

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

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Kelsey Carnahan with her uncle James Lippy at her wedding at Lewis Orchards. More Family Album pictures on page 2.



The cover of the just-released paperback version of Betrayal in Berlin by local author, Steve Vogel. Read about it on page 8.



Find out about the story behind the truck that is behind the ladies from Cozzi Family Farm Cooperative on page 10.



An elephant in Clarksburg? Yep, find out why on page 12.

Monocacy Lions Donate Personal Protective Equipment To UMCVFD

By Rande Davis

The Monocacy Lions Club donated personal protective equipment to the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department (UMCVFD). The donation included N95 masks, sanitizer, and sanitizing wipes. In addition, the Lions donated \$500.00 to UMCVFD.

The equipment was purchased from the funds through a grant provided by Lions Club International Foundation, the charitable arm of the Lions Clubs International. The COVID-19 Relief grant, which totaled \$10,000.00, was used to purchase personal protective equipment for the first responders throughout Montgomery, Prince George's, Calvert, and St. Mary's Counties in Maryland.

Gary Burdette, president of the Monocacy Lions Club, along with

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The Monocacy Lions made a pandemic donation to UMCVFD. Frank Jamison, Heather Haller, Gary Burdette, Past District Governor Sonia Wiggins, Chief Mike Burns, Lynne Bodmer, Heidi and Roger Brenholtz, and Peter Gallo.

Church and Community Leader Ronnie Magaha Passes Away

By Link Hoewing

On September 13, our area lost a prominent longtime resident, and business, community, and church leader when Ronald E. Magaha passed away. He was seventy-six years old and a resident of Beallsville.

Ronnie was born in West Virginia on September 1, 1944. Ronnie's father and mother, Wilson and Anna May, lived on horse farms as he grew up, and he learned early to ride, train, and show them. Ronnie's Uncle, Archie, and father worked on the Al-Marrah horse farm, then located along Peach Tree Road. It was the largest Arabian horse farm in the United States at that time. Ronnie rode and showed horses for the owners of Al-Marrah.

As a teenager, Ronnie showed cattle and was a member of the Montgomery County 4-H Beef Club. His early involvement in 4-H was to become a

lifelong interest. Ronnie went to Poolesville High School and was on the track team and played basketball. He was known as "Rabbit" due to his speed. He graduated from Poolesville High School in 1963, and in 1964 he married PHS alumna Harriet Butler. Harriet came from a long-established local farming family, and her parents, George and Cindy Butler, owned a farm along the Potomac bottomlands just north of White's Ferry.

Shortly after marriage, Ronnie began working for the Montgomery Village Foundation in Gaithersburg, a nonprofit that operates like a government, providing services and helping maintain Montgomery Village. Ronnie eventually headed the maintenance work at the Village, building fences

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Ronnie Magaha: Family, Faith, and 4-H.

Family Album



It was a perfect day to enjoy the treats offered at Locals, a new bakery and farmers' market in Poolesville.



Zach Etheridge of E-Z Fit instructing a social-distanced fitness class for kids.



Monocacy Lions president Gary Burdette (left) presented a \$500 donation to Chief Mike Burns and UMCVFD president Heather Haller.



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Town Government

Town Commissioners Decide Whether To Weigh in on Proposed Solar

By Link Hoewing

With a light schedule of items to consider, the Town of Poolesville commissioners focused most of their discussion on a county legislative proposal that would allow for the construction of solar panel installations in the Ag Reserve. The proposal is being championed by County Councilmember Hans Riemer. The proposal is stirring fierce debate among advocates for the Ag Reserve and farming groups with most farming groups opposed to the proposal.

In brief, the proposal would allow the installation of solar collecting panels on about 1,800 acres of land in the Ag Reserve. Currently, such installations are prohibited. The arguments for or against the legislation were not the central point in the commission discussion. Instead, the discussion was centered on whether or not the town should weigh in on the proposal and, if so, how.

Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski initiated the discussion. He believes the proposal would allow "industrialization" of the reserve and pointed out that all the major county farm groups are against it. He also said the proposal would take arable land out of production. His major point was that there is no need to rush the legislation right now since the county has commissioned a special report by experts and scientists to be released in November on the topic. He thinks the County Council should wait for this report. He is not asking the commission to vote to oppose the legislation but rather proposed that the commission write to the council to urge them to wait to take action until after the report is released.

Commissioner Jim Brown said he agreed with some of Jerry's points but that no "part of the legislation affects the town directly." He went on to say, "There are times when we have to stand up, but at the same time, there are tough issues where we don't want to tick" councilmembers off. He said the Ag Reserve and farming community have great representatives and do not need the town's help. He talked about the Fair Access Committee's efforts to gain support for a new school and community center and said, "We have spent two years building friends and getting folks to listen to us."

Klobukowski added, "People move out here because of our parks and open space." He suggested that the proposal would begin to undermine the openness that so many value.

Brown said, "They also move out because of our schools" and pointed to the recent success in getting initial funding for a new high school. "We've committed to two and half years of work to convince the county to approve an \$80 million project, an investment in our area greater than anything we have ever seen."

Commissioner Kerri Cook was not present and Commissioners Klobukowski and Radigan voted "yes" to send a letter on the issue to the council urging them to wait for the November report. Commissioner Brown voted "no" and Commissioner Valaree Dickerson abstained saying she did not have enough information to reach a conclusion.

