

# The Monocacy

# MONOCLE

*Keeping an Eye on Local News*

*A Biweekly Newspaper*

December 13, 2019 • Volume XV, Number 18



*The holiday spirit shone with these two ladies at the Santa Breakfast. See more pictures in Family Album on page 2.*



*New pathway in Poolesville result of Gold Star project. More on page 4.*



*Read about the harrowing road trip that beat all road trips on page 14.*



*The annual Holiday Lighting Festival was a ho-ho-ho on the community spirit scale. See more pictures on page 17.*

## Dunkin' Donuts/Baskin-Robbins Preparing For Grand Opening

By Rande Davis

A firm grand opening date is still not set, but Poolesville's newest business, Dunkin' Donuts, may be our sweetest commercial Christmas gift for 2019. For the folks at Luis Group Management, LLC, it's been about two years since they originally began the process of bringing the establishment to town. The firm not only operates several other Dunkin' Donuts/Baskin-Robbins locations in Montgomery, Howard, and Anne Arundel Counties, but also Jersey Mike's Subs. The construction seems to have taken a long time, but they have been doing this since 1995, so what seems forever to us is par for the course to them.

Boris Lander, the franchisee, told us that they are looking forward to serving the community with what is Dunkin' Donut's return from many years ago when they were in the same center. Back then, Dunkin' Donuts did not include the wide menu offerings of the restaurant today. Going with



*Cape Cod-style Dunkin' Donuts to open soon.*

current trends, they will even have a non-meat "sausage" egg sandwich. The Baskin-Robbins will include an assortment of ice cream cakes as well some short-term seasonal items.

Lander said, "We're looking forward to serving the community with our return to Poolesville. We appreciate

*Continued on page 15.*

## The Time Santa Claus Lived in Poolesville

By Rande Davis

Right now, Santa Claus is down to the last few touches of making toys, furiously finishing with the last-minute painting of them for children all over the world. Within two weeks, it will be skis-up for his reindeer and sleigh as the jolly old man blasts off sky-high before setting down on the roofs and lawns of homes all over our area.

Our excited children have been busy sending letters or visiting Santa and his helpers to make sure their wish lists of gifts get in the right hands in time for Christmas. There is much everyone knows about ol' Saint Nick, but did you know that, like us, he sometimes needs to get out in the real world, away from the North Pole, for rest and rejuvenation. As you can

*Continued on page 11.*



*This red wagon was one of the favorite toys made by Santa while he lived in Poolesville.*

# Family Album



*Penny Jones and Linda Butler volunteered at the annual UMCVFD Santa breakfast.*



*Santa Claus helper, Walter Moskwa, accompanied by a Leo volunteer, presented a gift to Carolyn Repass.*



*The members of UMCVFD's ladies' auxiliary made the annual Santa Breakfast possible.*



*The choir from Western Methodist Church entertained at the annual seniors luncheon.*



*The local Leos Club members (the youth arm of the Monocacy Lions Clubs) were dedicated volunteers serving the attendees of the Odd Fellows' annual Holiday luncheon for widows, widowers, and senior citizens.*



*The holiday spirit was in abundance with these women as they attended the Odd Fellow Annual Holiday Luncheon.*



*Above: JD Taylor with his daughter Jeanette and her nurse at Santa's breakfast.*



*Right: The Historic Medley District celebrated the season with its annual holiday gathering: Carter Van de Vanter, Board of Directors chairman, Knight Kiplinger, Vicki Crawford, and president Maureen O'Connell.*



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## Rande(m) Thoughts Bygone Days, Bygone Lessons

By Rande Davis

If January is the month of great expectations, December is the season for reflection.

My thoughts naturally drift to bygone days this time of year. One last look back, and then it's full steam ahead. Have you ever wondered what things in our life will leave us this year? For example, consider telephone booths. There came a year recently when they were no longer. Not so much a poof! but drifting away slowly, too slow to even notice until one day we woke up and realized it was over, they're gone forever. In our world today, change happens so fast I can only wonder: What will some of those lost things be now that we are at the end of 2019?

There are some teens today that in seventy years will catch a glimpse of a telephone booth somehow or somewhere, and they will recall their youth, being the last generation that will recognize them and their use. It gets me thinking about those things in my youth that came to an end with my generation. Their departure was progress, but with progress also comes a bit of loss, sometimes nothing more than a simple lesson lost. Here are a four such things: fountain pens, indoor water pumps, meat grinders, and tie clips.

### The fountain pen

Fountain pens live only in the world of collectors today. Did we lose anything with the onslaught of ballpoint pens? Perhaps. Of course, nearly all forms of writing have been radically diminished to the point where many schools no longer even teach script. Perhaps, even much too soon, we will no longer even write at all. Just speak the words, and all will be written for us, automatically, with spellcheck (which drives the *Monocle's* editor nuts) and regrettably auto-correct—which drives me nuts.

Fountain pens could be clumsy and messy for sure, but their use taught us valuable lessons like patience, how to focus. Most of all, it required us to

think before putting pen to paper. The fountain pen taught me not to dawdle with tip on the paper, and that if I did, I could end up with an undesired ink-blot. Then again, the fountain pen brought us Rorschach tests. Funny, I think most of my inkblots always looked like a cloud. With the end of fountain pens, handwriting as an art form also began a long, slow demise.

### The meat grinder

No, I am not referring to the psychological high-pressure lifestyle we face today. I mean a real-life meat grinder, a silvery, heavy metal device that was clamped to the countertop, with fresh meat stuffed into a cup with a handle that was turned to create ground beef. In my youth, the grinding was much more likely to be for meatloaf than a hamburger. Like the fountain pen, its primary lesson was patience and focus. Let your mind wander, and one's fingertips might become part of the meatloaf. Amazingly by today's standards, only a cruel guardian would allow such a device in the hands of a child. What fun, though, as I remember helping Grandma in her old-fashioned kitchen. Mine may be the last generation, and perhaps a good thing, though.

### Real water pump in the kitchen

Imagine the time when bringing an outdoor water pump inside was considered a great renovation. My grandmother's kitchen had one. My generation became the last to use it. Its main lesson? It trained you to think of others. When using the water pump, the number one rule was always, always fill the bucket next to the pump with water at the end. Why? A filled bucket allowed the next user to prime the pump. Forget to fill the bucket and others would be left high and dry.

### The tie clip

Is my generation the last generation to use a tie clip, displaced by the tie tack, which itself is displaced by nothing at all? Heck, we don't even seem to wear ties much anymore. My dad taught me to tie a tie and clip it to make sure I could remain looking sharp, not windswept. The lesson lost? Professional performance begins with one's attitude and personal desire for excellence, which starts with how one

**Continued on page 11.**

## Local News

### Eco Evie, Every Bit Helps! StoryWalk Is Open

By Rande Davis

The Eco Evie, Every Bit Helps! StoryWalk is officially open at Halmos Park in Poolesville. The culmination of almost two years of work, the StoryWalk was recently installed along the paved accessible path around

Halmos Park. A StoryWalk is a fun, educational activity that places a children's story along a popular walking route. As you walk down the path, you are directed to the next page in the story. The StoryWalk Project was originally created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont and developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg Hubbard Library.

Poolesville's unique version of the StoryWalk was created by Jessica Mense, a junior at Poolesville High

**Continued on page 26.**



*Volunteers of StoryWalk.*

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## Town Government

### Commissioners Vote to Issue RFP for Pedestrian Alert Systems for Crosswalks

By Link Hoewing

In their December 9 meeting, the commissioners of the Town of Poolesville voted to issue a Request for Proposal or RFP for the installation of pedestrian alert systems at the two main crosswalks on Fisher Avenue that are located at either end of Whalen Commons. An RFP asks contractors to submit bids to construct the proposed systems.

The RFP was recommended by the Parks Board and would be supported by a \$25,000 allocation from existing parks and streets funds. The RFP would require a contractor to install two pedestrian alert systems. The systems would include a pole with alert lights powered by solar panels. Below the alert lights would be a large, yellow pedestrian crossing symbol and below that a large button illuminated by LED lights. Pedestrians could push the button and, after a short delay, bright flashing yellow LED lights would signal to drivers that people wish to cross. The signs and lights are large and should help improve safety at the crosswalks.

The commissioners were unanimous in supporting the RFP. Commissioner Martin Radigan noted that the proposal is already a part of the Streetscape Plan the town has been working on and said that something needs to be done. Commissioner Kerri Cook made similar comments.

Town Engineer John Strong said that the systems would rely on solar power because there is no ready, nearby access to electric power lines. He said that the systems are reliable and that the State of Maryland is considering similar systems. Poolesville is ahead of the state in moving ahead with the pedestrian crosswalk safety systems.

Earlier in the meeting, the commissioners considered a proposed "map" amendment that would change the existing zoning of the land and the building that formerly housed Dr. Hector Asuncion's office across from the high school from residential to commercial. This would facilitate the sale of the property, possibly to a physician or medical services company.

Town Attorney Jay Gullo explained that most zoning changes are done on a comprehensive basis, usually during the consideration of a Master Plan. In this case, a single piece of existing property is being proposed for rezoning. In order to be approved, a very specific process must be followed by the town as set out in its statutes. Once the commissioners vote to allow the proposal to move forward, it must be considered by the Planning Commission. They must publish two public notices and then hold a hearing on February 3. If the Planning Commission approves the application, it is sent back to the commissioners. They must vote to approve the Planning Commission's recommendations. The earliest such a vote can occur is February 17. The commissioners agreed to the time frame and sent the proposed zoning change to the Planning Commission for its consideration.

