

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

January 11, 2019 • Volume XIV, Number 20



Even the Grinch was cheerful during local Holiday celebrations. See more in Family Album on page 2.



County Executive Marc Elrich speaking at the first-ever listening tour in Poolesville. Details in Local News on page 5.



Lions Tom Conlon and Roger Brenholtz installed a new eyeglass/hearing aid collection box in front of Watershed Café. See Tidbits on page 6.



Longtime Monocle delivery person, Neville Smith, was a true pioneer woman who split her own wood for heating. Read about her in Remembrance on page 17.

MCPS Superintendent and Board of Education Issue Statement of Support for an Exploratory Review of A PHS Multiuse Facility

By Rande Davis

On December 12, Montgomery County Public Schools Superintendent Jack R. Smith, Ph.D., and Shebra L. Evans, President of MCPS Board of Education, prepared a joint statement to County Executive Marc Elrich and Nancy Navarro, President of the Montgomery County Council, expressing their support for an exploration for a new multiuse facility at Poolesville High School. In the letter, Smith and Navarro point to the need to operate on a dual-track basis of both exploring new concepts for facility use beyond academic requirements while at the same time continuing to maintain the facility in its current use.

The statement issued reads:

The Honorable Marc Elrich
Montgomery County Executive

Continued on page 11.



Photo from MCPS BOE website.

Montgomery County Public Schools 2019 Board of Education members (back row): Karla Silvestre (At-Large), Jeanette E. Dixon (At-Large), Superintendent Jack R. Smith Ph.D., Student Member Ananya Tadikonda, and Brenda Wolff (District 5). Front row: Judith Docca (District 1), President Shebra L. Evans (District 4), Vice President Patricia O'Neill (District 3), and Rebecca Smondrowski (District 2).

Poolesville Prepares for 5G Rollout

By Susan Petro

The next generation of wireless technology is called 5G—a network of wireless internet that allows faster download speeds and new technologies not yet conceived to be delivered to homes and businesses nationwide. To achieve a goal of internet superiority, the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) has implemented strategy that includes three components: pushing more spectrum into the market place, updating infrastructure policy, and modernizing outdated regulations (www.fcc.gov/5G).

Recently, members of the Poolesville Planning Committee hosted Nathan Campbell, a representative from Crown Castle (a wireless infrastructure company), to learn more about 5G and how its rollout will specifically affect communities like Poolesville. Information gleaned from the meeting will

help Poolesville enact design standards to minimize the visual impact of 5G technologies.

The biggest noticeable difference between 5G services and the current technologies being used is that more cellphone towers must be spaced much closer together because 5G signals do not travel as far. Instead of relying on towers that can be placed in obscure locations far from area homes, the new Distributed Antenna Systems (DAS), also called small cellphone towers, must be placed every few hundred feet and lower to the ground. The current systems must be able to accommodate up to three different wireless providers and can weigh hundreds of pounds. Each antenna system requires its own electrical box.

Continued on page 18.



The Poolesville Commissioners are considering new ordinances regulating cell towers in the town.

Family Album



JPMS students hold up banner showing their support of our troops serving overseas. They provide holiday gifts for those serving every year.



Michael and Juliette Rainnes family were the winners of the "Contemporary Lighting" category of the town's annual contest.



Celebrating at the PACC annual holiday party: Kathe Mooney, Faith Etheridge, Tom Kettler, and Monica Molina.



Monocle staff Jeff Stuart (writer, Youth Sports), Link Hoewing (writer, Town Government), and Maureen O'Connell (writer, Garden) at the paper's holiday party.



Monocle staff Jon Wolz (writer, In Your Own Backyard), Dominique Agnew (copy editor), and Laura Muncy and Anne-Marie Thomas (layout and design) of AnyArt Solutions LLC.



Monocle staff Susan Petro (writer), Terri Pitts (photographer), and John Clayton (publisher) at the newspaper's holiday celebration.

Town Government

Town Hears Report about Serious Shortcomings in Health Outcomes in the Poolesville Area

By Link Hoewing

Saying that Montgomery County’s consistently high overall ranking on health outcome studies can give a “false sense of security,” Chief County Health Officer Travis Gayles observed that despite very high median incomes in Poolesville, it ranks among the lowest zip codes on a range of health measures, including mental health and deaths for those under seventy-five years of age. Gayles added that regular access to needed medical services helps improve health outcomes and said he was aware of the lack of nearby medical assistance for residents of the Poolesville area.

Gayles pointed out that he had met last year with citizens from the Poolesville area to discuss health needs and issues. His job, in part, was to take the information provided in that meeting and dig down deeper on how health outcomes vary throughout the county. At that meeting, the citizens conveyed how far healthcare services are from the Upcounty—Poolesville, Dickerson, Barnesville, Beallsville, Boyds—and the lack of routine and easily-accessible public transportation. Gayles said that using the resources of the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation that provides support for health studies and ranks jurisdictions in terms of health outcomes, he and his colleagues in the Department of Health and Human Services were able to get a more “granular” look at health outcomes throughout the county using a combination of zip code sorted and census tract data.

The study looked at a number of health outcomes and health factors including Length of Life (Under Age 75 Mortality, Years of Productive Life Lost), Quality of Life (Inpatient and ER Hospitalization Rates, Mental Health Hospitalization Rates), and Socioeconomic Factors (percentage of population with less than a high school education, median household income). It used algorithms from work done by the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation to aggregate and analyze data by zip code and census tract. The result is the first study that looks at a more local level at health outcomes in Montgomery County.

In terms of the Poolesville zip code (the Dickerson and Barnesville zip codes were also included separately), Poolesville ranked at almost the bottom on a number of key metrics, including heart disease, deaths for those under seventy-five years of age, inpatient and ER hospitalization rates (indicating that patients are often using emergency rooms to treat chronic illnesses or not going regularly to doctors to help prevent ER visits), and heart disease. Poolesville also ranks very low on the “injury death rates” metric which measures deaths due to accidents of some sort. Given the large number of outdoor and farming-related jobs in the Poolesville area, this could be one reason Poolesville did so poorly on this metric.

Gayles tried to highlight how the granular data in the study can provide new insights into county health outcomes in various jurisdictions. For example, in some parts of the county, average life spans are far higher than in Poolesville where far more people die before they reach seventy-five. Poolesville has a very high median income and yet ranks very low on a wide array of health outcomes. This contradicts what many expect to be the norm when it comes to healthcare (i.e., wealthy populations have better access to and can pay for more access to healthcare and so have better healthcare outcomes). He agreed that it is possible that the lack of nearby access to healthcare services and poor public transportation may be contributing factors. He is working with other county departments to see what can be done to address problems like transportation.

In his report, Town Manager Wade Yost said that trash service problems had again become a major headache for the town. He has repeatedly imposed fines on the trash collector, Unity/Bates Trucking, but that it has made little difference in performance. Routes are still sometimes being missed, trash has been strewn on streets, and trash receptacles have been damaged or left out in the streets. The company had become more responsive for a while last year but lately has largely snubbed his repeated requests to fix problems.

The Town Attorney, Jay Gullo, noted that while there are penalty clauses in the contract and the town can impose fines for poor service or failure to perform, the reality is that the level of fines is probably seen as a “cost of doing business” to the company. The town commissioners decided to meet in private session to get legal advice from the town attorney about the situation.

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Rande(m) Thoughts

A Special Holiday Gift: Holding a Bullet in the Palm Of Your Hand

By Rande Davis

The Christmas holiday is always a special time for friends and family, but this year, for me, it was distinctly different. My wife's friend, husband, and adult daughter from the Netherlands visited with us. My oldest daughter, Mieke, is named after my wife's childhood friend whose relationship with my wife, Laura, gives real meaning to the term BFF. The two women have been close ever since they were three years old, walking to elementary school together in their hometown of The Hague, until Laura immigrated to the U.S. at the age of nine. They have kept in touch ever since, through letters, occasional phone calls, and now via WhatsApp every day.

Upon their arrival, the visitors brought a special gift: that of seeing America anew. Our tour gave them a unique look at small-town American life, highlighting Poolesville's past and present with our holiday lights in the park, the natural beauty of Sugarloaf Mountain and Great Falls, and the lessons of our proud history found in the John Poole House, Old Town Bank Museum, Seneca Schoolhouse, and Edwards Ferry.

From there, we launched an automobile land-cruise to Philadelphia, central Pennsylvania, the Hudson River Valley, and New York City. Seeing so many of the sights that we have enjoyed our whole life, yet, this time, we saw them all through their eyes, almost as if for the first time.

How refreshing it was to watch others come to see and appreciate America for its beauty, history, and, well, for the Dutch at least, our immense size. Our food choices were at times a bit challenging, starting with offering Maryland crab cake (Eggs Chesapeake) for breakfast. On the other hand, watching their daughter, Barbara, thrilled over having her first peanut butter and jelly sandwich, encapsulated the whole experience of seeing America anew. I give Rob, the husband, special credit, though, as he didn't eat his hamburger with a fork and knife.

