

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

March 25, 2016 • Volume XII, Number 1



Nothing but net! Swish! See more pictures in Family Album on page 2.



Maryland State Senator Brian Feldman hosted Montgomery Agricultural Producers. See who else came to the event on page 8.



Can you guess what's new? The answer is in Tidbits on page 8.



If Uber can't take you to school, maybe a tractor will do. See School News on page 10.

## Match Made in Poolesville

After two consecutive county and region wrestling championships, in 2015 and 2016, it seems hard to believe that in 2014, just two years before, at his first varsity tournament for Poolesville High School, Kyle Wilkins did not win a single match. He went 0-8 at the Oakdale Tournament. He was an athletic sophomore that had only been wrestling for a few weeks. It was a critical time in his career. Those with lesser mental fortitude might have quit, but not Kyle. He just worked harder and then the wins started coming...and coming.

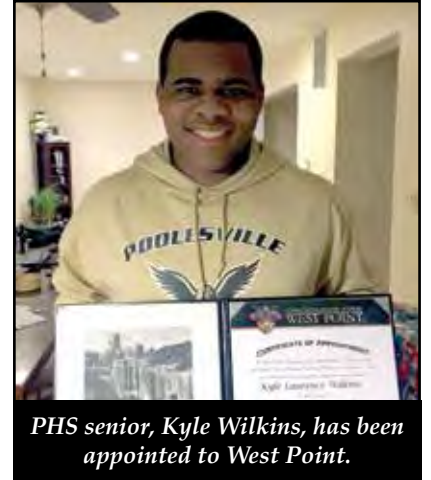
Maybe Kyle's athletic prowess on the football field, on the wrestling mat, and on the shot put and discus field was what caught the eyes of the Naval Academy and the Coast Guard, but it was West Point that got him—and West Point only wants him for his brains and leadership qualities. "I think it hasn't really kicked in what a big deal it is," said Kyle. "When I first got [the certificate of appointment], I was in shock."

Attending a service academy had not been Kyle's initial plan for his education. When he told friends that he planned to play football in college, then enlist in the military, a few mentioned that he should look into a service academy. Although Kyle has not been offered a position on the West Point football team, he said, "I feel very confident that I can make the team."

Kyle had played football since fourth grade as a lineman. Then in ninth grade, under the influence of his father, he played fullback—"I didn't think he would be that big," confided Keith, of his now-6'3" 280-pound son. Then his coach put him on the line as right guard and defensive tackle, and at the end of his sophomore year, he moved up to varsity. His senior year, he was a captain of the team.

Kyle had never wrestled until his sophomore year of high school—and that was a rough year for him with more losses than wins. "He had to swallow his pride," said Keith. "I'm just glad

By Dominique Agnew



PHS senior, Kyle Wilkins, has been appointed to West Point.

that he hung in there." Hang in there he did, and by the end of sophomore year, he was bringing in the wins, and he was named a captain of the wrestling team for the following year. Kyle ended up being captain his junior and senior years. He won the county

Continued on page 8.

## The Hoskinson House

By Susan Petro

The stories that our historic homes could tell if only they could speak—but walls remain silent, and the stories are often untold, until someone starts peeling back the layers, and suddenly the walls remain silent no more. Piece by piece, layer by layer of research slowly reveals the lives and times of one of Poolesville's first families. Not all neat and tidy, but a story of perseverance in adversity, and the will to stay strong.

Three years ago, when Frank and Jocelyn Bell first bought their home located next to St. Peter's Episcopal Church at 20020 Fisher Avenue, they knew it was old, but they didn't know much about its history. The white-washed brick walls and the construction details looked very similar to the 1785 House down the street and the former Methodist Church that now serves as the Friendly Thrift Shop.

The date on their settlement deed stated that the Federal-style, three-bay



The Hoskinson House. Oh, if these walls could talk.

brick home was built in the early 1920s, yet those other similar homes dated back to the early second quarter of the nineteenth century, with the former

church having records dating back to 1826, and the 1785 House showing

Continued on page 14.

# Family Album



Derby 2016 Webelos Winners  
With Cub Master Josh Fielder are:  
Connor Shelburne, Victor Velasquez  
and Ben Savion.



Mark Esser  
(Young Life),  
Don Patti  
(Knights of  
Columbus),  
David Esser  
(YL), Casey  
Harkins (YL),  
Haley Harkins  
(YL), Mark  
Hessels (YL)



Awardees  
of 3-on-3  
competition:  
Harrison  
Namocatcat,  
Filimone  
Waqabaca,  
Vincent  
Galapon.



Scouts make their own  
derby cars from pine wood.



Congratulations  
to Matthew  
Contreras,  
Dominique Perry,  
and Max Fisher  
in the Knights  
of Columbus  
basketball  
tournament.



Derby 2016 Wolves Winners  
With Cub Master Josh Fielder are:  
Gregory Burdick, Casey Clements  
and Zachary Antonishek.



Derby 2016 Bears Winners  
With Cub Master Josh Fielder are:  
Owen Robbins, Thomas Vogel  
and Owen Gean.

See the guy with the ball?  
He's met his match!



Intense 3 on 3  
basketball play at the annual  
Knights of Columbus tournament.

Basketball photographs by Don Patti and Carlos Contreras.



Idyllic (adj.): pleasing or picturesque in natural simplicity; extremely peaceful, happy, and enjoyable.

## Countryside Artisans Spring Gallery and Studio Tour

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Countryside Artisans  
www.countrysideartisans.com

Image by Tina Brown

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## Town Government Report

### Reappointments and Sewer Inflow Issues Key Items at Town Meeting

By Link Hoewing

With Town of Poolesville Commissioner Chuck Stump absent from the March 21 meeting, the four remaining commissioners approved a lengthy list of reappointments to a host of advisory bodies and heard a report regarding increased inflows of water in some sections of the town's sewer system.

Twelve citizens who have been serving on bodies ranging from the Planning Commission to the Board of Zoning Appeals were reappointed by the commissioners to new terms beginning April 1 of this year. The list of reappointments included the following individuals:

<b>Bryan Bupp</b>	<b>Planning Commission</b>	Term Ending April 1, 2021
<b>Tom Kettler</b>	<b>Board of Elections</b>	Term Ending April 1, 2018
<b>Theresa Yost</b>	<b>Board of Elections</b>	Term Ending April 1, 2018
<b>Andrea Stump</b>	<b>Board of Elections</b>	Term Ending April 1, 2018
<b>Alicia Burton</b>	<b>Board of Elections</b>	Term Ending April 1, 2018
<b>Sharon Armstrong</b>	<b>Board of Elections</b>	Term Ending April 1, 2018
<b>Cliff Branscome</b>	<b>Board of Elections</b>	Term Ending April 1, 2018
<b>Jocelyn Harris</b>	<b>Board of Elections</b>	Term Ending April 1, 2018
<b>Kathryn Lane</b>	<b>Board of Elections</b>	Term Ending April 1, 2018
<b>Pilar Garrett</b>	<b>Board of Zoning Appeals</b>	Term Ending April 1, 2019
<b>Tim Pike</b>	<b>Parks Board</b>	Term Ending April 1, 2020
<b>Terry Pierce</b>	<b>Parks Board</b>	Term Ending April 1, 2020

One additional position, on the town's Ethics Commission, could not be filled because no volunteer had stepped forward to take the place of Jennifer Kasten whose commission expires on April 1.

