

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

October 9, 2015 • Volume XI, Number 14



Betty Selby and Janice Stottlemeyer hustled the famous Methodist apple butter at their fall festival.



To Bee or Not to Bee, is that the question? See Local News on page 5.



Dawn and Derrick Repep opened a new store in town. Find out what and where in Business Briefs on page 8.



PHS football lines up in a new division this year. See Youth Sports on page 11.

Community Mourns

The community is in mourning for Donte Isaiah Hamilton, a 2012 graduate of Poolesville High School. The young man died at 3:00 a.m. on September 30, 2015, just eight days before his twenty-first birthday. He was reported to have been on his way to work at Giant Foods in Kentlands.

Well over two hundred friends and neighbors came together that evening for a candlelight vigil to pay homage to Donte and to provide comfort to his mother Pamela Hamilton, her husband Robert E. Brand, and the entire Hamilton family at Whalen Commons.

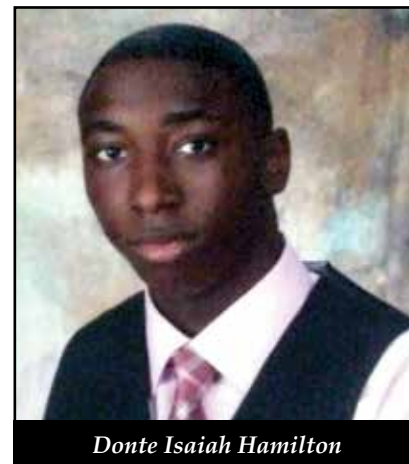
Donte had attended at the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore where he studied business and computer technology.

Rebecca Dill and Courtney Cooper, fellow students and longtime friends of the deceased, organized the convocation so that "people could come out

to show support and love and to give his family some comfort."

His cousin, Thomas "Rocky" Anderson, spoke of how much Donte meant to him. "He was a funny, hilarious guy. Full of life, he knew just what to say to make you laugh, to bring you up out of a bad mood. He wanted to make everybody laugh. He was very inspirational. He always made me believe in myself. I have a bad leg and would get down on myself, and he would never let me let me speak about myself like that, reminding me that I could do it, that I had the potential to do whatever I wanted to do."

Karen McPhatter and her husband were in attendance as their son James and Donte were very close, and her other son, Bennett, had attended college with him. "He brightened my kitchen every time he would come over. He was in our home so often



Donte Isaiah Hamilton

sharing meals. He was a new father, he was so proud of his son Anthony." The evening before the accident, Donte had visited with the McPhatters, was

Continued on page 10.

The Pope, the Priests, and Poolesville

By Rande Davis

As the nation rejoiced in the great anticipation of the arrival of Pope Francis on September 22, it is hard to imagine a place more excited and enthralled than the Catholic churches in the Poolesville area. After all, the populist pontiff was not only making their diocese the first stop in his whirlwind American visit, but it was one of their own, Deacon David Cahoon from St. Mary's in Barnesville, who was selected as the craftsman to make the customized altar chair of the pope, his altar, the gospel stand, as well as another eleven pieces of furniture to adorn the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in northeast Washington, D.C. during the visit.

Deacon Cahoon has operated his specialty carpentry service, St. Joseph's Carpentry Shop, for twenty-five years and has been an ordained deacon just one year shy of that milestone. St. Joseph's Carpentry Shop's clientele is primarily religiously-based groups seeking his services for restoring and/or building woodwork such as pews, communion railings, altars, and all the

wood adornments that can be found in a church. He brings a very unique spirituality to his craft by blending his passion for philosophy, something which he studied in college, with his woodworking talents. The things he builds are never just a bit of furniture but something that eventually will enhance a church that will reflect and support its spiritual mission.

With the image of the pope's hand waving from the airplane window as the last vision from the historical visit in mind, the *Monocle* sat down with Deacon Dave, Fr. Kevin O'Reilly of St. Mary's in Barnesville, and Fr. Vincent Rigdon of Our Lady of the Presentation to have them share their personal experience of the pope's visit.

For Deacon Dave, the long and grueling months of building various pieces of furniture, culminating in two back-to-back nineteen-hour work days just prior to the pope's arrival were well-rewarded by gaining seats for the Mass for him and his wife.

Friends at St. Josephat Catholic Seminary, a Ukrainian seminary in



Pope Francis approaches St. Mary's children in front of the Vatican Embassy.

Photograph by Father Kevin.

the District, provided Deacon Dave a place close to the perimeter to be able

Continued on page 13.

Family Album



Fall Festival fans Greg Shores and Nancy Reddick.



Louise MacKenzie, Janet Hartz, Diane McGrew, and Linda Shores supervised the auction table at the MUMC Fall festival.



Salome Shumaker, Paris Trone, and Barbie Stull, owner of Cugini's, sold pizza at the restaurant's second annual fundraiser to benefit Operation Second Chance, an assistance service to military dealing with PTSD.



Ralph Hitchens and Pastor Bill Maisch shared a coffee and conversation at the MUMC Fall festival.



The 3 A.M. Band played at the fundraiser to help Operation Second Chance.



New inductees of the PHS Sports Hall of Fame pictured are Cara Chuang, Coach Dave Miller, Billy Thomas, and Curtiss Belcher. Not pictured: Olivia Durr and Coach Larry Hurd.



The second annual Cugini's Warrior Ride and Car Show to benefit Operation Second Chance was a great event for families.



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At Your Service

Preston King, Director Of Parks and Streets

By Susan Petro



Preston King

Residents who call the small community of Poolesville home for any length of time know that our town employees and work crews provide service above and beyond what one can reasonably expect from the larger cities and communities down county. A commitment to providing prompt service, accessibility, reliability, and dedication is just the tip of the iceberg that makes Poolesville's Director of Parks and Streets, Preston King, an unparalleled asset to our town.

When neighborhood streets in surrounding communities remain buried under snow for days on end, in Poolesville, streets are clean and drivable, often before the last snowflake falls. Fallen tree limbs from storm damage are quickly removed, and local parks are clean and well-maintained. "We take a lot of pride in our emergency response like the wind damage from tornados and storms," said King, whose duties vary from day to day. In addition to managing issues and duties related to the streets and the numerous parks inside the town, King and his dedicated crew manage snow removal duties, storm damage, tree work, nuisance animal complaints, and a host of other duties, as needed.

King began his career in Poolesville as a laborer in 1997. He spent about a year and a few months in the Parks Department before moving to the Water Department. There, he went on to get all the necessary licensing before town manager Wade Yost told him he

needed someone to run the Parks and Streets Department. Within four years, King advanced from being a laborer to the Director of Parks and Streets.

King was born in Washington, D.C. and grew up in Hyattsville. At age seventeen, he joined the marines and served for four years. After completing his tour of duty in the marines, he went to Montgomery College where he earned two associate degrees before transferring to the University of Maryland and earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Science. King taught for a few years before deciding he didn't enjoy that field.