In other business, the commission also considered a report from the Parks Board recommending the town support the construction of two walking paths that are together called the Horsepen Walking Trail. The town does not need to provide funding because Global Ecology students from Poolesville High School are proposing to do the work of clearing the paths and preparing them. The town is only involved in helping ensure that needed permits from the state are acquired and providing any engineering support that is needed. Only segment two of the path, which runs from Hillard Street to the storm water management pond near the middle school, was approved. Segment one, which runs from Koteen Road to an area behind Hillard Street, needs to be further vetted by town staff before it is approved.

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.

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Rande(m) Thoughts

The New Normal

By Rande Davis

One good thought is that nine months into the travails of the pandemic, the light at the end of tunnel is, at least, a glimmer—maybe even a bit more than that. After all of the life, health, economic, and social damage done by the pandemic, we are beginning to finally get back to normal life, work, and entertainment. Dare I say normal, or is it really the new normal?

I was thinking about what changes due to the pandemic will be the most long lasting as we move from the last quarter of 2020 into the New Year. I could be wrong, but this is my list of COVID-caused changes that will be with us well into the future.

Top Ten Most Likely COVID-19 Changes Here to Stay

1. Working from home

A very significant percentage of the work force will continue to work from home—if not full time, surely, parttime.

2. Say goodbye to much of the brick and mortar office space

If you were planning to put much of your investment funds into commercial office space, you might want to hold off a bit. I'm thinking that whatever office space is used, there will be much "space sharing." Sharing an office space with a co-worker, with you using it two or three days a week and the other person alternating with you, may be another option.

3. Vehicular traffic will continue to be lessened

While not as improved as it had been during the peak of coronavirus shutdowns, expect major traffic improvement, nevertheless, in daily commute times and in traffic generally. Less commuting demand means less demand for parking garages and mass transit.

4. Three-day weekends the norm

Expect those working at home part-time to be scheduled more on Mondays and Fridays. Four-day workweeks began to be an attractive employment alternative to attract new employees even before the pandemic.

5. Goodbye to the French kiss

No, not the romantic one, the two-cheeker greeting so popular throughout much of Europe. For the overzealous persons, the triple-header, left-to-right-to-left cheek smack will

go first. In fact, there will be much less single-cheek kissing of non-relatives in general.

6. Firm handshakes could be a goner

Elbow and fist bumps will not be what replaces the standard, robust handshake. They're too trivial and informal and will be reserved for light occasions only. The Japanese may be our model. A short bow of the head, perhaps with an open-handed pat of the heart, will become our standard greeting.

7. Chromebooks more than brick and mortar schools

After fully moving to on-line education this past year with home-schooling, school buildings like office space, will be in much less demand. How can we now look at building new schools to last for the next thirty or forty years the same as before? Even a small at-home learning schedule can reduce the need for overall classroom space dramatically. Once that happens, look for all schools to become community-academic buildings like the one we want in Poolesville.

8. No more snow days

This one really tweaks my nostalgia button. When in-school learning is canceled due to snow, look for students to simply be instructed to pull out their Chromebooks as they did during the pandemic. I feel for the students of the future who will lose this great American tradition.

9. Cash begone

Debit cards have already been moving us steadily away from cash. Now, touchless paying through scanning of the cellphone will accelerate as an alternative to debit cards. Pennies will be good only for your thoughts.

10. No more push or pull doors

Traditional doors, especially in commercial establishments and restrooms, will be replaced with servant doors like the ones used in dining rooms so servants could carry in the food or clear the plates from tables hands-free.

Bonus:

We'll continue wearing masks, so we don't have to worry about having food stuck between our teeth!

These are mine. What are yours?

Place your ad in the next
issue of the *Monocle*.

Call Rande Davis at
301-509-9232

Letter to the Editor

Dear editor,

These days, there seem to be very few things that we can reliably depend on, but one of the few things that you could take to the bank was that when a developer, without pressure, secures a forest on his/her land under a perpetual Category 1 Forest Conservation Easement, boy howdy, that forest would enjoy protection forever—Forever.

Apparently, that is until a property owner threatens to sue the town of Poolesville, individual hardworking commissioners, and a rightly-concerned adjacent property owner if she didn't get her way by amending her easement to subtract preserved forest acreage. The stated goal of the landowner is to be able to build additional houses on the property, development that the deed-attached conservation easement thwarted. The grounds for threatened legal action against all of these parties were shaky at best. Didn't pass the straight face test is what we say in the business, but the commissioners, in an awkward repeat vote (the first failing to allow change to the easement), allowed the easement

alteration and paved the way for additional residential development—in one of the last lush forest stands in the Town. Note that Commissioners Cook and Klobukowski opposed the change.

Why does this matter? Well, for one thing, residents should have a reasonable expectation that commissioners are acting in the best interest of the town, its natural resources, and the rule of law. In this case, the forest at issue is in the recharge area for one of the town's producing water wells along Hughes Road. Moreover, when folks buy property in the town and rely on information such as perpetual easements in terms of where they situate their homes or whether indeed they buy property here at all, only to later find that their appropriate reliance on legally binding easements can be, in the blink of an eye, undone, it undermines faith in local government and directly affects their quality of life.

