

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

February 13, 2015 • Volume XI, Number 22



Carolyn and John Repass couldn't pass up the desserts at the community dinner. See Family Album on page 2.



Reva and Ray Hoewing are sprucing things up. See Business Briefs, page 5.



State champion and PHS swim and dive team captain, Dorit Song. See Youth Sports on page 13.



Clara and Irene at St. Paul's Sugarland Church. Were they the reason for the historic village's name? See Mystery History on page 15.

Man Sentenced in Judge's Kidnapping

By Jack Toomey

A twenty-five-year-old sometimes boyfriend of Montgomery County Circuit Court Judge Audrey Creighton has been sentenced to three years in prison for kidnapping the judge in May of 2014.

Rickley Senning, a convicted felon who had previous convictions for armed robbery, burglary, assault, and trespassing, pled guilty to false imprisonment, second degree assault, and drunk driving, and was sentenced to three years in prison.

On May 19, 2014, Senning, who had been drinking, came to the house that he shared with Creighton in the Dickerson area and forced her to drive him to Gaithersburg. During the trip, he was said to have pulled her hair and pressed her foot down on the accelerator to make the car go faster. When they reached the intersection of Darnestown Road and Seneca Road, Creighton managed to escape, and police were called. Senning then took

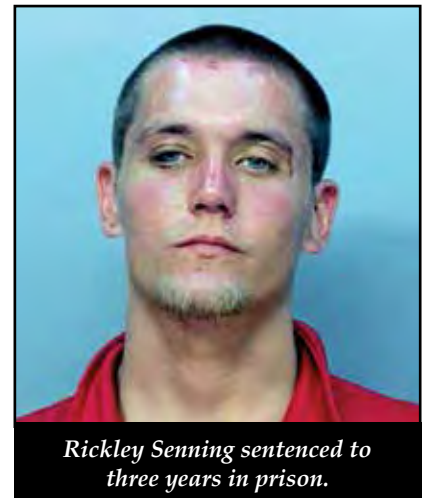


Montgomery County Circuit Court Judge Audrey Creighton.

the car and, within a mile, he was involved in a head-on collision with another car.

Senning and Creighton had a romantic relationship and had lived together on and off for a few years. When Creighton was a member of the Public Defenders Office she had represented Senning in a 2008 case.

The case was prosecuted by the Prince George's County States Attorney and heard by a retired



Rickley Senning sentenced to three years in prison.

Howard County judge to remove any potential conflict of interest.

Judge Creighton has been assigned to administrative work since the incident. In November, she was elected to a fifteen-year term as a Circuit Court judge.

Former Proprietor of the Seneca General Store Passes Away

By Rande Davis

Mrs. Frances (Billie) M. Poole, 84, of Poolesville died on February 4, 2015. She was the wife of the late Raymond E. Poole who died on July 20, 2011.

Billie was born on February 26, 1930 in Virginia, and was the daughter of the late Golden and Ida (Beall) Williams. Billie and her husband owned and operated Poole's General Store in Seneca from 1965 to 2010. Through the iconic store, the Pooles served the area's agricultural industry as well as the general public at large for decades, sustaining a virtual living history experience that provided a glimpse of life when the old-fashioned general store thrived in rural America.

To enter the store was to take a step back in time with its tight aisles, coffee and homemade sandwiches in the back, and a wide range of merchandise from Wonder bread and

cookies to farm boots and overalls on displays that seemed to have everything you might want. It wasn't unusual when an item not on display could be pulled out of the attic by Billie while the customer waited. Like a set in a period play, the general store looked the part, but it was Billie's personality, her genuine smile, her gentle willingness to help the customer, that brought it to life.

Billie's granddaughter, Amy, and longtime family friends recalled the joy of being with Billie at the store, with all the animals, of learning many of life's lessons there, and especially at the beach where, through her guidance, they learned the joys of outdoor adventure, biking on the boardwalk, and fishing. Billie so loved to fish.

She is survived by her children, James E. Poole, Linda M. Willis, John W. Poole, Carolyn L. Arnold, Jo Ann Clements, Marilyn M. Poole; one sister,



Frances "Billie" Poole

Roberta Chauncey; one brother, Erwin Williams; ten grandchildren; and seven great grandchildren.

Family Album



Susan Bierly, a networking consultant who spoke at the PACC Network Breakfast, is joined by Gail Lee, Jeff Stempler, and Hilary Schwab.



The Holiday Shops at Glad-I-Yoga will be open on February 14. Vendors include Maria Briançon (Glad-I-Sparkle), Allie Szalay-Brooks (Scentsy), Teresa Ferrell (T & J's Coaster Creations to benefit Relay for Life, Berry Thompson (A Guy Who Can), and Karen Kalantzis (K Sue K Image Consulting).

Brindisi Chan (center) brought her campaign for 2nd Vice District Governor to a recent Monocacy Lions dinner meeting, with Lions Gary Burdette and Joe Ryba.



Linda May, Louise Moore, and Clara Owens enjoyed the homemade desserts served at the community dinner.



Childhood memories were being made at the recent community dinner at MUMC.



Nancy McElhinney, Janet Bliss, Doris and Charlie Glass, Rob Jones, Lee Nelson, Marge Luther, Jerry Klobukowski, and Carol Harman.



Monthly community dinners, open to all, have drawn large crowds. This one in February was at the Memorial United Methodist Church. Next month it will be at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

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Town Government Commissioners Consider Grant Requests and Hear Updates on Vultures And Special Events

By Link Hoewing

At their February 2 meeting, the Poolesville Commissioners followed up on previous discussions, listening to plans for a possible fall Civil War event and hearing updates from the town manager regarding the town's vulture population. In addition, they considered revisions to the town code regarding the functions of the Community and Economic Development Committee (CEDC) and heard a request for grant funds to support local community garden initiatives.

Rande Davis, a member of the Medley Historic District which operates the John Poole House and the Old Town Hall Bank Museum, among other things, spoke about the possibility of holding a special event on October 10 this year to commemorate the role of Poolesville in the Civil War. The Medley Historic District has already reserved the date so Whalen Commons can be used for the event, but Davis noted that with the many extraordinary expenses the organization has faced to repair the roof and the interior of the Old Town Hall Bank Museum, it does not have the funds to support the project; however, the organization has the contacts and expertise to make the event a success, and some preliminary work has already been done to identify participants and groups which might be involved. Town Commissioners were generally supportive of trying to work with the Historic Medley District, and Davis proposed putting together an agenda and suggested budget for the commissioners to consider which he will submit by March 1.

Alicia Thomas and Joyce Breiner of Poolesville Green appeared before the commissioners to update them on the efforts to manage and expand a local community garden facility at Poolesville Presbyterian Church. Twelve large plots have been built and used in the past year, and an additional six plots are planned for the coming spring. Families and individuals who reserve plots in the garden are charged \$50 for small plots and \$55 for large plots. The town has already provided in-kind assistance in the form of the installation of a water system for the garden.

Commissioners were supportive of the initiative, but commission president Jim Brown suggested that the community garden members approach local landscaping companies to see if they could raise some support from them. The group asked for a \$1000 grant to support its work in the coming year which the commission took under advisement.

The commissioners turned next to consider a proposal to participate in the Sustainable Maryland Communities Program. The program, managed by Mike Hunninghake at the University of Maryland, is a statewide program to encourage local communities to focus on adopting initiatives that help promote more sustainable, and less energy-intensive and environmentally-damaging projects and operations. The program involves a fairly rigorous rating system that looks at everything from efficient use of energy to good storm water management systems and water conservation programs. Twenty-two towns in Maryland have so far been certified under the program, and thirty-two others are in the process of applying. To become involved, participants must appoint a Green Team or advisory committee that helps establish priorities and recommend programs for the adoption of the local community. Valaree Dickerson proposed that the committee be established, and after some discussion, the commission agreed to appoint members. Notices will be posted on Facebook and an ad placed in the *Monocle* to request citizens to submit their names and backgrounds for consideration.

The town commissioners turned next to consider proposed Ordinance 201, a proposal to revise the charter and functions of the Community and Economic Development Committee or CEDC. The CEDC was established several years ago to provide advice and support to the town commissioners in helping promote economic development and managing local events like the Springfest. Valaree Dickerson, the commissioner serving on the CEDC, remarked that many of the CEDC's functions are now either being done in other ways (i.e., through private consulting support for economic development) or are more focused on providing specific and targeted support to town events. The proposed reorganization of the CEDC under Ordinance 201 will realign the group so that it better fits the current needs of the commission.

The commissioners agreed to put the proposed revisions out for public

comment to be considered at a public hearing on February 17.

In the town manager's report, Mr. Yost updated the commissioners on the concerns expressed in the previous meeting about the large population of vultures in town. Mr. Yost reiterated that other towns, such as Leesburg, had faced concerns about large vulture populations, and had reached out to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which has a wildlife office, for assistance. The USDA office in Virginia had some resources and the ability to

provide assistance that included the deployment of various noise-making devices. The USDA Maryland unit apparently is not as capable of providing support, and Mr. Yost said that in order to support a program in Poolesville, more reliance would need to be placed on local volunteers. He was asked to prepare a plan because many vultures will leave the area in the spring but may return in large numbers again next fall. Mr. Yost has also posted a blog on the town website discussing the issue.



Some things change, like...





Crafts-A-Plenty has moved!