When King saw the laborer position advertised for the Town of Poolesville, he thought the job would be a good opportunity to get his foot in the door for a government job. Both his parents worked in government positions and he liked the idea of a "green" check; however, when King first applied, he was told he was overqualified and did not get hired. Three months later, the person that did get the job didn't work out. This time, Yost, who was then working as the superintendent for the town, personally made sure that King was offered the position. "I was working as a carpenter at the time and driving nails on a roof when Wade called and said, 'Would you like to work for the town?'" recalled King, who replied, "I would love to!"

When King took over as director, he had only two employees working for him. Today, as the town has grown, he has five full-time and three part-time employees, most of whom live in town. "Almost everyone on my staff was born in town, their parents were born in town, and they live in town," said King. "You can't beat that service when everybody lives in town."

King attributes much of his success to Wade Yost and his excellent team of employees—many of whom have worked for the town for a decade or more. In inclement weather, "Wade's goal is to have a truck going through

Continued on page 17.

support and generosity. As of October 5, the girls had met twenty-eight percent of their \$5,000 goal. Donations are accepted at all Poolesville home sports events, and, as in the past, there is needed support from local businesses.

They, and other girls' volleyball teams around the county, are excited to be part of the Side-Out Foundation and its Dig Pink Inline. This year, funds raised for Side-Out are specifically targeted toward a clinical trial for patients with stage 4 breast cancer, the most advanced form of the disease and the least funded area of research.

Local News

Dig Pink on Deck

By Jeff Stuart

The Poolesville High School girls' volleyball team is again running a Dig Pink event at PHS on Tuesday, October 20 at 6:00 p.m. There will be pregame ceremonies, halftime games, and auctions. The featured event is the volleyball match against Whitman.

Coaches Daniel Duvall and Megan Kenneweg, event chair Patricia Wolz, and the varsity and junior varsity volleyball teams appreciate your

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT:
Montgomery County's
Resource Recovery Facility in Dickerson

Mark Freedman of Covanta will be discussing
Montgomery County's Energy From Waste Program

What happens next?

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Commentary

Looking for a Tipping Point

By John Clayton

After the Oregon students were killed, I listened to President Obama's comments, and they were heartfelt, and his frustration at our collective inability to do something, anything, to curb the appalling gun violence that we accept as the new normal was palpable. Our inability to agree on a course of action is stark, and seems insurmountable, given much of our society's penchant for no-compromise positions. Does it really have to be this hard?

There are those who would ratchet up gun restrictions and ban certain types of guns or accessories, and make it more difficult to buy or own guns, and I suspect this would not accomplish a thing except spending a lot of money and deepening our differences—a classic example of managing a problem rather than trying to solve a problem. There are also those who view any firearms restriction as a step towards a slippery slope leading to the banning of private gun ownership. This is a debate way beyond the scope of this column, but I think that reducing mass killing by the mentally disturbed is possible with commitment and some cooperation between all those hardened silos of intransigent positions.

Obama correctly pointed out that this is a political problem that will require a political solution, which means bringing people of disparate opinions and motivations into agreement on reasonable solutions. Clearly, any reduction in the occurrence of mass killings (around one per day, at our present national pace) involves better identification and treatment of mental illness and the ability at the point of sale to prevent such people from purchasing firearms. These two pieces have to be in place or we will just continue the way we are going, maybe hoping that no one we know gets shot.

It will not be effective to attack this problem strictly from the weapons supply side. We're not Australia—we're not going to restrict guns to any similar degree. Unlike Obama, I do not foresee a wave of public opinion translating itself into political action that will unleash a gun control agenda into our body politic. I have seen the polls that suggest that a majority of Americans want stronger controls on gun purchases, such as expanded

background checks, but this has not translated into action. This is at least partially due to two factors. The first is that, contrary to popular belief, the National Rifle Association doesn't primarily exist to support gun owners so much as it exists to support gun manufacturers. This funnels large sums of money into political campaigns—which the organization does very effectively. The second is that opponents of anti-gun legislation are highly motivated to vote, and do so, often on the merits of this one issue. The other side isn't standing nearly so tall, and as outraged as people on all sides were by the shooting of mall shoppers, churchgoers, college students, and even little children, it did not result in significant change. It is also possible that while we are outraged, we're simply not convinced that the usual batch of new gun laws will solve the problem.

We are, however, convinced that addressing mental illness is part of the solution, as the disturbed and the deranged are clearly perpetrating the vast majority of these tragedies. Since I seem to be hearing almost universal support for doing something, anything, about mental illness, maybe the time is right for a nationwide, fully-funded initiative on identifying mental illness and universally providing more effective treatment. There would be immeasurable benefits to families and our entire society from such a committed and bipartisan surge, with the ancillary benefit that we would now more readily know who should not be allowed to buy or possess firearms by virtue of their mental health.

This brings us back to the point-of-sale. When we have spent a few billion dollars on mental illness programs, and we know more than ever who shouldn't be allowed to buy firearms, why does it make sense that we only require background checks when purchases are made from a licensed firearm dealer? Will we say that as long as purchases are made at gun shows, or advertised online and purchased in person, that we don't care who buys firearms? We will be preserving a background check loophole that allows law-abiding citizens to continue to sell guns to each other without background checks, which is nice, but it will also allow those who shouldn't be allowed to buy guns at all, such as the mentally ill, convicted felons, illegal gun dealers, and individuals on terrorist watch lists, to buy and possess firearms willy-nilly. Why does this make sense? Are we really that averse to being inconvenienced? What is our tipping point?

Rande(m) Thoughts

The Man in White

By Rande Davis

What an incredible week of events. The Bishop of Rome in dazzlingly-white vestments, mild in manner, and calm in voice came to call on America. A lightning bolt across the hemispheric sky would not have had a greater impact. Even as an Episcopalian (otherwise known as a JV Catholic), I was mesmerized by this man of modest stature standing heads and shoulders above all around him, including the world's leaders, and boldly stating his beliefs, not in your face, but in your heart.

His penchant to reach out to the little, the lonely, the hungry for

food, or those starving for spiritual sustenance defines his papacy dedicated in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. He dipped a toe into the world of politics and both sides tried to claim him as their own. Just when he said something that sounded like a Republican, he said something else that sounded like a Democrat. If one perceives him through a political lens, he becomes a kind of Rorschach test. If seen as he is, a spiritual leader, he comes with a time-honored message in Latin: *E Pluribus Unum*. Our heated division as a people, it seems to me, is now mostly in the area of ideas and less so in ethnicity.

Even when stating ideas I did not share, he instilled awe simply because he caused me not to experience him as man but as a spiritual force. Isn't that what a pope is supposed to do? Yep, I will pray for him.

Corrections

The article "Poolesville Day Grand Marshal Grace Sheppard" in the September 11, 2015 issue of the Monocacy Monocle contained several inaccurate or incomplete statements. The correct information is below. We apologize to Grace and to our readers for the errors.