The decision to undo this easement is bad on its own, but it sets a bad precedent for other important and otherwise binding decisions being undone through hollow threats of a lawsuit and/or offerings of monies in lieu of protection. It's very bad policy and legally subject to challenge. Town residents deserve better.

— Caroline Taylor, Poolesville

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Published and Edited by
John Clayton and Rande Davis

John Clayton
Production
Financial
301.349.0071
jclayton@monocacymonocle.com

Rande Davis
Advertising
Circulation
301.509.9232
rdavis@monocacymonocle.com

Dominique Agnew
Copyediting
dqagnew@gmail.com

editor@monocacymonocle.com
advertising@monocacymonocle.com
www.monocacymonocle.com

Monocacy Press, LLC
John Clayton, President
Rande Davis, Vice President
P.O. Box 372
Barnesville, MD 20838-0372
301.349.0071

Contributing Writers

Dominique Agnew
dqagnew@gmail.com
Link Hoewing
linkhoe@aol.com
Maureen O'Connell
mafocconnell@msn.com

Tor Ofsthun
torofsthun@yahoo.com
Susan Petro
bsusan424@gmail.com

Kenny Sholes
kcs7110@gmail.com
Jeffrey S. Stuart
sark10@juno.com

Jack Toomey
jackt21262@aol.com
Jon Wolz
wolzjon@hotmail.com

Andrew Sojka
Student Reporter, PHS News
andrewsojka2021@gmail.com

Contributing Photographer

Terri Pitts
terri.pitts@gmail.com

Layout and Graphics

AnyArt Solutions LLC
sales@AnyArtSolutions.com

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Local News

Police Crack Down on Illegal Street Racing

By Jack Toomey

In the 1960s, large groups of young people would gather on upper River Road for events called Drag Racing. They took it upon themselves to block River Road from Partnership Road to Willard Road and hold their events there. A flagman was stationed at each end of the road and would block traffic so unsuspecting motorists wouldn't be struck head-on by two cars racing side by side. The crowds grew to near five hundred spectators on weekend nights watching their favorite cars and drivers engage in dangerous racing. These were different times. The Rockville Police Station could only supply one car for the entire Upcounty, and the participants knew that it was unlikely that the police would interfere.

Finally, after numerous complaints, the county police sprang a trap, and an undercover officer infiltrated the crowd and then ducked back into the woods to call in reinforcements. That night, over two hundred people were arrested and escorted to the Rockville station. Adults were given citations, and juveniles were released to their parents.

In 1985, drag racing was popular on Wisteria Drive which then was a stretch of vacant street at least two miles long. One night, a racing car veered out of control and struck a spectator, cutting him in half.

The drag racing scene moved from place to place just ahead of the police which would shut it down in one location only to find it reappearing in another. Of course, legal drag racing could be seen at the 75&80 Dragway in Frederick County.

In the twenty-first century, the drag racing scene switched to wider and faster roads such as Great Seneca Highway, Route 370, Route 270, and Mid County Highway. The term "Street Racing" replaced "Drag Racing," and the same age group used smaller high-performance cars than in the twentieth century when young people preferred bigger muscle cars. People in the Upcounty often complained about cars driving at excessive speeds.

Over the Labor Day weekend, the Maryland State Police and the Gaithersburg City Police joined forces and sent a message that reckless and fast driving would not be tolerated. Together, they formed "Operation End of Summer" and made 228 traffic stops, issued 153 citations, 126 warnings, made an MVA referral, and made two arrests for Disturbing the Peace for people who had excessively loud exhaust systems.

On September 9, 2020, a disastrous wreck happened on Muddy Branch Road near the intersection of Deer Park Road. A 2020 Toyota Supra, newly bought, had been seen performing dangerous driving maneuvers all over the Gaithersburg area that day. At about 6:30 p.m., the car, operated by a twenty-five-year-old female with an extensive driving record, sped over 100 mph south on Muddy Branch Road until it collided with a car occupied by three men. The driver of the racing car and her passenger were both killed instantly, and the three men were seriously injured.

Again, the two departments joined forces and in one night made twenty-eight traffic stops, issued twenty-eight citations, and made ten arrests. On this night, citizens saw many cars gathered in the commuter parking lot at Quince Orchard Road and Route 270, a signal to police that racing might occur.

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Garden

Fall—Time for A New Garden

By Maureen O'Connell

As we head into the fall and winter months, it is time to say goodbye, until next spring, to our outdoor plants and head into our houses to create another oasis to escape the worries of the world and to find consolation in small things that remain constant. Let's create or redo our garden of houseplants. Many of my plants, especially the old ones, share a common attachment; they are old friends (I say that with the risk of accusations of anthropomorphism), so whatever color your thumbs, here is a list of houseplants: durable favorites, a few semi-difficult to grow, unusual individualists, and the most cooperative orchids to consider for your new indoor garden.

Old Favorites. Many gardeners, inside and out, want low-maintenance and nearly indestructible plants—the hardy ones who will not miss you if you ignore them when you go away for a few weeks or just forget to water them—so if you already have some of these performers, don't apologize for them as being too common. Things become old favorites because they stand the test of time; they work for you.

