

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

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Matt Poe has something to cheer about. Find out why in the Family Album on page 2.



No, you're wrong. This is how they looked before dinner. Read all about it in Pulse on page 8.



It's a tough game, and no one knows that better than JPMS's Christian Andrade, whom you can read about in Tidbits on page 6.



The PHS indoor track 4x8 relay state champs celebrate. There's lots more in Youth Sports on page 11.

Third State Title for Boys' Swim and Dive; Girls Place Second

By Jeff Stuart

The very first event of at the 3A/2A1A state swim championships at the University of Maryland Eppley Center in College Park was the men's 200-yard medley relay. With a time of 1:44.23, the Poolesville team of junior William An, and seniors Jack McCarty, Jacob Weiss, and Patrick Krisko finished first. The second event was the women's 200-yard medley relay. Poolesville's team of freshman Arona Baigal, senior Toni Rose San Miguel, freshman Fanny Wu, and senior Megan McLoughlin finished second. Those two events proved an accurate predictor of things to come. The boys, with 346 points to 182 for runner-up Queen Anne's

High School, won their third straight state title. The girls, with 297.5 points, finished second after winning the state title last year. Both the boys' and the girls' teams swept the regionals for the third straight time just a week before.

The boys earned first place finishes from Xavier Laracuate in the 50-yard freestyle (21.84) and 100-yard freestyle (47.59), and Weiss in the 100-yard butterfly (52.96). The boys' 200-yard freestyle relay (1:29.09)(McCarty, Laracuate, senior Alex Lin, and junior Anthony Kim) also finished first, as did the 400-yard freestyle relay (3:19.66) (Laracuate, Kim, Krisko, Lin).

The girls earned first place finishes from junior Dorit Song

in the 200-yard IM (2:10.64) and 100-yard freestyle (52.98), sophomore Sayaka Vaules in the 50-yard freestyle (25.25). The 400-yard freestyle relay finished in a tie for first with C Milton Wright (3:43.23) (junior Lindsay Knapp, freshman Fanny Wu, Vaules, and Song).

"To describe the boys' performance—in a word: Dominating," said Head Coach Jon Leong. "They won all three relays, placed first in three individual events, and had two athletes in the top eight in six out of the nine individual events. The girls came up just thirty points short of defending their title and came in second place. We started

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Local Political Legend Lib Tolbert Dies

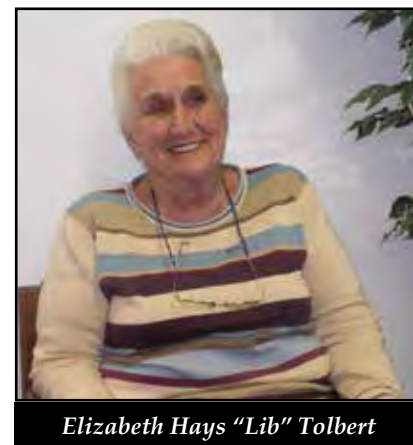
By John Clayton

Longtime Barnesville commissioner, mayor, and Montgomery County political activist Elizabeth Hays "Lib" Tolbert died on February 17 at the age of 88. She was a long-time resident of Barnesville, with family roots that go back to the community's founding. She was also a fixture in Maryland and Montgomery County politics, and candidates would court her support and counsel as they sought office.

Tolbert was married to the late Samuel Harold Tolbert, who retired from the air force as a colonel. They were married in 1945, in Barnesville, in the house where she was born, and where she lived for most of her life. The Barnesville area was originally identified and surveyed in 1747 by one of her ancestors, Jeremiah

Hays. Tolbert served as Barnesville's mayor, or President of the Town Commissioners, a position awarded to the top vote getter, from 1965 to 1969, and again from 1975 to 2001, when at the age of seventy-five, Tolbert chose not to seek reelection. Even then, according to the current mayor of Barnesville, Luke Fedders, she continued to attend town council meetings as a mentor to him and others.

Tolbert was well-known in Montgomery County politics, particularly as an influential member of the Democratic Party, and statewide by her membership in the Municipal League of Maryland, where she also served as president for many years. She also served as a delegate to the Democratic Party National Convention in 1996.



Elizabeth Hays "Lib" Tolbert

Tolbert was also co-founder, with the late Rev. George Reid of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Barnesville, of the Barnesville Bipartisan Inaugural Ball, a bastion of political civility and community fellowship every four years.

Continued on page 17.

Family Album



Nattie Johnson (played by Phemeon Lyles) talks about her life in Poolesville through most of the first part of the twentieth century at the HMD Special Event: A Tribute to Our African American Heritage.



Suzanne Johnson (seated at rear to the right) presents a slide show of the history and contributions of the families from the Sugarland community.



This is a small part of the fan base known as Matt's Minions surrounding Matt Poe with their ardent support for the young man who plays for the CSS Storm basketball team.

Center Stage

A Lifetime of Dance

By Dominique Agnew

The question still lingers: Nurture or nature? What is more influential to a person's development, his/her genetics or his/her environment? For Denise Shattenberg, formerly Denise Shores and founder of Denise Shores Studio of Dance (DSSD), the question is moot. With a family background going back two generations and a lifetime of dancing behind her, there was no question that she would dance—and, more importantly, teach dance.

Denise's mother was the locally-renowned dancer and dance teacher, Miriam Sellers. Miriam's father was a ballroom dance teacher. Obviously, this makes Denise a third-generation dance teacher, but the line continues in Denise's daughter-in-law, Jennifer Shores, who also teaches at DSSD, and through to Jennifer's daughter, Kaitlyn Shores, who has begun student-teaching at DSSD. Five generations of dance teachers, and Denise couldn't be more pleased.

Denise began dancing in her mother's studio in Wheaton at the tender age of two. At the age of fourteen, she started teaching for her mother, and in 1975, after having taught for her mother for ten years, she opened her own studio in her Gaithersburg home's basement. Denise's studio's success came quickly: "It grew too fast for me to keep teaching in my basement," she explains. She rented space at Grace United Methodist Church in Gaithersburg. The studio continued to grow, and DSSD branched out to a second location at Damascus High School in Damascus. Then came the need for a third location, and DSSD opened its doors in Poolesville at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

Denise's studios have a total of about 130 students, five teachers (Vicky Schumacker, Lauren MacDonald, Miranda Olson, Jennifer Shores, and Denise), and three student teachers (Corrine Wallace, Kaitlyn Shores, and

Jessie Clemons). Denise must be doing something right. "We're mostly known as a studio where dance is supposed to be fun. We don't believe in yelling, screaming," says Denise. "We teach with a positive attitude."

Denise cannot remember a time in her life when she wasn't dancing. "Dancing was always the main part of my life," she says—the dancing, the costumes, the recitals. When Denise was between the ages of four and eighteen, she danced in Atlantic City (before the era of gambling) at Tony Grant's Stars of Tomorrow at the Steel Pier. Her mother took a group of dancers there every year. Despite all the performances, Denise "was more interested in teaching than anything else," she discovered. "I really liked the kids." Denise studied psychology and was surprised by how much she applied to her teaching. Of course, the role model was Denise's mother. "I like to give credit to my mother," she says. There have been thousands of dancers taught because of the encouragement Miriam Sellers gave to her daughter that Denise has then passed to others. Denise's mother also passed on the commitment of community service. "We do a lot of shows for the community... we believe in giving back to the community."

Ironically, Denise had two sons. "The boys would dance until they were about five, and then they were done." Although she didn't have a daughter to raise as a dancer—"I always wanted a little girl"—she now has the pleasure of teaching not one, but two, in her granddaughters, Kaitlin and Stella.

Another legacy from Miriam through the countless students is their dedication to the studios. Teachers, Vicki and Lauren, for example, both started dance when they were three years old, grew up, went to college, then came back to teach for DSSD. "Every teacher we've had has been trained at our studios before they began teaching," says Denise. "We never had to hire teachers that didn't come up through the studio." This legacy of teaching is also Denise's legacy. "I'm sixty-three," she explains, "I'm hoping that when I retire that

the studios will continue through my teachers."

