

# The Monocacy

# MONOCLE

*Keeping an Eye on Local News*

*A Biweekly Newspaper*

February 26, 2016 • Volume XI, Number 22



*You don't have a community dance without at least one round of Village People's "Y.M.C.A." See more Family Album pictures on page 2.*



*Some who teach, also create. Read about James Erickson in Center Stage on page 5.*



*Roger Brenholtz of the Monocacy Lions Club gathered used glasses from a donation box near the eastern side of Whalen Commons. Read more on page 8.*



*Retiring president Hilary Schwab was honored by Jeff Stempler at the PACC dinner. See more pictures on page 9.*

## PACC President Steps Down

By Rande Davis

At the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce annual dinner and business meeting on February 17 at the Comus Inn, President Hilary Schwab announced that she was stepping down after leading the business group for the past six years.

After the meal, Schwab presented the 2016 PACC Annual Community Service Award to Alex Markoff of Calleva. In presenting the award to Markoff, she said, "Alex has been an exemplary member of this community. He has never said no when asked to help with an event, bringing the climbing wall to benefit WUMCO, Relay for Life just to name a few. The Haunted Forest has brought many people into our community in the fall to shop in our stores and eat in our restaurants. It has provided entertainment for our kids and employment for them as well. He provides Polar Express buses for the First Friday events during the Holiday Lighting Ceremony, with Alex most often the driver."

On behalf of the PACC members, board of directors member Jeff Stempler presented Schwab a gift certificate and a very special clock engraved with appreciation for her achievements. In accepting the gift, Schwab said, "I am so proud to have been a part of this chamber growth and to be a part of this business community."

Reflecting on those years since 2010, she added, "My goals at that time were simple and direct: improve communication with members and visibility of our chamber. I think we have accomplished both of those objectives."

Stempler reminded the group that at the time she took the reins, PACC was down to sixty-five members, its annual telephone directory hadn't been published for more than a year, due to lack of an accountant the organization had issues with the IRS, the financial status was not strong, and communication with members was sporadic and through regular mail.



*Alex Markoff (Calleva Outdoors) was presented the PACC Annual Community Service Award by outgoing PACC president Hilary Schwab (Hilary Schwab Photography).*

Under Schwab's guidance, PACC now has 170 members, the IRS

Continued on page 4.

## PHS Boys Win 5th Straight State Swim Title • Girls Repeat For 3rd in 5 Years

By Jeff Stuart

Excellence has become a tradition. For the Poolesville High School Swim and Dive Team, there was symmetry to the 3A/2A/1A State Swim and Dive Meet on Saturday at the Eppley Center in College Park on Saturday, February 20. At about 4:00 p.m., the boys' 200-yard medley relay team started things off with a second-place finish (Justin Kim, Benjamin Kaplan, Kevin Song, and Conner Dunathan), and the girls quickly followed and won Poolesville's first gold of the day in the girls' 200-yard medley relay (Katarina Lechner, Sayaka Vaules, Arona Baigal, and Theresa Nardone).

In the final two events a few hours later, the boys' 400-yard freestyle relay finished second (Justin Kim, Jisu Kim, Theodore Jagodits, and Joshua Aurdos), and the girls' 400-yard freestyle relay followed, winning the gold to close out



*PHS Boys' and Girls' Swim Teams*

the state meet (Rachel Ryan, Fanny Wu, Lechner, and Julia Wang).

When it was over, the girls had four golds and 370.2 points to Easton's 265.3 and Walkersville's 174.4.

The boys' only first-place finish came in the 200-yard freestyle relay

(Dunathan, David Umansky, Theodore Jagodits, and Jisu Kim), but the boys had two second-place finishes and three thirds. They finished with 325.2. Rockville was second with 198.3.

Continued on page 11.

# Family Album



*Rich Norwood, Emily Ash, Dorothy Norwood, Elsie Thomas, and Laura Davis.*



*Bonnie Bowie joined the Hoewings at the PASC Silent Auction table: Link, Reva, Ray, and Fran.*



*Peg and Rick Arnold, Lillian and Craig Winning, and Steve and Brenda Boulter.*



*Mike and Ann Ritonia with Bruce Kirby and Ann Connor.*



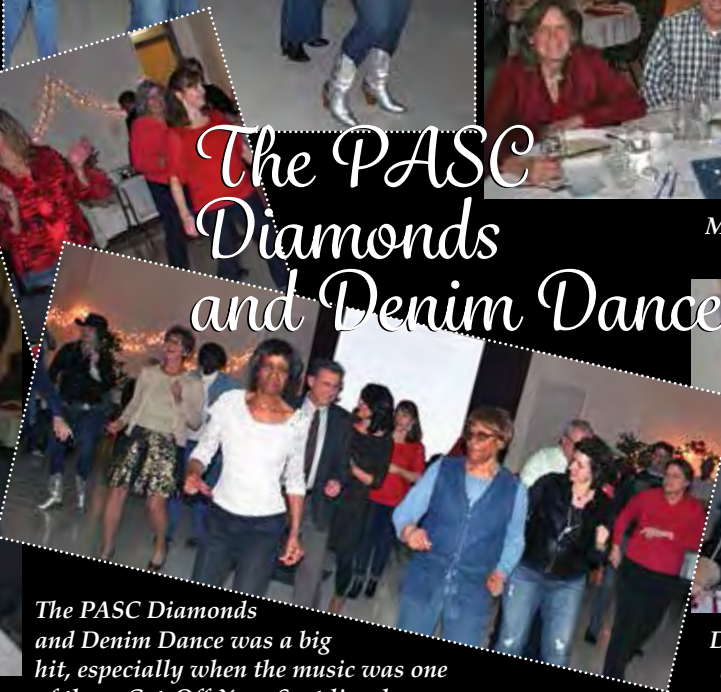
*Country line dancing got the crowd up and moving.*



*Jeff and Stephanie Yarmas with Bill and Jill McDonald.*



*Tom and Joy McCartin with Pat and Joe Chmelik.*



# The PASC Diamonds and Denim Dance

*The PASC Diamonds and Denim Dance was a big hit, especially when the music was one of those Get-Off-Your-Seat line dances.*



*Mary Bernardo and guest with Tom McInnes and Robin Mevissen.*



*DJs Ashley Funk and Eric Backus are joined by their greatest fan, Reneta Funk.*

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## Town Government Report

### Snow Woes Come Up in Commissioners' Meeting

By Link Hoewing

While the Town of Poolesville government won almost unanimous plaudits for its snow removal efforts in the recent blizzard, some citizens raised concerns at the February 16 commissioners' meeting about the impacts on vulnerable citizens of snow pushed by town plows onto driveways.

