team took on the removal and replacement of the broken-down back fence. All outside work was supervised by Assistant House Captain Bernie Mihm of Fine Earth Landscaping.

The last workers left the site late in the afternoon with the blessings of an ecstatic family. Craig Cummins, president of HHP and member of Our Lady of the Presentation Catholic Church, accepted the plaudits of the homeowners but said the volunteers were the ones who felt most blessed in having the opportunity to serve. "This probably was one of the most challenging projects we have ever faced, and the outcome makes our satisfaction all that much greater."

Helping Hands is supported and financed mostly by donations from Poolesville Baptist Church, Memorial United Methodist Church, Our Lady of the Presentation Catholic Church, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Hosanna Worship Center, and Poolesville Presbyterian Church. The donations, along with a grant from Rebuilding Together Montgomery County, are used for costs of all Rebuilding Together projects. HHP is a completely-volunteer organization.

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Youth Sports

Ten Wins and a Division Title, Too

By Jeff Stuart

"We have had a great season," said girls' lacrosse coach Brittany Hilton. "Beating Blake in our last regular season game gave us ten wins. We won the West Division, beating Northwest, Quince Orchard, Watkins Mill, Clarksburg, Gaithersburg, and Seneca Valley. It has been fun watching the girls grow as a team, continuously challenging themselves to get better during every practice and game. Senior Casey Harkins (midfield) had 46 goals, 30 assists, and 42 draw controls, senior Christina Hilton (midfield) had 23 goals, 28 assists, and 42 draw controls, and junior Sophia Mense (attack) had 31 goals, 6 assists, and 15 draw controls." "I wasn't nervous" said senior Anne Mustafa about her first year in goal for varsity after two years on JV. "I was just ready to walk on and do my best, but it is definitely stressful. When a shot goes in, sometimes it is hard to keep my confidence up, but my teammates always cheer me on. That gives me the heart to keep trying my hardest. I think I have gotten better during the season. We work really hard in practice. We see from games what didn't work too well, and we work on that—and each day we improve more and more." Anne had fourteen saves in the win over Northwest.

"I think our best game of the season was QO because we played a full fifty minutes," said senior defenseman Carley Kenly. PHS beat Quince Orchard, 15-4. "Everybody contributed. Our strength is teamwork. We pass the ball well. We challenge each other in practice, and the big highlight of

this season is being division champs." "In the QO game, everyone really came out with heart," said senior attack Jessie Martinez "We worked really well together. We definitely have come very far since we lost our opener at home against Damascus. I think that loss definitely sank in with all of us and made us realize that, Okay, this is our season; we want to win. That was a wake-up call and a motivator."




"Our season has been great so far," said senior midfielder Christina Hilton. "We have all put in a lot of effort since day one, and we are really working hard towards the playoffs now." Christina scored four goals against both Watkins Mill and Seneca Valley. She had four assists and a goal in the win over QO.

"I think this team has more heart than any team I have played on," said senior midfielder Casey Harkins. "We work hard in practice, and we don't slack off. That shows in games. Even if we lose, we always have our heads up, and we are determined to work harder the next day in practice. The Churchill game was a very meaningful game even though we lost, 16-11, because they have been solid competitors ever since I have been here. We have always worked hard to try and beat them. I am looking forward to the playoffs. If we keep pushing, I think we will make it far." Casey scored an amazing total of thirteen goals in a 19-14 win at Northwest. She scored seven against both Magruder and Gaithersburg, and five against Churchill.

Juniors are Samme Mullikin, Maddie Miller, Emily Yin, Beckah Trainor, Delaney Cecco, Julia Montone, Madi Peyton, Kate Heimbach, Carmela Wasilik, and Sophia Mense. Sophomores are Bridgette Hammett, Haley Harkins, Cubby Schmidt, Hannah Bush, Andrea Johnson, and Rachel Johnson. Freshmen are Rachel Bupp and Sarah Mullikin.