The commissioners also discussed the status of the search for a new town manager. The firm managing the search, Mercer Associates, is completing a report that includes a set of candidates that the firm has reviewed and believes are capable of fulfilling the requirements the town as set forth for the job. The commissioners will meet in executive session on Saturday, December 14 to review the candidates recommended by Mercer Associates. It is possible that a consensus could emerge among the commissioners in support of one of the candidates and, if so, an offer would be made to that candidate. If the candidate accepts the offer, a new town manager might be announced as early as next week.



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## Local News

### Who Wants to Be Taxed Twice? I Don't!

By Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski

That is what Tax Duplication does: By law, the Town of Poolesville can assess and collect property tax, and we receive a small portion of the county's share of residents' income taxes. Those taxes are used to pay employee salaries, maintain our municipal buildings, streets, sidewalks, and parks, as well as to pay for town-sponsored events, like the Fourth of July Fireworks, Holiday Lighting, etc. These are services and events you expect living in a municipality and directly relate to our town's quality of life; however, your taxes that go to the county are also intended to cover things such as streets, sidewalks, and parks. When two governments collect taxes for the same services, this is called Tax Duplication. By state law, the county is required to rebate municipalities for services that are provided by the municipality which otherwise the county would have to provide. In other words, two governments cannot collect taxes for services that are only provided by one. We can all agree we should not pay twice for the same service.

The discussions on fair Tax Duplication payments began when Mr. Doug Duncan was Montgomery County Executive and continue today with County Executive Marc Elrich. As a former Takoma Park City Councilmember and then County Councilmember, Elrich had been a longtime advocate for fair and consistent tax duplication payments to Montgomery municipalities.

Since FY2012, Montgomery County has essentially frozen the rebate amount provided to each municipality. These rebates are to return the amount of county tax money collected from municipal taxpayers for services the county does not provide because the services were instead provided by the municipalities.

As an example, for FY2018 (the most recent information available), \$543,186 should have been paid to Poolesville for road maintenance; however, we only received and continue to only receive \$228,936, so, for the past three years, the county has shorted us \$942,750—and that is just in the category of road maintenance. The town could have used that money for road and park maintenance/improvements and helped to lessen your tax burden.

Poolesville has been actively working with other county municipalities through the Montgomery County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League to resolve this issue. We seek to work with the county to establish a reliable formula rather than an annual arbitrary decision rendered by the county executive. To that end, although several formulas for calculating other Tax Duplication rebates, such as parks and police, are also out-of-date, the road maintenance formula is regarded as accurate.

As the county executive's office is preparing the proposed FY21 Budget, this is the time to insist on fair tax duplication payments to be included. Bottom line: We need your support, so please send an email to [ocemail@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:ocemail@montgomerycountymd.gov) and copy Councilmember Friedson at [Councilmember.Friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Councilmember.Friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov) and [townhall@poolesvillemd.gov](mailto:townhall@poolesvillemd.gov)

Let the county executive know that fair tax duplication payments must be made to Poolesville now. This is your money. You need to let county officials know that you want it back!

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## In Your Own Backyard

### The Story of Rock Hall Manor: Part Two

By Jon Wolz

The land where Rock Hall Manor was built was once occupied by Native Americans who hunted, gathered food, and fished in the Monocacy River valley. A Native American trail went through the lands that eventually became owned by the Johnson brothers in the 1780s and 1790s.

Dr. Belt Road leads to an unpaved driveway, and at the end of the driveway is the Rock Hall Manor house. Before Route 28 was built, the road that became known as Dr. Belt Road was part of the original Native American path that later became the main road coming from the east passing near the front of Rock Hall going down to a ford across the Monocacy River.

On May 15, 1795, between Francis Deakins and Roger Johnson, the sum of 545 pounds ten shillings was exchanged, and Johnson became the owner of a tract of land called "Mount Pisgah" containing 431 acres of land. Francis Deakins and his brother William, both from Montgomery County, after serving as officers in the Maryland Militia during the Revolutionary War, became land speculators, applying their skills as surveyors to leverage land acquisitions.

In October 1790, George Washington visited the land owned by Francis Deakins at the Mouth of the Monocacy River to determine whether or not this site would be suitable to serve as the Nation's Capital. As surveyors, Francis Deakins and his brother William had previously met George Washington in July 1786. After leaving the mouth of the Monocacy River, George Washington went on to view Shepherdstown and Williamsport as possible locations for the capital.

Roger Johnson was a major in the Revolutionary War. In 1812, using his slaves, Roger Johnson built Rock Hall Manor on this land that he had acquired in 1795 for his son Joseph. Near the Monocacy River, the Johnson brothers operated one of their many iron furnaces that operated from 1787 to the early 1800s. The stream that provided power for this furnace flowed into the Monocacy River near the current Route 28 bridge and is known as Furnace Branch. The brothers also operated a lime kiln, a woolen factory, a grist mill, a distillery, a slitting mill (a water mill for splitting iron bars into rods), and a quarry at this location. The impressive stone lime kiln remains along the Furnace Branch Trail and the iron-making byproduct slag heaps left by the iron furnace are all that remain of the iron furnace that was once along Furnace Branch.

The Johnson brothers were born in Calvert County and traveled to Frederick County to seek their fortunes. The brothers included Benjamin, Thomas, James, Baker, and Roger. They built homes in the Sugarloaf Mountain area. In order to make limestone and iron, charcoal was made from trees in the area. The men who made the charcoal were known as colliers. Benjamin Henry Latrobe, the second architect of the Capital, visited the Sugarloaf Mountain area and painted a watercolor in 1816 of a collier, his family, and their teepee dwelling. In 1819, Roger Johnson hired David Moody, who reportedly was "half Indian," to burn so many bushels of charcoal for the Johnson Furnace at one and a half cents per bushel. In the Sugarloaf Mountain areas today, large circular indentations are all that remain of these charcoal hearths. Making charcoal required using a lot of trees, and forest depletion could have led to the demise of the Johnson brothers' industry in the area.

The white granite rock quarried on the Rock Hall property was used to build the Monocacy Aqueduct along the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal between 1831 and 1833. A wooden railroad was built from the quarry to the aqueduct worksite over which stones were transported a little over three miles. Joseph Johnson was paid \$500 for the quarried stones. The stone was cut and blocked out at the



Dr. Edward Belt.

Continued on page 19.



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## Local News

### Local Author Presents New Book

By John Clayton

Barnesville author Steve Vogel recently discussed his new book, *Betrayal in Berlin*, at the Barnesville Town Hall. A crowd of approximately fifty people heard him discuss the dramatic true story of the Berlin tunnel, an American-British joint intelligence operation against the Soviet Union at the peak of the Cold War. The tunnel venture allowed the Americans and British to tap into subterranean telephone cables and eavesdrop on Soviet intelligence and military conversational traffic. The operation was successful probably beyond the plotters' wildest dreams, but it was also subject to betrayal by a notorious British spy, George Blake.



Author Steve Vogel signed copies of *Betrayal in Berlin* following his talk at the Barnesville Town Hall.

Vogel began the event with a discussion of the situation along the border between western and eastern Europe not long after the Second World War, when the Soviet Union had over 300,000 troops in East Germany, with intentions unknown. The city of Berlin, isolated within East Germany and divided into four sectors—American, French, British, and Soviet—was a hotbed of intelligence activity among multiple agencies from all four countries. As Vogel described it, nerves were fraught back in Washington, D.C., as President Dwight Eisenhower feared with some justification a “nuclear Pearl Harbor” or surprise ground invasion from our new adversaries in the Soviet Union.

Continued on page 13.

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- 12/24 TUE 4pm Children's Pageant, Mass
- 12/24 TUE 6:30pm Mass & 12am Midnight Mass
- 12/25 WED 10am Nativity of the Lord Mass
- 12/28-29 SAT-SUN - Feast of the Holy Family Masses
- 12/31 TUE 5:30pm Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary
- 01/01 WED 10am Solemnity of Mary Mass
- 01/03 FRI 6pm-9pm First Friday Adoration - in Chapel
- 01/04-05 SAT-SUN - Epiphany of the Lord Masses
- 01/11-12 SAT-SUN - Baptism of the Lord Masses



### CHRISTMAS TREE SALE FINAL DAYS!!

- FRI 12/13: 4pm to 7pm
- SAT 12/14: 10am to 7pm
- SUN 12/15: 12pm to 6pm



**Tidbits**

**Warner Named to BOD  
Of C&O Canal Association**

Dickerson's Jonathan Warner has been appointed to the C&O Canal Association Board of Directors. Warner established Warner Commercial as the market specialists in the redevelopment of historic downtown Frederick. From complex accessibility issues to historic tax credits, his team assists clients in every phase of the leasing, sales, and development process in and out of downtown Frederick. Community involvement is a cornerstone of Warner Commercial both in Frederick and overseas—locally via the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek, as well as a variety of other organizations, and internationally with Hope in South Africa.



*Jonathan Warner.*

He is a fourth generation Washingtonian and resides in a historic home adjacent to Lock 26 of the Canal in Dickerson. He attended the Landon School in Bethesda and earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from Yale University.

