

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

December 16, 2022 • Volume XVIII, Number 19



Our man Sam bowled us over again! Find out how in Tidbits on page 5.



You probably recognize the Pooleville bear, but can you Name the other Santas on page 14?



Santa could only make it to one of our community dinners this year. Your clue? Our good fellow chose an odd one. See more photos on page 19.



When our town tree was first lit, it was only nine feet tall! Just look at it now! See more festival pictures on page 22.



From Our Home to Yours~

Happy Holidays!

Family Album



*Monocacy Lions
Holiday Dinner*



Barnesville Holiday Dinner



*Memorial United Methodist Church
Community Dinner*



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GAIL AND MAUREEN*



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Rande(m) Thoughts What a Way to End a Year!

By Rande Davis

This issue of the *Monocle* is our very special Christmas (Holiday, if you prefer) card to the community. Our December issues have become a proud and celebratory heralding of the past year and a joyous acknowledgement that life is good, our life is good, and we need to be ever mindful of that fact—despite many sad Remembrances and a pandemic, that while seemingly has endless versions, also seems to be declining in the seriousness of its impact.

We continue our three annual *Monocle* traditions that have proven to be very popular. The first is the special Name the Santa. Once again, we publish photos of residents wearing a Santa hat with no name. The readers must guess and see how many they can identify. The other tradition is our *Monocle* twist on a Christmas painting by the beloved Norman Rockwell, a man who through art touched all hearts, marking our humanity and commonality like no other.

Our third tradition has a modification this year. In past years, we provided a quarter page for various civic groups to offer their holiday greetings to the community, wishing all a Merry Christmas, Happy Holiday, or Seasons Greetings. We do not have the space to offer this as before but have come up with another fun reader-involved tradition. This, we call Name the Group. See how many of the groups you can identify by the people in each picture. Their best wishes, while a bit truncated, still remain.

It is such a joy at the end of the year to have all our pictures maskless. Bright smiles are making a comeback. Despite the masks, one still sensed there were smiles underneath.

An intriguing benefit of the *Monocle* is being able to flash through the last year and readily revisit the events, large and small, of the year. What a year we had: Homes for Our Troops provided a new home to a wounded warrior; there was a bank robbery; and the board of education finally chose to move ahead with a new school. Progress continues. Even this past week, we had a preliminary meeting with a county architectural team that represents the beginning steps toward a community center as part of our high school.

The uncertainty of the closing of Bassett's was replaced by the popular

new owner, Erika Myers, offering many new menu items and events for the revitalized restaurant. The opening of Locals is more than just a new restaurant, it's an exceptional social gathering spot, a kind of town hall right next to our Old Town Hall. We eagerly await the approval of its pending liquor license. Barbie Stull, the owner of Cugini's, navigated her business through the headwaters of a pandemic and associated bad economic times to end by celebrating her tenth anniversary. We will be telling her intrepid story of success in the coming issues. While she and our other food venues get overshadowed by the new culinary venues in town, we are thrilled that so many, through diligent effort and personal work ethic, are getting ready to have perhaps their best year ever.

Our Upcounty home is becoming the "in place" for arts in the county. Nestled in the natural beauty of the Ag Reserve, the arts and culture have advanced with the opening of Riverworks Arts Center and with the remarkable story of Claire Jones being tapped by Fran Ichijo to continue her wonderful dance studio. Claire's passion and love of dance and for her students are infectious, making us all proud of our "local gal making so good."

Even as I write this, I am preparing to attend an open house for the Crossvines Winery and Wine Press. Finally, we are about to get a venue worthy of our town lifestyle to better celebrate our many important transitions of life and as a gathering for fellowship.

WUMCO Help, under the leadership of Katie Longbrake and her talented sidekicks, has been helping even more people in need (well over four hundred kids got Christmas gift cards and toys this year), but this model of how the private sector does so much for those in need is expanding its services to include more in first-line healthcare. Poolesville Baptist and Poolesville Presbyterian have supplemented WUMCO's efforts with fresh produce and products for those in the throes of food insecurity.