Upon their departure, I gave Rob a special gift that symbolizes American history. It was a Civil War bullet found here in Poolesville, originally given to me by Greg Shores, one of our area's

metal-detectorists whose knowledge of the Civil War is a true asset to our town.

Rob asked me to tell him the story behind that bullet.

While much has to be conjecture, its history still makes for a powerful tale. The bullet lost to the ground over a 150 years ago was first held by a Union soldier and then was not touched again until found by Greg. The soldier is unknown but not indescribable. He would have been young, in his teens, volunteering to defend the sanctity of the Union and, in his innocence, surely impressing the ladies in his new uniform. That youthful innocence eventually found him farther from his home than he otherwise would have ever thought possible. While in Poolesville, he shared the duty of defending the American capital from attack from the Confederacy, with at times as many as fifteen thousand or more other boys just like him. He spent his official days participating in drill and ceremony, and target practices. His personal time would have been consumed with writing home, playing cards, talking to others about home, and often praying fervently. The bullet would have been left on the ground most probably during target practice or by accident. His time here would have been short, not much more than a few months, maybe a bit more. His nights were highly uncomfortable, sharing a small tent with one other soldier who would have been carrying the matching half to the pup tent. His quarters were cramped, often stifling hot, or damp and very humid. He may have slept with a hand-crafted tube of potpourri around his neck to lessen the stink or perhaps to remind him of his special someone at home. One of his only true pleasures would have been to purchase a small, fresh-baked cake from Uncle Watty Owens, whose wife Aunt Polly, was the baker. Uncle Watty was a popular local slave who loved singing in church, most likely in the balcony at St. Peter's. The sweet smell of Polly's cake would have been another reminder of home, which would have then led to thoughts of the dangerous days to come. When one such soldier, Sgt. John Sturdevant left his Poolesville garrison duty, his company's first battle tied a record for the most officers killed in one battle. Sergeant Sturdevant became a captain in short order. Many boys signed up for the standard ninety-day recruitment, with little doubt in the early days that the war would soon be over.

Rob's bullet might have first been owned by a soldier working the

Continued on page 21.

Town Government

Commissioners Formally Establish Fair Access for The Western County Committee

By Link Hoewing

The Town of Poolesville commissioners formally voted at their December 17 meeting to establish the Fair Access for the Western County Committee as a body within the town government. The committee will take on the duties of the volunteer group of the same name established last year to help push for the construction of a new multiuse facility and high school where Poolesville High School currently stands.

In response to a question from this reporter, the commissioners said they decided they needed to establish the committee as a part of the town's government because it used town funds to do much of its work and to ensure that all meetings and activities were open to public review. The town and its committees perform their work under the state's Open Meetings Act which

requires meetings to include public notices and include public access to minutes from meetings. The town has been instrumental in helping form the existing volunteer committee and funded much of its outreach activities via monies allocated to the Van Eperen Public Relations firm which supports the town in its media and communications activities.

During the discussion regarding the resolution establishing the new body, Commissioner Martin Radigan suggested that it might be wise to include language requiring the committee to seek formal approval from the commissioners should it seek to pursue new public lobbying activities or new policy initiatives. Other commissioners agreed that the committee should remain focused on its current primary initiatives around pushing for the approval by the county and the school board for a new multiuse facility and high school, but it was suggested that language currently in the resolution would require the committee to submit budget proposals to support public positioning activities and recommended budget modifications if needed. This language, along with the facts that a town staff member would help manage all meetings and that activities and commissioners would be

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Local News

Elrich Says Lack Of County Services In Poolesville Is A 'Priority'

By Link Hoewing

At his December 11 Listening Tour session at Poolesville High School, County Executive Marc Elrich acknowledged that there is a "severe deficit of services" from the county in Poolesville and said that it is a "priority" for him to address the issue. While he did not commit to the modernization of Poolesville High School, he did say, "I totally get where you are coming from" when it comes to building a new high school.

These are the highlights from a nearly one-and-a-half-hour session at PHS during which the new county executive listened to and tried to answer comments and questions from an audience of some 120 local residents.

Citizens were allowed to speak for two minutes at the forum, and, in many cases, they made strong and passionate statements about the needs affecting citizens in the Ag Reserve and the Poolesville area. One of the first commenters said that she felt strongly about the "quality of life" in the Ag Reserve. "The thing that stands out so strongly for me is the quality of life for the many seniors who live out here." She added, "We want fair access to the things that everyone else in the county has."

Elrich acknowledged the needs but said that what constrains addressing all of the many gaps in services and facilities needed throughout the county is "a county capital budget that amounts to \$400 million" which he said is far from enough to fund many projects. He said that he was "reprioritizing projects to see if we can create room for new ones" and went on to say that he was prioritizing schools and services over roads in this process.

One citizen raised an issue that is a perennial problem in the Upcounty and one that is almost unique to this area: the lack of reliable high-speed internet service—"almost everything in school is online now, with few textbooks." His daughter amplified his point, saying how hard it is for her to complete assignments each night with slow internet service. According to the family, Verizon is obligated to serve all residents in the county with its Fios service now that it has reached a goal of seventy-five thousand new customers but has not done so. They

added that their property values are lower due to the fact that they do not have the high-speed internet services others in the county can readily count on.

Elrich seemed surprised by the comment but said he would look into the contractual obligations Verizon has. He said that if the company is being allowed to evade its responsibilities, he will move to address the problem.

Catherine Beliveau, the executive director of WUMCO, the local charitable services organization, commented that Elrich had pointed to the recently-released report on health outcomes by zip code in the county in his inaugural speech. She pointed out that "our zip code ranks in last place in the study." She added, "We have no senior center, no community center, no clinic" as most other areas in the county do. She said that it can take up to eight hours for a resident of the Upcounty to get to a medical appointment using the minimal public transportation available in this area. She concluded that, given the last place rating the Poolesville zip code received in the study, "we deserve first place in addressing critical services needs."

Elrich said that he had recently been talking to his staff about the ten worst zip codes in the county based on the study. He acknowledged that there is a "services deficit" in the Poolesville area and said addressing it is "a priority for me." He went on to note that while Montgomery County ranks very high on overall health outcomes statewide, "we do surprisingly poorly on infant mortality" and other measures. He is focusing on the services issue but suggested that the modernization of the "school is difficult; it needs to be addressed by the school system" by adding Poolesville to the modernization list. He concluded "low population does not mean you should get low treatment."

Several residents—in various ways—raised the issue of modernizing Poolesville High School. One said that "for over twenty-five years, we have been unable to get the CIP to include a new school for Poolesville." Elrich said in response that this year is an "off year regarding the budget," meaning the county council has already approved a two-year budget based on his predecessor's budget submissions. His aim is to "get project proposals into the next CIP" which would mean the budget he submits in the next fiscal year. "I totally get where you are coming from" with regard to a new school. "Sixty percent of the students here (in Poolesville) would have to be placed

Continued on page 13.



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Tidbits

Donate Used Glasses Here

Lions Tom Conlon and Roger Brenholtz installed a new eyeglass/hearing aid donation box, which was donated by Lion Rob Jones, on Milford Mill Road on the east side of Whalen Commons, adjacent to the Watershed Café. The mission of the Lions Club centers on issues of eyesight. Used glasses donated through this site will have their prescriptions identified and recycled to those in need whose eyesight matches the glasses. In addition, used hearing aids are also recycled through this donation box.

Sandy Spring Museum and Barnesville School Collaborate on Exhibit on Local History

Students at the Barnesville School of Arts and Sciences immersed themselves in Sandy Spring history by creating beautiful works of art inspired by local history. In early November, middle school students spent a day visiting Sandy Spring Museum in preparation for their month-long display. The fifth through eighth graders were taught how to handle objects from the museum's collection. Nearly twenty items, ranging from newspaper publications and handwritten correspondence, to clothing, daguerreotypes (an early form of photographs), and athletic gear, were chosen for this exercise.

The objects were selected to represent four notable people from Sandy Spring's past: suffragist Mary Bentley Thomas, baseball player Jack Bentley, postmaster and bank founder Alban Gilpin Thomas, and free black shingle maker Remus Q. Hill. The significance of each item in the life of its prior

owner was studied, and students selected the objects that interested them most. The students then created original works of art based on the object's story.

The works of the students, along with the artifacts from which they drew inspiration, will be on display at the museum from January 2 to February 3.

Sandy Spring Museum, 17901 Bentley Road, Sandy Spring. Admission is free. Hours: Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. First Saturday of each month 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Wolz Family Donate Paraments to St. Peter's

Patricia and Jon Wolz and their family donated new paraments (hangings around the altar) to St. Peter's in memory of their parents. The new paraments were donated at St. Peter's in the memory of Charles Thompson Wolz and Shirley Agnes Wolz, parents of Jon Wolz, Sharon Totten, and Scott Wolz. The new, custom-made paraments were completed just in time to be dedicated for the first Sunday of Advent.

