

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Monthly Newspaper

February 2024 • Volume XIX, Number 12



Bruce Kirby spearheaded a project that brought a solar roof to St Peter's Episcopal Church. See more pictures in Family Album on page 2.

Commissioners Hear Grant Requests from Community Groups

By Link Hoewing

The annual budget review and adoption process for the Town of Poolsville government kicks off early each year as the commissioners begin to review the many items that go into each annual spending plan. The fiscal year for the town runs from July 1 to June 30 of the year following. It takes several months for the commissioners to review the current year's budget and spending proposals, to assess revenues that are expected to accrue from state, county, and local sources, and to factor in spending on new programs and on grants to local groups. At the January 16 meeting, the commissioners began the process by listening to grant requests from a number of local groups.

Before receiving testimony from the groups, the commissioners heard from Tara Scholz, the new Events Coordinator for the town, regarding the results

of the annual holiday lighting contest. The results were broken down into three categories and a business with two awards for each category of homes: Townhouses (one awarded for each half of the town), traditional decorations for single family homes (one awarded for each half of the town), contemporary decorations for single family homes (one awarded for each half of the town), and finally, one business.

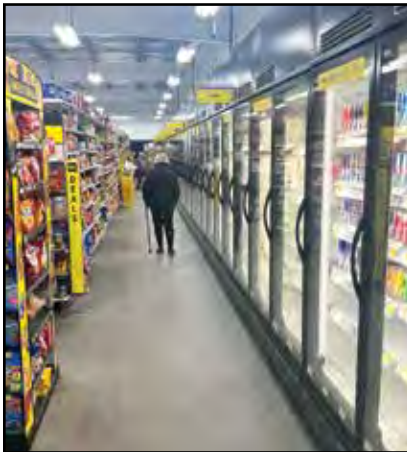
For the townhouses, the winners were Jonnie Ferrell of 19542 Fisher Avenue and Jeff Johnson and Emily Zarrin-Kelkye of 17678 Kohlhoss Road; for the traditional homes, the winners were Jason and Ashley Elliott of 18426 Jerusalem Church Road and Peter and Katharine Brockdorff of 16916 Hillard Street; for the contemporary homes, the winners were Richard and Linda Sherwin of 18404 Jerusalem

Church Road and Doug and Vickie Carlson of 17309 Brown Road; and finally, the business winner was Heather Soskin Photography. The judges for this year's contest were Chrissie Harney, Tara Scholz, Lynda D'Amelio, Karen Terragno, Lesly Robinson, and Jen Cayzedo.

In announcing the winners, Tara Scholz, the new town events coordinator who replaced Cathy Bupp since the latter is now the town billing clerk, said a number of changes were going to be made in the program next year to "spice it up." For example, the community will be allowed to vote on the entries next year.

After the announcement of the holiday lighting ceremony winners, the first of five groups seeking a grant made her presentation. Tara Scholz,

Continued on page 10.



Can this very long aisle of food items really be in Poolsville? You bet your bottom dollar it is! We'll give you the general location on page 3.

Falcon Wrestlers Off to Surprisingly Strong Start

By Jeff Stuart

This season there is a turnaround for the Poolsville High School wrestling team.

"Last year was a rebuilding year," said Coach Damian DeVriendt. "This year, we have a lot of young kids. There are thirty-nine on the roster. They are beginning to understand the moves. They are listening. I really love that they are buying into what we are, to the culture we are trying to build here at Poolsville. I am happy with the progress they are making. They are learning to set up and follow up on moves. We won our opening match, 39-36, over Wootton at home on Wednesday, December 6, and the following weekend, we finished fourth at the prestigious Mad Mats Tournament at Magruder High School. We had four in the finals. Junior Vinnie Volpe

Continued on page 26.



Wrestling medalists at the Mad Mat Tournament at Magruder High School.



This mystery man is reading the Monocle over 3,500 miles away from Poolsville. Find out who, where, and why on page 5.



Read about the farm this old corn crib belongs to in Mystery History on page 23.

Family Album



St. Peter's Church had a symbolic ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new solar roof.



Tom Kettler, Eleanor Bateman, Pat Hess, Joy Zucker-Tiemann, and Gail Lee.



Jeff Eck and Samantha Baker.



The Rev. Emily Lloyd, Sandy Worley, and Bruce Kirby.



State delegates, David Fraser-Hidalgo, Lily Qi, and Linda K. Foley, at the solar roof reception at St. Peter's.



Rob Baker, Katie Longbrake, Mary Pat Wilson, Laura Davis, and Dick Franklin.



Owners of the Market at Deere Valley, Samantha and Rob Baker with their two sons, welcome guests to the reception.

Business Briefs

Dollar General Answers the Community's Call for Groceries

After critiquing Dollar General for not meeting more of our local fresh food needs in the November issue, it's only right to herald its recent upgrade in food selection. Most dramatic is the inclusion of fresh produce, vegetables and fruits. The store now has an expanded selection of frozen and cold foods the full length of the store, too, offering many more food selections from which to choose. On top of that, they have brightened the store with a fresh coat of cool gray paint on the walls and two self-help checkouts. They plan to restock two to three times a week. Be sure to shop there for food items as we need to encourage them to maintain this new selection. Thank you, Mark, your team, and the corporation, for such a wonderful upgrade!

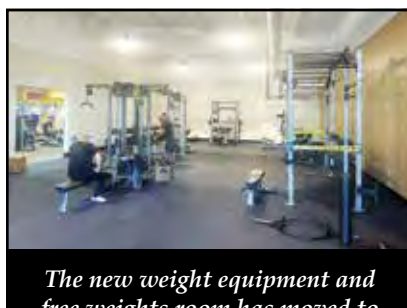


Not only have cold and frozen food offerings at Dollar General more than doubled, but there is now a selection of fresh groceries of fruit and vegetables.

Building Muscle, Building Space



The previous weightlifting section at Anytime Fitness is now space for personal exercise regimen.



The new weight equipment and free weights room has moved to its own much larger space and provides a quieter environment for the others at the gym.

Anytime Fitness has enlarged its exercise and fitness club by expanding into the empty space on the west side of the building. The area will be primarily for the muscle-strengthening equipment. This results in even more space for other floor exercises and personal improvement in the main section of the facility.

The Market at Deere Valley Hosts Open House

Members of the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce enjoyed an open house reception at the Market at Deere Valley. The reception was a wine and cheese event hosted by the Baker family, owners of the market. Samantha Ferris Baker welcomed the guests and shared her family's mission in opening the facility and announced that, in the spirit of the former Staub's Restaurant in Beallsville, they will be opening a soft ice cream cone and sundae service soon. She spoke of how she hopes families can come out in the nostalgic spirit of Staub's and enjoy the view of Sugarloaf Mountain or an evening sunset all while eating farm fresh ice cream treats.

Can It Really Be Three Years Already?

It's hard to imagine, but K2 Café opened in the spring of 2021 and soon will be celebrating its three-year anniversary. Owner Nichole Hodges-Abbasi said, "We've come a long way through lots of dreaming, lots of work, and have changed a lot from this experience. To all my fellow entrepreneurs, my hat is forever off to you as well."



K2 Café will celebrate its three-year anniversary this spring.