We marvel at the continued academic success of PHS, along with a couple of state athletic championships (swim and tennis teams) and a football team that defied expectations to have an impressive run early on.

We have been tempted to have a *Monocle* Person of the Year, deferring to Poolesville Day Grand Marshal's elections instead. Even a Civic Group of the Year would be nearly impossible to select from the over thirty-five

Continued on page 7.

Town Government

Commissioners Agree To Continue Contract For Town Manager for The Foreseeable Future

By Link Hoewing

At their December 5 meeting, the commissioners of the Town of Poolesville voted on several business matters with their most consequential action being a unanimous agreement to allow the contract with Town Manager Wade Yost to continue in six-month increments for the foreseeable future.

Yost's return has helped to stabilize town operations, improve staff morale, and address a number of projects that were left in limbo during the past several years of uncertainty with regard to the town's top management. The decision to hire an assistant town manager who can become seasoned and familiar with town operations and can not only share the leadership role but also take over quickly when needed has also helped increase stability in town affairs. Niles Anderegg assumed the new position recently and has already shown an ability to quickly come up to speed.

Commissioner Martin Radigan said Yost has done a good job, and Yost is happy with the six-month contract renewal process.

On business matters, the Planning Commission recommended to the commissioners that the town allow the county to enforce its existing codes regarding the raising of chickens within the town limits.

Commissioner Jeff Eck was the only commissioner who did not seem satisfied with the Planning Commission's proposal. He said he did not like the process of enforcement which relies on citizens to "police each other" by reporting violations of the law rather than requiring continued inspections. He also said that "we cannot rely on the county to enforce laws" and pointed to the difficulty county police have in maintaining a presence in the Upcounty.

Eck proposed a framework where residents living around a citizen applying for a permit to raise chickens could "vote down" the issuance of a permit. It appears, according to Eck's comments, that one citizen vote against a permit could stop its issuance. He would also require detailed sketches of the plot of land where the chickens would be raised and a design sketch of the proposed chicken coop.

Continued on page 26.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

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Tidbits

Sam the Man Does It Again

Poolesville's Sam Hardwick once again participated in the Maryland State Special Olympics in bowling competition. This year, he impressively won bronze. Be sure to give him your congratulations when you see him.

Sometimes the Best Medicine Has Four Paws and a Wet Nose

The Warrior Canine Connection of Boyds recently visited American Legion Post 247 to talk about its special program. They utilize a mission-based trauma recovery model to help warriors recovering from the stress of combat to reconnect with their families, communities, and life.

By interacting with the dogs as they move from puppyhood to training to adult service dogs, Warrior Trainers benefit from a physiological and psychological animal-human connection. As a result of their efforts, veterans with disabilities receive the finest in trained service dogs.

Their dogs of choice are labs and retrievers, and volunteers are always welcome to help them in the mission. You can contact them via facebook.

Preparing the Floor for Pickleball



If you want the job done right, you have to do it yourself.

The Poolesville Area Seniors pickleball group found themselves down on their hands and knees preparing the gym floor at the Baptist Church so that the recreational group could move their games indoors starting in December. They had to scrape the old roughed-up taped lines off the floor so that the new ones could be laid out. It was hard work but considered worth it by these enthusiastic pickleballers.

Helping with Fresh Food Needs

Poolesville Baptist has taken on the mission of providing many fresh foods for those in need. Their program offers fresh produce, frozen items, vegan/

Continued on page 25.



Connecting canine love and companionship to stressed vets. Proving it may be a man's world, but the better part may be a dog's life.

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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.

December 16

Friday Night at the Movies: *Elvis*

Join PS Seniors for the 2022 Baz Luhrmann film, *Elvis*, shown on a 100-inch screen. Enjoy popcorn and stay for snacks and conversation about the film. Speer Hall. Register early to get your seat. 7:00 p.m.