The commissioners turned to consideration of a proposed contract to completely rebuild the existing communications network that connects all of the town's wells. The network is intended to allow town staff to remotely monitor, program, and control the pumps that pull water out of the aquifer for use of town residents. By managing the pumps carefully via the network, higher levels of efficiency can be attained, and wear and tear on the pumps minimized. The existing communications network is nearly two decades old and is radio based (using technology similar to CB radio).

The original bid proposal for the new communications network was released on January 7 and five bidders submitted final bids. Out of the five, only one, according to town engineer John Strong, had the right elements of low cost and robust, easily upgradeable and secure technology that the town needs. The bid Strong selected for consideration by the commissioners uses cellular technology that is highly secure and reliable. It includes web-based interfaces allowing town employees to manage pumps remotely using mobile devices including iPads and mobile phones.

The bid from Kershner Electric is for the amount of \$135,566. It includes ongoing maintenance support and allows for upgrades at a fixed cost rate so prices for future expansions will not increase beyond set limits. The commissioners unanimously approved the bid and also a budget amendment that would assign some \$90,000 in extra monies coming from the state for settlement of a tax matter to be used to help pay for the new project.

The commissioners then considered Ordinance 194, a change in the town's zoning provisions. Currently, the town is not exempt from zoning requirements, such as setbacks, that apply to residents and businesses. Most other municipalities are exempt to make it easier to undertake public improvement projects, such as the siting of wells. Town Manager Wade Yost explained that while the town would be exempted from zoning requirements under the proposed ordinance, it would still be required to submit all proposed building projects to the planning commission for review and would need to have an approved site plan to proceed with any project. The proposed ordinance was passed unanimously.

In a previous meeting earlier this year, the town held a hearing on proposed Ordinance 206 which would codify a series of provisions concerning the siting, maintenance, and installation of trees on public property in town. The proposed ordinance would vest the existing Parks and Streets Board with the authority to act as a "Tree Committee" to oversee the planting and maintenance of all

Continued on page 6.



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**April 8: DJ Kelli**

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**April 15: DJ Slim Pickins**

**April 16: DJ Kelli**

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## Commentary

### We Get What We Deserve

By John Clayton

The weather has been one of my favorite topics, and now it has been too cold for too long. I will forgive the weather people for the wet March snow, but it was, to my mind, totally unnecessary. What were you thinking? Since spring is here, I can actively worry about the Washington Nationals. I am very concerned about the Nationals this season. Those great-on-paper teams of the last few years have been winners, but either flamed out in the playoffs or did not make the playoffs, so maybe a little humility will get them to that next level. I am not ungrateful for the level at which they have hovered for the last few years, but it is time to move up. No just deity would allow the New York Mets to win the National League East two years in a row.

As far as being concerned, the pitching staff is no longer rock solid with five aces, as they say. We have perhaps three—Max Scherzer, Steven Strasburg, and Gio Gonzalez, and then two others—Tanner Roark (a name that sounds straight out of an Elmore James novel) and Joe Ross—with varying degrees of accomplishment to date. A young phenom Lucas Giolito awaits the inevitable sore arms or what have you to step into the rotation. A solid, better-than-average group, but is it enough? Our bullpen is rebuilt and our closer is unpredictable and prone to attacking teammates. This is not a recipe for overconfidence.

Various Nats are getting old. Jayson Werth and Ryan Zimmerman are getting up there and get hurt a lot. The jury is still out on our catcher, Wilson Ramos. Our offseason acquisitions, Mets playoff hero Daniel Murphy and former Phillie (egad!) Ben Revere are capable, if not spectacular additions. Any team with Bryce Harper and Anthony Rendon will score runs, but they will need help from the others.

Our shortstop is now Danny Espinosa. I waxed euphoric over his rediscovered hitting stroke last year, when the Nats played him anywhere they could just to get his bat in the lineup, but this talent has not yet proved to be a consistent one. His fielding at shortstop is exceptional, but the baseball smarties dismiss him as a second string utility player filling in as a starter. Another young phenom—Trea Turner—waits for Danny to stumble.

I admit, I am underwhelmed and somewhat pessimistic that the team will stumble and then descend into mediocrity. Surprise me, guys.

For some good news, to my amazement, I go to one of those Republicans

about whom we read so much: Gov. Larry Hogan. Recent polls reveal that he is awesomely popular. In fact, they show that he scored higher than either the Democratic or the Republican Party, although I grant you that is a pretty low bar to cross; nevertheless, in a heavily-Democratic state such as ours, this is quite remarkable, and I think life is better all around when we feel positive about our elected officials, whether one totally buys into their bag of goods or not. Also, in my observations, while the Democratic legislature and the Republican governor squabble, things are getting done, and are even—God help us!—getting better. What a concept: They're duking it out and meeting in the middle to form solutions? I couldn't type that without the question mark, I just couldn't do it. I won't look for this on the national level anytime soon. Go, Maryland, at any rate.

The Fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves—Nothing dresses up a column like a partial quote from Shakespeare. Much has been written about what caused Donald Trump (and Bernie Sanders) to run, and why we get all the candidates we get, or perhaps more tellingly, do not get, as in we don't choose them or they don't even bother to run. I don't have much more to add, but I will say that a major problem is that we like being misled or even lied to. To paraphrase that well-known movie line, We can't handle the truth, so we don't get a whole lot of it fed to us. We get fed stuff that makes us happy because we like to be happy and enough of us will vote for people who promise to make us happy to make it worthwhile. All the candidates tell whoppers, and the fact-checking industry is working overtime. To wit:

We are not going to build a big tall wall across the Mexican border. We don't have the money.

Mexico isn't going to pay for it.

We can't send everyone to college with some undefined plan to tax Wall Street speculation. As my friend Dave Wiley pointed out to me, Bernie's Wall Street Fee Plan is tantamount to Trump's Mexico Will Pay Plan.

If you slash taxes, you will create huge deficits that cannot be plugged by finding waste, fraud, and abuse and by eliminating federal agencies.

After you create huge deficits, you can't also beef up the military without creating even huger deficits.

Deporting millions of people is prohibitively expensive, among other things, and if you come anywhere close to deporting twelve million, our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will plummet.

There is no easy fix to the Middle East. Some ideas are better than others, but don't kid yourself about it being simple or easy.

Continued on page 9.



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## Local News

### Area Substance Abuse Awareness Initiative Advances

By Rande Davis

Just at the time that rampant heroin use is capturing headlines nationally and has also become a significant issue in the 2016 presidential campaign, residents of the greater Poolesville area have banded together in an initiative to blunt the advances of substance abuse within our area.

The group, made up of a wide variety of local citizens from youth, adults, parents, non-parents, the public sector, and private businesses, first met in January to respond to a potential federal grant to ward off substance abuse. They met again at the end of February to discuss and plan actions to be taken by the organization going forward.

Over two dozen residents attended the most recent meeting organized by Charlotte Boucher, a retired teacher and principal of John Poole Middle School, who had volunteered to organize the meeting. Jennifer Kasten and Tim Pavlik volunteered to be responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting. In addition to the adults attending, there were four youths participating, and there would have been more students except for competing school responsibilities that prevented their attendance.

The meeting began by recapping the conclusions from the first meeting in January. The primary conclusion was that as a rural community without a formal anti-substance abuse program (i.e., SADD or MADD), there is a gap that fosters a specific risk to our youth on substance abuse and there may be a need to create additional educational opportunities to come up with solutions to those risks and concerns. The other key conclusion was that in organizing to meet that challenge, it would be wise to do so in such a way as to ultimately qualify the group to meet the standards for a grant issued for Drug-Free Communities through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in case that turned out to be the direction taken by the group. The next available grant—for \$125,000 per year for five years with an incremental five-year renewal extension—would be in March 2017, and a decision to apply for such a grant would not be made until later this year by the group.