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- Saturday, February 17
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scan QR code to register

Registration & Payment Information:

Location: UMCVFD, 19801 Beallsville Rd
 Fee: \$55 per Student
 Payment: Prepayment Required
 Register: www.umcvfd.org/CPR
 Questions: CPR@umcvfd.org
 Included: CPR eCard, Student Book, Pocket Mask, Pocket CPR Steps

Rande(m) Thoughts Sharing Thoughts About Poolesville From a Tourist

By Rande Davis

Recently, we learned of a gentleman in England who happens to be a very big fan of the *Monocacy Monocle*. In our Tidbits column this issue, we explain how we recently helped him celebrate his eightieth birthday. He has family in Poolesville and has had the pleasure of visiting here throughout the years, and he wrote to us of his passion for our town.

Sometimes hearing from an "outsider" is a wonderful way to renew our appreciation for our life in this part of Maryland. He took the time to reflect on his appreciation for the Poolesville community, and I decided to share his thoughts in my column.

We so often pat ourselves on the back about our love of this town and area, but through his observations, we can learn how others may perceive us as well.

The following was submitted by the father of Poolesville's Tom Pugh, Geoff Pugh of Corse Cottage, Westfield, Woking, United Kingdom. His thoughts are shared by his wife, Helen.

An Outsider's View of Poolesville

By Geoff Pugh

We love the *Monocacy Monocle* and the local Old Town Hall Bank Museum. This is where we first met Rande Davis one morning some eight or more years ago, in an early visit to my son Tom and his family just after they first moved to Poolesville.

We especially enjoy the *Monocle's* clarity and its respect for local citizens, their values, and their topical concerns, which are always set in the context of the substantial history of the area.

We have always found Poolesville to be welcoming with friendly people everywhere, both of older and younger generations. At St. Peter's Parish Church, we even bumped into the Washington Diocese Bishop Marianne on her "visitation" one year. This happens to be our namesake church in old Woking, yet we predate Poolesville by some seven hundred years. We appreciate the variety of Christian worship available in such a relatively small town. We also enjoy many of the various annual and other traditional community and social events and gatherings at Whalen Commons, the park in the center of town.

Poolesville has some emerging local businesses—like Locals Restaurant, of course—and long-established Bassett's Restaurant as well. We like the newer wineries and breweries in surrounding towns, with their attached gardens, the various knick-knack, hobby, and craft shops in town, and appreciate that there are not too many larger chain stores. We especially enjoyed the very local Poolesville hardware shop—I hope it survives and continues. They are a declining species in England, too.

The natural landscape includes Seneca Creek and surrounds, with publicly open walks. There are many local lakes, sports grounds, and facilities.

The Poolesville library and our miscellaneous experiences at the local schools, their plays and open days, have been quite enjoyable.

Touring sites abound, including the wonderful mighty Potomac River, wild in winter and benign in summer, the nearby Chesapeake and Ohio Canal walking and cycle trails. The Christmas fire engine and neighborhood tours by Santa are an annual treat. The plentiful and colorful bird, insect, and small mammal life is quite abundant as well.

Continued on page 7.

Letter to The Editor Converting Lawncare To Meet New Pesticide Regulations

Kuhlman Lawn Service would like to thank the town staff, commissioners, and residents for opening the table for discussion after the initial ruling in the November commissioners' meeting about adopting the county's Pesticide/Herbicide Lawn ban. We have all seen the mailers go out in town and feel the town is making great strides to educate their residents. Our company works in all of Montgomery County, and we have plans to convert our lawns to the current ordinances. Please keep in mind there are many options to do this, and each company may take a different approach.

We urge residents to work with a professional company as some of the

labeled organic products are no safer in use than the synthetics, so it is still important that safety protocols are in place. As spring approaches, you will still see yellow signs in yards as these are required by the state and should not be interpreted to mean that the resident has used a banned product. Again, Kuhlman appreciates the extra time given on this topic as a local company and resident. We do care about the environment and hope to help make the transition as easy on our customers as possible.

Note: In the December article, it was written, "The law still allows the sale of such pesticides in hardware stores and allows private homeowners to apply them as they see fit." This is not the case. While they can be sold in stores, it is still illegal for Montgomery County residents to use these products on their own lawns.

Julie Kuhlman, Kuhlman Lawn Service

Of Poetry and Prose

Winter Dawn

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.org

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Tidbits

The Monocle has Readers and Fans across the Big Pond



Helen, Geoff, and Tom Pugh, reading the Monocle 3,600 miles from Poolesville, in West Woking, United Kingdom.

Poolesville's Tom Pugh recently traveled back to his family home in England to celebrate his father's eightieth birthday. His dad, Geoff Pugh, lives in Woking, Surrey, England. He and his wife, Helen, enjoy visiting Poolesville especially to be with his three grandkids, Georgia, Rhys, and Griffin. Geoff has been a big fan of Locals—and many of the other businesses—and is a huge fan of the *Monocacy Monocle*, so Tom asked us to sign a copy of the *Monocle*, with best wishes for his dad's birthday as part of a gift basket he was preparing to give him. We even threw in a *Monocle* pen to boot.

Turns out his great Uncle Arthur, from the original Jersey, has become a fan of the paper as well. We invited Geoff to write a piece offering his view as a tourist of our community, and I shared space for his thoughts in my Rande(m) Thoughts column on page 4.

American Legion Winner of Annual Oratorical Contest Announced

American Legion Post 247 is proud to announce the 2024 Oratorical Contest winner, Ruari Brennan, a Poolesville High School senior. Ruari will

Continued on page 7.



Ruari Brennan will be representing Post 247 in the American Legion's annual oratorical contest. Next stop, District Level.



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Filet Mignon: Topped with garlic herb butter, served with baked potato and vegetables

Grilled Blackened Rockfish: Topped with beurre blanc, with cheese risotto and vegetables

Chicken Chesapeake: Our famous crab cake set atop a grilled chicken breast with imperial sauce and baked to golden brown, served with mashed potatoes and vegetables.

Dessert (Choose one):

Red Velvet Cake or **Strawberry Shortcake.**

19950 Fisher Ave. Poolesville

301 972 7443

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, 17800 Elgin Road (Route 109).

February 2

Movie Night: A Haunting in Venice

Kenneth Branagh directs and stars as the detective Hercule Poirot searching for the culprits at a deadly Halloween seance. *Speer Hall*. 7:00 p.m.

February 8

Sugarloaf White Rock Overlook Popup Walk

Join Jon Wolz for a popup walk on the blue trail out to the White Rocks Overlook on Sugarloaf Mountain. Space is limited, please register for this event. 10:00 a.m.

February 9

National Museum of Civil War Medicine and Carroll Creek Boat Lights

Join us in Frederick for a guided group tour of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine. After the about-one-hour tour, we will head to Carroll Creek to see the lighted boats in the *Sailing through the Winter Solstice* display. \$9.50 tour admission. *National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Frederick*. 3:30 p.m.

February 15

Ag Reserve Properties with Kenny Sholes

Explore the next historic home in Ag Reserve Properties with local historian Kenny Sholes who brings us the stories of an array of impressive historic homes, those who built and lived in them, and the important part they played in American history for centuries. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

February 16

Movie Night: *What's Love Got to Do with It?*

Join us for this modern romantic comedy which follows a young woman whose next film project is following

her Pakistani friend's journey to an assisted marriage. PG-13. *Speer Hall*. 7:00 p.m.

February 19

PS Book Club: Thursday Murder Club

Join us for the novel *Thursday Murder Club*. A group of retirees in a luxurious retirement village in the English countryside investigate murder on their doorstep. Virtual. 7:00 p.m.

