

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

February 22, 2019 • Volume XIV, Number 23



The Old Town Hall Bank Museum was jam-packed. Find out why on page 4.



Village Beer's Raj Masky beams over the store having a big lottery winner. We have the info on page 7.



How big was the poms' victory? This big! See details on page 12.



Colin Hammet during an opening tip. More basketball on page 16.

Study by County Boosts Chances for a New Multiuse Facility

By Link Hoewing

In December of last year, County Executive Marc Elrich heeded calls from local citizens and came out to a "listening session" in Poolesville. He heard numerous citizens talk about the need for a new high school and about the failure of the county to provide the same level of services for citizens in this area as it does elsewhere.

On January 15, Elrich announced his capital and operating budget amendments that will be considered by the County Council. Tucked into the memo he sent to the council was a paragraph recommending that a facility planning project be undertaken to "develop options for making county services more accessible to the Poolesville community..." The proposal also recommended that in doing the work on the project, "colocation options with Montgomery County Public Schools..." be considered. MCPS is



The county has begun to seriously analyze various funding streams for a multiuse structure that could house a new school.

actively considering how to modernize Poolesville High School.

This is just the latest example of the impact the Fair Access for the Western County Coalition has had on the

county government. The coalition, led by Commissioner Jim Brown and including PTSA leaders Rebecca

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The Proud History of Sugarland: Reflections of Life

By Rande Davis

The origin of Sugarland Forest, an African-American community established by freed slaves in Poolesville, began with the purchase of land from the local white landowners which included Jane Pleasants, George Dawson, the Allnuts, and others during the 1870s and 1880s. They were able to buy land with a small down payment and continued monthly payments, and when the land was paid for, a deed was recorded. These transactions were accomplished by handshake. No mortgage deeds were recorded.

By 1900, over forty families lived and worked on the nearly two hundred acres of farmland encompassing the community. Their work on nearby farms, the Seneca Quarry, and the C&O Canal was instrumental in the

Continued on page 18.



The Sugarland Community Well: Children in the background are: Mary Smith, Marjorie Lee, Sarah Lee, Tilghman Lee, Jr., and Idella Lee. The adult in the foreground is Samuel Jackson.

Family Album



Maria Briançon, Jerry Klobukowski, and Renata Funk.



Was it the Cha Cha Slide or the Electric Boogie? No matter! Line dancing got everyone out of their seats!



Cora Coakley, Alice Brooks and Melissa Rose thoroughly enjoyed the Winter Wonderland PASC dance. PASC is so grateful to all their sponsors, those who donated to the silent auction, and everyone who volunteered to help out.



Greg and Jennifer Smith of Johnsville Auction House provided appraisals for antiques brought to them at the Knights of Columbus antique show at St. Mary's in Barnesville.



Dr. Norvell V. Coots and his son Max are enthralled by some vintage post cards at St. Mary's antique show.



The crowd at the PASC winter prom was pumped up by Gina Beck and the Souled Out Horns.

Town Government Looking to the Future Of Town Sidewalks

By Rande Davis

The Town of Poolesville commissioners on February 19 reviewed a proposed long-term action-plan for maintenance and improvements of the town's sidewalks. The presentation was submitted by Commissioner Kerri Cook and the Board of Parks, Recreation, and Streets (BPRS) chairman Doug McKenny. Cook is the commissioner's liaison to the BPRS.

The presentation, the result of extensive study and analysis by BPRS, explained how best the town could: establish the key priorities going forward, set the plan as a line item within the budget to facilitate gaining grant money, and consider investing in a simple Geographical Information System (GIS) to better manage renovation and repair of town infrastructure in the future.

The plan outlined five priorities: ensure and improve the safety and accessibility of pedestrian routes to our schools and parks and to upgrade ADA ramps; identify in-fill gaps in

the existing sidewalk configuration throughout the town; address streets that currently have no sidewalks; enhance and bring conformity (e.g., width) to all sidewalks; and prepare and coordinate key thoroughfares (Fisher, Wootton, Hughes, Elgin, and Hoskinson) to properly blend with future changes in streetscape designs.

As regards the safety aspects of the plan, redoing the corner of Elgin and Wootton, West Willard and Elgin, Norris Road, and West Willard Road will be the priorities. In addition, included in the plan is improved access to parks, as well as a continuation of the sidewalks from Hughes to Halmos/Bodmer Parks, and from Fisher and Budd Road to the Hoewing Park intersection.

Much of the discussion centered on the extensive and time-consuming process of identification of all gaps within the sidewalk system, especially at Westerly and the backside of PES (Cattail to Kohlhoss Roads). Another goal is to have sidewalks on both sides of the road on all major roads which provide access to the downtown areas.

The extensiveness of a survey of all town sidewalk infrastructure was a cause of significant discussion with emphasis on investing in a simple, but

Continued on page 17.



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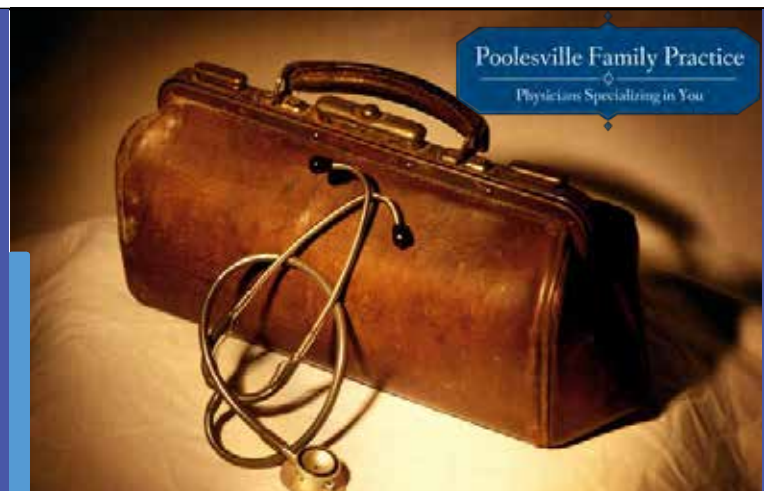
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Rande(m) Thoughts Turning a Blind Eye From a Harsh Past

By Rande Davis

I have been thinking about how our all-too-human emotions can often run on a dual track and can control our decision-making process, for better or worse.

On one track, our emotions can express a strong sense of gratitude, joy, and peace, bringing with it a grand and fulfilling sense of purpose for living a positive life. On the other track, as individuals or as a group, our emotions can rise up from a dark side to cruelly overrule logic, weaken a well-honed sense of fairness, bringing with it a dreaded shamefulness upon us. Such is the quandary concerning the behavior of some Poolesville folks a very long time ago relating to the lynching of a man in 1880.

Clearly, the recent presentation sponsored by the Historic Medley District about the lynching of George Peck (see page 5 this issue) is a real jolt to our contemporary self-image of Poolesville as being a great place in which to live. After hearing about a lynching in town in the nineteenth century, it would be so easy to say that while our local pride for today is warranted, we have to admit that our past pride has not *always* been so justified.

The key here, though, is the word *always*. It can be said Poolesville is and always has been a great place in which to live; however, that does not mean it has been so in all ways. Even today, in some ways and for some folks, life in Poolesville is difficult. Going back to the earliest days, with our roots and frontier outlook giving the community its birth, right up to our present time, the Upcounty has been rightfully acknowledged to be a place of people who were known for their hard work, strong character, and dedicated devotion to family. Such is the true nature of our agrarian and entrepreneurial people—always, but not in all ways.

I am certain that not one person in Poolesville awoke on January 10, 1880 with his heart set on a killing. Yet, by the end of the day, a man was illegally killed by people who had lost control of their emotions. How and why did this happen? We return to our first observation about the role of emotion. The evil power of dark emotions within us as individuals is one thing, but

when that power is fueled by a mob, it is exponentially a greater enigma. Many people were very angry that day and, some could argue, rightfully so, but it wasn't until that individual anger drew strength from others that the real danger emerged. On that day in 1880, some people in Poolesville lost all sense of lawfulness determined to take justice into their own hands through outraged emotion fed by a mob mentality.

One cannot rely solely on this horrendous incident in Poolesville in 1880 as a reflection of race relations in the town at the time. Consider this note from a January 16, 1885 church meeting at St. Paul's, an African-American Church founded by the freed slaves at Sugarland. The evening's discussion by church members centered on whether the white people treated them better than they treated themselves. That the topic even merited discussion shows good will between the races.

