

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

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It was the battle of the mascots at the annual Dig Pink fundraiser. See Youth Sports on page 8.



The PHS varsity girls' tennis team captains lead the 2014 Falcons. See Youth Sports on page 14.



Carter Jamison and Ranger ride the range in the family combine. See more pictures in the Family Album on page 2.

First Sunday for WUMCO

Area churches collect non-perishable food items and donations for the WUMCO Food Pantry the first Sunday of each month.

Help WUMCO assist those in our area who need our help.

Local Farmers Unite

By Rande Davis

Montgomery Agriculture Producers, Inc. (MAP), a new organization of seventeen Montgomery County farmers, seeks to be the voice of Agricultural Reserve farmers. Poolesville's Bob Cissel, on the board of directors of the Agriculture Preservation Advisory Board, has been its acting executive director (ED) through its developmental stages, but they hope to hire a new permanent ED this fall. Conceptualized last November, the founding members used this past winter to develop the association, consisting of a variety of farm businesses that includes table top farmers (fruit and vegetable producers), grain, livestock, equestrian, turf, and dairy. The group became official this past February, with the creation of bylaws, a mission statement, and a Facebook page. The first board of directors was just elected: grain farmers Mike Jamison and Eric Spates, chairman Randy Stabler, Billy Willard, and Wade Butler.

The goals of MAP include promoting production agriculture as a viable



Montgomery Agriculture Producers, Inc. members Michael Jamison, Bob Cissel, Eric Spates, and Dave Weitzer.

business, as the highest and best use of our precious open space, and as the most efficient and effective means of maintaining open space in Montgomery County. MAP also plans to ensure that the next generation of farmers has the opportunity to earn a productive living, to pass their operations on to the ensuing generations, and to protect farm and landowner property rights.

Perhaps their most fundamental objective is to make sure that county farmers have a "voice at the table" with governmental decision makers. The Montgomery County Farm Bureau, a supporter of MAP, has long been the voice of farming in our county. MAP will be working closely with the Farm Bureau on issues that affect Montgomery County farmers. In these fast-paced times, they determined that there is a

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The Markoffs' Big Adventure!

By Rande Davis

Niki and Alex Markoff shared a goal, a dream, for an adventure that many may have considered, but very few ever actually do. Their dream? To sail away for one year, leave their life in Dickerson all behind, immerse themselves in a new culture, and take an extended adventure one day at a time, not knowing for sure what each day would be bring. Reduced to its ultimate simplicity, Alex describes their goal in three words: Spanish, soccer, and surfing.

In mid-August of 2013, they began their dream trip on board a forty-four-foot Benatao sailing vessel. They set sail from Solomon's Island, headed down the Chesapeake Bay to the Inter-coastal Waterway with their final destination Costa Rica, their new home-to-be for a full year and the launching port from which they would take tours of Mexico, Panama, Bermuda, and Guatemala.

With their four children, daughters Isabel (14), Alexandra (12), Julia (10), and son George (6), fully on board physically as well as spiritually for this new adventure, the family visited ports in Georgetown, South Carolina, Oriental, North Carolina, off the coast of the Cape Fear River, Charleston, the Bahamas, Jamaica, and ultimately, six weeks later, arriving in Puerto Viejo, Costa Rica, their final destination and new host country.

Upon their arrival in Costa Rica, the Markoffs were not even sure in what city or town they would choose to live. After exploring the new environment for a few weeks, by chance,

they came upon the mountain town of Orosi and fell in love with it. The town



The Markoff family at a bull ride in Costa Rica.

was about twice the size of Poolesville, and living in this town would be far different from life on the Markoff farm in Dickerson. Orosi is about an

Continued on page 12.

Family Album



Local musicians, Not the Choir, perform at the recent Royce Hanson Award ceremony.



Students from Barnesville School visited the Jamison farm in Poolesville.



The Rural Women's Republican Club held its annual Saturday Night in the Country fundraiser at the B-CC Izaak Walton League.



Dolores Milmoie addressed the large attendance at the B-CC Izaak Walton League award ceremonies.



An event for St. Peter's Hope in South Africa in Dickerson on October 18.

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Town of Poolesville

Commissioners Review New Town Website, Hear Concerns about Animal Testing at NIH Farm

By Link Hoewing

In a meeting filled largely with presentations and testimony, the commissioners listened to witnesses concerned about animal testing at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) farm outside Poolesville and heard from Commissioner Chuck Stump who has led a months-long effort to update and improve the town website.

During the open forum segment of the October 20 commission meeting, several witnesses came forward to ask the commissioners to write to NIH to request that it put a stop to alleged cruel tests performed on live monkeys. The NIH farm has been operating for decades outside of Poolesville at the junction of Club Hollow and Elmer School Roads. The witnesses alleged that in recent years, live tests have been done on mother monkeys and their babies that are abusive and unnecessary.

Barbara Nails, a Poolesville resident, said there are "five hundred hours of YouTube videos" taken surreptitiously that highlight the cruelty the animals suffer. She has lived in Poolesville for seven years and asked the commissioners to write to NIH and ask for the "immediate end" of the testing.

Katherine Roe, a Silver Spring resident and neuroscientist who has worked at NIH, said she had reviewed the videos and suggested that doing research on animals with live testing in the manner occurring at NIH is "no longer needed" due to changes in scientific techniques and protocols. She said the testing is "expensive and archaic" and that as "forward-thinking leaders," she hoped the commissioners would take a stand on the issue with the NIH leadership.

Finally, Alka Chandna, a specialist with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, said that the tests involve monkeys specially bred at the farm to be "predisposed to have mental illnesses." Baby monkeys are separated from their mothers and observed for long periods of time in an agitated state.

Commission President Jim Brown thanked the witnesses for coming forward. He noted that the commissioners have no jurisdiction over the NIH farm but said that the commissioners will discuss the issue further. He asked the witnesses to forward any relevant information for review by the

commissioners but offered no time line for further discussions or action.

In a hour-and-a-half presentation, Commissioner Chuck Stump described an effort he has led to upgrade and improve the town's website. He noted that the new website will have the address of www.poolesvillemd.gov, one that is more immediately identifiable with a town municipality than the existing address of www.ci.poolesville.md.us. Stump conducted interviews with a number of businesses and others in town as he developed the new website's features. He was assisted in the work by Wade Yost, the town manager, and technical support was provided via a private contractor.

The new website, projected on the overhead screen in the town's meeting room, sports earth tones of browns, tans, and greens. Stump explained that, in designing the website, he borrowed heavily from a number of award-winning municipal websites. The new site is simple in design and includes five major topic areas: Your Government, Doing Business, Things to Do, How Do I . . . , and Our Community. Each topic includes drop-down menu items that can be selected.

A major focus of the new website is to make it as interactive as possible, encouraging input from citizens and including as many documents and official town reports online as possible. The site will include blogs for the first time, including one written periodically by the town manager to offer insights, for example, on how various town services function. Citizens can sign up for special notifications, either by email or in some cases by text, to remind them about upcoming town meetings or events, or when a particular scheduled activity is going to change in some way. The focus of the new site is not just on official town business, Mr. Stump noted, but is also designed to integrate as much as possible other activities and events sponsored by organizations in town.

Videos will be incorporated for the first time in the new website. The information on the site is specially designed to display well on any device, a feature Stump hopes will encourage more people to come to Poolesville events. He added that people out for a drive often look up new places on their mobile devices as they enter a town and might well come across something to do in Poolesville that they had not considered. The new website was scheduled to be live by October 21 with further revisions and updates over the next year.



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Commentary

Dynamics

By John Clayton

Soon, like so many President Gerald Fords, we will be able to say, "Our long national nightmare is over." Yes, the midterm elections will be over. The colossal idiocy of comments, gaffes, things they did or didn't do long ago, twists of contorted logic, all the things that people base their votes on all across the country, will temporarily cease. All those advertisements will cease as well—finally.

When the elections end, it appears very likely that the United States Senate will pass from Democratic "control" (quotation marks to indicate irony) to the Republican Party. While this may not exactly fit my partisan leanings, as irrelevant to the place of time and history as those may be, I find that I am quite ready to see what happens, and more than a little curious to see a different dynamic, almost any dynamic besides shutdown or stalemate. I subscribe to the school of thought, expressed by many, that this change might be good for the country because it might compel the Republicans to actually try and accomplish something, rather than just bollixing up the works so that nothing can get done. If there is pressure on the party to perform, perhaps some important issues will get addressed. It does appear that the extreme Tea Party impulses have been tamed, and the adults are back in charge, but only time will tell. Dare I

dream that practical initiatives on immigration or tax policy might emerge, with realistic hope of some bipartisan participation? Could I go a little further out on the limb and hope that universal healthcare and cost controls could be modified, rather than dismantled? Okay, let's not lose our minds here. I won't be looking for anything new on climate change, either.