February 20

Trail Hike: Little Bennett Regional Park

Join Karen Dansby and Gwen Haney for a two-hour, 5.5-mile trail hike with an elevation gain of 500+ feet in Little Bennett Regional Park. These natural trails may be leaf-covered, rocky/root covered paths with multiple hills. Hikers should be able to maintain a moderate pace. Good hiking shoes, water, and a snack are recommended. Directions to meeting place on registration page. 10:30 a.m.

February 23

Line Dancing with Ashley Kelch

Kick up your heels at an evening of line dancing in Poolesville. The first hour (7:00 p.m.) will be for novice line dancers with simple, but fun steps. The more advanced line dancing will begin at 8:00 p.m., and everyone is welcome to stay. Registration is limited, so please sign up early. *Speer Hall*. 7:00 p.m.

Heart 'n' Soul Online Auction

Enjoy the thrill of bidding in our online auction fundraiser. Shop these exciting categories: Adventures & Travel, Shop Local, Entertainment, Just for Fun, Taste of the Ag Reserve, Collectibles/Fine Art/Jewelry. There's something for everyone. [Poolesville seniors.org](http://poolesvilleseniors.org). Auction closes March 3 at 8:00 p.m. Virtual.

February 24

Heart 'n' Soul Gala

Be sure to purchase your tickets for this fabulous evening! Delicious dinner by Simply Fresh caterers. Fantastic music by Gina's Soul Party and the Souled Out Horns. Gather your friends and neighbors for a night to remember. Cash-only bar. *St. Mary's Pavilion, Barnesville*. 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Weekly Events

Mondays

Ping Pong Afternoon

Speer Hall. 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

Pickleball. *Poolesville Baptist Church*. 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tuesdays

Tai-Chi with Maureen Ivusic. *Speer Hall* and virtual. 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

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

Wednesdays

Zumba Gold with Karen McPhatter. *Speer Hall*. 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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

Mahjong with Joyce Kral. Beginner and seasoned players are welcome. *Speer Hall*. 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

For more information or to register for any of the programs listed here, visit the Poolesville Seniors website: poolesvilleseniors.org, to receive the link for virtual events or directions for in-person events. Many of these presentations are also streamed live on their Facebook page and recorded for later viewing on their YouTube channel. Call or text 301-875-7701 or email info@poolesvilleseniors.org to learn more.



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Continued from page 4.

Rande(m) Thoughts

The roads are busy with tractors and loaded trailers, especially at harvest time. The protection of the Agricultural Reserve zone and designation for this wonderful area of Maryland are quite exceptional, so near to Washington with its otherwise substantial suburban sprawl.

We are saddened about the excruciatingly prolonged, unresolved, and seemingly short-sighted and selfish attitudes of those responsible for the ongoing loss of White's Ferry's operations. These attitudes seem to us to exemplify much of the current fragmentation of the U.S.A., at its worst.

Continued from page 5.

Tidbits

represent Poolesville at the semi-finals in Woodsboro, Maryland on February 17, 2024.

The American Legion Oratorical Contest is a prestigious public speaking competition for high school students. Established in 1938, this annual contest aims to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Participants are required to deliver a prepared oration, as well as to speak on an assigned topic related to the American Constitution, emphasizing the duties and obligations of a citizen to our government.

Without the generous donations, Post 247's Oratorical Contest could not have been the success it was. Thanks to the following local firms who helped sponsor this annual event: On a Whim, Leesburg, Virginia, owned by former PHS *Washington Post's* Teacher of the Year, Jan Schultz; Sweet Lemon, owned by former PHS teacher, Katie Horan; and Crossroads Talent Solutions, owned by Julien Singh, Daniel-Jeffers Post 247 commander.

The contest progresses through multiple levels, starting from local contests, advancing through county and state levels, and culminating in a national competition. Winners at each level receive scholarships, with significant awards for the national champions. This contest is renowned for fostering public speaking skills, constitutional knowledge, and leadership qualities among the youth.

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Garden

What Happened to My 2023 Garden?

By Maureen O'Connell

What can we learn from the past as a gardener? The year 2023 left a mixed legacy in all my garden plots in Barnesville. There can be many factors to create this situation. Climate is always the main imponderable for gardeners. I have gardened in Barnesville for many, many years. Over time, I have seen and weathered the actions of water, frost, wind, heat, and attacks by greedy and hungry pests, but I don't think that my garden this past summer has been exposed to very damaging weather conditions. Overall, the weather's effects were sporadic. I have learned to live with my hydrangea bushes' new existence as leaves-without-flowers bushes.

Every year, Amy and Garth Seely of Gardens by Garth and their landscaping crew spend a few days in mid-April weeding, pruning, outlining, and mulching my garden plots. When they leave, my gardens look wonderful and, with continued work by me, they remain a Garden of Delights all summer and well into fall. This year, that state of the garden started to worry me about mid-June. What happened? I don't definitively know. In spring, I did not plant new difficult plants. On our daily tours of the garden plots, I and my two sous-gardener-Labs, Spencer and Winston, anxiously watched my reliable perennial plants break through the soil ready to thrive and bloom for another season—but then, everything changed. Where have all my flowers gone? The blooms were off the roses and, my gorgeous Oriental lilies 'Casa Blanca' and 'Star Gazer.' Their buds turned black or simply disappeared. Where were the black-eyed Susans, the phlox 'David,' several daylilies, my wonderful *Alstroemeria*, and all the *Delphinium* blooms? This is just naming a few; there were other no-shows.

On the positive side, it was a great year for weeds and the invasive *Tradescantia*, *Physostegia*, and butterfly bushes. The vagaries of the weather were okay or good for some, but not for others. In 2022, there were some adverse weather conditions, but they did not kill the plants. What plants will be in my 2024 garden? I don't know; I will have to wait and see. Are my gardens' Glory Days behind them?

To keep some semblance of a beautiful, thriving garden filled with beautiful flowers, I am going to play it safe. I will plant hardy annuals. If they don't thrive or even survive, it is not that expensive to but new ones. Zinnias and marigolds may not be the most exotic and exciting flowering plants, but they are tough. Now I must admit that a contributing factor to my diminished gardens are the ever-present greedy and hungry deer. I used to be able to control them with the non-toxic spray Liquid Fence Deer and Rabbit Repellent, but this year it didn't deter them. The pots on my patio were no sanctuary for flowers. Every time I filled a pot with flowers, the squirrels would visit them at night and dig up and throw out all the plants. I tried squirrel repellent spray; that didn't work.

Gardening is inherently unpredictable. That was always a fact; 2023 changed the picture, but I have not given up. I must learn from the past, especially the summer of 2023 in the garden. Every year brings a mixed garden legacy. One bad season should not curb our hopes. I will see what successes or surprises 2024 brings to my Barnesville Garden. I will let you know in August.



Lily 'Stargazer' in 2022.



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Poolesville Green

What Is Pervious Paving and How Does It Help our Landscape?

John Snitzer

What is pervious paving? Why might it be important? Is it a key to a brighter tomorrow?

Before Maryland was settled by Europeans, our land was mostly forested. Annual precipitation was about the same as now, forty inches per year, but only about ten percent, or four inches per year, ran off, in the sense of water flowing across a patio or running down a gutter. Roughly ninety percent of the rain and snow evaporated, soaked into the ground, or was taken up by plants. Groundwater was more abundant, and streams ran higher in the summertime. Flooding was infrequent because of the ability of the landscape to absorb and process lots of water.

We have changed all that. As settlers transformed forests into fields and roads and towns, they increased stormwater runoff so that the same forty inches per year now produce twenty to thirty percent of runoff or even more. In developed areas, modest rain now fills little creek banks full. Flooding is more intense and more frequent. Because infiltration is reduced, the late summer flow of our rivers is decreased by the lack of groundwater.