During the Open Forum segment of the town meeting, several citizens came forward to discuss the impacts on older people and those with disabilities of the large snow berms left at the ends of driveways once plows had passed. Len Dimino said that he had gone to a number of his neighbors' homes with his snow blower to help remove snow that often piled up four feet high at the ends of driveways after plows passed. He wondered if the town could not put together a list of people who are especially vulnerable during a major snowstorm and be prepared to find ways to help remove piled-up snow.

Commission President Jim Brown said, "I hear you loud and clear," but added that this was one of the biggest snow events in recent history. He said that the town looks at the aftermath of major events like this to try and find ways to do better and that this issue of snow berms had been raised as a concern.

Town manager Wade Yost said that the town is well prepared for major storms using contracts with a number of companies that have large equipment that can be called on in an emergency. He also said that the town had responded to some calls it had received to help clear out driveways in cases where people are in difficult situations. Many churches have lists of members who need help in situations like the recent snowstorm, and neighbors in Poolesville respond well to calls for help.

Conrad Potemra remarked that many neighborhoods where young families and young adults once lived are changing and now have many elderly or infirm residents. Clearing snow from driveways in such neighborhoods is especially challenging. He suggested that new ways of plowing—similar to the approaches taken on interstate highways—might lessen the amount of snow left at the ends of driveways.

Bob Roit added that snow-clearing operations are particularly difficult on some cul-de-sacs, particularly Dowden Circle. Snow can't be easily removed from the cul-de-sac, so it is piled up in the center of the roadway, leaving a very narrow area of cleared road for cars to use. The town's garbage contractor, Unity, uses dual-wheel trucks that are very wide and can't get through the narrow roads after snows. They consequently ran all over the "island" in the middle of the Dowden Circle cul-de-sac and left huge mud spots and ruts.

After the discussion about snow removal, local resident Josh Felder appeared to present his findings about the problem of traffic congestion during the morning and afternoon periods when children are coming to and being released from Poolesville Elementary School. Felder presented slides and pictures showing how congested two main roads—Fisher Avenue and Cattail Road—are when parents are dropping their children off and picking them up after school. The congestion became more severe when the town posted No Parking signs all along Cattail Road to prevent the clogging of that street as parents parked near the school.

Parents have continued to park along Cattail Road, although the signs have ended long-term parking that occurred in the past, but the amount of traffic coming to the school during key periods of the morning and afternoon has so jammed up the flow of cars that, in many cases, drivers pass around stopped lines of traffic on the wrong side of the road, including on heavily-traveled Fisher Avenue.

Felder said he recognized that it was important to try and minimize parking along Cattail Road but suggested a compromise might be to have signs that authorize parking for only thirty minutes before school starts and thirty minutes after it ends. Commissioner Brown thanked Felder for his ideas and said he was impressed with his findings; however, he iterated that the Parks and Streets Board had the issue under consideration, and he didn't want to take any actions until it forwarded its recommendations.

Julie Halstead, representing the Poolesville Community Gardens Association (PCGA), came forward to ask the town for a \$4500 grant to support the activities of the association in 2016. Since its start three years ago, the PCGA has made a great deal of progress. Twenty-four garden beds have either been installed or are in the process of being built. Numerous groups

Continued on page 8.



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## Commentary

### Big Beautiful Walls

By John Clayton

Following our last little snow-storm, I thought kudos were in order for whoever plans the holiday schedule. This year's February calendar was pure genius. Think about it: In any given year, there is a threat of getting both a Valentine's Day blizzard and a Presidents' Day blizzard. This year, the wise powers that be put Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day on consecutive days—sheer brilliance. We got a twofer; it started snowing late on Valentine's Day and continued into Presidents' Day—one obnoxious snow-storm, not two. I'm sure the school kids are peeved, but that's okay, kids have plenty be happy about already.

I am sensitive to snow right now because the big ugly blizzard of last January is still etched on my scarred soul. I had a snowplow attached to a fairly large truck, and I was plowing downhill, and all I managed to do was create a big wall. Yes, I tried to plow this way and that way to clear the center, but ultimately I just created an accidental Big Beautiful Wall in the center of the driveway, neatly bounded by my two deliberate walls of snow on the right and on the left. This went on for about a week, so I am hopefully done with snow for some time.

Speaking of Big Beautiful Walls, I've been trying to measure the plausibility of that wall touted by leading Republican presidential candidates. I'm not questioning the need to secure our border, but I have serious reservations about the wall as a panacea for our illegal immigration vexations. To my ear, building that Big Beautiful Wall has become a core position for the GOP nomination; failure to embrace the wall is apostasy. It's all so simple: "Well, first we build a wall. Then we address everything else." Simple, done, no problem—so what's my problem?

Perhaps I just lack faith in our national capabilities, but seven hundred miles of wall, fence, or what-have-you is a tall order. If building a barrier from here to the Georgia-Florida border doesn't faze you, or if you prefer, from here to Bangor, Maine, then maybe you should think about it a little harder. If you then consider that the border with Mexico is about two thousand miles long, encompassing all kinds of terrain, then a seven-hundred-mile wall doesn't necessarily complete the task, even with the start we already have. I think it's a real leap of faith to believe that building that much wall and fence, for a staggering cost as yet undetermined, will solve the security problem once and for all. In present-day presidential politics, simplicity sells, and

the Republican front runner knows this better than anyone. He is poster boy for the Big Beautiful Wall, and the other candidates have fallen into place behind him. It all sounds so simple.