President Obama could do with a reset as well. There is a strong, reasonably-defensible sentiment at large that nothing is getting done. We can debate who did what to whom for the rest of time, and it won't get us anywhere because it doesn't matter—it's a bottom line world. Mr. President, did you get things done or not? Are we better off than we were four years ago? That's a great line; I should do this for a living. I think, after six years of paralysis, I would rather see the politicians fighting over something that was actually on the president's desk to be signed or not signed, rather than just having senators and congressmen throwing spitballs at each other—or whatever it is they do in there. Maybe instead of just moving to his left or his right trying to build support for his policies, it's time for the president to play a little defense.

I think most people believe that government can make a positive difference. For some, good policies and programs will improve things, while for others, defunding the government so that it does a lot less is the answer and that's why we have elections in which most people don't bother to vote. No quotation marks were needed to flag the irony that time.

Rande(m) Thoughts

Thinking about Another Kind of American Hero

By Rande Davis

I have been thinking about something surprising this week: food. Okay, I know what you are thinking: One look at my waistline and you don't find that surprising at all. Actually, mind you, I was not thinking about eating food but rather about how it is produced. That's because I met with some very interesting guys this week whose lives pretty much center on making sure I get enough to eat. They do a good job.

You can read the details of that meeting on the front page, but the part I want to share with you falls under the category of "you don't know what you don't know," and there is a lot about farming I didn't know—and that's from someone who has lived in the Ag Reserve for more than thirty years and whose family roots are deeply planted in dairy farming.

Of course, I am not as bad as some others whose image of the American farmer starts and ends with the famous painting, American Gothic, by Grant

Wood. The dull and uninspiring face of the elderly farmer and his equally dismal spinster-daughter standing stiffly with pitchfork in hand are not reflective of today's farmer. If painted today, it would have the rake replaced by an iPad and the couple wearing a youngish, vibrant, with-it kind of look that reflected an optimistically cautious expression. Caution comes maturely and naturally to farmers. Their optimism comes from doing something they passionately love. (Just for the record, the man in American Gothic was not a farmer and the woman not a farmer's wife. He was modeled after a dentist friend of Wood and she was Wood's non-farming sister.)

If you are to accurately picture today's farmer, instead think of someone stooping over the field with his iPad in one hand and soil testing kit in the other. On the iPad is a color-coded image of the entire field showing, by grid, the level of healthiness of the soil. Today's farmer doesn't plant by throwing seed to the wind but by following a computerized image of his land, feeding it precisely by measurements provided to maximize success and healthy soil.

If your image of a farmer shows him sitting high on the tractor seat cutting a rut in the ground behind him, you are not thinking of many Maryland farmers. Our farmers are more likely to

Continued on page 6.

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Op Ed

Choices

By Ingeborg Westfall

I'm a pretty even-tempered person. At my age, getting angry, pouting, or being in a snit just add more frown lines or other unattractive facial features, so I try not to indulge. Besides, there's too much beauty and good in this world to be dragged down by trivia. I've learned to not talk politics with people with whom I disagree on important issues; the stronger their opinions and mine, the more we try to respect each other and not cross those unexpressed danger lines that mean you might lose a friend for good. Besides, I pride myself on being open-minded and fair, seeing all sides of an issue. Life is broad enough to include us all. One of my much-loved childhood mentors, Bugs Bunny, pretty much tolerated everyone except Elmer Fudd and those he regarded as "ma-rooms" (took me years to figure out that was rabbit-speak for morons). In that at least, he's my unquestioned arbiter.

I'm also fond of having grown up in Montgomery County, yes, the whole farming, rural, old-fashioned, 4-H, apple-cider-and-pumpkins-in-the-fall thing—to the point that I'm a life member of the Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park in Derwood. As in most years, I was looking forward to attending the Harvest Festival there in October.

Then the Friends' newsletter arrived with the news that the Montgomery County Parks Department's director had canceled the festival because it fell on the same day as Yom Kippur.

I was stunned. I guess my first thought was: What does observing/celebrating one have to do with observing/celebrating the other? I understand that Yom Kippur is the most important of the holidays in Judaism. I also understand that the Harvest Festival is a lovely celebration of our county's history. I mean, I don't see the events as exclusionary in the first place. A person had complained that observant Jews wouldn't be able to attend because of observing the holiday, thereby calling it an exclusionary event.

So what started as an everyday conflict of important activities turned into a religious sensitivity issue. Okay, I understand that the county has to be aware of a diverse population's issues, but how hard is it to look at a calendar and see that one's secular celebration falls on someone else's special religious day? Once it's

noticed, how hard is it to call people together and agree on a different date? Or, better yet, let the festival go on as planned. We all make choices every day, religious and otherwise, and if our religion dictates we stay at home or not attend some event that conflicts with it, that's our choice. As a friend of mine said, "I'd rather that stores be closed on Sundays, but it isn't going to happen, so all I can do is not patronize them on that day." I know, I know, it's far different in degree, but to me the thought process is the same. I wouldn't presume to tell other people what to attend or how to practice their religion, nor do I want anyone telling me what I can attend or how to practice my religion. The worst answer of all the alternatives is to take choice away from everybody which is what the Parks director did by canceling the event. If it was an attempt at diversity, at sensitivity, at accommodation of all, it ended up being misguided, and yes, hurtful—and, tell me, are any of us better for it?

The issue is just history now. The decision can't be undone—but it irritates me today almost as much as it did weeks ago. Comment on this article at www.MonocleOnline.com.

Why Vote

By Jerry Klobukowski

I recently read the report issued by the Montgomery County Right to Vote Task Force and its recommendations to increase voter turnout. It was a lot more about convenience than taking responsibility for one's own actions or lack thereof. Registering to vote and voting should not be about convenience. It is about being a citizen who participates in one of the most fundamental aspects of democracy. It is about honoring the sacrifices of those who have made it possible for us to live in this country and having the right to vote as "we" decide as individuals. We do not have to go far to find those people, you can just stand in front of the Lincoln Memorial and look across the Potomac River at Arlington House or in places like the cemeteries at Colleville-sur-Mer, on a bluff overlooking Omaha Beach in Normandy, France; the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (also known as Punchbowl Cemetery) on Oahu; and individual cemeteries throughout the world and this country to see where they rest. No one should need any prodding or incentives to vote. Taking time to vote in an election is not onerous, especially when compared to the sacrifices they made. Not registering and not voting cheapens their sacrifice as well as the sacrifice of those currently on active duty, including the sacrifices

of their families. You hear people say how they honor the service of veterans and those currently serving. Well, if

you really want to truly honor them, then Go Vote. Comment on this article at www.MonocleOnline.com.

TOWN OF POOLESVILLE BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING RECONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EXCEPTION 002-14

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held on October 28, 2014 at 7:00 PM, Poolesville Town Hall, 19721 Beall Street, Poolesville, Maryland for the purpose of receiving testimony regarding the request to reconsider the decision made by the Board of Zoning Appeals in regard to the granting of a Special Exception for a residential landscape business. The request for reconsideration was submitted by Caroline Taylor on behalf of Montgomery Countryside Alliance. Copies of this application are available at Town Hall.

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Editor's Note

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

Visit the *Monocle* online at www.monocacymonocle.com

Business Briefs

Local Outdoor Adventure Firm Helps IT Group with Communication

Corporate Network Services and Calleva joined together to break down communication barriers that exist in many companies, particularly in IT firms, where people are often geographically dispersed and rarely get to interact outside the office.

CNS recently hosted an event that had staff from all around the D.C./Baltimore area join in some team-building events that were unique. Ray Steen with CNS reports that, "Being an IT strategy and consulting firm, it was interesting for our government consultants, application developers, and business consultants to work together to solve problems alongside the Calleva facilitators." This communication workshop is one of CNS's Wellness Counts programs, recognized for the fourth consecutive year by the *Washington Business Journal*, naming the Poolesville firm one of the top ten healthiest small businesses of the year again.



Staff from Corporate Network Services are led by Calleva seminar facilitators in a drill to build cohesion.

Continued from page 4.

Another Kind of American Hero

be sitting three times higher than you in your car, in a glass-enclosed, heated and air-conditioned cab, with music in the background, seeding the ground (maybe at night) without one rut being made. Night or day is not as important since, while his hand will be on the steering wheel, the combine itself is just as likely being directed by GPS.

