

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

November 18, 2022 • Volume XVIII, Number 18



Barnesville's Windsong Studios is one of fourteen studios on the Countryside Artisans Tour this December. More details on page 5.



Though dead for many years, a gift to honor John Whalen was given. Details in Tidbits on page 8.



You might say she had a heart of rock! Learn more about this woman on page 10.



PHS cross country team state champs! Read about them on page 12.

The Monocacy Monocle Announces Change in Direction

By Rande Davis

John Clayton and Rande Davis, co-publishers of the *Monocacy Monocle*, have announced a decision to change the frequency of the local publication from bi-weekly to monthly. The newspaper, started on March 4, 2005, has the mission of "keeping an eye on local news" and to chronicle the lives and enterprises in upper Montgomery County. The paper, from its origin, has had an editorial and circulation footprint that, while centering on Poolesville, covers the surrounding communities in the Agricultural Reserve. It is distributed in Poolesville to homes with a newspaper box and throughout the area, free of charge, in various retail, commercial, and professional locations.

In an era of declining print publications nationally, the *Monocle* has thrived primarily through the dedication of its staff of talented writers and the professionalism of its support staff. Early in its existence, the paper experimented with covering the Clarksburg

community and Clarksburg High School as well as Poolesville but changed course to focus specifically on life in the Upcounty communities of Poolesville, Dickerson, Boyds, Beallsville, and Barnesville. Its distribution reached homes from southern Frederick County to Darnestown.

The strength of the publication emanates from its positive perspective of living and working in the region, focusing on the accuracy of its reporting, and sharing the lives and achievements of residents and readers. It has been particularly strong in presenting the history of the region.

Originally, the biweekly frequency was chosen for practical and economic reasons based on the limitations of its advertising base as the sole source of revenue to support the paper. "Our success is a result of the two things: The dedication of a core of advertisers that established a reasonable foundation of revenue to cover costs, and the



The cover of the first Monocacy Monocle dated March 5, 2004.

passion and commitment of all staff involved," Davis noted.

"The new monthly frequency plays to our strengths of accuracy and the mission to chronical the lives or residents and businesspeople living in the Ag Reserve," he said. "It will continue to allow us to fully cover both monthly

Continued on page 11.

Brown and Paksima Take Oath of Office

By Rande Davis

On December 14, Town of Poolesville manager Wade Yost presided over the oath of office to Jim Brown and Sarah Paksima, newly elected to four-year terms. Former commissioner Chuck Stump and now chairman of the Poolesville Board of Elections certified the results in reporting to the commissioners:

- Jim Brown, 1058
- Eddie Kuhlman, 415
- Brooks Martin, 490
- Sarah Paksima 629
- Adam Sroka, 182

Stump reported that the town has 4,731 registered voters, an increase of a little over five hundred voters from the last election. This year there were a total of 1,525 votes cast for 33%. (1,452 in-person, 73 absentee). In the last election, voter turnout was 48%, and before that it was 39%.

Continued on page 18.



Town Manager Wade Yost administered the oath of office to newly-elected commissioners Sarah Paksima and Jim Brown.

Family Album



As the National Anthem was played, the American flag was saluted.



Commander Julien Singh addressed the attendees at Post 247's Veterans Day ceremony.



Members of American Legion Post 247.



Pastor Joel Gilbert of Poolesville Baptist Church sang a stirring rendition of "America the Beautiful."



Youth volunteers assisted Glenn Wallace and Mary Conlon in placing American flags at the graves of veterans at Monocacy Cemetery.



Celebrating the 247th anniversary of the founding of the U.S. Marines at Cugini's.



Sarah Paksima shared the special moment of her installation as town commissioner with her eldest daughter Amirah (left) and sister Heidi.

Poolesville's 17th Annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony

Friday, December 2, 2022

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Whalen Commons - 19701 Fisher Ave. Poolesville, MD 20837

Santa Arrives at 6:30 pm

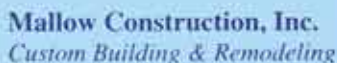
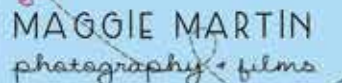
Tree Lighting at 6:45 pm

Musical Performances ~ A Special Reading by Mrs. Claus ~ Holiday Express Train

Wood Sculptures ~ Food Trucks ~ Ice Skating Rink ~ Frozen Moon Bounce

Basket Auction to support WUMCO ~ Gingerbread Cookie Decorating

Please bring a new unwrapped toy for WUMCO



Rande(m) Thoughts Can Less Be More?

By Rande Davis

For me, the headline in this issue is the most consequential in our eighteen years of "keeping an eye on local news." I have wondered over the years just how long we could keep publishing every other week this "chronicle of your life." The revenue source (advertising base) never had the strength to support a weekly frequency, and with town government meetings twice a month, the biweekly frequency seemed to be the right decision to meet the needs of our readers for reasonably timely news and trusted accurate reporting.

The pandemic took a toll on us in reduced regular advertising as well as a drop in special event advertising that supported all those things we were doing. Some of the latter seems to be coming back a bit. For me, the drop in revenue hurt the most because it made it difficult to produce what we wanted the most, to publish a twenty-four-to-twenty-eight-page paper. Too often, we simply had to stay at twenty pages to stay afloat.

Although we have financially "flown close to the trees" these past few years, it is also the change in how our community gets its news that impacted our decision to change frequency. We recognize that we do not meet the swiftness of the internet but have always believed our print format and biweekly frequency gave us the strength where I think it matters most. In the words of an unnamed journalistic sage, "It's getting it right, more than first," that counts. We will continue to give our readers in-depth coverage of Poolesville town government even if

it's covering two meetings at a time. When confused by the hyperbole of Facebook and the internet, you can still count on us to get to the facts of the matter. We'll get it right and let the others competing to be first on Facebook battle it out.

John and I joined together on this venture for our own reasons. For me, I was frustrated by the inaccurate, angry, and vitriolic approach to the news by the existing weekly paper. It didn't reflect who we are as a people, and as I have "preached" so often over the years, it's not the size of our community that establishes a smalltown ambience; it's our behavior toward one another that matters. Divisiveness is like dry kindling to a small town. I will always believe it has been the spirit of the *Monocle* that means so much to all of us. I am so grateful to our core advertisers, those who are in every single issue. Without them, there never would have been a newspaper, and through them, we can hopefully continue our mission for years to come, albeit less frequently.