2018 Holiday Lighting Contest Winners

Business: Bassett's

Contemporary (PHS):
19008 Fisher Avenue

Contemporary (PES):
17114 Spates Hill Road

Traditional (PHS):
19944 Spurrier Avenue

Traditional (PES): 19701 Selby Court

Townhouse (PHS):
17516 Kohlhoss Road

Townhouse (PES):
19684 Wootton Avenue

A Monocacy Moment



White's Ferry during the early 1930s. The little girl pictured is Neville Smith, beloved resident of Poolesville and valued employee of the *Monocle*.

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Patricia and Jon Wolz, Rev. Emily Lloyd, Sharon and Bill Totten, and Scott and Patty Wolz with the new paraments they donated to St. Peter's in memory of their parents.

Do you have an interesting story to share?

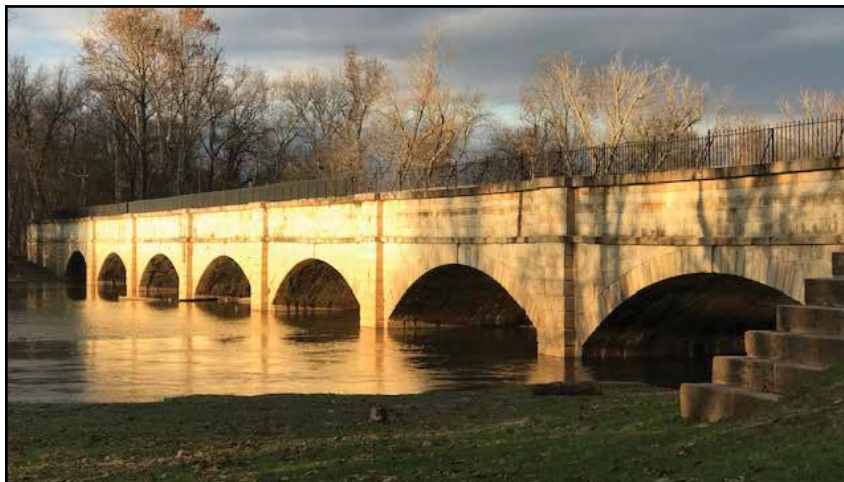
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In Your Own Backyard

Fall along the C&O Canal


By Jon Wolz

The fall of 2018 in Western Montgomery County really consisted of three weather seasons: In September and until the remnants of hurricane Michael blew by in our area in October, it was hot and humid; after Michael hurried by, the humidity dropped, and we had a few weeks of fall before the early November snow; by the end of November, very cold weather was upon us. In the early fall, I was often accompanied by mosquitoes and I made sure I used plenty of insect repellent. We had record precipitation this fall, and after it cooled down and it was not raining, walking along the C&O Canal was very pleasant. Throughout the summer and fall, we had a lot of rain, and the National Park Service reduced their mowing operations along the canal. The grass and underbrush grew high, and I was always on the lookout for snakes and ticks. I did see a black rat snake on the towpath and Violet found a garter snake crossing the towpath. On one walk in late September with Steve Horvath and my son Charles, we came across a smooth green snake crossing the towpath near the Little Monocacy River avoiding the flooding Potomac River. There were four flooding events this year along the Monocacy and Potomac Rivers. The last flood was at the end of September. Both of these rivers continually remained high throughout the fall and often were out of their banks. Two picnic tables washed away at the Monocacy Aqueduct, and I am working with the C&O Canal Association to replace them next spring. Flooding has brought more river trash from our up-river neighbors in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. Behind the Lock 27 lockhouse below the Monocacy Aqueduct along the river there is a new accumulation of flood trash. At the old Indian Campgrounds near milepost 36 and White's Ferry, there is also an accumulation of flood trash. When I took Violet with me to the campgrounds, she seemed spooked by the sight of several tires, barrels, bottles, styrofoam, and other odd assortment of trash. I am thinking about organizing a couple of Potomac River cleanups next April.



A sunrise glow illuminated the Monocacy Aqueduct.


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Things To Do

Poolesville Area Senior Center
All events at the *Family Life Center* at 17750 West Willard Road.

Pickleball: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 8:30 a.m.

Zumba Gold: Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.

Mahjong: Thursdays, Room 129, 10:00 a.m.

Save the Date

The Blue Hearth is open every weekend!

January 11 and 12

Dorsey Dual Meet

Wrestling Tournament. PHS. All day, both days.

January 15

PHS Varsity Home Game

Girls' basketball. Watkins Mill. 7:15 p.m.

PASC Special Event

Pizza and a movie, *I Can Only Imagine*. Café. 6:00 p.m.

January 16

PHS Varsity Home Game

Wrestling. Northwest. 6:15 p.m.

Poolesville Planning Commission Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

January 17

PHS Varsity Home Game

Swim/Dive. Northwest at the *Kennedy/Shriver Aquatic Center*. 9:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

PASC Special Event: Book Club

The Snow Child by Ewoyn Ivey. Contact PASC for location. 7:00 p.m.

January 18

PACC Special Event

Business Killers Workshop: Avoiding

the Six Mistakes that can destroy your business and future. Business Killers is a free unique, educational workshop. The Business Killers name refers to the six common mistakes that can destroy a business and everyone involved. We never plan to make mistakes. As business owners, we're focused on running our businesses. Every day brings new challengers, opportunities, and decisions, but there are six mistakes that consistently cause businesses to fail, and we need to know what they are and how to avoid them. *Poolesville Town Hall*. 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

PHS Varsity Home Game

Boys' basketball. Seneca Valley. 7:15 p.m.

January 19

PHS Varsity Home Game

Swim/Dive. Quince Orchard at the *Kennedy/Shriver Aquatic Center*. 9:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

January 20

The Blue Hearth Special Event

The Blue Hearth will be hosting a book signing by Rob Scheer, author of *A Forever Family* and founder of Comfort Cases. Come meet this inspiring and wonderful man who is doing so much for children in foster care. All proceeds of this book will go towards Rob's charity, Comfort Cases. 2:00 p.m.

January 22

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

PASC Special Event

Mindful Art Mandala Class. *Café*. 1:00 p.m.

January 25

PHS Varsity Home Game

Girls' basketball. Magruder. 7:15 p.m.



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School News

Pennies for WUMCO

By Kerri Cook

A familiar story to the Poolesville Elementary School community is the one of Peyton and her robot. In 2015, PES wanted to find a way to help a student who was battling cancer. She was home and hospital-bound much of the time but desperately wanted to attend classes from afar. Through the perseverance of her family, her school, and the Poolesville community, she was able to do so virtually through the use of a robot, while simultaneously receiving medical treatment. The schoolwide fundraiser that was initiated to complete the purchase of that robot was Penny Wars.

Penny Wars has happened annually ever since. In 2016, Penny Wars raised \$4,000 to help work towards a cure for Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB), a rare genetic disorder that affects the body's largest organ: the skin. EB was a cause close to PES hearts as two students were affected by the disorder. In 2017, Penny Wars raised another \$4,000 to send children to Camp Kesem, which operates free summer camps around the country for children who have



Kerri Cook, town commissioner, PES students Adelaide Kessler and Kell Martin, and Cathy Beliveau, WUMCO executive director.

been impacted by a parent's cancer.

In 2018, Penny Wars raised \$4717.05! This 2018 event funded Western Upper Montgomery County Help (WUMCO), which provides an array of emergency community needs, including food, housing, and transportation. WUMCO's own annual fundraiser, Oktoberfest, was cancelled due to an extremely rainy season. "What I love about this fundraiser is that it combines the acts of gift-giving and math with competition and community spirit. It also ensures every student is able to participate," said Maggie Martin, Penny Wars coordinator.

Continued on page 13.

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Garden

A Garden in Copenhagen

By Maureen O'Connell

In mid-December, I had the pleasure of visiting Copenhagen, Denmark. It is a charming and interesting city at any time of the year, but at Christmastime, it becomes a magical land alive with hundreds of decorated and brightly-lit trees, Christmas markets, sound and light shows, concerts, and street stalls selling roasted chestnuts and the warm and spicy Danish mulled wine, yule gløgg. The scents of fresh evergreen boughs, cinnamon, cloves, and cardamom fill the frosty air. The city becomes a fairy tale where Father Christmas lives. One of the most-visited sites for city residents and visitors is Tivoli Gardens in central Copenhagen. It is a delightful anomaly. Yes, there are many themed gardens with 110,718 outdoor lights, 134,000 tulips and narcissi, 876 trees, and thousands of roses and other flowers, but it is also an amusement park and a very unique one.

The park opened on August 15, 1843 and is the second-oldest operating amusement park in the world, after Dyrehavsbakken in nearby Klampenborg, also in Denmark. With five million visitors last year, Tivoli is also the second-most popular seasonal amusement park in the world after Europa-Park in Germany. Tivoli's founder was Georg Carstensen (1812-1857). He was inspired by the parks and gardens he visited abroad. He petitioned King Christian VIII and obtained a five-year charter to create Tivoli. He advised the monarch that "when people are amusing themselves, they do not think about politics." (I question whether that observation would be true today.) The fifteen acres he was granted were in an area well outside the city at that time. That quickly changed by the 1850s as the city grew.