Jessie Martinez, Carley Kenly, Christina Hilton, Casey Harkins, and Anne Mustafa.

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"Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." – Matthew 25:40

Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Theft from vehicle: 22200 block of Beallsville Road.

Past Crime

May 13, 1898 The county council rejected the petition of Howard Emmons who requested that he be awarded half of the fines that had been assessed during the recent crack-down on violators of the local option law. Emmons had been quite active in turning in names and places of where intoxicants were being sold and consumed.

May 15, 1889 The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad left a carload of Italian workers on the siding track at Rockville. They were given a few days off from their labor; however, the citizens of Rockville were uneasy about this development and complained to the constable to be on alert.

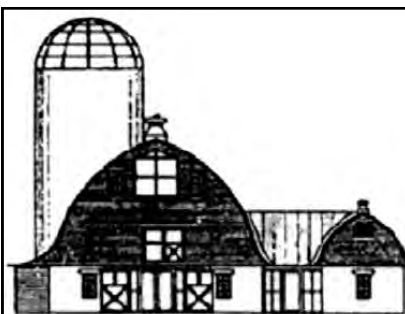
May 19, 1897 Harry Heftler was struck and killed by a train near Halpine. There were no witnesses, and it was presumed that the

unfortunate man had been walking on the railroad tracks when overcome by an approaching train.

May 22, 1899 The body of Peter Fletcher was found in the C&O Canal at Great Falls. Fletcher's hands and feet were bound with rope. It was learned that Fletcher had visited Great Falls with two other men some days before and nothing had been seen of Fletcher since. At the insistence of Fletcher's mother, the canal was dragged and eventually the body was found.

May 23, 1893 Martinsburg, six miles from Poolesville, was the scene of a tragic affair. John Stevens and Earnest Talbot lived on adjoining farms in Martinsburg. A year before, Talbot had eloped with Stevens's daughter, and Stevens swore that if he ever saw Talbot on his property he would kill him. On the day in question, Talbot was working on his fields when he developed a thirst and took a bucket to a spring on the Stevens property. Stevens saw him, retrieved a pistol, and shot Talbot, inflicting a probably-fatal wound.

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



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Beth Daly, President

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8th Annual Community Plant Swap Saturday, May 14th, 10 am-1 pm, Rain or Shine Linden Farm, 20900 Martinsburg Rd., Dickerson, MD

Bring your plants, or come without. It's a great way to find out what grows well locally, and to share garden wisdom with your neighbors.

It's your choice; you can buy, sell, swap, or give away. In past years, neighbors have brought seedlings, seeds, plants, divisions, flowers, veggies, brambleberries, shrubs, saplings, pots, garden gear, tools, a small used garden pond, pump included... as long as it relates to gardening.

Need some Leafgro? We will have it available, in bags, for a small donation to Sugarloaf Citizens' Association. There will be simple compost bins, as well. (Unfamiliar with composting? There will be people to ask with lots of experience!)

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"Gardening is cheaper than therapy—and you get tomatoes!" (author unknown)

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Garden

An Historic Arboretum

By Maureen O'Connell

Tucked away from the main street in Poolesville, behind the log and frame John Poole House, grows a garden that time and people have forgotten: the Edward L. Stock, Jr. Memorial Arboretum. This collection of shrubs, trees, herbs, and perennials, indigenous to western Montgomery County before 1850, was started in 1976 by nurseryman and landscape designer Edward L. Stock, Jr.; he designed the garden and was its major planter. After graduating from Cornell University in 1929, he returned home to Bethesda, and with his brother Steve Stock, started a nursery and landscape business, Stock Brothers, Inc. They later moved from Bethesda to Rockville in 1946, then to Beallsville in 1961. Today the Four Streams Golf Club occupies this land.

In 1974, Historic Medley District (HMD) Inc. purchased and restored the John Poole House (JPH), built in 1793 and the oldest building in Poolesville. A .83 acre lot surrounded the house, and for Mr. Stock, it became his vocation to develop an arboretum stocked with plants brought to the Poolesville area by early settlers and plants native to the environment.