Jonathan is a member of St. Peter's Parish and of the Trust's William O. Douglas Society and has been a generous supporter of Park after Dark.

**Oops! We Did It Again**

Sometimes the *Monocle* runs out of room, and as we got to the end of design layout last issue, there was no room to place the picture to accompany the Youth Sports column on PHS cross country. This came so late in the game that we had no time left to work it out, but we have the time now, and we are so pleased to share that missing picture of Mikayla Durr, Logan Rohde, Lillian Hsu, Chris Stallard, and Sam Bodmer.



*Mikayla Durr, Logan Rohde, Lillian Hsu, Chris Stallard, and Sam Bodmer.*

Continued on page 21.



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## Things To Do

### Poolesville Area Senior Center

All events at 17750 W. Willard Road, Poolesville

**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.

**Chair/Slow Flow Yoga:** Mondays, 11:00 am in the café

**The Blue Hearth is open every weekend.**

### December 12, 13, and 14

#### Miracle on 34th Street

The PHS Midnight Players will be performing *Miracle on 34th Street* this year. Tickets at auditorium box office in lobby prior to performances. Thursday and Friday: 7:00 p.m., Saturday: 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

### December 13

#### PHS Varsity Home Game

Boys' basketball. Wheaton. 7:15 p.m.

#### Photography Exhibit: "I Live Here"

Featuring photographer Martin Radigan, live music by No Stop Light. Special menu. *Watershed Café*. 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### December 13, 14, and 15

#### Countryside Artisan Holiday Tour

Visit countrysideartisans.com for details.

### December 14

#### Live Nativity

Live character portrayals and live animals, hot chocolate, and cookies. In the event of rain, the Nativity will be presented inside the church. *Memorial United Methodist Church*, 17821 Elgin Road. 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### December 16

#### Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

### December 17

#### PASC Special Event

Pizza and movie night, featuring *The Best of Enemies*. 17750 West Willard Road. 6:00 p.m.

### December 18

#### PHS Varsity Home Game

Boys' basketball. Quince Orchard. 7:15 p.m.

#### Tween Book Club

Lectures and discussions about the selected book for teens and late elementary school ages. *M. Nightingale Library*. 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### December 19

#### PHS Varsity Game

Wrestling. Seneca Valley. 4:00 p.m.

#### Family Storytime

Encourages children to develop a lifelong love of reading and learning. Children can make a craft after storytime. Preschool to kindergarten ages. *M. Nightingale Library*. 10:30 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.

### December 23

#### UMCVFD Hosts Santa's Ride

Santa will ride through Poolesville. Wait for the sound of Christmas music in the air. 6:00 p.m.

Would you like to announce a meeting, club, or upcoming event in **Things To Do?**

**Then let us know!**

Send it along to [editor@monocacymonocle.com](mailto:editor@monocacymonocle.com)



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Continued from page 1.

### The Time Santa Claus Lived in Poolesville

Imagine, being Santa can be very, very demanding. He's not complaining, mind you. He so loves being Santa and bringing toys and joys to every good child. Where Santa goes to rest will surprise you.

What I learned firsthand from the jolly man himself has never been shared before, but he said it is okay now to let all our children in on a very special secret. You see, while disguising himself as a boy, he came to live, rest, and practice the simple joy of toymaking right here in Poolesville. Surprised? Well, he loved it. No crushing deadlines. No worries when supervising so many — sometimes a bit unruly — elves. Oh, how he enjoyed the creative freedom of making toys that no one even knew to request yet before.

You may wonder why he chose me to tell this tale. It was for a real good reason. You see, I live in the very house in which he lived. Even more amazingly, it was in the exact room where I am writing this story that he made the toys. It seems my office was his workshop away from the workshop. I really loved how happy and excited he was to share this story of his toymaking in Poolesville, but I get ahead of myself. Let's start at the very beginning (a very good place to start).

First of all, good children, what you are about to read is true and all of it actually happened.

It was way back in 1944 that Santa decided that in the off-season he would disguise himself as a young lad about ten years old, seeking to live in a wonderful quaint little town and enjoy life in the same way as all his children do all around the world. From his world travels, he knew exactly the right place to choose for his post-winter respite: Our wonderful town.

Like all kids his age back then, he loved going to the Glen Echo Amusement Park (your parents could take you there sometime), but he sprained his knee while sliding down a curved sliding board while wearing rubber shoes. Because he needed to recover and wasn't able to run around playing with all the kids his age, a neighbor named Howard Fry built him a workbench in the back room of his home on what we call Whalen Commons. The young Santa naturally found himself wanting to make things, especially toys. At first it was a bit of a hobby, but he eventually built it into a successful little enterprise he called Hershey Toys.

At the time he resided here, he lived with his widowed mother named Virginia. Wishing to accommodate his endeavor, she would drive him to the Rockville dump00 where he collected boxes (most often citrus and apple crates, for free lumber). Yes, Santa always loves to help the Earth by recycling as much as he can.

Experimenting at first, he began to build all sorts of things such as toy wheelbarrows, firetrucks, stick horses, even leatherette-covered doll furniture. Table decorations were high on his list, too. Things like English walnut salt/pepper shakers, signs for homes, etc. His basic tools included a tilting table circular saw, a walking beam action jigsaw, and a drill press. Often his mom and Aunt Mary Davis would help with the painting, frequently drying articles all throughout the house.

His little business began to grow. One time he custom built a sheet cake carrier for a local baker named Mary Buxton. She was not just any baker, as she often baked for the president at the White House. It was through her that he learned a new way to expand his enterprise. She had a bake sale stand at the Bethesda Women's Farm Market on Wisconsin Avenue. You see, female farming has a long history in our area, especially for all sorts of dairy products. She told him if he hired a friend, Nancy Jo Kohlhoss (a classmate), he could set up his toy and home décor goods at the market.

Another great venue was during carnivals at the Upper Montgomery County Fire Department. At these events, he featured tabletop items that included a small firetruck with wooden ladders sporting a butter dish in the rear and an area for fresh flowers. A big part of his memory of this event was that after dinner, the tables were put away, a dance floor created, and the celebrated Jimmy Dean (the great country music singer and master sausage maker himself) was the main entertainment.



Dr. Webb Hersperger

When it came to sign making, he recalls making Oregon's Senator Wayne Morse a sign for his local farm called "Sunrise Pastures."

Santa remembers most fondly a very impressive man who came to befriend him and encourage his entrepreneurship. The gentleman was Col. Gordon Strong, and the first time he met him, the colonel showed up at his house in a very impressive chauffeur-driven black Cadillac, or maybe, it was a Pierce Arrow limousine. Santa sometimes gets his cars confused. He can't recall exactly why Mr. Strong came by, not sure if it was to see him or to visit his mom. His mother once taught school in a one-room schoolhouse in Comus near Mr. Strong's home.

The colonel talked to the young Santa, learned about his flourishing toy company, and he graciously invited him to sell his Hershey Toys from the trunk of his mother's 1941 Plymouth Coupe at the foot of a mountain he owned, our beloved Sugarloaf Mountain. Santa holds his memory of friendship with Mr. Strong dear to his heart. He will never forget the encouragement he always gave and will never forget a time when Mr. Strong invited him to a special lunch in his mansion. The mansion is still there, and parents can point out the place the next time the family goes to Sugarloaf Mountain.

Santa finally decided to close his Hershey Toys business when he grew into his late teens. He always loved his time here. Over the many years, while "resting" in Poolesville, he said he made approximately 125 wheelbarrows all painted red and decorated tastefully with a decal on each side.

This mystery history was told to me recently by him when he came to revisit the vacation home of his. Of course, even then he was still in disguise, but this time he looked much more as he appears at Christmas time, except with his beard shaved off and not wearing anything red. I think he could walk right by, and you would never know it was him. There were clues which were obvious though: that perpetual smile never once leaving his expression, his quiet voice so gentle it was almost like singing, intoned in such a sweet and loving way. The only time he was loud was when he laughed and, oh, how he loves to laugh. Our jolly old man was pleasantly plump and even wore his glasses down his nose. He posed for a picture in front of his drill press which I share with you here. I remarked to him how much he unquestionably resembled my good friend Dr. Webb Hersperger who also grew up in Poolesville. He smiled and joked about how handsome the good doctor must be, and then with a broad burst of laughter shouted out, just before putting his thumb to his nose, "Merry Christmas to all in Poolesville and to all her good children, good night!"

Continued from page 4.

### Bygone Days, Bygone Lessons

perceives oneself. The tie clip was the last thing done in front of the mirror. Make sure the clip was straight, the tie knot firm and centered, and you could step out the door knowing you were ready to meet the day's challenge. It was the businessman's uniform. Uniforms may be outdated, but I rue the day the Nats hit the field in cutoffs, t-shirts, and caps on backward. Same guy, but is he as professional?

There you have it. Some of the things from my bygone days that had their purpose even beyond their ostensible uses. Think about life in 2019 and try to remember those things our youngest generation today will be the last to use. Perhaps their loss is mostly goodbye and good riddance, but one has to wonder, will there be lessons lost, too?