- Grace has taught in MCPS for thirty-one years.
- The Poolesville Community Pre-

school was a forty-year institution and closed its doors in 2012.

- In an exchange with a former student, the student also asked if Mrs. Sheppard still sang "CON-SCI-ENTIOUS" with her students, in addition to providing pretzels.
- The choral group started by Mrs. Sheppard is "Mrs. Sheppard's Patriotic Singers." The singers have not performed for school assemblies.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

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Local News

Local Beekeepers Relocate Rare Honeybee Nest

By Susan Petro

When Giovanna Salazar got a phone call from her tenant that a large bee nest was located in a backyard tree close to the house, she did not know what to do. The tenant was afraid that a child may be stung as many bees were seen flying around and on the ground. Salazar's realtor suggested that she consult with an exterminator, but Salazar wanted to try to save the bees. At the time, Salazar had no idea that the nest attached to a branch about twenty feet in the air was actually a rare sight: a fully-exposed honeybee nest complete with multiple layers of intricately-designed wax honeycombs filled with thousands of huddling bees.

Local beekeeper, Joe Long, immediately recognized the significance of the nest after Salazar posted a picture on the Town of Poolesville Facebook page. Long first began keeping bees as a means to help pollinate his fruit trees, but he soon discovered he enjoyed raising bees as much as gardening. Beekeeping became a passion for him as he recognized the importance of all types of bees for farmers.

Colonies of honeybees are worth saving, especially in light of the fact that their population has faced huge declines in recent years due to Colony Collapse Disorder and a variety of other issues. As much as thirty-five percent of our food supply relies on crops pollinated by bees. Their decimation threatens the food chain.

Long consulted with his mentor and master beekeeper, David Reece of Reece Bee Works in Germantown. The pair met at the nest to devise a plan. "I've been keeping bees for thirty-five to forty years and I've never seen anything like that," said Reece, referring to the exposed nest. "Usually, they will get into the eaves of a house or a hole in a tree." Reece comes from a long line of beekeepers; his father and grandfather both kept bees. Reece remembers going out with his brothers to gather swarms of bees which are valuable commodities for farmers.

The bees on Salazar's property located in the heart of Poolesville may have decided to build a nest in the tree after leaving their original nest to find a new home. Each colony of bees has one queen, thousands of worker bees, and hundreds of drones. The workers are all female and the males are drones.

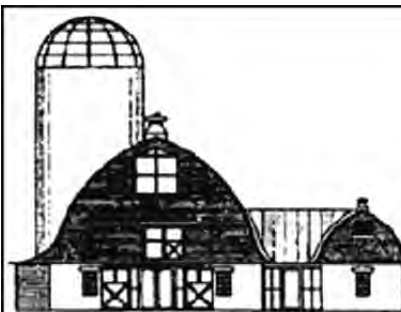
The only job of the drone is to mate with the queen. In the fall, when food is scarce and the colony is full, the drones are usually ejected from the nest. When the colony has no more room for expansion, a new queen is created, and the original queen and about half of the colony leave in a large swarm. The swarm will gather on a tree branch or the side of a house while a scout bee searches the area for a safe place to build a new nest. Usually, a new home is chosen within a few hours or few days, and then the entire swarm moves into the new location to start a new colony. If the scout cannot find a suitable spot, the bees may build their new nest on the branch where they originally landed.

People often panic when they see a swarm of bees, but they are typically not dangerous. Since the swarm of bees is not protecting a brood, the bees are not aggressive and rarely sting unless they feel threatened.

Usually Long recommends that honey bee colonies be left alone if they are not posing a hazard to the residents; however, there was no question that this nest needed to be relocated. In addition to the concerns of the tenants, the exposed nest had no hope of surviving the cold winter months. Bees huddle together for warmth in the winter months in order to maintain a brood temperature of ninety-six to ninety-eight degrees Fahrenheit—a difficult task in an exposed environment. This nest was already showing signs of distress after a heavy downpour the night before the removal. Many of the honeycombs were uncapped and washed out. There was only a fraction of bees necessary for a healthy colony, and there were no stores of honey in the nest.

Donned in beekeeping suits and equipped with a tall ladder, a bee box, a saw, and a handful of other beekeeping supplies, Reece and Long set about removing and rehousing the bees into their new home, the portable bee box. Reece climbed the ladder and carefully cut the branch that held the nest, all while bees were flying around him and huddled in the nest. He slowly lowered the branch holding the nest and bees to the ground. The pair then began the process of removing individual layers of honeycomb and attaching each to individual frames that were then hung vertically in the box. Neither Reece nor Long wore gloves while handling the nest, and the bees remained calm throughout the process. Once the entire nest was safely relocated into the bee box, a frame with a honeycomb full of honey was added to help sustain the bees. The box was left on the property to allow for the return

Continued on page 17.



SUGARLOAF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER October 2015

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How to contact us:

Sugarloaf Citizens' Association

Beth Daly, President

Linden Farm, 20900 Martinsburg Road

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Visit our Web site: www.sugarloafcitizens.org

Anne Sturm Garners 2015 Royce Hanson Award; Join Us on October 18 to Celebrate



Anne Sturm, long-time member of SCA, is the 2015 recipient of the Royce Hanson Award, given in recognition of outstanding commitment to the protection of Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve. The award, presented each year by the Montgomery Countryside Alliance (MCA), is named for its first recipient, Dr. Royce Hanson. Hanson is the former Chair of the Montgomery County Planning

Commission and was the original architect of the Ag Reserve. Anne, who moved to Sugarloaf Country in the 1960s to breed Arabian horses, has been a tireless promoter and protector of the Reserve, both as an individual and in collaboration with an ever-widening network of people and groups that she continues to help sustain. In the mid-1970s Anne was an early member of three groups that still exist - the Historic Medley District (HMD), Sugarloaf Regional Trails (SRT) and SCA. At SCA, Anne helped push for county-wide recycling and fought against ill-conceived land uses that would limit farming. As SCA President in 2010-2011, Anne led efforts to scale back Barnesville Oaks and oppose the Global Mission Church.

Anne's impact is not just local. In 1978 she was a founding member of the North American Bluebird Society. And she continues today to monitor local nest box trails, working with local golf courses and mentoring others to protect the habitat of numerous bird species.

In lieu of our annual Fall potluck this year, we encourage you to join us and MCA to celebrate Anne and her contributions on **October 18, 2015**, 3:30 to 6:00 pm at the Linden Barn, 20900 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson, MD. And please RSVP to MCA at www.mocoalliance.org/.

Beth Daly

President, Sugarloaf Citizens Association

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Things To Do

Weekends in October

Markoff's Haunted Forest

Maryland's oldest and greatest haunted attraction. *Calleva Farm on Martinsburg Road*. For information and directions, visit markoffshauntedforest.com.

The Amazing Corn Maze at Madison Fields

Benefit Madison House Autism Foundation. Located at *21355 Big Woods Road, Dickerson*. For more information, direction, tickets, visit madisonhouseautism.org.