In point of fact, it has already been shown to be much more complicated. About ten years ago during the George W. Bush administration, seven hundred miles of reinforced double fencing was approved by Congress, although the detailed requirement of double fencing was subsequently ceded to the discretion of Homeland Security to decide on appropriate fencing for any given area. This means that very little of the fencing meets the definition in the original legislation. Sometimes it's fencing to keep out pedestrians, sometimes it's merely vehicular barriers which allow wildlife and pedestrians to pass. Sometimes there are lights or cameras or sensors, or access roads, and sometimes they aren't, because these things either aren't physically feasible in all places, or just don't make sense, like in the middle of the wilderness where it would take a long time to respond. Cooler heads prevailed. Congress has been wrangling over what would be feasible and effective for the past ten years. The experience has been that there's nothing simple about this at all, and the candidates know this, but they also know that we don't want to be bothered with details.

I understand; it's much more fun to ignore the almost unfathomable estimated costs, or maybe just have a secret plan to have Mexico pay for it. I give Donald Trump credit—at least he has a plan to pay for it. No one else does, and good luck finding that much waste, fraud, and abuse to make it up.

If a candidate who has sworn fealty to the Big Beautiful Wall gets the big job, he will come face to face with reality and the hedging will begin. Even Trump will have to start redefining his terms, and the pragmatic businessperson that he is, I'm sure he can do it. At that point it won't matter what nonsense he spewed during the campaign. He'll be working in the real world where you don't build Big Beautiful Walls in the wilderness, or across stream beds, or up and down steep terrain in a desert. I am fairly confident that when all these candidates, and maybe even Ben Carson and Donald Trump, say that they are for walling off the entire Mexican-American border, that we can pay for it, and that it will be cost effective, and that it will solve our security problem, they know perfectly well that if they are elected president, it will never be done the way they describe it, and that even if it were done, it wouldn't solve the problem. It's an unrealistic policy but great primary politics. As long as it sounds good, and as long as people are eating it up, why sweat the details?

I could be wrong, of course. In fact we build our two-thousand-mile wall to seal off an otherwise friendly

country, we can then ask the bigger questions: What does that make us? Who are we?

#### Continued from page 1

#### PACC President Steps Down

problems have been cleared up, the financial status is exceptionally strong, the directory has been published every year, the group networking events have expanded, the website has been kept current through the work of Berry Thompson, a tourism map has been published twice through the leadership of Tom Kettler, and a highly-successful chamber breakfast group has been developed through the guidance of Gail Lee and Jeff Stempler. Schwab noted that the organization's secretary, Jennifer Singh, has brought the benefits of online communication and social media (Facebook, text messaging, and online payment systems) to its expanded ability to communicate with members and community.

Before electing new members to the PACC Board of Directors, a gift and certificate of appreciation were given to those long-serving BOD members who stepped down:

Scott Hollander, of Merrill Lynch, served on the board for over ten years, and he served as president and vice president. He has been the face of the chamber at Poolesville Day and the spring business fair. Tom McCartin, attorney, the longest serving member of the board, was its events coordinator for the past few years. Tom was recognized as being the calm, voice of reason in the group. Rande Davis, of the *Monocacy Monocle*, joined the board in 2008. He and Kathy Mihm chair the annual 5K. Although stepping down from the BOD, he plans to continue to co-chair the 5K. Fran Ichijo of Hope Garden Children's Ballet assisted in many events and projects.

The PACC membership then voted in the following persons as new members of its BOD: Heather Soskin of Soskin Photography, Julien Singh of Crossroad Talent Solutions, Woody Hilton of Hilton Funeral Home, Joyce Brainer of Poolesville Green, and Faith Etheridge of the Poolesville Day Committee.

Continuing their service on the board are: Dr. Peter Eeg of Poolesville Veterinary Clinic, Alex Markoff of Calleva, Eleanor Bateman of Redeemed Interiors, Gail Lee of Gail Lee Homes, Jeff Stempler of HomeBridge Financial Services, and Monica Molina of Magica Realty LLC, the PACC's treasurer. The new officers will be voted into office by the new board at its next meeting in March.

## The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

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## Center Stage

### Following His Passion

By Dominique Agnew

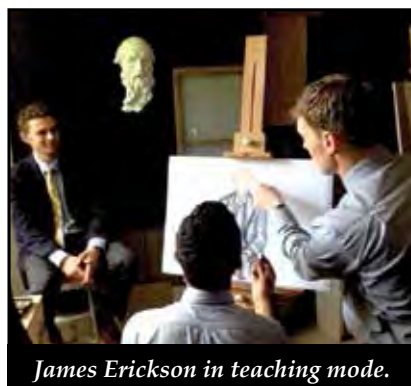
With spring on the horizon, we'll probably see more of him: on the street corners, along the side of the road, facing a field or an interesting landmark, brush in hand, palette in the other, easel set up. Local painter and teacher, James Erickson, was a random fixture on the curbs of the Ag Reserve, painting *en plein air*, capturing a moment in nature or a piece of history.

James's early memories were of painting or creating, usually at his grandparents' house in Michigan. "My grandparents always had art materials around," James said. "I can always remember being at the kitchen table; I always remember drawing."

In stark contrast to the Mayber-ryesque feel of Poolesville, where James and his wife Jenna have made a home with their three children, Finley, Joseph, and Julia, James grew up in a rough neighborhood in Detroit. His parents split when he was just two, and he lived with his mother. "I didn't really think of it as a rough upbringing," he explained. "It was not how I perceived it. I never saw it as an excuse to not do well in school." It was in school that he found father figures in athletics and the classroom (James went to the University of Virginia [UVA] on a track scholarship); coaches and art teachers were like parental figures. "In a nutshell, the rock that was always there was that I had great grandparents. They were devout Catholics, and my grandfather stood in as a father figure."

While the University of Michigan was an option, James felt a need "to get out of the area, seek better pastures," and when he visited the University of Virginia, "it was like this magical foreign place—almost exotic." Many of James's friends who stayed in Michigan learned a trade, but James was always drawn to the intellectual life—and at first didn't pursue art as a calling. "In my mind, I had to make something of myself, live the American Dream, become a doctor." James's love of science initially led him to believe he wanted to be a surgeon. It was at UVA, however, that James learned that "being authentic was more important than anything else"—and he changed his major to art. "Art is a realm where I know I'm my true self."