January 16, 1885

Jan 16th the subject of the organization was discussed whether the white race is better to the collar [sic] race than they are to themselves or not [as] discussed by N. Johnson, R. Hebron. Branison, J. Curtis. It is decided that colored race is better to them Selves [sic]

That Poolesville is not alone in having this kind of shame in its past is not enough. That these bygone Poolesvillians, through righteous indignation, responded emotionally to an attack on a little girl living amongst them is not enough for us to excuse or look the other way. That racial prejudice, a worldwide cultural curse and not Poolesville's alone, played a significant role in the out-of-control emotions, is not enough for us to look away from this event for fear of losing our pride.

How to reconcile the actions of otherwise good people doing bad things long ago is one thing, but, for me, watching people today continue to rush to judgement, turning our personal right to think or express ourselves over to group-emotions or mob mentality can be very disturbing, as well. Perhaps, if just one of those in the mob in 1880 had had the courage to speak up to the others with his mind, maybe this dark episode might not have happened.

Until each one of us can feel secure in openly expressing our personal perspectives without receiving invective or scorn or hate by others, then, we, too, will continue to live in a sad world of social lynchings.

Local News

Historic Medley Special Event: The Lynching Of George Peck

By Maureen O'Connell

On Sunday, February 10, 2019 at the Old Town Hall Bank Museum in Poolesville, historian Tony Cohen addressed a large audience about the lynching of George Peck in Poolesville on January 10, 1880. It was the first presentation in the Historic Medley District's Speakers Series. Men and women of diverse backgrounds from the local area, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C. crowded into the front room of the museum and listened to the tale of this heinous crime. Montgomery County delegates, Andrew Friedson and Hans Riemer, and Town of Poolesville commissioners, Kerri Cook and Martin Radigan, were also in attendance.

Mr. Cohen is a noted historian, author, and fourth-generation descendant of a runaway slave. He has devoted his life to exploring the American slavery experience in the dark days of our young nation. In

1996, he undertook an epic two-month journey retracing one of the possible routes of the Underground Railroad, the secret network which thousands of slaves traveled on their long road to freedom—a distance of twelve hundred miles by foot, boat, and rail. In 2000, Tony founded the Menare Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the legacy of the Underground Railroad. Its main project is the Button Farm Living History Center, located on forty acres inside Seneca State Park in Germantown, Maryland. It authentically depicts a nineteenth century plantation and the lives of the slaves living there. Its story brings this period of history alive as you visit a Reconstruction-era barn, historic outbuildings, a Museum Garden, heritage breed animals, and a slave cemetery. It is open annually from April to November.

Mr. Cohen articulated his passion with an impressive depth of knowledge in shedding light on a long-overlooked chapter of Poolesville history on this cloudy, gray Sunday. The audience in the crowded room was silent as Tony retraced the steps of George Peck on that dark January day. Through text and slideshow photos, he unfurled the details of George Peck's

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The George Peck Incident: A Horrendous Day in the History of Poolesville

By Rande Davis

On the morning of January 10, 1880, Peace Officer H. Miles, living near Poolesville, was notified of an attempted rape in Beallsville just two miles away, with the perpetrator reported being watched over by local pastor the Reverend Amy and others.

When he arrived in Beallsville at 10:00 a.m., he found the suspect was George Peck, a twenty-two-year-old man born into slavery and known to be a laborer on the Howard Griffiths farm; however, Peck had more recently been employed by Mr. Lemuel Beall as a worker in his store in Beallsville. Upon the arrival in Beallsville of Miles, Peck attempted to escape by running into the pine woods nearby. With the assistance of others, the suspect was quickly apprehended.

In Miles's investigation, it was reported by Reverend Amy, who lived just across from the stable, that the pastor heard screams from the barn on the farm, so he ran to the site, and found Peck upon the girl with his hand held over her mouth. Amy had a pistol and thought of shooting the attacker, but instead concluded it would be better to turn the man over to the law.

The girl, eleven-year-old Ada Hays, was the step-daughter of neighbor John Reeves. The little girl told the Peace Officer that Peck abducted her while she was milking a cow, and dragged her into the stable, and into what was reported to be an already-prepared hollowed-out area within the straw. Ada Hays described to the officer her struggle with Peck, how he tried to stop her from screaming for help by placing his hand over her mouth. In his over seven-hour investigation, the officer was able to determine that no physical harm had come to her. In the investigation, Miles reported that Peck acknowledged that had if he not been interrupted by Pastor Amy, "he would have done it."

Peace Officer Miles had known Peck as someone who had been jailed several times before and who, as a boy, had been arrested for a similar attack and had just barely escaped a hanging then. This knowledge was sure to have given the officer much concern in his responsibility to safeguard Peck until the next day, when a trip to the Rockville jail would be more practical.

At 5:00 p.m., the Miles brought Peck back to Poolesville and secured him in the Odd Fellows Hall, as the town lacked a jail. At around 10:00 p.m., his fears materialized when a group of men surrounded the Odd Fellows Hall, a building that later burned down in a town fire. While the hall was locked, Miles was still determined, if given the chance, to remove Peck from the hall to his nearby home—perhaps believing this would be a safer place to guard the man.

Just prior to 11:00 p.m., the crowd dispersed, and the officer concluded that this was his chance to move Peck to this home; however, he decided to first go to the Walters' store across from the hall for some needed purchases. After locking the hall, he brought the handcuffed and tied prisoner with him. While in the store, a man rode up to the front door, fired shots in the air, and a mob of undetermined size emerged from the darkness and demanded Peck. The unruly group burst into the store, first holding and blindfolding the officer, all the while screaming, "Lynch him! Lynch him!" The mob, some wearing masks and others not, pulled Peck to a nearby locust tree, attached a rope to his neck, hoisted him five feet into the air, and tied the rope to a fence until Peck died. Once the death was confirmed, the crowd left.

In the safety of the daylight the next day, the officer had Peck cut down prior to the start of Sunday church services at the Presbyterian Church which was across the street. That same day, Miles had a jury summoned, and a verdict was rendered that "George Peck came to his death through strangulation by the hands or parties unknown to the jurors."

In the world of the late nineteenth century, justice could often be cruel, abrupt, and anything but just. Ultimately, the killing of George Peck would become recognized not as an act of justice at that time, but what it really was, as a heinous act, an entirely contemptible denial of basic legal rights of an individual, and a most shameful day in the history of the town.

Information in this article is derived from the Washington Star's January 11, 1880 report of the incident.

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Business Briefs

PACC Makes Annual Service Awards

At the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce annual meeting on February 19, two awards of recognition were presented. Reva Hoewing, the owner of the local business Crafts-A-Plenty, was given a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of successfully operating her business in Poolesville for over forty years. She announced recently that she was going to close her shop on February 28. Faith Etheridge, the Chair of the Poolesville Day Committee, was awarded the Community Service Award. Etheridge has been involved as a volunteer in the PTSA and the Booster Club, eventually leading both organizations. She has run the Poolesville Day Committee for six years, and her leadership has helped to turn Poolesville Day into one of the most successful annual events in town.



Faith Etheridge was awarded the PACC 2019 Community Service Award from Board member Woody Hilton.

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Tidbits

Helping Hands Can Use Some Helping Hands

Year after year, a diverse group of volunteers descend on roughly fifty houses all over Montgomery County with hammers, paintbrushes, and cleaning supplies. These houses, owned by low-income people, miss the mark in terms of safety, health, or acceptable living environment. The volunteers make up a program known as Rebuilding Together.



Helping Hands needs You!

The work is always done on the last Saturday of April. A local nonprofit, Helping Hands Poolesville, Inc. (most of whose funds come from local churches and the Montgomery County branch of Rebuilding Together), has undertaken the necessary work.

Since the mid-nineties, when the first house was repaired, more than thirty low-income homeowners have benefited in countless ways—new paint, new roof, carpentry, plumbing, the shoring up of a foundation, windows replaced—“whatever it takes.”

If you would like to participate in this worthy cause, make a donation, or know of someone in need but who is too reticent to come forward to ask for help, call Ray Hoewing at 301-461-9399.

Homes considered will be located in the five local zip codes: Poolesville, Beallsville, Barnesville, Dickerson, and Boyds. This year, the date for the program will be Saturday, April 27.

Time for Kindergarteners to Register for Elementary School

If your child will be five years old on or before September 1, 2019, please register him or her (or them!) for orientation on April 29 or 30. Contact Mrs. Harney at 301-972-7960.