Today's farmer is on the cutting edge of environmental concern and ecological expertise. You see, instead of cutting ruts that can cause nutrient run-off and potential damaging erosion, a drill shoots the seed the proper depth into the ground of a freshly-cut field in no-till seeding. Look around you. Have you noticed that the pastures here usually have ground cover on them. After the summer corn is gone, expect to see more winter wheat growing, which helps to keep the soil rich and healthy.

Progress on the Retail Front

Tractor Supply will be opening November 1 with a planned grand opening on November 15. For those who haven't driven through town lately, earth is being moved to begin the building of the Dollar General store across from Town Hall on Fisher Avenue.

Sweet Tooth Exchange

Once again this year, Drs. Pike and Valega put a shout out to the community to bring Halloween candy to the dental office so they could send it to our military personnel overseas as a way to show gratitude this holiday season. Well, the community has really responded with over 242 lbs. of wrapped candy that has been sent to Operation Gratitude. **Operation Gratitude** seeks to lift morale and put smiles on faces by sending care packages addressed to individual soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines deployed overseas. **Operation Gratitude** care packages contain food, hygiene products, entertainment items, and personal letters of appreciation, all wrapped with good wishes of love and support.

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Local News

County Planning Board To Create New Park

By Kristen Milton

More than \$2.6 million was approved by the Planning Board this month to establish a new park north of Damascus called Bennett Creek Conservation Park. "This is not a small effort we're going to be engaged in here," land acquisition specialist Bill Gries noted in his October 9 presentation to the board. "I think we should all be proud of what we're doing in creating this new park."

Gries said the money, estimated at \$2,659,805, would pay for approximately 260 acres west of Ridge Road (Rte. 27) from the estate of Margaret T. Snow. The purchase, he said, would be funded through Legacy Open Space although the resolution also allows for the Montgomery County Department of Transportation to contribute funds in order to use the property as a Forest Mitigation Bank for future construction projects. "We think this could be a win-win," Gries said of the potential involvement of MCDOT.

Surveying of the site was not complete, Gries said; nonetheless, the staff report described the proposed parkland as consisting of "forest, meadow, steep slopes, and a significant number of wetlands and seeps/springs." Access to the park would be from two locations on Ridge Road and one on Bellison Road at a minimum, the report said.

The report also anticipated "a natural surface trail network" providing park visitors the ability to enjoy "significant scenic views that include nearby hills, forest, and meadows, and long range views...of mountains in counties to the west."

The Snow estate also includes a historic site, the Perry Watkins House and its outbuildings, which will not be included in the county's purchase. The buildings are structurally unsound, according to the staff report, and the Cultural Resources budget is "overburdened" with historic houses already.

The county hopes to acquire other properties that will eventually result

in a 400-acre Bennett Creek Conservation Park that will address increasing demand for recreational opportunities in coming years.

Ovid Hazen Wells Park Plans Progress

A makeover for Clarksburg's Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park drew a bit closer October 2 with a ten-minute public hearing at the Planning Board. The park's current Master Plan, intended to guide its development, was approved in 1995. An update is underway in part to allow for the relocation of the Ovid Hazen Wells carousel currently located at Wheaton Regional Park, whose repositioning was a condition of the property's donation to the commission.

Speaking on October 2, planning coordinator Rachel Newhouse said that, in addition to providing "a family destination area" centered around the carousel, the proposed update anticipated various other new uses for the 290-acre park. Plans include the conversion of the historic Ned Watkins House, built in 1892, into an event center hosting weddings, graduations, and fundraisers, and the creation of a "community growing" program at another historic building, the Oliver Watkins House. Visitors would be instructed in the techniques and importance of gardens and edible landscapes.

Ovid Hazen Wells is also one site being evaluated as a location for the future Clarksburg Community Recreation and Aquatic Center. "That's a very popular idea, and people are really looking forward to it coming," Newhouse said.

There were no community speakers at the hearing, but Newhouse noted two letters from the public. A letter from the Arora Hills subdivision reported a resident survey found sixty-seven percent in favor of the anticipated park changes, Newhouse said, although there were concerns about increased traffic and noise. The second letter, from a Piedmont Road resident, also identified noise as a concern. Noise and traffic studies will be part of any project approval process.

Testimony on the master plan update was to remain open until October 16. The board will then discuss and adopt any changes.

Senator Brian Feldman



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Youth Sports

Dig Pink Raises Record \$6000 for Breast Cancer Research

By Jeff Stuart

From the beautiful rendition of the National Anthem sung by senior Maggie Reed to open the evening through the end of the featured volleyball match with visiting Richard Montgomery and the closing events, the 2014 Dig Pink fundraiser on October 8 was a lot of fun and a huge success. The volleyball match was the final event after weeks of effort: Players and friends raised money through the sales of cookies, beads, wristbands, and other items on Poolesville Day; they raised more than \$500 at home football games; there

as much a part of the experience as the players he so passionately supported. Anyone who attended a Falcon event clearly remembers his enthusiastic 'First Down Poolesville,' 'Side out Falcons,' or his emphatic 'Three' when a Falcon basketball player launched and made an improbable shot. He was there for the boys' and girls' teams—and he was there for all of us, the fans, who each day bleed Falcon Black." Mr. Hansen's wife Susan and their children Ryan, Erica, and Justin attended the event and were presented with roses by members of the girls' volleyball team. "While it is rare for men to have breast cancer," said Head Coach Fran Duvall, herself a cancer survivor, "Eric fought to beat this cancer for years. He is a true hero. He is missed and we remember him fondly. We wanted to honor Eric's memory with our best campaign"—and they did, raising a record \$6100 and more this year.



The PHS girls' volleyball team raised another \$6,100 this year for breast cancer research, bringing their six year total to \$40,000.

was a carwash on October 5 that raised \$335, and there were many donated items auctioned off at the event itself and online.

This year's 6th Annual Dig Pink was especially dedicated to the memory of former PHS game announcer Eric Hansen who died on February 13, 2014 of breast cancer. "For the first five years of our Dig Pink efforts, a special Falcon, a member of our Athletic Hall of Fame, Mr. Eric Hansen shared his voice talents with Falcon volleyball," said current game announcer Robert Rocco. "Mr. Hansen's incredible voice was

Falcon volleyball has raised more than \$40,000 in its six years supporting the Side-Out Foundation's Dig Pink Campaign. The foundation is a support and advocacy organization dedicated to making a significant and identifiable difference in the lives of breast cancer patients and their families by supporting clinical trials, increasing compassionate support services, and educating communities. Nationwide, volleyball players from all fifty states, digging for a cure, have raised more than \$8 million since the campaign kicked off in 2004.

Between games of the match, there were fundraising events. In the volleyball serve-and-hit-a-prize competition, football quarterback Steven Morningstar won a PHS t-shirt. The Falcon mascot arm-wrestled the Honey Badger.

The visiting Rockets also supported this effort. Cancer survivors in the audience were invited to stand and accept pink roses from the Falcon volleyball team for demonstrating "courage that inspires all of us."

"Sponsors include more than twenty-five businesses, many from

right here in Poolesville, others throughout the county," said Rocco. These included Tractor Supply, Kristofer's, Starbucks, My Water Store, Great Beginnings, AMC Theaters, Chick-Fil-A, Poolesville Vet, Track Automotive, Franklin Press, Zaglio's Bakery, McDonald's, Poolesville CVS, Cugini's, Balloons for All Occasions, Lewis Orchards, Mooney's, Bassett's, Harris Teeter, and the Poolesville Boosters. Mrs. Patricia Woltz, mother of junior volleyball player Shirley Woltz, was the point person for this year's campaign and spent many hours coordinating the event.

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Arrive at 3:30pm on Nov 2nd for a Civil War history tour of the church.

For topic schedule and other information please visit:
poolpres.com



Things To Do

Hurry! Last week for **Markoff's Haunted Forest!** Remaining event dates: October 23-25, 30-31, and November 1. Price: Thursdays: \$22, Fridays and Saturdays: \$30

Advance purchase online tickets required: markoffshauntedforest.com. Gates open at 7:00 p.m. and close at 9:30 p.m. on Thursdays, 10:30 p.m. on weekends. Fast Passes available with purchase of meal on weekends at Bassett's, Cugini's and the House of Poolesville.

October 24

PHS Varsity Home Game

Homecoming. Football versus Wheaton. 6:30 p.m.

House of Poolesville Event

Brian Jamison Band. 8:30 p.m.