Before you buy any new plants, consider your house's location in regard to sunlight or shade and humidity. A plant's light requirements vary from full sun to bright, indirect light, which means that you can find a suitable plant for every room in your house. Some plants are more difficult to keep alive as they require certain levels of humidity, consistent temperature levels, or specific amounts of water. Take for example, ferns. They crave a lot of humidity. I have a friend with a lot of houseplants. Her bathroom—her greenhouse with a tub, sink, and toilet—is packed from floor to ceiling with humidity-loving plants. Each to their own, as they say.

I don't dislike many houseplants, but I draw the line at *Sansevieria*, or snake plant, or mother-in-law's tongue. I venture to say that most of our mothers and grandmothers probably had one or two decorating their living rooms for many years. They can live forever and don't mind a little or a lot of dust on their blade-like tall foliage. Today, there are several new varieties touched with white, gold, and pink.

There are many other easy-to-grow houseplants. You know some of the types; you often see them in the dark corners of low-light offices, but they



Author's *Clivia miniata*.
February 2019.

have adapted to their conditions and live well from year to year: spider plant, aloe vera, peace lily, jade plant, weeping fig (*Ficus benjamina*), philodendron, Chinese evergreen, Norfolk Island pine, and English ivy. I don't usually buy houseplants online, but the Fall White Flower Farm catalogue has a list of "Houseplants with Maximum Style and Minimal Maintenance." This is a good reference source of old favorites, some with new variations, and hard-to-find plants. I have several of them: *Dracaena* 'Golden Heart,' Peace Lily 'Domino,' and two Chinese evergreens—'Spring Snow' and 'Siam Aurora.'

Plants of Interest. One of the most interesting and quite large plants I have ever grown is the staghorn fern (*Platycerium alcicorne*). It has antler-like foliage as well as a flat basal leaf. They are usually grown mounted on a piece of wood or in a basket, with a little mound of peat, compost, or other organic matter piled up under the plant. They are a little tricky to grow as their care relies on careful humidity, light, and temperature control. I happened to be lucky with mine; he grew for twenty years on the wall of my kitchen. He eventually grew so big that he fell of his perch and died, but he was worth it all those years.

Another interesting plant I have is the *Clivia miniata*. It is a flowering plant native to woodland habitats in South Africa. Given suitable conditions, it grows into large clumps with mounds of exquisite pink, orange, or white flowers that last for weeks. It has a reputation as a rugged houseplant that demands very little attention. As the plant ages, the arching strap-like leaves have a handsome, sculptural appeal. My *Clivia* is about twenty years old. He thrives on my complete negligence and is happiest pot bound with an

Continued on page 7.

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Continued from page 6.

Fall—Time for a New Garden

occasional watering. During the fall and winter months, he lives in the living room with indirect bright light; in the summer, he vacations in a shaded part of the patio. For me, he blooms in mid-winter for several weeks. The only requirement he demands is patience. He must have ten to twelve leaves before he blooms, which usually takes about six years. If you want flowers very soon, you must buy a mature plant, which can be \$100 or more. Here again, the wait is worth it.

Incredible Orchids. Orchids have a reputation for being difficult or nearly impossible to grow and thrive in a home environment. That can be true, but it depends upon the variety. Orchids are plants that are native to tropical regions of Asia and Australia, such as the Himalayas and the Philippines. The majority of the species can be found in southern Central America and northwest South America, and countries that lie along the Andes Mountains. They grow in the wild by attaching to the bark of trees. The roots are used for anchoring as well as absorbing the humidity found in the tropical air. I saw many growing wild in Patagonia several years ago. Their native environment is not exactly the atmosphere the average home gardener provides indoors. *Phalaenopsis*, known as Moth Orchids, are, perhaps, the most reliable and long blooming of orchids. Every year, my husband Jim gives me two of these orchids. They are in bloom, and the flowers remain for several months. Then they rebloom in May and June. I have had several now for five to six years. They sit in a corner of my kitchen in indirect bright light; I water them when the bark becomes dry. After the flowers fade, I keep the old spikes on the plant; you will potentially get two to four flushes of flowers in a given year from one spike. I fertilize each orchid every two to three weeks after its blooms have dropped.

Another reliable orchid for home cultivation is the exquisite *Paphiopedilum*, Lady Slipper Orchid. They have intricately detailed blossoms. If you are looking for a very special plant, try this orchid. I don't buy my orchids online. Shipping can be pricey, and the plant is liable, without adequate packing, to arrive a bit harmed. I buy mine at Potomac Petals & Plants on River Road. They are fairly priced and of good quality.

Remember, houseplants do not grow indoors by choice; they grow in

Continued on page 9.

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Tidbits

Local Writer Releases New Book

Barnesville resident Steve Vogel's latest book, *Betrayal in Berlin*, was released in paperback on September 15. Vogel joined International Spy Museum curator Dr. Alexis Albion on September 18 for a virtual discussion about the book which tells the story of the Berlin Tunnel, a Cold War CIA operation to tap into Soviet secrets, and of George Blake, the spy who betrayed the operation.

A recent review in "Studies in Intelligence," the CIA's scholarly journal, says that the book "reads like a thriller, reaches sources previously untapped...*Betrayal in Berlin* is reliable, exciting, well-sourced and fair... In a great many vignettes, Vogel transports the reader back in time into rooms and meetings that, at the time, were extraordinarily sensitive...Steve Vogel has written the best book to date on the Berlin Tunnel."

Information about the book is available at www.stevevogel.com.