Some things stay the same, like...

Reva and her friendly service!

NEW LOCATION
19960 Fisher Avenue
(In the Historic Frederick Poole House, next to Bassett's)

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Commentary

Rationality

By John Clayton

I thought about many issues over the past few weeks, issues that are vexing greater minds everywhere. I considered vaccinations and their stress points between science, politics, and religion; morning start times at Montgomery County Public Schools, with parents, teachers, the teachers' union, and those pesky scientific studies at odds; and our new governor from the party formerly known as the loyal opposition is making noises about legislation enabling charter schools. I believe there are scientific studies showing the effectiveness of charter schools in other states; nevertheless, this prospect has schools, teachers, and the teachers' unions all coming to a rolling boil. And speaking of rolling boils, Governor Hogan hadn't even combed the rice out of his hair before his honeymoon with the Democratic legislative leaders was over. They were shocked—Shocked!—that the new governor's State of the State address sounded like “a campaign speech,” in the words of the Senate president. We're always complaining about presidents and governors practicing politics. It's a bipartisan pastime, an inalienable right of the party not in power, but I'm not quite sure where science weighs in. Science and politics have, however, continued to collide on issues like Common Core educational standards, global warming, and my new favorite topic, geoengineering, where one idea is that instead of spending money reducing carbon emissions down here, we could spend even more money to go collect carbon dioxide up there. A really smart company could do both and make a lot of money. Is this a great country or what? In short, I am sure that people do not consistently behave in a rational manner, although I know I almost always do—or so I thought until recently.

My two daughters bought me a Fitbit for Christmas. I don't think they were sending me a subtle message or suggestion of any sort, we actually discuss fitness and diet quite a bit among ourselves, and as both of them are quite fitness-conscious, I took it as a compliment: “Hey, you're not a lost cause.”

The Fitbit, which is a discrete black band one wears on the wrist, tracks many of your physical activities, including sleeping, exercise (with a little data entry to feed it) and, above all, steps taken during the day. Goals are set and happy buzzing and messaging occur when you hit your goals.

The Fitbit has indeed made me more health-conscious, and I look for ways to rack up more steps to achieve my goal, such as walking our recycling bins down and back up our driveway instead of driving. This may not sound like much, but Fitbit notices and, I think, appreciates those things. I realize this may not impress all you half-marathon runners, Barnesville Road bicyclers, and Chesapeake Bay swimmers, but it's a number of steps in the right direction.

A recent incident, however, highlighted my concern for my own rationality. Since I got the Fitbit, when I go shopping I no longer cruise around looking for a parking space close to the store. I will park deliberately far away so as to boost my step counts. If I am going to more than one store within reasonable proximity, I will park near the first one, and walk to all of them instead of moving the car. I walk back from the last store, the one furthest away. I may even return to the car periodically to drop off packages. Then the other day, my Fitbit needed to be recharged, so I hooked it up to the charger and went out on a shopping errand Fitbit Free. When I got to the store, you guessed it, I parked as close as I could to the store because I wasn't wearing my Fitbit, so what was the point of all that unnecessary walking? I don't think there are any scientific studies that could help me with this.

Rande(m) Thoughts

The Snow, the Cold, And the Vultures

By Rande Davis

Right now, my energy level is about as low as it can go. I have never been motivated in the dead of winter. Early winter? That's okay. With Christmas and everything, it's the only time we really do want snow—but six weeks in and I have about had it. I don't ski. I tried it once in college. I lost one ski on my first try, had to walk the rest of the way down the hill, and I walked straight to the bar, faked an injury, and waited for the bus to come and take us back to the campus.

For me, the dead of winter is a kind of stay-at-home, no-go, wake-me-up-when-it's-over kind of season. Maybe there's a clue in that no one ever says the “dead of spring” or the “dead of fall.” The dead of anything is a real downer, so once New Year's Eve and the Super Bowl are past, there's not much to look forward to any time soon. You know things are bad when Groundhog Day masquerades as a festive occasion. I don't know about you, but I am beginning to hate that groundhog. If he doesn't call for an early spring at least once in the next

couple of years, I say, be done with him. PETA doesn't want to know my plans for him if he keeps up this constant negativity.

I suppose there is a case to be made for Valentine's Day and winter. I concede the two are made for each other. Being snowed in by the fireplace with nothing to do—hmm, let's face it, that's perfect for Valentine's Day. Adding chocolate to anything improves it. Just as you get a tiny blip of positive feelings, for us Christians, along come Ash Wednesday and Lent. Now that's a happy time. One time a radical optimist once said to me as we ended a conversation, “Happy Lent.” Really? We just looked at each other quizzically for a moment and then wordlessly walked away. Lent, though, is the perfect time to give up something, so this year I am going to give up a couple of things: winter and a bad attitude.

Even the vultures won't get me down. From now on, as the vultures in town circle my house checking out my back yard and I am inside running around the house screaming, “Where are the pets?” I will look at it differently. After all, if I snuck out and spray-painted their necks and heads white, their presence would probably impact me differently. Can you

Continued on page 9.

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Business Briefs

Poolesville's CNS and Anvil Merge to Become MainSpring, Inc.

Coming from a proud and award-winning twenty-two year history, Poolesville's MainSpring, Inc. is the new name of an innovative IT strategy and consulting firm which had its genesis in the basement of a townhouse.

It was in 1993 that CEO Marshall Micheals, along with three employees, started Corporate Network Services (CNS) which focused on bringing small businesses into the new age with cabling services. Then in 2009, they launched another endeavor called Anvil Dataworks, which helped organizations looking for innovative solutions using Apple's FileMaker, Inc. Now, these two firms have merged into MainSpring, Inc. to better brand their services in a unified, more efficient way.



Marshal Micheals cuts the ribbon for the grand opening of MainSpring, Inc.
Jim Brown, Micheals, Brenda Sneed, Val Dickerson.

Where did the new name come from? Michaels happens to be the proud owner of a fourth-generation family watch, an heirloom of deep and emotional importance to him. One time, in describing the firm's family-like company culture, the topic of his watch came up, and it occurred to him that the firm's services were to their clients like a main spring is to a watch; hence, the new name and the new brand: MainSpring, Inc. From its humble beginnings, MainSpring, Inc. now has fifty-seven employees (twelve in its Poolesville's headquarters office) and another forty-five located in four states and overseas.

Crafts-A-Plenty Moving to New Location

It hasn't happened for, oh, maybe a few decades or so, but Poolesville's Crafts-A-Plenty has recently moved to a new storefront in town. Owner Reva Hoewing, a former elementary schoolteacher, opened her shop in 1978 and has loved her location directly across from Jamison Real Estate in the center of Poolesville. She really hadn't planned on moving any time soon; however, when the building was recently sold, accommodations with the new owner did not happen, so Reva is taking all of her party goods, craft supplies, specialty books, antiques, doodads, you-name-its, as well as her fax machine, notary stamp, and her stock of the Cat's Meow Village wooden knickknacks that depict historical sites in Poolesville, and moved down the road. It's not far, just on the western side of Bassett's. Her grand opening week starts on Friday the Thirteenth, but she is not superstitious. Come in and enter a contest to win a \$50 gift certificate.

Reva will be taking the location that previously hosted Brown's Potomac Framing. Don't worry, Mr. Brown will still be in the building but has moved to an upstairs space. She awaits your visit and conversation. As to what's going to be done with the building she vacated, final word has not been announced. The *Monocle* will keep you posted on that one.

Signup for the Annual Business Fair

The annual Destination Poolesville Business Fair, cosponsored by the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce, is coming up on March 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The venue will once again be at the Poolesville Baptist Church Community Life Building. This fun event showcases business products or services. Check out the details at poolesvillechamber.com.

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Op Ed

Changing School Hours – Bad Idea

By Jerry Klobukowski

Instead of changing the school hours, why not make parents be parents, and require the parent to set the rules, not the child—rules which would require the child to turn off his/her electronic devices (cellphones, video games, and televisions) a half hour before bedtime, and to go to bed early enough to get a full night's sleep. Why does the Montgomery County Public School System have to become the parent of the parents? Can any of the MCPS administrators, including Superintendent Starr, and Board of Education members recall how they acted when they were kids? Do they believe that by changing the school starting times the children will all of a sudden have an epiphany that they now have to go to bed at a time that permits them to get the recommended amount of sleep for their age?

There is also the economic consideration. Are the Montgomery County sources of revenue that fat that they can afford MCPS to implement this proposed change? With recent actions to reduce the state deficit by outgoing Governor O'Malley and pronouncements by Governor Hogan and some Montgomery County Council members, where is the money going to come from? What programs, maintenance, renovations, modernizations, etc. are the Superintendent, and Board of Education members willing to sacrifice? Or do they believe all of the Montgomery County taxpayers have deep pockets or too much discretionary money on their hands. If they do believe that, I hope they use that in their bids for reelection.

Focus on Business

All Creatures Of Poolesville

By Susan Petro

Dr. Peter Eeg wanted to work with animals for as long as he can remember. When he was five years old, he wrote in his kindergarten photo book that he wanted to be a veterinarian when he grew up. Every year going forward he still had the same goal. By the time he got to his senior year, his journals still reflected on his desire to be a vet.