When you consider these important advertisers, they all share one thing in common. They are the businesses in our community that are there for all of us all ways and always, donating and contributing to so many different causes that make us a better community. While they advertise for economic benefit, I truly believe it is their love of our community that motivates them the most. Like so many others, they could have simply gone solely to the internet. They didn't because they "got us." They knew what we are about more than most. They understand what a small-town newspaper can mean to the spirit of a small town. It's not just dollars and cents, it is also common sense and common purpose. To them, John and I will be forever grateful.

Local News

Push for Expanded Gym and Wellness Center at High School Continues

By Link Hoewing

Despite securing \$110 million for reconstruction of the high school and public support from a number of Montgomery County councilmembers at the recent groundbreaking ceremony, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has yet to commit to an expanded main gymnasium and inclusion of a new wellness center facility in the high school. While MCPS has offered a new plan for the gym that is larger than the existing facility, it remains far smaller than those that exist in most other high schools. Capital funding for wellness centers has been allotted to the Department of Health and Human Services, which is the agency that builds and staffs the centers in schools, but no commitment has been made as of yet to put Poolesville on the list to get a wellness center within the next two years while its school is being rebuilt.

Cluster Coordinator Hannah Donart raised the issue of wellness centers

with the board of education in her testimony on November 3. Following up on her comments, Link Hoewing, speaking on behalf of the Fair Access Committee (FAC), appeared before the Board on November 14. He noted that Poolesville has made a strong case that the current size of the existing main gym at PHS is much smaller than any other high school in our county. He told board members that Poolesville's sports program "as you may be noticing in the news, is very strong, and we have a wonderful athletic staff."

He went on to say that practice is key to success and to a good sports program. Under the new design for the school, he said, the existing cafeteria is being eliminated and that is where practices for some of Poolesville's teams are currently held. Poolesville teams have no space in the new school's design for a dedicated wrestling room which most other schools have, and the current revised plans for the gym, while expanding its size, do not allow for safe practice space for two teams at once. "We need at least the addition of a full-sized wrestling room to the current revised gym plans."

He acknowledged the help of the superintendent who asked her staff to work with the community on revisions to the plans for the gym, but he said

Continued on page 17.

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Center Stage

Holiday Art Tour

By Rande Davis

Maryland's Countryside Artisans represent a select group of accomplished visual, sculptural, and textile artists living and working in both historic and rural areas of Montgomery, Howard, and Frederick Counties of Maryland. As artists, they offer an array of artwork, mediums, and gifts for every occasion.

Each studio is located within a thirty-mile radius of Sugarloaf Mountain, a highlight of Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve, and offers an alternative to in-store shopping year-round.

The group will be hosting their annual holiday tour from December 2 to December 4. Their brochure and map can be found at countrysideartisans.org.

For those artists closest to our area, the following provides a brief background on their offerings:

Dancing Leaf Farm is a small cottage industry in Barnesville featuring Dalis Davidson's own line of hand-dyed yarn, wearables, and paintings. Located on two acres with a view of Sugarloaf Mountain, Dalis's charming studio houses an array of colorful yarns (some from the sheep that graze the back field) and fiber for spinners and felters. For the non-craft people, Dalis has artsy accessories like felted scarves, shawls and handknit items, jewelry, and paintings made with wool that she calls "Lambscapes."

Alden Farms is the home of David Therriault's stone studio and sculpture garden on the outskirts of Poolesville. Enjoy two acres of inspired walks, gardens, and patios and experience how David's sculpture will enrich your home and garden!

Dusty Road Pottery is the ceramic studio of artist, Jennifer Hamilton. Housed in a converted dairy barn at the foothills of Sugarloaf Mountain in Frederick County, the studio features individually-made functional stoneware pottery. Please contact Dusty Road Pottery for information about available pottery, classes, and workshops.

Gallery East features paintings and photography by contemporary artists in a repurposed two-story barn and milk shed studio located in the rolling hills of Sugarloaf Mountain.

Morningstar Studio is the art space of artist Tina Thieme Brown. This charming 1790 log cabin art studio is set behind her 1747 Barnesville home that was a tavern during the Civil War. Her work reflects a passion for nature and the pastoral landscape surrounding Sugarloaf Mountain. Oil paintings, prints off the etching press, colored pencil drawings, pastels, botanical originals, and giclée prints line the walls. The bookcase is filled with the Sugarloaf field guide and history books that she illustrated, as well as the illustrated pap of Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve. Tina shares her passion for native plants and their habitat when you visit the studio.

Rocklands Farm Winery is thirty-four scenic acres located on an authentic, historical Poolesville property in the Agricultural Reserve of Montgomery County, Maryland, just thirty minutes from Washington, D.C. When visiting the working farm, you can pick up pasture-raised meats, fruit, and veggies from the market and enjoy a glass of wine as you tour the vineyard and winery!

Sugarloaf Quilting is home to vibrant, handcrafted quilts by Becky Carr. She exhibits her heirloom pieces during the Countryside Artisan Tours in the restored dairy barn at the picturesque and historic Darnall Farm on White's Ferry Road just outside Poolesville. Becky's quilts feature intricate textural design and stylish comfort that will last generations. She offers quilts of various sizes and designs ready for you to enjoy, as well as custom quilts made to order. Enjoy beautiful quilts displayed amid pastoral scenery.

Windsong Studio, behind the 1912 home of its artist, Cynthia Jennings, is nestled in the quiet town of Barnesville, surrounded by the vista of Sugarloaf Mountain. It is there that you will find Cynthia's paintings in a variety of mediums and subjects, featuring local landscape and lake scenes from the Adirondacks. She enjoys painting *en plein air* as much as possible.

Visit the *Monocle* online at www.monocacymonocle.com



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Senior News

Poolesville Seniors Presents Virtual and In-Person Programs

Are you looking for activities that stretch your mind, renew your body, and lift your spirits? Then visit the website for Poolesville Seniors, poolesvilleseniors.org, or call 301-875-7701 to register for a wide variety of virtual and in person events. **Registration is required, but all events are open to the community.** Most in-person events are located at Speer Hall at Poolesville Presbyterian Church.

November 18

Friday Night at the Movies: Top Gun Maverick

Watch the recently-released *Top Gun Maverick* movie on a 100-inch screen, enjoy popcorn, and stay for conversation about the film and snacks. *Speer Hall*. Register early to get your seat. 7:00 p.m.