County to Keep Pool Open into October

"We understand that the pandemic cut

summer short for many of us," Montgomery County Recreation Director Robin Riley said in a press release. "Our staff continues to look for out-of-the-box solutions—such as keeping pools open beyond the typical end-of-the-summer season—in order to allow residents extended opportunities to focus on their physical and mental wellbeing."

Outdoor pools are open to current pool passholders, and daily admission is also offered for county residents only. Pool passes have been extended through October 4 at no extra cost.

Annual Saturday Night in the Country Event Becomes Carryout Only

The Rural Women's Republican Club's annual dinner/auction event, called Saturday Night in the Country, will be a carryout-only event. The event scheduled for October 10 is still located at the BCC-Izaak Walton League at 20601 Izaak Walton Way, in Poolesville, but food will be pickup-only from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The menu consists of pit-roasted chicken, parsley potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, apple sauce, and rolls. A bake sale, auction, and a 50/50 raffle will still be available. Social distancing and wearing a mask will be required.

Dinner is \$25.00 per person with the raffle tickets \$5.00 each. Meals can be ordered in advance (by September 30). Send reservation and payment made out to RWRC for the number of dinners desired to Suzette Bizzarro, P.O. Box 335, Barnesville, MD 20838. For questions, call Margie Shultz at 301-655-4711.

Poolesville Seniors Offer Diverse Virtual Programs

Do you need stress relief from life and the pandemic? Then visit the Poolesville Seniors website, poolesvilleseniors.org, to register for Zoom virtual events in October which might help you cope with current life stressors. These programs are open to the entire community.

Each Monday from 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Maureen Ivusic will lead a class in Tai-Chi. Karen McPhatter ups the exercise level with Zumba Gold on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. Every Thursday in October from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Kathy Jankowski, who is trained in trauma-sensitive stress response system balancing, will guide participants in using their breath and gentle Qigong movements to promote health. On Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., join Zack Etheridge, of EZ Fit, for senior weight

training. On Thursday evening, October 1, at 7:00 p.m., Professor Christine Rai's topic will be "Lavender and Humanity." In this lively presentation, she'll guide viewers through the intertwined history of lavender and humanity, spanning civilizations, centuries, and continents. Explore humanity's special relationship with this soothing and healing plant through music, art, folklore, and more.

October features a craft project, a découpage pumpkin, completed in two sessions: Tuesdays, October 6 and 13 at 1:00 p.m. Chris Rickert and Annette Rosanelli of needlepointers.com return to lead this project. There will be a small fee for the materials, which will be delivered contact-free to each participant's home.

On Thursday, October 8 at 7:00 p.m., Bernie Mihm, of Fine Earth Landscaping, will give fall gardening tips and answer questions from viewers.

Over thirty people attended Kenny Sholes's September presentation of Historic Ag Reserve properties that have disappeared. Kenny returns for another presentation on Thursday, October 15 at 7:30 p.m.

All of the virtual programs sponsored by Poolesville Seniors are open to

Continued on page 9.

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Continued from page 7.

Fall—Time for a New Garden

forests, jungles, mountain hilltops, deserts, aquatic areas, and with extreme temperatures in either direction, at the whims of the environment. I offer you a new challenge: Create or revitalize your indoor plant garden with forever favorites, some quirky individuals, and some trickier types. Your garden of peace and solace has moved indoors.

Continued from page 8.

Tidbits

entire community. To register for any of these presentations listed here and to receive the Zoom link for each, visit the Poolesville Seniors website: poolesvilleseniors.org. Email questions to: info@poolesvilleseniors.org. To receive a hard copy of their monthly newsletter, call 301-875-7701.

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The bottom line is if you're planning to sell, I recommend putting your house on the market before fall. *There are many buyers out there who are ready and waiting for more inventory to come on the market.*

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Business Briefs

Bassett's Makes Donation to WUMCO in Memory of Employee Clay McCarty

Eric Rose of Bassett's has announced the restaurant will be donating \$3,100 to WUMCO Help, Inc. from its generous two-night fundraiser in Clay's honor. Additionally, WUMCO has received individual donations in the amount of \$1,050.00 in honor of Clay.

WUMCO executive director Katie Longbrake said, "WUMCO is grateful to Bassett's and individuals in our community who have given over \$4,100 in honor of Clay McCarty. Clay was a faithful volunteer and supporter of WUMCO Help over the years. When WUMCO had a volunteer need, we knew that if they could call on Clay, he would do anything he could to assist. He was committed to our community, and it showed. It is fitting that Bassett's and the larger Poolesville area community have been inspired to such generosity in Clay's honor. Thank you to Bassett's and everyone who contributed, it will be put to good use to assist those in need, especially at this very trying time."

A Wartime Truck Now Serving the Community

You may have seen a red and black 1941 Dodge WC Series dually truck nicknamed Bess running around Poolesville or parked every Saturday morning at Whalen Commons during the farmers' market. The owner, John Congedo, found old Bess resting in a retirement garage near Seven Springs, Pennsylvania. The owner at that time was finishing his life experience here on Earth and wanted to find a new home for his mechanical earthly love. John was looking to adopt a new project to support his wife Christine's newest business endeavor, providing healthy fruits and vegetables to anyone who might need them. She also likes to mentor her young grandchildren and friends' children in entrepreneurialism, as well as cost of goods sold, counting change, and interfacing with people. Her husband, John, has a passion for farming. Their passions combined made Bess the perfect transport vehicle used by the by Cozzi Family Farm Cooperative.