October 9

PHS Varsity Home Game

Homecoming. Football versus B-CC. 6:30 p.m.

October 9, 10, and 11

Countryside Artisans Gallery and Studio Tour

Meet and talk to gifted artisans as they open their studios to the public. Choose from fifteen galleries and studios on this self-guided driving tour, representing more than thirty artists, exhibiting visual, sculptural, and wearable art, as well as oil, pastel, watercolor, charcoal, pen, pencil, photography, pottery, porcelain, glass, stone, wood, yarn, fiber, and textiles.

View the spectacular sculpture of artist David Therriault at Alden Farms in Beallsville as well as the serene oil paintings and landscapes, cards, seasonal gifts of Claire Howard in Claire Howard Studios on Westerly Road in Poolesville. It's a tour you do not want to miss. Visit countrysideartisans.com for directions, map, and more information.

October 10

House of Poolesville Entertainment
The Bobby Lewis Band. On the patio. 4:30 p.m.

October 10 and 11

Fire in the Hole!

Lewis Orchard's annual Punkin' Chunkin' for Charity event. 100% of all proceeds to go to charities. Noon to 5:00 p.m.

October 12

PHS Varsity Home Games

Girls' tennis versus Seneca Valley. 3:45 p.m.
Field hockey versus Blake. 7:15 p.m.

October 13

PHS Varsity Home Game

Boys' soccer versus Gaithersburg. 7:15 p.m.

October 15

PHS Varsity Home Game

Football versus Richard Montgomery. 6:30 p.m.

October 16

PHS Varsity Home Game

Field hockey versus Quince Orchard. 6:00 p.m.

October 17

Hope in South Africa: A Decade of Dedication

An event to benefit and celebrate ten years of Transformative Leadership. Party and rugby game at 1:00 p.m., fun for the entire family, and live music. Bring a dish, beverage to share, and chairs. Coffee and water provided. No dogs, please. For directions and to make a donation, visit hopeinsouthsfrica.com

House of Poolesville Entertainment

The Colliders. On the patio. 4:30 p.m.

October 18

Sugarloaf Citizens' Association Annual Royce Hanson Award

This year honoring Ann Sturm. *SCA's Linden Farm on Martinsburg Road, Dickerson.* 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

October 19

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting
Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

October 21

PHS Varsity Home Games

Girls' soccer versus Rockville. 5:15 p.m.
Boys' soccer versus Rockville. 7:15 p.m.

October 22

Cugini's Special Event

Fordham & Dominion Tap Takeover. 5:00 p.m.

October 23

UMCVFD Auxiliary Bingo Night

Featuring cash, Longaberger baskets, and Vera Bradley bags. 20 games, specials, door prizes, and raffles. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., games begin at 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$20. Refreshments are available for purchase. Please do not bring outside food or beverages. Held at firehouse, *19801 Beallsville Road, Beallsville.*

Poolesville Green Special Presentation

"What's it All About? Montgomery County's Resource Recovery Facility in Dickerson" – Covanta's Mark Freedman will be discussing Montgomery County's Energy from Waste Program. *Poolesville Town Hall.* 7:00 p.m.

October 24

St. Mary's 86th Annual Ham and Turkey Dinner

Mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, green beans, sauerkraut, and rolls. Entertainment includes free hay-ride, crafts, baked goods, pumpkins, country store, and Christmas shop. Dine-in guests eight years or under eat free. Dine-in and carryout: \$16.00. Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Poetry and Prose Open Mike and Potluck

The Hyattstown Mill Arts Project welcomes poets, storytellers, singers, musicians, and good listeners. Come hear and be heard. Free and open to the public. *The Historic Hyattstown Mill, 14920 Hyattstown Mill Road, Hyattstown.* 7:00 p.m.

October 25

Attention Craft Vendors

Boyd's Fall Festival to benefit the Boyd's Historical Society has openings for vendor tables. Cost is \$20. It will be held at the Boyd's Negro School from noon to 4:00 p.m. and will feature local artists, stained glass, crochet, ceramics, artwork, jewelry, photography, face painting, and more. Interested vendors may contact Fran Asbeck at 301-972-0511.

October 26

Monocacy Lions Dinner Meeting

Prospective members are invited to attend this dinner meeting at 7:00 p.m., at *St. Peter's Church, 20100 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville.* For more information contact club president and King Lion Josh Maisel at jmaisel@verizon.net.

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Local News

John Poole House Fall Cleanup

By Maureen O'Connell

Historic Medley District, Inc extends a big Thank You to the eighty eleventh grade students from the Poolesville High School (PHS) Global Ecology Program for all their hard work on Friday, September 18 at the John Poole House (JPH). I had the pleasure of working with these delightful, well-mannered young men and women and their teachers, Marcia Snavely and Dan Savino, that day.

The first crew of forty walked from school and arrived at JPH promptly at 8:15 ready to work. The school van followed them with their tools: shovels, clippers, trowels, weeders, gloves, and wheelbarrows.

The Global Ecology House is one of three highly-regarded magnet programs at PHS. Admission is very competitive. Montgomery County Public Schools states that the Global Ecology House "provides students with the knowledge and the understanding of the science and cultural, social, political, economic, and technological conditions that affect the quality of life on our planet"—quite far-reaching goals. The program strives to accomplish this through an interdisciplinary approach of a study of environmental issues with an emphasis in science and social studies. Included in this curriculum is a field-based program offering opportunities to explore issues the students are studying in the classroom on hands-on field trips several times a month. It networks with local, state, national, and international communities. HMD's JPH is very fortunate to be included in their local community outreach sphere.

HMD is currently in the process of repairing and renovating the JPH and the backyard Edward Stock Arboretum. The gardens have been neglected for years and need major work to restore them to their former glory.

The eighty students were divided into two groups of forty: one working in the morning, the other in the afternoon. Some students worked in the herb garden, weeding, dead-heading perennial herbs and flowers; others worked the edge of the woods, pulling invasive vines from tall trees, digging up volunteer non-native shrubs, pulling up stands of highly-invasive Johnson grass, and pruning dead or diseased limbs from trees. Several boys were assigned the tough job of digging four small circular flower plots at the base of the four corners of the garden's Eagle Scout project pergola. They are now ready to be planted in the spring with clematis plants.

The interior of the house received a thorough cleaning: windows washed inside and out; cobwebs and overall dust bunnies removed (they had reproduced exponentially in the old log room); and floors swept. The John Poole House had never looked better.

The students' day at the JPH was also educational. Ms. Snavely, Mr. Savino, and I discussed with the students non-native trees and plants, invasive plants, pruning techniques, indigenous plants circa 1793, use or non-use of pesticides and herbicides, and housekeeping at a merchant's home in 1793 in Poolesville.

The PHS Global Ecology students helped last year at the Seneca Schoolhouse and the JPH. These young men and women are a credit to their parents, their teachers, and their school. We often hear about teenagers who get into trouble with the law, make poor judgements, do not care about their community, or do not care about how their actions can impact our Earth's natural resources.