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, 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.

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 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.

January 3

(Rain/Snow Date January 6)

Monocacy/Potomac River Cleanup Pop-Up Walk

Join Jon Wolz for a walk starting at the Monocacy Aqueduct. We'll be cleaning up along the Monocacy and Potomac Rivers to the mouth of the Little Monocacy River. Registration required. 10:00 a.m.

Weekly Events

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

Indoor Open Pickleball. *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. No class December 28.

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@poolesvilleseniors.org. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

Thursdays

Indoor Ladder Play Pickleball. *Poolesville Baptist Church Family Life Center.* 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Mahjong with Joyce Kral. Beginner and seasoned players are welcome. *Speer Hall.* 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

Fridays

Breath-Mind-Body with Kathy Jankowski. Please register for each

Continued on page 7.

Charles H. Jamison
POOLESVILLE, MD

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Continued from page 4.

What a Way to End a Year!

nonprofit groups and churches that so lovingly exist to make life better for so many; however, we think we can make a simple exception this year and point to the Fair Access Committee (FAC) headed by Link Hoewing and Jim Brown as our 2022 Group of the Year. They are now spearheading the cause of the one big ongoing black hole in town, the closure of White's Ferry. The closure of this facility has been a direct hit to our main street. It's time to end the quagmire. Please plan to join FAC on December 29 for a rally in support of opening White's Ferry at 2:00 p.m. Let's end this year and two-year service drought of a closed ferry with a rally worthy of our community.

Continued from page 6.

Senior News

Friday class. 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.
Virtual. No class: 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.

Fun Fact...

WINTER DAWN

The trees are still;
the bare cold branches lie
Against a waiting sky.

Light everywhere, but ghostly
light that seems

The cast-off robe of dreams;
And everywhere a hush that
seems to hark

At the doorway of the dark.

O fields, white-sheeted,
desolate and dumb,—

If you knew what's to come!

— Amos Russel Wells
discoverpoetry.com

2023 Acura Integra Earns Highest Possible Safety Award!



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The Highest Possible Safety Award was earned from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS).



See Legend on page 24 for the answers!

Name That Group





In Your Own Backyard

A Walk to the Clipper Family-Seneca Quarry Cemetery

By Jon Wolz

On a bright sunny Sunday afternoon on December 4, Bonnie Bell, a volunteer ranger with the Seneca Creek State Park, led a walk to the Clipper Family-Seneca Quarry Cemetery. Another name for the cemetery is the Government Quarry Cemetery, a historic cemetery that is well hidden in the woods and overlooks the C&O Canal and the Potomac River.

There are no trails to the cemetery which lies next to an old road that led to the quarry and to River Road. That road is overgrown and is not accessible to the cemetery from River Road.

There are over one hundred graves in this cemetery. There are only a few gravestones where names can be read. Many other graves have fieldstones with no markings. There are some with both head and footstones. Many graves do not have stones. All of the stones are Seneca red sandstone.

One of the stones is that of John "Jack" Clipper, 1840-1903. He was a stonecutter whose hand-carved headstone is one of a few remaining at the cemetery. Jack was born into slavery in 1840 in Hanover, Virginia and freed during the Civil War. He came to Maryland and worked at the Seneca Quarry stonecutting mill. He lived in a house near the C&O Canal with his wife and ten children.

Others with gravestones include another John Clipper, Martha Clipper, Annie Jackson, and Basil Jackson. Of the over one hundred people buried at the cemetery, there is only information on sixteen people.

The cemetery is in the C&O Canal National Historical Park, and the cornfields belong to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

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



Christmas Services at Poolesville Presbyterian Church

December 24 – Christmas Eve at 7:00pm
Candlelight service with Christmas story and lots of music

December 25 – Christmas Day Service at 10:30 am

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About the Front Cover

The picture recreates a painting by Norman Rockwell, right, entitled "Merry Christmas, Grandma!" These were painted to be on the cover of the *Saturday Evening Post*.