The goal of this second meeting was to share ideas among the participating cross-section of the community to assess the benefits and drawbacks related to developing a substance abuse and prevention program. The attendees were segmented into four separate groups for discussion of

various issues and then each group reported its determinations.

The youth were specifically asked to express their opinions regarding the need for a substance abuse prevention program. In supporting a need for a program, they unanimously expressed the opinion that alcohol was the prominent abuse problem in the area and that some of their peers do not think through the consequences of alcohol abuse since drinking alcohol is often seen as casual and not perceived to be a big deal anymore. Of course, such an attitude only makes the potential for abuse even worse.

Adults talked about problems of substance abuse as seen at the skate park and near CVS. It was added that needles have been found at local parks, further evidence of growing problems.

One person working with High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA), a drug-prohibition enforcement program run by the United States Office of National Drug Control Policy, stated, "Poolesville had been added to their list a couple of years ago for heroin. Kids need to know they can go someplace or tell somebody if they feel afraid. An overarching goal should be to make Poolesville the least preferred place to sell or use drugs."

During discussions about whether or not DFC should be positioned later to pursue the SAMHSA grant, all groups reported that they should do so. At the end, an agenda for the next meeting was set to focus on issues like what makes Poolesville unique, establishing how to collect important data about abuse in the area, how to get kids to respond to surveys, and how to increase community awareness and involvement in the group. The organization will seek to find an individual connected with local law enforcement to meet the need for involvement from that sector of the community by SAMHSA.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 7 at the Poolesville Town Hall from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Lieutenant David McBain, Deputy Director of the Montgomery County Police Departments Traffic Division, will be a featured speaker. He oversees all alcohol enforcement throughout the county as well as all traffic safety. Lieutenant McBain will present DUI statistics for drivers sixteen to eighteen years old and also provide data on the number of underage drinking parties to which the police responded in 2015. He stated that Poolesville was the location of one of the largest underage field parties last year.

Additionally, Cynthia Loeb, Logistics Support Specialist from the MCPS Office of Shared Accountability, will also be joining the group on April 7 to discuss working with the schools to access and collect data.

Anyone interested in joining this discussion and being part of the group is encouraged to attend the meeting.

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## Local News

### Spring Artisans Studio Tour

The Countryside Artisans invite you to join them on their Spring Gallery and Studio Tour on April 15, 16, and 17. The studios will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Meet the artists and enjoy their work in the beautiful settings that inspire them every day. Choose from fifteen galleries and studios representing forty-plus fine visual, sculptural, and textile artists as you wind your way through historic Montgomery, Frederick, and Howard Counties on this free, self-guided, driving tour. Also featured on the tour is a local working farm and winery. Brochure, map, and information about the artists can be found at [www.countrysideartisans.com](http://www.countrysideartisans.com).

The artists on this tour have works in private collections across the country as well as at the Smithsonian, Strathmore Gallery, Delaplaine Arts Center, Audubon Naturalists Society, Black Rock Center for the Arts, Ratner Museum, Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, Potters' Guild of Frederick, Woodstock Sculpturefest, Maryland Renaissance Festival, Art Gallery at Sterling & Burke, Glen Rock

Fairy Fest, Sugarloaf Craft Festivals, and Corcoran Gallery of Art.

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**Brenda Kidera, Kidera Fine Art**

**Laurie Niswander,**  
*Niswander Ceramics*

**Jennifer Hamilton,**  
*Dusty Road Pottery*

**Vernon & Damien Griffin, 2 Griffins**

**Bev Thoms, Tiewyan Artisans**

**Tina Thieme Brown,**  
*Morningstar Studio*

**Annie Kelley, Kiparoo Farm**

**Penny McCrea, Pastels & Porcelain**

**Claire Howard, Claire Howard Studio**

**Michael Cohen Holdahl,**  
*Pastels & Porcelain*

**David Therriault, Alden Farms**

**Linda Phillips,**  
*Something Earthy Pottery Studio*

**Dalis Davidson, Dancing Leaf Farm**

**Cynthia Jennings, Windsong Studio**

**Glenn Family,**  
*Rocklands Farm & Winery*

Continued from page 3.

#### Reappointments and Sewer Inflow Issues

publicly-sited trees in the town. In part, the town is adopting the new ordinance to comply with the requirements of both the Sustainable Maryland Cities program, of which the town is a part, and the Tree City USA program that the town is seeking to join. The ordinance was approved unanimously.

The commissioners heard next an update on a series of monitoring activities that the town engineer and town manager have undertaken to identify where some recently-increased levels of water flows into the town sewer system have occurred. Water inflows into broken or cracked pipes or cracked manhole enclosures can significantly increase the amount of water in the sewer system during storm events and put added pressure on the system to keep up with treatment activities. The town has been working for a number of years with great success to curb excessive inflows, but recently some increases in water inflows have been occurring, principally in the Seneca Chase neighborhoods along Spates Hill Road.

The town has not yet been able to complete monitoring, but, so far, about fifteen manholes have been identified with cracks or seal breaks between pipes and the manholes. The town has over nine hundred manholes and many have been repaired over the years and those in newer neighborhoods are in sound shape. The presentation on the inflow problem was informational only, and no action was requested of the commissioners at this juncture by Wade Yost or John Strong.

Finally, an update from the Planning Commission was discussed by the commissioners. The planners had met with representatives from Potomac Edison regarding the idea of burying the existing overhead electric cables that run through the middle of town along Fisher Avenue. This has long been an issue of interest to commissioners and to town planners because it would help beautify the main street through town and allow more flexibility to make other improvements along the road as part of the town's Streetscape program; however, the representatives from the electric company said that the cost of burying the cable from near Poolesville Elementary School all the way to other end of town would probably come close to \$8 million. While the company would shoulder some of that cost, much of it would fall to the town, which would be responsible for burying conduit through which the electric company would pull cables and reconnect the electric lines. The commissioners tabled the idea.



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**Holy Saturday, March 26**  
 Blessing of Easter Food at 1 pm  
 Easter Vigil at 8 pm with the Solemn Easter Fire



Alleluia, He has Risen and showered us with his mercy!

**Easter Sunday, March 27**

**Sunrise Outdoor Mass at 6:30 am**  
 (bring your chairs, blankets & maybe a flashlight)  
 8, 9:30 & 11 am - Mass

10:30 am - Easter Egg Hunt



**All are Welcome!**

## Tidbits

### Lotsa Chamber News!

At the March Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce (PACC) Board of Directors' meeting, the 2016 board elected the following officers for a two-year term:

**President:** Gail Lee of Gail Lee Homes • **Vice President:** Eleanor Bateman of Redeemed Interiors • **Secretary:** Jeff Stempler of HomeBridge Financial Services • **Treasurer:** Monica Molina of Magica Realty

Completing the 2016 Board of Directors are long-time members:

Peter Eeg of Poolesville Veterinary Clinic • Alex Markoff of Calleva.