He did extensive research with the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., the Montgomery County Men's Garden Club, and horticulturists working in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia to find plants that were hardy, low maintenance, and that would thrive in Poolesville's climate. They would also be the type of plants that a shopkeeper would have grown in his backyard. He searched for such plants on the banks of the Potomac River, along the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and in the woods of neighboring Sugarloaf Mountain. He formed a list of several hundred trees, shrubs, vines, and perennials indigenous to the area.

A garden for a general store owner in upper Montgomery County in the late eighteenth century was built for utilitarian purposes as opposed to a garden for pleasure. This was equally true for gardens in medieval times throughout continental Europe. There is not a clear delineation between these two types of gardens, but it is clear that some parts of some gardens were intended primarily to delight the senses and others for their end products. The kitchen or utilitarian garden contained food and medicinal plants as well as plants for covering floors, quelling insect bites, and other household purposes. Garden beds would be raised and edged with boards or woven willow reeds to improve drainage.

Starting in 1976, Stock planted thirty-seven varieties of deciduous trees and shrubs, evergreen trees and shrubs, native vines, and perennials for shade and sun. Each year, more plants were added. Among the list were: silver maple, hackberry, persimmon, black walnut, pin oak, American linden, dogwood, sweetbay magnolia, Virginia pine, American holly, mountain laurel, witch hazel, black haw, elderberry, spicebush, Virginia creeper, butterfly weed, blue false indigo, joe pie weed, wild cranesbill, daylily, Jerusalem artichoke, black-eyed Susan, liverwort, cardinal flower, May apple, and Dutchman's breeches.

In the JPH Arboretum, there is a raised-bed herb garden, designed by Sue MacGregor and expanded by herbalist Kandi M. Bolton. It is divided into six separate plots, and as far back as medieval times, herb gardens were divided into different parts for different purposes: dyer's garden, culinary garden, fragrance garden, and medicinal garden. For many centuries, people dyed their own cloth using plants that they grew. They experimented to find which ones could provide different color hues. The culinary garden provided herbs that could flavor salads, meats, fish, and vegetables. The fragrance garden could delight the senses, and the flowers could be used in sachets and potpourris. The medicinal garden would have been very



The arboretum at the John Poole House.

important to John Poole and his family. Since medieval times, people from the king to the peasant farmer looked to herbs and flowers to treat and hopefully cure illnesses. You could find a variety of plants grown for all of these uses. Among them were: calliopsis, lady's bedstraw, safflower, basil, anise, caraway, dill, coriander, chives, rosemary, thyme, garlic, tarragon, oregano, comfrey, horehound, sunflower, lady's mantle, yarrow, rue, queen of the meadow, and mullein. Today, we can still find these plants in our gardens.

Ed Stock, one of the oldest professional plantmen in the Washington metropolitan area, died in 1991. His obituary mentioned that he valued longevity and historic authenticity in gardening. "We should take the word perennial literally," he used to say, meaning that when we plant a perennial, whether a Shasta daisy or a red

Continued on page 17.



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Continued from page 1.

Local Historians Honored with First-Ever Whisper Awards

The 2016 Whisper Award honorees were:

Dots Elgin, historian, author, Monocacy Cemetery record-keeper, and honorary First Lady of Poolesville. She has preserved the knowledge of local history through a detailed series of scrapbooks that hold the news clippings from newspapers and other printed sources that date back to the early 1950s. The scrapbooks are a collection of the news reports about the people of the Poolesville area for over sixty-six years. She is also the official record keeper of Beallsville's Monocacy Cemetery, author of a book on the homes and buildings of Poolesville, and the wife of the late Charles E. Elgin, Sr., a long-serving town commission president of Poolesville. At a robust and vigorous ninety-six years of age, Dots has earned the well-deserved title of First Lady of Poolesville.

Winsome and Ed Brown were both recipients of the Whisper Award for their separate but equally impressive contributions to preserving the history of the Poolesville area.