It is so refreshing and encouraging to see young people striving to make a difference, in small or big ways. I applaud the PHS Global Ecology Program and their students for their efforts to encourage young people to investigate historical and current issues that impact the Earth's natural resources.



Students from the PHS Global Ecology Program, under the tutelage of teacher Dan Devine, spent an entire day cleaning up the John Poole House.

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Business Briefs

Welcome to Banana Tree Embroidery

Dawn Repep is not the kind of woman who lets the dust settle around her. As a mother of four working full time, she also opened her own embroidery company featuring customized promotional/advertising items like t-shirts, ball caps, pens, cups, and towels, just to name a few things. The company does all the embroidery, silk screening, heat press, and transfers in house, but can sub-out other items like trophies, pens, cups, etc. For groups

and companies with their own logo or mascot down to individual items emblazoned with unusually-spelled names, Banana Tree Embroidery provides customized products that feature personalized lettering.

Dawn, originally from Dallas, and her husband Derrick, from West Virginia, moved to the area twelve years ago, and six years ago she started the business on a part-time basis. This past summer, weary of the commute and long hours put in after working another full time job, she with her husband, Derrick, determined that she needed to either go full force with her new adventure or drop it. While Dawn

handles the creative aspects of the business, Derrick is more in the background in an administrative capacity, keeping things organized. He is also responsible for finding suppliers and product lines. "We had a unique request for beauty pageant sashes, and although it was a new item to use, I was able to come up with a supplier," he said. The big decision was finally made. She quit her fulltime job and in late September they opened a retail location in the shopping center next to St. Peter's Church at 20010 Fisher Avenue in Poolesville.

In seeking to brand the new company, she wanted a name that would be whimsical and fun. Dawn remembered a character from the 1980s in Jim Henson's TV show "Fraggle Rock" named Whimbley who always wore a banana tree shirt, and from that was born Banana Tree Embroidery.

They are getting ready to offer a unique line of PHS sports caps that have the Falcon name on the inside bottom of the cap visor. Along with corporate advertising wear and team apparel, they offer many individual gift items like holiday and seasonal dish towels, embroidered bath robes with matching slippers, and cosmetic bags, baby bibs and blankets, hooded towels, and even a line of very soft, adorable stuffed animals that can have a name on the item. Their service is

highly personalized, but customers can also order stock items as well.

What? They Have Been in Town How Long?

As they say, time flies when you're having fun, and there is hardly more fun than good eats, especially for sweet treats. It's hard to realize that this is the second anniversary of Zaglio's Bakery, and if you haven't tried Amanda's new line of extra-large filled donuts yet, our only warning is to get there early as they go fast.

Just in case your sweet tooth needs to be satisfied later in the day, Mooey's Frozen Yogurt is celebrating its first anniversary in Poolesville, and owner Mandy makes a point of offering new flavors on a regular basis. Either way, be sure to offer your congratulations to both entrepreneurs for reaching these early but important milestones.

The Sound of Music at Home

Do you harbor unrealized musical dreams or have a child yearning to express him or herself through an instrument? Clarksburg's Kevin Collar is looking to help you.

Mr. Collar graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay as a performance major on saxophone and a minor on clarinet and has a

Continued on page 12.



Commissioner Val Dickerson cut the ribbon at the grand opening of Banana Tree Embroidery located next to Poolesville Health Club.



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October 17: The Colliders on the patio at 4:30 p.m.

October 23: DJ Slim Pickins at 8:30 p.m.

October 24: The Woo Yeahs on the patio at 4:30 p.m.

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

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School Club News PHS Honor Society

By Anne Hundertmark

I pledge to uphold the high purpose of the National Honor Society to which I have been selected; I will be true to the principles for which it stands; I will be loyal to my school, and will maintain and encourage high standards of scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

With that pledge, the Poolesville High School National Honor Society welcomed its new members in its annual induction ceremony.

Founded in 1921, the National Honor Society is a student-run organization made up of members selected by a faculty council. Selection is based on a student's excellence in four areas: scholarship, leadership, service, and character, the four pillars of NHS. Originally, only seniors could be accepted, but today, both juniors and seniors in PHS have the opportunity to apply.

Throughout the year, members are required to perform a select number of hours devoted to service in the PHS community. This commonly involves tutoring, assisting teachers, and community service projects. In addition, events are hosted by NHS for both the school and the community.

Wilder. "Each year, the officers' energy level and commitment to NHS greatly affects how much we do as a chapter. This group has big plans for service projects that will benefit the school, the local community, and people outside of this area as well."

This year there are a total of eight senior officers, with unique responsibilities and areas of specialization. This year's president is Yoon Hong, a senior in the Humanities Magnet Program. Vice presidents of Service include Grace Beal, Anne Hundertmark, and Lauren Whittaker, all of whom are seniors in the Humanities Magnet. The VPs of Service organize service opportunities for the other members so they can fulfill their required minimum of ten service hours per semester. Vice presidents of Tutoring are Ankit Sheth, a senior in the Humanities Magnet, and Jenny Strong, a senior in the Global Ecology Magnet. The VPs of Tutoring are responsible for finding tutors for struggling students. The secretary is Grace Jiau, a senior in the Science Magnet and the induction-publicity coordinator is Deepti Agnihotri, also a senior in the Science Magnet.

The officers are very much interested in bringing new ideas and opportunities to NHS members. "My fellow officers and I plan to encourage service especially geared towards the needs of the community," Hong said. The service officers have



NHS Officers: Allison Wilder, Grace Beal, Lauren Whittaker, Ankit Sheth, Yoon Hong, Anne Hundertmark, Jenny Strong, Grace Jiau, and Deepti Agnihotri.

While the organization is run by senior officers, its school sponsor, Ms. Allison Wilder, is very much involved in the organization and its planning. Wilder, a member of Chantilly High School's NHS in 1985, stated that she "was interested in the position because it is an opportunity to work with some of Poolesville High School's most talented and responsible students while helping them make a positive impact on our community." To help Wilder with the responsibilities for each year, a new group of senior officers are elected to assist in management. "I'm excited about the take-charge attitude and responsibility I've seen so far with our new slate of officers," remarked

announced that there will be a theme each month with corresponding service opportunities available. These will include partnerships with PHS clubs.

"The National Honor Society is the nation's oldest, largest, and most prestigious student-recognition program," Hong explained. "It is without doubt a great opportunity to develop one's sense of service, scholarship, and leadership. I would advise anyone in middle school to join his or her NJHS, and anyone in high school to join NHS as the honor society provides challenges and experiences that build character and prepare one for life post-secondary education."

Continued from page 1.

Community Mourns

thrilled to have Greek food (pastitsio) for the first time, and even joked with the family about how much he wanted the recipe given to his grandmother.