Bess was built in 1941 by the Dodge Brothers and helped save this world from Nazi expansion into Central Europe during World War II. What attracted



Jack and Maggie McCarty gave donations given in honor of Clay McCarty to Katie Longbrake, Executive Director of WUMCO. Eric Rose of Bassett's organized a two-night fundraiser to benefit WUMCO in honor of long-time employee Clay McCarty who passed away on August 24.

John to the truck was the fact that his grandfather had owned and operated a truck very similar to this one for hauling and selling sweet corn, tomatoes, and other vegetables.

Old Bess is the only known serving example of this war hero vehicle. Truck collectors are in awe over this superbly-preserved example of this model and year

Continued on page 11.



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Continued from page 10.

Business Briefs

and have diligently attempted to acquire this truck for their private collections, but the Congedos see her cause of supporting the new farmers' market in Poolesville as more important.

Peachtree Veterinary Clinic Opens

Dr. Clarivel Salazar moved her practice, My Family Veterinary Hospital, from Poolesville to the recently-reopened Peachtree Veterinary Clinic location at 18620 Darnestown Road, between Cattail Road and Peachtree Road. The building, first opened in January 1979, was previously owned by Dr. Chet Anderson. Dr. Salazar has decided to retain the name Peachtree Veterinary Clinic for her ongoing practice (which greatly pleases the Anderson family!). The telephone number of the clinic is 301-349-4790.



Dr. Clarivel Salazar and Dr. Chet Anderson at the reinvigorated Peachtree Veterinary Clinic.

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Continued from page 5.

Police Crack Down on Illegal Street Racing

Although the Upcounty does not have four-lane roads, there are still occasions where citizens have complained about high-speed driving and racing. If this behavior is observed, police urge you to call 911 and report a description of the cars, direction of travel, and the license tag if possible.

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In Your Own Backyard An Elephant!

By Jon Wolz

One recent morning, I drove to Clarksburg to buy a milk bottle from a woman. Upon arriving at her house, I mentioned seeing Latrobe Lane and told her about Benjamin Latrobe's marble quarry near Poolesville on the Potomac River. The woman told me there was a park behind her house and that Latrobe is mentioned at the park. I drove to the visitors' parking lot and saw steps at the bottom of a hill that led to the park at the top of the hill. I ascended a winding stairway (counting fifty-four steps) to the entrance of Dowden's Ordinary Special Park. The park is a 2.8-acre interpretive park on the site of a former "ordinary"—an eighteenth century tavern—that was torn down in 1924. At the top of the stairway, I glanced across the park and was amazed at what I saw! There is a steel-framed outline of an old house with two brick chimneys, a cannon with a stack of cannon balls by the cannon, and a playground with a large elephant that is in a prominent location of the playground. Also, there is a large stone with a historical plaque on

it. There were walking paths with interpretive signs. The framed outline for a building is a "ghost structure," this one showing an outline of the tavern that was once at this location. Also at this location, there was an intersection of old Native American trails that ran east to west and north to south. Travelers took the south trail to Georgetown and the north trail to Fredericktown (now known as Frederick). Back then, this road was known as the Great Road (today it is MD Route 355). Seeing this "traffic," in 1752, Michael A. Dowden, who owned the land where the park is located today, applied for a land patent to establish an ordinary on this site. An ordinary was similar to an inn and was a place for travelers to spend the night or get a meal. Dowden built the structure in 1753 and opened Dowden's Ordinary in 1754. Dowden's Ordinary had seventeen rooms with a fireplace on each end of the building and a kitchen for cooking.

From April 15 to 17, 1755, during the French and Indian War, Maj. Gen. Edward Braddock stayed at the inn while his troops camped on the adjacent hillside in Clarksburg from April 13 through April 15, 1755. Braddock was a British officer and commander-in-chief for the Thirteen Colonies at the beginning of the French

and Indian War. On April 17, 1755, many of the troop's tents were blown down by a snowstorm, and the following day, the troops marched to Fredericktown. Eventually, they ended up at a battle against the French and Indians at Fort Duquesne in Pennsylvania where Braddock was mortally wounded. At the park, there is a cannon replica from the 1700s that is mounted on a cannon carriage with a sculptured stack of cannonballs and interpretive signs to describing the significance of Dowden's Ordinary in the French and Indian War. There is also a large stone historical marker that was placed at this location in 1915 with a tablet on the stone to commemorate Braddock's 1755 troop encampment. The tablet says:

This Tablet Marks the site of Dowden's Ordinary Where Gen. George Edward Braddock and Col. Dunbar's Division of the Colonial and English Army made a second encampment in Maryland April 15-17, 1755 Erected by the Janet Montgomery Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution

The tablet has an error: Braddock's first name was Edward and not George. The Sons of Liberty, a group



The framed building outline is a "ghost structure" showing an outline of the tavern that was once at this location.

who advocated for independence from England, met here starting in 1770. Sometime after 1770, Dowden's Ordinary was sold to Basil Roberts who renamed it Roberts Tavern. In the early 1800s, Basil Roberts sold his tavern to Frederick Scholl.

I walked towards the playground and stopped in front of the large concrete elephant. At the playground, the historical sign told the story of when an elephant came to Clarksburg.