Winsome, as a co-founder along with the late Mary Ann Kephart of the Historic Medley District, Inc. (HMD), is recognized for the importance of her contribution in founding HMD and its role in preserving the historical record and legacies of upper Montgomery County and the preservation of its cherished and iconic historical buildings, the John Poole Jr. House, the one-room, living history Seneca Schoolhouse on River Road, and the Old Town Hall Bank Museum in the center of Poolesville. The John Poole House also has an historical arboretum on its grounds.

Ed's legacy is for his ownership and preservation of White's Ferry from the late 1940s to today. The ferry dates back to the late 1700s and was a major contributor to the region's successful development of commerce, and its users were witnesses to the deep and broad history of the Upcounty area. White's Ferry, previously named Conrad's Ferry, is the last of a large network of river ferries that played a vital role in the development of commerce in the State of Maryland.

Jim Poole has been a passionate historian documenting the impressive history of upper Montgomery County. His work includes a nearly-innumerable amount of artifacts salvaged from the area's soil through his years of metal detecting as a hobby. Jim has also documented local history through his beautifully-done paintings of the area during the Civil War based on maps of that time, creation of a detailed model of the John Poole House, and his research and writings in great detail of the history of the local area through exhaustive research.

Gwendolyn Reese, as founder and president of the Sugarloaf Ethno History Project (SEHP), has been a major contributor of the preservation of the history and heritage of the African-American community that has resided in the nearby Sugarland neighborhood from before the Civil War, during the time when it was protected by the Union's General Stone during the Civil War and into the early 1900s. The detailed history and records maintained by SEHP have become a living monument to the importance and significant historical contribution to the Upcounty by the African-American families of the area through many generations.

Continued from page 16.

An Historic Arboretum

maple, we should be able to expect it to live for a long, long time—at least as long as the gardener.

As I have said many times, a garden lives in a state of constant evolution. Even with low-maintenance plants, however, a garden will not continue to thrive without the care of a gardener. Nature can work very fast to undo what you have carefully done. Sadly, the garden behind the John Poole House was neglected for many years, and many of the beautiful flowers, herbs, shrubs, and trees that Ed Stock planted died. Now HMD is in the process of reclaiming this garden and bringing it back to its former glory. There are new raised beds, a pergola, and new plantings, but much more work has to be done. At the Poolesville in History Day on May 7, I spoke about our Capital Campaign and asked for your financial support. We need your help. I also would like to establish a Friends of the Arboretum group to help maintain our garden. No experience necessary, just the determination to help HMD make it a showplace garden for the residents of Poolesville and our many visitors.

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Continued from page 1.

The Sugarloaf Citizens' Meeting

The SCA also supported a successful effort to prevent the Montgomery County Public Schools from building a solar farm on the old organic farm along Brickyard Road in Potomac, which would have taken productive farmland out of use. Daly also talked about the inaugural essay contest at Poolesville High School, where students wrote about the impact of living in the Ag Reserve. Student Ron Domingo won the first contest—another will be held this year.

Jim Brown (the environmental activist, not the Poolesville commissioner) spoke about the ever-unpopular second crossing over the Potomac River and through the Ag Reserve. Virginia had again pressed for a new study to support a crossing, and Brown shared an account of a meeting with Maryland Secretary of Transportation Pete Rahn where the study issue was spiked when it was determined that such a project would benefit Dulles Airport to the detriment of BWI-Marshall Airport. That, plus the lack of funds, re-killed the un-killable beast one more time.

Hamm Hough of the Boyds Citizens' Association discussed the incipient traffic light at Route 117 and Route 121 next to the CSX bridge that carries MARC trains through Boyds. State Del. David Fraser-Hidalgo was praised for his robust support of this effort. Apparently, the driving force is the prospect of more and more traffic from Clarksburg development, not only passing through but also driving to the Boyds MARC Station which is expected to be the station of choice for Clarksburg residents. The Boyds station has a total of eighteen parking spaces, so this needs to be addressed as well. The absence of consistent broadband service in all areas of the Upcounty was also brought up. SCA continues to provide leadership on this issue and will host a community meeting on the topic in the near future.