Poker for WUMCO

St. Peter's will host a Texas Hold 'em poker tournament in its parish hall at 20100 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville. All receipts will go to WUMCO. The buy-in is \$20. Snacks are provided, bring your favorite beverage. For details and reservations, dwiley@recordedbooks.com. 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. or so.

October 25

Barnesville Basement

Books and clothes for kids and adults, housewares, toys, sporting goods, electronics, music, furniture, baby equipment, luxury items, and more. Barnesville School, 21830 Peach Tree Road, Dickerson. Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Annual Ham

and Turkey Dinner and Festival

The meal also includes mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, green beans, sauerkraut, and rolls. The festival offers crafts, baked goods, pumpkins, country store items, Christmas store, and free hayrides. Cost for adults and all carryouts is \$15. Dining room guests 10 and under eat for free. St. Mary's pavilion at 18230 Barnesville Road, Barnesville. Noon to 7:00 p.m.

Legomania Is Back with Daniel!

Poolesville Library. Come by and create structures using Legos, K'nex, and other building materials. Registration not required. 2:00 p.m.

WUMCO Walk and Fall Festival

Fun family event from noon to 4:00 p.m. at Whalen Commons to aid WUMCO Help!, the area's local food pantry and aid service for those in need. Games, prizes, moon bounce, and climbing wall. Schedule of events: Support Walk (noon: arrive earlier to register), Beard and Mustache Contest

(12:45 p.m.), Dog Costume Contest (1:00 p.m.), Kids' Costume Contest (1:30 p.m.), live music by Smoke n' Mangoes (3:00 p.m.), kids' pumpkin and scarecrow-making contest judging (3:30 p.m.)

House of Poolesville Event

DJ Slim Pickins. 8:30 p.m.

October 26

John Poole House and the Old Town Hall Bank Museum and Exhibit Center
Noon to 4:00 p.m.

October 27

Poolesville Library Book Discussion
Enjoy and discuss *The Night Gardener* by George Pelecanos. Copies will be available at the circulation desk. 7:00 p.m.

October 28

PHS Varsity Home Game

Girls' soccer 2A West region versus either Winters Mill or South Carroll. 6:00 p.m.

October 29

PASC Event

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

October 30

PASC Event

Poolesville Area Senior Center. **Organize with Lisa.** 17550 West Willard Road. 1:00 p.m.

October 31

Bassett's Halloween Bar Party

Best costume contest with \$50 gift certificate. Happy hour prices for costumed guests attending party. Evening hours.

House of Poolesville Costume Party

Prizes. 8:30 p.m.

Lions Community Halloween Party

St. Mary's Pavilion, Barnesville. Bring your kids, grandkids, or the neighbors' kids to a safe and fun-filled Halloween evening. Come dressed in costume. There will be a costume competition, games, refreshments, and prizes—all treats and no tricks. 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

November 1

14th Annual Halloween

Open Mic and Pot Luck Dinner

Historic Hyattstown Mill Art Project (14920 Hyattstown Mill Road). Poets, storytellers, singers, musicians, and good listeners welcome. 7:30 p.m.

House of Poolesville Event

Michael Walker Company. 8:30 p.m.

November 1 and 2

John Poole House and the Old Town Hall Bank Museum and Exhibit Center
Noon to 4:00 p.m.

November 2

PACC Poolesville Town Commissioners' Public Forum

Open-question-and-answer format of all town commissioner candidates. Public encouraged to attend and submit their questions. Poolesville Town Hall. 7:00 p.m.

November 4

Election Day

State elections held in schools. Poolesville Town Commissioner election held at Town Hall. 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

November 5

PASC Event

Poolesville Area Senior Center. **T'ai Chi.** 17550 West Willard Road. 1:00 p.m.

Community Dinner

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 20100 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville. 301-349-2073. Breakfast for dinner: pancakes, sausage, bacon, eggs, and more. Free. 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Continued from page 1.

Local Farmers Unite

need for agriculture producers to be able to respond, react, and make decisions more quickly vis-a-vis the legislators.

Another of their key goals is to educate the public about modern farming in the county: about the importance of farming economically and environmentally, and as a primary tool in preserving the Agriculture Reserve. Part of MAP's mission is also to educate our next generation about where our food comes from.

Dairy farmer Dave Weitzer noted that a major concern is that the area's elected officials disproportionately represent the interests of down county residents with only a cursory understanding of farming in the county. As an example, Mike Jamison noted that when staff members of county legislators were bussed out to the Jamison farm in Poolesville two years ago, he was stunned to hear: "I have lived in the county all my life, and I had no idea that this degree of farming was going on in the county." The impact was a realization that farming in the county did not have the kind of profile with decision-makers that it should.

Cissel acknowledged the excellent work of other groups like Sugarloaf Citizens Association and Montgomery Countryside Alliance in environmental work,

November 6

PASC Event

Poolesville Area Senior Center. **Medicare Seminar.** 17550 West Willard Road. 1:00 p.m.

Twos Storytime

Poolesville Library. Come listen to stories, sing some songs, and share some rhymes. For ages 12 to 36 months. Registration not required. 10:30 a.m.

November 7

PHS Varsity Home Game

Football versus Rockville. 6:30 p.m.

November 8

Poolesville Relay for Life Basket/Cash Bingo

Tickets \$20 for twenty games and specials. Food purchase available. Door prizes. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and games start at 7:00 p.m. *St. Mary's Pavilion in Barnesville.* Contact Carol Lawson for more information 301-461-1766 or grammiebaskets@verizon.net.

goals shared by the farmers, but he emphasized that the needs of farming are more specific, and its voice needs to be heard alongside theirs.

MAP plans to fight the cause of maintaining the area's open spaces and preservation of the Ag Reserve through the strength and role of farming. Approximately 78,000 of the 93,000 acres in the Ag Reserve are assessed as farmland by the state of Maryland. Of those 78,000 acres, about 45,000 acres are considered cropland. Cissel explained that with the amount of developable land down county shrinking, the pressure to build in the Ag Reserve will grow. A key roadblock to that prospect is effective, successful farming. The history of local farming businesses usually depicts a family enterprise being passed on from generation to generation. Exemplifying this are second-generation farmer Weitzer and third-generation farmer Jamison as well as Spates whose roots in farming in the area go back to the mid-1800s. Jamison noted that there is a misunderstanding of a so-called aging problem in farming. While the deed may be in the name of the elder patriarch, "most of the farms in MAP already have the second generation working the farm now, and the work they do will be passed on to their kids;" thus the need to keep the voice about the importance of open space in the county loud and clear for generations to come.

Youth Sports

Early Big Wins Boost Field Hockey Team

By Jeff Stuart

At the final practice before hosting Churchill High School, the Poolesville High School girls' field hockey team was excited about a previous win over Sherwood and began to look forward to their contest against the strong Churchill Bulldogs, 4-2.

The reason for their excitement was simple: The Falcons, although a 2A region finalist last season, lost to both Churchill and Sherwood last year, finishing 7-5. The team has grown up a lot though, and that has shown in the early season returns. The players opened up about the team, the season so far, and their expectations for 2014.

"In our sophomore year, we were undefeated and that was so exciting," said senior defenseman Amanda Chasin, "That was the first year that we (the senior captains) were all together. We were sort of off a bit last year. To be back on the field together again, though, and playing well this year—it's an amazing feeling."

Reflecting on her favorite moment in playing field hockey so far, senior forward Mary Hall recalled a game from last year. "We beat Damascus in overtime and double strokes. Christina Hilton got the winning stroke. That was really exciting for us. I am looking forward to the Churchill game this year because they are big rivals for us, and I really want to beat them." Last year, PHS lost a tough one against Churchill in overtime, 3-2.

Senior defender Anna Murgia reflected on the season thus far. "Our best game this year was definitely against Sherwood. They beat us badly last year, 4-0." Senior forward Haley Wilson agreed about the importance of beating Sherwood. "That was a tough game. It was at Sherwood last year, but it was at home this year. They are big, a 4A school, and they were very fast with good stick skills, so it was a really big deal for us to win that game." It started slow but the Falcons came out and scored twice in the second half to win, 2-0. No one scored until the last ten minutes of the game. Chasin added, "We hung in the game until the end, working hard the whole time, and we were really hungry to score, so when we finally did, there was a big celebration and then we had another shot and scored again."

For the Falcons, their effort is an all-for-one and one-for-all commitment. "We are just excited about our season,"

said Murgia. "We are a very close-knit group, and I think that helps us play well individually and as a team."

Haley Wilson emphasized that the Falcons' primary and traditional rivalry game is against Damascus. "They are winning pretty much like we are. I am sure they lost people from last year, but we didn't lose that many from last year, so it should be an interesting game."