From its beginning days, Tivoli hosted a variety of attractions: buildings in the exotic style of the Orient, theaters, bandstands, restaurants and cafés, flower gardens, and mechanical amusement rides, such as an exquisite merry-go-round and a primitive scenic railroad, the likes of which few had ever seen. After dark, hundreds of colored lamps illuminated the gardens.

One of Denmark's most famous writers was Hans Christian Andersen (1805-1875): He was born in Copenhagen and spent most of his life there. He was a frequent visitor to Tivoli Gardens,



Golden Christmas tree at Christmas Market in Copenhagen's town square.

which is quite appropriate as he is considered by many as the father of fairy tales. Andersen was awestruck by the elegant and exotic gardens; he was inspired to write the fairy tale "The Nightingale" while visiting Tivoli. Walt Disney visited the park in 1951, and it was there that he drew inspiration for his own park, Disneyland, which opened five years later in Anaheim, California.

Tivoli operates daily from late April until late September, opening at 11:00 a.m. and closing at 11:00 p.m. It is also open in mid-October for an early Halloween celebration and for a Christmas Market from late November until the end of December. Tivoli's charter required that seventy-five percent of the site had to be open space, and that rule—still observed today—is the main reason why the park feels more like a public garden than a carnival park. The twenty-five rides and four roller coasters are cleverly spread around the grounds: a bug-like roller coaster floats and whirls through the treetops; a Ferris wheel overlooks beautiful flower beds; and small motorboats glide through a scenic tree-lined lake. Its best-known ride is its wooden roller coaster, Rutschebanen or the Mountain Climber. Built in 1914, it is one of the world's oldest wooden roller coasters that is still operating today. An operator controls the ride by braking down the hills, so it won't gain too much speed. There is another roller coaster called the Demon, which features an Immelmann loop, a vertical loop, and a zero-G roll all during a ride time of just one minute and forty-six seconds. I admired these thrill-packed rides from the ground as my roller

Continued on page 22.

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Continued from page 1.

MCPS Superintendent and Board of Education Issue Statement of Support for an Exploratory Review of a PHS Multiuse Facility

Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, Maryland 20850

The Honorable Nancy Navarro
President
Montgomery County Council
Stella B. Werner Council Office Building
101 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Elrich and Ms. Navarro:

We are writing to share an update on our work with the Poolesville community to engage with them around their interests regarding Poolesville High School. The Poolesville community has both advocated for the need to address facility needs at Poolesville High School and expressed interest in combining multiple services and civic elements, including the high school, together in the Town of Poolesville.

We appreciate the growing energy around a multi-use facility in Poolesville that includes Poolesville High School and community services. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) staff members, including the director, Division of Capital Planning, Department of Facilities Management, in the Office of the Chief Operating Officer, have participated in a number of these discussions. Many of the public services that the Town of Poolesville would like considered as part of a multi-use facility are under the jurisdiction of the County Government. To date, we have had informal conversations with County Government agencies about these possibilities. In his October 24, 2018, letter to Mr. James E. Brown, president, Commissioners of Poolesville, then Board of Education President Michael A. Durso expressed the Board's support for this work. As

you both begin work in your new leadership roles, please be assured that our staff is eager to engage with you and all stakeholders to work on this project concept and develop possible solutions to benefit the Town of Poolesville by implementing coordinated public services in an innovative facility.

At the same time, MCPS will proceed to plan for capital facility improvements at Poolesville High School that are needed to benefit the infrastructure and programmatic needs of the school. The Board's requested Amendments to the Fiscal Year 2019-2024 Capital Improvements Program include direction to develop a project scope of work and conduct initial planning and design for a major capital project at Poolesville High School. We believe that it will be important to advance both of these conceptual approaches simultaneously so that multiple options are available for consideration moving forward.

As MCPS conducts a comprehensive Key Facility Indicator analysis of all of our schools, we want to maximize the work we can bring to our facility infrastructure needs at schools such as Poolesville High School. This planning and design work will be important to ensure that the specific facility needs at Poolesville High School are addressed in a timely manner as we integrate our efforts as part of a focused strategic planning process.

We look forward to continuing to work with County Government and the Town of Poolesville in this creative endeavor around locating and coordinating public services within communities. We would like to discuss next steps at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Shebra L. Evans, President
Montgomery County
Board of Education

Jack R. Smith, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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Yeas and Neighs

To the (Mini) Rescue!

By Andie Devynck

Few know the quiet conundrum facing miniature donkeys better than Valerie Lowe, cofounder of Little Long Ears (LLE) Miniature Donkey Rescue in Westminster, Maryland. The main challenge facing these playful, adorable, affectionate equine outliers is their universal appeal as backyard companion pets. Most folks who acquire miniature donkeys do so because they are looking for a small, cheap, and easy-keeping animal to befriend their larger, more expensive horses. Less troublesome than goats, these cutest of creatures are friendly, loyal, docile, and trainable, belying the tragic juxtaposition to their all-too-common fate like that of the stepchildren in a Grimm Brothers fairy tale: used, overlooked, under-tended, and then left to fend for themselves.



Val (center) and the Little Long Ears crew and residents.

The ongoing lack of attention to their wellbeing is exactly what lands these mini-marvels in rescues like LLE. Lowe, a former competitive hunter-jumper rider and trainer, will inform anyone who enquires about adoption that mini-donkeys may look innocently low-maintenance, but they have issues that are unique to them, including their ongoing need for group living with others of their species, and their physiological idiosyncrasies that render them even more vulnerable to certain illnesses (and even death) than their larger brethren of donkeys, mules, and horses. For this reason, Valerie's standards for placement of would-be adoptees are both high and specialized—but not beyond reach.

Lowe doesn't wish to scare off those who are truly interested in taking miniature donkeys into their hearts and homes (read: barns). That said, she is adamant about watching out for their long-term wellbeing, as she is committed to taking back into the fold any of her adoptees that need to return for any reason; therefore, she is more apt to select caretakers who are experienced horse owners. If an adopter is already competent in horse and stable management—something Valerie and her team (which includes her wife and cofounder Cheryl Pokorny) assess through in-person interviews and farm visits—the information necessary to customize care for mini donkeys can be easily integrated.

One of the more serious scenarios Valerie all-too-often encounters when people surrender mini donkeys (or worse still, sell to local auctions for quick disposal where she and her volunteer staff find and whisk them back to LLE) is that there was a lack of future planning for the minis. People tend to think about their own care in their retirement, having a vision of where and how they would like to spend their final years, and then planning and saving for them. Sadly, miniature donkeys are often overlooked in this regard, in much the same way that they can be un- or under-maintained during their working lives.

In terms of anatomy, the mini-donkey is prone to two specific maladies: founder and hyperlipidemia. The neglect of hoof care is a major problem for minis. Most pony owners know the danger of founder, a condition of hoof lameness that can leave them unable to stand, which is brought on by eating too much green grass or sweet feed. Laypeople find it hard to believe that a horse—or pony—can eat too much grass, as most drive-by fields of green are dotted with

horses looking idyllic. Yet mini donkeys can suffer laminitis (swelling of the laminae in the hoof) and ultimately founder from the high sugars in grass, and even from too much sweet feed. As much as we love to spoil with sweets the cutest among us, this is not the way to go where the mini donkeys are concerned. Thus, one of the conditions for adoption that Valerie maintains is that any possible adopter must create a dry lot, a bare-dirt enclosure big enough for the minis to roam about freely outdoors and where hay can be fed to them instead. Ideally, the donkeys will be managed carefully, rotated between grass fields and the dry lot to maintain their weight, feet, and overall health.

Hyperlipemia syndrome is a metabolic disease of ponies, miniature horses, and donkeys; it rarely occurs in horses. Hyperlipemia refers to the condition-disease, while hyperlipidemia refers to the increase in serum triglyceride concentrations (hypertriglyceridemia). As Valerie explained, because mini donkeys store fat at higher concentrations in their bodies—this is what distinguishes them physiologically from other equines—if they lose weight quickly, or have been starved, their system dumps fat into the bloodstream to energize cells, and this

Continued on page 18.

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Youth Sports

Youth Sport Tidbits

Four Falcon football players were named to the Montgomery County Coaches Class 2A/3A All-League team: seniors Ethan Gaddis (WR/DB, first team offense and defense), Nick Beaton (OL, first team offense), Ben Miller (DL, first team defense), and Foster Holmquist (TE, first team offense).



Foster Holmquist, Ethan Gaddis, and Nick Beaton.

The Falcon girls' basketball team celebrated their 2018 Class 2A state championship with a banner raising. To complement the celebration of last year's season, the 2018-2019 Falcons defeated Quince Orchard, 43-35. Junior Mary Hobbs led the Falcons with seventeen points, Alli Haddaway scored eight, as did senior Alexis Abrigo.