It wasn't until grad school at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (PAFA) that he realized he wanted to



James Erickson in teaching mode.

be a teacher. He always dreamed of being an artist, but on the practical side, he knew he wanted a family. The lessons he learned at UVA nagged at him, he knew he had to follow his dreams. "The sooner that you find your passion and commit to it, you learn so much about yourself," he said. "There's an equity in pursuing your own passion rather than what other people say has good pay."

James found the perfect marriage in his position as art teacher at the Heights School, a Catholic boys' school in Potomac, where he began teaching right out of graduate school five years ago. "From the get-go, they've been very supportive of me as an artist...it's like being an artist in residence there... [it's] a great blessing to have that."

James feels strongly that part of the responsibility of an artist is to give back to the community; teaching affords him that opportunity. "It's very rewarding; I love being in the classroom," and he also loves spending time in his studio. The balance between teaching and creating is also important to him. He could not teach the boys at the Heights School as well if he were not a practicing artist.

As an artist, James cannot be pigeonholed into a single pedagogy of style. His early freedom and background go against the grain of the purists, but James feels his work can become stale if it's too formulaic. As he puts it, "The great masters never relied on one technology...they never let materials or technology hold them down." Because he makes his living as a teacher, he doesn't feel stressed about making it as an artist. "What I love to do is put paint on a surface," he said. "It's so freeing for painting to be a hobby." This balance between teaching (the analysis) and painting (the creation) is very equalizing. "For me, you follow your heart and you don't worry about what's right and wrong about the use of your materials"—and yet, teaching is a way to step outside of the work and put words to the creativity.

Continued on page 10.



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## Foundations

### The Houses Of Frederick and Thomas Poole

By Susan Petro

Poolesville's origins date back to the late 1700s when two brothers, John and Joseph Poole, bought a large tract of land in a once densely-forested area about thirty-three miles northwest of Washington, D.C. In 1793, John Poole, Jr. built a small log cabin and opened a small general store to service the local area farmers who were widely scattered throughout the area. Soon, lots were being subdivided to the east and west of Poole's store, and the community of Poolesville was born.

Merchants, craftsmen, blacksmiths, doctors, lawyers, and all types of businesses sprang up. By the mid-1850s, the town looked similar to how it appears today. Although a series of disastrous fires—and the demolition of

yellow pebble dash exterior and rows of dark green shutters, was built shortly before 1820 and is first mentioned in 1821 tax records as belonging to Robert Willson. Willson passed away in 1833. In 1835, his daughter, Mary Tillard Douglas Willson Poole, and son-in-law Frederick Sprigg Poole, bought the house from his estate. Frederick Poole was the son of John Poole, Jr. He also served as a postmaster for the town from 1839 to 1854.

The two-story house was originally five bays wide and built with brick. A two-bay addition, the pebble-dash stucco exterior, a full-length front porch replacing the original Federal-style entrance porch featuring decorative and intricate cast iron porch supports, and fencing were all installed during the latter part of the nineteenth century and still remain to this day.

Poolesville played a central role during the Civil War years as many Union forces were stationed there to protect the vital crossings along the nearby Potomac River. Colonel Edward Baker, was a close friend of Abraham Lincoln—Lincoln's son,



Poolesville's Frederick Poole House and Thomas Poole House.

some of the original homes and business—has somewhat altered the landscape of downtown Poolesville, many historic homes and businesses dating back to the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries still remain in and near the heart of Poolesville at the intersection of Routes 107 and 109, providing residents and visitors a glimpse of a mid-eighteenth-century village.

Two prominent homes from that era, the Frederick Poole House and the Dr. Thomas Poole House, still stand and retain much of their original charm and character. These homes, sitting side-by-side, are located on Fisher Avenue, between Bassett's Restaurant to the east and W. Willard Road to the west.

The Frederick Poole House, a large home covered with a distinctive

Edward (Eddie) Baker Lincoln was named in Baker's honor, but sadly died at the age of four in 1850.

Baker was a lawyer, politician, and an army colonel. He was killed in battle on October 22, 1861, shortly after the fighting began. The Union forces were soundly defeated by the Confederate Army. Baker was killed early in the fight, and his body was returned to the Frederick Poole House for a funeral service before being taken to San Francisco for burial. He was the only sitting U.S. senator to ever be killed in battle.

Frederick's brother, Dr. Thomas Poole, built his family home on the lot next door. The three-story Federal-style

## Things To Do

### Planning Ahead:

#### March 19

##### Flower-Arranging Workshop

Flower-arranging demonstration and workshop for altars, weddings, and special events. Please reserve a place in advance with the church office at 301-349-2073 or stpeters@saintpetersnet.org. \$20 payable at the door. 9:00 a.m. to noon.

#### February 26

##### Cugini's Entertainment

Dylan Walsh. 8:00 p.m.

#### February 26 and 27

##### St. Peter's Annual Used

##### Book and Media Sale

Books for all ages, movies, music, software, and bake sale. 20100 Fisher Avenue. Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

#### March 2

##### PASC Special Events

##### Poolesville Area Senior Center.

*Tai chi.* 10:30 a.m. • *Zumba Gold.* 1:00 p.m. 17750 W. Willard Road

#### March 3

##### PACC Breakfast Network Event

Poolesville Town Hall. 8:00 a.m.

##### PASC Special Event

*Game Day: Dominoes.* 17750 W. Willard Road. 1:00 p.m.

##### Preschool Storytime

Help prepare your children for school by developing early literacy skills. Join us for stories, songs, activities, and a craft. For children ages 3 to 5 years old. Poolesville Library. 10:30 a.m.

#### St. Mary's Annual

#### St. Patrick's Day Party

Dinner, Celtic dancing, and Irish band, featuring traditional Irish menu. \$15.00 per person, \$30.00 per family. *St. Mary's Pavilion, Barnesville.* 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

#### March 4

##### UMCVFD Auxiliary Bingo

Featuring cash and gift cards. 20 games, specials, door prizes, and raffles. Cost: \$20. Refreshments available, outside food and beverage not allowed. *Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department, Beallsville.* Doors open: 5:30 p.m., games start at 7:00 p.m.

#### March 5

##### Preschool Storytime

Help prepare your children for school by developing early literacy skills. Join us for stories, songs, activities, and a craft. For children ages 3 to 5 years old. This is a repeat of the March 3 program. *Poolesville Library.* 11:00 a.m.