The Boehm family of Poolesville posed for the cover shot. The father and mother are Brittany and John. Their children are Stella (11), Savannah (9), JJ (7), and Josiah (1).

The dog, Clyde, is owned by Kay and Matt Breed.

Photographed by Katie Tao.



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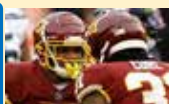
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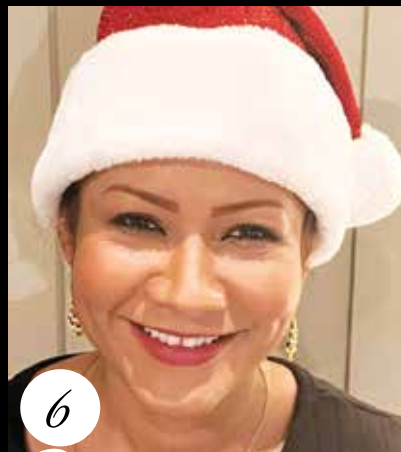
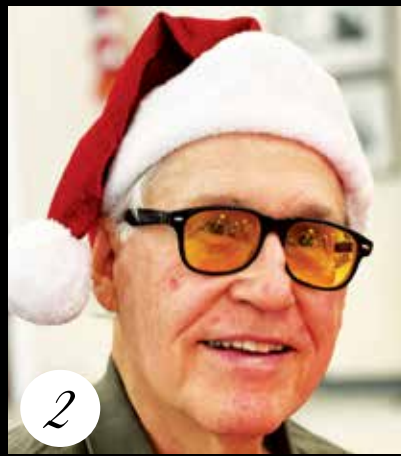
It's All Happening at the Cug!



Poolesville's American Legion held its Army-Navy game party at Cugini's. Why not plan your favorite college or pro game at Cugini's, too?

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301-349-5800 19916 FISHER AVENUE



Name That Santa

See Legend on page 16 for the answers!





Happy Holidays From Our PACC Members

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NTS3: Denise Jacklin , Senior Center	NTS14: Sandy Wright , Locals Restaurant
NTS4: Derek Longbrake , Boyd's Presbyterian Church	NTS15: Sarah Paksima , Town of Poolesville Commissioner
NTS5: Dr. Amar Duggirala , Poolesville Family Practice	NTS16: Tony Ghamelian , Tony's BBQ
NTS6: Erika Myers , Bassett's Restaurant	On the cover: The Poolesville Bear
NTS7: Ginny Shaver , Poolesville Barbershop	
NTS8: Jean Findlay , Historic Medley District	
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NTS10: Kim Copeland , Hosanna Worship Church	
NTS11: Knight Kiplinger , Historic Medley District, Honorary Chairman of the Board	



**Legend for
answers for
*Name That
Santa***

Fun Fact...

DECEMBER
 In spangle of frost, and stars
 of snow,
 Unto his end the Year doth wend;
 And sad for some the days did go,
 And glad for some were beginning
 and end;
 But sad or glad, grieve not for
 his death,
 Mournfully counting your
 measures of breath;
 You that, before the worlds began,
 Were seed of woman and surety
 of man;
 You that are older than Aldebaran!
 It was but a whirl round about
 the sun,
 A silver dance of the planets done,
 A step in the Infinite Minuet
 Which the great stars pace to a
 music set
 By Life Immortal and Love Divine
 Which sounds, in your span of
 threescore and ten,
 One chord of the Harmony, fair
 and fine,
 Of What did make you women
 and men.
 In spangle of frost, and stars
 of snow
 Sad or glad—let the Old Year go!
 - Edwin Arnold

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Live Nativity

Saturday, Dec 17th 6-7:30 pm

Christmas Eve Worship Service

Saturday, Dec 24th at 7 pm

Christmas Day Service of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, Dec 25th at 10:30 am



Things to Do

December 16

PHS Varsity Home Game

Girls' basketball. B-CC. 7:15 p.m.