Denise plans on being active with the students as long as she possibly can. She may again follow in her mother's footsteps. Miriam had taught a Golden Grannies program with senior citizens. She would go to senior centers and just teach. "That may be something that is in my future," Denise says.

Every year, DSSD performs at the Asbury Methodist Village in Gaithersburg and Collingswood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Rockville during the Christmas season. Unfortunately, the Christmas shows were cancelled this past season due to the flu epidemic in the nursing homes,



Denise Shores dancers Jackie Jurata, Safiya Tantardini, Jessie Delock, Estell Torrey -Shores, and Alina Bowen. Back line: Evie Smalley, Zoe Conway, Katie Casella, Imani Snowden, Anna Bodmer, Erika Smith, Caroline Gotlewski.

so Denise hopes they'll perform there in the next few months. They also always perform at the Passport through Poolesville Community Business Fair, this year on March 29, 2014 at the Poolesville Baptist Church, and they will have their annual review on May 30 and 31 at the Montgomery College Rockville Campus.



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Commentary

Opening Day

By John Clayton

My recent resolution to not open columns with dissertations on the weather has lasted about two weeks, or more precisely, since my last column, but the atmospheric conditions, most unfavorable of late, provide an irresistible impulse. The fact is I cannot help but note that it's snowing furiously, again, with appreciable accumulation, and there is a list of scheduled baseball games in the morning paper. Spring training, perhaps, but there is hope for spring.

Coincidentally, there is a Budweiser advertising-fueled effort to make baseball's opening day a national holiday. Perhaps you have heard this on the radio, or seen it online, or been Tweeted, or it showed up on Facebook, or, God forbid, you read it in a newspaper, but it is indeed in the news. The movement is in the form of a petition, online of course. Apparently, and this is a totally unverified fact with a whiff of urban legend to it, if 100,000 people sign such a petition, then the White House has to do something about it. Now I have no idea what "Do something about it" means. It may be that the president discusses it with his good pal the Speaker of the House and they craft legislation and it goes to committee, etc. (you know the deal); or it may be that the president walks down his driveway in the snow in his bathrobe and slippers to get his newspaper and tells the waiting White House Press Corps, "You gotta be kidding me!" and that's the end of that. Either way works for me, quite frankly.

Few things annoy me more than a clamor for a national holiday. I like national holidays, especially the big ones that everyone gets, like Independence Day and Christmas, and the ones everyone used to get, like Thanksgiving, but the rest of them are rather selective. The government gets off, so there's no mail delivery, and school kids get off, and school employees get off, and people in unions (same thing) get off, and the rest of us

work. I'm not feeling the thrill of another holiday, even for baseball opening day. Why does opening day need the imprimatur of a government holiday? It doesn't.

I might be a little touchy on the opening day/taking time off from work thing. Many, many years ago, decades ago, 1992 to be exact, my wife scored tickets to opening day for the Baltimore Orioles which was also opening day for Orioles Park at Camden Yards, as their field was compromisingly named. This was back when otherwise sane Washington fans were Orioles fans. My boss, and his boss the CEO, were not particularly fond of people taking days off and returning the next day without evidence of medical problems, so when I knew we had the tickets, I waited for a good-mood moment and sprang it on him. "Sure, no problem, as long as you've got everything in your area under control." I put the first clause in the bank. Unfortunately, I had also been assigned to close out a bad project, coincidentally in Baltimore, and, of course, our walk-out day was the same day. I did the tactical, if not the responsible, thing and carefully did not remind him of my upcoming absence.

Opening day at Camden Yards was glorious. President George H.W. Bush fired (yes, fired) out the first pitch and everything was wonderful. It was sunny. I have no memory of who won. Checking my office voicemail, I think I had seventeen messages, all from the same person, all with the same theme, "Where are you?"

My administrative assistant, a tough Tennessean, covered for me as best as she could without lying. My boss was stomping around her desk outside my office, saying, "Where is he? Does he know what today is?" Her response being, "Well, I'm pretty sure he's in Baltimore."

Yes, I was dragged into the CEO's office the next day and thoroughly wire brushed—but not fired. The wounds healed; the memory of that opening day has not faded. Non, je ne regrette rien, as Edith Piaf would have sung.

So if you want to go to opening day, deal with it. Take a chance. Let's just not make it another holiday.

Rande(m) Thoughts

Who Ya Gonna Vote For?

By Rande Davis

Did you hear? Joe Newman announced that he is running for Congress. I don't know about you, but I am pretty excited about his decision. It's not that I know much about him. Actually, I can't even tell you if he is a Republican or Democrat, conservative, liberal, or what-have-you. To make matters more difficult, he is running for a seat in Florida and ever since that Maryland congressional candidate got caught voting in Florida, it's harder for us Free Staters to vote in their elections. The two things I do know about Newman are enough though: Ole Joe is 101 years old and still sharp as a tack.

Talk about experience. Here's a guy who was born just a year before World War I, a teenager during the Depression, and whose middle age crisis was something called World War II. He has every

excuse to coast but instead chooses to be the man in the arena. The best part is that, at 101, he makes me feel young again.

The real reason that age as a factor is so appealing to me is not so much about longevity alone as it is from what I learned by getting to know quite a number of super-aged seniors over the years.

Where do I begin? How about with Virginia Hersperger, a woman who lived just a bit short of one hundred years old? She was the first female principal in the county, a leader in the desegregation of our schools, and a woman who, even though as a young mother lost the love of her life in a tragic accident, seemed always to exude a strong positive attitude. Even at ninety-six, the only thing that seemed to depress her was the Redskins losing. What a congressperson she would have made.

Then there's Ed Brown. At ninety-something, this veteran of World War II and owner of White's Ferry still goes to his law office on a near-daily basis. Ed is

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Town of Poolesville Town Government Report

By Rande Davis

New Commercial District Plan Takes Shape

The town meeting of February 18 opened with an official public hearing on proposed changes to the town's zoning ordinance. The proposal eliminates the current Commercial Business District and Commercial Zone and replaces it with a new uniformed Commercial District centered around the current town hall. This town center concept seeks to serve as a social magnet for residents and visitors to walk, shop, dine, live, and interact in an environment of new and renovated buildings designed in an aesthetically-consistent manner.

Additionally, the new ordinance also makes recommendations to change certain Rural Density Transition zones of less than twenty-five acres into new transition zones that allow reasonable development on two acres or more. These properties are on land now referred to as Transition 2+ Acre Zone or PTR-2+.

Three residents offered comments or questions at the hearing. The first was Caroline Taylor, representing Montgomery Countryside Alliance. She applauded what she identified as the town's use of smart growth principals in addressing the changes to the zoning ordinance. She cautioned them, however, that she remains concerned that changes might add to impervious surface areas within the town. Impervious surfaces like sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots are an environmental concern because, with their construction, a chain of events is initiated that might modify urban air and water resources in an injurious manner.

Taylor asked that the quest for growth be balanced with

an awareness of the impact of increased impervious surfaces in the town, continued use of smart growth, and by following the principal of, first and foremost: do no harm. She reminded the commissioners that a town survey has reported overwhelming support (79%) by residents for the town ensuring adequate quality water and sewer services.

A second speaker, Dana Thompson from the Tom Fox subdivision, voiced her concern that she had been advised that the new zoning changes proposed up to thirty homes that would be allotted near her home which would radically impact her home's site line. Town Manager Wade Yost addressed that concern and explained that only eight houses in that section could be supported within the plan. The zoning changes do not in any way alter the town's Master Plan limit of 6500 residents.