Village Beer Has Big Lottery Winner

Raj Maskey reports that his Village Beer recently had a \$100,000 lottery winner! The person has wished to remain anonymous. Village Beer has had two other winners in the past for \$50,000 each. Guess you know where to go to get a winning ticket.

What's the Story Behind Our Historic Homes?

Next up in the series of guest speakers on behalf of the Historic Medley District's speakers series is Kenny Sholes. He will be discussing historic homes in the area and organizing a group for persons who share the interest in learning more about those homes. The event will be in the Old Town Hall Bank Museum on March 10 at 4:00 p.m.

Poolesville Day Already?

The 27th Annual Poolesville Day is slated for Saturday, September 21, 2019. As

Continued on page 11.

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Bond Has a New Beat

By Susan Petro

Montgomery County Police Department's (MCPD) Community Services Officer Tara Bond knew she would have big shoes to fill when she replaced Officer Doug Tressler after his recent retirement. Tressler was popular with the community and very active with the Upcounty Prevention Network that focuses on helping Poolesville's youth and drug abuse prevention efforts.



The name is Bond—Tara Bond.

Bond is not only determined to keep up the hard work Tressler began, but she is eager to work with the Poolesville community. She also plans to carve out her own niche with areas of community services about which she is passionate. "I'm not sure I can fill Tressler's shoes," said Bond, "but I am willing to do my best." Specific areas of outreach in which Bond specializes are Autism, I/DD (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities), Dementia, and Alzheimer's Disease.

Bond grew up in State College, Pennsylvania. She attended Pennsylvania State University where she completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development and Family Services. Bond's goal was to choose a career where she could help others and make a positive impact in the community she serves. Bond applied for positions with the Pennsylvania State Troopers and MCPD for an officer position. Numerous friends of Bond from Pennsylvania relocated to Montgomery County and loved the area which inspired Bond to ultimately choose Montgomery County when she was offered the chance to become a police officer in both Maryland and Pennsylvania. Bond has been on the MCPD force for thirteen years.

After completing the training program, Bond initially worked as a patrol officer. In addition to the typical law enforcement calls and activities, Bond quickly realized that some of the calls received each month were to provide help for members of the special needs community who have a propensity to wander. The county police department's goal is to work proactively with this population and their caretakers who can become strained or overwhelmed with responsibilities, as well as to keep individuals with disabilities safe.

Bond feels extremely fortunate to have been given the opportunity to work as a Community Services Officer in the Rockville District and as one of the coordinators of the MCPD Autism, I/DD, Dementia, and Alzheimer's Outreach Program.

Although she realizes that officers cannot always fix the problems that lead to the initial calls for help, Bond makes sure she connects the residents to any resources that are available within the county. Her college degree in Human Development and Family Services aligns with the social work aspect of her police officer position. Although officers are not social workers, many of their responsibilities overlap as they strive to provide the best possible outcomes for their community members.

As one of a handful of Community Services Officers for the Rockville District, Bond works with communities in the Rockville District, including residents in Poolesville and the surrounding areas.

As part of her community outreach efforts in Poolesville, Officer Bond volunteers once a month at Poolesville Elementary School during lunch and

recess. Bond hangs out with the students in order to help our youngest residents associate the police with positive experiences and not just visible during bad times. The students are able to chat with Officer Bond, to ask questions, and to get to know her as a friendly member of the community who will be there to protect them when necessary but is also available during good times, as well. Bond also looks forward to helping middle and high school students when needed.

Officer Bond also attends the bimonthly Poolesville Town Commissioners' and the Upcounty Prevention Network meetings. She is available by phone and email to address any concerns or requests that the commissioners or town manager may have. She looks forward to getting to know the Poolesville community and other area residents. Bond welcomes calls or messages from community members who have a concern or information they would like to share. She can be reached by email at Tara.Bond@montgomerycountymd.gov or by phone at 240-777-6443.

Although Bond keeps busy with her responsibilities as an MCPD officer, she enjoys spending time with her family and taking her German Shephard for walks in her spare time.

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Continued from page 4.

Historic Medley Special Event: The Lynching of George Peck

arrest, abduction, and murder by lynching at the hands of a mob in Poolesville. Twenty-two-year-old George Peck had been a laborer on the farm of Howard Griffith in Beallsville. He was accused of assaulting an eleven-year-old girl at Mr. Lemuel Beall's store, where he was employed at the time, arrested, and taken to the Odd Fellows Hall (the original building burned down and a replacement still exists at the corner of Fisher Avenue and Route 109) prior to being taken to the jail in Rockville. He never made it to the jail as an angry mob abducted him and dragged him down Route 109 to an area across the street from the Presbyterian church. He was then strung up on a branch of a tall locust tree and died. His body was cut down the next morning. The church remains on the same site today.

Maryland was not the state with the most cases of lynching; that infamous record belongs to Mississippi, followed by Georgia, Arkansas, and Texas. Maryland ranks number sixteen with forty acts. In an unmarked grave off Viers Mill Road, three-and-a-half miles from downtown Rockville, rest the remains of Sidney Randolph, the last man lynched in Montgomery County on the Fourth of July in 1896.

We, who now live in this progressive and multicultural county, forget—or choose to forget—these dark days when forty, all black except two, were murdered, strung up on large trees, and left to die between 1867 and 1933. No arrests were ever made; the story went: "Their deaths were done by hands unknown."

"Around...the capital of the Nation has become notorious for the punishment of colored criminals by Lynch Law, and for a public sentiment which supports those who in this way administer what they believe justice demands," the *New York Times* wrote after the Poolesville lynching of George Peck, a man described in the *Washington Post* in January 13, 1880, as a "disreputable negro."

Cohen ended his talk by reminding us not to forget our history, no matter how dark and heinous. There are many secrets that remain to be revealed. There are stories that are passed down from generation to generation—"We must feel our past." He added, "The pain of the deeds we talked about today still lives with the families of the victims, as well as the perpetrators. We must come together as a community to stand up for justice and remember all those who came before us."

Cohen then led the group the short distance to the Odd Fellows Hall and the Presbyterian church, and they stood for a moment of remembrance.



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Garden

Plants You Can't Kill

By Maureen O'Connell

You have often heard the phrase (or said it yourself): All my houseplants die; I have a brown thumb. Houseplant culture is not an exact science. Plants usually die or fail to thrive for specific reasons, but with a little bit of knowledge, you can turn your fingers green and keep your plants alive and thriving.

All plants have basic needs: water, sunlight, and nutrients, but there is no magic formula of care for all. We all know that plants require water, but herein lies the problem: too much or too little is the leading cause of their demise. Different plant species have different water requirements, and sometimes you have to figure that out by trial and error. Broadleaf plants usually need more, while cacti and succulents need less. It is fairly easy to identify a water-stressed plant, as you will notice the leaves turning brown and the soil will start to crack. It is a little harder to see that a plant is being overwatered, and by then, it is probably too late. In this case, the roots can't get the air they need, causing the plant to suffocate or die from root rot. The plant is killed by misdirected kindness. Lack of good drainage is often another problem with watering. Many people put their plants in pretty, decorative, ceramic pots, but there are no drainage holes in the bottom.

Plants need sun exposure as part of the photosynthesis process in which they transform light energy into chemical energy. This captured energy is used to convert water, carbon dioxide, and minerals into oxygen and energy-rich organic compounds. If your plant is receiving too little light, you will notice a yellowing of new foliage, pale small leaves, poor growth, and long, thin stems. It can survive for short periods without light, but no plant can live without sunlight forever. Here again, much depends upon the nature of the plant and its original environmental conditions. Not everyone lives in darkness or bright light. I have found with my plants that half and half is best. The same thinking goes for the temperature of the room in which they live. Plants are like Goldilocks: not too hot, not too cold, but just right—and, like many people, they like a cooler room in the night.

Plants cannot thrive without nutrients. Their home is the soil in which they live and grow. This medium should contain a balance of the



Clivia blooming at the end of January.

food they need: nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus on the primary level; and sulfur, calcium, and magnesium on the secondary level. Fortunately, you don't have to be a chemist to figure out what to feed your plants. You just need a good potting soil mixture. Now, not all "potting soils" are created equal. "Soil" is a bit of a misnomer since a premium mix should be one part loam, one part peat moss, and one part perlite. This is optimum for container growing, enabling the pot to hold just enough water and oxygen. Some plants, such as cacti, succulents, and orchids require a special potting mix, specific to their needs, so if you are going to grow a houseplant in a pot, don't fill it with dirt from your backyard. I like Espoma's Organic Potting Mix. It has all the right ingredients in the right proportion. People often ask me if I fertilize my houseplants. Generally speaking, no, I don't. Here again, many gardeners believe that if a plant looks weak or sickly, feed it. This can kill it with kindness. I occasionally fertilize my orchids and bonsai trees, but that is about the extent of it. Above all, choose the right plant for the right space, light conditions, and interior environment. Plants need TLC. Keep them happy, check them often, and they will tell you how they feel.