November 21

Riley's Lock Pop-Up Walk

Join Jon Wolz for a 2.5-mile walk from Riley's Lock to the Stone Cutting Mill, then on a rough path past the Seneca Quarries and back. Registration is limited to 15. 10:00 a.m.

PS Book Club

In her biography, *The Undocumented American*, Karla Cornejo Villavicencio reveals the hidden lives of her fellow undocumented Americans in this deeply-personal and groundbreaking portrait of a nation. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

December 1

Date Night: Poetry and Art

Join Bernie Jankowski for an evening of poetry and art inspired by the natural wonders of the Ag Reserve.

Selected readings from his award-winning books *Shadows of the Monocacy* and *Luminous Mud* will be accompanied by projections of artwork by Ed Ramsburg that were inspired by the texts. Make it a date night and enjoy the culture, conversation, and snacks. *Speer Hall*. 7:00 p.m.

December 6

Civil War Christmas

Historian Brad Stone recreates illustrator Thomas Nast's 1863 Santa and discusses the celebration of Christmas during the Civil War, before it was an official holiday. Discover the surprising ways the war changed our celebration. *Poolesville Presbyterian Sanctuary*. 7:00 p.m.

December 15

Historic Ag Reserve Properties with Kenny Sholes

Explore the next historic Ag Reserve Properties with local historian Kenny Sholes. Dotted landscape is an array of impressive historic homes—standing as a visual reminder of those who came before us and the important part they played in American history for centuries. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

December 19

Blockhouse Point Pop-Up Walk

Join Jon Wolz for a three-mile walk along the Blockhouse Trail to the Paw Paw Trail and on to the Potomac River overlook, then looping back to the Blockhouse Trail to the Civil War earthworks where the blockhouse once stood until 1864. We'll return along the Springhouse Trail to the Blockhouse Trail. Registration is limited to 15. 10:00 a.m.

December PS Book Club

The fantasy novel *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* is the story of Adeline, a French girl who makes a Faustian deal for her freedom on the night of her

Continued on page 7.

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Continued from page 6.

Senior News

wedding. As with all such deals, there are unforeseen consequences. The novel follows the instantly-forgotten Addie through time, from France in 1698 to present-day New York, as she struggles with the consequences of her "deal." 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

Weekly Events

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
Ends November 30: Outdoor Pickle Ball. Stevens Park. 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Begins December 2: Indoor Open Pickle Ball. Poolesville Baptist Church Family Life Center. 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tuesdays

Bridge and Other Games

Snacks provided. Registration required. Speer Hall. 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Wednesdays

Tai-Chi with Maureen Ivusic. 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Virtual. New day and time.

Zumba Gold with Karen McPhatter. 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Virtual.

Trivia Game Night

If you love Trivia, come join a team with Poolesville Seniors. For more information, email info@poolesville-seniors.org. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

Thursdays

Mahjong with Joyce Kral. Beginner and seasoned players are welcome. Speer Hall. 10:00 a.m. to Noon. NO CLASS 11/24.

Fridays

Breath-Mind-Body with Kathy Jankowski. Please register for each Friday class. 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. Virtual. No class: 11/24, 12/16, and 12/23.

For more information or to register for any of the programs listed here and receive the Zoom link for each, visit the Poolesville Seniors website: poolesvilleseniors.org. Many of these presentations are also streamed live on their Facebook page and recorded for later viewing on their YouTube channel. Did you know that you don't need a computer to participate? You can join the Zoom presentation using your smartphone or just listen in using the local telephone number from Zoom and the Poolesville Seniors meeting ID and Password. Call or text them at 301-875-7701 to learn how.

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Tidbits

The Holiday Season in Two Acts!

This Christmas season, Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre, in partnership with Essence Studios, presents *Noël Notes!* This show will immerse you in the holiday spirit with excerpts from Tchaikovsky's world-famous ballet, *The Nutcracker*, and Charles Dickens's timeless tale, *A Christmas Carol*. In this performance, you will experience the beautiful and colorful land of the sweets and be moved by the haunting and redemption of Ebenezer Scrooge. With over sixty dancers and five choreographers, the grandeur of this performance will have you in absolute awe.

"*Noël Notes* was created for people of all ages to enjoy!" enthused Claire Jones, artistic director of HGCBT. "Our dancers range from very young all the way to hired professionals in order to depict the richness and wonder of *The Nutcracker* and *A Christmas Carol*. All are welcome!"

HGCBT is also bringing Horizon Miguel of Company E to the stage, a professional dance company located in Washington, D.C. Claire Jones revealed, "Horizon is a strong and exciting new element to our ballet, bringing Scrooge to life with excellence as he dances with the ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future!" The dancers, adult volunteers and professional guest artists, will leave you breathless with their portrayal of these classic Christmas stories. Take a break from the holiday rush and let the dancers' joy become yours! The dancers will bring these stories to life on December 10 at BlackRock Center for the Arts in Germantown. Tickets are \$25 online and at the door. Concessions and drinks will be available during the show.

Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to elevate awareness, accessibility, and support for the performing arts in the greater Montgomery County area by providing dance performance opportunities for youth. Visit hopegardencbt.org for more information.

This performance is brought to you in part by: Poolesville Family Practice; Calleva/Markhoff's Haunted Forest; Locals Farm Market; Jennifer Gularson, Functional and Aesthetic Medicine; Jim Brown Turning Point Real Estate; Poolesville Veterinary Clinic; GCC Printing; Drs. Pike & Valega, DDS; Bill Jamison, Jamison Real Estate; and RMG Advisors.

John Whalen: Last Lockkeeper, Lock 27 along the C&O Canal

By Jon wolz

A few years ago, I was researching lockkeepers and their families for Locks 25, 26, and 27 and found most of them buried at the Monocacy Cemetery in Beallsville. I went to the cemetery to see if I could locate the graves of the

Continued on page 13.



Descendants of John Whalen, the last lockkeeper at Lock 24.



Young and talented ballet dancers from the original iteration of Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* eight years ago.