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## Garden

### Onward and Upward In the Garden—2020

By Maureen O’Connell

As we move into the middle of December, I still take my morning and late afternoon walks in my gardens with my ever-loyal sous-gardeners, Spencer and Winston. Spencer is now four years old and an old hand at this; Winnie is almost ten months, but he has quickly learned what “Let’s go the UG” means (we always start our walk in the Upper Garden, where all the nighttime visiting critters’ scents are aplenty). My thoughts slide back to the past year in the garden—its successes, its failures, but above all, its glorious days and its glorious flowers.

The garden’s year never really comes to a close as it is always in a state of evolution. It is not only the seasons that change the garden, and we gardeners have to respond to change to retain the balance. The first heavy frost, ice-laden trees, the prediction of snow, and the shortening of days brings with them a shift of mood. There is no longer the anticipation of blooming summer flowers and new flowers to enter the garden’s stage in the fall. The four seasons are marked by dramatic changes in the landscape, and we see the world of our backyard through constantly-changing lenses. Plants let go and decay; the leaves fall to the ground and are pulled into the soil by earthworms to replenish the goodness that summer has taken. Sepia, grays, and brown replace the green of early summer and the hot autumn



Winter Garden.

colors—but we must look beyond the obvious to see that the garden, as it enters its winter hibernation, is still living.

Leave your garden a little more untidy this winter. The cloak of color and vegetation fades and we see the garden in a new light. We are left with the skeletons of summer’s glory, but they will live now with a new purpose: Their dried seed heads will feed the birds and small animals of winter. The discolored coneflowers, monarda, Black-Eyed Susans, liatris, the small, round brown berries of the Bradford pear trees, and American Holly berries are the food of choice for hungry blue jays, cardinals, and goldfinches. My witch hazel trees are alive, preparing to unfurl their spidery yellow petals in mid-February. In late winter, as the pussy willow trees’ ripening fuzzy, gray catkins fully open, they offer for some pollinators the first important source of pollen and nectar. For me, they are the first welcoming harbingers of the coming spring.

The effects of climate change have significantly altered the growing habits of many of my flowers, trees, and shrubs. Our summer temperatures are higher and drought conditions occur more often. My decision to stop using pesticides has totally changed by garden: I have no more roses and all of my plants must exist and thrive without any chemical help from me; it is the survival of the fittest, and—you know what?—my garden is still beautiful (but I do miss my hundred rosebushes).

I am very pleased to see an increased interest in “going green” in Poolesville and the surrounding community. The Town of Poolesville and local community organizations have taken to heart the importance of planting trees and maintaining public green spaces (parks) throughout town.

The coming year 2020 marks the fortieth anniversary of Montgomery County’s Agricultural Reserve. This program of designated land zoning to preserve farmland and rural space has been characterized as “the most famous, most studied, and most emulated program of its kind in the United States.” It faces new challenges for its existence as the area is facing a need for more affordable housing. It is also challenged by the discussion of the feasibility of regenerative/sustainable agriculture practices. Chemical industries, such as Bayer, which produces Roundup, the world’s most popular herbicide, must offer farmers an environmentally-safe alternative. Farmers are in business to make a living and to

Continued on page 13.



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Continued from page 8.

**Local Author Presents New Book**

Vogel also informed us that in intelligence circles, the term “Black Friday” doesn’t refer to deals on big-screen televisions but to a sudden change in our intelligence capabilities as his story begins. He also gave an overview of the lives and roles of some of the more fascinating characters in his story, beginning with Bill Harvey and Frank Rowlett of the Central Intelligence Agency, Peter Lunn of the British Secret Intelligence Service (SIS), Blake, and others too numerous to list here. He showed maps and schematics of the operation and gave a fascinating albeit brief account of his extensive research coast-to-coast here in the U.S., and in England, Europe, and Russia, where armed only with some sketchy directions and a Russian interpreter he managed to find Blake’s dacha in the Russian countryside. He was able to speak to Blake’s Russian wife, but was unable to interview Blake in person due to Blake’s age and health, although Vogel did have two telephone interviews with the notorious (and unrepentant) traitor before and after his trip to Russia.

Following his prepared remarks, Vogel answered audience questions and shed insight on how he came to write the book, including that he lived in Berlin as a boy when his father was a CIA officer working for Harvey, and his subsequent front-row seat for the fall of the Berlin Wall reporting for the Washington Post. The book is published by HarperCollins Publishers and is available in bookstores and on the web at multiple sites which are listed on the author’s website, [www.stevevogelsite.com](http://www.stevevogelsite.com).



Continued from page 12.

**Onward and Upward in the Garden—2020**

also provide food for our ever-growing world population, but protecting our ecosystem and environment is a responsibility for all of us—from the commodity farmer to the backyard gardener. As we start a new year in our gardens, reconsider your gardening practices to see what you can do to help our planet.

*Best of Holiday Wishes and Hopes for the New Year!*

—The Gardener

Do you have a garden-related topic you would like to read about? The Monocle welcomes your suggestions. Send to [editor@monocacymonocle.com](mailto:editor@monocacymonocle.com)



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## Grand Women of the Monocacy

### Adventurous Spirit and Educator: Helen Willard Pumphrey

By Rande Davis

Like many of the grand women of the Monocacy, it would be difficult to overstate the impact Helen Willard Pumphrey had on the cultural, social, and educational history of Poolesville and the surrounding area. When you consider that she taught hundreds and hundreds of area students for over four decades, beginning in a one-room schoolhouse and then eventually as an elementary school teacher in her hometown of Poolesville, it would be difficult to fully appreciate the huge impact of her life during her ninety-seven years working and residing here.

Although she never had children of her own, she raised two nephews and one niece (Dewalt J. Willard now of Frederick, William G. Willard of North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and Sarah Ann King of Gloucester, Virginia). As a personality, she was a strong, joyous, adventurous woman, devoted to family and friends in the area. She was central to life of this community both literally (she resided in the large white home in the center of Poolesville directly across from the post office) and spiritually. She could lay claim to the hundreds and hundreds of students as if they were her own children, guiding, mentoring, and teaching them for forty-one years during a dedicated and purposeful career.

Born in Poolesville on March 30, 1908, Helen completed high school in Poolesville, obtained a teaching degree from Towson Normal School in Towson, and later went on to earn her bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland. Outside of the classroom, she contributed to the life of area residents as an active member of St. Peter's Church and later in life as a valued member of the Upcounty's Rural Women's Republican Club. She kept her mind sharp as an avid bridge player right up to the last two weeks of her long life.

Following her teaching career, she enjoyed many years traveling the world with her friends. Her travels took her to seventy-eight different countries and to forty-eight of the fifty U.S. states. She also devoted many hours to researching and documenting her family history and the history of the Town of Poolesville.

Her remarkable vibrancy remained with her throughout her entire life. She was highly regarded by all those who knew her for her delightful and teasing sense of humor which was indicative of her very sharp mind, and her especially quick wit, her hallmark throughout her entire life. Time with Helen was never devoid of laughter, fun banter, and joy.

One of her favorite traveling stories was her automotive trip through North America in 1934, a six-week odyssey which she shared with four other young ladies, Antoinette Darby, Esther Allnutt, Charlotte Adams, and Antoinette Brosus. This brave all-female adventure, a rare event for women in the first part of the twentieth century, would be recalled by her as one of the highlights of her life. This is an intriguing story of Depression-era girls traveling across the country alone in a 1926 Chevy automobile. The car was nicknamed "Western Gale" and had 54,000 miles on the odometer the day they left Poolesville heading west to parts unknown to face challenges not fully appreciated by people of the early twentieth century. The total trip took them through twenty-three states plus into Mexico, traveling 9,032 miles, and using 512 gallons of gas at around 17 cents per gallon. Some rooms they stayed in cost three dollars a night or sixty cents apiece. Helen spent a total of \$200 on food and lodging and \$130 for the shared automobile costs.



Helen Willard Pumphrey.

Affectionately known as "Tatie" to her family (attributed to her younger brother's difficulty in saying her name), she is remembered as a woman living a lifestyle well ahead of her time.

Her legacy can be assessed in the words of Billy Willard, her great-nephew, who spoke for the entire family in praising "her allegiance and love for her family which was evident in her everyday life. She was always there for us in times of need and in times of celebration." He remembers that she was a "can do" person, an individual with a positive attitude who never got down or depressed.

### Fun Fact...

The car Helen traveled in to Mexico, the 1926 Chevy, was likely the Chevrolet Touring Car (shown) or the Superior Series V. By 1926, Chevrolet had begun to challenge the dominance of the Ford Model T, as the Touring Car and Superior Series were more mechanically sophisticated. They were available in multiple colors and had a four-cylinder engine. The cost was \$510-\$825, depending on the model.



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## Foundations

### A Survey of Our Inheritance: The Thomas White Farmhouse

By Kenny Sholes

A few weeks ago, a friend who lives in the vicinity of Edwards Ferry provided me with a letter he had received from the county's historic preservation commission. The letter served notice to residents in the area of the commission's recommendation to the county planning board to remove the historic Thomas White Farmhouse, located on Club Hollow Road, from the county's list of historic sites. The significance being that if the planning board agrees with the recommendation—which is highly likely—the restrictions on home demolition will be lifted.



*The Thomas White Farmhouse during the 1970s.*

While the loss of a historic property here in the Ag Reserve would be tragic, it's hard to argue with the historic commission's report on the property which is available for all to read on the commission's website ([montgomeryplanning.org](http://montgomeryplanning.org)). Since at least the early seventies, the home has been ravaged by termites and has been mostly vacant. As a result, the home is likely beyond the ability to restore (prior owners have tried). Before the home is lost forever, it's important that we take time to record the stories of those who lived there.