There are simple ways to attack this problem. Excessive runoff is caused in part by impervious surface—surfaces that shed water—like roads or concrete patios that do not soak up any rain at all and allow it to rush away. Pervious paving, which soaks up stormwater, can be a fine alternative to asphalt and concrete. Walkways, patios, and driveways can be constructed to be attractive paved spaces that are still water-cycle-friendly.

Let's start by looking at traditional impervious paving, say, the road in front of your house. If you were to take a pickax or a backhoe and dig a hole in your street (don't try this at home, kids), you would see that the top layer is a hard-wearing layer of asphalt or concrete. It is solid, with no pore space for water to move

through it. Underneath that is an eight-to-twenty-four-inch layer of well-graded crushed stone or gravel. This is specially-engineered gravel: "Well-graded" means that it has a mix of particle sizes, with big chunks and medium chunks and lots of tiny bits, or "fines." The little bits fill in the open spaces between the big chunks, it is then densely packed and has no pore space to allow water infiltration. After this compacted gravel, you would hit soil, but again it is densely compacted with little or no open pore space. You should sense a pattern here. The dense soil supports the compacted crushed stone which supports the solid paving layer on top, very good at bearing heavy loads, but impenetrable. The water that used to filter down into the water table in the forest now runs off down the hillside, and the flooding begins. Soil, nutrients, and pollutants are carried along, streams run muddy, and rivers start to overflow their banks.

Fortunately, this can be changed. Paving can be reimagined to be pervious, to absorb and even to store stormwater until it can soak into the soil. Starting from the middle layer, the gravel that supports paving does not have to be solid. Open-graded gravel (versus well-graded, above) has only big pieces of crushed stone, with no fines. When it is compacted, it can carry a heavy load but still has about thirty percent open space. That pore space not only allows water to move through, it also holds water and allows it to soak in after the storm has passed. This layer can support the paving on top because gravel spreads out the load of a pedestrian or a car tire or a truck.

Our load-bearing layer is now permeable, but what about the soil underneath? Undisturbed soils in our area will support fifteen hundred to two thousand pounds per square foot and have extensive pore spaces. If the gravel layer is thick enough, the loads on top can be spread out so that uncompacted soil underneath is fine. It can retain its open structure so that water that makes it down through the gravel can soak into the soil over time.

Fixing the top layer is all that remains. Instead of a solid sheet of paving, we can use pavers with joints that allow stormwater to drain between the solid pieces. The surface remains solid—well suited to be a patio or a walkway. With a thicker layer of crushed stone and more robust pavers, pervious paving can support roadway loads.

Continued on page 11.

Meet GOP 6th District Congressional Candidates

Thursday Evening, February 15 - 7:00pm

Poolesville Town Hall

19721 Beall Street



Dan Cox



Chris Hyser



Mariela Roca



Tom Royals



Brenda Thiam

Courtesy of Rural Women's Republican Club & Republicans of Legislative District 15

REPUBLICANS of LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 15

By authority LD-15 PAC Gary Featheringham, Treasurer

Continued from page 1.

Commissioners Hear Grant Requests from Community Groups

the Events Coordinator, submitted a proposal for a \$65,000 grant for town-sponsored events. This represents a \$5,000 increase from last year. She said this reflects the fact that a new spring event would be added to the Friday on the Commons lineup, bringing the total to seven events. She also said costs have gone up for tents and inflatables and explained that the new twists being added to the holiday lighting contest would raise costs for the event somewhat.

Next, representatives from the Poolesville Swim Team (the Piranhas) requested \$2,800 primarily to support the annual end-of-year social event—an ice cream social and season-end awards ceremony—held by the team. It is a “fun event to celebrate our swimmers’ accomplishments and their season, all while amongst their friends and families.” Team representatives noted that the group’s aim is to “cultivate a positive environment where our swimmers can develop better aquatic skills, learn good sportsmanship, build their confidence in and out of the pool, and forge long-lasting friendships across the community.” They also said the team has witnessed a substantial interest in swimming over the last few years, and the team’s success is in part related to its efforts to build camaraderie, including the end-of-year social.

Appearing next, on behalf of the Fair Access Committee (FAC), was Link Hoewing. He said that the committee was requesting a total of \$95,000 for its work in the coming year. He said, “This is the same as the budget we requested last year. Looking back, Fair Access started in 2018 with a budget of \$80,000. It has stayed at this general area for much of its existence, gradually rising over the last couple of years. If you look at return on investment, just using the high school as the example, the committee has been able to return to the community \$246 in county investment for every dollar spent over the last five years.”

He said that, in the coming year, FAC expects that the county executive will include in his budget proposal funding for the design and construction of a community center, one of the top priorities for the committee (Editor’s note: the county executive did include funding of \$15.5 million in his just-released budget for the community center). Hoewing explained that FAC would also be fighting for an enclosure for the Sarah E. Auer Swimming Pool so it can be used all year, support from the county for the Arts and Performing Arts Center proposed by Riverworks, and support from the county to fund a Rural Healthcare Initiative managed by WUMCO and eventually operated in the new community center which will include clinic space.

Kevin Schramm, the president of the Poolesville Day Committee, asked the town for \$35,000 to help fund Poolesville Day. He pointed out that this is not an increase from last year’s funding request even though the rain and wind forced the early ending of Poolesville Day last September. As a result, vendors shut down at 1:00 p.m. (three hours early), and Fisher Avenue was opened back up to vehicular traffic. “Many vendors had tough decisions to make regarding if they should set up for the day or stay home, it was a tough call for all,” Schramm said. As a courtesy to our wonderful vendors, we decided to offer all vendors free booth spaces for the 2024 Poolesville Day.”

Despite these challenges and rising costs, Schramm said the committee will have the resources, both with monies it has in reserve and support from local businesses and sponsors, to carry on if the town approves the \$35,000 request.

Finally, Lynne Schaeber, from the PHS PTSA Post Prom Committee, asked the town to contribute \$3,500 to the Post Prom Committee. The prom will be May 17 and will be held at the Bethesda Marriott. The Post Prom Committee is still working out the details of the location of the Post Prom Party this year. There is a possibility the event will be held off-site, not at Poolesville High School, due to the Phase II construction due to start at the school this spring which will include the main gym. Hosting the Post Prom Party off-site, she noted, significantly increases the cost of the event. “If this is to occur, our hope is that we will be able to have the Post Prom in the Ag Reserve at some location. Given the increased cost of possibly hosting the event off campus, the committee is asking for a donation of \$3,500, an increase from previous years,” Schaeber said.

Town Manager Wade Yost finally presented a review of the capacity and operation of the town’s wastewater (sewer) and water systems. The town is required to develop and submit to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) reports annually on these systems.

The town calculates the past three-year averages, calculates the number of allocated (not-connected) sewer and water connections that the local government has provided via a written commitment, and subtracts the sum from the permitted 750,000 gallons per day (gpd) (in the case of sewer) and 650,000 gpd

(in the case of water) that is permitted by the state. This becomes the unallocated capacity available.

Yost said that, after making these calculations, the town has more than 49,000 gallons of unused capacity with regard to its water system and over 176,000 gallons of unused sewer capacity.

The town recently hired Hope Grey as the new town receptionist.

Fun Fact...

thefactsite.com

February fluctuates between having twenty-eight and twenty-nine days per year. The twenty-ninth day only occurs every four years during leap years—2024 is a leap year!