#### March 9

##### PASC Special Events

*Tai chi.* 10:30 a.m. • *Zumba Gold.* 1:00 p.m. 17750 W. Willard Road.

#### March 10

##### Time for Twos

Begin nurturing your two-year-old's love of books through simple stories, music, and movement, while helping to develop his/her language, motor, and social skills. *Poolesville Library.* 10:30 a.m.

##### PASC Special Event

*Birdseed Craft Day.* Please sign up. 17750 W. Willard Road. 1:00 p.m.

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Continued on page 13.



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## Tidbits

### Helping Hands Poolesville Seeks Families in Need

Helping Hands Poolesville (HHP) needs help in identifying families in the area to receive its free home repair services. HHP's mission is to help persons in the community who have significant interior and/or exterior home repair needs but do not have the financial means to undertake the repairs. If you are—or know of someone who is—in a position to receive this service, the organization would be grateful to hear from you. They need to select a candidate for their help by the end of March.

Helping Hands Poolesville works in conjunction with Rebuilding Together Montgomery County and is a faith-based, ecumenical organization in association with local churches. They are funded by individual donations and by contributions from each church. Recipients of their services do not need belong to a church.

Through Rebuilding Together of Montgomery County, HHP needs to source and qualify a candidate, then finance the repair effort and organize a work crew that does the transformation, usually in one day.

There is no typical house or family. The project can be painting, drywall, plumbing, carpeting, roofing, yard clearing, electrical, essentially anything. The person or family must own the house and must show that they are financially unable to complete the work themselves.

Helping Hands Poolesville can be contacted by emailing Craig Cummins at cummins@avonel.com.

### The Monocacy Lions Want Your Glasses

Inspired by Helen Keller, the Lions Club International, which is made up of over 46,000 local clubs, makes its primary mission concern with health needs in vision. Our local group, the Monocacy Lions Club, wants you to remember that it is easy for you to pitch in on this worthy mission. As you update your vision prescription or get new eyewear, they want you to recycle your old glasses to them so they can provide needed glasses to people throughout the world. To make it easy for you, the Monocacy Lions Club placed a yellow and blue collection box on Milford Mill Road between Zaglio's Bakery and BB&T Bank. You'll recognize the container as a converted postal box. They gather hundreds of pairs annually, so be sure to save those old glasses and drop them off at your earliest convenience.

### Join the Arbor Day Foundation in March and Receive Ten Free Trees

The Arbor Day Foundation is making it easy for everyone to plant trees to celebrate the arrival of spring.

Join the Arbor Day Foundation in March 2016 and receive ten free white flowering dogwood trees. White flowering dogwoods are versatile trees that will break heavy winds and add beauty to any home. These fast-growing landscape trees are known for their white flowers and graceful branching, making them an ideal addition to any yard.

The free trees are part of the non-profit foundation's Trees for America Campaign. With planting instructions included, the trees will be shipped at the right time for planting, between March 1 and May 31. The six-to-twelve-inch trees are guaranteed to grow, or they will be replaced free of charge. Arbor Day Foundation members also receive a subscription to "Arbor Day," the foundation's bimonthly publication, and "The Tree Book," which contains information about tree planting and care.

To become a member of the foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to Ten Free White Flowering Dogwood Trees, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, Nebraska 68410, by March 31, 2016, or join online at [arborday.org/march](http://arborday.org/march).

### Dancing for Food

The Hope Garden Children's Ballet Academy offered a delightful variety of dancers and dances on February 20 for the benefit of WUMCO Help, Inc. The performances were interrupted multiple times with appreciative applause whether the performers were just beginners or more advanced. Catherine Beliveau, executive director of WUMCO, was



Hope Garden Children's Ballet Academy used its marvelous talents to help WUMCO.

thrilled and told the *Monocle*, "I love ballet! I am so thankful to Hope Garden Ballet for sharing their grace and beauty to benefit WUMCO. I think it is wonderful that [HGB artistic

director] Fran encourages her students to use their talent and training to help others. The 114 pounds of food collected at the door will be put to good use."

Continued from page 3.

### Snow Woes Come up in Commissioners' Meeting

and companies—from Kettler-Forlines Homes to Calleva to high school students—have helped either raise money or contribute in-kind support including labor. The PCGA was a part of the Sustainable Communities designation that Poolesville received this year and, this summer, WUMCO plans to provide support to help defray the costs of needy residents who want to purchase the right to use a garden plot. WUMCO will also be a partner in distributing excess vegetables produced in the garden to needy citizens.

Brown said that the grant request was a little "outside the normal parameters of town grants" but expressed admiration for the progress the group had made in building the gardens; moreover, town resident Bob Roit remarked that, in his recollection, the town had promised an initial grant three years ago based on the assumption that the PCGA would raise future funding on its own. The issue was deferred in order to determine what level of funding is appropriate, if any.

The commissioners went on to approve sixty thousand dollars of funding for the upgrading of Lori Gore Park, including a new tot lot and sheltered sitting area. The park was built in 1993 and is in need of modernization. The commissioners also unanimously voted to approve the town tree ordinance that had been drafted some months ago and was the subject of a public hearing as described in a previous issue of the *Monocle*. Immediately following these votes, the commissioners decided to deny funding for the Monocacy Elementary School's electronic reading system. A proposed grant had been submitted to the commissioners in a previous meeting, and they determined that the county and school PTAs should be the source of funding for educational programs like this.

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# Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting...

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Christina Nanof, Lucille DeGraba-Brown (Franklin Press), Joyce Breiner (Poolesville Green), Dr. David Yaney, President of DJA Engineering, Juan Carlos Molina and Monica Molina (Magica Realty LLC), Karen Wilson, standing (The Blue Hearth), and Catherine Believeau (WUMCO).



April Leese and Berry Thompson (A Guy Who Can), Heather Soskin (Heather Soskin Photography), Jeff Stempler (HomeBridge Financial Services), Eleanor Bateman (Redeemed Interiors), and Jennifer Singh (secretary of PACC).



Attorney Tom McCartin receives a gift and certificate of appreciation as he steps down from serving on the PACC Board of Directors for the past fifteen years.