Natalie Grandin, Donte's girlfriend, said, "He was loved by so many people. He really was such a wonderful, goofy, lovable person. He loved to put smiles on people's faces."

Peg Arnold, a guidance counselor at John Poole Middle School was there and also warmly recalled Donte with a smile. "He was one of those students who was full of life. He could always bring a smile to you. He could step on your last nerve and go straight to your heart in a matter of seconds."

The family led the gathering in a verse of "Amazing Grace" following another family member offering prayers for grace and comfort from their Lord, expressing appreciation for the people in attendance at the vigil.

Each person interviewed recalled Donte with a smile and appreciation for the humor the young man offered, an individual who seemingly was a one-man goodwill ambassador.

Robert Hamilton, Sr., Donte's grandfather, spoke to the gathering, "I was extremely tough on him because I wanted to prepare him for what this world can hand out. Young people, I know how you feel. I am an old man and I have dealt with death but not like this. I never dealt with this type of death, I never dealt with the death of a young man who lived in my house, who shared meals with me, shared fun with me, shared rough times with me.

Please take it from an old man, please make right decisions. Do not drink and drive. I pray in his final moments he could make peace with God, so pray for us as we are going to have some dark days ahead."

Donte's uncle, Robert Hamilton, Jr., also spoke for the Hamilton family and addressed the crowd, thanking everyone for attending, "We all woke up to some devastating news. This gathering is a true testament to the lives that he touched, the nature of his character from all these different people of different backgrounds that are here. We are not sure how to deal with this, but together we will be fine. There was a lot of life in him to live, and he will still live it out through us. I am proud to say that I was his uncle, I am proud to say I am part of this community and truly appreciate everyone being here. As you part this evening, the only thing I want to say, touch the people who love you because you never know when and if you may get that call that will surprise and turn your life completely around. Donte was a good person. He always put everyone else's happiness to the forefront. I have had the pleasure of meeting many of his friends and acquaintances, I see many of them here tonight, and they feel what we felt as family. That just goes to show what kind of person he was and what he brought into this world."

His funeral was held at the Poolesville Baptist Church on October 6. Persons wanting to assist the family with funeral costs can make a donation at gofundme.com/b55br4cc.



Well over 200 friends gathered for a candlelight ceremony in remembrance of Donte Hamilton.

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Youth Sports

Football, Fireworks, And a Large Flag

By Jeff Stuart

The early weeks of the Poolesville football team's first season at the 3A level have been highlighted by two wins and some original displays of fan support at home games. The first win of Coach Dave Murray's tenure came against Wheaton in a game played at Blair High School on September 12.

Trailing 6-0 with four minutes to go, the Falcons scored a touchdown and an extra point to win, 7-6. "It was a tough game," said Murray. "Wheaton played good defense, and we were sloppy with the football, but we kept it close. We forced a fumble in their red zone with four minutes left. That led to the winning score on a four-yard run by senior Jonathan Hetrick. Junior Sam Pavlik forced that fumble and senior Kyle Wilkins recovered it. We scored on the next play. We played well and are getting better each week. We need to fix things and get healthier, but it was a nice and needed victory for our program."

The season opener at Seneca Valley ended in a 41-14 defeat, but the good news was that during the second half, Poolesville managed two touchdowns and held the Screaming Eagles scoreless.

In their first home game of the year, the Falcons defeated Winters Mill, 24-13, on September 18. After WM scored to close out the first quarter, PHS answered with a twenty-yard touchdown pass from Daniel Cho to Jake Armstrong. Another Cho-to-Armstrong touchdown pass right before the half put the Falcons up 14-7. Junior safety Colin Fisher had two first half interceptions.

As the team took the field for the second half, the players were greeted by an elaborate fireworks display. The fireworks were set off beyond the

stadium fence to the far right of the bleachers. Where did they come from? "No one knows," said athletic director Ed Ross. "The Mystery Fireworks guy!"

In the second half, the Falcons scored on a third quarter twenty-yard field goal by senior Alex Hsu, and a seventy-yard run by Hetrick came in the fourth.

The following week, the Falcons hosted the *Washington Post's* top-ranked team, Damascus. The home fans greeted their team with a large American Flag draped over the student section—perhaps brought by the Mystery Flag guy. The Falcons lost, 49-0, but PHS gave their fans something to cheer about with a long scoring drive in the fourth quarter. They had a first and goal on the Hornets' five-yard line before a muffed snap killed the drive.

"Wheaton came out firing," said senior wide receiver Jake Armstrong. "They had a really good running back that we had to prepare for. We had a goal in mind. We were trying to hold him under a certain amount of yards. We met that goal... We had a great balance of the passing and running game. We kept them off balance. We moved the ball. We held them on defense, but we didn't score until late in the game," he added. "I think those two second half-scores against Seneca Valley helped kick start our offense because we couldn't get much going before that."

"We didn't come out as strong as we would have liked to against Wheaton," said senior middle linebacker, Dakota Grimsby. "We knew we would have to come out stronger against Winters Mill because they had a good quarterback who was shifty and liked to run. We pretty much dominated them, so these two wins have us psyched up for the rest of the season. We are ready to go."

"Winters Mill was our first home game," said senior defensive lineman Kyle Wilkins. "We were real excited before the game. Their offensive line did a good job blocking and their quarterback is pretty good. They scored first, so we knew we had to turn that around.

Coming out after halftime, we were not expecting the fireworks, so that got us hyped up. We came out and had a real good second half. It gave us confidence that we are a good team and we are capable of winning tough games."

"Our passing game was pretty good against Winters Mill," said Hetrick. "We dropped two bombs to Jake. I guess that was the turning point. After that we just ran the ball down their throat, to be honest. Our line was phenomenal in that game and pretty much every other game. I don't know what I would do without them. In my four years here I have never seen anything like the fireworks show at halftime. It kind of gave me chills to be a part of that. At this point we are just trying to

put in people's minds that Poolesville does know how to play football and that we are overcoming the odds that were against us at the beginning of the year. We want to play hardnosed football and prove people wrong. Being in 3A is exciting, but it is also nerve wracking, because of the tougher competition. Everything is faster. The kids are bigger and stronger. It is just a gut check."

Other seniors are Reid Patton, Alex Dahlen, Jake Johnson, Louis Potts, Adam Branscome, Riley Elerick, Trey Willis, Jonathan Garagiola, Will Carter, Dylan Landis, Jackson Purdy, and Trevor Magaha.

The Falcons will play their homecoming game against Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School on October 9.

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Local News

Police Seek Boyds Burglary Suspect

By Jack Toomey

Montgomery County Police detectives are investigating a burglary that happened on September 15 at a home in the 14200 block of Gate Dancer in Boyds.

At about noon on that date, the homeowner came home to find the suspect in the house. The homeowner confronted the burglar, called the police, and managed to take two photos of the suspect. The thief then fled the area.

Detectives obtained photographs of the female suspect and are asking anyone who may recognize her to please call the 5th District Investigative Section at 240-773-6237.