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Garden

Winter Greens For Wildlife

By Maureen O'Connell

Even though the monarch butterflies and hummingbirds headed south for the winter last fall, there is still a spectacular world of winter wildlife right outside your window. Many gardeners carefully plan for birds, butterflies, insects, and small mammals with food and shelter during the warm months of the year—they diligently seek to put the best plants for pollinators—but what happens in your backyard in December, January, February, and March to help wildlife survive the cold? You can hang multiple bird feeders from trees, but there is more to their survival than food alone. They need water and shelter from harsh winter winds, sleet, and snow. The spring garden catalogues will soon be crowding your mailbox. Now is the time to plan on selecting trees and shrubs to plant this spring to help wildlife make it through the winter. As always, I only recommend plants that do well in my backyard, for they can also do well in your Monocacy yard.

In the winter, your best choice is evergreens. Besides brightening the winter landscape, they are valuable sources of food and shelter for birds and other wildlife. Choose native plants as they save money and water, have better resistance to local weather conditions, demand less maintenance, and help restore natural habitats. Animals need plants in all stages all year: live and dead, green and brown, upright and fallen. Don't forget to provide leafy blankets. I don't like the seemingly innocuous leaf blowers; besides their loud noise and inefficient gas engines, they generate large amounts of air pollution and particulate matter. If you feel that you must rid your yard of leaves, use a rake. For the leaves on your grass areas, use the lawn mower to grind them up and then add it to your gardens as a wonderful garden soil amendment. Bumblebees, hummingbirds, moths, caterpillars, and toads need protective layers of decaying plants to keep them warm and protected all winter. That is why I don't completely clean my garden beds in the fall. That can wait until spring cleaning time. Leaves around trees, shrubs, and perennials provide winter refuge for rabbits and foraging birds. Listed below are some of my favorite hardy evergreens that grow very well in our Monocacy area.

American Holly (*Ilex opaca*)

There are about twenty native species and more than one hundred exotic hollies. Evergreen hollies are an especially good shelter for many birds and small mammals. Mockingbirds, bluebirds, and Cedar Waxwings are especially fond of holly berries. In our area, the American holly does very well. The stout, stiff branches of this pyramidal evergreen bear dark green, non-glossy, spine-tipped leaves. It ranges in height from twenty-five feet to as tall as sixty feet. Hollies are dioecious, meaning that they need male and female plants in order to produce seeds, which are their bright red berries, so if some of your holly bushes do not have berries, they may be male and simply cannot produce berries. Your tree needs a female.

Northern Bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*)

Bayberry is an upright, rounded, dense shrub with semi-evergreen dark green, leathery leaves. It has small waxy, persistent blue-gray fruit, which adds winter interest and attracts many species of birds, while it provides them with food and shelter.

The seed-filled cones of spruces, firs, pines, and many others appeal to nuthatches, finches, grosbeaks, chickadees, and other seed-eating birds. Junipers and yews also provide a feast of berrylike cones for species like waxwings, robins, bluebirds, and sparrows. Some of these birds might not be around during the colder winter months, but they will appreciate any extra food during the other months. Many trees and shrubs have pros and cons. Do some research before you purchase any of them to be sure that they will fit into your landscape and satisfy your needs. The right plant in the right place is my best advice.



The American Holly (*Ilex opaca*) provides food and shelter for birds in winter.



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Continued on page 17.

In Your Own Backyard Rock Hall

By Helen Wardlow Jones Berry
Introduction by Jon Wolz

On a rainy Monday morning, I had a phone call from Jon Mullen of Rock Hall who said he'd found something I might be interested in seeing. In his possession, he had a story that was given to him by Dr. Norvell Belt, written by a descendant of the Belt family, Helen Berry. The Belts lived at Rock Hall from 1839 to 1939. As a child, Helen Wardlaw (Jones) Berry (1911-1993) and her mother Lottie Eleanor (White) Jones (1884-1967) would travel east from the Midwest to visit Lottie's parents in Dickerson. Lottie's mother was Annie Oliver (Belt) Jones (1853-1940) who grew up at Rock Hall and was a daughter of John Lloyd Belt (1819-1889) and Sarah Eleanor McGill (1818-1903), the one-time patriarchs of the Belt family and longtime residents of Rock Hall. Helen and her mother Lottie would always visit Rock Hall and the remaining living relatives. The story Helen wrote provides a snapshot of what life was like at Rock Hall for one hundred years in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. She was a graduate of Arkansas State University with a degree in English. She married and had one son. She lived the last thirty-eight years of her life in Shreveport, Louisiana. She was a homemaker and a member of the Shreveport Writers Club. The following is part one of Helen's fascinating story about Rock Hall.

Rock Hall

By Helen Wardlaw (Jones) Berry

I love Rock Hall. Every year I looked forward to my visit there, and each time it was as I had remembered: picturesque and beautiful.

Rock Hall was built in 1812 by Roger Johnson, brother of Maryland's first governor. In 1836, it was sold to my great-grandfather (Alfred) Belt. In 1839, his son John Belt moved into the home, while his father stayed in Rock Hill in Loudoun County. For over a hundred years, it remained the hallowed home place of the Belt family.

I enjoyed sitting on the porch and looking out over the lawn and the tidy landscape. A double row of stately English boxwoods lined the stone walk. English boxwood has a clean, fresh smell. Its stimulating aroma mingled with the sweetness of the locust trees and roses. Near the grilled black iron gate was a gray sandstone (gray quartzite) stile (mounting stones) reminiscent of the days of carriages and horseback riding.

Rock Hall was built on a hill. From the spacious porch, I could see the fertile rolling farmland. The varied colored fields were accentuated by the vine-covered stone or splitwood fences.

Rock Hall is located a mile from the highway, as if scornful of the busy rush of modern transportation and life. Always, the serenity of the place lulled me into a false sense of security. I knew disaster and strife did happen, but I felt that nothing unpleasant or disquieting ever occurred here. Was I being willfully obtuse?

The Belt family were stubborn, loyal Southerners; and they suffered the anguish of the loser. Great-grandmother (Sarah McGill Belt) never forgot the deliberate destruction wrought by the Northern Army. Reluctantly, she accepted their eating of food intended for her family, but she could not forgive the soldiers for what came next. The men carried off what they could, set fire to the wheat fields, cut the legs off the remaining chickens and pigs, and killed the cows and horses. The only livestock left were a few animals that a former slave had driven far back into the wooded area near a stream.

The Southern mistress and mother never forgot her mounting despair: ruined wheat fields, empty larder, and ten children to feed.

The high terrain of the country was considered a military vantage point. The Northern officers appropriated the house for their living quarters. The commanding officer invited my great-grandmother to sit at the table with them. She was haughty as Southern ladies of the time were apt to be and declined, saying, "No, I'd rather eat in the lower dining room with the children."