There are a lot of houseplants on the market that are hailed as low maintenance: spider plant, *Sansevieria* (or mother-in-law's tongue), jade, aloe, rubber tree, philodendron, cactus, asparagus fern, and dieffenbachia, to name a few. I find many of them boring—you know, the ones you may see in the corner of your doctor's office or in the bank lobby. There is

nothing wrong with them, I just don't like them.

Let me tell you about my favorite and very long-lived three houseplants that live and thrive in my house. The picture at the beginning of this article is my *Clivia miniata*, a species of flowering plant in the genus *Clivia* of the family Amaryllidaceae and native to the woodland habitats in South Africa. He is a long way from home in my living room box bay window ledge, and he is sixteen years old. You can say that he has adapted to life in Barnesville. He thrives on neglect but rewards me faithfully every mid-January with beautiful large clumps of tangerine flowers that last about a month. He spends the summer months outside in filtered sunlight on the terrace. In September, he comes back to the living room for the next nine months. I say hello to him occasionally, and I water him about every other month. He likes to be left alone. You could not ask for a better houseplant. My second favorite

is my twenty-year-old Christmas Cactus. He was once three small plants that I repotted in a long willow basket many years ago. He sits next to his friend Mr. Clivia. He also loves neglect. Long ago, he lived in good potting soil, but over the years, it broke down; today it looks and feels more like concrete, but he doesn't care. I water him occasionally, and he blooms faithfully every November (he calls himself a Thanksgiving Cactus). My oldest plant pal is amazingly forty years old. He is a ficus bonsai tree, *Ficus retusa*. I carried him back on the plane from Hawaii in 1979. He sits in the sun on the counter by my sink in the kitchen. I say hello to him every morning as I admire his shiny, little green leaves. Now he does not live in soil; he is very content living on a volcanic rock. I do feed him now and then.

I am all for low-maintenance houseplants, but try some that are also a bit more interesting, unique, and that enjoy "living outside the box."

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Continued from page 7.

Tidbits

always, the festivities will begin at 10:00 a.m. with a hometown parade and will end at 4:00 p.m. The day will include free carnival rides, exhibitors, food vendors, and activities for all ages. There will be multiple stages featuring live music and entertainment. Back by popular demand for the headliner band: The Reagan Years. Visit the Poolesville Day website (www.poolesville.com) for more information on how you can be a part of the festivities.

MCP Came to Hear from You

The Montgomery County Police representatives had a first-ever Meet the Police night at Watershed Café on February 12. Residents were encouraged to visit with the police, and to ask them any questions or express any concerns.

Welcome Declan Richard Hafner

Congratulations to Morgan R. Hafner (née Howard) and Jacob L. Hafner on the birth of their son Declan Richard Hafner on February 5, 2019 at 4:23 p.m. at Shady Grove Hospital. He came into this world at 8lbs., 8oz., and was 21 inches long. The proud grandparents

are John and Annette Howard of Poolesville and Wayne and Sherri Eyer of Martinsburg, West Virginia, and Joel and Irene Hafner of Jefferson, Maryland. Morgan is a 2013 graduate of PHS and a 2018 University of Maryland graduate. Jacob graduated from Catocin High School in 2012 and

Montgomery College in 2016. Morgan and Jacob reside in Urbana, and both are employed by Fine Earth Landscaping of Poolesville. Declan is also being welcomed by his big brother Carter L. Hafner who is extremely excited to have a little brother. Declan and his parents are doing well.



Officers from the Montgomery County Police Department held an outreach event in Poolesville. Visiting with them were Virginia Perkins and Kyla Davis and her mother.



Welcome to our newest Town of Poolesville addition: Declan Richard Hafner.



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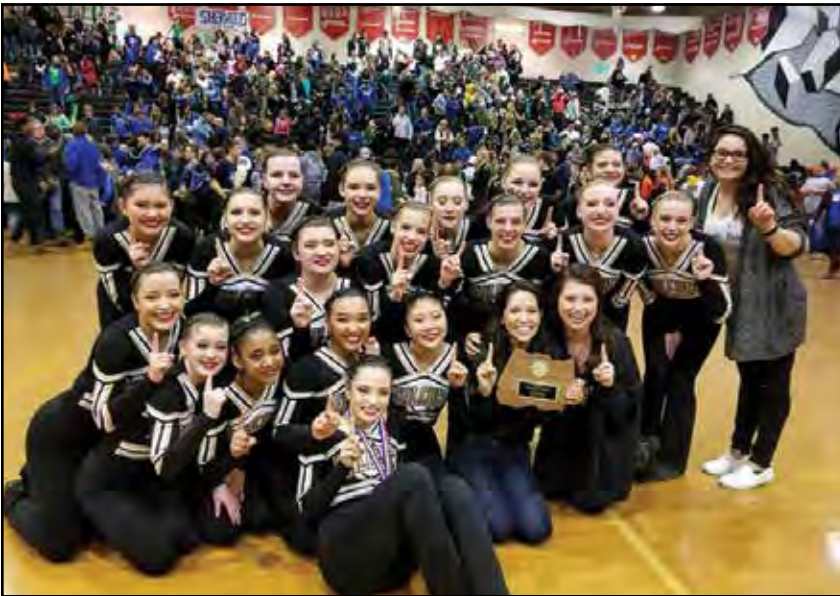
Poolesville Poms Stay at the Top

By Jeff Stuart

The Poolesville High School poms squad won its second straight Division 1 County Championship on February 3, 2019 at Montgomery Blair High School.

"In poms, the divisions are determined on how well teams place at the county championship the previous season," said Coach Tanya Ventura, "unlike some other sports where divisions are based on size of the school. Working our way up from the bottom of division 3 took years of relentless hard work, perseverance, and deep passion for our sport. I am so proud the PHS poms have earned back-to-back Division 1 championship wins!"

The poms squad consists of eighteen talented and hardworking young ladies. This year, the team was led by captains Tiara Ventura and Amy Zhu, both seniors, and junior Izzi Gibbs. Co-captains are senior Taylor Ramirez and junior Ashley Kraekel. The squad is comprised of six freshmen, two sophomores, five juniors, and five seniors.



2018-2019 Pompons County Champions

Other members of the squad include freshman Allie Burdette, Andrea Wilson, Porter Jacobson, Ashley Portillo, and Jessica Quart. Sophomores are Indira Fayson and Hailee Tull. Juniors are Madison Repass, Brianna Hobbs, Kaeli Potts, and Alyson Gotlewski. Julia Quart is a senior.

The Falcons assistant coach is Natasha Velasquez.

This year, the poms performed at home varsity football and basketball games, and at the annual Poolesville Day Parade. The team also held their seventh annual week-long junior Falcon youth clinic for over one hundred students in kindergarten through eighth grades.

The county championship is the last of four competitions of the year. Not only did the team finish first overall, but Tiara Ventura won the Captains Award.

Five judges watch the whole team performance, and one judge watches only the captains. "Each captain wears a bright hair scrunchie on her arm to be easily identified. All three of our captains placed this year," enthused Coach Ventura.

In the first competition of the year at Watkins Mill High School on January 5, the Falcons placed first overall and won the Spirit Award (for the most spirited crowd). Captain Izzi Gibbs took second place.

The Falcons also took first place at the 2nd Competition at Damascus on January 19. Captain Amy Zhu took second place. At the Northwest High School Division 1 Poms Invitational on January 26, the Falcons placed second, and they again won the Spirit Award.

"We really tried to incorporate and utilize the team's strengths this year," said Coach Ventura. "Our team was really strong in hip-hop this year. We normally save hip-hop for the end of the routine, but this year, we decided to kick off the competition routine with a hip-hop section and also conclude with a hip-hop section. It really helps keep the energy up for the dancers and spectators."

Continued on page 16.