Congratulations and welcome to the newest board members:

Joyce Breiner: Poolesville Green • Woody Hilton: Hilton Funeral Homes

Heather Soskin: Heather Soskin Photography • Faith Etheridge: Poolesville Day Committee • Julien Singh: Crossroads Talent Solutions

In other chamber news, the PACC Board of Directors is in the midst of updating its website. The new leadership is working with Berry Thompson, the webmaster, and Jennifer Singh, executive secretary, to make sure all the chamber information is accurate. The website is designed and maintained to make members' businesses easy to find and contact, for both members and customers alike. This is the time for all members to review their contents on the PACC website to make sure it is correct (PoolesvilleChamber.com). Renewal of membership is now underway. Businesses not renewed by March 31 will be dropped from membership.



*New BOD of the PACC: Seated vice president Eleanor Bateman and president Gail Lee. Standing: secretary Jennifer Singh, treasurer Monica Molina, Faith Etheridge, Alex Markoff, Joyce Breiner, Julien Singh, Woody Hilton, and Heather Soskin.*

#### Congrats to Cameron Dickerson

Congratulations to PHS graduate Cameron Dickerson who was named to the Dean's List at Towson University this past semester. Cameron is majoring in communications.

#### State Leadership Meets with Farming Organization

Bob Cissel, Executive Director of Montgomery Agricultural Producers (MAP), and its board of directors met with area state Representatives in Annapolis on March 15, 2016. State Senator Brian Feldman hosted the event. This meeting was well attended by both senators and delegates representing Montgomery County, and MAP looks forward to growing communication between area farmers and elected officials.



*Del. Shane Robison, Michael Jamison, MAP Executive Director Bob Cissel, Del. Eric Luedtke, Wade Butler, Billy Willard, Eric Spates, Del. Aruna Miller, Del. Kirill Reznik, and Del. David Fraser-Hadalgo.*

#### Sign of the Times

Have you noticed all the new street sign replacements in Poolesville? The hunter-green signs that have the symbol of the iconic Old Town Hall on them are a part of the ultimate redesign of Fisher Avenue under the town's streetscape plans.

Continued from page 1.

#### Match Made in Poolesville

and region championships his junior year, and came in third in the state. His senior year, after again winning his county and region championships, he was undefeated (42-0) and poised to win the state championship but ended up placing fourth. Both his state championship losses were by one point, and his last bout went into three overtimes. "I had never seen anyone dominate a match like he did, and not win," said PHS wrestling coach Mark Agnew.

Under the persuasion of Coach Agnew, Kyle decided to try shot put and discus for the spring track and field team his junior year. He had played lacrosse ninth and tenth grades.

"When Kyle told me he was thinking about doing track instead of lacrosse, I told him that with his athletic ability, he could be county champ at shot by his senior year." As a junior, he placed sixth in the county, and missed going to the state championship by four inches. This spring, he hopes to break a PHS shot put record that has stood for thirty-two years.

Kyle's parents are most certainly proud of Kyle's hard work academically and athletically that helped him get into West Point. "I'm proud of him," said Keith, "more proud than I let on."

Kyle will join his brother, K.J., in seeking a military career after college. K.J., a freshman at McDaniel College in Westminster, is part of the ROTC program there. "It is definitely an honor," said Keith of his sons.

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Lisa of Willow Tree Vintiques has been finding more unique planters to create her sweet mini succulent gardens! Come see why they were flying out of Blue last Market!



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## Things To Do

### Plan Ahead – May 4

#### Monocacy Elementary Kindergarten Orientation

Open to all parents of 2016-2017 kindergarteners residing in the Poolesville\* and Monocacy school areas are invited to attend. Come learn about Monocacy Elementary and tour the building. Transportation provided. For more information, contact Sandy Chittenden at 301-972-7990.

\*Poolesville parents do have a choice to transfer to Monocacy.

### March 29

#### Poolesville Area Senior Center (PASC) Special Event

**Living Young – Defy Your Age.** \$5.00 for antioxidant scan. 17750 West Willard Road in café.

### March 30

#### PASC Special Event

**Tai chi.** 17750 West Willard Road (in gym). 10:30 a.m.

#### PASC Special Event

**Zumba gold.** 17750 West Willard Road (gym). 1:00 p.m.

### March 31

#### Poolesville Green Special Event

**Taking Back the Power – Simple Seed Starting with master gardener Terri Pitts.** Poolesville Town Hall. 7:00 p.m. Free, all welcome.

### April 2

**Rummage Sale.** Clothing, toys, books, home goods, etc. Donations will be accepted starting March 28. Proceeds benefit the Youth Missions program. Poolesville Presbyterian Church, 17800 Elgin Rd. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### April 3

#### Celtic Duo in Concert

Celtic duo, Robert Mitchell, bagpiper, and Karin Loya, cellist, will create exciting sounds at St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 25100 Ridge Road, Damascus. Bob will play Border, Highland, and small pipes and, with Karin, will perform a variety of airs, jigs and reels, marches, contemporary numbers, and some tunes of Robert Burns. These musicians are seasoned professionals who have performed individually and together for many years. The two have released numerous CDs over the years and may be heard together on "The Sound of Sleat." 4:30 p.m.

### April 4

#### PHS Varsity Sports Home Game

**Boys' lacrosse.** Watkins Mill at 7:15 p.m.

### April 5

#### PHS Varsity Sports Home Game

**Baseball.** Clarksburg at 3:45 p.m.

### April 6

#### PHS Varsity Sports Home Games

**Girls' lacrosse.** Watkins Mill at 7:15 p.m.

**Softball.** Clarksburg at 3:45 p.m.

**Boys' tennis.** Blake at 3:45 p.m.

### PASC Special Event

Gym at 17750 West Willard Road: **Tai chi**, 10:30 a.m. and **Zumba Gold** at 1:00 p.m.

### Community Dinner – All Welcome

Hosted by Poolesville's Memorial United Methodist Church. Fun, food, and fellowship. Featuring pork roast, mashed potatoes, ratatouille, apple sauce, cornbread, and dessert with Starbucks coffee. Gluten-free available. Free. 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### April 7

#### PASC Special Event

**Game Day—Indoor, 1000 organization.**

#### PHS Varsity Sports Home Game

**Volleyball.** Quince Orchard. **Boys** at 5:30 p.m.; **coed** at 7:15 a.m.

### April 9

#### PHS Varsity Sports Home Game

**Girls' lacrosse.** Gaithersburg at 2:30 p.m.

### April 11

#### PHS Varsity Sports Home Games

**Baseball.** Damascus at 3:45 p.m.

**Softball.** Damascus at 3:45 p.m.

### April 12

#### PHS Varsity Sports Home Games

**Track and Field.** Damascus at 3:30 p.m.

### April 13

#### PHS Varsity Sports Home Games

**Boys' lacrosse.** Northwest at 7:15 p.m.

**Softball.** Blake at 3:45 p.m.

**Tennis.** Northwest at 3:45 p.m.

**Volleyball.** Damascus: **Boys** at 5:15 p.m.,

**coed** at 7:15 p.m.

### PASC Special Event

Gym at 17750 West Willard Road: **Tai chi**, 10:30 a.m. and **Zumba Gold** at 1:00 p.m.

### April 14

#### PHS Varsity Sports Home Games

**Baseball.** Blake at 3:45 p.m.

#### PASC Special Event

**White Elephant Dessert Bingo.** Bring wrapped gift, samples to share. 1:00 p.m.

### April 15

#### PHS Varsity Sports Home Game

**Girls' lacrosse.** Seneca Valley at 7:15 p.m.

### Continued from page 4.

#### We Get What We Deserve

You would not like life after the states take over the role of the Environmental Protection Agency. Google "Flint water."

It doesn't have to be illegal to be stupid.