Steve Bolter came forward to ask questions about limitations of lots and building height restrictions regarding the vacant land near his home which is also next to the town hall where soy and corn are now grown. He reported suggestions by others that the changes could result in as many as 350 persons residing or working on the eleven-acre site based on the zoning ordinance proposal. Yost reported that the particular field in question did not have its zoning altered with the new adjustments, and Jim Brown added that while there has been a wide discussion of possible future uses, including a senior center, nothing of a magnitude resulting in a working/residing population of 350 in that location has been suggested nor is there any such notion currently under consideration. Bolter was advised that should there be any changes in the current use of the field, any proposal would have to go through the Planning Commission first, and he would have adequate time to address any concerns.

Continued on page 9.

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Tidbits

JPMS Student Makes Maryland Olympic Development Program

Christian Andrade, an eighth grade honor roll student at John Poole Middle School, is a very talented soccer goalie. He plays for the Olney Rangers blue team which is currently ranked sixth in Maryland, twenty-sixth in the Mid-Atlantic region, and forty-third in the nation. Alex has been playing soccer since age three and has been playing goalie since age nine. He tried out and made the Maryland Olympic Development Program U-15 boys' team and is the team's starting goalie out of three goalies on the roster.

Alex is in the process of deciding on his high school plans. Good Counsel High School in Olney and St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac are scouting him. Of course, Poolesville High School's coach has also been keeping in touch with the family.

Sneed Heads the Planning Commission

Cal Sneed, a member of the Poolesville Planning Commission for over six years, was elected chairman following the retirement of George Coakley at the February 12 commission meeting.

New Map Reveals Need for Meat Processing Services

Montgomery Countryside Alliance (MCA) has released a map of regional meat processing locations to document current service levels and show potential for more processing locations. "Our local livestock producers have been frustrated with the lack of nearby meat processing and packaging services and have cited long drives and wait times that put undue stress on their animals," says Caroline Taylor, MCA's executive director. The map, compiled by MCA intern Todd Langstaff (available on the MCA website), shows that while farmers located closer to the metro areas certainly benefit from increased demand for local food, the resources they need to get that food to market are much further afield. To maintain current farms and build the next generation of farmers, removing this sort of bottleneck

from the farm-to-market system is an important step.

MCA was a leading organization of the January 2013 Farming at Metro's Edge conference which gathered farmers, educators, environmentalists, local officials, and residents to chart a course for a strong agriculture sector and local food system in Montgomery and Frederick Counties.

Currently, MCA is answering local land acquisition challenges with its Land Link program, and the meat processing map represents another resource intended to help farmers find the tools to maintain farming as a way of life and a career in our metro region. Greg Glenn of Rocklands Farm commented, "Resources like this allow farmers, established and emerging alike, to make more informed decisions and more effective use of their time."

Barnesville School of Arts and Sciences Helps Homeless Teens

Barnesville's sixth grade class participated in the Teens for Jeans drive this February, collecting seventy pairs of gently-worn jeans that will be donated to homeless teens. The students solicited jeans from the Barnesville community through flyers, emails, Facebook posts, and announcements at a school meeting. They collected the jeans each morning for several weeks during carpool.

The impetus for becoming involved in the drive came from Barnesville's Peace Week in January, explained Madison Myers, a sixth grader who helped organize the drive. "We had to [research] a community service project, and Mrs. Sheppard [Language Arts Teacher] found the program," she said. "The most requested thing that homeless teens want is jeans," said Amy Germer, another sixth grade organizer, "and so we thought that this was a good way to give back."

The Teens for Jeans program is run by DoSomething.org, a nonprofit organization that helps young people promote social change. DoSomething.org partners with Aéropostale for the Teens for Jeans campaign. For each pair of jeans donated, Aéropostale provides a twenty-five percent discount coupon to its stores.

Tidbits of the Past

By Jack Toomey

February 7, 1954 A Dickerson man, the father of ten children, was killed when he was struck in the head by a tree that he was cutting on the farm of O. W. Anderson. The victim, Kirby Printz, a widower, was working with his son Charles when he was killed.

February 10, 1954 In a controversial move, the Library Board voted that certain books carried in the Bookmobile would be available only for perusal and could not be checked out. The board identified about one hundred books that patrons could read.

In other news on that day, Superintendent Norris announced that Poolesville High School would not be closed as rumored; however, no capital funds were available for repairs.

A Bethesda woman was injured after her dog put the family car in gear and the vehicle struck the woman. She had come home from the grocery store and was unloading her groceries when the dog bounded into the front seat and hit the gear shift.

February 11, 1954 The Metropolitan Board of Trade announced that during 1953, only \$15 million dollars were spent on new televisions compared to 1952 when area shoppers bought new televisions worth \$21 million. The sales of air conditioners doubled while radios, refrigerators, and dishwashers remained even.

February 17, 1954 George Welker's forty-two points led

Poolesville High to a 90-73 victory over the Maryland School for the Deaf in a basketball game held at Poolesville. Welker scored mostly on hook shots and short lay-ups. Later in the week, he was voted as the high school player of the week.

February 18, 1954 A twenty-year-old beer truck driver was found guilty in Rockville Court of speeding. Henry Thomas had been arrested and charged with manslaughter on December 7, 1953 when his county beer truck had gone out of control on the Garrett Park Road and struck and killed two schoolboys who were walking home from school. Thomas admitted that he had consumed a few beers during his deliveries that day.

February 22, 1954 The Weather Bureau issued a warning to citizens after dust from strong storms in the Midwest blew into the Washington area.

February 24, 1954 The mother of Sgt. Kermit Prather was notified that her son was killed in action in Korea. Prather was the son of Havana Prather of Route 1, Poolesville, and was a graduate of Lincoln High School. He had been reported missing in action in 1950.

February 25, 1954 County officials warned welfare recipients of a scam that was taking place in the county. A few days previously, a Gaithersburg woman had been swindled out of \$12 by a short gray-haired woman who came to her door and said that she could get her additional benefits.

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

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Local News

Upcounty Activist Files for County Council Race

Civic activist and Upcounty resident Beth Daly has filed her official candidacy for Montgomery County Council with the county's Board of Elections. Daly is running for one of four at-large seats on the County Council. In a press release, Daly said she wants to put the "smart" back in "smart growth." "I'm running because I care about this county and its future. We need to make sure when we grow we are doing it right, with infrastructure keeping pace with growth. That is not happening now. Transportation, school capacity, and the environment simply can't be an afterthought."

Daly has lived in the county for twenty-four years, first in Kensington and Bethesda, and now in Dickerson. She considers herself a citizen candidate, and has testified on land use and environmental issues as legislative director for the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association. In recent testimony before the County Council, she advocated for more public transportation, especially in the underserved Upcounty. She testified in favor of a third track on the Brunswick Line of MARC and a Route 355 Corridor Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), with an extension to Clarksburg.

She is also one of the original members of the Save Ten Mile Creek coalition, testifying to save Montgomery County's last reference stream and the region's emergency water supply, Little Seneca Lake, from degradation due to development.

Daly was appointed to the Upcounty Citizens' Advisory Board by Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett; she also serves on the Dickerson Facilities Implementation Group. In 2013, she was selected for Emerge Maryland's inaugural class, a group that encourages and trains women to run for elected office.

Daly worked on the staff of the late Sen. Howard Metzenbaum

and later as a media consultant to Democratic candidates and progressive causes. She was dubbed "Media All Star" by *MediaWeek* magazine for her team's work on national advertising placements for the Clinton/Gore campaign. Most recently, she has worked for the Spanish-language broadcaster Telemundo.

In her own campaign events, Daly has stressed that her professional experience has taught her a great deal about budgets, something she will carry forward on the council. "I know how to spend other people's money wisely, and account for it down to the penny," she stated.

All four incumbents are running for the four at-large seats. "It is going to be a tough race against seasoned candidates, but I am seeing my message resonating with county voters who are tired of sitting in traffic, losing their green spaces, and seeing their kids go to school in portable classrooms," Daly said.

The primary is June 24, 2014, with early voting from June 12 through June 19, 2014.