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Celebrating 50 Years of Service

by Catherine Beliveau, Executive Director

WUMCO Makes a Difference

How do we know that we are making a difference in our community? Day to day, we see the people we help. Sometimes, we must help clients over a period of time due to their circumstances (low wages, fixed retirement income, disability). Other times, we help them once, and they never need assistance again. Every now and then, former clients come back to us and let us know how they are doing. Recently, we received a note from a former client that reminded us that the help we give really matters: "To WUMCO Team, What a difference a year makes! Thank you for being a blessing during my season of economic struggle and financial difficulties. I am so appreciative and glad to report that I have been employed nearly a year and now at fulltime status! Last year I was greatly in need ... and am now grateful to be a blessing to a family or families in need. Enclose please find gift cards, a small way of giving back in appreciation for the WUMCO Team. Thank you for allowing me to be a blessing to others."

Grateful to Our Members

The WUMCO staff and board want to thank all our members. Your generosity enables WUMCO to help our less fortunate friends and neighbors in the Western Upper Montgomery County area. Notes like the one above illustrate the positive impact this organization has in our community. We are truly grateful to all those who generously share their resources and time to help us in our mission.

WUMCO Office News

It was a rough start to the new year in the WUMCO office. Adam DeBaugh, our Assistant Executive Director, has been out of the office since January 3rd with health issues. Since Adam did the lion's share of the day-to-day administrative work in the office, we have been scrambling to cover his work (mostly using a couple of our amazing volunteers) while trying to send out our year-end letters and membership cards. We have a temporary replacement for Adam and are in the process of getting everything finished, but we look forward to having him back in the office soon! In the meantime, we apologize for the delays and thank everyone for their patience as we slowly get back to normal in the office.

Visit our Web page and follow us on Facebook and Twitter:

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Questions?

Please write Adam DeBaugh at wumco2@gmail.com if you have any questions, comments, or ideas for this column.

Yeas and Neighs

When the Shoe Is On the Other Hoof

By Andie Devynck

Over the last couple of years, Yeas and Neighs has searched far afield to highlight several of the many equine rescues in and around the Ag Reserve. To name a few: gaited horses, mini donkeys, and therapeutic riding programs that have taken in all manner of rescued breeds and given them healthier lives, rekindled hope and new purpose with caring humans—but what if the horses are doing the rescuing?

The basic Mounted Search and Rescue (MSAR) team can deploy in most land terrain within FEMA Region III, from elevations of five thousand feet down to sea level. MSAR can travel on steep grades up to forty-five degrees; if a human can walk it, they can ride it and cover the terrain three times faster than a person on foot, in an equally-efficient manner. MSAR responders can ride through brush, over rocky areas, and can ford small rivers and large creeks. Deployment of horses and helicopter shows a community that all available resources

are being utilized. The team requires a space that equals approximately three school buses for each two-person MSAR team.

There's only one MSAR around these parts. The TrotSAR Mounted Team is an all-volunteer-based non-government search and rescue (SAR) squad. The team's primary purpose is to assist federal, tribal, state, and local government agencies by providing emergency rescue operations and/or lifesaving activities for people who are stranded or lost and rescuing those victims in wilderness, rural, or urban/suburban areas. The team participates in mountain SAR, wilderness SAR, and urban or suburban SAR operations; it will also assist with large animal rescue that results from a natural or manmade disaster and other related emergency services.

The primary response area is within the states of Maryland and Virginia; however, the team remains ready for deployment within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region III (MD, VA, DE, PA, WV, and DC). On the request of public safety agencies outside of the region, additional emergency services required for disaster relief and homeland security may be included in the mission, as outlined within the National Response



Mounted search and rescue with emergency helicopter.

Framework and Homeland Security Presidential Directives.

At no cost to the public, the TrotSAR Mounted Team also sponsors and conducts safety education programs. It is the team's goal to provide public awareness and reduce hazards, by teaching the basics of safety and prevention of accidents caused by human frailty or error while lost or placed in a wilderness environment or exposed to other life-threatening dangers or disaster situations.

The team works in conjunction with the Appalachian Search and Rescue Council and the Civil Air Patrol, as

well as Maryland's Emergency Management Agency, State Police K9 Team, State Police Aviation, and the Department of Natural Resources.

Volunteering for the Mounted Team is a demanding 24/7 commitment similar to any other rescue squad. All human volunteers must have the following prerequisites to be accepted into the training program:

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Continued on page 19.

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

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

PASC Special Event: Cherry Blossom Cruise

Do not miss out on the annual PASC Cherry Blossom Cruise. Remember, while the cruise is on April 6, reservations need to be in by March 1. See PASC ad on page 10 for details.

Every Tuesday Evening: Families Anonymous Together Support Group

This group is for families and friends of persons with addictive behavior. St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Poolesville. 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

February 22 and 23

Used Book, Music, and Media Sale at St. Peter's

Shop from a wide selection of used books, movies, music, software, and more. Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

February 25

Monocacy Lions Auction

The community is invited to the Lions Club's annual auction. Resident chef Bill Lynch is catering the event and plans to serve his famous fried chicken. Open to all. \$20. St. Mary's Pavilion, Barnesville. Social hour begins at 6:00; dinner and auction at 7:00. For more information call Garland Johnson at 301-349-5797 or 301-606-4155.

February 28

Dine at Bassett's—Support HGCBT

Enjoy any meal at Poolesville's fine restaurant, Bassett's, all day, and

ten percent of proceeds will be donated to the Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre.

March 2

The Ag Reserve Today

A presentation by Jim Brown of SCA and Caroline Taylor, executive director of Montgomery County Alliance. Barnesville Town Hall, 18001 Barnesville Road. 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

March 9

11th Annual St. Mary's event: St. Patrick's Party featuring Irish food and beer for dinner, Ceili dance, and live Irish band. \$20 per person in advance, \$25 at the door. Children twelve and under are free. 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at pavilion in Barnesville.

March 7

PACC Network Event

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

American Legion Post 247

Meeting at Calleva Offices in Poolesville (next to Anytime Fitness). Guest speaker from Project Healing Waters, an organization using fly fishing as a therapeutic tool for helping troubled vets. Please join your local band of brothers. 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

March 8

UMCVFD Auxiliary Bingo

Featuring cash and gift cards as well as door prize drawings. Enjoy an evening of relaxing fun while helping to support your local fire department. Bring a friend! Refreshments available for purchase. UMCVFD Firehouse, 19801 Beallsville Rd. \$20. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; games start at 7:00 p.m.

March 10

Historic Medley District's Speakers Series

Join Kenny Sholes as he leads a discussion on many of the historic homes and buildings in our region. Whether you've lived here for ten

Continued on page 21




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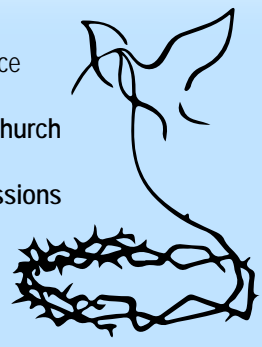
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March 5.....	6:30PM Pancake Dinner
	Mardi Gras in Church Gathering Space
March 6.....	8:30AM Mass in Church
	Ash Wednesday 7:00PM Confessions in Church
	7:30PM Mass in Church
	8:30PM Adoration/Confessions

Special Lent Schedule

Wednesday evenings....	7:00PM Confession
	7:30PM Mass in Church
	8-9:00PM Adoration/Confessions
Thursday evenings	7:30-9:00PM Special Class
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	Speaker: Father Justin




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Feb. 28



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1990s

Please join us on Thursday, March 7th—ALL DAY—to support the PTA! 10% of all sales for the whole day will be donated to the PES PTA Silent Auction event. Available for dine in & carry out!



Youth Sports

Young PHS Boys' Basketball Team Gains Valuable Experience

By Jeff Stuart

"We've had six losses that were within one possession in the final two minutes," said Coach Kenny Kramek. "We'll return six of our seven top scorers next year. With the exception of James Lang, no one had played significant varsity minutes before this year."

"We have let a couple of games get away from us," said Lang, a team captain at guard. "We know we are a good team. Nick Zehnle, a junior, plays really well at guard. Andrew Tarus, a senior, plays really good defense. He keeps our energy level high. Jeremiah Oyer, a freshman guard, has played really good at point guard. He brings the ball up a lot of times and that has helped me save some of my energy. Against B-CC, we worked really hard to come back. I think they are a good team. We trailed by twenty points and came back to force overtime. Damascus is always a rivalry game, but I think we are matched up against Seneca Valley in the playoffs. We beat them once this year. That is the one game we want. It would be our first playoff win in five or six years."

James scored twenty-two against B-CC, twenty-four points against both Wootton and Walter Johnson, and twenty against Northwood. Zehnle scored eleven for the Falcons against B-CC and thirteen against Walter Johnson. He was injured in an away game at Gaithersburg and missed a few weeks.