You don't know what the Department of Education does, but that doesn't mean it's okay to get rid of it.

You cannot cover spending increases by taxing the upper income brackets to death. There isn't enough there, and it has other consequences.

Complaining about things, like the weather, doesn't help anyone.

Save the Date:  
April 7

## Republican Candidate Forum

7:00 p.m. at Poolesville Town Hall

19721 Beall Street – On Whalen Commons

Plan to Attend

Who should carry the GOP banner to Congress!!



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Scott Cheng

Amie Hoerber

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Chris Mason

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Potomac Women's Republican Club,

Upper Montgomery Republican Women's Club – District@15

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Primary:  
April  
26

Can't come? The forum will be live streamed on the web. Details at [www.mdgopld15.org](http://www.mdgopld15.org)

## School News

### Drive Your Tractor to School Day

By Rande Davis

It's hardly novel for a group of young folks holding similar interests and backgrounds to pal around together for fun and enjoyment, but something quite unusual happened recently with one such group of teens from Poolesville High School. For one reason or other, each had a connection to farming, and they got to thinking that there should be a way to promote the long history of agriculture in the area and at the same time acknowledge farming as a viable career opportunity. After all, there is no other career more time-honored than agriculture, and with Poolesville High School's Global Ecology program garnering so much attention, they thought that perhaps the community had begun to lose sight of a bit of the community's roots of farming.

Patton comes from four generations of farmers and lives on the family's 700-acre sod farm out by White's Ferry. Jordan Cissel's grandfather, Bob Cissel, is executive director of Montgomery Agricultural Producers, an organization founded to promote farming in the Ag Reserve. Their interest and participation in Montgomery County 4-H was also a solidifying factor in their support of the idea.

After presenting their notion to teachers and school administrators and finding support from them, these teens, along with their friends, Molly Bodmer, Gavin Hockenbery, Trevor Magaha, and Cody Lamar, decided to surprise their schoolmates by driving farm equipment to school on February 10 and by displaying all of it in the rear of the school parking lot.

This action opened up a whole new conversation from fellow students on the importance of farming, its historical connection to Poolesville, and as a career option for the twenty-first-century graduate. Ramazon reminded us how Poolesville used to have an active Future






Reid Patton, Jordan Cissel, Gavin Hockenbery, Molly Bodmer, and Davin Ramazon.

What was their solution? They came up with Ride Your Tractor to School Day to promote advanced awareness of farming. Not everyone had a tractor, and not everyone lived on a farm, but all of them had access to some kind of heavy duty farming equipment.

Devin Ramazon recently obtained a 1951 red Farmall tractor that he hopes to overhaul and renovate. Reid

Farmers of America group on campus and that the school used to have an agricultural element with plant growing and raising of animals and cows.

Their hope is that a special tractor day will be done every year, and perhaps next year it can be moved from the very back of the parking lot to a much more visible location along West Willard Road, right in front of the school.

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**first Saturdays @ 5:30PM**  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**  
**Saturday: 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.**

**Holy Week Schedule:**  
 Holy Thursday March 24th, @ 8 PM  
 Good Friday March 25th @ 8 PM  
 Easter Vigil Mass March 26th @ 8 PM  
 Easter Sunday Masses March 27th @ 8AM, 9:30AM & 10:45 AM  
 Stations of the Cross, March 25 @ Noon

Repent! His Mercy is endless!  
 Confession heard: Wednesday Evening  
 March 23rd @ 6:30 - 8pm.

Easter Egg Hunt - Easter Sunday, March 27, at 12:15 PM

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## Youth Sports

### Area Lacrosse Is a Big Deal

By Jeff Stuart

In 1763, on a late spring day on the Straits of Mackinac, British troops from Fort Michilimackinac relaxed on the sidelines watching a rousing game of lacrosse between the Ojibwe and Sauk Indians. They left the gates open and their weapons back in the fort. With some five hundred players, the game must have looked more like a battle—and, in fact, it was. The Indians, aligned with the French in the French and Indian War, abandoned the game suddenly and took the fort. It took the British quite some time to get it back. This probably set back the popularity of the sport, but over the last five years, it has been the fastest-growing sport for both men and women at the NCAA level. Lacrosse's version of the final four fills large football stadiums.

The sport, already popular in the New York region, took a strong hold in Maryland at the turn of the century. Johns Hopkins University is home to the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame. Along with Johns Hopkins, the Maryland Terrapins and Navy Midshipmen have consistently fielded strong teams. The Maryland women's team has been

dominating in recent years. The rules of the women's game are designed to limit physical contact, but with a shallower pocket allowed in women's sticks, passing and controlling the ball requires a good bit of skill.

"When I first started coaching, you might have had forty players sign up," said Poolesville boys' lacrosse coach Stuart Orns, "now some county teams have more than eighty players. Lacrosse is appealing because of the parallels it has to other sports. It has the physicality of hockey, the offensive and defensive schemes of basketball, and the conditioning and wide field scope of football. The Indian nations of North America invented the game, so it is truly an American game...The skill and speed of the game continue to improve, making it an exciting game to watch. Locally, the increase in youth leagues and club teams are enabling players to continue to develop their acumen for the game year-round which is raising the quality of play across the state." Also coaching the boys' team are Matt Fields and Josh Funk.

"I like the speed and competitiveness," said senior boys' captain Jake Armstrong, "and I like the mental side. You have to be smart and fast." "The girls' game is based on finesse and speed," said coach Brittany Hilton. "It has drastically grown and changed over the years. The sport provides an opportunity for young men and wom-



Reid Patton, Carley Kenley, Jake Armstrong, Christina Hilton, Adam Branscome, Casey Harkins, and Jonathan Hetrick.

en to learn teamwork and develop personal skills that they can apply to other areas of their life. It is becoming more readily available for youth to get involved in at any level."

"It's a sport I have played since first grade," said senior girls' captain Christina Hilton, the coach's sister. "I like how our team is unified and we all come together and work hard for a common goal."

"Our team is like a giant family," said senior Captain Carley Kenley. "We work hard together."

"I like the competition and the thrill that comes along with it," said senior Casey Harkins.

Though no Montgomery County school has ever won a state championship, the Churchill boys made it to the state final last season, and county

lacrosse enthusiasts hope that is just the beginning. The PHS lacrosse players have six seniors who have already signed scholarships to play at college next year: Casey Harkins (American University), Jonathan Hetrick (UMBC), Christina Hilton (York College), Reid Patton (Lenoir-Rhyne University), Jake Armstrong (UMBC) and Adam Branscome (Belmont Abbey College).

There are many home games where you can catch these top-rated athletes along with their talented teammates in action. The boys open against Magruder at home at 7:15 p.m. on March 24. The girls open against rival Damascus on March 22, and host Magruder the next night. Both games are at 7:15. It is reasonable to expect both the boys' and girls' teams will host a playoff game or two. It could be a special season.

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## UPCOMING HOME GAMES

Thursday, March 24th - Magruder V 7:15pm/JV 5:30pm

Monday, April 4th - Watkins Mill V 7:15pm/JV 5:30pm

Wednesday, April 13th - Northwest V 7:15pm/JV 5:30pm

Monday, April 18th - Quince Orchard V 7:15pm/JV 5:30pm

Monday, April 25th - Rockville V 6pm

Saturday, April 30th - Northwood V 12pm



## Local News

### PHS Graduate Recognized as Lewis And Clark College Alumna of the Year

Samantha Robison, a 2004 graduate of Poolesville High School was honored this past February 19 as the Alumna of the Year for Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. She was selected for her international



PHS 2004 graduate Samantha Robison was honored as alumna of the year by Lewis and Clark College.

charitable work as the founder of aptART. Awareness & Prevention Through Art (aptART) is an organization of artists and activists who seek to share an artistic experience with conflict-affected and marginalized youth on a global basis. The organization creates outlets for youth to build awareness and promote prevention about the issues negatively affecting their lives.