Continued on page 17.



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Continued from page 1.

Church and Community Leader Ronnie Magaha Passes Away

and overseeing landscaping and lawn mowing. This experience led him to start the business he operated until his death, Cornerstone, Inc. Today, the company is a successful builder of homes and additions, outbuildings, and barns. The business was run out of Ronnie's home in Beallsville and, for many years, his wife Harriet did much of the financial and administrative work. Their son Rinnie eventually joined Ronnie in running the company.

During these years, Ronnie's interests ranged far beyond his business. One of his daughters, Robin Lemarr, said her dad "was always focused on three things: his family and faith, 4-H, and the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair." Ronnie and Harriet had three children, Rinnie, Robin, and Holly, all of whom live in the area. In total, they have eleven grandchildren, many of whom spent time regularly at their grandparents' home. Holly fondly remembers Ronnie babysitting her daughters, Lydia and Emily, and Holly returning to find Lydia fast asleep on Ronnie's stomach, he too having nodded off.

Ronnie's faith was central to his world view and Harriet's as well. While not a Catholic when he married, he followed Harriet into her faith and became a pillar of St. Mary's Catholic Church, according to Fr. Kevin O'Reilly. For decades, he was a key leader and organizer of the annual chicken and turkey dinners and was a regular attendee at church. He also was a leader in the men's group at St. Mary's, the Holy Name Society, and did extensive work helping to maintain the grounds and particularly in upgrading the fellowship hall at St. Mary's which is in constant use not only for church events but also for many community functions. Father O'Reilly visited Ronnie often during his wife's illness and said he was "astounded at the depth of Ronnie's faith" as they prayed together and talked.

Ronnie's other interests were the 4-H Club and the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair. He served as an officer of the 4-H Montgomery County Sheep and Swine Club for many years and helped his children and grandchildren raise animals to show at the county fair. Even today, he has a large pig pen behind his home where pigs are thriving. "I don't know how he could spend five hours at a time out there with those pigs," his daughter Holly said laughing.

He also played an active role at the Montgomery County Agricultural Center and served as the fair president twice and fair chairman for ten years. Marty Svrcak, the executive director of the county agricultural fair, worked with Ronnie for years and said, "His commitment to the fair and ability to work well with everyone" is a key reason it has grown and prospered. He also noted Ronnie's work with 4-H and the youth at the fair and said that "he would do anything necessary and go beyond the bounds" to help kids and set an example for them.

Ronnie Magaha's life and example have truly blessed our community, and he will be sorely missed.

Fun Facts...



A. B. Graham started a youth program in Clark County, Ohio, in 1902 which is considered the birth of 4-H in the United States. The first club was called "The Tomato Club" or the "Corn Growing Club." T.A. Erickson of Douglas County, Minnesota started local agricultural after-school clubs and fairs that same year. Jessie Field Shambaugh developed the clover pin with an H on each leaf in 1910, and by 1912 they were called 4-H clubs.

The passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914 created the Cooperative Extension System at USDA and nationalized 4-H. By 1924, 4-H clubs were formed and the clover emblem was adopted.

Today, 4-H serves youth in rural, urban, and suburban communities in every state across the nation. 4-H'ers are tackling the nation's top issues, from global food security, climate change, and sustainable energy to childhood obesity and food safety. 4-H out-of-school programming, in-school enrichment programs, clubs, and camps also offer a wide variety of STEM opportunities—from agricultural and animal sciences to rocketry, robotics, environmental protection, and computer science—to improve the nation's ability to compete in key scientific fields and take on the leading challenges of the twenty-first century. For more information, visit 4-h.org/.

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Burglary: 19500 Fisher Avenue.

Theft: 17200 General Custer Way, 19900 block of Briarley Hall Drive.

Past Crime: 1940s

Montgomery County Police called for parents to instruct their children not to cause vandalism and havoc along the right-of-way of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Youngsters had been rolling logs down embankments onto the railroad tracks, placing other debris on the tracks, and throwing rocks at passing trains. In the past, the police had identified youngsters and let them go with a stern warning. Judge Frank Proctor of the Juvenile Court said that, in the future, any juvenile caught interfering with the railroad would be brought to his court.

An alert Montgomery County police officer was credited with the capture of two escapees from the Maryland House of Correction. Captain Leroy Snyder was on his way home when he spotted two young men dressed in dungarees walking on the Rockville Pike. The police had received a look-out for men dressed the same. Snyder placed them in his own car and drove

them to the police station where they admitted that they were the escapees. They told Snyder that they were on their way to West Virginia.

The case of the "Lipstick Bandits" was solved. A man and woman who had been arrested for the robbery of Whittelsey's Drug Store in Bethesda appeared in court. The case had been so branded because a detective had found a note with a hotel room number written in lipstick lying on the floor of the drug store after the robbery.

The Morris Haumann Carnival Show was closed by the Montgomery County Police. The show, that had been operating at the Kensington fairground, was shut down after the police received numerous complaints of rigged games and customers not receiving prizes after winning. In addition, there was a large fight among carnival employees.

A fourteen-year-old Potomac boy was being held after beating a three-year-old boy over the head. The boy had been on leave from the Rosewood State Training School because of overcrowding at the juvenile facility at Rockville.

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

Continued from page 1.