December 17

Wreaths across America

Two local locations for the placement of Christmas wreaths in honor of deceased veterans. Volunteers welcome. Locations: *Monocacy Cemetery and Darnestown Presbyterian Church*. Plan to arrive by 11:15 for placement at noon.

UMCVFD Sponsors Santa's Ride around Poolesville

Listen for music being played by the firetruck. 4:00 p.m.

Live Nativity

Enjoy a live rendition of the nativity scene. *Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church*. 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

December 19

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:00 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Game

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

December 21

PHS Varsity Home Games

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

Bocce. Damascus. 3:30 p.m.

December 29

Rally to Open White's Ferry

Public rally in support of opening White's Ferry. Battle cry: Free our main street! Make your own signs. Coffee and hot chocolate. Be prepared to boo the grinch who makes a "surprise" visit. First 250 get free token for ferry crossing when it opens. Oh, by the way, it will open; keep the faith. *White's Ferry, Dickerson*. 2:00 p.m.

January 6

PHS Varsity Home Game

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

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Barnesville Baptist Church

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All

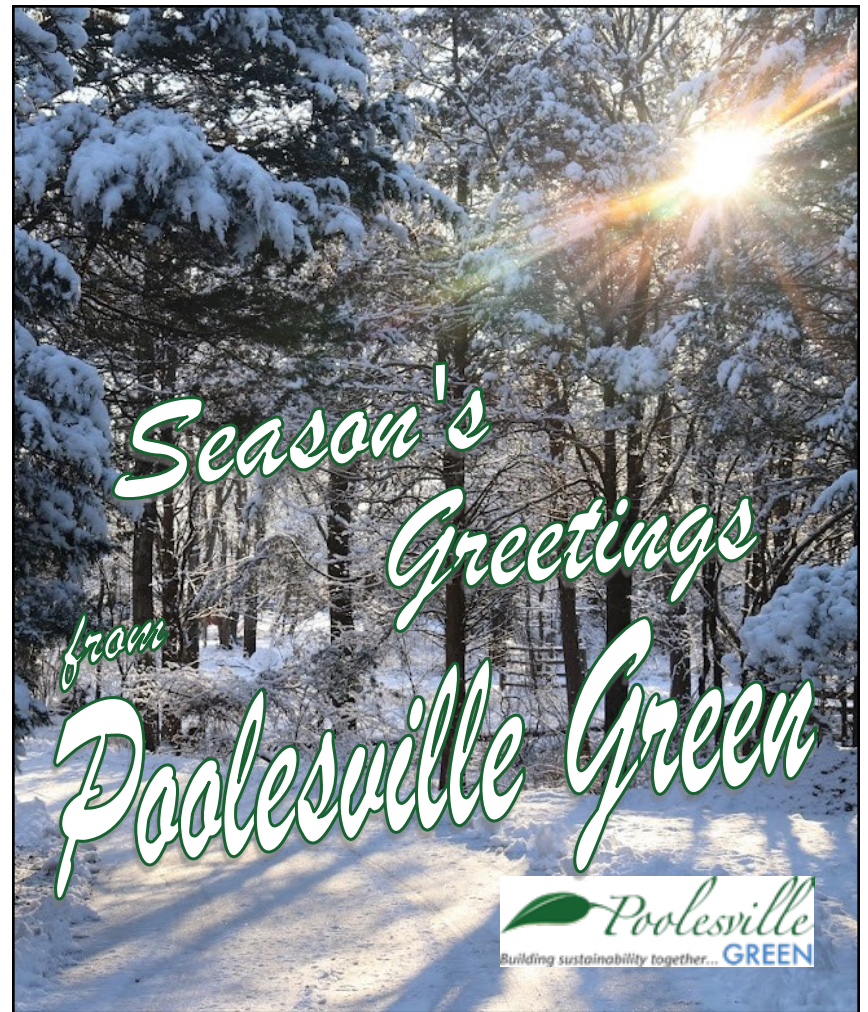
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Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick
December 18 @ 10:30 am Mass