An aerial view of historic Rock Hall.

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Continued on page 17

School News

PHS's Poolesville Pulse Goes Digital, Offers Rally Towels

By Kaitlyn Schramm

Poolesville High School's student publication, *The Poolesville Pulse*, is embracing the recent shift to a fully-digital newspaper with articles rolling out as they are completed instead of releasing physical editions quarterly. Now, articles are posted as soon as they are received, which captures the attention of PHS students who want to stay up to date with the publication. This trend has been steady for the past few years, and the publication was partially digital prior to distance learning.

"Since the paper was already somewhat digital, we were still able to produce while online school was happening. It did prevent us from having the traditional senior edition that was printed each year. We had to get creative and make it digital as well," said Pulse supervisor and PHS English teacher, Stephanie Gomer.

While the complete digitization resulted in the loss of the printed senior edition, it was seen as a much needed and vital step in the shift to online learning in the 2021-2022 school year. Even though *The Pulse* can sometimes be limited by this shift, the team has adapted to the process and has used it to their advantage, and digital publication is not the only way that *Pulse* members are shifting to a technology-based paper. Members have started advertising through various social media platforms.

"A digital publication allows us to have more creativity and flexibility in our editing process," mentioned senior copy editor, Aarsh Raja. "Our social media team uses the Poolesville Pulse TikTok and Instagram accounts to advertise for the publication."

The official Instagram account, @poolesvillepulse, uploads posts multiple times a week, including staff members' introductions, relatable memes referring to relevant school news, and short blurbs from articles as they are released. The Instagram account was mainly active starting last school year but has already quickly amassed over eight hundred followers and obtains hundreds of likes per post. The TikTok account has also gained lots of support even though it was only created at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, featuring interviews of students and edited videos of various sports games and school events.

"The Instagram and TikTok accounts have really brought my attention to the school paper," said senior Alexa Hinds. "Without the frequent posts, I honestly don't know how often I would stop and read their articles, but the posting has caught my attention on certain topics that I otherwise would not have stopped to learn about."

Pulse staff members are not just using social media to advertise new articles but also to market upcoming fundraising items. Rally towels are the latest fundraising endeavor, and the team is selling them for six dollars apiece in various locations, from the senior bench during lunch to the hallways in between classes. The rally towels are black with white writing that make the words appear as if they're moving as the towel is waved. Students are already excited to purchase the towels, and staff members are marketing the towels by walking around with convincing sandwich boards during lunch and by making trendy TikTok advertisements.

"We are selling rally towels this year! We also sell PHS tattoos throughout the year. For Valentine's Day, we sell flowers, and we used to sell singing telegrams before COVID. I am hoping to bring that fundraiser back this year," concluded Gomer.

Continued from page 1.

The Monocacy Monocle Announces Change in Direction

meetings of the Poolesville town government and reporting on Poolesville High School athletic and academic achievements."

"After doing something for over eighteen years—and by my count, 439 issues and counting—it feels rather strange to change the rhythm in this way," added John Clayton. "I admittedly have been out of the production flow for a few years, so I've already experienced a similar sensation once, but going from two issues per month to a monthly issue affects more people than my own personal level of involvement.

"This is not a goodbye, of course. The *Monocle* isn't going away just yet, so I hope all our readers and advertisers, and some new readers and advertisers, will still want to be along for the ride. There's still plenty to report, and as long as Rande, Dominique, Anne-Marie, and Laura are willing to keep it going, and as long as advertisers keep trying to engage our readers, we will do our best to persevere—so please stick with us. Rande and our staff have always lived up to what Rande told me we were going to do—way back in 2003 before we had even published our first issue (March 2004, if you're wondering). He said, 'We're going to publish a newspaper that people will read cover to cover.' It's still true, and it's going to continue to be true. Thanks in advance for sticking with us a little longer."

Fun Fact...

wikipedia.org

The modern newspaper is a European invention. The oldest direct handwritten news sheets circulated widely in Venice as early as 1566. These weekly news sheets were full of information on wars and politics in Italy and Europe. The first printed newspapers were published weekly in Germany from 1609.

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Youth Sports

Falcon Boys' Cross Country Team Repeats As 2A State Champs

By Jeffrey Stuart

The Poolesville High School boys' cross country team started off the season winning the Brunswick Invitational on September 3. They won the county championship. They won the region championship and finished the season on November 12 by winning their second straight state title at Hereford High School in Baltimore. The Falcons finished with forty-seven points to sixty-two for runner-up Century High School. Seniors Aaron Longbrake and Caleb Dastrup finished third and fourth respectively. Sophomore Connor Kohne finished twelfth, William Beane fifteenth, and senior Kevin Hsu finished nineteenth. Sophomore Caleb Bodmer finished thirtieth, and senior Ian Boehm was forty-fourth. In an interview after the county meet, Caleb Dastrup said, "I felt good and was able to run faster than I ever had before. The whole team ran well, especially Aaron and Ian." That pretty much rang true about the state meet. County

and state banners will soon be hanging in the gym.

The Poolesville girls finished second to host Hereford, 34-66. Junior Daisy Dastrup finished third, senior Anna Bodmer was eighth, sophomore Roma Diak finished twelfth. Senior Peri Nelson was eighteenth, and junior Natalia Palacios Vazquez was twenty-fourth.

In other playoff news, the PHS football team, division winners, lost to Walkersville, 28-14—but a 7-3 season is nothing to sneeze at. This team gave the fans a lot of thrills. The rain stopped and it was, amazingly, great weather for the game. The Falcons scored first after a sixty-yard run by Garrett Howell set up a one-yard quarterback sneak by Ashton Gaddis. They

led again 14-7 on a thirty-eight-yard touchdown run by Evan Taylor. The game was tied at the half, 14-14. They get a banner, too.

The girls' soccer team gets another banner. They finished with an 8-5 record, winning their division for the second straight year. They hosted Oakland Mills in the 2A West Region Semifinal and lost a heartbreaker, 1-0, after two scoreless overtimes.

The boys' soccer team also endured a tough playoff loss, falling, 2-1, to Hammond, after leading, 1-0, in the second half.

The girls' volleyball team advanced to the region semifinal with a 3-0 sweep of Oakland Mills, but they fell in five sets to Hammond.