The Falcons' enthusiasm about the Churchill game paid off as they beat Churchill, 2-0, this time on two goals in the final ten minutes of the first half. Murgia and Wilson scored the goals.

"It was a great game for us as a team," said coach Rachel Stream. "We started off a little slow, but we eventually figured out a game plan of what we needed to do to become successful. This team has really worked hard not only with their skills but with understanding the knowledge of the game. We really just recently started connecting with our passes, finishing around the goal when we needed to. It was a fun game to be a part of and great to get under our belt, but we still are not settling and look to still improve every day to make sure we accomplish what we really want to accomplish, which is to get back to the state championship."

On September 22 against the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Barons, the Falcons played through two overtimes with the game remaining scoreless. The best scoring chance for either team came on a penalty shot by Murgia toward the end of regulation. She was awarded the shot after being tripped. Having missed that opportunity, it remained very intense, with B-CC shooting first each time, and all the first three strikers scored for each team. The last three for each team missed. Finally, the game ended in a tie. The best scoring chance for either team came on a penalty stroke by Murgia in the first overtime. The team was awarded the shot after Mary Hall was tripped up by the goalie. After that game, the Falcons climbed to second in the overall county rankings, behind Wootton.

Scoring so far has been spread around quite a bit for the Falcons. Before the September 29 game against Walter Johnson, Wilson and Hall led the team with six goals each. Murgia had five, Mense with four, and junior Katie Kavanaugh having two. Chasin leads the team with five assists and junior midfielder Casey Harkins having four. Mary Hall and sophomore Delaney Cecco each have two assists a piece. In goal, senior Anna DeSoto had a couple of important first-half kick-saves against Sherwood.

"The year has been going well so far," said coach Regina Grubb. "The girls are working hard and getting used to each other on the field. We have been working on all aspects of the game but really working to get more confidence around the goal. We are taking it game by game to do the best we can for the time being." Against Sherwood, Grubb said, "The girls played as a unit and really worked well together."

The Falcons head to the sectional playoffs after beating Whitman, 1-0, on October 17. Sophomore Samme Mullikin scored the game's only goal.

Other seniors are Gillian Casey and Emily Conway. Other juniors are Christina Hilton, Jennifer Dunn, Sarah Guthrie, Carley Kenley, Megan Wilson, and Jessie Martinez.



Falcon team captains: Haley Wilson, Amanda Chasin, Anna Murgia, and Mary Hall.

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Local News

Poolesville Man Sets Record in Catalina Channel Swim

By Rande Davis

The Catalina Channel Swimming Federation of San Pedro, California reported that it was a record-setting day in the channel on September 29, when Poolesville's Jim Clifford, age 62, broke a long-standing age record with a new record of 9:49.20. The distance is a little over twenty miles as the crow flies, but winds and waves can affect the actual distance an individual may swim.

On the day of Jim's swim, there were large, rough swells, but they were heading in the right direction for him. He was well primed for his Catalina Channel swim, having completed the Manhattan Island Marathon Swim earlier this year on June 28. The previous record in Clifford's age group held for sixteen years was set by Bob West in 1998. Speaking on behalf of CCSF, Barbara Held, an official observer, stated, "If Bob's record had to be



Poolesville's Jim Clifford set a new swimming record in California.

broken, I'm glad it was by someone like Jim." Congratulations, Jim, on your outstanding achievement!

Out-of-town arduous swimming challenges are emerging as a bit of an exclusive club for Poolesvillians. The *Monocle* previously reported on Walter Moskwa's achievements in swimming the Barragansett Bay in Rhode Island and more recently about town attorney Jay Gallo swimming the Escape from Alcatraz triathlon. Makes us wonder if there are more bay swimmers out there?

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I have been proud to represent the citizens of Poolesville as a Commissioner for the past four years. In that time, the Town Commissioners have achieved many notable successes including:

- Town Web Portal** - improved transparency and resident communication
- Solar Array** - reduction in expenses and commitment to renewable energy
- Seniors Program** - town support for local seniors
- Zoning Changes** - strengthen property rights and encourage economic growth
- LED Streetlights** - lower expenses and reduction in energy consumption
- Business Development** - over eight new storefronts in town
- Infrastructure** - new sidewalks, new parks, major sewer improvements
- Grocery Store** - formal search process aimed at bringing a grocery store to town
- Sound Financials** - Poolesville's finances are the envy of many municipalities

I need your vote in order to continue this good work. **Please vote for me on November 4 at Town Hall.**

House of Poolesville

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Markoff's Haunted Forest Fast Passes

With purchase of entrée

October 24: Brian Jamison

October 25: DJ Slim Pickins at 8:30 p.m.

October 31: Halloween Costume Party

With Prizes for Best Costume

November 1: Michael Walker Company 8:30 p.m.

Every Wednesday is Trivia Night

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

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Continued from page 1.

The Markoffs' Big Adventure!

hour from the capital of San Jose, with beautiful mountainous vistas, amazing whitewater rapids, and right in the middle of what can best be described as perfect coffee-growing land. Coffee farms were all around them. They selected a hillside chalet that was quite tight for space but had an incredible view of the valley.

The extended visit required the children to enroll in local schools, where the start of the school year is in February, and the year ends in December. The schools gave them many new experiences, including wearing uniforms each day.

One of the more significant highlights of the Markoff adventure was initiating a family public service project. They chose to support the community's love of soccer and took on rebuilding the local elementary school soccer field. The five-month project began with re-grading and reseeding the field. Looking for assistance from back home, the Markoff children connected with their friends and coaches in Poolsville who helped gather dozens of bags of cleats and soccer balls. Isabel's soccer coach in Poolsville, Coach Kelly Wallace, was instrumental in gathering loads of gear.

The donation was so extensive that they became overloaded with soccer balls and cleats and were able to extend the project all over the valley beyond just their local elementary school. The real work began when Alex's parents came down during Thanksgiving and Alex's dad helped the family to measure and prepare the field.

Even though Markoff's Haunted Forest was only a memory in Costa Rica, the family managed to improvise Halloween in their new residence, choosing to carve a squash rather than a pumpkin, since they were quite expensive. They kept the spirit of Halloween alive with their costumes also. The girls dressed up as snowflakes to amuse the locals who don't experience snow, while young George took a more manly direction as a mummy.

Thanksgiving was a celebration the Markoffs offered to the locals since it is not a tradition there. The Markoffs shared a makeshift traditional Thanksgiving as a family and with as many as thirty of their newly-found friends.

Christmas was in Mexico and the New Year in Panama before the family settled down into their new life in Orosi. It was during the month of December, though, that things started to get a little crazy in Costa Rica for the Markoffs. While everyone up north is thinking about Christmas and skiing,



Incredible vistas surrounded the Markoffs during their stay in Costa Rica.

the Costa Ricans are just finishing up the school year, harvesting coffee, and still finding time to prepare for Christmas. Actually, a lot of people are fully decorated by mid-October as there aren't any other holidays like Halloween or Thanksgiving getting in the way of the Christmas spirit.

Christmas itself is quiet. Most Costa Ricans do their celebrating on Christmas Eve. The Pachecos, new friends in the town, kindly invited the Markoffs over for a traditional Christmas turkey dinner. It was a taste of home with the men falling asleep on the couch after the meal, while the women drank tea and chatted about books. The kids played with toys and gadgets—the Markoffs felt right at home.

It was not just soccer, surfing, hiking, and kayaking that consumed much of their time. Life's necessities in Costa Rica also introduced them to entirely new experiences like slaughtering pigs and milking cows.

Beyond a few mishaps and strange infrequent illnesses, the family thoroughly enjoyed their temporary new life, met their goal of a lot of soccer, surfing, and Spanish, and finally made their way back to Poolsville last September where, while happy for their Big Adventure, still felt the homecoming spirit in the Spanish phrase, Bueno esta en casa: It's good to be home.

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IT'S HALLOWEENTOWN!

Poolesville Paints the Town Orange



Youth Sports

Team Lunches Lead to Success

By Jeff Stuart

At practice on September 23, before the Northwest match, the girls' tennis team captains, all honor students, were clearly having fun. "Team lunches and practices are my favorite things," said junior Amulya Uppala, third singles player. "Yeah, they are good for team bonding," chipped in junior first singles player Carley Pera. "You didn't hear wrong," said head coach Holly Dacek, "they do love their team lunches." Maybe the team lunch helped: Against Northwest, the Falcons won second and fourth singles and second and third doubles to win.

to be pretty evenly-matched against them. I have a tough opponent, but, as a team, we should be on the same level."