The length of February was finalized when Julius Caesar remade the Roman calendar and assigned the month twenty-eight days and twenty-nine days. Over time, the length of February kept changing. At one point, it had as little as twenty-three days. In 713 B.C., February was officially added to the Roman calendar. February and January were the last months added to the Roman calendar.

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Watch for our recipe contest in February!

Continued from page 9.

What Is Pervious Paving and How Does It Help our Landscape?

Many materials work well as pavers. Block manufacturers make a wide range of styles of interlocking concrete pavers. Brick companies make pervious clay pavers. Granite cobbles or Belgian block, flagstone, river cobbles, and unconventional materials like cast iron tree grates can be embedded into crushed stone to make attractive functional patios and walkways. Recycled and mixed materials can be beautiful. The old concrete slab that was removed can be cut up into blocks and reused as part of a pervious pavement (the *au courant* term for reused concrete is "urbanite"). Worn concrete can look fabulous mixed with red clay pavers or rounded river rocks. In addition to allowing more creativity, these assemblages of materials are very functional.

My old landscaping company built two different pervious paving areas as part of a demonstration garden at the U.S. Botanic Garden years ago. The garden was in place for two years and had over six hundred thousand visitors, many lifetimes' worth of load for a backyard patio. When we took the project apart after two years, the pavers, the gravel underneath, and the soil below were all pristine. Unlike a poured concrete surface, pervious paving can be easily changed or moved as required, so your new pervious walkway can be altered over time.

Montgomery County, through the Rainscapes Program, supports pervious paving projects by sharing some of the costs, particularly if it replaces impervious paving. The suppliers of stone and brick in our area have a wide range of materials and can give technical support. It is a technique that is suitable for reasonable-scale DIY projects or can be installed by many landscaping and paving contractors.

As climate change leads to more extreme storms and flooding in our area, pervious paving is a way both to counter it, by reducing the loss of soil carbon in runoff, and to reduce its negative impacts by helping the soil to absorb and hold more water, so yes, pervious paving is the key to a brighter tomorrow, with greener, lusher landscapes, healthier watersheds, and nice outdoor spaces for you, your friends, and your family.

John Snitzer is a local landscaper with several decades of experience using ecological principles in design.

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School News

Gina Grubb Receives Special Recognition

The National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) is pleased to announce that Regina Grubb has been recognized by the NIAAA as a Certified Athletic Administrator.

To earn this distinction, Regina Grubb has demonstrated the highest level of knowledge and expertise in the field of interscholastic athletic administration. The voluntary certification process included a thorough evaluation of the candidate's educational background, experience, and professional contributions, as well as a rigorous, comprehensive written examination.

Regina Grubb is one of an elite group of interscholastic athletic administrators nationwide to attain this level of professionalism.

Kudos to PHS Wrestlers

During our recent snow events, Coach Damian DeVriendt of the Poolesville High School wrestling team coordinated a drive to help persons in need of assistance in clearing their driveways and walks from the snow. Responding to a call out on Facebook, the players went to the rescue to get the job done.



PHS wrestlers helped people in need of assistance in clearing the snow.

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Youth Sports

Young Girls' Basketball Team Stepping Up

By Jeff Stuart

"The season for us has started off tough," said girls' basketball coach Katie Hackey. "We played two of the best teams in the county to start plus a tough division rival. We are 6-6 so far. We are looking on improving and finishing the season strong. We have a couple of returners, captain Bre Salovich, our one and only senior, has been playing great so far. She is our leading scorer. We have a large junior class. They are getting a lot of minutes and working hard. Junior captain, Alex Sosna, is playing well for us as well as our other juniors, Kate Dacanay, Kacey Raines, Alyssa Bailey, Kristen Lang, Laynie Sofelkanik, and Alaira Walker. We finish our roster with sophomore Mehek Patnaik and two freshmen, Carson Hartke and Camden Ranero.

"With such a young roster, we will need to battle in every game this season. We are looking to improve every game and continue to build our team chemistry."

"The team this year is obviously very young," said junior captain Alex Sosna, a forward. "We only have one senior. We have two freshmen and a bunch of juniors, so there was a learning curve at the beginning, learning the plays and everything like that. We lost a lot of seniors last year, but we have had a lot of girls step up. I think we have started to figure things out and mesh better as a team. Our best game as a team was at Kennedy on January 23. We started to run our plays. We had a decent scoring night. We scored forty-nine points. We did well on both ends of the court. I think the Churchill game at home right after the holiday break was one of my best games. I blocked some shots. My height helps with that. I do my best when I am guarding the ball. Last year, we were very strong as a team. We had a lot of tall girls who helped. This year, we have a lot of speed which we use to our advantage on the court. Next year looks promising because we have a lot of girls returning. The freshmen have impressed me. Carson has been a very consistent scorer and rebounding. She has started a few games, and Camden has been big on the boards. She is normally a point guard, but she has had to play at the high post. Obviously, that is a big change. I am looking forward to the playoffs. I think we can do well. We are starting to pick up some momentum."

"This year, our team is pretty young," said senior captain Breanna Salovich, a guard, "so it has been a learning experience, but everyone is doing well. We are adapting. Like Alex said, the game at Kennedy was the best team game we have played all year. Our offense was good. We were running the plays, and our defense was good. We were working together well. Our strategy was good too. Camden really stood out in that game. She was effective. She was feisty and got a lot of key rebounds. It was a coming out for her. Carson works hard. She has been a strong player all year. Among our returning players, Alex and Caitlin have stepped up. Alex has made some good shots and gets a lot of rebounds. She drives to the basket well. Everyone has contributed. Even those who are not getting to play a lot bring a lot of good energy to each game. I want to get some more wins. I am excited for the playoffs. We are getting closer to reaching our goals and playing like our coach wants us to, and I am looking forward to senior night."

Senior Night is February 16 against Rockville. Five of the six games they play in February are away. They play at rival Damascus on February 5.



Junior captain, Alex Sosna, and senior captain, Bre Salovich.

Notice of Public Hearing

The Town of Poolesville Planning Commission is pleased to announce the release of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan for public comment. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at Poolesville Town Hall on March 13, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. To sign up in advance to speak in person or to provide written testimony, please email the town at townhall@poolesvillemd.gov. The deadline to sign up in advance is 4:00 p.m. on March 13, 2024.

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Youth Sports

PHS Cheerleaders

By Jeff Stuart

In competitions and on the sidelines, Poolesville High School cheerleaders work hard in the fall and winter. They make it look easy, but it is not. In addition to their event schedule, they spend many hours in preparation.

"Our cheer team started with seventeen members in the fall season, with twelve of those continuing on into the winter season," said Sophia Giarratano, varsity cheerleading coach. "We have four seniors, eight juniors, three sophomores, and two freshmen. We had our county competition at Blair High School on October 28. We placed fourth with only 1.5 points away from third. We compete in Division 3 with eight other schools from MCPS. For the fall season, we attend all varsity football games (home and away). Squads were judged on level of difficulty, technique, and execution. The competition gave fans an opportunity to support us. We also attended one home JV football game, one home boys' soccer game, one home girls' soccer game, one home girls' volleyball match, and one home field hockey game. For the winter season, we attend all home varsity basketball games, one home JV boys' basketball game, one home JV girls' basketball game, one home wrestling match, and one home Bocce ball game. Our student athletes are an amazing group of kids both in the classroom and on the sidelines. They work extremely hard in both seasons, learning new stunts and cheers along with improving their skills. Cheerleading involves a time-consuming schedule which requires serious dedication. We also participate in two pep rallies in the fall and one in the winter."