Kneeling: Alexis Abrigo and Brooke Hamm (Bridgewater College). Back Row: Madeleine Thompson (McDaniel College), Logan Rohde, Assistant Coach, Katie Hackey, Julia Hobbs (Christopher Newport University), Erin Green (Lynchburg College), Head Coach, Fred Swick, Mackenzie Magaha, Sarah Mullikin, Makayla Lemarr, Kalie Terragno, and Mary Hobbs. Not pictured are Alli Haddaway and Kelliann Lee (Class of 2018).

Continued from page 9.

Pennies for WUMCO

Students compete, class by class, to acquire the most amount of money for the cause. They drop pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters in bins outside of classrooms to "rack up the points." The children bring bills to throw into the bins of other classes to subtract from their total. Principal Robbins and Principal Intern Velasquez got in on the act this past

year, as well, dressing up in school mascot costumes for a day, fulfilling a promise to do so if the students exceeded the Penny Wars numbers from the previous year. An energetic team of moms and dads busily counted the profits each morning. This past year, they counted a total of 76,265 pennies alone. Says Martin, "Who wouldn't love a game that both gives back and is mostly dependent on coins that you have in your pocket?"

Congratulations to Alex Carbonell for breaking the PHS wrestling record with 139 wins.



PHS wrestling coach Tim Tao, former coach Mark Agnew, Alex Carbonell, former coach Kevin Dorsey, assistant coaches Blake Godsey and Damian DeVriendt, and volunteer coach Brian Jamison.

Continued from page 5.

County Executive Marc Elrich Says Lack of County Services in Poolesville is a 'Priority' He Will Address

elsewhere" if the school did not exist, so "the best solution is to deal with the school you have."

Later in the evening, a citizen specifically highlighted the idea of a multiuse facility that has been a focus of the Fair Access Coalition for the Upcounty. He asked Elrich to use the idea to pull together agencies to get needed funding that would include a new high school. Elrich said in response that he likes the idea but controls "only the executive department, not the school system ... I'll work on my end, but we should not let services be hostage to the school system."

A question was raised about allowing solar panel "farms" to be built in the Ag Reserve. Elrich noted his support for advancing ideas that help improve the environment but said that "if we allowed solar panels to be built in the Ag Reserve, it would allow people to say, 'Well, you allowed a non-ag use (solar panels) in the Reserve, so why not others?'"

One citizen said that a new high-speed wireless technology—known as 5G—is in the early stages of deployment. He wondered how the county is going to oversee the deployment to ensure that it does not result in unsightly towers and poles throughout neighborhoods

and large or bulky wireless communications antennas.

Elrich remarked that the Federal government has prohibited local governments from taking any actions on 5G deployment based on health concerns that have been raised regarding the possible impacts of wireless frequency radiation. The county council had also sued the Federal Communications Commission to allow local governments to have more say over 5G deployment but had lost that suit. A bill that would have allowed widespread and rapid deployment of 5G in suburban areas was blocked at the state level, Elrich said, so it will not be deployed in a haphazard way.

One final question for the evening concerned the Dickerson incinerator run by the county. A citizen brought up that it costs the county \$500,000 each year to truck trash to the incinerator and urged that "more composting be done" and the incinerator shut down. Elrich said that he, too, wants the incinerator closed but that something must be done with all of the trash. He talked about better recycling and the reuse of refuse such as plastics by making them into plastic bricks. Although he offered no specific plan for shutting down the incinerator, he indicated that the matter is a priority for his administration.

In Remembrance...

Beloved Departed



Betty F. Allnutt



Paul Joseph Bassett



Patty Ann Bennett



Ronald Lynn Breland



John Theodore Buckley



Brian Richard Carnahan



Tara Oleta Cantrell



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- Gail Mackey Miller
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- Vivian Genevieve Neal
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- Leonard Howard Roberson
- David Alan Rutledge
- Jeanne Schaeffer
- Christian Kyle Schmidt
- Robert C. Schultz
- Gijsberta "Bea" Johanna Koelewijn Strattner
- Beverly A. (Hall) Strouse
- Richard S. Twigger
- Captain Alex J. Viessmann
- David Weitzer
- Ingeborg Emma Westfall
- Gertrude Ganley White
- Karen Hoyt Willcox

Farewell.



Samuel Darby Price



John Henry Repass, Sr.



Dr. James C. Rhea



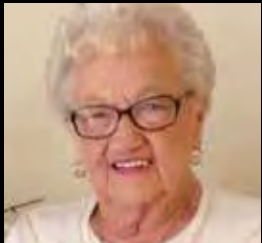
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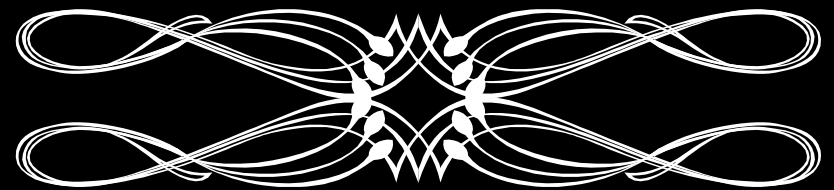
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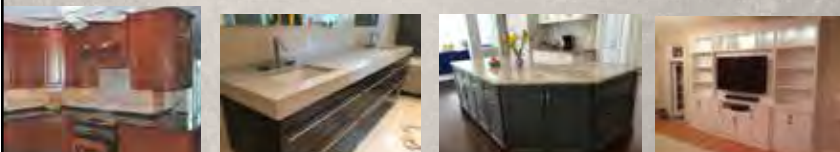
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Remembrance

Sarah Baker Allnutt

Sarah Baker (Thomas) Allnutt, age 95, died on December 16. She was born in Martinsburg, West Virginia, to Franklin and Helen Thomas and was the third of four children.

After graduating from St. Catherine's School in Richmond, Virginia, in 1941 and Hood College in 1945, Sarah taught school in D.C. before marrying farmer Benoni Dawson Allnutt in 1951.

She was a devoted and energetic mother to their five children whom she nurtured on Homestead Farm near Poolesville.

From childhood, Sarah enjoyed sports and the outdoors; therefore, she encouraged (and cajoled) her children to do the same. Horseback riding was a particular favorite. In the 1970s, she and other local parents with horses founded the Seneca Valley Pony Club, and she was one of its first District Commissioners.

Always the adventurer, Sarah organized hundred-mile rides for herself, her young children, and their friends on the C&O Canal towpath during spring break for three years in a row. Memorable stories still circulate.

She continued seeking out adventures: riding in a bicentennial wagon train for a week, traveling around the world, being a camp counselor, square dancing, playing tennis, taking language lessons, snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef, competing in international swim meets with U.S. Masters Swimming, and deciding to go on an African safari in her eighties. She even went go-kart racing in her nineties.

Her love of the outdoors was honed during summers at Camp White Rock and Camp Strawderman. Sarah made sure her daughters and granddaughters were able to follow in her footsteps.

Sarah and Benoni were married fifty-six years. They moved from Homestead Farm to Berryville Road (near Seneca) in 1991, switching homes with son Ben, who continues to run the family farm. They lived near Seneca until 2006, then moved to Kentland Manor in Gaithersburg where Benoni died in 2007.

Sarah moved to Sunrise Montgomery in Gaithersburg in 2015. There, she continued her three-times-a-week swimming schedule. She competed with U.S. Masters Swimming starting in the 1970s and holds multiple national records in the 100-meter breaststroke and the 100-meter medley. After a hip replacement, she switched to the 100-meter butterfly. Her winning ways continued. In 2014, her over-85 Mixed Medley Team broke the 100-meter Maryland state record. She thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie of competing around the world and won even more friends than medals.

She is survived by her five children, Ben (Maureen) Allnutt, Jr., Tom (Ginny) Allnutt, Anne C. Allnutt, Bob (Amy) Allnutt, and Caroline Allnutt; eight grandchildren, Ian, Russ, Dawson, Annie Lee, Mary Alice, Elizabeth, Emma, and Jack; and two great-grandchildren, Osric and Remy.

The family is grateful to Janice Ford, who chauffeured Sarah wherever she wanted to go, as well as to her many friends and extended family who enriched her life.

A private celebration of her life will take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Sarah's memory to Reach Every Voice at www.reacheveryvoice.org



Sarah Baker Allnutt

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Remembrances

Lucille Neville Smith

By Rande Davis

This remembrance is a special reflection on a dear and valued friend and employee of the *Monocacy Monocle*, Neville Smith, who died on December 7.

Born on October 3, 1930, Lucille Neville Smith was the daughter of the late Harold C. and Ann Flora (Smith) Smith, Sr.

Her passions were reflected in the organizations she belonged to, including the Brownsville Cornet Band, and supported, such as the ASPCA and North American Horse Rescue.

She is survived by over fifteen nieces and nephews along with assorted grandnieces and grandnephews. She was preceded in death by one sister, Anne Louise Sylvester, and one brother, Harold Smith, Jr.