The keynote speaker was the Chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board, Casey Anderson. He opened by asking that it be noted that he was not just from the Planning Board, but from Park and Planning—the former generally eliciting a warmer reception. Following up on the bridge issue, he took a potshot at those who think Virginia is some sort of low-tax, pro-development paradise. He said the bridge issue is a major factor in our economic futures, and that the sprawl that we see in Virginia is a perfect example of a path we do not want to pursue. He asked, "Is the future of Montgomery County to be a bedroom community for Tysons

Corner?" He said the problem—and the common enemy—is sprawl. "We don't want to be Fairfax." Casey also observed that Virginia's pushing for a bridge reflects the fact that the river belongs to Maryland, which means we build the bridge, and they just connect roads to it.

Casey also discussed the progress of deer management practices and said that the data indicate decline in the deer population. The Emerald Ash borer pest is an issue that the board is addressing, but it would take millions of dollars to take down all the affected trees which are a proven hazard. He alluded briefly to a zoning text amendment that affects development rights for farm tenant dwellings but deferred an in-depth discussion due to the complexity of the issue. He talked about farmland acquisitions for parks, the impending Clarksburg Town Center development, changes in office space demand that have confounded assumptions built into our master plans, a buyer for the Comsat facility, other Germantown and Clarksburg developments, and the Boyds MARC Station. He also mentioned the debate over a zoning text amendment for water and sewer hookups in the Glenn Hills Subdivision in Potomac which he said would have significance for how such issues are handled countywide in the future.

Following an update on Ten Mile Creek watershed protection from Jay Cinque, Del. David Fraser-Hidalgo gave an update on progress at the state level. These included the reauthorization of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Act, deer management efforts, more on MARC parking in Boyds, money for I-270 (\$100 million, a "drop in the bucket"), the Corridor Cities Transitway, more rail lines, the Purple Line and the costs passed back to the counties, Program Open Space, and the statewide fracking moratorium. Fraser-Hidalgo was praised for being a stalwart supporter of issues critical to the Upcounty and the Ag Reserve.

The always-popular Piedmont Awards for school projects were presented following several excellent presentations by students from Col. E. Brooke Lee Middle School (\$500 award for Global learning and observations to benefit the environment, presented by teacher Brent Hull with Sawiros Abebe and Daniel Isyono), Gaithersburg Elementary School (\$500 for a flowerbed project, presented by teacher Angie Wagner), and Poolesville High School (\$1000 for a beekeeper project, presented by teacher Dan Savino with Uma Krishnan, Kartik Krishnan, Jessica Bleich, and Jack Beautz).

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Remembrances

Norman Clarence Miller, Jr.

Norman Clarence Miller, Jr., 49, of Winchester, Virginia, died in his sleep on April 24, 2016.

He was the loving husband of Sandy Miller. Born on August 23, 1966, in Washington, D.C., he was the son of Shirley Carol (Richards) Miller and the late Norman Clarence Miller.

Surviving besides his wife and mother are his son, Joe Miller, of Winchester, Virginia and Falling Waters, West Virginia; two sisters, Shawna Miller of Berryville, Virginia and Melissa Howell (Marc) of Lake Elsinore, California; two nieces, Hailey Woodward and Rowan Howell; and one nephew, Damien Stone.

Norman was a retired deputy from the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, member of the Izaak Walton League and the NRA, and was an Usher Guild at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. A service of Celebration and Remembrance was held on May 7 at St. Peter's in Poolesville, and was attended by over 150 people. Family and friends offered their memories and tributes during the service. The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office provided an honor guard and a bagpiper, who played in advance of the procession and "Amazing Grace" at the end of the service. Norman and Joe were regular attendees and participants in services at St. Peter's where Sandy Miller sings in the choir.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Peter's Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 387, Poolesville, MD 20837 or Winchester SPCA, 115 Featherbed Ln, Winchester, VA 22601 (www.winchesterspca.org).