The late 1860s were a time of significant change for America, and that was no different here in the Ag Reserve. As young men returned to their families' farms after experiencing the horrors of the Civil War, formerly enslaved people were grappling with the opportunities and challenges presented by their newfound freedom. Thomas White, a member of the prominent White Family, was one of the young men returning home.

Having served as a personal courier and scout to Gen. Robert E. Lee, Thomas's war experience ended in 1863 when he was captured by Union forces and spent the remainder of the conflict as a POW held at the Old Capitol Prison in Washington, D.C. Thomas's father, Joseph, was a successful farmer in the area (you can read more about Joseph and his home in a prior article entitled "Wolf's Cow") and gave Thomas a large parcel of land that he had purchased in 1856 and located off of what we now refer to as Club Hollow Road. It was on this land that Thomas built his home at some point before 1871.

Based on census data from 1880, we know that Thomas and his wife Mary had six children living in the home in addition to his wife's sister, three servants, and a number of farmhands who may have been former slaves on the property. As the historic commission's report on the home points out, the expansion in number of people on the property likely accounts for the many additions that the home appears to have undergone in the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

Thomas lived in the home until at least 1897 when he unfortunately defaulted on his mortgage; however, when the home went up for auction, it was purchased by other members of the White Family who may have allowed Thomas to remain

Continued from page 1.

#### Dunkin' Donuts/Baskin-Robbins Preparing For Grand Opening

the response we have already received with the anticipation of Dunkin' and Baskin-Robbins's arrival. We've received numerous calls and e-mails as well as social media posts expressing excitement for our opening. It's always gratifying to have so much support of the community in advance of a store opening."

The firm customized its design for the Poolesville building, coming up with a Cape Cod style-look. "We avoided many of the typical design elements that you would normally see at Dunkin' locations. This was to create a less commercialized feel and to be more aesthetically pleasing to match the community surroundings, for example, the neon signage that will provide a more retro/unique appearance."

The project was a partnership with the Magruder Companies (property owner). "They have worked hand-in-hand with us to make sure this project comes to light and meets the standards of the local community. We've also had much success in working with the town government to achieve our goals."

As they come into the community, we asked Lander why they chose Poolesville and what we might expect in terms of their employment opportunities and involvement in the town. "We love to operate in smaller towns like Poolesville as we can build a strong customer base of loyal patrons who will keep coming back. Initially, we'll have to bring in experienced support for our existing operations. We hope to rely heavily on local help. We have many positions to fill and hope to do so with those already living in the community."

"We're thrilled to finally begin servicing all of the community's needs for donuts, coffee, ice cream, ice cream cakes, and more for a long time to come. We look forward to being a great community partner in Poolesville and hope to work closely with the community for a variety of fundraising needs and events. Besides, Poolesville is a beautiful town that needs vibrant businesses such as ours."

## A Monocacy Moment *Lost in Time*



This picture, taken around 1930, is of three young ladies from Poolesville in a spoof with the ladies dressed up as men playing poker. It was a prank picture based on a series of paintings from 1900 with various people and animals playing poker. The ladies are Emma Hodgson, Jesse Elgin Ritchey, and Edith Heald.

Continued on page 24.

## Local History

### Christmas Shopping in Poolesville in 1885

By Jack Toomey

Today, Christmas shopping lures some Upcounty residents to malls, specialty stores, and even the outlet malls in Clarksburg, Leesburg, and as far away as Pennsylvania and Delaware. The hustle and bustle that begins in earnest on the day after Thanksgiving is aggravating for some but enjoyable for others. To escape the mad crush at the malls, many people have resorted to sitting at their computers and doing their entire Christmas shopping with the click of a mouse button. Recently, there were news reports of people stampeding and knocking each other down to get into department stores at 5:00 a.m. Some shake their head and mutter that this kind of thing could only happen in a big city and never in a small town like Poolesville.

In 1885, Christmas shopping in Poolesville was a very different experience from today's. A resident of the town could browse at Hoskinson Brothers Store, John Hall's place, William Walter's Store, or the shops of Norris, Kohlhoss, and Mr. Hays. There is no doubt that the pace was slow, and the shopper could browse among the wares that were stocked in anticipation of Christmas. The stores carried notions, skates, linens, chamber pots, some clothing, perfumes, toys, and other tempting wares for people who would come to town to shop; however, in December 1885, something happened that propelled Poolesville into the news that even reached the Washington newspapers.

On December 15, 1885, a man named Bell, who lived outside of town, entered one of the finer stores in town. After browsing, he approached the clerk, Mr. Roslyn Watt, and asked why a particular item wasn't in stock. Mr. Bell became upset by Mr. Watt's reply and declared, "That's no way to keep a store. What kind of a tune are you trying to sing here?" Mr. Watt then suggested that Bell leave the store which prompted Bell to reach over the counter and begin to choke Watt. Watt then grabbed an ice cutter and struck Bell over the head, causing a serious injury. In the ensuing affray, Bell chewed off the end of Watt's

Continued on page 21.



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# Celebrate Advent, Christmas & Welcome the New Year

## Sacrament of Confession

Saturday, December 14, 21 at 4:15 pm  
Wednesday, December 18 at 7:30 pm

## Christmas

Christmas Eve: 4:30 pm (*prelude at 4 pm / Children's Pageant*)  
7:30 pm  
10:30 pm (*choral prelude at 10 pm*)

Christmas Day: 9 am / 11 am

New Year's Eve: 5:00 pm

New Year's Day: 10:00 am

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On Facebook at Saint Mary's Parish and Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima

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David Cahoon, Deacon

Daily Mass: Monday - Friday 9:00 am followed by the Rosary

Confession: Saturday at 4:15 pm



Continued from page 7.

### The Story of Rock Hall Manor: Part Two

quarry in the shapes and sizes that were needed. There were sixty stonemasons employed at the quarry. The stones were pulled from the quarry to the top of a hill by oxen and then pulled to the aqueduct along wooden rails by mules and horses. The railroad ran east of the Rock Hall Manor House, and Jon Mullen (the curator of Rock Hall Manor) pointed out what remains of its trench to me. Following the trench/path today away from the house, I came across a few huge cut block stones with chisel marks that were abandoned next to the trench/path. Joseph Johnson died at Rock Hall in 1835 just after the Monocacy Aqueduct was completed.

In 1836, Dr. Alfred Belt bought Rock Hall Manor along with 700 acres. He was married to Charlotte Trundle Belt. During the Civil War, both Union and Confederate soldiers marched within sight of Rock Hall Manor on their way to and from battles crossing at the Monocacy River at what became known as Furnace Ford. Union soldiers often camped on the green lawn in front of the house. One of the Union officers struck up a relationship with one of the Belt daughters who lived in the house during the Civil War. After the war, Mary Charlotte Belt married Lt. Benjamin Dill Chambers of Delaware.

One of Dr. and Mrs. Belt's children, John Lloyd Belt, ended up living as an adult at Rock Hall where he and his wife Sara McGill Belt raised nine children. McGill Belt and Edward Oliver Belt eventually became the sole owners of Rock Hall. McGill Belt was a farmer and remembered that the stone for the railroad bridge over the Monocacy River was quarried at Rock Hall. He remembered there were about seventy-five men employed quarrying out the stone for the bridge. Edward became a renowned doctor and founded the Episcopal Eye, Ear, and Throat Hospital in Washington, D.C. He also lived in Washington, D.C. with his wife, Emily Walker Norvell Belt, and their three young sons. On December 30, 1907, after returning to Washington from a day at Rock Hall on a wooden passenger train from Frederick, Edward and his sons Edward McGill Belt age six and Sinclair Belt age seven, died in a tragic accident. As their train was pulling away from the Terra Cotta Station (the site of the current Fort Totten Metro Station) an empty locomotive pulling six empty cars

ran through a red signal at Takoma Park, crashing into the Frederick train. Dr. Belt and his two sons lost their lives along with fifty other passengers. Dr. Belt and his two sons were buried in St. Paul's Episcopal Church Cemetery in Point of Rocks. Because Dr. Belt's body was unrecognizable from the accident, his wife Emily was not sure that it really was her husband's body. She refused to be buried next to him and is buried at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Frederick. Dr. Belt's surviving son, Norvell, eventually would become a doctor. His uncle McGill Belt gave his nephew five acres in front of Rock Hall Manor where Norvell built a home and lived there with his wife Lorena Emma Strine Belt. Dr. Norvell Belt and his wife Lorena are buried with Emily Belt at Mount Olivet Cemetery.

As I was writing this story, I visited my scoutmaster Jack Alleman. I told him about Rock Hall Manor, the Johnsons, the Belts, and Dr. Belt Road. After my visit, he wrote me, saying that there was another road in our area that was built in the 1960s named after the Belts; its name is the Beltway.

See the November 22 issue of the *Monocacy Monocle* for Part One.

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- You can support WUMCO and a local restaurant at the same time! The **Watershed Café** on the **SECOND Wednesday** of each month. The next date is January 8, 2020. And the **Mexican Grill** on the **THIRD Wednesday** of each month. The next date is December 18. Both of these fine Poolesville restaurants will donate 10% of their income to WUMCO. Join us!