When it came time to graduate from high school, Eeg's friends and family all agreed that veterinary medicine was the career path for him. Eeg's mother jokingly told him that with the last name of Eeg, which is also an acronym for electroencephalogram (EEG), a test that detects electrical activity in the brain, he either had to be a neurosurgeon or a veterinarian. Eeg chose the latter profession and now owns Poolesville Veterinary Clinic, a full-service dog and cat animal hospital located next to the Poolesville Library.

Eeg began practicing veterinary medicine in 1987 under the tutelage of Dr. Chet Anderson, formerly of Peachtree Animal Hospital. There, Eeg worked in the large animal and bovine section. "I came out of vet school like James Herriot from *All Creatures Great and Small*," said Eeg, referring to the famous veterinary surgeon and author. "I was that guy, and for about ten years over there, I did everything."

Anderson also opened a satellite office in Poolesville. At first it was under-utilized and non-profitable. He sent Dr. Eeg over to manage the operation and begin the process of closing it down in order to focus on the Peachtree location. Many of Eeg's clients followed him to Poolesville, and the practice began to thrive. After a few years, Eeg was eager to move the clinic in a new direction and focus on newer techniques like laser surgery. In 1998, Eeg purchased the practice from Anderson. Today, Eeg has special expertise in lasers, both surgical and therapeutic.

Poolesville Veterinary Clinic has a staff of thirteen employees, including two additional veterinarians, Dr. Marianne Van Doorn and Dr. Ashley Young. Van Doorn grew up in Poolesville and once worked as a technician for the clinic before heading off to Australia to attend veterinary school.

Many local high school students interested in the veterinary field and college students studying



Dr. Peter Eeg

veterinary medicine come to Poolesville Veterinary Clinic to participate in job-shadowing or externships. Some high school students have stayed on to become technicians at the clinic while attending local colleges.

Dr. Eeg admittedly loves to talk and to share his knowledge with others. The clinic schedules fewer patients per day than average, so Eeg has plenty of time to spend with each client. He said that being a veterinarian is a vocation, not a nine-to-five job. When you have the calling to be a vet, you should have the desire to be available for your clients and the animals.

Eeg is not only passionate about caring for his patients, he also advocates for the health and welfare of all animals. He recently finished working with the ASPCA on legislation to ban the importation of puppy mill puppies into Montgomery County. "We already have six to twelve million pets every year that don't have homes; we need to get them homes first," said Eeg, who adds that puppy-mill animals are often sick, unhealthy, or have congenital problems that cause the new owners the economic pain of huge medical bills.

"Anyone who is considering adopting a new pet should to talk to a vet first," Eeg said. "Before you go online, before you fall in love with a cute adorable face, and press click," Eeg says to talk to a vet about what your standard of life is and what you are expecting. A vet can help adopters choose pets that best suits their lifestyles and advise them of congenital conditions that are common to certain breeds.

Eeg said that one of his greatest challenges today is staying current on information. "We are in the greatest time in history for human knowledge accumulation. It's a great thing, but it's also daunting," said Eeg. "Every month, there is a massive

amount of new information coming out." He now relies on modern communication methods like Facebook, a website, and blogs to help keep his clients up-to-date on what's new.

With so much information available at the click of a mouse, Eeg strongly encourages his customers not to rely on "Doctor Google" for medical information about their pets. He cautions that anyone can publish an opinion online that doesn't have any basis in fact.

Another challenge Eeg faces is getting people to recognize the benefit of preventative medicine which he

describes as the the key for animals to have the least amount of problems and to enjoy their lives the most.

Eeg, his wife, and daughter reside in Boyds with a collection of dogs, cats, horses, and rescued farm animals. He lovingly refers to his farm as "the island of misfit animals that didn't quite reach up to muster at their former homes."

As a lifelong resident of Montgomery County and longtime resident of the Agricultural Reserve, Eeg cares deeply for this community. "I plan to spend the rest of my career helping the animals of Poolesville," Eeg vowed.

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Things To Do

February 15

Knights of Columbus Antique Show and Sale

Shop and admire antiques. Bring your own special antiques to be valued. *St. Mary's Pavilion, Barnesville.* Food and drink to be purchased, including Beignets de Carnavale. 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

February 17

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

St. Mary's Pavilio, Barnesville. \$5.00 for adults, \$2.00 for children aged six and up. 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Game

Rockville High School. Varsity basketball. Girls at 5:15 p.m., boys at 7:00 p.m.

Town of Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

February 18

Ashes to Go

For Ash Wednesday, imposition of ashes and prayers by representatives from St. Peter's Episcopal Church at *White's Ferry* and *Whalen Commons.* 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

PASC Special Event

Poolesville Area Senior Center. Zumba. 17750 W. Willard Road. 1:00 p.m.

February 19

PASC Special Event
Woodcarving Workshop. 17750 West Willard Road. 1:00 p.m.

February 21

Smart Technology and Library Apps
For Library Lovers' Month, our Teen Technology Volunteers will

demonstrate how the apps can be downloaded to smart devices, such as iPhones, iPads, and Android smart phones. Volunteers can also provide one-on-one troubleshooting assistance for all our electronic resources. *Poolesville Library.*

February 24

PHS Varsity Home Games
Walter Johnson High School. Varsity basketball. Boys at 5:15 p.m., girls at 7:00 p.m.

February 25

PASC Special Event
Game Day: Sequence. 17750 W. Willard Road, gym. 1:00 p.m.

February 26

Storytime
Listen to stories, sing songs, and learn rhymes. Registration not required. *Poolesville Library.* 10:30 a.m.

PASC Special Event
Facebook Workshop. 17750 W. Willard Road. 2:30 p.m.

PASC Special Event
T'ai Chi. 17750 W. Willard Road. 6:30 p.m.

Call for Artists in Frederick County
Heartly House, which serves victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse in Frederick County, is hosting a fundraiser and major community event on Thursday, May 7: **Affair of the Heart.** They are soliciting art from county residents reflecting and inspired by this year's theme, "The HeArt of Heartly House: New Beginnings." The program will include both silent and live auctions of artwork inspired by this theme. For details, contact Stephen R. Parnes, Frederick Arts Council, 301-662-4190, or sparnes@frederickartscouncil.org.

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Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
February 17, 6 - 8pm
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\$5 per adult
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To help us plan, call 301-972-8660



Ash Wednesday
February 18
Mass with Ashes at
9 am
4:00 & 7:30 pm



All are Welcome!

Monocacy Moment in Time



February 1940: The newspaper caption said that Dickerson Postman Harry W. White did not let snow stop his deliveries, but he was glad there was "plenty of good, stout firewood nearby. Postal regulations do not mention a strong back, but rural carriers need one just the same."




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Daytripper

A Living Museum?

By Ingeborg Westfall

If you're as much of a dedicated museum-goer as I am, you expect the grandeur of the architecture ("you can see this is a serious place with important and serious items inside; be serious when you're in here"), but at the same time, that grandeur can be off-putting, not welcoming at all; however, the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian is a different type of museum altogether. First, its façade is curvy (curvilinear is the proper term, I find) and to my eyes has almost a golden tinge in sunlight, and the outside cladding material, Kasota Limestone from Minnesota, is reminiscent of the windswept monumental sedimentary structures of the American Southwest. The museum's architects consulted with Native peoples in the design, and maybe that's why it seems so gloriously evocative of areas, perhaps even homelands, weathered by winds and time.

When I last visited the museum, it was late summer and it was hot

(imagine "hot" in all caps) outside. Maybe that was why I was the only person out in the heat, not just wandering or heading toward the entrance, talking on a cellphone, or eating ice cream while perching on the wall surrounding the museum (and talking on a phone), but actually studying the plantings, reading the signs, admiring some enormous boulders. There I read that the Cheyenne considered boulders to be grandfathers, the oldest beings on Earth. There are forty grandfather rocks outside the museum. The grounds are considered a continuation of the building, providing information just as the museum itself does. Amazingly, the museum's 4.25-acre grounds include a creek flowing beneath the site, and are home to more than 27,000 trees, shrubs, and plants, representing 145 different species, including pawpaw, cypress, and Jerusalem artichoke. In a display inside, you can read about the plants, many of them food sources (some of the same ones growing outside) that were used by Native peoples of North America and Meso America. The Maya were drinking chocolate several thousand years ago. Think corn, popcorn, potatoes (domesticated approximately 7,000 years ago), pumpkins,

quinoa, saffrafrs, squash, vanilla, and sweet and chile-type peppers (domesticated in Ecuador more than 6,000 years ago), habanero, jalapeno, Thai hot, among many others. Nearly half of the world's leading food crops can be tracked to plants first domesticated by Native peoples.

As with any museum, you can learn a lot or just drift through, idly admiring the changing and/or permanent exhibits, visiting the gift shop (in this case a marvelous one), and having lunch in the museum café. At least here, having lunch can be a learning experience as well. The Mitsitam Café (its name means "let's eat") is considered one of the best museum cafés—or cafés period—in the D.C. area (www.mitsitamcafe.com). Its menu explores Native foods, divided into Northern Woodlands, South America, Northwest Coast, Meso America, and the Great Plains. Yes, you can have buffalo chili if you like, or you can try Navajo fry bread. It's well worth a visit all on its own, and you can even get a few of the specialties at a sort of mini-café if you don't have time for the whole shebang. I had a small salad and salmon cakes, and the mini-meal was yummy indeed (and the coffee was bracing!).



Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

Having been established in 1989 by an act of Congress, the NMAI opened in 2004. The five-story museum is on the National Mall between the National Air and Space Museum and the U.S. Capitol Building. A short walk away is the U.S. Botanic Garden, another downtown-D.C. treasure. Parking is limited, and the museum is a short walk from the Smithsonian Metro Station.

Lent



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 Sunday, March 15

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Make plans to join us, Sunday at 8, 9:30 or 11 am and Monday - Wednesday at 9:30 am or 7:30 pm.

All in search of Faith are Welcome!

Continued from page 4.

The Snow, the Cold, and the Vultures

imagine two hundred eagles perched in Poolesville? Talk about a tourist draw.

Actually, I find them quite fascinating. Did you know that they have sentry vultures amongst them? That's right. Every time they descend into the park after a big event to nibble on morsels of food left on the ground, I have always seen a few on the periphery of the flock, posted as guards, with their backs to the others, watching for intruders. I wonder: In this job, do they all take a turn or are certain birds simply born to be sentries? If you want an easy way to get the vultures to move, scare the heck out of the guards, they will skedaddle, and the others will simply follow their lead.

Another interesting phenomenon is the apparent training of their young over the winter season as the flock gets ready for their springtime departure. You may not have noticed, but in town there are two distinct groups of trees upon which they roost. One is to the east of the park in the small grove of trees behind House of Poolesville. The other, a smaller flock, is to the west, closer to the Methodist Church. Every evening, those from the west fly individually to join the others in the east. This seems to happen around 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.—always west to east, never the other way around. About every thirty to forty seconds, one vulture at a time departs, flying very slowly, often delaying its arrival to the other grove by incorporating a few circling exercises. Another thing I have noticed: Those doing this exercise are smaller than many others. I can't prove it, but I think, perhaps, it's the younger vultures learning to fly on their own and still being able to locate the others without getting lost. Perhaps this is pure imagination on my part.

The *Monocle* has already reported on an action afoot to rid the town of the birds and, to be sure, the flock is getting quite large and annoying. I have heard the birds may move on in the spring to somewhere else. I guess we will see, but for the time being, I have decided if I can just establish a more positive attitude toward them, then maybe I can even look more positively at other things, even winter. I think the key to success in this and practically everything else boils down to one simple thing: Learn to develop a grateful, positive attitude.

For me, even with the snow, the cold, and the vultures, a new day may have dawned. If only the spring would hurry up and get here.

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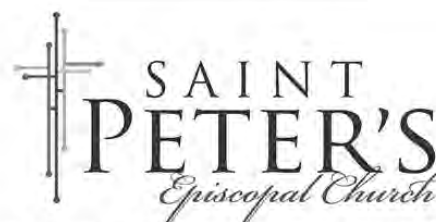
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You are invited to join us in observing a Holy Lent

*February 18th Ash Wednesday Services
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12:00 pm: Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist

7:30 pm: Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist with Music

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and*

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Tidbits

Great Chance to Give Back to the Community

Have you been wanting to contribute to the community but just couldn't find something that matches your interest? The Town of Poolesville has a number of interesting options. For example, the town is looking for volunteers to join its Green Team, a volunteer group that will help the town participate in the Sustainable Maryland Certified Municipal Certification Program. If going green is your passion, this one would be perfect for you.

On the other hand, perhaps you are more motivated by being part of some social event or maybe a historical program. The town's Community and Economic Development Committee has realigned its duties to better focus on the management of special events. Moving away from its previous development oversight role, which required monthly meetings, the CEDC is asking for volunteers to oversee a variety of special events. Each CEDC member is to select one or two in which to participate. Two good examples are its annual Springfest celebration or the Friday Night Farmers' Markets in the park. Both programs are currently in need of chairpersons as well as volunteers to assist in the programs. For the person who has creative talents and/or organizational skills, this could be a lot of fun. Contact Cathy Bupp at Town Hall. Another grand event next fall is being planned to focus on Poolesville in the Civil War. If you are a history buff, this one is for you. Contact Rande Davis at 301-509-9232 if you want to be part of this program.

Winter Increases the Danger of House Fires

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) personnel have responded to several fires involving clothes dryers. The key to preventing these fires is to clean in and around your clothes dryer at least once a year. Dust, dirt, and lint left unchecked can easily ignite in flames when exposed to heat. The MCFRS website (montgomerycountymd.gov/mcfrs, see Clothes Dryer Fire Safety Tips) has explicit instructions on how to clean your dryer. Wintertime can be particularly threatening for these kinds of house fires, so check out their website for full advice on what you can do to prevent them.

United Way Community Impact Grants Awarded to Local Groups

United Way of the National Capital Area (United Way NCA) announced that it is awarding eight Community Impact grants totaling \$100,678 to eight nonprofit member organizations serving Montgomery County.

The grantees were Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, Community Ministries of Rockville, Inc., Gaithersburg HELP, Inc., Manna Food Center, Inc., The Reading Connection, Inc., Spanish Catholic Center, Inc., The George B. Thomas Sr. Learning Academy, Inc., and WUMCO Help, Inc.



United Way of the National Capital Area gives to eight Montgomery County nonprofits.

MCPAW Supplies WUMCO with Pet Food

As part of their Spay It Forward campaign, MCPAW (Montgomery County Partners for Animal Well-being), the nonprofit partner of the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center, has introduced a Pet Food Pantry program and has begun supplying WUMCO with both cat

Police Blotter

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Assault and kidnapping: 19200 block of Hempstone Avenue.

Burglary: 19500 block of Fisher Avenue, 18000 block of Edwards Ferry Road.

Theft from vehicle: 22500 block of Club Hollow Road.

Theft: 22300 block of Peach Tree Road.

Past Crime

February 11, 1911 Maryland governor Austin Crothers declared that he would send four sets of automobile tags to President Taft. He also said that there would be no charge and that the president could operate his cars in Maryland without interference from law enforcement. Sheriff Viett, upon hearing the news, said, "Of course I will confer with persons who know the law and find out to my satisfaction whether I should ask the president or any other chief executive if their machines should have Maryland tags displayed." Viett further stated that he would not allow his deputies to get involved in a situation "like the one that happened at Glen Echo some years ago."

February 13, 1911 Hundreds of citizens ringed the Rockville courthouse hoping to gain admittance to the courtroom where three defendants were to be tried for the beating of prominent attorney Richard C. L. Moncure. Moncure appeared at about noon, his head swathed in bandages, and was carried to the Montgomery Hotel where he rested and then he made his way to the courtroom. The case arose out of an incident a month before when Moncure was leaving the courthouse, and three people, one a former

deputy sheriff, had words with him. Accusations of lying were hurled, and soon there was an affray where Moncure was struck and kicked while on the ground.

February 20, 1910 Sheriff Viett went to the Stephenses' home in Browningsville (previously near Damascus) on a complaint that the husband was drunk and threatening to burn the house down. Viett learned that Mr. Stephens had been in the field operating a threshing machine when he came into the house and started beating his wife and abusing the children. Neighbors told the sheriff that Stephens had been up all night in a drunken condition and had been disturbing the neighborhood. Viett then went to the train station at Monrovia where he arrested Stephens who was attempting to board a train to Baltimore.

February 14, 1906 Two Rockville boys were arrested by Deputy Sheriff Mullican and a Baltimore and Ohio detective on a charge of trying to wreck trains on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. It seems that railroad spikes had been placed on the tracks between Rockville and Derwood. The brothers confessed and said that they were not aware that a railroad spike could derail a speeding train.

February 16, 1911 Two bloodhounds were purchased by Sheriff Viett who planned to use them to rid Montgomery County of the criminal element. They were to be kept in a kennel at the courthouse. Viett said that in previous cases such as chicken theft, his deputies had been unable to follow the tracks of the thieves. He also said that the hounds would be used in speed enforcement. When asked how that was possible, Viett hinted that it was a secret.

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

and dog food for distribution as needed. The mission of MCPAW is to assist the shelter and also to address the primary reasons why animals end up in the shelter. Ensuring that no pet goes hungry in Montgomery County is one of the goals of MCPAW.

MCPAW accepts donations of dog and cat food to assist in this project. Please visit the MCPAW website to learn more and see how you can help pets in Montgomery County.

For more information on MCPAW and the Spay It Forward campaign, visit www.MCPAW.org.

Agnew Makes Dean's List

Wagner College, Staten Island, New York, recently announced its academic honor rolls for the fall 2014 semester. Chantal Agnew, PHS class of 2011, was named to the Dean's List which requires a 3.7 grade point average.

School News

By Heidi Rosvold-Brenholtz

Writing Wins Awards for JPMS Students

Two John Poole Middle School students won the Montgomery County Council of the International Reading Association writing contest. Jessica Mense, a sixth grader, won for her short story, "And Down We All Fall." Ali Ransom, an eighth grader, won for her poem, "Hands." The poem is the result of Free Write Friday, a practice in JPMS's eighth grade English class. English teacher Jane Lindsay provides her students an opportunity to write on topics of their choosing or in response to a prompt for ten minutes on several Fridays each month. The intent of Free Write Friday is to build students' writing stamina and to familiarize students with writing on-demand, frequently required of them later in their education and careers. Ali's poem was in response to a prompt that asked students to examine and describe what their hands had "seen." The Montgomery County Council of the International Reading Association is a literacy organization with more than two hundred members in Montgomery County. It is a local council of the State of Maryland International Reading Association and an affiliate of the International Reading Association. The council's mission is to improve the level of quality literacy in Maryland. Ali's and Jessica's award-winning work now moves to the state level of the contest.