Norman Miller

William Wesley Thomas, Sr.

William Wesley Thomas, Sr. departed this life peacefully on April 23 surrounded by his faithful and loving family after a lengthy illness. Known affectionately as Billy to family and friends, he was a graduate of Carver High School.

Billy attended Warren United Methodist Church in Dickerson where he was a committed servant of God. He supported various ministries of the church financially and was blessed with a resilience, faith, and strong belief in the Lord that enabled him to persevere through many trials and tribulations. He joyously accepted the Lord Jesus Christ into his life to live and reign, and he believed that "he could do all things through Christ which strengthens me."

He was employed with the Montgomery County Public Schools where he rendered thirty-four dedicated years of service until he was forced to retire due to an accident.


On November 26, 1962, he married the love of his life, Elsie L. Bell, and they were blessed with three children.

Billy was a very kind, polite, humble, and compassionate man who enjoyed family and family gatherings. He loved fishing, playing horseshoes, and listening to his favorite gospel group tapes by the Royal Harmonizers. His favorite song was "When the Saints Come Marching In" when sung by his special friend, the late William Berkley Bell.

The family knows he is resting in eternal peace with the Lord and leaves with cherished memories of his wife Elsie of fifty-four years, his children William Wesley Thomas, Jr. and wife Mia, Vanessa Denise Morris and husband Chris, Deneen Yvette Johnson and husband Ken; and also Angel Jean Thomas; and an adopted daughter Cierra Love. He had three grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and many dear extended family and friends.




William Wesley Thomas, Sr.



Gov. Larry Hogan has ordered that the Maryland State Flag be lowered in honor of Fallen Heroes who have lost their lives in service to the State of Maryland during the last year.

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What Pet Parents Need to Know about Poison Prevention

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

Poolesville Veterinary Clinic

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In 2015, the ASPCA animal Poison Control Center handled more than 180,000 cases of animal poisonings. Many of these could have been avoided if the pet parent had taken some simple precautions.

A simple example is of a client that thought he was being extra careful and installed a Lysol automatic hand cleaner dispenser. What he did not realize is that his very active and inquisitive feline friend liked to jump up on the bathroom sink to check to see if the water was dripping, then walked under the auto dispenser which sensed his presence and dispensed some hand cleaner onto his head. The active ingredient, Benzalkonium chloride, is very irritating if not rubbed in or removed. It caused a burn-like event to the ear and then when the cat went to groom it off, she ingested it and caused inflammation to his liver. Luckily, it was identified early and treatment was undertaken to correct the toxic effects.

When it comes to everyday compounds around your house, you have to think of your furry friends as permanent 3-to-4-year-old kids. If they can get into something, they will. They are often very orally fixated and very inquisitive. They also live at an eye level that is lower than that at which you would normally consider looking (lower shelves, tables, cubby holes, etc.).

Potentially-hazardous materials include electric cords, household plants, cleaning products, auto-care products, pesticides, insecticides, air-fragrance agents, concentrated cooking ingredients, human and animal medications both over-the-counter and prescription.

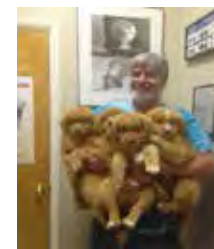
If your pets do interact with something they are not supposed to, be sure to contact your veterinarian, veterinary emergency clinic, or poison control hotline immediately. If you have to see your veterinarian, bring in the item that your pet interacted with and the box it comes in if possible.

Read the label of any item that you have not used before. Look for any toxic indications or potentials. If you buy an over-the-counter medication for your pet or a "natural" compound that you have never used before, please check with your veterinarian before you give the item to your pet.

Prevention, prevention, prevention—the more you know about the everyday compounds in your house, the safer you and your pets will be.



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