Christmas Eve:
4:00 pm / 10:00 pm

Christmas Day:
8:30 am / 10:30 am

New Year's Eve: 4:00 pm

New Year's Day: 8:30 & 10:30 am

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Holiday Lighting Festival





<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. St. Peter's Episcopal Church 2. Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce 3. Poolesville Presbyterian Church 4. Memorial United Methodist Church Choir 5. Odd Fellows 6. Friendly Thrift Shop 7. UMCVFD Auxiliary 8. Poolesville Baptist Church 9. Hosanna Worship 10. Poolesville Operation Crew 11. JPMS Leos Club 12. Poolesville Seniors 13. Poolesville Commissioners 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Western Montgomery Baptist Church 15. WUMCO Help, Inc. 16. Post 247 American Legion 17. Our Lady of the Presentation 18. Poolesville Administration Staff 19. Historic Medley District, Inc.
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Fun Fact...

almanac.com

December is the twelfth month (and last month) in our modern-day Gregorian calendar (as it was in the preceding Julian calendar); however, it was originally the tenth month of the Roman calendar (until 153 B.C.). Hence, "December" comes from the Latin word *decem*, meaning "ten."

Back in Roman times, the calendar only had ten months and began with March. The winter period was not even assigned months because it was not an active time for military, agriculture, or civil life.



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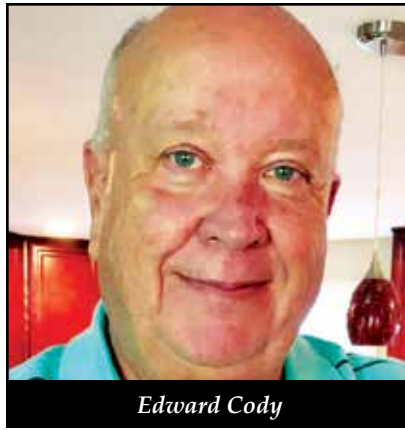
Remembrances

Edward Cody

Edward "Eddie" Wayne Cody, 68, of Poolesville, passed away suddenly on November 25. Eddie was the loving husband of Kathy Ann Cody for fifty years. Born on March 1, 1954 in Jonesville, Virginia, he was the son of the late James Cody, Jr. and Emma Katherine (Miner) Curtis.

Eddie was a 1972 graduate of Poolesville High School where he played soccer and basketball, built furniture, and worked on cars. He retired from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation, Highway Maintenance Division, after thirty-five years. He was an avid softball player, loved coaching his sons in track and baseball, loved bass fishing and Bluegrass music, and loved mowing lawns and landscaping. He shared himself with a lot of people if and when they needed it.

Eddie is survived by his wife; his two sons, Brian Cody (Kristin) and Jason Cody (Tiffany), all of Poolesville; stepmother, Mary Lee Cody, of Jonesville, Virginia; brother, Kenneth Cody (Judy) of Adamstown; sister in-law, Karen Williams, of Dickerson; and three precious grandsons, Brayden, Kolten, and Greyson Cody, of Poolesville, who were his true pride and joy.



Edward Cody

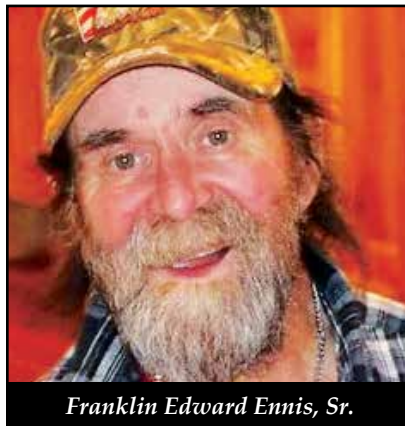
Franklin Edward Ennis, Sr.