In the early season matchup against visiting B-CC, the Falcons scored an amazing thirty points in the fourth quarter to force overtime.

"We are having a rocky season," said senior center and captain Eric Palmer. "There have been a couple of ups and downs. We have been really close to winning a lot of our games. Honestly, the hardest part about it is that we have put in so much work and we have gotten super close. We are just going to have to keep working at it. We are not going to let it get us down... My favorite game was the Rockville game because of the intensity it brought out in all of us. We were so evenly matched. We got into foul trouble and fell a little short. We got stuck at some points on offense and defense."

"We have come close in a couple of big games against B-CC and Rockville twice," said junior forward Eamon



Freshman guard Jeremiah Oyer.



Falcon Aaron Brown.

Murphy. "James has been carrying our team the whole year, scoring twenty points or more almost every other game. Jeremiah has stepped up to help both as a passer and as a shooter, whatever we needed. Eric is a great rebounder, boxing out big guys. He is a great presence inside and a team leader."

Other seniors are Vivek Mehta, Garrett Karns, and Kenny Xu. Xu scored eight points against Quince Orchard. Other juniors are Frankie Willard, Colin Hammett, Eamon Murphy, Matthew Magnani, Malik Smith, Presley Kirongo, and Zac Goldstein. Aaron Brown is a sophomore, and Jeremiah Oyer is a freshman. Brown scored eight points in the opener against Northwood and eight against Whitman.

February 4 was a compelling night of thrill and heartbreak for the Poolesville boys and faithful. In the first game, the JV hit a three pointer at the buzzer to win, 48-47. It was a game the boys and fans will remember. Varsity trailed, 11-0, early in the main event before rallying to take a 30-22 lead into



PHS Falcon captains are seniors, center Eric Palmer and guard James Lang.

half time. The Falcons led by eight after three quarters, but after getting a rebound with only seconds left and a one-point lead, the Falcons allowed a steal and a layup by the Rams that gave Rockville the win.

On January 25 at Magruder, the JV also won a thriller defeating a very good Colonels team, 54-52. A late technical foul called on Magruder JV Coach Brian Magid, former Maryland Terrapin, helped the Falcons—who made their free throws and grabbed big rebounds—hold on.

With experience gained this season, some JV players look ready to make an impact for the varsity next season.

Continued from page 16.

Poolesville Poms Stay at the Top

This year, the team saw seven new members join. "Last year, at the county championship, we had all returning girls, no new members," explained Coach Ventura. "We had to work tirelessly to close the gap between the new and returning members in terms of their technique, showmanship, and overall performance quality. Our goal is to make everyone look as synchronized and 'as one' as possible. You want it to appear as though everyone has the same level of experience and the team is dancing as one unit, not eighteen individuals."

This has been the sixth championship for the team since Ventura took the reins. "It's been an exciting journey to bring the team up from Division 3 to the top of Division 1."

The winning performance can be found on youtube; search: "2018-2019 Poolesville High School POMS D1 County Champions!"

"The team would like to thank their coaches, the PHS staff, drumline, friends, families, and community for their unending support this season," added Coach Ventura.

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BACKYARD BEEKEEPING 2

April 13, 10am - noon
How to set up & care for your bees



SPRING ECO-BUILD

April 27, 10am-1pm
Build & take home your own raised garden bed



BACKYARD BEEKEEPING 3

May 5, 10am - noon
Visit Calleva Farm's apiary & interact with our bees



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May 18, June 15, July 13, August 10, 6-9:30pm
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Continued from page 3.

Looking to the Future of Town Sidewalks

modern GIS program to properly and thoroughly identify needs and to manage the process and progress in meeting those needs.

Town Manager Wade Yost updated the status of the town potentially taking ownership of the main streets (Fisher and Elgin), noting that he does not expect anything new prior to the spring since an on-site "walk-through" will need to be done with the state prior to the state representatives submitting an offer, and this most likely would not be done during the winter. Commissioner Brown added that the commission needs to accelerate its decision-making process regarding any counterdemands the town might make of the state once a proposal is received from them.

Yost also pointed out that all submitted RFPs for trash service will be opened for review this week. The town recently put out a survey to residents on town trash service and received over three hundred responses. The results (rounded off) were:

Year-Round Yard Waste Collection:

- Extremely or very important: 37%
- Somewhat important: 30%
- Not so important: 27%
- Not at all important: 5%

Preference Dual or Single Stream Recycling:

- Dual stream: 15%
- Single stream: 50%
- Doesn't matter: 36%

Preference of Trash Collection Frequency:

- 2x per week: 47%
- 1x per week: 21%
- Doesn't matter: 32%

In Favor of Paying for Composting Services:

- Yes: 6%
- No: 75%
- Dependent on cost: 19%

Rating of Current Service:

- Far above or just above average: 21%
- Average: 42%
- Below or far below average: 37%

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

The Monocle welcomes your contribution. Send to editor@monocacymonocle.com

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Assaults: 19100 block of Dowden Circle, 19600 block of Wootton Avenue.

Burglary: 18000 block of Elmer School Road.

Theft: 19600 block of Fisher Avenue.

Vandalism: Poolesville High School, W. Willard Road.

Past Crime: 1949

Police were investigating the murder of U.S. Navy sailor John Little of Pennsylvania whose body was found in the parking lot of a beer tavern about a mile north of Rockville. Little

had been hitchhiking to his home in Loreto, Pennsylvania. He had been stabbed to death. In the meantime, a blood-filled car was found half over the seawall at Hains Point, and police presumed that Little had been slain in that car. The car had been stolen from a residence in Rockville. The case remains unsolved to this day.

Two alert officers closed two cases at once. Officers Hurd and Johnson came upon two men who were sitting in a parked car. The officers noticed that the rear license plate was hanging down, so they questioned the men. While they were talking, the officers noted that the men were drunk and, after some prodding, the men told the officers that they had purchased moonshine from a bootlegger. The officers then searched the trunk and found the proceeds of several

burglaries that had happened in the county over the past few days. Things were not over. The officers summoned two plainclothes detectives who went to purchase liquor at the house where the moonshiner lived. A husband-and-wife team were arrested as well as the burglars.

County police spread out and, during morning raids, arrested twenty-five youths for stealing car parts, radio equipment, and items from construction sites. Captain Joseph Nolte remarked that most of the suspects "come from our finest families."

An eighteen-year-old Tobytown man was arrested for two rapes. One was of a neighbor who reported to the police that he had broken into her house and raped her in her bed. The second case was in Washington where

he was accused of approaching a twenty-four-year-old woman walking near Francis Junior High and pulling her into some bushes where she was raped.

Godfrey's Drive-In Market in Wheaton had been burglarized thirty times in two months, and the owner asked for police assistance. Two detectives hid in the store after closing time and, on the second night, three boys dropped through the skylight and landed nearly at the feet of the officers. All three were residents of Wheaton, but one was an escapee from the National Training School.

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

Continued from page 1.

The Proud History of Sugarland: Reflections of Life

development of the region. The customs and lives of the people living in the community were vital to enhance the fabric of Montgomery County's history.

As time moves on, so do people. From the 1940s through the 1960s, rural Americans, especially blacks in the South, began to migrate toward cities and away from their historic homes. Today, there are few descendants of the original families who settled Sugarland Forest left, and the cost of maintaining properties has become harder every year. With every family member's passing, what is known about the past becomes even more remote. Yet the emotional and spiritual bond to the land remains strong. Yearly family reunions and heritage day celebrations inspire grandsons, granddaughters—removed from earlier generations' rural life—to return, discover, and reclaim their past. It is a history that can only strengthen what we know of ourselves in Montgomery County.

Research was started in 1995 to document this historical community in Poolesville. In 1996, with the help of Howard University, the name "Sugarland Ethno-History Project" was added. Their goal was to create an archive-type museum to document the genealogy of members of this Montgomery County Afro-American community from slavery to the present day. They wished to create an outreach program for students and the general public to learn

more about the African-American experience of transitioning from slavery to freedom. A website has been established as a resource for people to learn how to document their history and how to create a data base for tracking their genealogy, www.sugarlandethnohistoryproject.org. The Sugarland Ethno-History Project is a nonprofit corporation organized exclusively for charitable, faith-based, and educational purposes.