Those who wish to remain anonymous may call Crime Solvers of Montgomery County at 240-773-TIPS (8477) or Text-A-Tip to CRIMES (274637); text MCPD and your crime tip. Crime Solvers will pay a cash reward of up to \$10,000 for information provided to them that leads to an arrest and/or indictment for this crime.



Police seek the identity of this suspect in a Boyds burglary.

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Continued from page 8.

Business Briefs: Music at Home

master of arts degree from American University. He has performed with numerous bands in the Washington, D.C. area and has performed with such artists as Bill Watrous, Arnie Lawrence, Clark Terry, Connie Stevens,

Stan Kenton, Tommy Newsome, and Dionne Warwick.

He has thirty years of experience both as a performer and a teacher. He has taught saxophone and clarinet at American University and more recently was the instructor of instrumental music at Georgetown Day High School. He now runs his own studio,

Quantum Studios, from his home in Clarksburg, where he teaches private lessons on all the woodwinds, piano, and guitar. He also has a studio in Poolesville at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. His services are open to all levels of performance from beginners to advanced levels. In some situations, he will travel to residences. If you are interested, he is available at kevincollar@gmail.com or 301-972-0640.

Another Poolesville Grocery Closes Its Doors

Mixed Greens Market, the only grocery store in Poolesville, closed

its doors for good on Sunday, October 4. The store, opened by Monica Bulat in July of 2012, which had offered locally-sourced and seasonal foods, such as local meats, dairy, vegetables, and more, had been located in a large space next to the garden center that was once Hearthside Home and Garden. In September, Bulat came to the depressing realization that with the expansion of the space and hours, the store did not garner the expansion of customers it needed to remain viable. It was with a heavy heart that Monica made the decision to close.



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Barnesville School Student Meets the Pope

Barnesville School of Arts & Sciences student, Lucy Walton (fifth grade), was one of five local children selected to meet Pope Francis at the Vatican Embassy. She shared her experience with fellow students at the school's morning meeting, and showed a video of news coverage.

"I was really excited," Lucy said. "I found out that I was going to meet the pope when I was celebrating my birthday with family and friends. I knew it would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. To get to shake his hand was really special."

Middle School history teacher, Doug Hart, explained the significance of the papal visit and engaged students in a conversation about kindness, the school's character word of the month. Mr. Hart noted that the pope's historic visit to Washington, D.C. coincided with two major religious holidays, Yom Kippur and Eid, and that kindness is a universal value. Several students shared stories about their families' observance of Yom Kippur.

"One of the things that makes Barnesville unique is that we regularly give students the opportunity to share their experiences and excitement with each other," said Hart. "Our job as teachers is to help them make connections back to what they are learning in the classroom."

Barnesville is a secular independent school and made up of students and families of diverse faiths and backgrounds. The School's curriculum includes studies of all the major religions and their historical and cultural influences on the world.



Lucy Walton of Clarksburg and the Barnesville School holds a photo showing news coverage of Pope Francis greeting her and other children.

Continued from page 1.

The Pope

to take rare but peaceful moments of rest in his hectic schedule. His hard work continued into Thursday morning at 5:00 a.m. as he also had the task of moving the furniture. Eventually, the pope's chair will be moved back to the downstairs of the basilica along with the other pieces of furniture from previous popes' visits. First, though, the pope's chair took a temporary detour to St. Mary's in Barnesville, to the excitement and enjoyment of the congregation. Father Kevin, with a bit of an Irish smile, admitted to having sat in the chair. Deacon Dave smiled like a kid with his hand caught in the candy jar in telling us that he did get a somewhat urgent email on Monday, though, reminding him to get the chair back to Washington.

While Father Kevin didn't get to attend the Mass, he was part of the contingency of priests supervising children from various parishes who got to see the pope up close. His group was assigned to the lawn at the Vatican Embassy. The children from Our Lady of the Presentation were positioned at Joint Base Andrews for the pope's farewell. Other children were positioned along the travel route and at other locations. When the pope emerged from the Vatican Embassy, the St. Mary's kids went wild with cheers, and the pope came over to the line and was able to touch all of them. Father Kevin noted, "Even on Sunday when they came back to church, they were still beaming."

Father Vincent had the honor to be a concelebrant during the Mass at the basilica. A concelebrant shares the Eucharistic preparation with the principal celebrant, in this case the pope, and along with other priests and bishops present in the sanctuary, assisted in the consecration of the Eucharist.

Father Vincent, though, almost missed the big moment. Arriving in plenty of time to work his way through security, it still took two

hours to make it to the entrance gate. It got a little nerve-racking, as the clock moved closer and closer to 3:00 p.m., the time he was supposed to be in position for the 4:00 p.m. event. He and a fellow concelebrant, waited dutifully in line only to find out that the organizers had failed to notify them to move to the front. Fortunately, the error was corrected in time for him to get vested and positioned in time. For Father Vincent, who speaks Spanish fluently, even the pope's Argentinian Spanish was not a problem.

One seeming miracle of the day was the serving of the host (consecrated wafer) to 25,000 congregants in under fifteen minutes. It was explained that the process has been refined over the years, ever since Pope John Paul VI's visit when things didn't go quite so well. This time, with two hundred Eucharistic priests and deacons held in a separate area just before the dispensation of the Eucharist, who were accompanied by a person with an umbrella (to protect against rain, sun, and as a high visible marker to point to where to go to get communion) the choreographed arrangement went off without any major problems.

In speaking about the exuberant and positive reception for the pope, Deacon Dave jokingly observed that the only problem now is "Jesus' message was always counter-culture and not very popular at the time. Now that we are popular, we may be in trouble."

In closing our interview, Father Vincent observed that Pope Francis has been one of the greatest blessings of the church in a long time. Father Kevin remarked how impressed he was with the genuineness of the pope's presentation. "In the larger sense, everything was so authentic. Even though some things were scripted, you didn't feel it was scripted, you never felt he (the pope) was presenting someone else's thoughts or dogma. It was just flowing out of his heart." Clearly America responded in kind in friendship from the heart.



Fr. Kevin O'Reilly, Liz Smith, Biaggio Vignola, Katharine Schaefer, Lucy Walton, Maria Carberry, and Andrew Opincar await Pope Francis's visit on the lawn of the Vatican Embassy.



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Police Blotter

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Assault: 17500 block of W. Willard Road, 19600 block of Fisher Avenue, 24800 block of White's Ferry Road.

Burglary: 22300 block of Nicholson Farm Road.

Theft from vehicle: 18400 block of McKernon Way.

Theft: 19700 block of Mouth of Monocacy Road.

Past Crime

October 10, 1961 Montgomery County's first police dog reported for duty. Knight, a twenty-month-old German shepherd, was trained at the Metropolitan Police Department's training course. His handler was Officer Cornelius DeVeries who put the dog through a grueling fourteen-week course. Before Knight joined the department, he participated in two cases. In one, he found a gun that had been discarded by a crook, and in the second, he tracked down a purse that had been grabbed by a purse snatcher. On his first day on the job, Knight helped find an elderly man who had wandered away from a rest home.