Monocacy Lions Donate Personal Protective Equipment to UMCVFD

Lions, Heidi Brenholtz, Roger Brenholtz, Peter Gallo, and the Lions District 22-C immediate past president Sonia Wiggins presented the PPE to UMCVFD President Heather Haller, Chief Mike Burns, and UMCVFD treasurer Lynne Bodmer. Wiggins (a member of the Rockville Lions Club) spearheaded the effort to secure the grant and purchase the equipment.

The Monocacy Lions Club has been a major supporter of the UMCVFD since its establishment. In fact, it was the Monocacy Lions that led the effort to establish the fire department back in 1945. It was the Monocacy Lions that created the committee to explore the feasibility of starting a new, local fire department and then lobby the county and state to support the initiative. The Monocacy Lions also led the campaign to raise money to build the firehouse and purchase the initial fire equipment.

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Continued from page 12.

An Elephant!

Benjamin Latrobe, who was the architect of the Capitol and a planner, stopped in Clarksburg in 1811 as he was traveling to and from Harper's Ferry. He drew and painted three pictures of his time in Clarksburg. A sketch done in pencil dated August 2, 1811 is titled, "Clarksburg and Sugarloaf Mountain." Another picture done in pencil and watercolor by Latrobe on October 10, 1811, titled, "Two Views of an Elephant, Clarksburg, Maryland," shows an elephant named Blue Beard that was visiting Clarksburg. He wrote in his journal that she was eight feet six inches high. "She takes a whip and cracks it; eats two bushels of corn on the cob a day....she draws a cork from a bottle with her finger, empties it into her trunk and then pours, or rather blows into her mouth." The elephant Latrobe saw was advertised in cities from Boston to Charleston for almost a quarter of a century. It arrived in the United States in 1796. She could be viewed for twenty-five or fifty cents in marketplaces and outside taverns. She was reputed to have consumed thirty bottles of porter (a dark beer) on some days.

Another Latrobe pencil/watercolor dated October 10, 1811, titled, "Sholl's tavern Clarksburg," showed the Sholl's Tavern on the top of a hill adjacent to a group of people looking at a comet and an elephant. Latrobe wrote, "View about ten o'clock of the Elephant, going towards Georgetown, showing the position of the comet at the time." The elephant troupe was probably heading south for the winter, traveling at night to avoid spooking horses and providing any free looks at the elephant.

Andrew Jackson dined here on the way to his inauguration. During the Civil War, both Union and Confederate troops passed by the tavern.

Scholl's Tavern was sold to Leonard Shaw who renamed the tavern Shaw's Tavern and converted it to apartments which he rented to local farmers and laborers. The tavern was torn down in 1924.

As I was leaving the playground, I came upon another historical marker that describes the archaeology that was performed. In 2002, Montgomery County Parks began archeological work at this location where they found broken pottery, glass, and metal fragments from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries scattered across the site. Artifacts were even tossed up from a groundhog burrow. Since this was once a tavern site, the largest number of artifacts related to meal preparation and consumption.

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Celebrating 31 Years of Service

More Furry Friends in the World Means More Interaction: How to Do it Right for Them

Adapted by Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF

There has been an explosion of new forever homes for thousands of pets across the United States and the world. It is heartwarming to read and see firsthand how many wonderful people are opening their homes and hearts to new furry friends.

What is important (after a visit to your favorite veterinarian for a checkup and words of wisdom) is to make sure you are versed in the interaction game for your pets. It is critical that you realize that the pets you have given a loving home do not see or interact with humans and other animals like you would. A dog is not a cat, and a cat would never allow you to think it was a dog. Neither animal is a person, although we invest them with human qualities all too often, and they accept it so as to manipulate and train you to do their bidding.

Knowing what you need to know before your pets join any group, neighbor, or animal park fun is important for you and your furry four-wheel-drive buddy.

It is important to understand of how your canine and feline friends evaluate the world and how aggression plays a role in that evaluation. We all feel aggression is never acceptable from our furry buddy. It is important to note that there are many levels of aggression and that, in some cases, your pet can diffuse a situation by showing some aggression. As long as you have "read the room" correctly, you can prevent any escalation.

Consider the following before you venture out with your pet for a day of exploration and interaction:

1. **There is always some risk in taking your furry pal to a new or different location.** You may want to go alone the first time to evaluate the area for potential aggression stimuli. Not all pets are good at interpersonal relationships. Discuss with your veterinarian how they think your pet would handle new situations.
2. **There are risks to your pet in other ways also.** Disease exposure, wounds, and trauma have to be looked out for in any adventure. Be sure your pet is up to date on vaccinations. Discuss with your veterinarian what first aid materials would be good to keep on hand.
3. **Not everyone takes as good care of their pet as you do.** Exposure to parasites from feces and urine is possible. Many locations do not have rules requiring pets to have negative fecal exams and current vaccinations before entering an area. Be sure your pet is negative for parasites (yearly fecal exams are a great idea) and is current on preventatives.
4. **Make sure your pet is a good citizen.** Having a good grasp of the commands, Sit, Stay, Come, and Leave It, will put you far ahead in the ability to protect your pet and steer him/her from harm's way. There is no harm in keeping your pet on a leash. We never recommend the extendable leash. That type of leash is a disaster waiting to happen.

The world awaits you and your pet. Just be sure you know what world you are exposing your pet to.



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