The work of aptART first began in Mozambique, developing art projects to help children address the HIV and AIDS epidemics affecting their communities. In 2012, aptART launched its first project outside of Mozambique, branching out and into the Democratic Republic of Congo. In the DR Congo, aptART works with children who have been affected by the ongoing conflict within its borders to create art promoting peace and national unity.

In collaboration with local and international organizations operating on location, aptART artists and activists coordinate workshops with youth from different communities. The workshops culminate in large-scale public (street) art as well as individual pieces. The workshops and art focus on issues affecting communities with messages of positivity and hope.

Exhibiting both locally and internationally, aptART displays work created by the children and artists participating in projects. Proceeds from the sales of photographs and children's works are returned to aptART to fund future projects. The organization has worked with youth in Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Jordan, Turkey, DR Congo, Mozambique, and Europe.

Samantha flew in from Jordan to receive her auspicious honor and was joined by her parents, Lee and Kathy Robison, who moved from Poolesville in 2008 to retire in Montana. During the three-day visit hosted by her alma mater, she gave a number of lectures to students, hosted presentations about her work in the college library, and was honored at a special award ceremony.

Do you have an interesting story to share? Send it along to [editor@monocacymonocle.com](mailto:editor@monocacymonocle.com)

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MARCH 20	MARCH 23	MARCH 24	MARCH 25	MARCH 26	MARCH 27
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>Holy Saturday</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
8 am Holy Eucharist Rite I (with music)	7 pm Service of Prayer and Healing with laying on of hands, followed by Individual Reconciliation	6 pm Table Liturgy with dinner and foot washing followed by stripping of the altar.	12 pm-3 pm Last Seven Words with friends at Memorial United Methodist Church	7:30 pm Easter Vigil Service	8 am, 9:30 am & 11 am Holy Eucharist Rite II with festive music Easter egg hunt to follow the 9:30 am service (bring your Easter baskets)
10 am Holy Eucharist Rite II (with special music)			4 pm Family Stations of the Cross at St. Peter's		
			7 pm Good Friday Liturgy		



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Continued from page 1.

### The Hoskinson House

records indicating it was actually built around 1830 (not 1785 as the mysterious plaque above the second floor transom window indicates).

The Bells purchased the home from James Buchanan, a dentist who owned the home for about twenty years and at one time practiced dentistry from the front parlor that looks much today like it did when it was first built. Buchanan is the brother of Pat Buchanan, a well-known writer and politician.

The fireplace mantel in the front parlor still has the original trim that was common in Federal-style homes. The eighteen-inch masonry walls were covered with plaster, and the house sits on a stone foundation common for the early Poolesville area homes. Original heart pine floors still cover many of the floors; however, plenty of work was needed to uncover the hidden craftsmanship of the home's early years, much which had been covered or damaged beyond repair.

Frank Bell has been in the construction industry for over thirty years and has been involved with numerous restoration projects involving older homes in the Washington area. As Frank set about restoring this home and tearing back layer after layer of

additional floorings, ceilings, and walls added by later generations of owners, he began to realize the historical significance of his home. The home was clearly much older than the settlement papers indicated. According to local real estate agent, Jim Brown, there are many houses whose titles (deeds) would be passed from generation to generation without ever being recorded which may explain the discrepancy in the home's age listing.

Bell uncovered upwards of nine fireplaces in many different rooms. Although the bricks were in too much disrepair to make the hearths functional, many still had the original mantels (albeit in need of repair) with finely-detailed moldings. Most of the fireplaces were covered during the restoration since they were no longer practical, but a few remain open to reveal the fine craftsmanship of a prosperous homeowner from the early days of Poolesville.

In one room that once served as the kitchen, Bell peeled back layer after layer of what he termed "squishy" flooring, seven in all, to reveal dirt floors layered with six rows of logs. The original pine flooring was nailed across the logs. The ceiling in that same room was stripped down to reveal a hand-sawn framework with mortise and tenon joints similar in

appearance to what was done in pre-Civil War days. By the mid-nineteenth century, circular saws were commonly used to cut lumber.

A narrow stairway was hidden behind the walls of a back room, a common practice from the days when servants were expected to use the back stairways. Those stairs were removed. Frank salvaged three original thresholds on the entryways to different rooms where one can clearly see foot cups worn into the surface. These indentations are in the shape of the front of one's right foot and visible on the right side of the threshold, showing where residents stepped into the rooms with their right feet first, year after year.

The house was indeed built during the same time period as the similar brick homes. Early nineteenth century land records provided in *The History of Poolesville* book, authored by local historian and author Dorothy "Dots" Elgin and Dona L. Cutler, indicate that the plot of land was originally part of a tract of land called Peter's Forest before becoming part of Alexander Whitaker's tract of land named "Difficulty" in 1828. In 1835, five eighths of the property were purchased by Hilleary Hoskinson, and the home was built before 1847 and was listed under the ownership of Hilleary and Dorcas Hoskinson.

Dorcas was Hilleary's second wife. Hilleary married his first wife, Maria Veirs, in 1836. Together, Maria and Hilleary had five children between 1837 and 1845. In 1847, Hilleary married Dorcas, who was the younger sister of Maria. He was twice her age. Maria most likely passed away at a young age, perhaps in childbirth or any of the many then-fatal illnesses. Dorcas and Hilleary together raised Maria's children and more of their own. Census records of 1850 show eight people living in the Hoskinson household. At that time, Hilleary worked as a constable in town, and Dorcas cared for the extended family in the home.

The stately brick home was a sign of economic prosperity for the growing family. Less well-to-do families usually built wood-frame houses instead of brick ones. During the time when the Hoskinson House was built, Poolesville had grown into the second largest town in Maryland. Local merchants, tailors, blacksmiths, and tavern owners were opening shop around the original post office and general store opened by John Poole in the late eighteenth century.

By 1857, though, records show that all was not well for the large family of Hilleary Hoskinson. Scandal, it seems,

Continued on page 19.



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## Boyd's Presbyterian Church Holy Week Services



### PALM SUNDAY

March 20

9:30 am service

11:00 am service

Receive Palm Crosses

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 24

7:00 pm Fellowship

8:00 pm service

Communion served

### GOOD FRIDAY

March 25

7:00 pm Fellowship

8:00 pm service

Candlelight service

### EASTER SUNDAY

March 26

9:30 am Family service

11:00 am Traditional

Pastor Eyde Mabanglo

19901 White Ground Road, Boyds, MD 20841

## Garden

### Guide to Successful Pruning

By Maureen O'Connell

All things considered, this past winter weather has not inflicted too much damage on gardens in our Monocacy country. Temperatures in December and January were relatively on the mild side, with some stretches of very cold days. Then, we had our February blizzard. While it is true that heavy, wet snow and ice can cause broken branches on trees and shrubs, snow itself will not hurt landscape plants. In fact, the opposite is true. Snow is a very good insulator against freezing temperatures that may injure delicate and young plants. Our February snow was deep and there was lots of it, but it was light. Snow on the ground prevents injury to plants' roots. It took a while for all the snow to melt, but now it is time to return to our gardens and get to work. General cleanup chores are our first order of business, but pruning is an essential gardening skill that we should address now.