### December Holidays

- Once again WUMCO is collecting food for the December holiday baskets and toys for needy kids. Many area churches and organizations are adopting families to take care of this holiday season. The Poolesville and Agricultural Reserve areas are very generous to those in need.

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

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### Questions?

Please write Adam DeBaugh at wumco2@gmail.com or call the WUMCO office.

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## Youth Sports

### New Challenges Await PHS Winter Sports Teams

By Jeff Stuart

#### Girls' Basketball

"We have four of our top six players returning," said girls' basketball coach Fred Swick. "They are seniors, Mary Hobbs, Makayla Lemarr, and Logan Rohde, and junior Mackenzie Magaha. Sophomore Erin Cherian should round out the top five. Our bench will be inexperienced. The top subs should be senior Sami Kellogg, junior Mackenzie Keese, and freshman Lauren Hopkins. Adding depth will be seniors Mahi Ganatra, Jenna Stroud. Our schedule will again be challenging with eighteen of twenty games against 3A and 4A competition."



Makayla Lemarr, Mahi Ganatra, Mary Hobbs,  
Sami Kellogg, and Logan Rohde.

#### Swim and Dive

The boys' swim and dive team won its eighth consecutive state title last winter. The girls clinched their fifth straight and seventh in eight years—but new challenges lie ahead.

"Replacing four major contributing seniors will be a tall task," said coach Jonathan Leong, "especially on the girls side where we graduated three members that contributed towards five different events at states. Freshman Anna Li will be one to watch." Seniors Moshelle Borjigin and Helena Narisu will help lead the team. "On the boys' side," Leong continued, "we will be relying on our depth from our sophomore class of boys, and under the leadership of senior Minsu Kim, we hope to strive for their ninth state title."

"We are looking at pretty stiff competition in Division II MCPS from Blair to compete for the Division II title, and since there was a reclassification of the MPSSAA size of competition, schools like Rockville and C. Milton Wright are now back competing with us. Rockville's boys placed second three years ago, and C. Milton Wright was the last team to beat our girls at states in 2011 and 2013."

Continued on page 23.

Happy Holiday Season  
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Continued from page 9.

### Tidbits

#### Six Generations of Hiltons

Woody and Lisa Hilton could not be more pleased to share the news that Stephanie, their middle daughter, recently received her license from the State of Maryland as a funeral director/mortician. She is now the sixth generation Hilton in the family business.

To earn her license, she had to complete an AA degree at CCBC, pass a Maryland law and practical exam, and pass a national board exam. To top it off, she graduated Magna Cum Laude.

#### Special Note on the Live Nativity

Poolesville's Memorial United Methodist Church continues its tradition of offering a live nativity scene on its front lawn on December 14 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Be sure to stop inside for some cookies and treats. If it rains, the scene will be inside the church.

#### Watershed Café Art Exhibit: "I Live Here"

Watershed Café will exhibit photos celebrating the Agricultural Reserve taken by local photographer, Martin Radigan. The only farm-to-table restaurant in the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve will host the opening reception, December 13 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Watershed Café's mission is to prepare the freshest food, from scratch, featuring the bounty of the Ag Reserve. Radigan is known for his photographs in the local cookbook, *Bread & Beauty: A Year in Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve*. Radigan's photos will be on display at Watershed Café through January 2020.

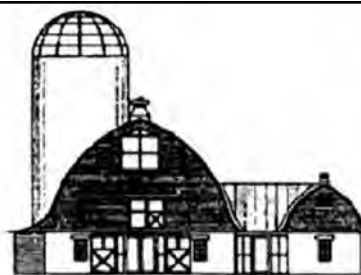
During the meet-the-artist reception—featuring live music from No Stop Light—Watershed Café will offer its menu of specialty foods prepared in house from scratch.

Watershed Café supports local farmers, artisans, and artists in many ways, including: through its retail sale of locally-crafted goat milk soaps (Thistle Thickets), teas (Heron's Meadow Farms), and jams and vinegars (Something Earthy Pottery); by commissioning Poolesville High School graduate (Sydney Therriault) to paint an edible flower mural in the café and winter scenes on its windows; and by displaying on its walls farmland photos of the Ag Reserve by popular Poolesville photographer (Terri Pitts).



Stephanie Hilton at Arlington National Cemetery.

## SUGARLOAF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER December 2019



"Protecting our rural legacy"

How to contact us:

Sugarloaf Citizens' Association  
Lauren Greenberger, President  
Linden Farm, 20900 Martinsburg Road  
P.O. Box 218, Dickerson, MD 20842  
Visit our Web site: [www.sugarloafcitizens.org](http://www.sugarloafcitizens.org)

Season's Greetings! As 2019 draws to a close, we at Sugarloaf Citizens' Association wanted to thank you for your continuing support of our mission and work.

It's been a busy and challenging year. This post and our annual year-end letter will discuss the full range of our activities this year, but we wanted to take a moment to update you on one of our highest priorities: shuttering the Dickerson trash incinerator, one of the county's major sources of pollution.

As you may recall, Marc Elrich campaigned on a promise to close the aging and troubled incinerator. Two weeks after Mr. Elrich's election to the position of county executive, however, his predecessor, Ike Leggett, secretly signed a five-year renewal contract with Covanta, the company that operates the incinerator. Leggett didn't consult Mr. Elrich or the county council prior to doing this.

In addition, post-election, Mr. Elrich shifted his position, pronouncing that he would not support shuttering the incinerator until the volume of the county's trash was reduced by about 400,000 tons a year—through recycling and other measures. That's a huge lift that could take years even if the county significantly ramps up recycling. Underlying Mr. Elrich's revised position is the belief, also shared by many county councilmembers, that burning trash is safer than landfilling and that it would be too expensive to send non-recycled waste to out-of-state landfills. We questioned that and this year commissioned two studies by leading experts. The first study found that, when all is taken into account, trash incineration is worse than landfilling for both human health and reduction of greenhouse gases.

The second study, by a rail haul expert, evaluated options for sending non-recycled trash to out-of-state landfills. He found viable rail routes going west and south to a number of well-managed and remotely located landfills. He concluded that transporting trash to these facilities would be safer, less polluting, and cost competitive for the county compared to incineration.

We shared these analyses with Mr. Elrich; Adam Ortiz, the head of the county's Department of Environmental Protection; the county's Zero Waste Task Force (on which our president serves), and all county councilmembers this past spring and summer.

Mr. Elrich has since said he will consider bids to handle and haul the waste through a request-for-proposal (RFP) process. Such a process has not been initiated to date. Complicating things, the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority (NMWDA, an independent state agency that is paid by the county to initiate procurement, permitting, and financing of solid waste management operations such as our incinerator) hired a consulting group to develop a proposal to revamp Montgomery County's solid waste disposal system. Unfortunately, this is the same consultant that NMWDA has on contract to provide technical support to Covanta in their incineration operations.

More positively, however, NMWDA's consultant has presented options for enhancing recycling which closely match those suggested by Sugarloaf's consultants. That includes aggressive food composting and a pay-as-you-throw program that puts a price tag on tossing recyclable waste.

We now await word from this consultant on whether they will recommend incineration or landfilling for the county's non-recyclable waste. Their report is three months overdue.

We'll keep you informed. In the meantime, there are actions you can take: get food scraps out of your trash and into a compost pile—they make up a third of what's burned in the incinerator; reuse and recycle all the plastic you can; using each single-use plastic fork or cup or bag just twice will reduce by half the amount of plastic trash that YOU generate.

We all need to walk the walk for the good of our county, our state, and our planet! Our hope is that county officials will also do this on our behalf in the not-too-distant future.

All the Best for the Holidays!! The Sugarloaf Board

*Paid Advertisement*

Continued from page 16.

#### Christmas Shopping in Poolesville in 1885

finger. Other customers entered the store and separated the two and took Bell to the doctor's house.

In the meantime, Watt went to the justice of the peace and tried to have Bell arrested. Instead, the justice of the peace supplied Watt with a pistol, and Watt rushed wildly down the street in search of Bell vowing to kill him if he showed his face. For the rest of the day, the town was in an uproar with citizens cowering in their houses in fear of gunplay. Bell apparently stayed in hiding all day, and there was no attempt to restrain Watt.

The next day, Bell came out of hiding and made an apology to the proprietor of the store which was accepted. No charges were ever filed in part because the justice of the peace aided Watt and was conflicted in his duties. It was said that both parties were perfectly sober.

This kind of thing could only happen during Christmas shopping in Poolesville 134 years ago.

## Center Stage

### Talent on Display—The Performance Café

By Tor Ofsthun

Whence do the seeds of creativity originate? The lyre of Apollo? The Muses? Such deities from Greek mythology embody the creative arts. On what criteria do they bestow that boon unto mere mortals? 'Tis a blessing to be sure to those that have the seeds of creativity planted within, though sometimes the flames burn too bright, but that flame is alluring and irresistible, ripe with the possibility of genius when it comes to fruition. To sing, to write, to act, to paint, to sculpt—to play or not to play? There is no question. Forge on, follow thy bliss! For when the Muses call, take heed.