County Planning Board

By Kristen Milton

The Upcounty's Soccerplex in Boyds will be a scene of scripted excitement next month as area fire and law enforcement groups prepare for a potential terrorist attack.

In her February 6 presentation to the Planning Board, parks director Mary Bradford said the training exercise would be the first held in the county during her tenure and would be very different from the annual "tabletop" discussions of such scenarios.

"This is an actual, physical, on-the-ground, full-scale, all-the-equipment-rolling-up-with-sirens [exercise]," Bradford said. Area actors would be cast as injured victims, and fire and law enforcement from both Montgomery and Prince George Counties would play roles, allowing traffic patterns and other logistics to be observed in action.

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Pulse

PACC Holds Annual Dinner Meeting

By Rande Davis

The Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce held its annual meeting at the Comus Inn in Dickerson on February 20. Over fifty people were in attendance. The post-dinner keynote speaker for the evening was Steve Simon and Laura Van Eperen of Van Eperen Company, the marketing firm that

In 2013, the third edition of the Poolesville area tourism map was reprinted as a result of a great deal of effort on the part of Tom Kettler. Visitors can now find hard permanent visitor maps throughout the area. Large permanent hard copies of the map are at Whalen Commons, White's Ferry, Lewis Orchards, Dickerson Market, and Homestead Farms. The pocket version is also available at these locations as well as being offered for free at shops, businesses, churches, etc. in the area.

Express bus to transport festival visitors from the Whalen Commons area to the center near the Old Town Hall.

PACC also partnered with the town on the spring business fair. This year, the fifth annual Community and Business Fair is Saturday, March 29 at the Poolesville Baptist Church.

The most exciting new addition to the PACC this year is

the Businesses Helping Businesses Grow networking group that was started this fall with the hard work of Gail Lee and Jeff Stempler. It meets once a month and, after just five months, has grown from twenty people attending the first meeting to forty people at the last one. Business referrals have been flowing, and a great sense of community is being fostered through this venue.



PACC President Hilary Schwab (center) welcomes Laura Van Eperen and Steve Simon of the marketing firm Van Eperen & Company, guest speakers at the annual dinner.

has taken on the responsibility of marketing and promoting Poolesville as a great place to which firms can relocate their businesses and promoting the town festivals and history to regional publications for articles about Poolesville.

A highlight of the event was the awarding of the annual Community Service Award. This year's recipient was Bernie Mihm of Fine Earth Landscape. Mr. Mihm was unable to attend, so he will receive his award during the upcoming business fair in March.

PACC President Hilary Schwab of Hilary Schwab Photography presided over the evening festivities and began her comments with a review of accomplishments from the previous year.

The 2013 telephone directory was a huge success with work already beginning on the 2014-2015 edition of the phone book which will be published this summer.

PACC sponsored Spring Fest and Poolesville Day the past four years. The organization made significant contributions for Fourth of July fireworks and provided scholarships for college-bound PHS graduating seniors.

Additionally, the chamber made donations to WUMCO, Historic Medley District, Inc., and Helping Hands.

PACC once again sponsored the Holiday First Friday shop-local event in conjunction with the CEDC's Holiday Lighting Festival in December. Each year, this event has gotten bigger and better. Chamber member Calleva generously donated the Polar

Continued from page 4.

Who Ya Gonna Vote For?

the premier example of a shrewd country lawyer. He is the kind of lawyer that makes me want to get in trouble so I could hire him just to watch him in action. What a congressman he would make.

I could never exclude Mary Chiswell. At 104, this former Poolesville schoolteacher was a real delight to talk to. With her jest and joy for life, her wisdom filled the room. Asked how she did it, she would smile, laugh, and say, "As my mother told me, stay positive and never, ever say anything bad about anyone because in this town they are probably related to the person you are talking to." Congresswoman Chiswell—if only it had happened.

Another one is Dots Elgin. I think she is ninety-three years old now. This first lady of Poolesville is an expert on Monocacy Cemetery, top local historian, has the most complete scrapbook of history about Poolesville imaginable, the best baker in town, and still is a no-nonsense, let's-get-the-job-done volunteer. I can assure you she would not put up with any

shenanigans in Congress. Yep, Congresswoman Dots Elgin—it should have been.

There are so many more I could reference: Father Reid, Helen Pumphrey, or Cliff Neal. Of all the names I could mention, I am saddened to say we lost one of the very best earlier this month: Lib Tolbert. Barnesville's Mayor Emeritus, Elizabeth Hays Tolbert was a classy woman in a class by herself. Politically, she might not see eye to eye with you, but more importantly, on those things that really mattered, she felt heart to heart with you. Even at eighty-one years of age, Lib didn't shy from the call of her community. When the Montgomery County Council needed a chairperson of an ad hoc advisory committee to research, discuss, and come up with suggestions on preserving the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve, they went to the leader they had learned to count on in the past. Congresswoman Tolbert? Better yet, how about President Tolbert?

Clearly age has it over beauty, so while I won't be able to vote for Joe Newman, I think I just might send his campaign a donation.

Monocle Classifieds

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Continued from page 5.

Town Government Report

With no other public comments, the public hearing for the evening ended, and the commissioners will make a final decision on the rezoning at a future town meeting.

A Clean Bill of Financial Health

The three-and-half-hour meeting opened with a report by Sam Miller, from Rager, Lehman, and Houck, PC, an independent outside accounting firm that audits the town's financial matters and procedures. Mr. Miller's presentation compared 2013 with 2012 in revenue and expenditures, updated the commission on upcoming Maryland State requirements, and reported a clean bill of budgetary health for the town.

Miscellaneous Discussions

Without taking any specific actions, the commissioners held wide ranging discussions on the economic plans and marketing of the town. In attendance and par-

ticipating in the discussions were Michael Knapp, CEO of Orion Ventures, and later Steve Simon, Vice President of Van Eperen Company. Knapp presented an in-depth report to the commissioners present on the key alternatives for economic growth that have been identified for the town to consider. The three areas discussed were a potential food hub, winery industry support, and recreational/athletics opportunities. Within each of these three categories, he further crystallized viable choices to be considered by the board.

Steve Simon, vice president of Van Eperen and Company, came to the meeting primarily to help clarify the responsibilities of the Community Economic Development Committee vis-à-vis his company and its mission to market the business opportunities in town, as well as the promotion of the town in general on a regional basis. It was determined that the CEDC should be advised as to actions proposed by Van Eperen and offer suggestions, but the primary action and initiatives to be taken remain with Van Eperen.

Continued from page 7.

County Planning Board

Bradford said the Soccerplex, located at Boyd's South Germantown Recreational Park, is also a location where the department will install one of the fixed license plate readers funded by a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant.

"It will allow us to know who's been in and out of certain major parks," Bradford said, in the event of criminal activity.

Adding amenities to Clarksburg's Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park will be part of the site's upcoming master plan process.

Bradford said parks staff met with the Clarksburg Civic Association January 27 to gather ideas from community members. A proposal will be presented to the board in April, she said, with the master plan update completion

tentatively planned for the fall. The master plan will guide county officials as they develop the next phase of the 290-acre recreational park located west of Ridge Road (Route 27).

An update is important, Bradford said, "so that we can deliver on a lot of the promises made to that community, including a suitable location for the carousel, providing good circulation paths, and other amenities for that community."

Although the hundred-year-old Ovid Hazen Wells Carousel has been at Wheaton Regional Park for more than two decades, the agreement made when the Ovid Hazen Wells Farm was deeded to the planning commission specified that it would eventually be placed at the Clarksburg location.

The carousel, which features thirty-three hand-carved jumping horses, three zebras, and two chariots, also spent many years on the National Mall.

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Burglary: 15100 block of Barnesville Road.

Theft from vehicle: 23500 block of White's Ferry Road.

Disorderly conduct: 24800 block of White's Ferry Road.