Why do we prune? The main reason is to improve the appearance and health of a plant. The removal of dead, damaged, or diseased limbs and branches often limits the spread of insects and over-wintering disease spores. For trees, a too-dense canopy can weaken lower leaves and make it almost impossible to grow grass or flowers under the tree. Pruning and thinning upper tree branches permits better air circulation and sunlight penetration. Inspect your trees and remove any crossing branches that rub against each other and those that form a narrow crotch. Trees are an asset to your home's landscape; keep them healthy.

Pruning effectively controls the size of a plant, tree, or shrub. When selecting a plant for your property, check its mature height and spread. Sometimes it grows beyond its predicted dimensions and becomes out of proportion to your landscape. Too large a tree can also cause personal injury or property damage. Don't wait until it is out of control; check its growth pattern every year and prune it when necessary.

Many flowering perennials benefit from a spring haircut. I don't cut many down in late fall; some, such as sedum, Russian sage, globe thistle (*Echinops*), *Crocosmia*, and the butterfly bush *Buddleia Lo & Behold*, add architectural interest to the winter landscape.

Let's look at some specific plants which need varied pruning methods. For some gardeners, the when

and how of pruning hydrangeas can be confusing. The answer is: it all depends upon their type. *Hydrangea* (*H.*) *paniculata*, as well as the smooth hydrangea, *Hydrangea arborescens*, blooms on new wood and is not bothered by late spring frosts. Timing is not as critical; you can prune now and they will grow and flower in the same season. 'Limelight' and 'Little Lime' are two very hardy varieties of the first type. 'Annabelle' and 'Incrediball' are good choices for the second type. Bigleaf or mophead (*H. macrophylla*) hydrangeas and Oakleaf hydrangea (*H. quercifolia*) both bloom on the previous season's growth. Recent mophead introductions are more likely to flower on new growth as well as year-old stems; this guarantees flowers even after a tough winter. 'Endless Summer' is a wonderful example of this variety. Two very reliable and hardy Oakleaves for our area are 'Snow Queen' and 'Ruby Slippers.' A new introduction this year, a Proven Winners variety, is 'Gatsby Pink.' I have already ordered two for my garden. There is some thinking that if you prune hydrangeas at the wrong time of the year, they either will not flower or will bloom sporadically and lightly. I don't believe it. I have made all kinds of mistakes with mine, and they have always come back beautifully. As a general rule, I would advise you to cut back now any black, dark brown, or diseased stems to right above newly-emerging green buds.

I love lavender; I have about thirty plants, many of them over ten years old. It benefits from a medium, about one-third, pruning now; this will improve its appearance and flowering. Unpruned woody trunks are inclined to split, exposing the plant to disease. If already split, dig up and discard. Consider planting a separate lavender garden this year with different varieties. Their disparate heights, colors, and forms come together to produce a garden that is interesting and informal. Three hardy varieties are: *Lavendula* (*L.*) *angustifolia*, *L. x intermedia* 'Grosso,' and *L. x. i.* 'Provence.'

Understanding the natural habit or shape of shrubs will help you determine how to prune them. They have mounding, cane, or tree-like growth habits. Azaleas and spireas are mounding in shape with soft, flexible stems and small leaves. Forsythia and nandina spread by sending up erect new branches called canes from their bases. Tree-like growth habits have woodier, finely-divided branches, as found in rhododendrons and witch hazel plants. There are two types of

Continued on page 19.

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## Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

### Present Crime

**Theft from vehicle:** 19800 block of Beatriz Avenue, 22300 block of White's Ferry Road.

### Past Crime

**March 27, 1907** The body of an unidentified man was found on Walnut Island in the Potomac River. A wood gatherer found the body with his son. It was speculated that the body, that of a man, had washed down river from as far away as West Virginia. The man carried papers that indicated that he might be from the Charles Town area. Doctor Nourse examined the body and said that it was impossible to determine the cause of death due to the condition of the body. An inquest was ordered, and the body was buried at Seneca in an unmarked grave.

**March 29, 1905** The trial of Arthur Robinson got underway at the courthouse in Rockville. Robinson stood accused of shooting Edward Knoll to death in the woods near Rockville. A dispute had erupted over a game of craps. A previous jury could not come to a unanimous decision.

**March 31, 1905** For weeks, the residents of the Glen Echo area of the county had been complaining that their chickens had been disappearing.

Constables Bradley and Giles looked into the matter and arrested Milton Stewart, Andrew Stewart, and Steve Richardson. All three admitted that they were responsible for stealing the chickens and also to whom they were sold. Stewart was lodged in the jail at Rockville while the other two were taken to Washington where they faced charges of housebreaking.

**April 5, 1906** Nathan Carter pleaded guilty to larceny at the Rockville Court. Ten members of the jury had recommended leniency for Robertson, but Judge Henderson noted that the citizens of Darnestown and environs would rather Carter not be a resident of that area. Judge Henderson then passed sentence and ordered Carter not to come within five miles of Darnestown. Carter promised to vacate the area immediately.

**April 14, 1908** Deputy Sheriff Whipp, who resided at Gaithersburg, had been receiving veiled threats due to his vigorous enforcement of the law in that vicinity. He stepped out of his house and heard the report of a gunshot and felt a bullet whiz over his head. The would-be assassin rose from his place of hiding in some bushes and escaped. Whipp declared that he would investigate and arrest his assailant.

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

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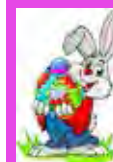
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Continued from page 14.

### The Hoskinson House

was about to rock the household. Hilleary had taken on yet another wife. Marriage records show that on August 20, 1857, Hilleary married his third wife, Elizabeth. Divorce records are not available for Dorcas and Hilleary, but census records indicate that Hilleary and his new wife moved out of the home, and Dorcas remained in the home with two of the youngest children. Census records from 1860 reveal that Dorcas lived with her brother, Cyrus Veirs, and sons, William, age nine, and Thomas, age eight.

In 1860, Hilleary is listed as living with Edward Hoskinson, age thirty, his wife, Elizabeth, and their young son, George, age one, still in Poolesville, but not in the same home.

Dorcas passed away on October 18, 1875. She is buried in a local cemetery under a Hoskinson family headstone along with numerous other family gravesites. Her husband is still listed as Hilleary Hoskinson and her children are listed as William, Thomas, Clarence, and Clara.

Son Thomas remained in the Hoskinson home and raised his family. Records show that he owned the house from 1879 until 1931. His brother, William, also resided there for much of the time. In 1880, he added a framed addition to the home. When he died in 1931, the house was sold to new owners after having been in the Hoskinson family for close to one hundred years.

By 1880, Hilleary and Elizabeth lived in Darnestown. They had seven children ranging in age from George, who was twenty-one, and Harrie, who

was two. Hilleary passed away in 1893 at the age of seventy-five. He is buried in a Darnestown cemetery in a family plot and is listed as the husband of Maria Veirs, Dorcas Ann Veirs, and Elizabeth Ann Hoskinson.

Over a time span stretching forty years from 1837, when his eldest daughter, Ann Elizabeth was born to his first wife Maria, to 1877, when his third wife, Elizabeth gave birth to their youngest son, Harrie, Hilleary fathered at least thirteen children from three different wives.

Who is Elizabeth, the woman for whom Hilleary left his wife and children? Did Hilleary officially divorce Dorcas before moving on with a new wife and a new life? Some answers may remain buried forever behind the walls of the former Hoskinson home.