October 14, 1960 A Rockville man had both of his cars stolen. He awoke to hear his 1951 Chevrolet being started. He said that he recognized the sound because the engine was in such poor condition. When he looked out the window, his other car was also driving down the street. He called the police, and a local tavern owner, who had a police radio installed in his car, saw the cars being driven down Georgia Avenue. He raced to the Silver Spring Station where he alerted an officer. Both cars were stopped, and two fourteen-year-old boys were arrested. The Rockville man had left the keys in both cars.

October 19, 1960 County council members and representatives from the

police department met to decide what could be done about juvenile crime and the loitering and disorder that was happening nightly at the Wheaton Hot Shoppes. Councilman Hickey said that "an explosive situation" existed at the drive-in restaurant and that hundreds of cars gathered there every night. The council considered a 10:00 p.m. curfew for juveniles. Police Chief McAullife said that such a curfew would be helpful, but he would not instruct his men to use it in every situation. He gave an example of how it would be used. McAullife said, "Say one of my men finds a sixteen-year-old girl hanging out with older boys in front of a drugstore. That would give the patrolman the authority to inquire why she was there."

October 20, 1961 The uproar over the book *Tropic of Cancer* appeared to be over when the states attorney announced that he would not prosecute the four drugstore employees who had been charged with selling the racy book. The tempest began when a fellow police officer gave a detective a copy of the book. The high-ranking detective read the book and declared "that the book was filth" and that it violated Maryland's obscenity laws. The detective later learned that the book was considered to be a classic and was available in county libraries on request. He said that he would not have acted had he known that.

October 22, 1962 A sixteen-year-old Derwood boy was charged with larceny and reckless flying after stealing a plane from the Congressional Air Park. He flew the plane for a period of time before it crashed in a field at the Headley Dairy where it struck and killed a fifteen-year-old girl. The boy was taken to Suburban Hospital with minor injuries. The owner of the airport said that the youth had once worked there but had no formal flying training.

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



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Continued from page 5.

Local Beekeepers Relocate Nest

of any remaining bees. An opening on the box allows the bees to come and go.

The following morning when all the bees were inside their new quarters, Reece and Long moved the bee box to an apiary outside of town where they can continue to monitor the health of the colony. To keep the bees from returning to the original site, the box was moved at least five miles away. Since this colony of bees was much smaller than a typical nest, they may be combined with an existing colony of bees to give them the best chance for survival.

Reece and Long did not charge a fee for their efforts that required multiple trips to the site and the use of their



Rescued bee nest.

supply of delicious honey, but the real satisfaction comes from being able to see firsthand a rare, exposed colony of bees, and giving that colony its best possible chance of survival.

Kudos to Giovanna Salazar for seeking help from the beekeeping experts, and to Joe Long and David Reece for quickly coming to the rescue of the honeybees.

Continued from page 3.

Preston King

each neighborhood every two hours," said King. "That's one good thing about Poolesville is that we're small enough that we can have that special service."

Although King does not live in Poolesville, he is well-known to the community members who often call him personally when they have an issue that needs attention. "I'd rather people just call me directly," said King who describes himself as the layer between the residents and Yost. "I can handle eighty percent of the calls that come in."

As the number of parks and neighborhoods in town has grown, so has the workload. "We used to empty fourteen to sixteen trashcans every day, but now we are up to seventy," said King. Most of the cans are emptied daily or at least once a week depending upon the need. Although growth has been challenging, King said he has been given the resources and allocations he needs to keep the town running smoothly.

King said Wade gives him the freedom to make choices and decisions that save money for the town. During the off-season when there aren't

as many daily tasks, King and his crew often undertake more complex projects. Three out of the four special structures built to house equipment and supplies were designed by King and built by the town employees.

King resides in nearby Ijamsville with his wife, Summer, and sons. His eldest son, Hunter, is a freshman engineering student at the University of Maryland; the youngest, Graham, is a freshman at Urbana High School. For the past fourteen years, King has coached a variety of sports, including baseball, football, basketball, and wrestling. King is also an avid sportsman who loves fishing and hunting. Additionally, King loves to travel and has visited many states including Maine, Texas, and New Orleans. He has visited other countries including Austria, and Japan when he was stationed there as a marine. He once drove a dirt-bike type motorcycle from Arizona to Maryland in his early twenties.

Preston really enjoys working for the town and interacting with all the people, many of whom will stop him when they see him around town to report a concern. "I'm a phone call away from doing something different every single day," said King who is clearly up to the challenge.

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Inappropriate Litter Box Behavior and Your Cat: Part I **Poolesville Veterinary Clinic**

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

Throughout history, cats have been considered mysterious, magical, or malevolent creatures. They have been considered gods (which they still think they are), given mythical powers, considered left behind by ancient space aliens, or sent from the underworld. Our modern feline friends have become important family members and share many of our closest secrets—yet they still have mysterious ways and, in too many cases, create stress and concern for their human servants.

Inappropriate litter behavior is one of the top behavioral concerns that owners seek help and support for in veterinary medicine and behavior. Though it may seem like a mystery to you, the frustrating failure of your feline friend to “hit the litter box” mark usually makes complete sense to your cat.

Cats are instinctively inclined to bury their waste and seek locations where their waste is not disturbed once they have completed their bathroom duties. They may often stop doing this and seek other locations outside the box if any unexpected change in the litter box or surrounding the normal litter box protocol occurs. Changes that you would not even consider significant can produce significant stress and inappropriately alter your cat’s bathroom behavior.

Here are the top five reasons that your cat may have changed litter box protocol and left you unhappy.

It is important that you look to the litter box first. Think hard to determine if you or another two- or four-legged member of the family has changed the location, position, orientation, or surroundings of the current litter box location. Then look in the litter box for any evidence of changes.

1. Dirty Litter

As basic as this seems, it is often the simple reason for a change in bathroom behavior. I often say that you do not like going into a public restroom only to find the toilet area dirty or unkept, so why do you think your cat would be unaffected if his or her litter area was not clean. So increasing our scooping frequency and full litter change out rate is an important and easy first step to seeing if the problem is that easy to correct.

2. Change of Litter

Cats are very wedded to a routine. Change anything and you run the risk of provoking a housetraining issue. If your cat is happy and content with the litter that is being provided in the box, why would you change? A different litter, while looking sparkly or more inviting in the ad may not be your cat’s desire. Different litters have differing smells, looks, and feels for your cat. So if the behavioral change in your cat occurred around the same time you or someone in the family changed the litter, your answer and cure may be as simple as returning to the previous litter.

3. My toilet!

Most cats would rather not share a litter box with another cat, an inquisitive dog, or busy child.

They have an instinctual desire to eliminate secretively and to hide waste from other predators and competitors. A simple and effective rule of litter box management is one box per cat. Have the boxes in differing locations if possible and not all together.



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