The muses were smiling as some of Poolesville High School's finest talented students were on display last month in the new Performance Café. It took place in music teacher David Rogoza's room, adjacent to the auditorium. The Performance Café is an evening showcase for students to perform, be it through song, poem, or theatrical sketch. The origins of this endeavor are many, though it was relatively-recent PHS arrival (2018) Assistant School Administrator John Butler who conceived it here. Open Mic, the precursor to Performance Café, is basically the same concept as Performance Café only it occurs at lunchtime in the cafeteria at school. Social studies teacher Edward Morell started Open Mic in 2015.

"The former Principal Deena Levine suggested we put together a way for our students to have fun and be able to express their talents so I thought this (Open Mic) would be a fun way to do that," Morell explained. Morell, who plays guitar and harmonica, would participate in the Open Mic, which presently occurs every three weeks or so. "In the beginning, I would start off by myself to gather a crowd and to put the other performers at ease. Now, with Mr. Butler, we put together a makeshift band and play to start off Open Mic," Morell said. "Performance Café was Mr. Butler's idea. He saw the value of the Open Mic and thought it would be great if the students could have an avenue to play more than a song or two and that it would be nice to have the parents and other community



*PHS performing artists shared their talents, time, and passion.*

members there. My role is to find talent to play and then emcee. The first one was a success, and we're hoping to make it grow."

Butler plays percussion, so he is proficient at banging on things, which comes in handy as an assistant administrator. "I started in band in fourth grade" Butler elaborated. "We had a special program in elementary, middle, and high school with lots of jazz. I have studied timbales and congas. I played congas in a Latin funk jazz band."

"The idea kind of hit me early last June," Butler recalled of his first inclination to try the evening performance format. "Students were playing music in the foyer of the school, and I asked the music director Mr. Rogoza if I could sit in. I was able to sit in with three students. The response from a quite a few students

**Continued on page 23.**



## Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Schedule

### Sunday, December 22

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite 1

10:30 am Christmas Pageant  
Everybody in! - pick costume at 10 am

### Tuesday, December 24

5:00 pm Family Christmas Service

10:30 pm Carols and Special Music

### Wednesday, December 25

10:00 am Christmas Eucharist

### Sunday, December 29

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

10:30 am Holy Eucharist

## Yeas and Neighs

### Three Wise Choices: Our 2019 Picks For Charitable Giving

By Andie Devynck

If you're looking for a worthy end-of-year organization to which to donate, there are local animal rescues that could use your help. Each of the three spotlighted here have their own unique focus, but all have rescuing horses as part or all of their mission. **Fox Lea Farm Mini Equine Rescue**, **Lost and Found Horse Rescue at Ithaca Farm**, and **Star Gazing Farm and Animal Rescue** are forever homes to a diverse number of lucky species, nearly all of which have individual stories of suffering from prior lives that ought to be told, again and again, to each new face.

**Fox Lea Farm Mini Equine Rescue** in Barnesville evolved organically from a private residential horse farm to a nonprofit mini horse rescue operation. Owner Patricia Milligan had plenty of experience rescuing dogs, so she when she had extra stalls to fill in her new barn, horse rescue seemed the obvious choice. Patricia was linked through horse friends to a mini horse rescue on the Eastern Shore that was in dire need of rescue itself. She and her husband Michael Fox quickly found themselves looking after some sickly and—unbeknownst to them—pregnant minis, and as they nursed the sick and young to health and maturity, the couple began to work proactively, pulling minis out of auctions and away from kill buyers, or from more living maltreatment. In May of this year, after jumping through all the necessary hoops, Fox Lea Farm Mini Equine Rescue became a 501(c)3, a federally-recognized charity.

**Lost and Found Horse Rescue** (LFHR) at Ithaca Farm off Route 28 in Germantown was founded by Mary and Robert Truland in 1999. The Trulands have donated part of their property for LFHR's operations. The couple have also given over LFHR operations to Ashley Young, DVM, who states that at any given time, the rescue is home to between six and twenty donkeys, three and six horses, fourteen goats, two sheep, two cows, and two to five mules. This past spring saw the birth of several donkeys, and several other new additions to the farm. **Star Gazing Farm and Animal Rescue** in Boyds shares a similar vision and mission with Fox Lea and Lost and Found, but with some intriguing differences. Star Gazing specializes in alpacas, of which the public can have a front seat at the spring shearing and learn about the species and individuals. The public can also visit the rabbit warren and watch the wandering chickens and rooster free to roam as they like. A special aspect of Star Gazing Farm is its cozy shop in which one can purchase products made from the shorn coats of the alpacas and sheep, as well as items from other local farms. One caveat: Star Gazing does not adopt out its residents; all who live there remain there for the rest of their lives.

What all three of these rescues have in common with each other (and most other rescues as well) is that they rely not only on monetary donations but lots of volunteer help—and the right people to adopt the rescues. When it comes to adopting, applicants must demonstrate the knowledge and ability to properly take care of their animal(s), specific to each breed, and usually after a home visit has been made by a rescue owner or volunteer who will make recommendations if the property has adequate basics and possibilities for improvement. On the whole, rescues are not open to the general public on a daily basis, but appointments can be made to meet the inhabitants and tour the facilities. Lastly, while not all rescues hold fundraising events, many do, offered throughout the year. It's best to look at the website of the rescue in which one is interested to see if there's one on the calendar for the year ahead.

For more information about Fox Lea Farm Mini Equine Rescue, Lost and Found Horse Rescue at Ithaca Farm, and Star Gazing Farm and Animal Rescue, check out their respective Facebook pages; Lost and Found and Star Gazing have websites as well. For appointments, contact Fox Lea at 202-384-4146; Lost and Found at 434-202-9741; and Star Gazing at 301-674-5716.

Plan a holiday visit—those critters need as many hearts in love with them as humanly possible.

Continued from page 20.

#### New Challenges Await PHS Winter Sports Teams

##### Boys' Basketball

"We return six players from last year's team," said boys' basketball coach Kenny Kramek. "We have a good mix of experience and youth. The team will be relying on the experience of four-year players: Nick Zehnle, Zac Goldstein, Max Fisher, Eamon Murphy, and Frankie Willard. Three sophomores will see significant playing time in point guard Jeremiah Oyer, forward Dylan Lemarr, and forward Jaylen Riggs. JV callups include Colin Gross, Liam Murphy, and Brad Whitman. Junior Kaseem Wilds-Satterfield looks to add depth at the center position. Players to watch will be Zehnle, Goldstein, Oyer, and Lemarr."

##### Wrestling

"I am very excited for our season this year," said wrestling coach Tim Tao. "As far as I am aware, we have the most wrestlers come out for the team in the last thirty years, with forty-one student-athletes. We have a great mix of brand-new wrestlers with very experienced wrestlers, and most are underclassmen. So far, they appear very tough and athletic." Three of the returning varsity wrestlers have top rankings in the state: Xavier Kresslein, Colin Savage, and Kevin Fultz. Other returning varsity wrestlers had winning records and qualified for the region tournament: Michael Sofelkanik, Aden Godsey, and Jacob Zeranski. "The rest of the team is rounded out with JV county placers," continued Tao, "a couple brand new faces, and some experienced freshmen that have success at the beltway level (Mason Hillegas and Sam Stempler). The team's potential is through the roof, and there are some very good wrestlers waiting to crack the varsity lineup. I can't wait to have a shot at the region duals and even the state duals. The future is looking very promising. We started the season off already with a dominant win over Rockville High School, 61-13, so I hope we can continue that."

Continued from page 22.

#### Talent on Display—The Performance Café

was so uniformly positive that I decided that we needed to make this a regular thing. I remembered that Walt Whitman had a music café program when my kids attended."

On November 15, the inaugural event included: The Falconers, DeClan O'Brien, Reid Taylor, Caitlyn Fanelli, Colleen and Olivia, the Midnight Players, Britton Helfert, Uma Manokoth, Linsay Chu, and Hiatus. Most were musical performances, but five of the Midnight Players did an improv sketch. Butler also read some poetry as well as playing with the Falconers.

William Lewis, PHS and Midnight Player alumnus, sang later in the evening. He had high praise for his charges.

"The kids who participated learned and performed their songs and improv games in less than a week, and it is truly astonishing to see the sheer talent that is at this school, both in the Midnight Players and throughout the school as a whole," Lewis said.

"There was one jaw-dropping performance after another," Butler answered when asked to pick a favorite. "I really couldn't say."

In addition to the outstanding level of talent, the atmosphere was relaxed and conducive to helping the performers be at ease before, during, and after their performances.

"Music is the universal language and it gives the students a release and opportunity," Morell reflected.

"It is really all about the kids. We want to give them an opportunity to shine," Butler concluded.

Reconvening on March 13, April 17, and June 5, the Performance Café promises to illuminate more local talent in the new year.



## Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

### Present Crimes

**Burglary:** 19900 block of Fisher Avenue.

**Drug Arrest:** 19800 block of Beallsville Road.

### Past Crime: 1969

A ten-seat Lockheed Lodestar airplane crashed upon takeoff at the Montgomery County Air Park. Police said that there were three passengers and the pilot and that no one was seriously injured. The Gaithersburg Fire Department responded and extinguished the resulting fire. The plane was a total loss.

Police raided a doctor's office on Grubb Road in Silver Spring and arrested Dr. Milan Vutich and charged him with performing an abortion. They also arrested a nurse and another attendant. Police said that the waiting room had ten people waiting and said, "It appeared to be a big operation." Doctor Vutich had previously been arrested in 1964 for performing abortions in Montgomery County and Fairfax.