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Friday December 2: 4pm-7pm

Saturday December 3: 10am-7pm

Sunday December 4: 12pm-5pm

Christmas Festival will take place:

Saturday December 3rd: 10am-2pm (open to all/held outside)

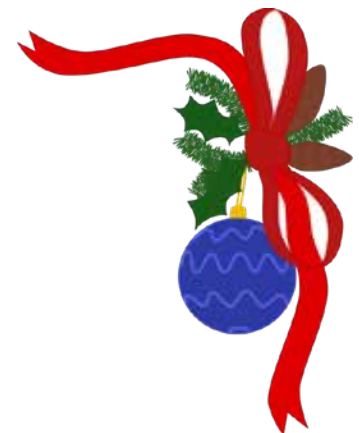
Don't miss the fun!

There will be a St. Nick Shop, bake sale, and free Christmas craft making, face painting, hotdogs, coffee, hot chocolate, and Christmas music!

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Things to Do

Sundays

Farmers' Market

Local bakers, makers, and growers. *Whalen Commons*. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

November 18 and 19

St. Peter's Annual Christmas Attic Sale

New and gently-used items. Christmas decorations, ornaments, greens, jewelry, pecans, and much more. Donations welcome through November 15. Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

November 21

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:00 p.m.

November 25

Monocacy Lions Blood Drive

Poolesville Baptist Church. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

December 1

American Legion Daniel-Jeffers Post 247 Monthly Meeting

Calleva offices in Poolesville. 7:00 p.m.

December 2

Poolesville's 17th Annual Holiday Lighting Festival

Musical performances, reading by Mrs. Claus, Holiday Express train, wood sculptures, food trucks, ice skating rink, frozen moon bounce, basket auction to support WUMCO, gingerbread decorating. Please bring an unwrapped toy for WUMCO. Santa arrives at 6:30 p.m.; Tree Lighting at 6:35 p.m. *Whalen Commons*. 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

December 2 to 4

Annual Countryside Artisans Holiday Tour

Over fourteen artists, sculptors, and craftsmen, plus a winery, in the heart of the Ag Reserve. Brochure and tour maps available online at countryside-artisans.org. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

OLOP Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale and festival

Tree and wreath sale. *Our Lady of the Presentation Catholic Church, Poolesville*. There will also be a St. Nick Shop, bake sale, and free Christmas craft making, face painting, hotdogs, coffee, hot chocolate, and Christmas music! St. Nick shopping for children only on December 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. December 2: 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; December 3: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; December 4: noon to 5:00 p.m.

December 7

Community Dinner

Free. *Memorial United Methodist Church*. Serving ham, green beans, mashed potatoes, salad, applesauce, and cookies. 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

December 10

WUMCO Community Health Clinic

Services provided are Primary Care, Prescription Refills, Annual Checkups, Sick Visits, and Lab work. Care for persons 18+. Appointments and walk-ins. 240-258-8583. *Memorial United Methodist Church*. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Annual Holiday Ballet

This Christmas season, Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre, in partnership with Essence Studios, presents *Noël Notes!* This show will immerse you in the holiday spirit with excerpts from Tchaikovsky's world-famous ballet, *The Nutcracker*, and Charles Dickens's timeless tale, *A Christmas Carol*. Concessions and drinks will be available for purchase. Tickets: \$25. *BlackRock Center for the Arts, Germantown*. Showtimes: 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.



Continued from page 8.

Tidbits

lockkeepers I had found. Fortunately for me, Glenn Wallace was there that day. He pointed me to the locations of the various gravesites. I was having good success finding the gravestones of everyone on my list until I looked for John Whalen who was the last name on my list. He did not have a gravestone, and I found an empty grass space next to his wife Fannie's grave. She has a gravestone. I told Glenn that John Whalen did not appear to have a gravestone. He confirmed my observation. Last September, Glenn was the after-dinner speaker for the Sons of the American Revolution meeting. He spoke about the Monocacy Cemetery. I mentioned the help he had given me in finding lockkeepers at the cemetery and that John Whalen did not have a gravestone. Glenn said he had an extra gravestone he would give me if I would pay to have it etched. I contacted Sugarloaf Monuments and worked with Lisa Hilton to have a gravestone etched for John Whalen. C&O Canal enthusiasts and historians, William and Rita Bauman helped me pay for the etching. Earlier in November, Glenn laid the stone for John Whalen at the cemetery.

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A Monocacy Moment



The American Legion's Daniel-Jeffers Post 247 presented its garrison flag in a pre-game ceremony at a recent Falcons football game.

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Youth Sports

Falcons Place Second at County Cheerleading Competition

By Jeff Stuart

On Saturday, October 29, the Poolesville High School cheerleading squad took center stage in its own competition rather than in support of other PHS teams. They finished second in Division 3, behind Seneca Valley, but ahead of Gaithersburg and Wheaton. Teams from twenty-five MCPS high schools tumbled, jumped, and performed stunts during the 2022 cheerleading competition. Squads were judged on level of difficulty, technique, and execution. The competition showcased the talent of the squads and gave fans an opportunity to support the teams.

“Our team is made up of seven returners and five new students,” said coach Sophia Giarratano. “Preparation for the competition starts early. I choose music and choreograph the cheer weeks in advance. My captain Sophia Liang along with junior Kyna Owusu choreographed the dance portion. Many hours are dedicated to stunting as well as perfecting the team’s jumps and tumbling skills. Sophia and Bea have all-star cheer experience, so their tumbling abilities are high-level. The season started August 10, and we took the two weeks before school started to learn all cheers and material for the sidelines. The returning cheerleaders were a huge help when teaching the cheers. There are over forty that the team must memorize. This year, we were fortunate enough to form a JV team coached by Lindsay Rice. She has seven students on her team. Interest in cheer at PHS seems to be growing, and I hope it continues to grow in the following years.”

Seniors are Captains Feh Gana and Sophia Liang, and Ashly Juarez. Juniors are Kyna Owusu, Sammy Ye, Gabi Quito, and Isy Quito.

Sophomores are Sophie Dinderman-Kao, Bea Hersh, Katy Huynh, and Lizzie Lekan-Abioye. Trinity Davidson is a freshman.

The JV cheerleaders are Josselyn N. Barillas, Samantha P. Cogan, Cailyn N. Deyo, Olivia Ding, Aidan E. Fessenden, Adelaide J. Kessler, and Giselle N. Perera.