Franklin Edward Ennis, Sr., 70, of Hagerstown, passed away on November 22, 2022.

He was the loving husband of Bernadine Ennis.

Born on July 31, 1952, in Olney, he was the son of the late John E. and Glenna (DeHart) Ennis.

Franklin is survived by his wife; two sons, Franklin (Michelle) Ennis, Jr. of Tuscarora and Timothy Ennis of Dickerson, and one daughter Kristy Crass of Middle River, Maryland; two brothers, Kenneth Ennis of Gaithersburg and Paul Ennis of Germantown; one sister, Glenna Carter of Falling Waters, West Virginia; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.



Franklin Edward Ennis, Sr.

Victor L. Morgan, Jr.

Victor L. Morgan, Jr., 79, of Poolesville, passed away on November 18, 2022.

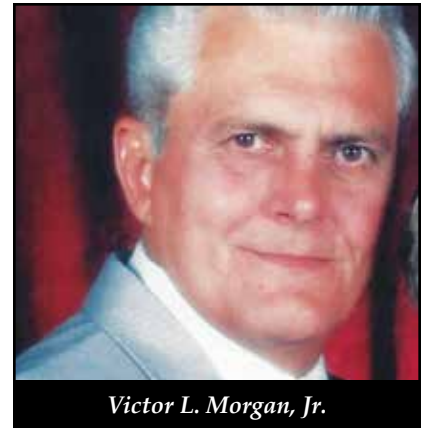
He was the loving husband of Barbara Morgan.

Born on January 19, 1943 in Pennsylvania, he was the son of the late Victor Lewis, Sr. and Virginia (Sabotka) Morgan.

Victor is survived by his wife; three children, Virginia Morgan Studt (Gary), Victor Lewis Morgan, III, (Genea), and Vincent Landell Morgan (Cindy); two brothers, Rodger Morgan (Joan) and Raymond Morgan (Darcy); four grandchildren, Brittany Morgan, Kristin Morgan, Matthew Morgan, and Wes Burton; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by one sister, Marigold.

Victor Morgan will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. Service date and time to be determined.



Victor L. Morgan, Jr.

Continued from page 5.

Tidbits

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Continued from page 4.

Commissioners Agree to Continue Contract for Town Manager for the Foreseeable Future

David Wilson, a local citizen, said, "We have heard a lot of ignorance about chickens," including assertions about noise and smell. He said that dogs have the potential to be noisy and smelly and can also be dangerous, so if those are the concerns, they should be applied to all pets.

Commissioner Radigan noted that he was at first skeptical about allowing chicken raising but was persuaded by the evidence brought before the Planning Commission. He said that the commission had reached out to a couple of jurisdictions and found they had not had any complaints about chickens. Commissioner Sarah Paksima added that it is not realistic to add new enforcement responsibilities to town staff given their many other duties. Commissioner Ed Reed said he "had not had any citizens pull me aside to talk about the chicken ordinance."

In the end, the commissioners agreed to hold a public hearing on the matter at their January 3 meeting. If there is no significant opposition to the ordinance at the hearing, it is likely to be approved at that meeting.

The commissioners also considered an ordinance that has been under review by the Planning Commission. Currently, food trucks that wish to offer their services either do so without any oversight or get an exemption from the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) that would allow them to operate their trucks. The BZA exemption is permanent and would allow a food truck to operate in a fixed location. It is not really well adapted to the way food trucks generally operate, moving from one location to another within a relatively short amount of time.