"My favorite moment of this season is definitely doing crowd cheers," said Sofia Hersh, junior and captain. "I love seeing people get excited and hyped up for the team. This season has been really great, and our team has gotten close."

"As a first-time cheerleader, being on the team has given me so many more experiences and opportunities, interacting with other students, especially the girls on the team," said junior Vikki Munuo. "I've learned so much from the fall and winter seasons. It's definitely a highlight of my high school experience and a dream fulfilled."

Kyna Owusu is a senior captain. Other seniors are Isy and Gabi Quito, and Sammy Ye (fall season only). Other full season juniors are Lizzie Lekan-Abioye, Katy Huynh, and Brynn Kijewski. Juniors, Sophie Dinderman-Kao,

Continued on page 16



2024 PHS Cheerleaders

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 Send to editor@monocacymonocle.com

Things to Do

February is Black History Month.

February 2

PHS Varsity Home Games

Girls' basketball vs Watkins Mill. 5:30 p.m.

Boys' basketball vs. Watkins Mill. 7:15 p.m.

February 3

HGCBT Annual Winter Fundraiser

Enjoy a glass of wine and observe an open Master Class featuring advanced Essence Studios dancers, led by Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre (HGCBT) choreographer and Essence instructor Justin Rustle, with live accompaniment. Class will conclude with some partnering and classic repertoire demonstrations. Chat with HGCBT Artistic Director Claire Jones, other HGCBT board members, Essence staff, and our wonderful dancers to learn more about our energetic and growing organization! Find out how we are providing regional youth with the opportunity to experience the joy and intrinsic value of dance performance. The evening will also include the unveiling of HGBCT's 2024 season. \$25.00 per person. *Essence Studios,*

19710 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville. 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

February 4

10th Annual Mid-Winter Garden Dreams

Sponsored by the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association. It's too early to dig in the garden, so please join them to talk about gardening. We'll gather for tea and a light snack to discuss our favorite plants and veggies, to trade techniques, and to dream about this year's gardens. Email any questions to comusmail-plantswap@yahoo.com. *Linden Farm, 20900 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson.* 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

February 5

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:00 p.m.

February 7

PHS Varsity Home Games

Boys' basketball vs. Sherwood. 6:30 p.m.

February 8

PACC Business Helping Business Grow Breakfast

Guest speaker will be Lisa Sanders with Sonic Promos. Breakfast compliments of PACC. Open to PACC members and their guests. *Locals.* 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

February 9

UMCVFD Auxiliary Bingo Night

\$1.00 pull tabs. \$20.00. *Firehall in Beallsville.* Refreshments start at 5:30 p.m., games at 7:30 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Games

Girls' basketball vs. Northwest. 5:30 p.m.

Boys' basketball vs. Northwest. 7:15 p.m.

February 15

GOP 6th District: Meet the Candidates for Congress

Presented by the Rural Women's Republican Club and the Republicans of legislative District 15. Candidates: Tom Cox, Chris Hyser, Mariela Roca, Tom Royals, and Brenda Thiam. *Poolesville Town Hall.* 7:00 p.m.

February 16

PHS Varsity Home Games

Girls' basketball vs Rockville. 5:30 p.m.

Boys' basketball vs. Rockville. 7:15 p.m.

February 19

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:00 p.m.

February 20

PHS Varsity Home Game

Boys' basketball vs. Blair. 7:15 p.m.

February 25

UMCVFD Beef & Oyster Dinner

Community dinner fundraiser. All proceeds benefit new activity center. This is not an all-you-can-eat. Call 301-972-8719 for more information. Roast beef, half dozen fried oysters, parsley potatoes, green beans, hot/cold beverage, and dessert: \$35. Dinner without oysters: \$25. Half dozen fried oysters only: \$18. *Beallsville Fire Hall.* 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Continued from page 15.

PHS Cheerleaders

Bri Mcleggon, and Jillian Dove, participated in the fall season only.

Full season sophomores are Cailyn Deyo and Sammie Cogan. Adelaide Kessler participated in the fall season only. Elayna Woods and Kacy Kang are freshmen.

Would you like to announce a meeting, club, or upcoming event in **Things to Do**? Send it along to editor@monocacymonocle.com

Adults Getting Together



EVERY FIRST SATURDAY 9 a.m.–Noon

When: First Saturday each month from 9 a.m. – Noon

Where: Vail Christian Education Bldg.

19821 White Ground Road, Boyds, MD 20841

The Boyds Presbyterian Church (BPC) is hosting a monthly 'Adults Getting Together' for those interested in meeting, socializing, and sharing like interests.

Bring your favorite morning non-alcoholic beverage, needlework, puzzles, cards, coloring/drawing medium, books, etc. to reacquaint with long-time friends and make some new ones.

If you have any questions, please contact Marie Allnutt at mallnutt@hotmail.com or call 301-385-3503.

Please join us and nurture your personal faith journey on Sunday mornings at 10am, in-person or on Zoom at: <https://bit.ly/3h8917D>.

All are welcome. Fellowship immediately follows the service.



Youth Sports

Falcon Boys' Basketball Looking For a Turnaround

By Jeff Stuart

"We have had an up and down start," said boys' basketball coach BJ DeBuchananne. "We have been in a lot of close games against good teams. If you take out Watkins Mill, the combined record of our opponents so far is thirty and fourteen, so we have played a strong schedule. We lost to Churchill coming back after the break on January 5 and did not play well, but before that, we had a double-digit lead in every game. The potential is there. We just have not had the consistency to close games out. We are still searching for that. Of the games that we won, we played our best against Wheaton on December 13. We won, 64-37. It was our first win. We lost a game against Whitman a few days later, but we played well. We were up, 30-15, at halftime but just could not close it out. That was disappointing. We have had different guys step up in individual games, but we have not had those one or two players that have played well every single game. Senior guard and captain, Jackson Hartke, has had a good year so far, and junior guard, Alexavier Saunders, has as well. That is our back court. Those two have given us a scoring punch. Senior guard/forward, Carson Smith, has done an excellent job. Offensively, he does a lot of good things for us. He has a good all-around game. He is our best defender. He gets one or two blocks a game and five to seven rebounds. Senior Jack Loftus and sophomore Armaan Jain at the center spot have done a solid job also. I think we will eventually find that consistency. Our schedule gets a little bit easier in the second half of the season. Hopefully, we can get on a roll."

That roll might have started with three consecutive wins at Rockville on January 12, 56-39, at Gaithersburg on January 18, 49-37, and at home versus Kennedy, 71-67, on January 22. The fast-paced win over Kennedy (8-5), a division opponent ahead of the Falcons in the standings, was particularly noteworthy.



Brady Cournoyer, Carson Smith, Ryan Griffith, Jack Loftus, Luke Grossnickle, Preston Krueger, and Jackson Hartke of the PHS boys' basketball team.

"I think we have a really good roster this year," said Smith. "We need to do a little better than we have been. Individually, the season opener against B-CC
Continued on page 21

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Local Arts

Riverworks Events

Local arts events take place at three locations: Riverworks Studio at Alden Farms, 19215 Beallsville Rd., Beallsville; Locals Farm Market, 19929 Fisher Ave., Poolesville; or Riverworks Outdoor Stage, 17617 W. Willard Rd., Poolesville.

Details can be found at: riverworksart.org/gallery-1.