Kyna Owusu, Katy Huynh, Trinity Davidson, Isy Quito, Lizzie Lekan-Abioye, Sophie Dinderman-Kao, Ashly Juarez, Gabi Quito, Bea Hersh, Sophia Liang, Sammy Ye, coach Sophia Giarratano, and Feh Gana.

Fun Fact...

liveabout.com

Cheerleading is more than one hundred years old. In the beginning, all cheerleaders were men. The first cheerleaders in the United States were organized by a Princeton graduate named Thomas Peebles who had been a "yell leader" there as a part of the pep squad. It's said that he moved to Minnesota and there he spurred the idea of organized cheers to support the University of Minnesota football team, who were undergoing a losing streak.



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Youth Sports

PHS Golf Team, Olivia Cong, Win Second Straight 1A/2A State Titles

By Jeff Stuart

On October 26, at the University of Maryland Golf Course at College Park, the Poolesville High School golf team of "The Falcon Four" of junior Olivia Cong, senior Andrew Jauch, sophomore Noah Naing, and junior Ethan Huang picked up PHS's second straight team title with a combined score of 636, three strokes ahead of runner-up, South Carroll. Olivia repeated as the Class 2A/1A champ with a two-day score of 1-under 141, five strokes ahead of Glenelg junior Megan Fitzpatrick.

"Golf is a co-ed sport," said coach Michelle Hunsicker-Blair. "MCPS encourages gender equity in sport by having a girls-only tournament every Wednesday during the regular season. These are collegial rather than competitive. We also hold a girls-only district tournament where players can qualify for states. We had twenty girls from the district qualify this year. PHS had three girls qualify individually (junior Kinley Stokes, freshman Makenna Hill, and junior Lakshmi Sangireddi). We also had the co-ed team of Olivia, Kinley, Andrew, Noah, and Ethan qualify and eventually win states.

"We won by three strokes over the favored South Carroll team who came in from their district tournament with quite a good score, frankly, much better than ours. As a matter of fact, our score from districts put us tied in the fourth place for qualifying scores. We came into day two with a two-stroke lead. I know it was tough for the team to sleep on the lead, but they were prepared mentally to do that. Last year, we had a larger lead to sleep on, which prepared them to be in this circumstance. This group shows an immense amount of resiliency, maturity, and determination.

"It was a good season. We play against all 3A/4A schools until we get to the states, so we felt really prepared for the competition. The players went in focused

and in peak condition for the two-day back-to-back tournament. More than their physical capabilities, I am very proud of the people they are. Yes, the sport is competitive, but it never hurts to congratulate your opponent on a good shot or to help them find their ball in the rough. I often hear them communicating in a positive way with their opponents. That is the way sport should be. You can be competitive and still be courteous. I have also seen them hone their focus and work on positive self-talk, improving their confidence on and off the course. I am immensely proud of them. They are all amazing young people."

Through six regular season matches, Olivia posted a nine-hole average score of 39.7, Noah had an average of 41.6, Kinley posted 44.6, Andrew had 45.2, Makenna averaged at 47.5, and Ethan at 47.6.



Coach Michelle Hunsicker-Blair, Noah Naing, Olivia Cong, Andrew Jauch, Ethan Huang, and Kinley Stokes.

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Remembrance

Joan Veirs Stowers

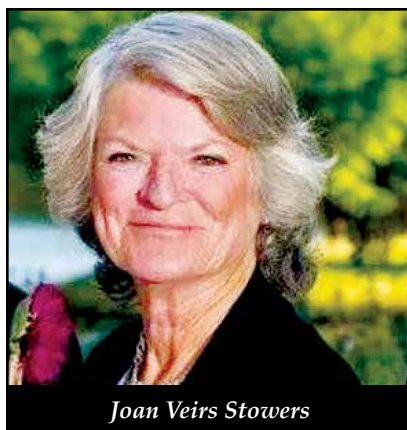
Joan Veirs Stowers, 71, of Adamstown, passed away on October 28, 2022.

She was the loving wife of Thomas (Tommy) Stowers.

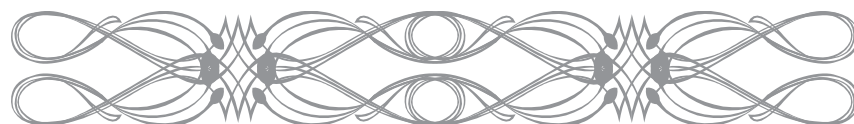
Born on December 14, 1950 in Washington, D.C., she was the daughter of the late Alvin and Barbara (Smith) Veirs.

Besides her husband, Joan is also survived by her son Jason Goldsborough (Ashley) and step-son Tom Stowers (Kathy); granddaughter, Jane Goldsborough, and grandson, Wade Stowers; six brothers, Al Veirs (Stanley), Charlie Veirs (Chris), Jim Veirs, Michael Veirs (Mary Ann), Billy Veirs (Lori), and Danny Veirs; one sister, Ann Shetterly (Bo); and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Jim Goldsborough; sister-in-law, Karen Veirs; and nieces, Joanie Loquist and Barbara Ann Mowery.



Joan Veirs Stowers



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Continued from page 4.

Push for Expanded Gym and Wellness Center at High School Continues

that the staff has not yet responded with a revised plan that will meet our school's needs.

Hoewing next touched on the Wellness Center at the high school. The Montgomery County Council recently passed three special appropriations to expand wellness centers to all public high schools in Montgomery County. He pointed out that FAC was part of a coalition that supported this move. In fact, FAC has been behind this approach since it was founded in 2018. Given how far our school is from nearby county and private mental health and medical services, he said, "We have always believed a wellness center is vital to our school."

He went on to point out, however, that, at this juncture, it does not appear that a wellness center is currently included in the PHS modernization plans. He said that it is "just common sense—and financially responsible—to include a special appropriation to get a wellness center funded and added to the high school reconstruction project while shovels are in the ground during the current PHS modernization."

Several board members supported the plea to include a wellness center in the new high school as it is being rebuilt. Later that evening, Hoewing was told that revised plans for the gym are now nearly finalized and will be shared soon.

Continued from page 9.