*Jessica Mense, a sixth grader,
won for her short story,
"And Down We All Fall."*

Hands

My hands have been many places,
and seen many different things.
They have reached out to a
wispy cloud atop a mountain.
They have picked a friend up when
they have fallen down.
They have held loved ones close.
these hands have hurt,
these hands have helped,
These hands have done the "impossible."
They have held a baby bird
who could not fly.
They have made a masterpiece
unlike any seen before.
These hands have the power to create,
and to change.
To change a day,
a life,
a world.
They have a chance to do anything
I can imagine,
if only they look for the right moment.
But still they are human—
or part of one.



*Ali Ransom, an eighth grader,
won an award for her poem,
"Hands."*

And Down We All Fall

By Jessica Mense

It was a ninety-two-degree day on the outskirts of Rome. Sweat was pouring down my face as I picked the corn off of the slender stalks on my father's farm. Harvesting corn was a long and boring process due to the many steps it took to complete the job. Pick, check, and drop, over and over again.

A drop of sweat managed to slip through the strip of cloth that I had wound around my forehead, landing in my eye.

I glanced in the direction of the building that I called home, hoping that it would be visible by now. Just as I thought, it wasn't, meaning I had a long way to go before quitting time. I sighed and continued working. Pick, check, drop. I repeated this little chant in my head as I worked, for it helped pass the time.

"Dharam!"

I turned to see my father jumping and waving his arms so that I could see him over the corn. I jogged to the end of my row, turned the corner, and met my father's gaze, careful not to be rude.

"Yes, Father?" I asked.

"It's your mother. She would like to speak to you."

I groaned and followed him back home. I walked through the doorway to find the familiar stone fireplace and the large bed of hay that my mother, father, and I shared. Then, I spotted my mother with one hand on her hip the other holding a familiar-looking biscuit and piece of cheese.

"I was cleaning up, and look what I found: the missing biscuit and piece of cheese from supper last night. Can you explain this, please?"

I dropped my head. "It was for Aelia."

Aelia was a girl about my age who lived on the village square. She was rich (well, rich enough to go to school, anyway) but didn't brag or call us (the poor folk) stupid. With me, she acted like one of us. She didn't even wear her linen toga, the fabric of the rich.

"Aelia can take care of herself. She's probably feasting on some turkey right now."

Aelia was, in fact, feasting on turkey, but was not enjoying it.

*** ** **

Aelia sat at her family dining table. Not only was she not hungry, she was trying her best not to fall asleep, for her parents were droning on about how the government was overspending due to all of the barbarian attacks they had been having. Rome had been lucky so far, because none of the recent attacks had caused very much destruction.

"I'm going to the bathhouse," she said, flouncing out of the dimly-lit room. She certainly did not go to the bathhouse; instead, she made her way to Dharam's.

As she walked through the crowded streets, each block became more and more deteriorated and desolate. She loved exploring the ruins with Dharam. They spent hours creeping through the old, crumbling buildings, careful not to make noise for fear of being caught.

When she reached Dharam's house, she knocked on the door. When no one answered, she opened it to find him sitting at his table with his eyes open wide.

*** ** **

The moment Aelia walked through the door, I knew she was going to die.

Twenty minutes earlier, a Barbarian had marched through the doorway with a knife to my mother's throat. He had told us that his legion needed food and that he wouldn't let my mother go unless we gave it to him, so my father had gone out to the field to retrieve the corn that I had just picked. While he was gone, the barbarian told us not to call for help, scream, or make any other noise, or he would kill whoever walked through the door.

When Aelia knocked, the Barbarian shoved both himself and my mother into the bed of hay. Then, against all of my hopes, she walked in.

I tried gesturing my head towards the bed, then towards the door. I winked. I yawned. I stretched. I even chucked a nearby apple out the door and then asked her to go get it, but nothing worked. She wouldn't take the hint. The man came out, and all was done. She didn't even have a chance to scream.

After the Barbarian left with twenty denarius worth of corn, my father carried poor Aelia's limp body out of the house while my mother attempted to restore our house to some semblance of decency. My father would soon depart for Aelia's home to deliver the sad news. I curled up in the pile of hay that was stored behind our flat and sobbed until I could sob no more. Then I made my decision. I would join the Roman Army. I was going to fight and kill the Barbarians that took Aelia's life, and nothing, not even my family, was going to stop me.

Youth Sports

PHS Swimming and Diving: The Tide Is In

By Jeff Stuart

Despite winning three straight 3A/2A/1A state titles, the Poolesville High School boys' swim and dive team began the 2015 season unranked. The girls, winners of the state title in 2013 with second place state finishes in 2012 and 2014, were also unranked. Both are used to being overlooked, but the teams took care of business as usual in the season opening meet against Quince Orchard at the Olney Swim Center on December 6.

Six seniors, including two individual state champions, graduated last year, but the Falcon boys still proved determined in their quest for a fourth straight title, defeating the Cougars, 102-69. They finished first in eight of eleven events and first and second in five. Senior Anthony Kim won the 50 freestyle and 100 butterfly, and sophomore Theodore Jogodits won the 200 individual medley.

"Winning all four years of your high school career, that's something that motivates us," said Kim.

200-yard IM and 100-yard freestyle at states last year.

Poolesville's girls won eight of eleven events, too. The Falcons also had victories from freshmen Katarina Lechner (200 IM) and Julia Wang (100 freestyle, 100 backstroke), and juniors Sayaka Vaules (50 freestyle) and diver Kim Chloe.

The Falcons (the boys are 5-1, and the girls are 3-3 in duals) are experiencing a remarkable period of success in the pool.

What precipitated this recent burst of dominance in 3A/2A/1A? "We have a very talented team for a small school, and certainly that has made the difference," said head coach Jonathan Leong. "When you don't have to compete against the W schools (Whitman and Walter Johnson) and Blair who have at least 500-plus more students than [we have], we really have a chance to shine." Leong has been coaching around Montgomery County since 1995 in the summer with the Potomac Woods Swim Club and at the USS level with the Rockville Montgomery Swim Club. "I began to coach Poolesville when I started teaching in 2005," said Leong. "I had a loud voice and could get the attention of all the kids. Since then, a genuine passion for the sport and to share that passion



From the 2014-2015 PHS swim and diving team:
Falcons Conner Dumathan, Ross Lippe, Anthony Kim, and Brad Miller.

Other first place finishes went to sophomore Justin Kim (200 freestyle), Paul Van Nevel (500 freestyle), senior Richard Van Nevel (100 backstroke), and the 400 freestyle relay team (Jagodits, Justin Kim, Anthony Kim, and Richard Van Nevel). The boys moved into the number fourteen spot in the Washington Post rankings on December 9.

The Falcon girls came away victorious as well: 103-63. "We're focused on hopefully winning another state title," said senior captain Dorit Song, who won the girls' 500 freestyle and 100 breaststroke. Song won both the

with others has kept me motivated to do what I do."

How does he motivate his athletes to do their best? "We have spoken about being responsible and swimming within our capabilities, so long as we all do what we are supposed to do, everything works, and the athletes understand this. I enjoy teaching the smaller aspects of racing to the athletes. Anyone can say swim 3000 yards and do it on this interval and a wide variety of sets and intervals. I like to break things down from the dives,

Continued on page 15.

Town Needs Volunteers For a Green Team

On December 15, 2014, the Poolesville Commissioners approved **Resolution 005-14; To Support Participation in the Sustainable Maryland Certified Municipal Certification Program**. The Sustainable Maryland Certification Program is a free and voluntary certification program for municipalities in Maryland that want to go green, save money, and take steps to sustain their quality of life. To achieve certification, the Town of Poolesville will need to complete a number of actions detailed at www.sustainablemaryland.com.

In order to facilitate the Sustainable Maryland Program, a **Green Team** needs to be established. The Green Team is a group of community volunteers that will offer their ideas, skills, and expertise to lead the Town in gaining certification. If you are interested in serving on the Green Team, participating in project implementation, or sharing ideas that contribute to the goals of the program, please submit a letter of interest by February 27 to Town Manager Wade Yost at Town Hall or wyst@comcast.net.

House of Poolesville

Chinese & Japanese Restaurant - Dine in or Carry Out

Entertainment Schedule

February 13: DJ Slim Pickens at 8:30 p.m.

February 14:

Valentine's Day Party:
With Bobby Lewis Band!

February 20: Brian Jamison at 8:30 p.m.

February 21: Gina's Soul Party at 8:30 p.m.

February 27: Kenny Ray Horton at 8:30 p.m.

February 28: DJ Slim Pickens at 8:30 pm.

Every Monday Night is Bingo Night!

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

Every Wednesday is Trivia Night

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

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Mystery History

In Honor of Black History Month:

Sugarland Forest: A Historical Look Back

By Rande Davis

The rich heritage of upper Montgomery County, historically known as the Medley District only because residents in the days of old voted at John Baptiste's Medley Tavern near Beallsville, is filled with remarkable stories of individual achievement through hard work, entrepreneurship, and strong character. Those stories from Poolesville and the surrounding villages are extraordinary, but none of them are more intriguing than those coming from Sugarland Forest and the African-American former slaves who founded that community in 1871.