My first encounter with Neville was when she was pumping gas for Charles Glass at his Mobil Station in the center of town. She was the same that day as she was every day after until the very moment of her passing. Neville was always Neville: Always glad to see you. Bold and familiar in her approach to friends and strangers alike, she was never shy, often quite demanding.

She began delivering the *Monocle* in 2004, until she could no longer drive the route, she then became the "subscription manager," responsible for the placement of labels and stamps and taking the subs to the post office.

As many know, she was an experienced delivery person. She delivered the *Washington Star* for many years, then was the first woman carrier for the post office in Montgomery County, and, of course, she delivered Stan Janet's *Western Montgomery Bulletin*. Many people who grew up in Poolesville remember Neville for her many years of driving a school bus in the area.

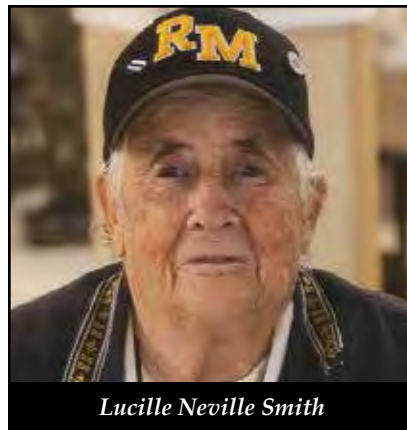
A collector of nearly anything and everything, she was fiercely independent, personally splitting most of her firewood to heat the house, doing her best to handle home repairs, but never shy in asking for help. She was never as rough as she could sound.

In May of 2004, she contacted me about delivering the *Monocle*. She could not imagine the *Monocle* being delivered by anyone other than her, and she let me know that in no uncertain terms. Sometimes I kidded myself into thinking she worked for me. If you eavesdropped on some of our employer-employee conversations, it would often appear just the opposite. She could get irritated if the paper didn't come on time to her, and she always let me know it.

Some people are perpetually late for everything, not Neville. If she was going anywhere, she would go early. If you were to pick her up to take her somewhere, she would be outside waiting at least a half hour before the scheduled time. We often had her at our home for breakfast at 7:00 a.m.; nevertheless, she could be seen sitting in her car in the parking lot by 6:30 a.m., anxiously awaiting the appointed time.

For Neville, her work was everything. She loved to work, and she loved a paycheck. She loved her cats, but most of all, she loved her family and friends. Although she lived most of her adult life alone, there seemed to always be a cadre of friends stopping by to see her, seldom leaving without pitching in with a task or two if requested by her.

Her bold nature and open heart defined her to so many in our area. No person I ever met was more true to herself, more certain of her place in this world, or more loving of others, even in her sometimes seemingly-harsh demeanor. As she leaves this world, I can still hear her say as she always did, "How's Daisy (our dog), how's the kids, and when is the next paper?"



Lucille Neville Smith

Wilbur Day Watkins

Wilbur Day "Buster" Watkins, Jr. of Clarksburg, passed away on December 19, surrounded by his family.

He was born in Cedar Grove, Maryland on September 27, 1923, and was the son of the late Wilbur Day Watkins, Sr. and Ruth Selby King Watkins. He was the beloved husband of (Agnes) Jeannette Walter Watkins for sixty-four years until her death in May 2013.

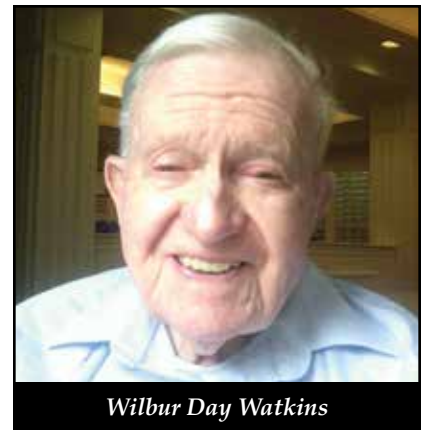
Buster graduated from Richard Montgomery High School, Rockville in 1941. He served with the Maryland Guard Reserve, and from 1944 to 1946 with the 42nd Rainbow Division, U.S. Army WWII in the European Theater. After the war, he was a member of the Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation.

He worked in his father's sheet metal shop before and after his military service. In 1952, Buster and Jeannette founded Watkins Cabinet Co., Inc. He enjoyed fishing, camping, woodworking, quilting, and was a charter member of the Germantown Lions Club. He was well known for his handcrafted wooden toys, many of which he donated to various organizations, including the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Martin's Catholic Church and St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Buster was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Barnesville, and a member of St. Mary's Holy Name Society.

He is survived by seven children, Joan M. Watkins (Gil House), Kenneth L. Watkins (Kathy), Nancy L. Watkins, Sue A. Conner (Eben), Georgia M. Ray (Arby), Franklin W. Watkins, Sr. (Marie), Gerrienne Watkins (Fred Couffer); twenty-six grandchildren, seventy-three great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren. He is predeceased by sister, Ida Louise Watkins Bartgis; grandchild, Nicholas Watkins; and great-grandchild, Johnathan Conway.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Haiti Project at St. Mary's Church, PO Box 67, Barnesville, MD 20838.



Wilbur Day Watkins

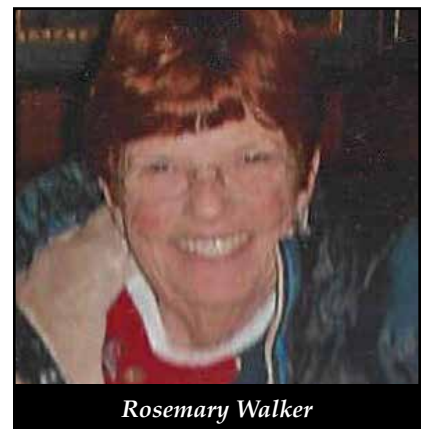
Rosemary Walker

Rosemary Walker, 72, of Poolesville, died on December 30. She was the wife of the late Thomas C. Walker.

Born on December 10, 1946 in Brooklyn, New York, she was the daughter of the late John W. and Lucy (Manganaro) Castellano.

Surviving are two children, Michael T. Walker of Camp Springs, Maryland and David J. Walker (Stefanie) of West Palm Beach, Florida; one brother, John R. Castellano of Bayville, New Jersey; and one granddaughter, Emily.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be sent to Our Lady of the Presentation, 17220 Tom Fox Ave., Poolesville.



Rosemary Walker



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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Assault: 20900 block of Big Woods Road.

Vandalism: 17500 block of Hoskinson Avenue.

Theft: 17300 block of Chiswell Street.

DUI Arrest: 18300 block of Jonesville Road.

Violation of Court Order Arrest: 18900 block of Martinsburg Road.

Past Crime: 1946

Montgomery County Police, Prince George's County Police, the FBI, and the Civil Aeronautics Board were all investigating the theft of an airplane that had been parked at the Queens Chapel Airport. At daybreak, the plane, a Stinson cabin type, was found wrecked on a farm northeast of Rockville. The only clues were bloodstains and an aviator's cap that had been stolen from the office at Queens Chapel.

The Montgomery County Safety Board asked the police department for a fulltime safety officer due to the dangerous conditions existing on Montgomery County roadways. They cited that, the previous month, there had been sixty-three wrecks, twenty-four injuries, and no fatalities.

The Morris Hannum Carnival was closed down by the police after numerous complaints were made

about cheating. The carnival, which had been appearing for a week at Rockville, was visited several times by officers who were called by citizens who demanded prizes that they said were due them. The previous night, a large-scale brawl had broken out, and a carnival worker was treated at Suburban Hospital for abrasions.

Robert Snyder, 14, was arrested and charged with murder in the slayings of his foster parents and sister. Snyder had quarreled with his parents on the family estate in Darnestown over the use of the family car. When the parents grounded him, he picked up a shotgun and shot all three to death. He then drove the family car to Bethesda where he picked up a friend and they attended the movies. After the movie let out, Snyder went to the Bethesda Police Station where he told the officer at the desk what he had done.

Detectives took Snyder to the estate where the remains of the crime were found.

Captain Alexi Kirnosov, a naval attaché assigned to the Embassy of the Soviet Union, was arrested by Montgomery County Police and charged with drunk driving after a large wreck that blocked Rockville Pike for hours. Kirnosov was said to have plowed into a car containing three Chevy Chase residents, sending them all to the hospital.

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

Continued from page 12.

To The (Mini) Rescue!

can be deadly for them. Typically, this occurs in obese animals with a recent history of stress, weight loss, parasites, sepsis, gestation/lactation, colic, endotoxemia, azotemia, Cushing's, or any other debilitating disease. Thankfully, vets with experience treating mini donkey ailments can come to the rescue themselves if the problem is detected and treated early enough.