The proposed new ordinance would be required of all trucks seeking to park in town. Normally, they would be issued for a finite and usually short period of time. Trucks that want to stay for long periods of time could still apply for a BZA exemption. The new ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Town Manager Wade Yost discussed the need to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) by the end of January from companies that want to provide trash and recycling services. There are not that many companies that offer dual stream recycling service, and he believes the sooner the town can issue an RFP, the more likely it can begin serious discussions about signing a new trash and recycling contract. The existing contract with Bates ends in June. The new contract proposals would discuss such things as whether the company involved can offer dual streaming and whether a two-day-a-week pickup, as is currently provided, is realistic.

Commissioner Paksima asked whether composting is a viable service to be offered by the town. Yost said that typically trash and recycling companies do not offer composting. Companies doing that work are in a different line of business. Commissioner Reed said that Sustainable Poolesville is looking at that issue and suggested that it would be good to have the committee come and present to the commissioners about the issue.

Finally, Yost pointed out that the town monitors water quality on a number of dimensions including the types of chemicals in the water. There has been increasing interest in the existence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFA) substances in the water and food chains. PFAs are a group of manmade chemicals characterized by a strong bond between fluorine and carbon. Because of this strong bond, PFAs provide resilience and durability. These properties are useful to the performance of hundreds of industrial applications, but PFAs can also enter the human body where they can remain possibly for very long periods of time. The Environmental Protection Agency does not yet have standards regarding safe levels of PFAs but has published initial findings regarding target levels.

Two wells in town were recently found to have PFAs in their water flows but at levels far below those the EPA is considering. Yost said the town wants to be cautious about any potential water issues and has taken the two wells offline temporarily. The remaining wells can still supply far more water than is necessary for both normal use and emergency situations.



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Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from All the Crew at Poolesville Veterinary Clinic

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

Here are some holiday thoughts for you and your furry pals.

The holidays come with joy and festive times. They also come with changes to routines and new objects and other creatures in the house. Take a moment to look at your holiday plans from your pets' perspective. How do they see the holiday world? What potential problems could be avoided by taking an extra second to coordinate your holiday to protect your furry friends from stress, injury, and potential behavioral conflicts?

Here is a checklist to help you give your pets a safe and happy holiday.

Will you be traveling with your pets? Do they know the place to which they are going? Will there be small humans and other pets visiting also? Do you have a secure place for them during parties and present openings? Would they be better off at home?

What special holiday treats are you considering for your family? Will you be able to keep objects, presents, treats, food, and other festivities from your pets? Be sure to secure any treats that arrive by mail or other forms of delivery away from your pets. Be sure everyone in the house is on the same page with securing presents.

Do you have any medications or treatments that your pets may need in a quantity that will allow you to not have to race to your veterinary clinic for a resupply or have to take them to an emergency clinic because you do not have the medical supplies they need? This is especially important if you are traveling with your pet.

Be sure to take a moment and visit with any guests in your home about how your pets' schedules run. House guests love to help. Sometimes they let your pets out thinking it saves you

time. Usually that costs you extra time to find them or catch them if they are let out where they should not be. Leaving your pets outside this time of year to avoid conflict is not a good idea, especially if they are not used to long periods outside your house.

Never leave your pets alone with children—NEVER. It only takes a second for serious injury to a child or the pet to occur. That can ruin your festive holiday time.

Keep your pets' diet consistent. Bring food with you if you travel. Bring treats they are used to having. Wrap any present you want your pets to have and bring them with you. Let the folks you are visiting know they do not have to buy presents for your pets. Open any gifts for your pets. Bows, ribbon, and paper can cause GI upset or worse.

Be sure any outside water is not iced over. A great gift for your pets is a heated water station. Remember that you get very busy at this time of year and can forget how long your pet has been outside while you are distracted playing Santa or Chanukkah Harry.

Think about your neighbors this time of year. If one is ill or unable to get out easily, consider offering to take their dogs for a walk, feed their cat, or clean their litter box (your kids especially will love this opportunity). Be sure to check up on any pets in your area that may spend extra time outside.

During the holidays, less is more for your furry pals. Keep their lives simple during the holidays. Keep their schedules the same.

Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukkah, and Happy Holidays.



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