Adriene McBride and JaLynn Prince (Madison House Autism Foundation), Woody and Lisa Hilton (Hilton Funeral Home), and Sarah and Dave Ashley (Dave Ashley Signs).



Fran Ichijo of Hope Garden Children's Ballet receives a gift and certificate of appreciation as she steps down from serving on the PACC Board of Directors.



Standing: Brian Jamison with fiancée Arden Copeland; seated: Frank Jamison, Jr., Octavia and Frank Jamison (Charles H. Jamison Real Estate), Fran Ichijo (Hope Garden Children's Ballet), Erika and Edward Reed (Contemporary Coaching and Counseling Associates).



Standing: Karen Kalantzis (Color Me Beautiful), Hilary Schwab (Hilary Schwab Photography), Tim Pike (Pike and Valega, DDS), and Tom McCartin (Law Offices of Tom McCartin). Seated: Maria Briançon (Glad-I-Yoga), Joy McCartin (Old Oaks Tea Parlor and Weddings), Reneta Funk (Poolesville Area Senior Center), and Margaret Valega (Pike and Valega, DDS).



Elected to the 2016 PACC Board of Directors are Heather Soskin (Soskin Photography), Julien Singh (Crossroads Talent Solutions, LLC), Woody Hilton (Hilton Funeral Home), Faith Etheridge (Poolesville Day Committee), and Joyce Breiner (Poolesville Green).

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## School News

### PHS Students to Perform Shakespeare

By Anne Hundertmark

While rehearsals are occurring for Poolesville High School's (PHS) spring musical, another performance is coming together on a much different scale. The Shakespeare Club is currently rehearsing and working on producing *King Lear*. In order to make this production happen, student Mercedes Blankenship is working hard as the student director.

As student director, Blankenship, a senior in the Humanities Program, is responsible for selecting the play, editing the script, running auditions and callbacks, and casting the show. She also leads rehearsals, helps actors, and plans the stage. Blankenship is assisted in the directing responsibilities by the club sponsor, Mr. Daniel McKenna, the editing assistant, Julia Link, and the fight choreographer, Jehan Silva.

Blankenship selected *King Lear* because "[I] studied it in English class sophomore year, and

it has been my favorite Shakespeare play ever since. It has more female characters than the average Shakespeare play which is excellent for a high school production." Because it is a high school production, Blankenship has had to edit the script of a three-hour production to twenty-five minutes. She has had to make cuts and edits to better help with the flow of the script and the performance, including the changing of the character Edgar to Esther in order to "highlight different aspects of the character."

The performance is led by Declan Jeffries as King Lear. Jeffries is a senior in the Independent Studies Program (ISP) at PHS. He has taken part in Poolesville's theater program, the Midnight Players.

The Shakespeare Club isn't just preparing this performance for the PHS community but is excited to perform *King Lear* at the Folger Library's Secondary School Shakespeare Festival in Washington, D.C. on March 7 where the actors will perform for other middle and high school students. The Shakespeare Club hopes to perform for the students of PHS later in the month of March.

Continued from page 5.

#### Following His Passion

James has also offered workshops in various locations, including the Blue Hearth in Poolesville, and he teaches lessons in his studio. These keep him involved in the community, not just attached to the school. "I really like Poolesville," he enthused. He and Jenna were attracted to Poolesville because it was a town, and the people felt connected. James thinks that Poolesville is the ideal location to spark an interest in the arts. "It's already here," he said, "I want to be part of it. I sense that Poolesville's ready for a conscious art effort."

In the near future, James will have workshops at Plaza Art Materials in Rockville: Portrait Painting in Gouache on Saturday, March 5, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; Figure Painting in Oil on Saturday, April 16, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; and he offers weekly figure drawing sessions every Thursday night in his studio from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., open to the public.

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**Bible study continues on Feb. 17th and March 2nd**

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Continued from page 1.

**PHS Boys' and Girls' Swim Teams**

The girls matched the boys by winning first place in the 200-yard freestyle relay (Vaules, Wang, Wu, and Nardone).

Though no divers participated for PHS, the Falcons showed great depth, placing in the top four in all twenty-two events entered and had multiple placers in several events. The top sixteen finishers are awarded points in the state meet. The Falcons swept 3A/2A/1A.

For the boys, it was their fifth straight state title. The girls defended their 2015 title, repeating for the first time, and capturing their third championship in five years.

The big winner of the day was Fanny Wu who took first in the 100-yard butterfly—the only solo gold of the day for Poolesville—to match her two first-place relay team finishes. Arona Baigal finished fourth in that event. Wu took third in the girls' 200-yard individual medley (IM). In the boys' 200-yard IM, Kaplan took third and Kevin Song fifth. In the boys' 100-yard butterfly, Jisu Kim placed third followed by Umansky in fourth. Kaplan also finished third in the 200-yard IM. Jisu was fourth in the 500-yard freestyle.

Justin Kim had one gold and two second-place finishes. He took third

in the 100-yard backstroke and fifth in the 200-yard freestyle. Jagodits took third in the 200-yard freestyle and fourth in the 100-yard freestyle. In the 50-yard freestyle, Dunathan placed fourth. Kaplan was fourth in the 100-yard breaststroke.

For the girls, Vaules and Nardone took second and third, respectively, in the 50-yard freestyle. In the 100-yard freestyle, Wang was second. In the 200-yard freestyle, Wang placed second. Nardone finished third in the 100-yard breaststroke. Lechner was second in the 600-yard freestyle. In the 100-yard backstroke, Ryan placed third.

A week earlier, the boys' and girls' teams each grabbed their sixth straight West Regional title, setting three new meet records, two in the 200 free medley relays and one on the girls' 200 free relay. "We had a fantastic meet," said Coach Jonathan Leong. "Many swimmers achieved lifetime best times during the state meet. The attitude displayed was cheerful and positive as each swim kept adding to our point totals. The girls' team had every single girl make the podium (top eight)... I was very proud of how the kids performed. Many times, it's hard to do a repeat, but this year, we did a fantastic job of getting up and racing. All in all, we had a great meet, the kids were excited to defend their titles, and we look forward to next year."