Holding down fourth singles for the Falcons is freshman Shefali Gupta. Senior Hanna Kim and junior Elena Lostoski are first doubles. Junior Ankita Sharma and freshman Bhuvana Pandalai played second doubles. Sophomores Shirley Quito and Sabrina Johnson held down third doubles.

"The WJ [match] on September 26 was a very important match, and they came out with their game faces," said first doubles player and captain, Hannah Kim. "We went out to the courts with strong, positive attitudes. Despite the fact that it was a Friday afternoon, we played some really good tennis. All the girls gave 110 percent. That was probably the closest match we've had overall skill-wise. While we're not too happy we lost, we're proud of how we did as a team." Kim,



2014 PHS girls' tennis: Lydia Wang, Carley Pera (co-captain), Amulya Uppala (co-captain), Deepti Agnihotri, Sabrina Johnson, Coach Dacek, Divya Ganjala, Shirley Quito, and Jessica Yin. Missing are: Hanna Kim (captain), Shefali Gupta, Elena Lostoski, Bhuvana Pandalai, Ankita Sharma, and Vaishnavi Sesetty.

"We have won some matches and lost some, but we're doing well as a team," said Uppala. "I get really nervous before a match, but it feels good once I get into it and start playing, particularly if I am winning. Personally, my best match was the first one I won, which was here against Einstein."

"We are doing really well," said Pera. "We have won most of our division matches. In the, 4-3, team loss to Blair, we weren't playing really well. Some of us were a little sick...Maybe our heads weren't into it, but we are going to learn from it."

Said sophomore second singles player Lydia Wang, "We have only lost one division match, so it is going well so far. I liked the Einstein game. I won my match. Everybody played really well." Looking ahead to the Walter Johnson match. "We are going

who graduates this year, added, "We lost four players to graduation last year, but we had a strong team this year, and we strove to win as many matches as possible."

Overall, the Falcons finished third in Division II behind Blair and Walter Johnson. They lost to both, by 4-3 scores, the smallest of margins. "The Blair match was very close. At the time, it looked like it would probably determine the division winner," said Dacek.

Two years ago, the Falcons won Division II. This season, after a tough season in Division I last year, Poolesville hoped to claim that title once again. At seventy-five overall, they fell short. "All the girls bonded well and got along well together," said Dacek. "None of my players has private coaches. They've worked really hard." All their singles players will return next year.



Jim Brown for Commissioner

Hello Poolesville! I'm Jim Brown and it's been my pleasure to serve as the President of your Poolesville Town Commissioners for the last two years (and as your Vice-President for the prior two years). I've enjoyed serving the town and our residents and I'm happy to say that I'm running for re-election (with the election coming up on November 4th at Town Hall). Before I get started, I want to make sure you know that our residents are the primary reasons we live in what I consider to be the best small town in America!

My platform is pretty simple: I want to continue to provide the leadership that transforms the wants and needs of our residents into the goods, services and lifestyles they desire—all at a tax rate that is amongst the lowest of any municipality in Maryland. I enjoy meeting and working with all of you, from our longtime residents to the folks that just moved in yesterday. You know me and you see me just about every day—at town events, running basketball clinics, helping our merchants, serving in your organization, talking real estate. As your elected official, I represent you, and that's where it starts and ends with me.

In my opinion, we have absolute magic taking place here in Poolesville. Our schools are amongst the best in the country (driven by our concerned and hardworking parents, teachers, and students). We have one of the lowest crime rates in Maryland, and our community feels safe. Our per capita income is in the top tier in the country, yet the town still provides goods and services at a rate just about everyone can afford. We are "wired" with top fiber-optic internet service, which provides great telecommuting opportunities for our residents. We have introduced new opportunities for our senior community with the creation of the Poolesville Area Senior Center. The town also takes community-building very seriously now—think about all of our town events, including the upcoming Holiday Lighting Ceremony. Our streets are clean, our parks are the envy of the region, and our town manager and staff are incredible and take pride in their work—and it shows.

None of this happens by accident. The role of the Town Commissioners is to actively guide this ship and make the hard decisions that directly affect our residents, including investing in infrastructure (re-lining our sewer pipes), energy (the newly-constructed solar array), and the environment (LED streetlights, modernized/efficient waste-water facilities, etc.). For the last two years, we've embarked on a journey where no commissioners have gone before with a hard focus on economic development. We can't rely on our commercial strip owners to recruit and support the businesses you residents tell us you want. I'm proud to say we've worked hard to revitalize our commercial sector—and we have more work in front of us. To the best of my abilities, Poolesville will always stay a small but vibrant town.

You'd be surprised how much our decisions affect your daily lives. It's not all about sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes, parks, etc. (although all of those are vitally important). Over the last four years, this group of commissioners has wrestled with some of the biggest challenges the town has ever faced, including severe budget challenges that were created by infrastructure investment coupled with declining revenue from our friends at Montgomery County. We've accomplished a ton with little or no impact on our tax rate. See more below.

Not only has this group of commissioners faced these challenges head-on by rolling up our sleeves and doing the hard work needed, we've done it harmoniously. We don't always agree on a direction (plenty of lively debate—come see us in action at a town meeting sometime), but we respect each other's viewpoints while supporting the final decision of the board. It hasn't always been that way. Your current group of Town Commissioners is energetic and actively involved in the community. We're visible, we work hard as volunteers, and we have good long range vision. The town is in a new era of responsible government—an era all residents should be proud of.

My main message to you today is to make sure you take the time to vote on November 4th at Town Hall. Without a good turnout, we might not be able to continue our "Positive Poolesville" direction.

Make no mistake about it—I'd really like to continue as your commissioner, but just as importantly, I ask you to make sure you cast a vote for Chuck Stump as well. I may be the public voice (along with Valaree D.) of the commissioners, but Chuck is probably our MVC (Most Valuable Commissioner). Chuck and his fellow Planning Commission members helped herald in many of the positive changes that have taken place in our town, including providing the leadership behind the comprehensive rewrite of our master-plan to help make the town more "business friendly". His dedication towards creating our new town web site should have easily been a "paid" endeavor, but Chuck wouldn't think about accepting money for helping the town advance itself. Chuck has initiated or hand-carried just about every positive initiative the town has taken on over the last four years. For more information, go to Chuck's web site at www.cwsii.com.

Thanks for taking the time to vote on November 4th. I'd appreciate your vote, and I ask that you make sure you pull down the lever next to Chuck's name as well! I can always be reached at 301-221-1988 (text, too), Facebook, or via email at jimbrown.sales@gmail.com.

Garden

Rethinking Peonies

By Maureen O'Connell

In several of my columns in August and September, I lamented the loss of many of my old friends in my gardens due to the vagaries of last year's severe winter, our very hot and dry summer, and my new, no-chemical-pesticide-and-fungicide-spraying program. In the future, the Survival of the Fittest would guide my garden design and plant selections. My long love affair with roses, especially the English David Austin roses, was over. I replaced them with long-tested, hardier perennial flowers and herbs. I also abandoned dahlias. This did leave some gaping holes in the landscape. Fall can be an ideal time for planting some perennials, but not all. I prefer to wait for the spring for many plants.

October and November is the best time to plant peonies. I know what many of you are going to say: "Peonies? They are so old-fashioned; my great grandmother grew them. They only bloom once a year and for a short amount of time. They are red, white, or pink." *Washington Post* garden writer, Henry Mitchell (1923-1993), loved peonies and had this to say about them: "The fattest and most scrumptious of all flowers, a rare fusion of fluff and majesty, the peony is now coming into bloom." A garden plan should speak to all seasons. The peony offers outrageously-beautiful flower heads in May and June and lush, dark green foliage all summer long. It marks the flow of seasons, requires little maintenance, and even relishes cold weather, needing chilling temperatures for bud formation.

Volumes could be written about the history and symbolism of the peony in China and Japan, where both tree and herbaceous species were cultivated in the eighth century. The Roman author and naturalist Pliny the Elder (AD 23 to AD 79) called it the oldest of all plants. Legend has it that it was named after Paeon, a physician to the gods. He is said to have used a peony's root to cure a wound given to Pluto by Hercules. The seeds of the male peony were used both as a condiment and a charm against witchcraft by the Anglo-Saxons in England. In the early Middle Ages, the Benedictine monks introduced peonies into the monastery gardens, and from there they made their way into cottage gardens. In the late Middle Ages, Dutch artists used this flower many times in their floral paintings. Many other European artists, such as

Manet, Renoir, Fantin-Latour, Gauguin, Bazille, and Delacroix, featured peonies in many of their paintings. If the rose is the Queen of all flowers, the peony is the King of all flowers.