Ongoing Events:

Tuesdays and Fridays

Open Studio

Bring a project and share time and space with others working on their projects in the studio. Free. *Riverworks Studio at Alden Farms*. Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Fridays, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Wednesdays

The Reserve Wind Ensemble

If you've ever played a wind instrument at least at a high-school level, join us as we form a community band! This program is led by Michelle Palmer of Yunique Music School. Direct any questions to Michelle@riverworksart.org. Free. *Riverworks Studio at Alden Farms*. 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Afro Fusion and Mindfulness Dance Class

Instructor Angela Gonzales invites you to heal your heart and body through learning the history and art of dance, including a variety of Afro-Latin styles. \$20 per session. Now held at *Essence Dance Studio* during the winter months, thanks to a generous contribution of their space. 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Events Calendar:

Artist in the House Gallery Exhibit

Claire Howard: "Poetry in the Sky"; until February 18

These large oil paintings celebrate winter landscapes and capture the expansive, luminous views of a season with its own unique tension of shadow and light. Free. *Upstairs gallery at Locals Farm Market* (accessible only by stairs).

Sarah Solomon, "Scratched"; opens February 21

The trees in Sarah Hood Salomon's black-and-white photography impress the viewer with their stark beauty, but underlying each image is an unnerving tone of foreboding: When she

photographed them, all of these trees were on the verge of being cleared for development. Now most of them are at *Locals Farm Market*.

Saturdays through February

Classes Calendar

Writing from the Heart

An opportunity to connect to your heart and explore what it is longing to communicate. Each class you will be invited to write from a prompt and share your piece with your peers, if you are comfortable. As instructor Margaret will provide writing exercises, which will include a variety of forms of expression, from poetry, journaling, memoir, to expository, and fiction. Sign up for individual sessions. \$30. *Riverworks Studio*. 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Workshop Calendar:

February 11

Valentine's Self-Kindness Workshop

In this creativity-mindfulness workshop, artist and coach, Suzanne Wright, will guide you through supportive and fun exercises to create a personalized pocket guide for self-kindness and self-acceptance. Enjoy mindful chocolate tasting and other sensory samples from local producers in the Ag Reserve. \$75. *Riverworks Studio*. 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

February 2

Made-in-Studio: Alcohol Ink

Spend an afternoon with Dani and Jerry Beaulieu creating striking ink art as we continue to explore fluid art techniques. Alcohol inks allow one to combine colors and techniques that result in bold and colorful abstract art. Find in the Events tab online. \$20. *Riverworks Studio*. 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

February 3

Made-in-Studio: Indigo Dyeing

Spend the afternoon with Caitlin Robinson, owner of Sungold Flower Co., and learn the ins and outs of making an indigo vat at home. Caitlin will go through a bit of the history of indigo and demonstrate the dyeing process. Afterward, dip your own textiles. Find in the Events tab online. \$20. *Riverworks Studio*. 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fridays, ending February 23

How to Draw Baby Animals (ages 6-12)

Step-by-step instruction drawing baby animals using graphite. During these one-hour sessions each week, students will learn how to draw a baby animal using basic lines and shapes, as well as

Continued on page 26.



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Continued from page 17.

Falcon Boys' Basketball Looking for a Turnaround

was my best game. I shot the ball well. I scored fourteen points, a season high. As a team, our best game was against Damascus at home on December 21, just before the break. We did everything we needed to do against them. I think we have done an excellent job as a team this year, and I am proud of what everyone has done. We are going to finish strong, and come playoff time, we have a real chance to do something. We just have to play like we are capable of and play good defense. I am really looking forward to the game at Magruder on February 13. They beat us here on January 8, but I think we can beat them. I am looking forward to the rematch. It is a divisional game."

"We have a new group of guys finally getting a chance to start," said Hartke. "I have been around these guys for a while. We have a lot of chemistry which you see in our games. It is a new experience. Last year, we had five starting seniors. Our best game was against Damascus before the break. It was a big division win at home, a rivalry game, so we were pumped. That makes it extra fun when you can execute in those kinds of games. I have been playing with Loftus since sixth grade. He is my center. Senior guard Preston Krueger and senior Luke Grossnickle are also longtime teammates. It is a lot of fun playing with those guys. I have been playing with senior forward Ryan Griffith since I got to high school."

"I think we are a pretty good group," said Loftus. "We are confident. We believe in each other. We lost some games. I think we can do a bit better. We have some more games to play. Hopefully, we can turn the ship around."

Guard Brady Courmoyer is also a senior. Juniors are guards, Will Casella and Jacob Lee, and center Daniel Reed. Forwards, Jordan Smith and Emmanuel Chukwurah, are sophomores. Senior Night is February 20 against Blair. Other February home games are versus Watkins Mill on February 2, Northwest on February 9, and Rockville on February 16.

Have an event you'd like to list in the *Monocle*?
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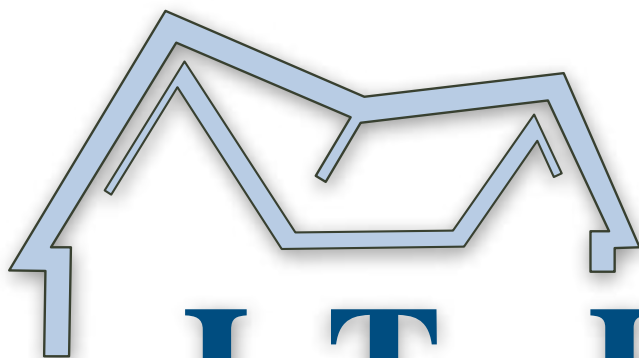
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Youth Sports

A Note in a Bottle Leads to Bride: A Love Story from the Canal

By Jon Wolz

Harry C. Johnson was returning home to Columbus, Ohio from Brest, France on the ship *Scotian*, on December 12, 1918 after the Armistice of November 11, 1918 that ended World War I. Only a few months previously, he had shipped out of New York City on the ship *Mongolia* on September 25, 1918, so he was in France for only a brief time. Harry was a private first class serving under Battery F of the 73rd Coast Artillery. He was twenty-one years old when he left home.