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## Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

### Present Crime

**Robbery:** 19700 block of Wootton Avenue.

**Burglary:** 14000 block of Montevideo Road, 13300 block of Manor Stone Drive, 14800 block of Clopper Road.

**Theft from vehicle:** 23300 block of White's Ferry Road

### Past Crime

**February 26, 1885** Considerable excitement was caused in Rockville when a mad dog attacked and bit two men and several dogs. The dog had been seen acting in a peculiar manner in the days leading up to the attack. Before the constable could arrive, one of the men of the city took up a shotgun and killed the dog.

**February 27, 1885** The wreck of two Baltimore and Ohio locomotives that were being used as snow plows caused crowds to gather at West End Station near Rockville. The locomotives had been dispatched to try to clear the tracks after the blizzard had stopped. In the swirling and drifting snow, the engineer failed to see a fifteen-foot-high snow bank. The lead locomotive ran up and over the snow bank, causing the whole group of equipment to tumble on to its side. Crews from Washington were sent to clear the tracks.

**February 28, 1900** The Silver Spring general merchandise store belonging

to Samuel Waters was entered sometime during the night and goods were stolen. It was the fifth time since Christmas that the store had been burglarized. Mr. Waters, suspecting a certain individual living at Linden, went there with an employee and entered his house. When Waters reached the second floor, he saw the suspect jump out of a second floor window. Waters fired five shots at the suspect but none took effect.

**March 1, 1903** Rockville States Attorney Talbot telephoned his counterpart in Washington City and asked him to be on the lookout for Upton Claggett who was said to have shot a man named Bowen the night before. Bowen was examined by a Rockville physician who probed the victim's chest area, but he could not find the bullet. Bowen was put on a trolley car and was transported to the hospital in Washington. Police were stopping all trolley cars at the D.C.-Maryland border in a search for Claggett.

**March 2, 1885** The home of William Johnson at Tillman's Hill, just outside Rockville, burned to the ground in a fire caused by a defective chimney flue. Johnson, his wife, and seven children were able to escape the fire. Johnson reported losing \$15.00 and most of his belongings. The insurance on the house had just expired.

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

Continued from page 6.

### The Houses of Frederick And Thomas Poole

brick home was completed in 1835. The home was originally three bays wide and showcased a beautiful half-moon fan window above the front door. Thomas and his wife Sarah resided there until her death in 1844. In 1846, Thomas married Evelina Wailes Hyde and their daughter, Alice Poole, was born at the residence. Alice and her husband, Dr. Gott, inherited the home. In 1870, a two-story wing was added to the east side of the house and the lower floor of this wing served as an office. In later years, the home changed hands numerous times and served as a dental office, a residence for the principal of Poolesville High School, and a restaurant under the names of the King's Head Tavern, the Country Peddler Inn, and Cross Country Inn. The home was eventually purchased and restored by the Historic Medley District, Inc. before being resold to a private owner.

The current owner, Karen H. Wilson, fell in love with the home's historic and original architectural features such as the seven fireplaces, high ceilings with rosette centers, a mahogany staircase, and the upstairs pine flooring. A stone spring house still sits in the backyard and once had a creek running through it in order to keep provisions cold. An original well was also in the backyard but needed to be sealed off for safety reasons when she opened the house to the public.

Wilson operates the Blue Hearth, a home-furnishings store and interior design service, out of the former Thomas Poole House. The Frederick Poole Home now houses numerous businesses including Crafts-A-Plenty, a frame shop, and the offices of Chrysler Builders.

Residents and visitors of Poolesville can still enjoy the vestiges of an eighteenth century village each time they walk, drive, or bike through town, and when they visit the businesses that now occupy these historic buildings located in the center of town.

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## Garden

### The Future of the Rose

With increasing attention being paid to the damaging effects of pesticides on the environment, gardeners and horticulturists are facing the question of sustainable rose gardening. As many of my readers know, I love roses; I have been growing them for over forty years. Two years ago, I stopped using any chemical sprays to prevent pest and disease problems on my garden plants. Of all my perennials, the rose bushes suffered the most. Most of my hybrid teas and David Austin roses, regardless of how disease- and pest-resistant they claimed to be, could not survive and "look the way one wishes a rose to look" without their weekly or sometimes daily Poison Spray. One of the most widely-sold rose care products, Bayer Advanced Rose Care, did a great job of keeping them beautiful, but at what cost to the environment? The most visible evidence of the toxicity of these products was the number of dead bees, butterflies, and beneficial insects I would find on my roses after spraying. You will never know a rose's true disease- and pest-resistance until you stop spraying.

Few flowers can be found as often in eight thousand years of recorded history as the rose. No other plant has played such a large role in history, religion, art, fashion, and literature. In Homer's *Iliad*, Achilles carried a shield decorated with roses and Hector's body was anointed in rose oil.

Is there a future for roses in the twenty-first century? I would like to think so, for I miss my roses. I am determined to try again. David C. H. Austin, head of David Austin Roses, says in his 2016 Handbook of Roses: "It is always difficult to combine the beauty of flower growth and fragrance with more practical requirements such as health and vigor, but this is what we aim to do." At the American Rose Society's 2015 fall convention in Syracuse, New York, sustainable rose gardening was an actively-discussed issue among top hybridizers from around the world, people dedicated to bringing us the most disease-resistant and beautiful roses possible. Among them were:

**Will Radler:** *father of the Knock Out Rose:* he revolutionized the way we think of roses and brought rose genetics from the twentieth century into the twenty-first. Today it is the most widely sold rose in North America. I don't like it, but that is the subject of another article;

**Alain Meilland:** *director of Meilland*



*The perfect rose.*

*Roses of France;* he first brought us the Peace Rose;

**Steve Hutton:** *president of Star Roses and Plants;*

**Michael Marriott:** *chief designer of David Austin Roses;*

**Thomas Proll:** *head of Rose Breeding Program at Kordees Roses.*

All of these men and their companies have been on the leading edge of all new developments for roses and their cultivations for a very long time. Star Roses and Plants has been a worldwide respected horticultural innovator for over 150 years; it introduced the Knock Out Rose to the world. Last spring, I spoke with Michael Marriott of David Austin Roses about the difficulty of growing roses, even their roses, in our area of the country. England is a more suitable and user-friendly rose environment. We had a frank discussion regarding chemical spraying. He admitted, in so many words, that it is difficult, even in England, to grow show quality roses without spraying for diseases and pests. The home gardener may overlook a bit of blackspot or powdery mildew, but visitors to a public show garden expect perfection. It all comes down to expectations.