As you leave Route 28 onto Route 107 headed west toward Poolesville, the first road crossed is Sugarland Road, a boundary for a community long gone, but hopefully never forgotten.

the name was that their women were "as sweet as sugar."

Freed slaves began purchasing land from the local white landowners of the time, Jane Pleasants, George Dawson, the Allnuts, and others during the 1870s and 1880s. They were able to buy land with a small down payment and continued monthly payments, and when the land was paid for, a deed would be recorded. By 1900, over forty families lived and worked on the nearly two hundred acres of farmland encompassing the community. Their work on nearby farms, the Seneca Quarry, and the C&O Canal was key to the development of the region. The customs and lives of the people living in Sugarland hold a vital part of Montgomery County's history. If our agriculture history runs deep, it's because much of the land was farmed by the Sugarlanders.

If great buildings like the Smithsonian Institute Castle hold an important iconic role, part of that is due to the Sugarlanders who worked the Seneca Quarry which provided stones for its construction. As we still marvel at the C&O Canal, it is well to remember that a fair amount of it was dug by Sugarlanders. Although



This is the last class to attend the Sugarland Forest School.

The name of the community itself, Sugarland Forest, is intriguing because our entire area in the late eighteenth century was regarded as just that, a forest. Washingtonians at the time of John Poole, Jr. thought of the area as the wilderness. Even one of the largest tracts of property at the time was called Peter's Forest.

While the area at the time was filled with beautiful sugar maple trees, hence the name, the male residents always believed the real reason for

ex-slaves, they were a community made up of skilled laborers, carpenters, masons, farmers, tradesmen, blacksmiths, stonecutters, retailers, teachers, and proud homemakers. The community was renowned for its individuals of strong character, hard work, perseverance, and, perhaps most importantly, their deep and abiding faith. The two most important buildings in the village were the church

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PHS Swimming and Diving: The Tide Is In

turns, breakouts, racing parts that can give each swimmer that fraction of a second advantage if they do it properly. When they realize it and buy into it, it's even more worthwhile."

What is Coach Leong's favorite stroke or event? "I enjoy them all. Each one has a unique feel to it and they are all exciting to watch."

What does he believe the team can accomplish this year? "They should achieve their best, this is all I ask and want from them. Their best swimming can possibly deliver a divisional championship (although we may come up a few points shy). We should have multiple athletes in the mix at the Metros meet. Certainly regional and perhaps even state championships are possible if we swim our best. I have coached some of the students before and whether they refer to me as Coach Jonny or Mr. Leong, we have a mutual respect for each other and a good relationship because they know how much hard work and dedication I demand, and I know what they are capable of and will remind them until they carry it out.

"For the girls, freshman Katerina Lechner and Julia Wang have performed well this year, along with senior standouts Dorit Song and Lindsay Knapp. For the boys, freshman David Umansky and Theo Jagodits have added to the depth. We have senior standouts Anthony Kim and Paul Van Nevel. Diving is going particularly well. Junior Chloe Kim is doing better and better each time and helping prepare our divers for the championship season."

At the Montgomery County Division II Championships at the Kennedy Shriver Aquatic Center in Rockville on January 31, the Falcons began their post season. Both the boys and the girls finished second. The boys' 40-yard free relay finished first. Bethesda-Chevy Chase outscored the boys, 446 to 418. Sherwood topped the girls, 443 to 400. In combined team scores, the Falcons finished second to B-CC, 843 to 818.

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Garden

Spring's Eternal Hope

By Maureen O'Connell

Spring can't be too far away for the garden catalogues have started arriving in our mailboxes. With the frigid weather we have been experiencing lately, it is comforting to escape to our favorite chair by the fireplace and dream about this year's new garden. I say "new" because every year in the life of a garden is new: Some favorite plants emerge out of the gradually-warming soil stronger than ever; some promiscuous plants multiply like rabbits; others show signs of aging and disease; and some long-loved favorites die.

The year 2014 was an exceedingly challenging year for many gardens; it was "survival of the fittest" personified. The extremely cold winter, the rainy spring, and the record-high summer temperatures created a recipe for plant diseases and garden pests. I knew that I would have to make big changes in the future in the type of flowers I grew and how I managed them. The most significant factor of change was my refusal to use chemical insecticides and fungicides in the garden. Now, I firmly believe that you cannot successfully grow roses in our area without using chemicals. I miss my roses very much, so I am working on a plan and consulting with various horticulturists to find a solution to this problem.

So who were the fittest in my garden last year? Now, I am not going to tell you marigolds, petunias and zinnias—you know me better than that. I want to share with you some already-designed garden plant combinations that worked well and actually flourished last year.

Some plants play well together and some don't. Like some people, some plants can get pushy, overbearing, and smothering.

Hostas and ferns are good Shady Lady friends. In the spring, they like the gentle rays of sun for a good part of the day, but by high summer, they like a little shade. In the lower part of my Middle Earth garden, there is a long, somewhat narrow strip of a garden plot with a staggered row of white dogwood trees. When the trees were young and a bit spindly, the area lacked pizzazz, so I planted on both ends of the plot several varieties of hostas and ferns under the dogwoods. It was a perfect symbiotic match. When the dogwoods were almost leafless in early spring, the green, tightly-

wrapped fern fronds slowly poked their heads above the ground, seeking the warm sunlight. After that, the little brownish-green nibs of the hostas grew out of the soil. As the dogwoods put out leaves, the ferns and hostas grew bigger and stronger, still protected from the strong rays of the sun. By midsummer, the dogwoods were in full leaf, the ferns and hostas at their feet were happily growing in the filtered sunlight, the ground under the trees was weed-free, and the dogwood roots were kept cool by the expanding growth of the hostas and ferns.

There are many varieties of ferns that fare well in our area, but here are a few that have performed well for me: Lady Fern; Japanese Painted Fern; and 'Ghost,' a cross between Lady Fern and Japanese Silver-Painted Fern.

No shady garden should be without hostas. They range in size from large-leafed to miniature with colors from emerald green and silvery blue to bold patterns. If the deer do not have a liking for them, which my resident deer do not, they will live and multiply for many years. 'Blue Mouse Ears' is one of the best and cutest dwarf hostas. Blue-green, heart-shaped leaf 'Earth Angel' was a Hosta of the Year recipient. 'Aphrodite,' with double-flowered pure white blossoms, has a lively lily-like fragrance. The standard in blue-leaved hostas is the celebrated 'Elegans.' I have grown these and several other hostas in my garden and they have always thrived.

Siberian iris and *Verbascum* play very well together for they all live (for the most part) within their boundaries. The bearded iris is common, heavy, and a little boring to me. Now, the Siberian iris is a different cat; he deserves to be a bigger player in your gardens. The beauty of the Siberian iris is found in its delicate, graceful stems, blooms and foliage, and its neat habit of growth. Its slender foliage is attractive the entire growing season, up until the first frost turns it a rusty, red-brown color. Siberians are more resistant to diseases than other irises, but they are not immune to the iris borer, although I have not seen it on them as I have on the bearded iris. They perform well in most garden soil, with a little bit of pine needles or peat added. It is said that they do best in full sun, but mine have done better with a little mid-afternoon shade. Siberian irises come in very delicate shades of purple, lavender, pale blue, bright butter yellow, and pure white. You can scatter them throughout the perennial border, but I like them grouped together for the biggest impact. Look for these varieties:

Continued on page 19.

School News

By Heidi Rosvold-Brenholtz

PHS's It's Academic Team Continues Quizmaster Challenge

Poolesville High School's It's Academic team has been competing in the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Quizmaster Challenge. They defeated Springbrook High School, 645-160, to earn first seed for the rest of the playoffs. Last week, the team came from behind to defeat Rockville High School, 515-385. The team's next challenge is February 17 against Damascus High School. Team members are Abbie Waters, Josh Cocker, Noah Singer, Nathan Wade, and Robert Wilbur. PHS Social Studies teacher Marcia Snaveley coaches the team. The MCPS Quizmaster Challenge is an academic quiz show taped weekly at Richard Montgomery High School. Twenty-three teams have competed in the 2014-2015 season. The competitions are aired on Wednesdays and Fridays at 7:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 12:30 p.m. on MCPS TV.

Falcon Coach Gant Steps Aside

In a surprising announcement, Will Gant has decided to step aside as head coach of the Poolesville High School football team. Coach Gant told the *Monocle*: "Coaching at Poolesville the past four seasons has been amazing. The relationships that I have formed with the players, coaches, and community have been great. I will miss coaching this team and program tremendously. It has been the most rewarding coaching experience of my career. We have a great group players and coaches, and I will miss working with them. I do plan on assisting the new head

coach in the transition by ordering/reconditioning equipment in the off-season, continuing to run off-season workouts, and working with the class of 2015 on recruiting and getting the class of 2016 started on their recruiting."

Gant says he's leaving to spend more time with his family. "My oldest son will be playing varsity soccer at Walkersville High School next year, my younger son will be playing varsity football at Walkersville High School, and my daughter will be in eighth grade and playing soccer. I simply do not want to miss that time with them."

New PHS Football Coach Announced

Ed Ross, Director of Athletics at PHS, has announced that Dave Murray will become the new head football coach at Poolesville High School in 2015.

Coach Murray, currently a science teacher at Gaithersburg Middle School, has been with the PHS coaching staff for the last four seasons, serving as position coach, junior varsity head coach, and for the last two years as varsity offensive coordinator.