In 1838, Hilleary and his first wife, Maria, gave birth to their second child, Elizabeth Ann. In 1857, Hilleary married his third wife, Elizabeth Ann. She was born in 1838.

Walls don't judge, or try to explain, or make sense of the past, but they give shelter to the inhabitants, and provide protection from the storms. Inside these walls, a family persevered and new generations were born. Today, those hand-sawn timbers are as stately and strong as they were almost two hundred years ago, giving testament to the strength of our early Poolesville settlers.

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Continued from page 15.

### Guide to Successful Pruning

pruning cuts with all of these shrubs: heading cuts and thinning cuts. The first one stimulates growth of buds closest to the wound or cut, and the direction of growth will follow the direction of the bud. This pruning method is used to reduce shrub height and retain a natural form. The thinning cut removes branches at their point of origin or attachment. Used in moderation, thinning can reduce a shrub's density without stimulating growth. Determine the purpose of your pruning to decide which method to use. I don't recommend coating pruning cuts on shrubs or trees with paint or wound dressing. They won't prevent decay or promote wound closure.

Now is the best time to prune many plant, shrub, and tree species, as new tissue forms rapidly at this time of the year.

Don't worry too much about your pruning skills or lack thereof. This is not brain surgery. Your mistakes will do little or no harm to healthy plants, so get your clippers and loppers out this weekend and see where you can improve the landscape.

**Have something you'd like to share in Tidbits? Then let us know!**  
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**Remembrance**

**Mary Louise Hosler**

Mary Lou Hosler, of Poolesville, passed away on March 10 in the home that she and her late husband, William (Bill), literally built together. Born on August 24, 1928 in Washington, D.C., she was the daughter of the late Carl S. and Ida M. (Pleuss) Cragoe. She was preceded in death by her son Brad. Her beloved husband Bill passed away in 2010.

Mary Lou was warmly remembered by her daughter Nancy Ruhe as someone who, while often in the background, was a kindly woman who was entirely devoted to the care and needs of the family, passing on her profound and joyous love of singing, appreciation of nature, maintaining a sense of humor even at times of difficulty, and holding on to her deep faith in her Lord. Nancy observed that her mother gave the family "the building blocks for living and maintaining a happy life, something we can pass on to future generations." Mary Lou's casual friendliness at times was reflected in her attire since she was a woman who loved the comfort of wearing sweat-shirts. To honor their grandmother, the granddaughters chose to wear beautiful, colorful sweatshirts to her memorial service.

Her husband William married his beauty queen, since Mary Lou was crowned campus queen of American University in 1948. She was known by




*Mary Lou Hosler*

most in the area as being the secretary of Poolesville Elementary School for over two decades. The congregants of St. Peter's Parish rejoiced in her pure and wonderfully mellow alto voice as she and Bill were devoted to the choir for many, many years. She was also remembered for her meticulous care of the financial records of the church as its longtime treasurer.

In the first part of the 1980s, when St. Peter's was constructing a new building to replace an old, wooden, "temporary" World War II army mess-hall-like building as its Sunday school, William and Mary Lou put in so much volunteer work and guidance that the newly-opened fellowship hall in 1986 was named Hosler Hall.

Also surviving Mary Lou is her other daughter Sally Lee, husband Chris, twelve grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.



Governor Larry Hogan has ordered the Maryland State Flag be lowered to half-staff effective at sunrise, March 14, 2016 and returned to full staff at sunset, on the day of interment. This is in honor of Maryland Police Officer Jacai Colson, who died in the line of duty on March 13, 2016.

As a mark of respect for the victims of the senseless acts of violence perpetrated on March 22, 2016, in Brussels, Belgium, by the authority vested in the President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, President Barack Obama has ordered the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff effective immediately, March 22, 2016 and returned to full-staff at sunset, March 26, 2016. As a matter of protocol, the Maryland flag is lowered to half-staff as well, no flag may be higher than the United States flag.

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# SPRINGTIME SAFETY TIPS

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

Spring has sprung, and with the change of seasons, our thoughts turn to Easter celebrations, spring cleaning, and much-needed home improvement projects. Before you embark on seasonal chores or outdoor revelry, take inventory of potential springtime hazards for your furry friends.

**Easter Treats and Decorations** - Keep lilies and candy in check—chocolate goodies are toxic to cats and dogs, and all true lilies can be fatal if ingested by cats, and be mindful, kitties love to nibble on colorful plastic grass, which can lead to an obstructed digestive tract, severe vomiting, and dehydration. Moreover, while live bunnies, chicks, and other festive animals are adorable, resist the urge to buy them—these cute babies grow up fast and often require specialized care!

**Screen Yourself** - Many pet parents welcome the breezy days of spring by opening their windows. Unfortunately, they also unknowingly put their pets at risk—especially cats, who are apt to jump or fall through unscreened windows. Be sure to install snug and sturdy screens in all of your windows.

**Buckle Up!** - While most dogs love to feel the wind on their furry faces, allowing them to ride in the beds of pickup trucks or to stick their heads out of moving-car windows is dangerous. Flying debris and insects can cause inner ear or eye injuries and lung infections, and abrupt stops or turns can cause major injury, or worse! Pets riding in cars should always be secured in a crate or wearing a seatbelt harness designed especially for them.

**Spring Cleaning** - Spring cleaning is a time-honored tradition in many households, but be sure to keep all cleaners and chemicals out of your pets' way! Almost all cleaning products, even all natural ones, contain chemicals that may be harmful to pets. The key to using them safely is to read and follow label directions for proper use and storage.

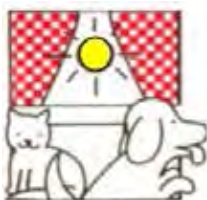
**Home Improvement 101** - Products such as paints, mineral spirits, and solvents can be toxic to your pets and cause severe irritation or chemical burns. Carefully read all labels to see if the product is safe to use around your furry friends. Also, be cautious of physical hazards, including nails, staples, insulation, blades, and power tools. It may be wise to confine your dog or cat to a designated pet-friendly room during home improvement projects.

**Let Your Garden Grow—With Care** - Pet parents, take care—fertilizers, insecticides, and herbicides keep our plants and lawns healthy and green, but their ingredients may be dangerous if your pet ingests them. Always store these products in out-of-the-way places and follow label instructions carefully. Many popular springtime plants—including rhododendron and azaleas—are also highly toxic to pets and can prove fatal if eaten.

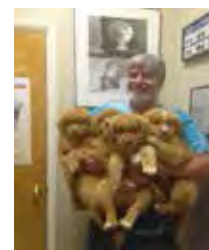
**Ah-Ah-Achoo!** - Like us, pets can be allergic to foods, dust, plants, and pollens. Allergic reactions in dogs and cats can cause itching, minor sniffing and sneezing, or life-threatening anaphylactic shock to insect bites and stings. If you suspect your pet has a springtime allergy, please visit your veterinarian as soon as possible.

**Pesky Little Critters** - April showers bring May flowers—and an onslaught of bugs! Make sure your pet is on year-round heartworm preventive medication, as well as a flea- and tick-control program. Ask your doctor to recommend a plan designed specifically for your pet.

**Out and About** - Warmer weather means more trips to the park, longer walks, and more chances for your pet to wander off! Make sure your dog or cat has a microchip for identification and wears a tag imprinted with your home address, cell phone, and any other relevant contact information.



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