Past Crime

February 28, 1958 Despite the reputation of police officers as hardened no-nonsense men, about twenty officers were reduced to tears at the Rockville station. The day work shift was sitting in roll call when a defective tear gas canister exploded in the basement causing the officers to weep uncontrollably. Fans had to be brought in to clear out the station. A desk clerk remained behind to answer the telephone calls and later said that he stood outside until the phone rang and then he would rush into the station to answer it.

March 1, 1957 Montgomery detectives were investigating the story of a supermarket manager who claimed that over six thousand dollars had been stolen from his car. The man said that he left the A&P on Viers Mill Road with the intention of depositing the money at a nearby bank. He said that he felt cold in the sweater that he was wearing, so he diverted to his

house to get a heavy coat. He claimed that he left the money on the front seat while he went into the house, and when he returned, the money was gone.

March 9, 1958 Three eighteen-year-olds were seriously injured after their car wrecked. Montgomery County Police had pursued their car all over the county in a wild chase. Finally, the car struck a tree in Rockville. The driver was charged with drunk driving, speeding, fleeing, and a host of other charges.

March 10, 1958 Montgomery County's traffic fatality count stood at three for the first two months of the year. During the previous year (1957) there had been no fatalities during January and February.

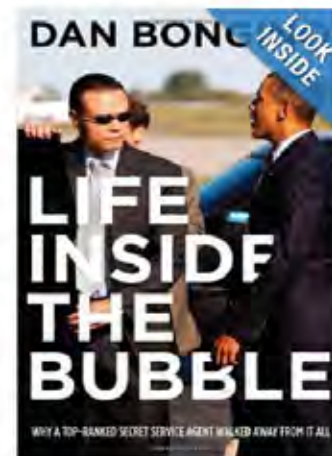
March 10, 1959 Montgomery County Police put an end to a numbers racket that was being run at the construction site of the new power plant at Dickerson. Three men were arrested for selling numbers tickets and took in \$1000 a week.

March 12, 1959 An eighty-four-year-old Damascus farmer was killed when his tractor struck an embankment on Route 80 in upper Montgomery County. Police said that the man was driving his tractor on the roadway when the wheels ran up an embankment and overturned.

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

Rural Women's Republican Club Welcomes Dan Bongino

Dan Bongino, Candidate for the Congressional District 6 seat, will be at the home of Sharon and Hap Bauer, 18600 Barnesville Road, on March 17, 2014 from 10:00 to Noon to speak and sign your already purchased copy of his book *Life Inside the Bubble*. All are welcome (men and women). If you are interested in attending, please contact Sharon Bauer at 301- 349-2786 or e-mail at bauer16510@aol.com.



Rural's Founding Mothers:

LtoR: Audrey Prichard, Jill Chadwick (Charter Member 1962), Dorrine Armstrong and Bonnie Anthony

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Youth Sports

First Place Finishes By Weaverling, Girls' Relay Highlight State Indoor Track Effort

By Jeff Stuart

On February 17 in the MPSSAA 2A State Indoor Track Meet at the Prince George's County Sports Complex, senior Charles Weaverling finished first in the 3200, posting a state record 9:29.76 time. The girls' 4x800 relay team of junior Denise Larson, senior Chelsie Pennello, junior Claire Beautz, and freshman Theresa Nardone also finished first in 9:46.17, missing the state record by just a second. That team had finished second in the West Regional in 9:53.43, but first in the county meet in 9:59.00. For Chase, it was not a personal best. He ran a 9:23.7 at the Virginia Tech Invitational in Blacksburg on January 31, but it was his second straight state title in the 3200. He won the Montgomery County indoor title on January 28 and the state cross country title last fall. He won the outdoor state title in the same event last year.

"Chase was part of the 4x800 meter relay team along with sophomore Elan Guzman, junior Matt Psaltakis, and senior Will Stamm," said Head Coach Mike Trumbull. "They finished third overall with a season best time by eight seconds. Stamm also competed in the 1600 and 800.



Record-breaking state champ PHS senior Chase Weaverling.

He finished fifth in both races with personal bests in both. Will had a great day and all his work this season really paid off. Chelsie also competed in the 800m and 1600m finishing strong to end her indoor track career for Poolesville. Theresa ran the 500m and 800m. She ended up in eighth in the 800m with close to a personal best performance. Claire Beautz [a junior who finished second in the county championships] ran her best time of the season in the 3200m (11:25.02). She finished fourth overall. Sophomore Fiona Whitefield also ran close to a personal best time in the 3200 as well."



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Continued from page 1.

State Swim Championships

out with some great swims but just got a little stuck in the middle before making a fantastic finish... It was a great meet. Out of twenty-four events, there was only one where we did not have an athlete on the podium to receive recognition in Poolesville colors." The top eight finishers score points.

"Xavier tied with two other boys as the overall individual high point winners," Leong added. "On the girls' side, Dorit tied for the overall high point lead with one other girl. I can't name all of the swimmers that reached the podium because it would be too long. Everyone left it all in the pool and tried their hardest, and that's all I can ask for. Thank

(Photograph by Julie Miller)



The champion 2013-14 PHS Varsity Swim and Dive team.

you to all that showed up and supported us."

Second places went to McCarty (men's 100-yard butterfly), Wu (women's 100-yard butterfly), and the women's 200-yard freestyle relay (Vaules, Baigal, Song, Knapp).

In third place were Knapp (women's 200-yard freestyle), Lin (men's 200-yard IM), and San Miguel (women's 100-yard breaststroke).

In the state diving finals, Poolesville's Dylan Taylor placed eighth with 337.70 points. A senior and second-year captain, Dylan was undefeated in the dual meet season. "He's a good guy to have on your team," Leong said. "He has progressed every single year and gotten better."

For full results see MPSSAA.org.

Continued from page 2.

Family Album

Auctioneer and Lion William Price in action at the recent Monocacy Lions Charity Auction.

(Photograph by Nancy Gallo)



Amanda Brown (nine months pregnant) and her snow donkey. The models seem to approve.



The seniors on the Falcon girls' basketball team, escorted by friends and family, received their last hurrah at the February 19 home game. The Falcons are Whitney Carmack, Rosie Barry, and Marie Jankowski.



Owners of Delmar Deli Provisions, a Boars Head distributorship, and Poolesville residents Patrick and Daniel DePasquale, are joined by Dan's wife Megan at the PACC dinner.

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Entertainment Schedule

All Events Begin at 8:30 p.m.

- February 28: Mindy Miller, Chris Compton, & Dan Bourdeaux
- March 1: Gina's Soul Party Band
- March 6: PHS National Honor Society Fundraiser: 10% of Proceeds Donated All Day
- March 7 & 8: DJ entertainment
- March 14: Paul and Holli - The Lately's
- March 15: DJ
- March 17: St. Patrick's Day Party with Karaoke

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7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

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Things To Do

Notice: Spring Clean-Up at Monocacy Cemetery in Beallsville

On Saturday, March 29, 2014 there will be a spring clean-up at the Monocacy Cemetery. In order to maintain an aesthetically-beautiful cemetery and to eliminate hazards to our dedicated staff, please remove all decorations except those in the approved vases by March 28. Please remove all canes, solar lights, and memorabilia from the gravesites. These items not only can cause injury to our staff but also make it difficult to trim around the memorials. Monocacy Cemetery: 301-349-5176.

Senior Gathering Place Center Special Event – May 30

Day trip to the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, Pennsylvania for the performance of *Moses*. Reservations required no later than March 15. Total cost per person is \$109.00, includes lunch before the show. For more information or to reserve a ticket, call 240-812-2368.

February 28

AHOP Entertainment Night

Featuring Mindy Miller, Chris Compton, and Dan Bourdeaux. 8:30 p.m.

Cugini's Entertainment Night

Full Tilt Brewing Night at the bar.

March 1

AHOP Entertainment Night

Featuring Gina's Soul Party Band. 8:30 p.m.