Memories of life in Sugarland

Gwen Reese is the great-granddaughter of Patrick Hebron. She is also the great-great-granddaughter of Samuel Johnson and the great-granddaughter of Phillip Johnson, a Poolesville slave whose reflections were in the February 8 edition of the *Monocle*. Gwen grew up in Sugarland. Here are some of her memories:

Reflecting upon an early childhood memory of life in Sugarland under the neighborhood umbrella, I remember that my brother, Ernest, and I, a year apart in age, were the fastest runners in the family due in part to an underlying fear of ghosts and the like. We were sent on errands throughout the neighborhood and our feet were the mode of transportation. Sometimes our mother [Ada Hebron] would send us to borrow sugar, flour, or spices from a neighbor or someone would be borrowing from her and we were told to come right back. If we got there fast enough, it always gave us a little playtime before making the mad dash back home. It was a rewarding experience because, to show their appreciation, we were blessed with some sort of goodie, for some of the

families this was a sacrifice. Momma's final words to us before leaving home were, "Mind your manners." So we would politely refuse these special gifts offered to us with a "No, thank you." We hoped they would insist because then it would be all right to accept. At the homes of Grandma Nettie [Nettie Johnson] and Aunt Bessie [Bessie Lee], we were permitted to accept without a "No, thank you" attached. A trip to grandmother's meant a fresh-baked homemade roll beaming with butter or a taste of a simple baked cake. She lived two houses across the fields and in full view of our kitchen, so we knew Mom was keeping a watchful eye on us.

Aunt Bessie was noted for homemade pies and cakes, so we anticipated sweets when sent to her house. She lived about a half a mile from us. To get to her house, we had to pass the church and the graveyard. On our first errand there, without supervision, we decided to save energy by walking until we reached the edge of the woods and the little hill. The end of the incline marked the beginning of the roadside graves and passing through that spot, there was always a cool breeze. Our older brother had previously assured us, on many occasions, that the stream running along the edge of the graveyard and under the roadway explained the cool sensation. He was not there to protect us, and that chill signaled ghost in our imagination. We ran past the cemetery with all our strength as we rounded the bend past the church and down the road to Aunt Bessie's. We stopped running at the beginning of her driveway to compose ourselves, then proceeded to the house. Arriving safely and enjoying her treat gave us the confidence needed to make the trek back home. As we approached our home, we were bubbling with a sense of

accomplishment. We declared, at that moment, "We're brave."

Suzanne Johnson is the great-granddaughter of Samuel Lee, great-great-granddaughter of Samuel Johnson, and the granddaughter of Tilghman Lee. She spent the summers and holidays in Sugarland.

My grandfather, Tilghman Lee, lived in Sugarland. Granddaddy's house was a small frame house with shingled siding and a tin roof. Granddaddy had a smoke house, root cellar, chicken coop, and storage shed. There was a vegetable garden to the left of the lane that went up to the house, and one down past the chicken coop. There was a pen where he raised hogs, and there was an outhouse.

Every November, Granddaddy would slaughter hogs. He would send us in the house while they killed the hogs. When we saw them again, they were cleaned and ready to be cut up. That was an education. I learned where the cuts of pork come from. Killing hogs was an "all weekend affair." Everybody had a job to do. The men cut up the hogs into chops, hams, ribs, bacon, etc. We cut up the fat for lard, ground the meat for the sausage, and cleaned out the casing for the sausage—and then we ate! Aunt Bessie [Bessie Lee] would flour and fry slices of fresh ham and fry some apples! My grandfather would "sugar cure" the hams himself. He would season them and hang them in the smokehouse. Every time I eat a sugar-cured ham, I think of him.

Granddaddy's house had no running water, so we had to go to the Pump to get it. The Pump was located up the road from the house, not far from the church.

Continued on page 20.

Continued from page 13.

When the Shoe Is on the Other Hoof

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The Horses

The TrotSAR Mounted Search and Rescue Team horses are privately owned by team members. Before becoming operational, each horse is evaluated for a basically safe disposition in the presence of people and other animals. All horses must be sociable and controllable in situations involving

parked vehicles, various riding environments, flares, crowds, noise, traffic, other horses, dogs or other domestic animals, and other distractions encountered during an assignment as a public service equine. The primary value of horses in search is the enhanced strength and endurance they provide to the trained searchers riding them. The horses enable the TrotSAR team to move themselves and their equipment over a variety of terrain and distances with minimal effort. The horses on the team are of different ages and breeds, but the individual animal's temperament is the deciding factor in its suitability for search work.

Each team member is equipped with a handheld VHF two-way radio programmed with frequencies compatible with law enforcement and other search agencies. Each rider is a self-sufficient first responder resource and carries equipment and supplies for a minimum deployment period of seventy-two hours, including first-aid and basic survival equipment. Team members (at their own expense) supply their own transportation, fuel, search gear, tack, and supplies for themselves and their horse. The team and its members are self-equipped to establish their own base camp at or near an incident command post site. All certified team members are issued a TrotSAR


Mounted Team photo identification card and have submitted to a criminal background check.

The Training

All operational members of the Mounted Team have completed over one hundred hours of academic training and field exercises, covering search-and-rescue-related topics such as:

- Search theory and probability
- Lost person behavior
- Clue detection and protection
- Probability of detection
- Map and compass navigation
- Radio communications
- Wilderness survival
- First aid, victim triage, and CPR
- Community emergency response
- Incident Command System protocol
- National Incident Command System protocol.

TrotSAR Search and Rescue Mounted Team is on call 24/7 and operates on VHF radio frequency 155-16000. TrotSAR is compliant with ASTM International F-32 F2794 level 1 Mounted SAR Responder Standard. The TrotSAR Mounted Team can be dispatched for deployment via: Maryland JOC 410-517-3600. Just call, and help is on the way!



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Continued from page 1.

Study by County Boosts Chances for a New Multiuse Facility

Muenster and Kevin Schramm, Commission President Jerry Klobukowski, and former commissioner and PTSA leader Link Hoewing, has seen its efforts generate substantial support for the construction of a multiuse facility that could include a community center and senior center, a clinic, and police satellite station. Support has come from elected county leaders, like Elrich, and new councilmembers like Evan Glass, Will Jawando, Gabe Albornoz, and Andrew Friedsen; county school superintendent Jack Smith; department leaders in Health and Human Services, such as Chief Health Officer Travis Gayles; and police chief Tom Manger.

With the support of the town commissioners, the coalition originally came together last year in the wake of yet another disappointment in the decades-long effort residents of the Poolesville area have made to convince the county to build a new high school to replace the existing school. Since the late 1990s, Poolesville's PTSA leaders have been urging the county's school board and superintendent to put Poolesville High School on the list for modernization. Parts of the high school were originally built in 1953 and, while the school has seen additions, like a "new" gymnasium that is now too small for the school, it has never been rebuilt from the ground up.

As a result, the school today resembles a hodgepodge of rooms and corridors patched together, with problems ranging from bathroom entrances that do not meet ADA requirements to locked-in-place asbestos insulation that remains in some ceilings. The PTSA has been told on a number of occasions over the last two decades that the school would be placed on the modernization list, only to have it pulled time and again. Last year, it happened again.

At the beginning of last year, with a new superintendent on board and the prospect that a large number of new council and school board members would be elected who might be more attuned to a different, innovative message, the coalition was ready with a new approach in the effort to push for the construction of a new high school.

They settled on an idea that has become an important strategy increasingly used by Montgomery County to save on construction and operating

expenses; to reduce the environmental impacts of major construction projects; to use less public land for buildings; and to encourage cooperation and resource-sharing among agencies: collocation. Using this approach, county agencies that historically have acted in stovepipe fashion have been encouraged to work and plan together to build new facilities that integrate several agency offices in one building. Studies done by the county have promoted the approach, and agencies from HHS to the Recreation Department to the county school system have come together on a number of occasions to combine resources and build colocated facilities of various kinds.

The Fair Access Coalition was convinced the new approach had merit because it fits the county's new strategy; it is a good fit for the Ag Reserve where massive new county buildings are inconsistent with the rules that preserve open space; and it could increase the support that could be generated for a new high school by encouraging other agencies, such as HHS, to add their resources to the construction of a new multiuse facility housing the school and other facilities, such as a community center.

Most other parts of the county have easy access to community centers and/or senior centers. Many have clinics supported by the county. The coalition pointed to a "services desert" in Western Montgomery County and began to make the case that the county had—for decades—failed to invest in a modern high school or provide facilities to house services for seniors and needed medical services. A groundbreaking new study released last fall that looked at health outcomes in the county by zip codes found that Poolesville ranks at the bottom of the list on overall health measures added more evidence that the Western County has been left out for too long.