The peony is a flowering plant in the genus *Paeonia*, the only genus in the family *Paeoniaceae*. They are very long-lived; some have been known to thrive for over one hundred years. They just might live longer than you do.

The rules for successful cultivation of peonies is very simple: full sun and well-drained soil. I have several plants that were located in sunny areas years ago, but as the surrounding trees' canopies became denser, the peonies received fewer hours of sunlight and their flowering slowed. I have now started a new bed in full sun with four varieties of peony: 'Eden's Perfume,' 'Charlie's White,' 'Sarah Bernhardt,' and 'Santa Fe.'

Fall is the best time to plant new peonies; they should be settled into place before the first hard frost in our area. Spring-planted ones don't do as well; they lag about one year behind those planted in the fall—so you have time now to lay in a new bed.

Peonies range in height from twenty-four inches to forty inches. Place them three to four feet apart so they will get good air circulation which will help prevent fungal diseases. Set the root in the soil so that the eye faces upward, and it is no deeper than two inches below the soil surface. They thrive on benign neglect; they don't need heaps of fertilizer and mulch. The taller varieties may need support hoops. Deadhead the blossoms as soon as they fade, and cut foliage back to the ground in the fall to avoid overwintering disease. Don't worry about all the ants that almost cover the emerging buds. They and the peony enjoy a symbiotic relationship: The ants eat the flowers' nectar in exchange for attacking bud-eating pests.

As with most plants, you get what you pay for. Buy peony roots at established garden centers. I order mine from Wayside Gardens and White Flower Farm, and I have never been disappointed. Take a new look at peonies this fall. They come in luscious new colors and shapes. One of my favorites is 'Raspberry Sundae.' It has cream petals suffused with a delicious raspberry shade that grows deeper towards the center. 'Nick Shaylor' is another blush pink beauty. You can plant them in groups or scatter them through mixed borders. They fit right in with columbines, *Baptisias*, Veronicas, irises, especially Siberian, and roses. Plant some now; come spring you will have dazzlers in the garden or in a vase.

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Tidbits

William Roberts Posthumously Receives Award

On Sunday, October 19, the family of local attorney William Roberts posthumously accepted the Royce Hanson Award from the Montgomery County Alliance on his behalf. MCA presents the Royce Hanson Award in recognition of an individual of outstanding commitment toward the protection of Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve.

MCA board member and long-time Reserve activist Dolores Milmoie writes, 'Through his efforts on behalf of civic and environmental groups over the decades, Bill had a significant and lasting impact on this beautiful region, also known as the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve. From frequent phone calls to written briefs to legal representation, Bill was the very best at helping us navigate land-use issues and policy debates. Much of his advice was pro bono because he felt so strongly about the issues. He helped wage important legal fights against the county government and its



Tom and Cheryl McWright, Bubby Pollen, Sherry Hoff, Carl Hobbs, Mary Lou Hoffacker, Paul Kelly, Mary Considine, Diane Shoemaker, Krista Abbaticchia, Jim Brown, Don Hoffacker, and Elena Victoria.



Lisa Roberts, widow of William Roberts, accepted the annual Royce Hanson Award. Dolores Milmoie, Royce Hanson, son William Roberts, Mrs. Roberts, Sarah Roberts, Maureen O'Connell, and Jim Choukas-Bradley.

In citing Mr. Roberts, MCA noted, 'For decades, quietly and with acute precision, Bill Roberts advised and guided Reserve civic groups, individuals, and municipalities. The list of issues Bill took on is long, ranging from a proposed Outer Beltway to landfills to ill-conceived special exceptions, and, though busy with his private practice, he rarely turned us away. Over the years, he gained quite a respected reputation in the county, with staff at the county's Planning Department often referring to and relying on him as that 'brilliant country lawyer from Poolesville.' Brilliant is right.

attempts to burden our landscape with unwanted waste facilities.'

Sadly, Bill left us too soon, having passed away after a courageous battle with cancer earlier this year."

The award is named after its first recipient, Dr. Royce Hanson, former Chair of the Montgomery County Planning Commission and original architect of the Ag Reserve.

Poolesville Military Support Group Makes Donation

At a ceremony held on October 18 at the memorial center in Whalen Commons, Carl Hobbs, chairman of

the Poolesville Military Support Group (PMSG), and members of the committee gathered to present the group's donations for 2014 to the Fisher House Foundation and the Yellow Ribbon Fund. Each organization received a donation of \$5,000 from proceeds made from their annual outing for wounded warriors at White's Ferry and other donations made throughout the year. Fisher House Foundation is best known for a network of comfort homes where military and veterans' families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment. The Yellow Ribbon Fund was founded to serve the injured coming back from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Mr. Hobbs also presented plaques of recognition to Don and Mary Lou Hoffacker and Krista Abbaticchia for their major contributions to the organization. Mrs. Abbaticchia donated a motorcycle that belonged to her late husband Mike to benefit of PMSG.

Four SCMS Seniors Semi-Finalists in National Competition

Three-hundred semifinalists were announced in the Siemens Competition from a field of 1780 entries nationally. Twenty-four Poolesville High School Science, Math, Computer Science seniors entered the competition with papers describing research performed at their summer internships; four have been chosen as semifinalists.

We recognize the following students: **Brandon Grinkemeyer** —NIST, Using Bose-Einstein Condensate of Rubidium-87 in a Three-Dimensional Double Well Optical Lattice to Measure the Effect of Density on the Neighboring Atoms' Rydberg Blockaded Excitation; **Sreejan Kumar**—Laboratory of Computational Neurodiagnostics University of New York at Stony Brook, Mathematical Modeling and Brain Activations Characterize Differences in Human Pattern Recognition during Conditions of Ambiguous Feedback; **Navya Nanda**—NIH, Vascular Inflammation by FDG PET/CT Relates to Aortic Wall Stiffness in Psoriasis; and **Umesh Padia**—NIDDK, NIH, The Discovery of a Novel TRH-R1 Agonist: A Drug Candidate for Treating Depression, Graves Disease, and Hypothyroidism.

Author Couturier Publishes Poetry

Local author Lisa Couturier announces the publishing of her latest work, a poetry chapbook, *Animals/Bodies* (Finishing Line Press). "After my literary nonfiction (*The Hopes of Snakes*, Beacon, 2006; the Pushcart Prize-winning essay "Dark Horse", 2012; and notable essay citations in Best American Essays, 2006 and 2011), followed by somewhat of a dry spell, it is fulfilling to have this chapbook of poetry," says Couturier. Copies can be ordered directly from the publisher or from Amazon.



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By authority Legislative District-15 PAC - Gary Featheringham, Treasurer

Tidbits of The Past

By Jack Toomey

October 6, 1925 At the monthly meeting of the Dickerson Community League, a silver cup was awarded to Miss Emma French, principal of the Dickerson High School. The award was for the school attaining the highest rank in the county in athletics. In addition, the school was presented with a decorative bowl of flowers by the Dickerson Home Demonstration Club.

October 9, 1925 A preliminary cattle judging event was held at the farm of Dr. Thomas Kelly near Darnestown for students enrolled in the county's vocational agricultural program. Forty-two boys were present, and Lawrence Allnutt of the Poolesville School received the highest score.

October 10, 1925 Even though the year was the driest on record in Maryland, farmers in the Poolesville area reported that their crops did better than those in other parts of the state. The only crop that failed was the early potatoes.

October 12, 1925 David Beattie of Boyds, who had been summoned to New York City to the bedside of his sister who was said to be near death, sent word that she was not dying and not near death, and that he would be returning home as soon as possible.

October 14, 1925 The 371-acre farm of Earl Wood, near Boyds, was sold to Sheriff Clay Plummer for \$12,000.

On the same day, George Hess, the superintendent of the Botanical Gardens, purchased a forty-one-acre farm on the Rockville-Potomac Pike for \$7100.

October 16, 1925 The county commissioners, after receiving a report from two doctors, committed Robert Armstrong and John Mason to the Springfield Asylum for being of unsound mind.

October 29, 1925 About fifty men and women attended a meeting of the Ku Klux Klan at the town hall at Kensington. The Rev. Heavener opened the meeting with a prayer, and F.H. Beall was the speaker. The purpose of the meeting was to organize clans in Kensington which would have made twelve chapters in Montgomery County. It was said that two more clans would be organized at Hyattstown and Gaithersburg in the coming weeks.