March 3

Poolesville

Commissioners' Meeting

Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

Cugini's Entertainment Night

Featuring North Coast Brewing Co. at the bar.

March 4

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

St. Mary's Church Pavilion
Individual: \$5.00, Family: \$20.00
(up to six people)
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Community Dinner/Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
20100 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville
Free. 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

PES PTA – Meet the Candidate Night

First in a series of town meetings featuring candidates for county executive one at a time. Doug Duncan is the first in this series of meetings.

PES All Purpose Room.

7:00 p.m.

March 6

AHOP Entertainment Night

Fundraiser for PHS National Honor Society. 10% of proceeds all day donated.

March 7

St. Patrick's Party with DJ

Benefit for PES PTA. Dancing, door prizes, fun for the whole family.

\$5.00 per person.

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

March 8

Knights of Columbus Three-on- Three Basketball Tournament

Poolesville Baptist Church. Donation of non-perishable food item for WUMCO requested. 12:00 p.m.

March 11

Meet the Coaches Night

PHS Gymnasium.

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

March 12

Cugini's Entertainment Night

PHS PTSA Fundraiser: Proceeds donated from food sales from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

PHS Students versus Staff Basketball Game

Main Gym.

6:30 p.m.

Poolesville Planning Commission Meeting

Town Hall.

7:30 p.m.

March 14, 15, 16, and 17

Bassett's Special

St. Patrick's Weekend

Special Irish menu and drinks

March 17

Rural Women's Republican Club Welcomes Dan Bongino

Come meet the 6th District congressional candidate and attend his book signing for *Inside the Bubble*. Home of Sharon and Hap Bauer, 18600 Barnesville Road, Barnesville.

10:00 a.m. to noon

Continued from page 1.

Legend Lib Tolbert Dies

County Executive Ike Leggett admired Lib Tolbert as a public servant with integrity and an outstanding mayor with a "presence that made her city much larger." Leggett further characterized her as a wonderful person and her passing as a loss for our county. He said she helped him early in his career when he was a novice running for county council in 1985. He was trying to meet various people around the county and someone told him, "You've got to talk to Lib and get her blessing." He drove all the way across the county from Burtonsville to Barnesville. The half-hour conversation he expected turned into a half day. He said that, among other things, he heard the "history of Montgomery County in a nutshell. By the end of the day we bonded pretty good."

Former Montgomery County Executive Doug Duncan remembers Tolbert not only as a county force to be reckoned with, but as an influential political activist in all of Maryland, observing, "For someone from such a small town, she had a lot of influence. She was the Grand Lady of Montgomery County Politics... and many sought her out for advice and guidance." Duncan said he got to know her while he was on the Rockville City Council through the Maryland Municipal League, and through county chapter meetings, and that she provided him with lots of advice and comments over the years. He said she "had a way with people, was approachable, nice to everyone, and always willing to help."

Barnesville Mayor Luke Fedders said that Tolbert cared deeply about the town and was very passionate about the politics. "She made my job easier by the way she kept the town as small as it is, just the way we

like it." He also said that she had, over the years, "put things in place to keep it small." Fedders added that even after she was no longer the mayor or even a commissioner, she would accompany him to Maryland Municipal League meetings, and she "didn't just introduce me by name, but as 'my new commissioner,'"—from her town and her commission. "It was still very much her town."

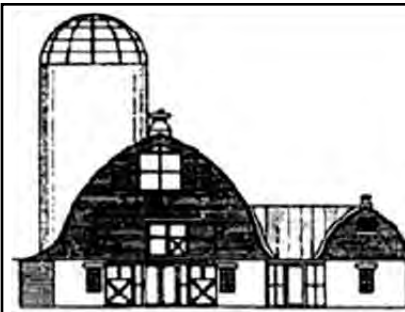
Tolbert's younger sister, Mary White Lok, said that Tolbert "liked everybody and loved Barnesville and wanted to keep it the way it was." Her children adored her and loved her like another grandmother.

She said that while her sister was very passionate about politics, this was not typical of others in her family. Their father was also very community-minded, but he and their mother did not particularly like politics, or at least certainly not the way their daughter did, who, they observed, was a "yellow-dog Democrat." Lok said that they had an uncle who liked politics, "and maybe that's where she got it."

Family will be receiving friends on Friday, February 28 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Hilton Funeral Home, 22111 Beallsville Road (Rte. 109), Barnesville.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 1 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 18230 Barnesville Road, Barnesville. Inurnment will follow in Monocacy Cemetery in Beallsville. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to: CALMRA, Inc., a community-based residential provider of homes and services to adults with cognitive disabilities, 5020 Sunnyside Avenue, Suite 206, Beltsville, MD 20705.

An article about Lib Tolbert appeared in our June 9, 2006 issue and can be viewed on our website, www.monocacymonocle.com.



SUGARLOAF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER February 2014

"Protecting our rural legacy"

How to contact us:

Sugarloaf Citizens' Association
James Choukas-Bradley, President
Linden Farm, 20900 Martinsburg Road
P.O. Box 218, Dickerson, MD 20842

Visit our Web site: www.sugarloafcitizens.org

TEN MILE CREEK - WHAT FUTURE?

The reader of this newsletter might already have heard about the public meeting in Clarksburg on February 26 to save Ten Mile Creek. **Maybe you were there to help ensure that the County Council would not be hijacked by developers.**

Sugarloaf Citizens' Association was an early organizational member of the Coalition that was formed when it was discovered that the planned residential and commercial development of Clarksburg would have a devastating impact on Montgomery County's last, best stream and the region's nearby emergency drinking water supply, Little Seneca Reservoir. After hours of hearings and seven committee work sessions, County Council committees recommended specific plans on February 11 that would go to the full Council for a vote. These plans represented a compromise but were generally hailed as a first step to provide the most protection possible for Ten Mile Creek. The Council's initial vote on the joint committee's recommendation is now scheduled for March 4.

In a letter dated February 21 to the Council President and the members of the Council I stated "**We at Sugarloaf strongly – actually, vehemently - oppose any attempts to weaken the joint committee's compromise plan approved on February 11, 2014**" and continued "I am writing to urge you to act without further delay on a Ten Mile Creek Limited Master Plan Amendment that includes strict, enforceable protections for sensitive areas such as steep slopes and wetlands. While the joint committee's plan is far from full protection of our water resources, the recommendations rightly seek to minimize degradation of water quality by limiting development, with stricter imperviousness limits for the most fragile sub-watersheds." My letter ends

"We should all be proud of the intense, good faith efforts on all of our parts to reach such a viable, fair and balanced compromise to protect our last best creek and the cleanest source of water to our region's only nearby emergency drinking water supply, Little Seneca Reservoir. I urge you to stay the course, finish the job, and act quickly to approve the recommendations from the joint committees."

Sugarloaf urges all residents to write to the Council in support of the compromise plan.

**Jim Choukas-Bradley,
President**

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Remembrance

Lewis Brooks

Robert Lewis Brooks, Sr., 74 of Poolesville peacefully passed away on February 11, 2014. Born December 26, 1939, he was the son of the late James Evan and Anna Mary (Titus) Brooks. Lewis was preceded in death by his wife of forty-seven years, Becky Brooks, the sister of Roy Selby. He and Becky were vital contributors to the high public regard for the friendly ambience of Selby's Market—she as the customer service person at the front of the store and he as the head butcher in the back. It was through much of his work that for decades Selby's Market was regionally famous for the quality of its meats, drawing customers on a regular basis from as far away as Potomac and Gaithersburg.

Lewis's connection to public service through food started early as a young man as a cook

in the United States Army while posted in Alaska for two years. He continued this kind of public service by often feeding the UMCVFD fire department. As the butcher at Selby's, it was his kind and warm demeanor along with a perpetual smiling face framed by a handlebar mustache that made him so perfect and appreciated for the job. During the holidays, he would meander from the meat counter to greet customers in the aisles, nudging them to follow him to the back where he would offer a glass of his famous eggnog with a shared toast to the good life. From all the many items offered at the deli counter, one of the most popular was Lewis's special chicken salad that is most remembered and heralded by friends, family, and customers.