Winter Greens for Wildlife

The American Pussy Willow (*Salix discolor*)

When gardeners think of the first flowers of spring, they think of snowdrops, crocus, and daffodils, but in our area, they don't even come close in bloom season as the earliest bloomers of all: the pussy willow. This wonderful tree is a great example of how a native plant provides habitat and supports native wildlife. It is dioecious, meaning that male and female parts are found on different plants. The males have the larger showier catkins, while the female catkin is smaller and greenish. The catkins are the flowering parts of the plant. The fuzzy "fur coats" keep the reproductive parts of the plant warm. Some birds, especially hummingbirds, use the fuzzy softness to line their nests. Depending on where you live, pussy willows can bloom from January to May. I have one that is twenty years old, twenty feet tall, and is now in bloom with hundreds of grayish-white catkins which will last well into February and early March. The March catkins provide one of the first-of-the-season nectars for pollinators. The insects, in turn, provide a feast for songbirds, especially chickadees and goldfinches. Douglas Tallamy, author and professor of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, ranks the native pussy willow second only to oaks as the best host plant for moths and butterflies.

Take a walk around your yard today. Where would be the best place to plant some native trees and shrubs this spring? Besides beautifying your yard, you will be helping wildlife live longer lives and doing your small part to protect the environment.

Continued from page 10.

Rock Hall

Love was no respecter of the Mason-Dixon Line. Great-aunt Lottie and an officer fell in love. The young man made a solemn vow to come back after the war. A year later, he returned to ask great-aunt Lottie's hand in marriage.

The family was indignant, but the lovers remained firm in their purpose. Finally, the parents said that they would rather give consent and have their daughter marry at home than to have a runaway marriage in the family. In time, the Northerner (Benjamin Chambers from Delaware) became a beloved son-in-law.

Rock Hall was so named because it was built of gray sandstone that was quarried on the property. Three years were spent building the house, and it proclaimed the pride of craftsmanship and quality of materials of the day. The stone walls are eighteen inches thick and their sturdiness was emphasized by deeply-recessed windows. The doors were more than two inches thick. The original pine floors remained in excellent condition after more than a century of constant use.

I loved to wander in the rambling house and was always attracted to the parlor. At one end was a white mantel of striking simplicity with arched cupboards on either side. At the other end was a heavy rosewood piano with a fearful tone. It was the first piano in Maryland, so it was carefully kept, if not played. There was a friendly air about the room in spite of its size. (End of part 1 of 2).

Continued from page 1.

Brown and Paksima Take Oath of Office

Members of the Board of Elections are Jocelyn Harris, Laura Dunlop, Karen Anderson, William McDonald, Michele Mirowicz, and Chuck Stump. The board members plus town employees Bobbie Evans and Maggie Liebrand worked over sixteen hours, handling the election the process.

Jim Brown was unanimously elected as commission president and Ed Reed as vice president. The only other business of the commission was to designate the liaison responsibility for each commissioner. Jeff Eck was reassigned to the Parks and Streets Board, Martin Radigan to the Planning Commission, Sarah Paksima to the Fair Access Committee (FAC), and Ed Reed was assigned to two, the Pool-essville Sustainable Committee and FAC. While Jim is officially stepping aside from FAC, he will continue in an advisory and assistant role. The commissioners decided not to assign a liaison to the Events Committee but rather to share that duty on a rotational basis.

Paksima told the Monocle, "I want to thank all those who participated in our town election process: the voters, the town staff, and the Poolesville Board of Elections. Whether you voted for me or for one of the other fine candidates, I promise to work hard over the next four years to listen to and engage with our community, to act with integrity and in the best interest of the future of our town, and to facilitate communication and bring people together. I look forward to working with the other four commissioners. They have each done so much for our town, and I am confident we will all work well together."

Jim Brown added, "I'm still in recovery mode from a terrific Election Day. Thanks to everyone for your support, your votes, and your confidence in me to continue to take care of this amazing little town we all cherish. I promise to represent all of Poolesville and also to do my best to support our surrounding communities—we all belong under the same umbrella!"

"I'll also make sure our Fair Access goals match up to some of the big picture items. I heard you loud and clear on Election Day—better transportation, community center, bubble over pool, White's Ferry reopening, grocery store (still!)—all tied into improving downtown vitality, commercial zone success, and better amenities for our residents without adding more houses. My town commissioner team will always protect our water and waste-water resources while staying focused on building community through transparent communications, personal service, and the best events we can offer (and, yes, more pickleball courts!)."

"My family was amazing again this election cycle. We've done this five times now, and they not only keep putting up with me, but they are a huge help on

Election Day. Christian and Tucker are expert poll workers at PES and JPMS—they are my guys! Gabi provided great support throughout the day. Jess did a great job pushing the social media out. Thanks, and love you all (you, too, Ned the dog!)!"

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Veterinary Medicine/Magic of the Middle Ages

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

In the 11th and 12th centuries, medieval healers really did treat all species. They used a mixture of faith, tradition, and a little bit (that is all they had) of science.

When domesticated animals fell ill during these times, the peasants and nobles alike called on healers, specifically those with apparent occult powers over animals to determine the illness and recommend a remedy.

While the establishment of veterinary medicine's profession in the creation of a veterinary medicine school in France (1761) is considered the start of science-based medicine. The practice of medieval healers ran the gamut from trained professionals to quacks.

In the Medieval Times, animal diseases could create terror through an entire village or castle and have devastating effects on the population both physical and psychological. During these times, animals were critically important for transportation, food, and warfare. Their loss could swing the balance of power.

Animals in human contact ranged from horses to hawks, from greyhounds to cows, and from sheep and goats to pigs. The wealthier you were, the more animals you had and the better level of medieval healer you could afford.

Remedies ranged from pulverized viper or green meadow frog to flowers and plants that had been shown to create a change (for better or worse) in animals when they were ingested in the pastures or forests. My favorite cure was to have a golden oriole songbird be strapped around a sickly horse mane. If the songbird lived the horse would live. If the songbird died, well you get the idea.

Calling on religion was often used hand in hand with other remedies. Healers invoked the power of Christian saints and holy figures. This form of animal care was highly endorsed by church authorities. Medieval Christians thought that saints like Hippolytus and Becket could intercede on behalf of sick animals. Animals were often brought to the shrine of saints so they might elicit a miraculous healing effect on the animal.

Magic words could also be seen as powerful applications for treatment by healers. These words were very closely held by the healer's profession and only through apprenticing could one be granted knowledge of these words.

Evil spirits were very commonly believed to be responsible for animal illness. Only through careful identification of the spirit in question could medicine, science, and God be invoked to save the animal.

Many of these practices carry on today, only in a much more refined and—we believe—more understood way.

Magic is all around you and your furry little friends.



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