What can we, backyard rose gardeners, do? Firstly, improve the soil in your beds with organic soil amendments, not chemical fertilizers. Locally available Leafgro is a superior-quality compost that I love and use extensively in my gardens. Ground up autumn leaves are another wonderful addition to your soil and they are free. Healthy soil means healthier plants that can fight off pests and diseases. Pests zero in on stressed and undernourished roses. Build your garden to be a habitat for beneficial birds, insects, spiders, and amphibians. They can be your helpers.

The selection of the right roses to grow demands some research; it is not a rose-in-a-box from a big-box store. David Austin Roses has introduced a new rose this year which the folks at their nursery describe as "the best rose

Continued on page 15.



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Continued from page 14.

**The Future of the Rose**

they have bred to date." It is 'Olivia Rose Austin' and is named for David C.H. Austin's granddaughter. They believe that it is almost completely free from disease. "It takes eight years for us to produce a new rose and involves seventy thousand crosses and the production of one hundred and fifty thousand seedlings." That is quite a journey. I plan to buy this rose, and I will keep you informed of its progress.

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I do hope that Tom, Spencer, and I will once again have beautiful rose gardens to enjoy on our morning and evening garden tours.

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## Remembrance

### Catherine Enders Poss

Catherine Poss, 53, of Poolesville, passed away peacefully at home on February 11, 2016. Cathy was born on January 20, 1963, in Winfield, Illinois. She was the eleventh of fourteen children of Robert and Joan (Fischer) Enders. Cathy called Poolesville home for the past twenty-three years.

Cathy was a 1981 graduate of West Chicago High School, West Chicago, Illinois. She attended the College of DuPage in Illinois and Montgomery College in Maryland and earned an AA degree.

She met her husband Gregg Poss of Aurora in 1981 on a blind date. They were married October 30, 1982, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Winfield, Illinois, in a ceremony that was officiated by her uncle, Fr. Hilary Fischer, and they made their first home in Paris, France.

Together they raised three children: Jacob, Katelyn, and Lindsay.

Cathy loved traveling; and job opportunities took them to California, Arizona, and Illinois.

Her passions in life were horticulture and antiquing. She enjoyed nothing more than having her

own business which involved finding furniture and knick-knacks and the like, and repurposing and selling them in her shop Vintage Finds in Lucketts, Virginia. Cathy was a loving and devoted wife and mother and took great joy in her children and her grandson. She was a confidant and friend to many, and her grace and courage are an inspiration to us all.

She leaves behind her husband Gregg, their children, and their families: Jacob, Lyanne, and grandson Lukas Poss of California; Katelyn and Cory Poss-Bryant of Maryland; and Lindsay Poss of Maryland. She also is survived by her mother Joan Fischer Enders and sisters and brothers: Cindy Rentchler, Bruce (Cory), Ron (Kathleen), Keith, Jeff, Denise Harris, Chris (Colette), Bob, Donna (Todd) Weimer, and Mark; a brother-in-law "Rocky" Rockafellow; and several nieces and nephews.

Cathy was preceded in death by her father Robert Enders; two sisters, Debbie Enders Rockafellow and Connie Risch; one brother, Jerry Enders; and her brother-in-law, Rodger Harris.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Camp Kesem, a nationwide charity that helps children through their parents' cancer and where her daughter Lindsay is a camp counselor.

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## Defending against Lyme Disease in Our Pets

### Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVMN, CVLF, FASLMS

Defending against the *Borrelia* genus that causes Lyme Disease has advanced significantly in the last year. As I discussed in the last article, we are expanding our understanding of and evaluation of the many sub-groups that are part of the *Borrelia* genus of Spirochetes that create such sinister diseases to us and to our furrier friends. We are also understanding more completely how to defend against them.

In our area of the United States, we specifically see a very high concentration of *B. burgdorferi sensa* and *B. burgdorferi stricto*, both of which can cause clinical Lyme Disease. These make up two of a group of ten sub-species of the *Borrelia* genus. All have the potential to produce clinical disease.

There are primarily two ways to help prevent infection from the *Borrelia* genus.

#### 1. Preventing the host tick from getting a foothold on your pet.

All ticks that are the transmitting hosts for the *Borrelia* genus are highly controllable with the newer collars, topical, and oral anti-parasitics designed to keep your ticks and fleas off your pets.

The generic brands of topicals and collar flea controls that are in the Frontline family of treatments have, over the 30-plus years that they have been available, lost up to 20% of their effectiveness. If you have a large supply, it is recommended to apply it every 21 days now instead of every 28 to 31 days. Once you increase the rate of application, the more effective protections now available become equal in cost and better at protection. The newer protecting agents also have a much faster paralyzing effect (knock down) to the tick or flea which reduces the transmission of *Borrelia* genus or allergic components from the saliva of the fleas.

#### 2. Eliminating the *Borrelia* genus before it can enter or just after it enters your pet.

Five different vaccine versions to help prevent Lyme Disease (*Borrelia* genus) infection are available. Until recently, they have all had their supporters or detractors. Any vaccine against Lyme Disease is better than no vaccine.

A completely new and revolutionary Lyme vaccine has just become available for our canine friends. This vaccine is called a Cymric vaccine. Simply put, via the ability to apply recombinant DNA technology, specific small protein segments that your dogs' immune systems can easily identify and create antibodies to have been spliced together into a very short protein chain. These specific short proteins give the immune system the ability to develop antibodies that not only kill the *Borrelia* genus in the active biting tick, but also immediately upon escape of any *Borrelia* genus from ticks not effected by a topical or oral preventative.

This Cymric Lyme vaccine is a huge leap forward in targeting more specific protection by your dogs' own immune systems.

This new vaccine requires an initial series of two vaccinations 2-4 weeks apart followed by annual revaccination to maintain the high levels of natural antibodies they produce in your canine friends.



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