Coalition members recognized they had to let all candidates know early on in the electoral process that Upcounty residents demand fairness in services and a new high school. Members attended many of the debates during the elections, particularly between the county executive candidates, showing signs demanding fairness and asking questions of the candidates.

Right after the election, the coalition sponsored a breakfast just before Poolesville Day kicked off, and dozens of elected council and school members and agency officials attended. They heard a presentation about the services desert in the Poolesville area, the

need for a new high school, and the lack of fairness with which the Upcounty has been treated by the county for so long.

Since then, coalition members have repeatedly attended events where Elrich appeared, and they met with all of the councilmembers. They also met with county and school system planners to make the case for a new high school and colocated facility. The study proposed by Elrich to examine how to provide needed services to Upcounty residents is a major step forward. The school system has also committed \$900,000 to conduct a review of the high school and determine how to modernize it. The school is now one of nine "major capital projects" that are in the planning stages.

While all of these are promising steps forward, the coalition knows a lot more work needs to be done to secure a commitment to build a new high school and colocated facility for services. This year will be critical in getting the school system and the county agencies to work together to develop an actual plan and proposal to fund a new facility to meet the needs of students and residents.

Continued from page 18.

The Proud History of Sugarland: Reflections of Life

If, for some reason, the pump wasn't working, we had to go to the spring to get the water. I didn't like going to the spring because it was back in the woods, behind the pigpen, with all the creepy crawlies. When they added on the bedroom, bathroom and kitchen, with running water, we didn't have to haul water anymore, or go to the outhouse!

There were many Sundays when we sat in the front of the church. Granddaddy had many important jobs in the church. He kept most of the church records. Every June, we would go to Sugarland for Children's Day. We would be dressed in our Sunday best. Then we would line up in front of the church and recite our bible verses. We would all try to find the shortest verse we could.

Discipline at Granddaddy's involved getting a switch from a special tree to be used for your punishment. One day, we all got the switch because Aunt Bessie wanted to be sure she got the guilty party.



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Remembrances

Barbara J. Ward

Barbara J. Ward, 84, of Barnesville, died on February 9. She was the wife of the late E. Charles Ward, Jr. who passed in 1989.

Born on August 27, 1934 in Dawsonville, Barbara was the daughter of the late Clarence L. and Laura Mae (Howard) Allnutt.

She was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and the St. Mary's Ladies' Sodality.

Surviving are two sons, C. Douglas Ward, Sr. (Debbie) and David A. Ward (Robin); two sisters, Anna Corrales and Pat Williams; two brothers, Upton and James Allnutt; two grandchildren, Carrie A. Ward and C. Douglas Ward, Jr.; and two great-grandchildren, Gaven D. and Jaxon W. Williams.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggest donations be made to St. Mary's Catholic Church, P.O. Box 67, Barnesville, MD 20838 or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (stjude.org).



Barbara J. Ward

Katherine Michelle Zajdel

Katherine Michelle Zajdel, 39, passed away on February 11. Born on April 1, 1979, she was the daughter of Mary Sue Zajdel and the late Thomas James Zajdel of Poolesville. Katie was the loving mother to Mya Randolph. She was the sister of Ann Marie Matlock, James Richard Zajdel, John Michael Zajdel, Joseph Thomas Zajdel, and the late Michael Robert Zajdel. She was the aunt to eight nieces and nephews and had numerous cousins, aunts, uncles, and other family members.



Katherine Michelle Zajdel

Continued from page 14.

Things To Do

minutes or ten generations, this land has been or is now part of your inheritance. With this inheritance comes a great responsibility and opportunity to learn from those before us and to shape the lives of those who will come after. *Old Town Hall Bank Museum.* 4:00 p.m.

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Changing a Pet's Diet

By Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF

There are times when we need to change your furry friend's diet; however, if a pet refuses the new food recommended or required medically, you may be quick to give up because "food is the language of love." It's not easy to resist a sad face that is saying, "Where's the good stuff?"

Another problem you may face is food aversion, which may occur after your friend has been hospitalized or is receiving medical treatment.

Providing food that contains the correct nutrients to meet your pet's needs at different life stages, and in the face of different diseases, is one of the most important pet parent duties. For this to be successful, the food must be palatable. Palatability can be defined as the characteristics of a food that entice a pet to consume it. Flavor, texture, smell, and appearance are key elements for success and are painstakingly tested by pet food companies.

Preference testing can be done by offering your pet several foods to see which their "favorite" is. A compromise between what is tasty and nutritional content may have to be made, especially in diets designed for pets with chronic kidney disease, liver disease, obesity, gastrointestinal disease, or diabetes are needed for your pets. These taste tests should result in a diet that will be consumed most of the time, with "most" being the key word! There will always be special situations where your pet is very difficult with food choices, so here we have to get creative. Pets can be just like children—some eat anything and everything with gusto, while some are "picky" eaters.

Just as with medication, if a new food is not accepted by your pet, there is a frustration for you and a potential for difficulty treating a condition for your veterinary team.

The human-animal bond has multiple components, but one of the most important revolves around the emotions you feel when feeding and giving treats to your furry friends. For this reason, we should give a lot of thought to how we can successfully transition to a new diet.

Online sites often recommend "transitioning / changing / switching food in dogs and cats by mixing the old and the new food over 7 to 10 days, gradually increasing the new food until that is all that is given." In my experience, this is not always successful. Cats are usually suspicious of any change in their food. When given mixed food, dogs may try to pick out what they want, but more likely will refuse to eat at all. Most of us will relent very quickly and let our pet have what they will eat.

Switching diets

What can we do differently for a higher likelihood of success?

1. Do NOT mix the foods together
2. Use the bowl that is currently being used (or a favorite bowl) for the new food
3. Put the old food into a new bowl
4. Place the two bowls side by side, increasing the new food daily and reducing the old food daily

To avoid gastrointestinal upset and ensure that some food is eaten, use a 7-to-10-day plan to increase the percentage of new food and to decrease the old food, as shown in the table below. I prefer a slow and steady approach, and if the new food is refused, this 10-day plan can be extended by sticking to one of the ratios for several days in a row until the pet eats what is in both bowls before moving on.

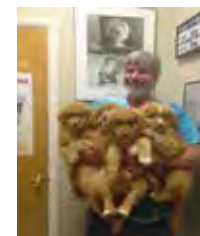
Day	New Food %	Old Food %
1	10	90
2	20	80
3	30	70
4	40	60
5	50	50
6	60	40
7	70	30
8	80	20
9	90	10
10	100	0

Using this technique can give you the best chance of getting your furry pal to eat the new food. Always discuss your plan with your veterinarian first.



Poolesville Veterinary Clinic

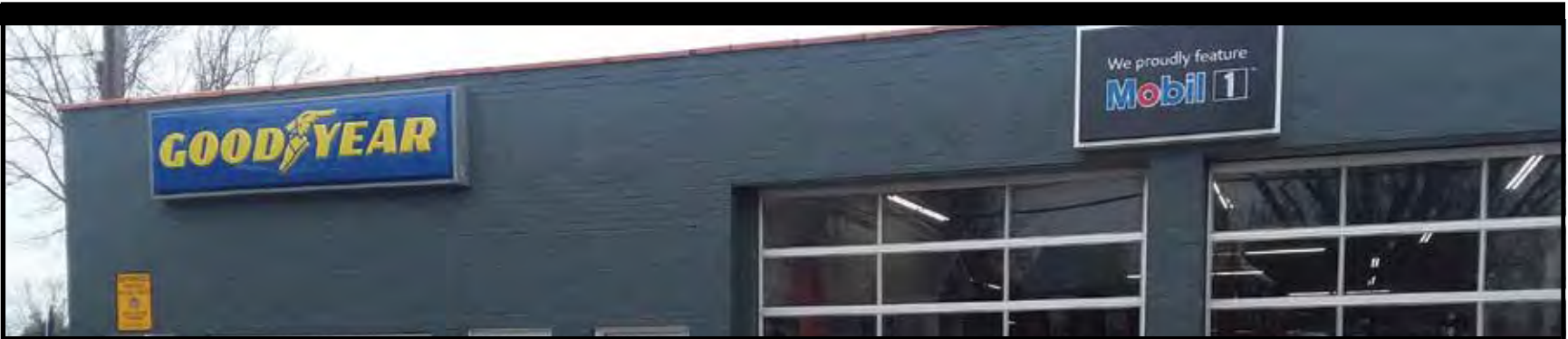
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