During his tenure with the Falcons, Coach Murray's dedication as a teacher-coach has led to strong relationships with players, staff, and community members. He has demonstrated a comprehensive knowledge of football and an ability to effectively motivate student-athletes.

Most importantly, Coach Murray is a leader who conducts himself with high moral and ethical integrity, earning him the respect of everyone he meets. His professionalism as a teacher-coach has made Coach Murray a standout candidate, and the athletic department of PHS is proud to announce him as the new head football coach.

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Continued from page 15.

Sugarland Forest

and the school. The church still stands as a testament to the everlasting quality of their faith. While they relied on local white doctors (ironically, often named White), some were skilled in the use of local herbs as home remedies.

When a building was built, they built it together. When the children were cared for, they cared for them together, and when they prayed, and oh, how they prayed, they prayed together.

Gwen Reese, one of the founders of the Sugarland Ethno-History Project, says it best: "Slavery, with all its physical restrictions and mental anguish, could never restrict the spirit of one's mind from communicating with the Lord in meditation and prayer. The bond of one's unity with the Lord proves to be the wellspring of survival. We have this testimony, for we as descendants and they as forbearers make up our pilgrimage."

The raising of the children, their care, and their education was an all-encompassing duty of all the adults. One descendant, Billy Lyle, through oral history, aptly described this communal approach of loving but stern discipline. "In Sugarland, you had a large extended family." He recalled "them old folks," as he fondly referred to them and their discipline. He talked about his "foolish escapades" growing up in Sugarland. He marveled at how them old folks, not having any telephones, always managed to stay abreast of their children's whereabouts and deeds. He was especially amazed at how the news of their behavior and discipline would reach their homes before they did. He told of many occasions when he and his friends were disciplined by their neighbors. He couldn't remember the details of what they did, but he would never forget the punishment. He commented, "Them old folks did not play. They made us go into the woods and pick out our switch—and not just any switch, it had to be the right flexibility (springy), and if it was not right, you had to march back into the woods and get another one. What made it so bad was that no matter whose house you were at, they had the right to measure out discipline to you as they would to their own children, the way they saw fit. When you arrived home, the look on your parents' face let you know you were in for another trip to the woods for another switch. They would usually wait until you were changing for bed and come in switch in hand. It was not so much to hurt you physically, but to sting your bottom and give you something to think about."

Children were given responsibilities to build pride in their contribution to the community. Gwen Reese gives one amusing example: "Reflecting upon an early childhood memory of life in Sugarland under the neighborhood umbrella, I remember that my brother, Ernest, and I, a year apart in age, were the fastest runners in the family due in part by an underlying fear of ghosts and the like. We were sent on errands throughout the neighborhood, and our feet were the mode of transportation. Sometimes our mother would send us to borrow sugar, flour, or spices from a neighbor, or someone would be borrowing from her and we were told to come right back. Momma's final words to us before leaving home was, 'Mind your manners,' so we would politely refuse gifts of treats with a 'No, thank you.'

"Aunt Bessie was noted for homemade pies and cakes, so we anticipated sweets when sent to her house. To get to her house, we had to pass the church and the graveyard. The end of the incline marked the beginning of the roadside graves, and, passing through that spot, there was always a cool breeze. Our older brother had previously assured us, on many occasions, that the stream running along the edge of the graveyard and under the roadway explained the cool sensation. He was not there to protect us, and that chill signaled ghost in our imagination. We ran with all our strength as we rounded the bend past the church and down the road to Aunt Bessie's. We stopped running at the beginning of her driveway to compose ourselves, then proceeded to the house. As we approached our home, we were bubbling with a sense of accomplishment. We declared at that moment, 'We're brave.'"

As noted on its website, the Sugarland Ethno-History Project concludes its history: "As time moves on, so do people. During the 1940s, '50s, and '60s, rural Americans, especially blacks in the South, began to migrate toward cities and away from their historic homes. Today there are few descendants of the original families who settled Sugarland Forest left, and the cost of maintaining the properties has become harder every year. With every family member's passing, what is known about the past becomes even more remote. Yet the emotional and spiritual bond to the land remains strong. Yearly family reunions and heritage day celebrations inspire grandsons, granddaughters, removed from earlier generations' rural life to return, discover, and reclaim their past. It is a history that can only strengthen what we know of ourselves in Montgomery County."

The good work of the Sugarland Ethno-History Project, a nonprofit corporation organized exclusively for charitable, faith-based, and educational

purposes, is in need of financial support. If you care to help out, visit www.sugarlandethnohistoryproject.org.



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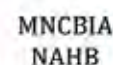
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Local History

The Man on Walnut Island

By Jack Toomey

Editor's note: This article originally ran in our November 3, 2006 issue.

Whether Walnut Island still exists or not is debatable. At one time, this tiny island in the middle of the Potomac River near Seneca was no more than a speck of land. Fishermen would row out and fish from there, and occasionally men from Seneca would take out boats to collect driftwood that would accumulate on this tiny island, but the Potomac River takes away land just as it forms unnamed islands through flooding, droughts, sedimentation, and debris collection. Heather Richards, the director of Headwaters Conservation for Potomac Conservancy, said that during their last survey, Walnut Island consisted of a little over an acre of land somewhere north of Seneca, but when a *Monocle* writer contacted an avid fisherman who frequents this area, he said that he had never seen or heard of such an island.

In 1907, Walnut Island was apparently known well enough to attract two residents of the village of Seneca. In 1907, Jack Benson kept a small boat in the creek at Seneca. On May 26, 1907, he and his nephew, Joseph Benson, decided to row out to Walnut Island to collect driftwood that had collected there during the high waters of the winter and spring. The island was most likely much larger then because they spent the day loading their boat with wood, taking it back and forth to Seneca, and then returning for more

foraging. During the afternoon, Joseph was shocked when he stumbled across the body of a man. He and his uncle inspected the body and found that it carried the identification of two different men, both from Charles Town, West Virginia. One of the pockets held a legal-type document leading Mr. Benson to suspect that the dead man was a sheriff or constable. The Bensons rowed ashore and went to the house of John Hall who was the justice of the peace in Darnestown. In those days, the various justices of the peace were empowered to conduct investigations and preside over coroners' inquests. Mr. Hall requested that the body, which had apparently been in the water for several weeks, be brought to shore and examined. Dr. Charles Nourse of Darnestown examined the body and expressed the opinion that the man was about forty-five years old, was of fine physical appearance, and was either a boatman or laborer. He had a total of fifteen cents in his pocket and wore an old watch.

Justice of the Peace Hall summoned six men from the area and they rode down to the canal on horseback to view the body. At the time, the law allowed Hall to order men of voting age to act as jurors at inquests that sometimes were held right where the body lay. Hall conducted an inquest over the body and, within a short time, the jury decided that the man had most likely drowned and that his identity could not be determined. The man was then buried in an unmarked grave alongside the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal at Seneca.

Somewhere near the Potomac River, in an area used today by picnickers, hikers, and fishermen, a man has lain in an unmarked grave for almost a hundred years. His family most likely once wondered what had become of him. Now his body lies, all but forgotten.

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Musings from Mama Boe

You Peopling

By Pamela Boe

Well, it's happened. My Varmint and Critter have reached the age where we, their beloved parental units, the very ones who make sure those two boneheads survive every danger between now and adulthood, are no longer in their "tribe."

How do I know this?

We are getting "You Peopled." "You People" don't understand. "You People" are total dorks. "You People" listen to stupid music. "You People" can't understand the simplest technologies.

Division is never pretty. It's the source of contention for nearly any political, religious, or ethical topic. Any time we deeply disagree with someone else, psychologically we often separate any previous common identification from them. We can't have a "We" versus "They" if we don't have a "They." And usually, the "They" has to be, in our mind, at least, less-than us in order for you to believe we are right. There often has to be contempt for that separation to work.

And now, My Captain and I have become the "They"


How sad is that? Yeah, yeah, I know, it's a necessary part of the maturation process. In my head I know that the fledglings have to dislike the nest enough that they are motivated to learn how to fly. But in my heart? OUCH.

At first, I thought that our only defense to getting "You Peopled" was throwing it back at them. "You people" need to make your bed. "You People" need to do your homework. "You People" need to clean the cat box.

And then I remembered how my father frequently misused the word "We." "We" need to move that big television across the room. "We" need to mow the lawn. "We" need to wash the car. I begin to see what he was doing. He must have been combating the "You Peopling." He drew that famous bigger circle, and kept us in. It was a subtle, but effective example that My Captain and I are trying to follow.

Except for one particular "You People" that we absolutely refuse to lose: "You People" need to remember that we love you, no matter what.

Now, if you'll excuse me, "we" need to go start making dinner.



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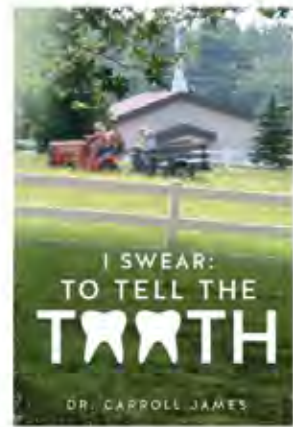
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Continued from page 16.

Spring's Eternal Hope

'Contrast in Styles,' 'Dance and Sing,' 'Gull's Wing,' 'Butter and Sugar,' and 'Super Ego.' Spring is the best time to plant them.