Needless to say, all of this TLC costs money, and that is why Little Long Ears is always on the lookout for new fans, patrons, and donations. The first order of business, of course, is adoptions, and all are encouraged to visit the website first to "meet" the mini donkeys and learn the history and mission of LLE. There are some hilarious videos of the herd—one of them running

laps around the outside of a round pen—plenty of flattering photos, and interesting mini donkey tales (pun intended). Visits to the farm to see what engaging equine ambassadors these little charmers are can be arranged—by appointment only. Check out the LLE Facebook page for more info, reviews, comments, stories, photos, and events like open houses in the upcoming months. Visiting the minis is a visual and aural treat for all as they love to have their necks and ears rubbed, their backs scratched, their antics watched, and their voices heard. They pose for photos, as do the co-owners and staff if not too busy with chores. Wear sturdy shoes and big grins but watch your jackets and sweaters—the minis like to give a playful tug and see what they can get away with. You can find all the information you need to visit, donate, or adopt at www.littlelongears.org.

Continued from page 1.

Poolesville Prepares for 5G Rollout

Existing telephone poles that previously were designed to break away in the event of a collision must be beefed up to accommodate the weight of these new systems. Many communities, including Montgomery County, have faced issues with new poles being installed alongside or near older poles, without the older poles being removed. There has been confusion over which agency is responsible for removal of the older poles which may be owned by area utilities like PEPCO and host equipment owned by telecommunication companies like Verizon.

To implement 5G, current neighborhoods that currently have no above-ground utilities will now have to accommodate above-ground poles and attached equipment boxes throughout the community. The poles are generally about thirty feet tall, and the equipment box takes up an area of about twenty cubic feet, usually in the shape of a rectangular box mounted a few feet above ground; some newer designs include the electrical components within the base of the pole which requires a considerably larger overall dimension than previous electrical or light posts.

Legislation has been enacted by the FCC that takes much of the control away from local leaders and planners and puts it into the hands of the wireless giants and their network installers like Crown Castle, a company that specializes in infrastructure construction. A shot clock system was enacted that compels local communities to approve the installations within a period of ninety days or face penalties or legal action.

Currently, there are no applications in place within the Town of Poolesville, but our local leaders want to be prepared for the time when applications begin to arrive. Recently-enacted regulations by the FCC gave communities an April 15 deadline to have design standards in place for future installations. The FCC does not allow communities to deny or cite health concerns as a reason to forbid the placement of the DAS small cell towers near area homes. It will allow for communities to enact setback and placement standards, and other design recommendations to make the installations more aesthetically pleasing.

Despite the legislation limitations, many neighborhoods and communities have voiced concerns about having

these structures placed so close to their homes, citing aesthetics, possible property value loss, and concerns that no new studies have been conducted to ensure the safety of this new technology.

Montgomery County leaders have already received applications and installed hundreds of DAS systems throughout the county, including on some local area rural roads. In anticipation of receiving thousands of applications, many legislative actions have been proposed to simplify and accommodate the implementation in a timely manner in order to stay in compliance of the shot-clock rules; however, the legislators have met with considerable pushback from residents who feel their concerns have not been addressed. There were no provisions in place to notify residents of when and where the towers would be placed. A neighborhood in North Potomac learned about the planned installations in their community when an installer informed a resident that a tower was being placed in his front yard. Their neighborhood, the Westleigh development, was built with no above-ground utilities, and residents had many concerns.

Due to public outcry and concerns, Crown Castle agreed to pull back the applications temporarily, until the county officials could enact further legislation and protections on the matter. The county's latest proposed Zoning Text Agreement (ZTA 18-11) was delayed until after the November elections due to a lack of support; however, there is no doubt legislation will soon be passed as the rollout continues.

Poolesville leaders plan to be much more proactive in informing the community of any proposed rollout within the community. The planning board, commissioners, and town manager Wade Yost, are currently in the discussion and planning stages to ensure that any installations of this future technology meet the design standards that are enacted to best protect the visual integrity of the community.

Although 5G is not yet a reality in Poolesville, our leaders are using the experience and knowledge gained from other localities to be better prepared for that eventuality. Residents are invited to attend upcoming planning board meetings scheduled for January 16 and February 13 to learn more. Additionally, Yost invites residents to sign up for agenda email alerts on the town's website for newswatches where he will be posting public hearing and updates.

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Continued from page 7.

Fall along the C&O Canal

The floods of 2018 left a tremendous amount of tree debris against the Monocacy Aqueduct. Culvert 69, that has the Little Monocacy River flowing through it, has a very large sinkhole that often has water cascading from its canal ceiling down into the river. That culvert was rebuilt in 1974 after Hurricane Agnes caused damage to it. Culvert 65, which is the original culvert built in 1832, has two sinkholes developing. On the right side of the exit of this culvert, culvert stones have collapsed. This culvert is above Lock 26 and is near the Dickerson Conservation Park parking lot. Culvert 65 was used by Confederate troops of Gen. Robert E. Lee to cross beneath the canal in September 1865 and a bridge was built across Lock 26 for wagons to cross the canal. These troops had crossed the Potomac River nearby using White's Ford on their Maryland campaign that ended with the Battle of Antietam. In October 1862, Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart fought his way past Lock 26 and crossed back into Virginia at White's Ford. In July 1864, Confederate Gen. Jubal A. Early retreated across White's Ford after the attempted failed attack on Washington, D.C. His troops got as close as Fort Stevens at Piney Branch Road and Georgia Avenue. There are seventeen unknown Confederates buried in the cemetery at Grace Episcopal Church on Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring.

The flooding Potomac River left a lot of river mud along the towpath between mileposts 37 and 39. On November 21, when walking with Steve Horvath and Violet, I heard water rushing and saw a significant leak flowing from the canal beneath the towpath and down to the Potomac River near mile 41.5 and culvert 68. I reported this leak to the National Park Service.

Since the warm weather lasted into October, the leaves on the trees stayed green; however, once it cooled, they

turned color and fell quickly, covering the towpath. By late November, the yellow and orange leaves could still be seen on beech trees. Walking along the canal in early October, I noticed the sweet smell of ripe pawpaws on the ground. Near milepost 36, there were bright green osage oranges along the towpath, in the woods, and in the canal water. All along the canal, I spotted a variety of colorful and unusual-looking tree fungus. Near milepost 36, a tree standing in the water of the canal has a bearded fungus growing on it. Near milepost 37 on the river side, there is a downed tree that has a spectacular display of chicken of the woods fungus growing all over it of various sizes. Near milepost 39 and culvert 63, there are numerous scouring rush plants covering the area on the river side of the canal. These slender stalk-like plants reproduce by spores. These plants have been around for millions of years. Well into October, I saw snapping turtles in the canal as well as painted turtles. On November 19, it was a mild day and I saw turtles out on logs sunning themselves. On November 21, the temperature had fallen, and I did not see any turtles. Throughout the fall, I saw several great blue herons. At the granary ruins at White's Ferry, I often saw a great blue heron either standing in the water of the canal or standing on a stone wall of the ruins looking down at the water. I saw and heard the sounds of several pileated woodpeckers. There were barred owls and ravens flying along or above the canal. On one November afternoon, as Violet and I were approaching Lock 26, we heard a loud chattering sound coming towards us as a kingfisher came in view, and it flew by us going down the canal. I saw numerous deer along the canal this fall.

With winter weather here, it is a great opportunity to get a closeup view of canal structures now that the grass and underbrush have died back, so I will continue walking along the canal and the nearby woods throughout the winter months.



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Remembrance

Ineke Lok Smallwood

Ineke Lok Smallwood, 58, of Barnesville, died suddenly on December 8 as a result of a farming accident on her beloved farm in Dickerson.

Ineke was the wife of Chip Smallwood and the daughter of Mary White (Hays) Lok and the late Godefridus F. (Fred) Lok. She was born on July 18, 1960.

She was remembered as a lover of the outdoors and animals, always offering a personal spirit of kindness, compassion, determination, laughter, and love.

Her family especially recalls her warrior determination, as demonstrated by completing nursing school while holding a job and raising three daughters. As a registered nurse and farmer, she taught her daughters that caring for others, whether they had two legs or four, made one a far better person. Well respected for her high energy level in undertaking responsibilities, she has been described as an “unstoppable force of nature.” Her loving, affectionate nature was exemplified in her beloved and unique laughter.

Surviving besides her husband, are three daughters, Mary Kate Ross (John), Emily Schneider, and Abby Dunn; two sisters, Martha Ward (Bob) and Shirley Prasada-Rao (Sam); and nieces and nephews, Benton, Curtis, and Adam Ward, Meitzy, Freddy, and Mina Prasada-Rao. Ineke was preceded in death by a grandson, John “Beau” Ross.

She and the family had recently endured the loss of Ineke’s grandson, Beau to cancer at nine months old. In remembrance of the many hours Ineke and the family spent reading to the grandchild in the hospital, attendees at her funeral were invited to send children’s books (all ages) in Ineke’s memory to one of the hospitals where she spent many hours reading to her beloved grandson. Giving the gift of reading to other families and their children was suggested as a wonderful way for friends to honor Ineke’s memory and to continue her legacy of love: Johns Hopkins Children’s Center, C/O Child Life Department, 1800 Orleans St., Baltimore, MD 21287 and Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital, C/O Child Life Department, 1708 W Rogers Ave., Baltimore, MD 21209.