Sharing time with friends and family was his highest priority, often through golf, cards, fishing, hunting, darts, and other family activities. Lewis and Becky not only shared a

life together, a career together, and an abiding interest in the fire department together, but they also had to fight cancer together. Lewis was first diagnosed with cancer in 2003. The cancer abated just long enough for him to become the caregiver to Becky as she went through her own battle with the disease only to have his cancer reoccur in 2009.

With so many roles in life accompanied by many titles, no title was more beloved by Lewis and Becky than that of Peepaw and Meemaw, a gentle and affectionate nickname used by their beloved grandchildren after the oldest grandson Michael came up with it when having trouble pronouncing grandma.

Lewis was preceded in death by his son Jody Brooks, and two brothers Jimmy and Jack Brooks. Surviving besides his girlfriend Janis Strippy are his children, Bobby Brooks and wife, Debbie, Jeff Brooks and wife, Alice, Darren Brooks and



Robert Lewis Brooks, Sr.

girlfriend Madison; eight grandchildren, Michael, Alexandra, Christopher, Robert, Ryan, Jared, Gabriella, and Zachary; and one great granddaughter Zoey Sneed; two sisters Helen Brooks and Joyce Nusbaum; and two brothers Donald and Raymond Brooks.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Billy Bliss: First Responder, Businessman, and Community Servant

By Rande Davis

Billy Robert Bliss, 87, of Poolesville, Maryland, passed away on February 11. Born in Washington, D.C., he was the son of the late Francis O'Donovan Bliss and Dorothy Cole Bliss.

Bill attended Duke University, North Carolina University, and the University of Maryland. He later obtained a degree in Fire Science from Montgomery College where he was on the Dean's List and was asked to return as a lecturer. He served in the U.S. Navy, owned and operated Poolesville Supply Company, Inc. for thirty years, was a Nationwide Insurance agent, and served as president of Banner Glass, Inc.

For over sixty years, Bill was active with the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department (UMCVFD) as a top responder for thirty years, served as chief for one year, and assistant chief and train-

ing officer for fifteen years. As a past member of the board of directors of UMCVFD, he served as president and vice president. He also cherished playing on the department's softball team with his son. Teammates confirm he was a darned good pitcher.

He is the recipient of multiple awards for service, including being a Hall of Fame inductee of the UMCVFD. Bill's vision and leadership were essential in establishing the Fire and Rescue Service in Montgomery County as he served on the County Fire Board as its chairman for four years and vice chair for ten years. His extensive leadership in county fire rescue services also included two terms as president of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Association as well serving on various committees with the Maryland State Fireman's Association.

Billy received the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce Community Service award in 2006.

His public service went far beyond the fire department to include serving as a Poolesville Town Commissioner and as its president in the 1960s during the critically-important time of establishment of the town's water and wastewater management system. Through his dedicated service, the initial steps of growth in Poolesville began from a town of only six hundred residents to what it has become today.

Billy is remembered as being feisty, sharp, and for his sarcastic sense of humor, and he was well regarded as a businessman, community servant, and devoted family man.

He is survived by his wife of more than sixty-two years, Janet Painter Bliss, and their



Billy Robert Bliss

four children, Robby Bliss (Theresa), Janell Bliss, Bonnie Golian (Ed) and Julie Thomas, as well as eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., 19801 Beallsville Rd., Beallsville, MD 20839.

Eric Jay Hansen

By Rande Davis

Eric Hansen of Poolesville entered the Gates of Heaven on February 13. He was the beloved husband of Susan G.



Eric Jay Hansen

Hansen; loving father of Ryan, Erica, and Justin.

Eric worked for twenty-six years with C-SPAN, traveling the world and covering many presidential elections, working in nearly every capacity from handling equipment to doing interviews. For many years, Eric participated in youth sports, most notably serving as the Voice of the Falcons by announcing at PHS home football, basketball, wrestling, and volleyball games. He worked diligently with the volleyball team's Side-Out Dig Pink Foundation, which has raised more than \$25,000 for breast cancer research over the years. Last December, in recognition of his participation and support for high school sports, he was inducted into the PHS Sports Hall of Fame.

A gifted tenor, Eric sang in the choir at St. Peter's Church and with the Harmony Express Chorus.

As a testimony to Eric being so beloved in the community, St. Peter's Episcopal Church was graciously granted the use of the sanctuary of Our Lady of the Presentation where just under five hundred friends and family joined together to celebrate his life.

In speaking of Eric, the Rev. Kimberly L. Still of St. Peter's noted that Eric's faith was the real deal. He gave his family a glimpse of that faith which saw him through his life and through his difficulties—a faith that took him through to his journey home. Mother Kimberly told the mourners that in spite of all he had been through, his faith allowed him to rise above his sorrow and disappointment so as to not allow dying to completely

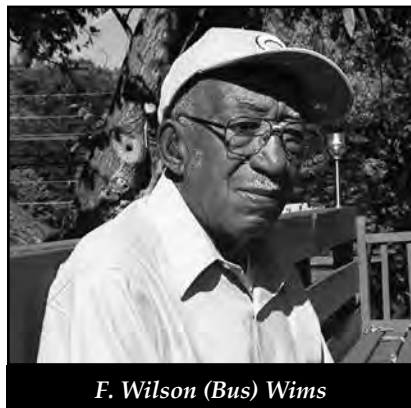
overshadow his faith. She said that in death, he retained his roles as a teacher and coach by sharing with his family in his final days his experience of death, telling them it was something that was not exactly like he expected, but that it was okay. He told the family that he had an overwhelming sense of quiet and calm. He said it looked like water being sprinkled on him. He described to them an enormous sense of love so beautiful he didn't understand why everyone didn't go there. Mother Kimberly shared Eric's final wish for his friends and family: Hug your family, smile, don't argue, and look for the good in people.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society's Poolesville Relay for Life's Poolesville-Phoenix Rising.

F. Wilson Wims

By Rande Davis

F. Wilson (Bus) Wims passed away peacefully February 11, 2014, at the Asbury Methodist Rehabilitation Center. Born on July 13, 1915, he was a lifelong



F. Wilson (Bus) Wims

resident of Clarksburg where he was highly regarded as the owner of a construction business, a strong civic leader, and a community activist.

In 2010, Clarksburg High School (CHS) named its baseball field in honor of his dedication to sports and the community over a lifetime of volunteer work. Many years ago, he supported and coached the Maryland Wildcats, Montgomery County's first local black baseball team. He was proud that some of his players went on to play in professional baseball.

The Wims family has been a bedrock of the community. As far back as the early 1800s, they have resided in Clarksburg. Warner Wims, Wilson's grand-

father, owned a homestead farm directly across from where CHS stands today.

Wims served as president of the Clarksburg Recreation Association, president of the Clarksburg Community Association, representative to the Montgomery County Action Board, and was one of the driving forces behind the establishment of the Clarksburg Recreational Center, and numerous other organizations. He was well recognized for his deep concern for senior citizens of the Clarksburg community.

As a self-employed builder, master carpenter, and brick mason, he was the owner of Clarksburg Construction Company. He built four homes on Wims Road and rented them to

black families who otherwise would not have been able to live in the area. He also built five homes on Runningbrook Drive. Principal James Koutsos of CHS presented Wims with a special framed acknowledgement of this honor, and Coach Will Gant presented him with a baseball signed by all the players on the team.

As an athlete, Wims preferred to play with the number thirteen. At the dedication of the baseball field, he was presented with a jersey with that number, and just behind home plate, emblazoned into the ground in light blue and white, is the number thirteen, a reminder of what the Ol' #13 meant to Clarksburg over a lifetime of community service.