October 30, 1925 A large group of society women were attending a luncheon at the home of Edith Morris near Alta Vista when a fire broke out. The women, some not dressed for the cold, were forced out onto the lawn while Mrs. Morris telephone for help to the fire departments at Tenleytown, Rockville, and Kensington. It was believed that a spark from the fireplace caused the fire.

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

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DILLINGHAM FOR COMMISSIONER



Hello Poolesville Neighbors,

My name is Patsy Dillingham, and I'm running for a seat as a Poolesville Town Commissioner. My interest in being a Commissioner is to give my time and talents back to our community, and to be *your* conservative voice in our town. Included in this letter is a bit of personal history, career background, organizations that I have been actively involved in and awards/honors I have received.

I've lived with my husband and family in this small, charming town (and in the same house) for 33 years. We moved to Maryland from Memphis, TN in 1979 when my husband, Tom, was hired as a Labor Negotiator for the Montgomery County Public School System (MCPS). Two years later, we moved to Poolesville, when the population was a little less than a thousand residents. Both daughters, Mechelle and Shannon, graduated from Poolesville High School. We have two (2) grandsons, both of whom live and go to colleges here in Maryland.

I received a BS degree in Business Administration, with a concentration in Human Resources Management/Labor Relations. I'm a fiscal conservative and have extensive experience in business, as shown below.

- Sr. Consultant with PeopleSoft Consulting (PSC), a computer company, now owned by Oracle. Traveled across the nation working with clients on the benefits module for computer implementation/upgrades;
- Sr. Benefits Analyst/HRIS Analyst for ManorCare Health Services, working with PeopleSoft consultants on the benefits implementation;
- Benefits Administrator for National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD/NASDAQ). Administered benefits plans, 401(k) & retirement plans;
- Human Resources Administrator for United Technologies Corporation (Norden Systems). Administered benefits plans and 401(k) Plans;
- Human Resources Administrator for Contel Technical Services Division (formerly Spacecom, affiliated with NASA). Administered the compensation wage and salary plan;
- Executive Assistant to the President of Genex Corporation, a microbiology genetic engineering company; worked mainly with scientists and genetic engineers.

Actively involved in State and County organizations, I served:

- Treasurer to former State Senator Jean Roesser;
- On the Executive Board of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women (MFRW) as a Vice President in charge of events across the state of Maryland; have first hand working knowledge of the budget process to ensure fiscal responsibility;
- As President, Montgomery County Federation of Republican Women (MCFRW) — realized agenda goals, administered the budget process and directed meetings in accordance with Roberts Rule of Order.

Currently I am serving as President of the Rural Women's Republican Club, and a member of the Monocacy Garden Club.

I've received the following awards from businesses and organizations.

- Special Achievement Award for Outstanding Performance by United Technologies;
- Special Achievement Award for NASD Outstanding Performance for chairing the implementation of a smoke-free workplace;
- Voted "Outstanding Montgomery County Republican Woman of the Year";
- Monocacy Garden Club Flower Show—voted "First Place" in the novice class traditional mass design;
- Monocacy Garden Club Flower Show—voted "Best in Show" in horticulture specimens.

I'm a member of Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church, and have served in the following capacities:

- Taught Sunday School
- Chaired Lord's Acre Festival
- Chaired Council on Ministries
- Member Crafty Ladies and Gents

I'm very excited about the prospect of being a Commissioner. I promise full dedication and commitment for the best of the community, and respectfully ask for your vote on Tuesday, November 4th.

See you at the polls!

Patsy Dillingham



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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

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Theft: 19600 block of Fisher Avenue, 24500 block of White's Ferry Road.

Weapons Offense: 14000 block of Old Bucklodge Road.

Past Crime

October 24, 1928 Principal Pyle of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School reported to the police that the school had been entered during the night. He said that several class pins, two rings, and the transformer from the electric clock had been taken. A small amount of cash was also stolen from his safe.

On the same day, the county police were stretched thin, having to provide security at two rallies where Governor Ritchie spoke. The first rally at the Seco Theater in Rockville attracted a raucous crowd as the governor and the crowd debated the Eighteenth Amendment. Later that evening, the police accompanied the governor to the Edgemoor Theater in Bethesda where another large crowd attended.

October 29, 1928 John Mason was arrested by Office Nolte for driving while intoxicated. Mason was driving what was described as a "party truck" that was carrying a cargo of ice and several women in the back. Officer Nolte was attracted to the truck

on Clopper Road because it was being operated in a peculiar manner. When he managed to stop the truck, he found that Mason and the women in the back were drunk. They had been returning from a fair at Wheaton.

October 30, 1928 Samuel Robertson, a Bethesda contractor, was arrested for the unsolved murder of dairyman Edward Mills that had happened in 1927 on Dufief Mill Road. Mills had been out in a pasture at 5:00 a.m. when a gunman appeared from the woods and shot him five times. Robertson was later acquitted at trial.

October 30, 1929 Police went to the house of George Joppy at Redland to arrest him. Joppy had been mistakenly released from the county jail the previous Friday and believed that his matter had been settled. It was said that he was quite surprised to see the officers at his door and expressed his indignance to jail officials.

October 31, 1929 Rockville was abuzz with the news that two women had been arrested by Officer Nolte for possession of a stolen automobile. The two women from Washington were alleged to have taken the auto from a roadside vendor who was closing his store for the night. The man said that he had placed the day's receipts and his gun inside the car when the women drove off. The two women told a completely different story, saying that they had been "partying" with the store owner when he asked them to drive him home because he was intoxicated. Upon dropping him off, the women drove to Philadelphia and New York for a three-day weekend.



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Musings from Mama Boe

Book Fair

By Pamela Boe

My kids attended a sweet little country school called Monocacy Elementary, here in the Agricultural Reserve of Montgomery County, Maryland. I love this school. It's small, rural, and innocent. It's well-supported. It's full of **tradition**. It's campy.

I love campy.

Every spring, Monocacy would host a Spring Book Fair to earn money for the school. My kids would get **so** excited. We'd plan out a budget beforehand, they'd figure out what they wished to have, and we'd play the "I can't afford it game," even though we all knew I was going to buy every book I could afford on the list. One thing everyone knows about me: I'm all about words and reading and imagination and entertainment that doesn't leave one slack-jawed while holding a Wii remote.

Why do I play the "I can't afford it" game?

It's a Scottish thing.

What is so dagnab frustrating is that every stinkin' time I attend a school's book fair, I end up buying another cookbook for myself. Every. Stinkin'. Time.

I have enough cookbooks. I do not need any more cookbooks.

What I need is books on exercise and books on how to effectively manage my time.

And books on how to get grease spots out of blouses.

But I'll go every time, and I'll probably buy another cookbook, every time.

And the kids will make their lists that I will claim to be too poor to fulfill, but will fulfill anyways. It's what we do.

Tradition. It's a beautiful thing.

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How to keep the Halloween Haunting from Hurting Your Pets

Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF FASLMS

Halloween is a fun and entertaining time of year. But remember it can be a dangerous time of year for your furry friends. There are many Haunting dangers that you need to be aware of so that you can protect your pet and keep them safe.

Most importantly is the need to help your furry family members avoid the ability to get into the candy stash. This goes for the stash your kids bring home and the stash you have ready to hand out during Halloween. Your veterinarian has a chart that can let you know just how little chocolate is needed to cause health problems for your pet. Baker's chocolate is the most dangerous, followed by dark chocolate, then milk chocolate and finally white chocolate. Even if they do not swallow enough to cause neurologic problems they can ingest enough to cause severe gastritis problems. So be very careful not to leave your Halloween bounty lying around after you have gorged on it.

Next come the strange and unusual creatures that roam the earth during Halloween. These creatures (costumed humans and sometimes animals) can be very upsetting and frightening for your pets. Your pets may not know how to handle these strange creatures. All too often this can lead to injuries both to the creatures and your pets. So it is the best option to just leave your pets at home in a safe room away from the partying, candy sharing and ghost and ghoulish visitors. This allows your pets to be safe and avoid unintended bites or scares.

If you must take your furry friends, dressed in their costumed best, out for Trick or Treating, please use reflective clothing, flashing lights and a good strong collar and leash. Just as your human children can be at risk from not being visible to cars, your furry family can also find themselves in harm's way. Keep the trip brief and go only to areas where you know the route well and there is adequate lighting. I would not ever recommend that a human kid take a furry kid trick or treating. It should be the job of the adult human to be in charge of the family furry pet. This allows the kids to enjoy the evening and the pets to have their alpha male and/ or female nearby for protection and information.

Have a great Halloween season. BOOO!



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