Ineke Lok Smallwood

Continued from page 4.

A Special Holiday Gift: Holding a Bullet in the Palm of Your Hand

telegraph line to Washington, D.C. In America, the daily story of events from the war often unfolded through the Morse code expertise of a soldier camped here in Poolesville. The bullet might have had as its first owner, a young soldier, one of nearly a thousand, who died hopelessly in the Battle of Ball’s Bluff near White’s Ferry. There, he would have found himself trapped on a cliff overlooking the river and Harrison Island. Behind him was a surging Confederate army, before him a river that would send him to his death—a few of the bodies not to be found until three days later, floating near Washington.

Perhaps the bullet’s owner was one of the 624,000 or more Americans who died in the war from battle or disease. That is more American military deaths than the total of all others killed in all our wars. In today’s terms, the total killed is equivalent to over six million soldiers dying.

When grasping that bullet in your hand, Rob, you hold a connection to the strength and root of American greatness. There really is no single greatest generation. With full respect to World War II vets, it took the full length of our history to forge this country. The snows of Valley Forge, the devastation at Antietam, or the ravages of Normandy, all are links in the same chain.

In giving the bullet to a Dutchman, I like to think it symbolizes a gift of gratitude to a nation that was so essential to our founding and development. Rob, as you hold that bullet in the palm of your hand, think of that young soldier, and know that you grasp the true meaning of the phrase “the land of the free and home of the brave.”

Continued from page 4.

Commissioners Formally Establish Fair Access for the Western County Committee

included in the committee, would help ensure that all activities pursued by the committee were properly coordinated.

The resolution establishing the committee was passed unanimously by the commissioners. Five members were appointed to the committee: Rebecca Muenster, Jim Brown, Jerry Klobukowski, Kevin Schramm, and Link Hoewing. Town Manager Wade Yost will serve as staff manager for the committee.

During his report, Wade Yost said that the town has experienced more than seventy-two inches of rain during 2018. The town’s sewer plant is licensed to process up to 750,000 gallons of waste water per day. During 2018, there were thirty-four days during which 1.5 million gallons of waste water were received in the plant and eleven days when more

than 2 million gallons were received. This is unprecedented, and, despite these high levels of water volume, the plant performed well. The high volume of waste water due to the rains and the success of the plant in managing the high flows suggest that the town’s efforts to reduce inflows into sewer pipes throughout town have been paying off.

In committee reports, it was noted that the planning commission had heard a report from the Crown Castle Corporation, a wireless antenna installation company, about the deployment of 5G wireless technologies. 5G technologies promise much faster, higher-capacity wireless broadband services, but there have been concerns about the size and number of poles and transponder equipment needed in neighborhoods to sustain the technologies. The planning commission has been tasked with developing a report to the commissioners about 5G technologies and is slated to issue its report in April.

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Continued from page 10.

A Garden in Copenhagen

coaster days are long passed. I did "brave" the Flying Trunk, which is Tivoli's signature attraction. This is a heavily-themed, dark ride, in which guests pass through animated versions of scenes from thirty-two of Hans Christian Andersen's most famous fairy tales. The Flying Trunk tells the tale of a young boy who flies in an enchanted trunk to the land of the

Turks to save the Sultan's daughter.

My daughter, six of her Danish friends, and I visited the park on a rainy, chilly night—the best time to enjoy the many lights, music, and magic of the Christmas Festival. We barely noticed the rain; there was too much to take in and marvel at. After-dark winter festivals, trails, and displays are very popular throughout Europe. In London, every year in December, after night-fall, three hundred illuminated origami boats float across the lake at the

Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew. English National Trust gardens open their closed winter gates to host waterfalls, fireworks, walkways, and after-dark events. They have grown to signify the arrival of winter and the countdown to Christmas. A progenitor of these contemporary light shows is the son and lumière. As the name suggests, light and sound are brought together in a display against an architecturally-notable background. The idea was for these two elements to

interact with natural structures rather than with the man-made: branches, leaves, and arboreal forms. This is wonderfully and magically created at Christmas in Tivoli—and to do this in a cityscape, where many visitors can enjoy it, is to be applauded. These displays of light and sound depend on a universal human response: a sense of awe at light in a darkened landscape and the observance of darkening days.

Best wishes to all my readers for the New Year. —The Gardener

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New Year: Less Weight for You and Your Pets

By Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF

Welcome to 2019. Did you make New Year's resolutions? Did you make some for your furry friends (I don't mean Uncle Fred)? Well, if you did, you are about 100% likely to fail. Sorry, but that is the hard truth about New Year's resolutions. They are done under stress, duress, or an alcohol-induced sense of immortality. The number one resolution is always to lose some weight. We are, in general, an overweight country, and our pets are a prime example; 90% of the domestic animals in the USA are at least 10% overweight or more. We love to love our pets by giving them treats—all kinds of treats—and even our own treats. The average person overfeeds his/her pet's regular food by 10 to 20%. This is usually not the fault of the pet parents, it is the fact that dog and cat food companies typically recommend 10 to 20% feeding rates above needed amounts. We create fat puppies and kittens, and this translates into overweight adult pets.

What can we do with our New Year's resolutions for ourselves and our furry friends that has a chance of working? It is very simple. Small starts and stay within attainable goals for yourselves and your pets. There are now many apps that allow you to set schedules for yourself and your pets with respect to feeding, treats, and activity. There are fit bits and bark/meow bits that people and pets can wear to keep track of how active they are and how many calories they burn. For diet, just reduce daily intake of foods for your pet by 10%. Smaller meals three times a day can help better with weight loss than one big meal a day. Take your pets to your veterinarian and get them weighed. You can also get a quick checkup to be sure there are no hidden issues that may be a problem for your pet and you. Plan on a monthly weigh-in at your veterinary clinic. Like weight watchers, showing up in person and sharing your pet's weight can be very reinforcing.

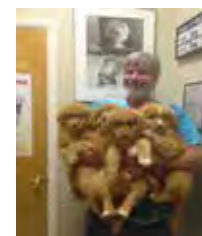
When it comes to activity, studies have shown that by trying to make your pets more active, you actually become more active. A great rule of thumb is to keep your exercise events short and to the point. Walk your pet for 5-10 minutes to start. Consider just walking around the house or backyard. Trips down the street or into the woods can come later. Stay at the same level for three to four weeks. Trying to increase your activity time too fast is a recipe for failure for you and your pet. Remember that 80% of dogs over the age of eight have some level of osteoarthritis, so if you start to exercise your dogs or cats, and they start to seem lame or uncomfortable, a trip to your veterinarian to determine if arthritis is an issue is a good idea. There are great medications that will allow you and your pet to continue exercising comfortably. Never start exercising at a run, always at a walk. Running can come much later in the program or not at all. Many studies show that a brisk walking pace is actually better for you than a run.

Any effort you make for yourself and your pet is better than no effort. Averaging a pound of weight loss a month is a good target for an overweight pet. Always remember, unlike people, pets do not recognize quantity over quality, so a tiny bit of something tasty is better than a bag of junk food.



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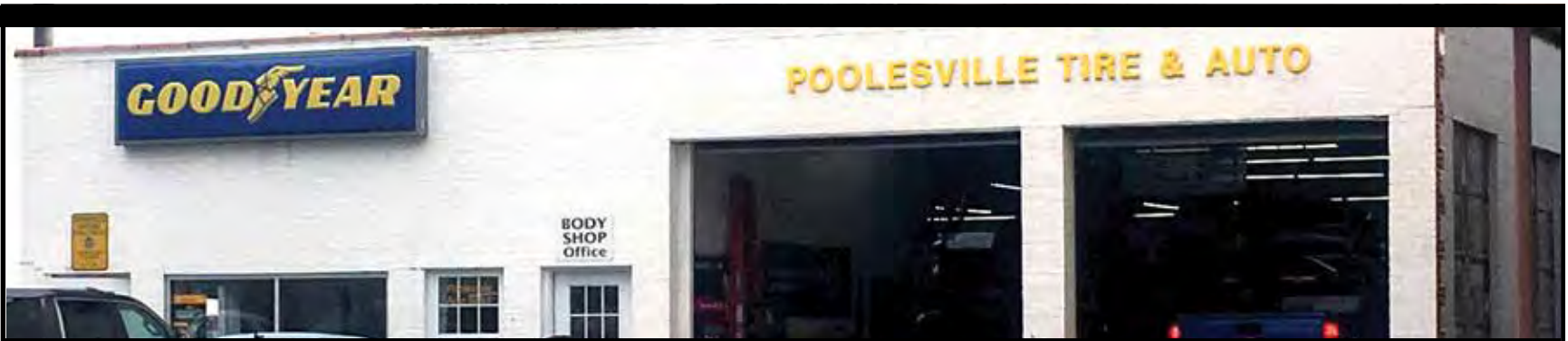
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