Russell Rachel

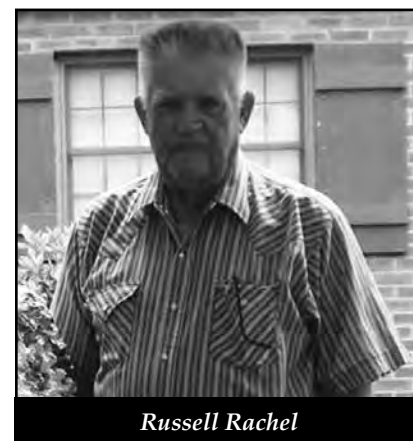
Russell Walter Rachel, Sr., 72, formerly of Dickerson, passed away on February 12, 2014 at the home of his daughter in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania. Born September 7, 1941, he was the husband of Sandra Jo Rachel for fifty-three years. He was the son of the late Russell and Gladys Rachel. He will be greatly missed by his dog Angel. Russell retired from the National Institutes of Health after thirty-two

years of service. He worked part time for the Dickerson Market and Selby's Market as a meat cutter. In Florida, he had his own lawn-mowing business. In his spare time he loved hunting, fishing, gardening, camping, and spending time with family and friends.

Besides his wife, he is survived by four children: Russell Rachel, Jr. (Christen), Lisa Rachel and fiancé Glen Shew, Michaelann Day (Rick), Christopher Rachel and fiancée Karen Lemaster; eleven

grandchildren, David, Charles, Jessica, Courtney, James, Ricky, Douglas, Veronica, Olivia, Micki, and R.T.; seven great grandchildren, Jayce, C.J., Emma, Baily, and Bradon.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Lutheran Home Care and Hospice, 2700 Luther Dr., Chambersburg, PA 17202 or to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 240, Rouserville, PA 17250.



Russell Rachel

Garden

Signs of Spring

By Maureen O'Connell

As I write this article, I can look out the window by my desk and see fourteen or more inches of beautiful, white snow. I love snow, so I was not angry to see its arrival, but for those of you who have had your fill of winter and face each new day with spring-starved eyes, you don't have to wait for the emerging, new shoots of crocuses, daffodils, and hyacinths. The silver-gray, furry catkins of the pussy willow tree, soft as "little cat's paws," are one of the earliest signs of spring.

Pussy willow is the name given to many of the smaller species of the genus *Salix* (willows and sallows) when their furry buds or catkins are young in early spring. Three of them are Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*) a small tree native to Northern Europe; Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*) a small tree native to North America; and American Pussy Willow (*Salix discolor*) native to northern North America. These plants are dioecious, meaning that they produce a male plant and a female plant. The catkins on the male plant appear earlier than do those of the female, so if you see a stand of pussy willow trees in winter with fat, silky buds, it is probably a male plant. Pussy willow trees can be found growing in woodlands, hedgerows, and open ground near lakes and streams. Mature trees have been documented living up to three hundred years.

The pussy willow tree and its blossoms have long been popular in Chinese art and culture. It is the favorite flower celebrating the Chinese New Year. William Shakespeare referred to it in *Hamlet*. You might recall that in the play, the character Ophelia climbs a willow tree, the branch breaks, and she falls into the river and drowns. It is said that the willow insinuates 'love lost.'

The deciduous pussy willow tree is fairly low maintenance. I planted a small one about twenty years ago in the Upper Garden.

I must admit that I have not pampered it one bit—no pruning, no fertilizing, and no mulching. Today, it is about ten-to-twelve feet tall and about eight feet wide; it is beautiful. Every year in January and February, I clip branches to bring inside to force. I leave them to root in the vases and in mid-spring, I plant them outside. They are very easy to propagate.

Pussy willows are not fussy about soil. They will grow equally well in moist, well-drained soil or poorly-drained soil: acid, alkaline, loam, clay, or sand. I have never had a problem with it during a season of drought. It likes a full sun exposure. It does have a very aggressive root system and it gravitates towards a source of water. Don't plant it near a septic field or water well, or you could have a problem.

I did not heavily prune my pussy willow as I wanted a large tree, but you can prune it regularly to control its size. This will also promote vigorous new branches which will produce larger catkins and help prevent diseases, fungi, and insect problems.

The bark of the willow tree has been used for pain relief. Hippocrates spoke of pain relief treatments including powder made from the bark and leaves of willow trees. It was not until the 1800s that scientists identified the compound as salicin which led to the development of aspirin.

There are many types of willow trees, but two of the better-known are the Weeping Willow and the Pussy Willow. Both can be used effectively in a home landscape, especially as a specimen planting. There is a wonderful, small weeping willow tree that is an excellent size for accenting a small garden, a front yard, or a patio: *Salix caprea* 'Pendula.' This is the female form of the famous Kilmarnock Willow that was discovered on the banks of the Ayr in Scotland about 1853. It was then introduced by Scottish nurseryman Thomas Lang. This umbrella-shaped, deciduous tree has branches that cascade down to the ground around a slender trunk. Its dark green leaves with gray-green leaves will provide year-round interest to your garden.

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Pet Insurance, Pet Packages and Pet Deals: Know what you are paying for before you sign on the dotted line. Peter H. Eeg DVM Poolesville Veterinary Clinic

I am concerned by some of the social media conversations pet owners are having about containing costs for their pets. There are a lot of incorrect beliefs about what different programs offer in product, services, and monetary support for health care.

Veterinary Pet Insurance plans function as true insurance plans. Covered medical or surgical events are reimbursed to their owner from the insurance company. This occurs after the pet has undergone evaluation and treatment by a veterinarian and a claim form is sent to the insurance company.

Pet Packages are NOT insurance plans. These packages are usually bundled by the larger corporate veterinary companies that provide veterinary services. Some individual veterinary hospitals have their own packages. They are a combination of specific services usually associated with some discount structure. These packages only cover specific services, additional services provided that are not part of the package are charged at the clinics' regular rates. While the discount provided may appear to be a significant savings over a year, you do not get a credit for unused package elements. If enough components are not used, the cost for the used portion of the package can exceed what you would have paid on a per-visit basis.

Pet Deals are also NOT insurance plans. These small deals are specific to one or a few medications, treatments, dentals, or surgeries provided by a clinic. These deals are usually only good for a singular event and have a time limit or are seasonal in nature.

Let's go through the current options and programs for you, the pet owner.

Veterinary Pet Insurance:

Many companies provide what is considered a traditional insurance policy.

One of the best places to start your investigation of traditional pet insurance is to go to www.petinsurancereview.com. This site allows you to read reviews, options, rates, coverage, free quotes, and a complete coverage grid for your pet. It is very important to have a clear understanding of what is and is not covered by individual plans. It is also important to be specific about which breed of animal you have, as different breeds have specific non-covered genetic predispositions. You must also disclose any conditions or existing diseases to the company as these are usually considered pre-existing and are not covered by a policy.

Pet Packages:

These are generally groups of services that a veterinary clinic (usually higher-volume corporate-owned practices) has identified for discounts. The Package usually has a one-year time limit and is specific for young or healthy animals. The Packages can be paid in monthly installments like Pet Insurance. This is usually where the confusion occurs when people talk about Insurance versus Packages. It is very important to determine what is in the Package and what is not. Also ask if unused portions of the Package can be credited back to you. Ask what happens if your pet is injured or becomes ill as far as what the Package covers. You may be surprised by what is not covered. Pet Packages are not a replacement for veterinary pet insurance.

Pet Deals:

These are even smaller service groupings that incorporate only one or several specific items of care for your pet. These types of Deals are usually associated with AVMA, ASPCA, or local animal organizations that are trying to bring attention to a specific problem or treatment. It is important to be aware of what is covered in a Deal such as diagnostic or therapeutic aspects that would incur additional charges.

Some of these concepts can be very beneficial for you and your pet; however, be careful and educated about your expectations and what you will receive and pay.



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