Robbers forced their way into a residence in the older section of Rockville and bound and gagged the housewife who was at home. They then removed a floor safe from the house and placed it into the back of a waiting pickup truck. As the robbers drove away, the safe slid off of the back of the truck into the street where police recovered it. It was not said why

the family had such a heavy safe in their house or what the contents were.

A forty-five-year-old Bethesda woman was shot and killed in her apartment on Battery Lane in Bethesda. Neighbors heard the gunshots and called the police who found the victim. A description of the killer was provided and, while the police were searching the area for him, a man walked into the Bethesda station and asked to speak to an officer. Since the station was devoid of officers, he was invited to take a seat. Minutes later an officer, who was scheduled to work the evening shift, walked in the door. The man approached the officer and told him that he had just killed a female acquaintance. The arriving officer, knowing nothing about the events of two hours before, was briefly puzzled until the desk clerk told him about the murder.

A blowout-proof tire nearly allowed two professional shoplifters to escape from the police. Two detectives were observing the Saks Fifth Avenue store when two women came running out of the door carrying fur coats. They placed the loot into the back seat of the car. One of the detectives tried to place the women under arrest, but the driver accelerated and tried to run him down. The other detective fired shots into a tire of the car; however, the shots did not immediately take effect. The car was followed up Wisconsin Avenue where the tire finally went flat in Bethesda. Two Baltimore women were arrested.

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

Continued from page 15.

### A Survey of Our Inheritance: The Thomas White Farmhouse

in the home. We do know for sure that Thomas died in 1930 at the age of ninety-nine, and the home remained in the White family until the 1940s. Since then, there have been a number of owners.

The likely demolition of the Thomas White Farmhouse is extremely unfortunate, but, in reality, we lost this home decades ago. As a member of the historic commission once said to me, it's not healthy for an old home to sit vacant for a long period of time. Perhaps some type of preservation intervention back in the 1960s could have changed the outcome, but it's likely too late now. Moving forward, it's important that we capture the stories and history associated with this home for future generations of the Ag Reserve. We should also think about other homes that might benefit from some preservation efforts now to avoid the likely outcome of Thomas White's old farmhouse.

For more pictures of the Thomas White House, check out the newly-created Historic Ag Reserve Properties website at [www.historicagreserve.wordpress.com](http://www.historicagreserve.wordpress.com).

Visit the *Monocle* online at  
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## Remembrances

### Dorothy Jones Elgin

Dorothy Jones Elgin, 100, formerly of Poolesville, passed away on December 1, 2019 at Buckingham's Choice, Adamstown. She was the daughter of the late John A. Jones, Sr. and Mamie Pyles Jones.

Dorothy, more often known as Dots, was preceded in death by her husband of fifty-six years, Charles W. Elgin, Sr. She was also preceded in death by her siblings, Bettie Newman, Rosalie Freeman, John A. (Jack) Jones, Jr., and Lucille Sheriff.

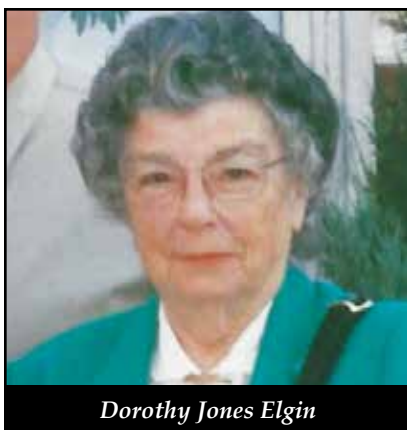
She is survived by her two children, Charles W. Elgin, Jr. (Donna) and Mary E. Conlon (Tommy); three grandchildren, Thomas C. Conlon, Sr. (Ashley), J. Scott Conlon (Kara), and Jen Shell (David); and nine great-grandchildren, Zach, Charlie, and Addie Shell, Sophia, J.T., Penny, Daphne, Marshall, and Flynn Conlon. She was also survived by her very dear friend through the many years, De Willard.

Growing up on a farm in Dickerson, Dots attended Dickerson School and later graduated from Poolesville High School in 1937. She became a registered nurse, graduating from Union Memorial Nursing School in Baltimore. Dots worked at Poolesville Elementary School as the school secretary for seventeen years.

Many volunteer jobs and community service activities have been filled by Dots. For fifty-three years, she worked as bookkeeper, volunteer, and genealogist for Monocacy Cemetery, with her husband, Charles. Both were historians who documented the history of many homes in the Upcounty area. Dots spent years creating scrapbooks filled with local history, pictures, and news articles. Dots participated in church work as a member of the Women of St. Peter's staffing bake sales, rummage sales, homes tours, and sewing circles. Her famous sand tarts filled the tables of the winter bake sales. Teams gathered in her kitchen to bake record-breaking numbers of Christmas cookies every year.

Dots was also profiled upon her hundredth birthday in the October 25 issue of the *Monocacy Monocle*, still available for viewing online.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Monocacy Cemetery, P.O. Box 81, Beallsville, Maryland 20839, or St. Peter's Episcopal Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 387, Poolesville 20837.



Dorothy Jones Elgin

### Samuel J. Tibbs

Samuel J. Tibbs, 85, of Boyds, died on December 2, 2019.

He was the husband of the late Christine Tibbs.

Born on April 16, 1934 in Nebo Smyth County, Virginia, he was the son of the late James Cleveland and Flora (Atwell) Tibbs.

Sam served his country in the United States Army. He was a dedicated employee to Acker & Sons for forty-eight years and was an avid hunter and fisherman.

Surviving is one brother, Curtis C. Campbell; numerous nieces and nephews; and his special "buddy," Courtney Scheetz.

Sam was preceded in death by six sisters, Myrtle, Glaytha, Zenola, Lula, Thelma, and Alda; and six brothers, James, Claude, Newton, Stanley, Joseph, and Arnold.

Interment was in Resthaven Memorial Gardens, Frederick.



Samuel J. Tibbs



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Continued from page 4.

**Eco Evie, Every Bit Helps! StoryWalk Is Open**

School as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award project. Jessica wrote a story featuring a character she created and named Eco Evie. In the story, Eco Evie learns how to do small eco-friendly acts throughout her day to help the environment. To illustrate the story, Jessica hosted an art contest for the local homeschooled, elementary, middle, and high school students at Poolesville Elementary School, Monocacy Elementary School, John Poole Middle School, and Poolesville High School. A representative panel of student judges selected the winning entries.

Jessica, with the help of her project advisor, Derrick Repep, and a team of local students, designed, built, and installed the fourteen StoryWalk displays out of

wood and plexiglass. Each permanent display has two pages of the illustrated story, an environmental tip, and a physical exercise challenge. As you walk down the trail, you are directed to the next display and next page in the story. The last display describes the "Where in the World is Eco Evie?" portion of the project which has a selection of Eco Evie photos performing Earth-friendly acts and directs people to the survey on the project website (ecoevie.weebly.com) via a QR code.

The StoryWalk encourages outdoor exercise, family time, and literacy among the children in the Poolesville area, as well as shows them how easy it is to do a lot of small actions to help the environment every day throughout the day. The trail starts by the tennis courts at the Hoskinson Road entrance to Halmos Park.

A project of this scope was only possible with the help of a lot of people. The list is too long for print but will be posted in the online version of the *Monocle*.

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## Celebrating 30 Years of Service

### Helping Your Pets Avoid Holiday Stress

By Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF

Holiday traditions are things that we really embrace during these holiday seasons, but it is important to know that what we consider tradition, our pets may consider to be stress and danger. It is important to consider how holiday celebrations can adversely affect dogs and cats. By understanding this, we can all have a happier holiday.

Here are several key things to review before the holiday's hit big time. Be sure to discuss any concerns you may have with your veterinarian. There are new and improved treatments for stress you may not be currently aware of for your furry friends.

1. Changes in the home can create stress for your pets even if you don't think so. If your pets are suddenly acting differently, even simple changes to their environment can be the cause. "That elf on the shelf is looking at me funny."
2. Things we bring into the home during the holidays can also potentially cause physical danger to your pets. Fires in the fireplace, new electric cords, low-hanging candy canes, clothing and shoes your relatives bring with them. All these and more can be potentially dangerous for your pets.
3. Take time to set up your holiday decorations. See if the giant inflatable Santa in the front yard causes your pets to lose their holiday spirit. Flashing lights and animated things on the roof can also be very threatening to your pets.
4. Pets should never be forced to experience things that scare them. Forcing them to interact with scary things will not help them "get used to it." It only makes them more stressed or fearful.
5. Sometimes NOT including your family pets in the festivities is the greatest gift you can give to them. If many strange humans, smells, sights, and sounds are freaking out your four-legged friends, find them a safe room or zone where they have their own space. The relative or friend that tells you, "Animals love me," is usually not telling the truth. Random humans can cause maximal stress. You know how you never liked when Aunt Martha kissed you right on the mouth, well your dogs and cats like it even less.
6. Traveling with your pets to a distant holiday land or house can be a potent stressor. Be sure you touch base with your veterinarian about your travel plans. Travel documents are usually required, and medications can help travel stress significantly. CBD oils are untested and not currently recommend as a travel aid.
7. Whenever possible, try to maintain a state of normalcy for your pets during the holiday season.

**So Ho, Ho, Ho and Happy New Year.** Be safe and enjoy the season with an eye on your pets' comfort.



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