A versatile and little-known companion plant to the Siberian iris is *Verbascum*, the common name mullein. Originating in the Mediterranean area, it can be biennial or perennial, depending on the variety. Its wooly foliage adds interest to a border planting. Its white flowers with pink tints open over days on tall spikes. They thrive in average-to-poor soil and handle our temperamental summer weather very well. I planted five or six about ten years ago, and they have nicely multiplied, without being obnoxious. White Flower Farm's 'Summer Sorbet' is a beautiful and maintenance-free variety that does well in our area, and it is not candy to deer.

Another year, another garden: Look to new and different plants this year and may they become your garden's fittest.



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The County is interested in parties who are qualified proposers for agricultural tenant farming in Dickerson, Maryland. The available properties are comprised of three (3) parcels, totaling 623 acres, more or less, of farmland in Dickerson, Maryland. The long term lease is ten (10) years and it will include farming and property maintenance responsibilities of the three parcels. The Real Estate Expression of Interest detailing requirements and instructions may be obtained from www.montgomerycountymd.gov, Department of General Services, Office of Real Estate website or picked up from the address below.

An optional site tour will take place on Tuesday, February 18. Instructions for attending are found in the solicitation document.

An optional pre submission meeting will take place on February 20, 2015 at the below listed address.

There is no commitment expressed or implied by Montgomery County, Maryland in soliciting proposals. Montgomery County may, in its sole discretion, accept or reject any and all proposals received. The proposal deadline is Friday, February 27, 2015.

Montgomery County Government
Department of General Services
Office of Real Estate
101 Monroe St., 9th floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Please contact Steve Batterden on 240-777-6063 with any questions.

Remembrances

Former Montgomery Councilwoman, Nancy H. Dacek Passes Away

Nancy Dacek, who served three terms with distinction as a member of the Montgomery County Council and who was one of the few Republicans elected to the council over the past five decades, died January 12, 2015 after a brief illness. She was eighty-one years old.

A mother of five, she began her career as an active member of the Montgomery County Parent Teacher Association, serving as its president in 1985. She was first elected to the County Council in 1990 to represent District 1 (the Bethesda/Chevy Chase/Potomac area), later moving to Darnestown to represent District 2 (the Upcounty). She served through 2002.

Mrs. Dacek served during a critical time in Montgomery County when rapid growth was an issue that brought with it many challenges. During her tenure, she was a strong voice in advancing the needs of the Upcounty. Education, public safety, the preservation of open space, and the environment were among the many issues for which she effectively advocated while serving on the council.



Nancy Dacek

Mrs. Dacek also was passionate in her support of the BlackRock Center for the Arts, successfully securing funding for the performing arts center located in Germantown. During her tenure, she also served as the lead councilmember for Fire and Rescue, contributing enormously to the safety and wellbeing of county residents. Mrs. Dacek had the reputation of being a fiscal steward and proponent of slow growth. After leaving the council in 2002, she was appointed by then-Governor Robert Ehrlich to the County Board of Elections and served on the board until her death. Throughout the many years of her career as a public servant, Mrs. Dacek was known and admired for her no-nonsense, down-to-earth style and wry sense of humor.

Born in 1934, Mrs. Dacek was raised in Cleveland, Ohio, and graduated from Wellesley College with a degree in political science. She received a master's degree in education from Case Western Reserve University. Nancy was passionate about spending time with her grandchildren. She was also an avid tennis player, gardener, and enjoyed taking long walks along the C&O Canal with her beagle.

Mrs. Dacek is survived by her husband of fifty-seven years, Raymond, now retired, who was a prominent Washington, D.C. utilities tax lawyer; her daughters, Debbie Glass (husband Richard), Holly Dacek, Kim Barnes (husband Alex), Karen Dacek, and her son Mickey (fiancée Beth Lindsay). She had nine grandchildren: Andy, Emily, Keegan, Clay, Caroline, Teddy, Ellie, Eva and Christian.

A memorial service to celebrate her life was held on January 28 at the BlackRock Center for the Arts in Germantown.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Operation Smile, 3641 Faculty Boulevard, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23453 or to the BlackRock Center for the Arts.

Do you or someone you know have a special announcement,
or milestone you would like to share with our readers?

The Monocle welcomes your contribution.

Send to editor@monocacymonocle.com

James Barrack

On Friday, January 30, 2015, James R. Barrack, age 78, of Rockville, passed away. He was the son of the late Ernest Booker Barrack and Marie Randolph Lackey Barrack.

James Barrack is survived by his wife Linda Barrack; his children Jeff Barrack and his wife Peggy, Susan Studds and her husband Wayne, Pam Collins and her husband William, Cheryl Barrack, and Karen Harrison and her husband Tony; siblings Donnie, Robert, and Ernie Barrack, Judy Bugden, Kathi Sadtler, Dede Watson, and the late Charles Barrack. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Sunshine, Aimee, Kagan, Mallory, Sam, Kayla, Hunter, Michael, Patrick, and Julia; and his great-grandchildren, Ryleigh, Bella, Hannah, Ava, Church, Braeden, Jayden, and Avery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in memory of Jim Barrack to For 3 Sisters, PO Box 476, Olney, MD 20830; www.for3sisters.com.



James Barrack

Terry Wayne Harner

Terry Wayne Harner, 58 of Boyds, died Wednesday, February 4, 2015. Born April 27, 1956, in Frederick, he was the son of the late Charles M. Harner, Sr. and Una F. Harner.

A 1974 graduate of Poolesville High School, Terry worked as a highly-skilled mechanic most of his life.

Terry is survived by two daughters, Patricia A. Harner of Boyds and Brittany I. Harner of Frederick, and was a loving and devoted Pop-Pop to Haley S. Johnson. He was also survived by six siblings: Chuck M. Harner (Hany), Kathie R. Robinson, Dinah H. Wynne (Eddie), Robin H. Roberson (Larry), Amanda K. Bodmer (Mike), and Melissa R. Harner. Terry will be remembered by many family and friends. He will also be missed by his faithful and loving dog, Teddy.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Boyds Credit Union, P.O. Box 75, Boyds, MD 20841 designated as a college fund for Haley S. Johnson, Account #1315.



Terry Wayne Harner

COMMISSIONERS OF POOLESVILLE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held on February 17, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at 19721 Beall Street, Poolesville, Maryland for the purpose of the Commissioners of Poolesville receiving public comment on Proposed Ordinance 201, to repeal from the Poolesville Code of Ordinances certain portions of Chapter 21, Section 21.10, Section 21.11, Section 21.12, and Section 21.13 related to the Community and Economic Development Committee. Based on input from the current members of the Community and Economic Development Committee (CEDC), and a review of the scope, tasks, and projects recently undertaken by the CEDC, the Commissioners of Poolesville believe that the current structure and objectives of the CEDC as outlined in the Poolesville Town Code do not meet the needs or goals of the Town, and that community participation and input could be better focused by the creation of various smaller ad hoc committees of finite duration deemed necessary by the Commissioners of Poolesville. Copies of this proposed ordinance are available at Town Hall.

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Chocolate Toxicosis

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

Poolesville Veterinary Clinic

As Valentine's Day approaches, it's no surprise that dogs are getting into chocolate. In fact, the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center received almost 10,000 calls about chocolate toxicosis in 2013.

Chocolate, a naturally occurring alkaloid found primarily in the *Theobroma cacao* plant, contains methylated xanthine derivatives (e.g., theobromine, methylxanthine). As chocolate is prevalent in most pet owners' households, this is a very common toxicosis that veterinary professionals must feel comfortable treating.

Sources of chocolate include: Valentine's candy, chocolate-containing calcium chews (e.g., Viactiv), cocoa, chocolate liquor, chocolate-covered espresso beans, and chocolate baked goods.

When it comes to chocolate poisoning, it's the dose that makes the poison. A few chocolate chips aren't going to cause a problem, but keep in mind that when it comes to chocolate, the darker and the more bitter the chocolate, the bigger the poisoning problem. Also keep in mind that there are variable amounts of theobromine in products. Baked goods contain very little theobromine. Likewise, white chocolate has very little "real" chocolate in it, and rarely poses a threat. For a 50-pound dog, it would take over 100 pounds of white chocolate to result in true chocolate toxicosis. Milk chocolate has more theobromine, and approximately 8 ounces can result in toxicosis in a 50-pound dog. As for more concentrated, bitter types of chocolate (Baker's chocolate and dark chocolate) pose the biggest problem. Only 1 ounce of Baker's chocolate could result in toxicosis in that same 50-pound dog.

Depending on the type and amount of chocolate ingested, clinical signs may include: Hyperactivity, agitation, vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, panting, polyuria, tacharrhythmias, hypertension, tremors, hyperthermia, tachypnea, dyspnea, seizures, and death. (There will be a quiz ☺)

Treatment for chocolate toxicosis will depend on the amount ingested—and how much comes up with emesis (vomiting)! Ideally, the first step is calculating whether a toxic dose has been ingested. If a toxic dose is ingested, decontamination is warranted. PVC has the "Wheel of Chocolate" to help you determine if your furfriend has eaten too much chocolate.

Overall, the prognosis for chocolate toxicosis is excellent with supportive care. Some patients may develop secondary pancreatitis or other signs of toxicosis, particularly if other ingredients were involved (e.g. macadamia nuts).



Poolesville Veterinary Clinic



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