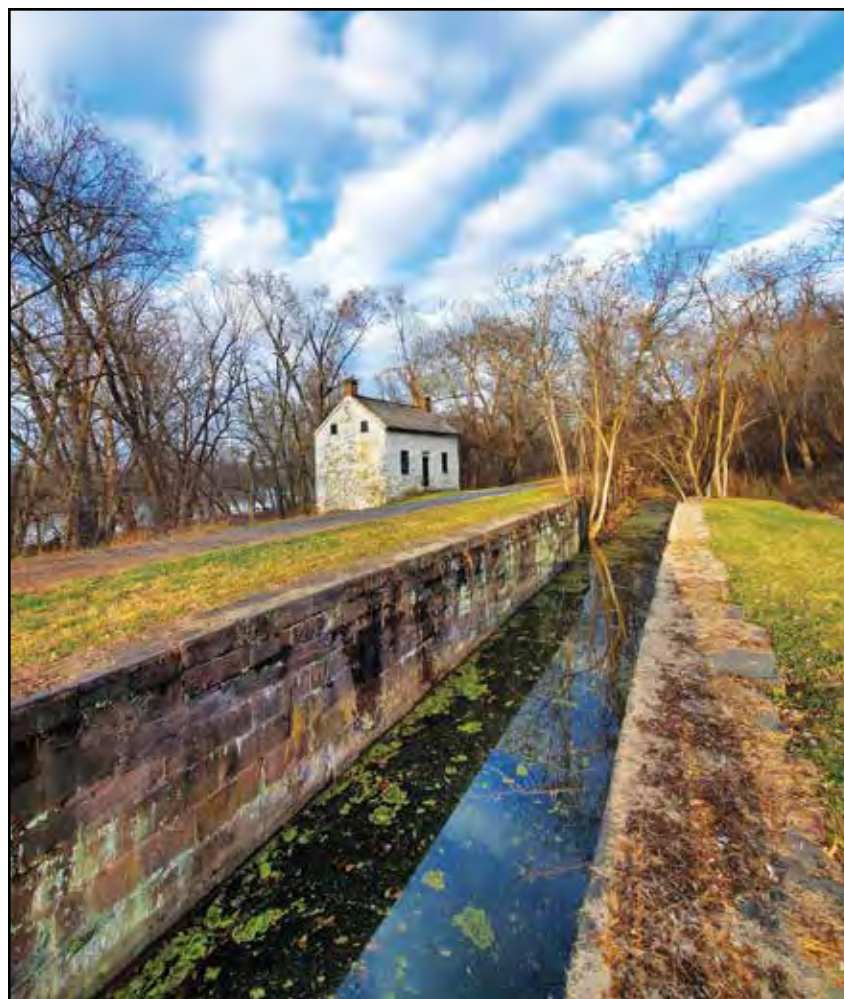
When reporting for duty, on his way from Ohio, the trains he took brought him through the countryside of various states. Along the way east from Ohio, the train paralleled the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal in Maryland. The entire time he was away from home, he thought about the canal and its beauty. Homeward bound in early 1919, after returning from France, Harry's train ride from New York took him to Washington, D.C. where he boarded a train that took him west through Maryland and eventually to his family's home in Ohio. On the way home on the train, he wrote a note on a slip of paper with his name and address, dropping the note into a bottle. He put a cork in the bottle and tossed the note into the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal above Dickerson, Maryland between Noland's Ferry and Point of Rocks. He watched the bottle fly through the air and splash into the waters of the canal. He wondered if he would ever hear anything from his note in the bottle.

In 1919, living alongside the C&O Canal in the lockhouse at Lock 27 was twenty-three-year-old Blanche Whalen. She lived with her father John Whalen, who was the lock tender, at the lock and her uncle, Henry Collier, who was a level walker for the C&O Canal. Blanche completed two years of high school and helped with the upkeep of the house, vegetable garden, and helped with tending the lock and the nearby waste weir. During the night of October 31, 1911, Blanche's mother Fannie Collier ran out of the house and was found the next morning by her husband in the waters of the lock; she had drowned. Blanche had an older sister, Emma, who married Reginald Cross in 1899, and together they moved to Darnestown. Sometimes Emma would visit her family at Lock 27, and three of her children were there in 1910 when the census taker came by.

One day in the spring of 1919, Blanche was walking along the towpath near Lockhouse 27 when she noticed a bottle floating in the canal. She got a stick and fished the bottle towards her, leaned over, and pulled it out of the water. She could see something inside the bottle, so she pulled the cork off the bottle and, using a small twig, pulled the slip of paper out of the bottle. Seeing that it had written on it the name of Harry C. Johnson, Columbus, Ohio, Blanche decided to write Harry. Once her letter was written, she crossed the lock using the pivot bridge to take the road that led to the Dickerson Post Office. After a couple of weeks, Blanche received word that there was a letter for her at the Dickerson Post Office. She heard back from Harry C. Johnson of Columbus, Ohio. They began writing each other, several letters and photographs were exchanged. One day, Harry showed up at the lockhouse, and two days later, Harry and Blanche married. The wedding was held in the evening by Rev. George R. Mays in the parsonage of the Clarksburg Methodist Episcopal Church. Harry moved into the lockhouse with Blanche. They shared the house with John Whalen and Henry Collier. Harry got a job at the Dickerson Quarry, and his wife continued helping out at the lock.

In 1921, Harry and Blanche had a baby girl and named her Blanche Elizabeth Johnson. Baby Blanche was born in Lockhouse 27. Her mother had been born in the lockhouse, too. Baby Blanche most likely was the last baby born in that lockhouse. The last boating season for the C&O Canal was 1923 because, in the spring of 1924, there were floods that closed the canal for good. All canal employees were let go and no longer were paid with the exception of a few employees. John Whalen and Henry Collier continued living in the lockhouse. John died in 1926 and Henry in 1929. When the canal closed, Harry, Blanche, and baby Blanche moved to Columbus, Ohio where Harry got a job as a bread salesman for a bakery. The Johnson family lived next to Harry's brother-in-law and sister, Charles and Blanche Hirst. Charles was the sale manager for the bakery. Harry's wife Blanche was a laundress working for a laundry company,

By 1940, Harry, his wife Blanche, and their nineteen-year-old daughter Blanche were living in Dawsonville, Maryland where Harry was a farm laborer. Wife



Lockhouse 27

Blanche stayed at home and daughter Blanche was a waitress at a restaurant. That census was taken on May 6. By May 19, the census in Front Royal, Virginia found daughter Blanche had married forty-six-year-old Adam C. Britts and they were living in Front Royal. Adam was a foreman for the Payron Chemical Factory. He had previously been married with several children. After 1950, Blanche Britts divorced, marrying again in 1966 and divorcing a second time. She died in 2007 at age 86 and is buried in a cemetery in Front Royal. She did not have any children and has a gravestone. She is not buried with any family members.

In 1942, Harry and Blanche Johnson had moved back to Dickerson where Harry worked as a painter for Newton Gilbert Roberson. On Harry's draft registration card, it said he was 5'11" weighing 155 pounds with blue eyes and brown hair. In 1950, Harry and Blanche decided to move back to the C&O Canal where they first met and were living in the old store across from the vacant lockhouse at Lock 27. That old store is long gone; however, a stone wall and a

Continued on page 23.

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Mystery History

Brewer Farm: Mystery at Rosehill

By Rande Davis

Although the view of what remains of Brewer Farm on Route 28 is a bit obscured from those of us busily traveling along Route 28. The imaginative historian might sense the spirit of George Washington, J.E.B. Stuart, and Confederate Gen. Jubal Early galloping their horses along the ridgeline. Those historic legends have since departed, and today the only occupants of the existing buildings are the pigeons that perch in the crib barn on the property of our mystery history focus: the Brewer Farm.

The Brewer Farm is a section of the original 1,102-acre land grant known as Woodstock Manor. It is that parcel of 583 acres of land that was left after 519 acres of Woodstock Manor was sold to George Washington on January 13, 1794. Maddeningly for today's consumer, the property sold for \$12 to \$15 per acre back then.

Dr. William Brewer, who held a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, was from a German family originally from Anne Arundel County. He and his wife, Mary Chiswell, had fifteen children.

Dr. Brewer's grandson, William George Brewer, who married Ida White on May 16, 1872, moved into the farmhouse shortly after their marriage. The colonial-style home, which is no longer, was perched directly in front of the cluster of buildings visible from Route 28. While their family had the house built for their marriage, it was not completed until sometime after the wedding. In fact, when the couple returned from their wedding trip, the Brewer family held the reception in the foundation of the house since the rest of the home was not completed yet.

It is easy to imagine that festive gala today since the reception would have been just in front of the stone buildings that are there now.

In the 1860s, Charles Johnson, along with Harriet Carr and her four children, were slaves on the Brewer Farm, and some report that log structures, originally located directly south of the manager's house, served as slave quarters. On the other hand, the descendants always referred to this tenant house as "the quarters" which lends credence to the theory that it was actually the slave quarters.



Photo by Allen C. Broome.

The Brewer Farmstead marker, 2015.

The mystery as to which theory is right will have to continue for now. By 1870, Mary Johnson and her five children were servants on the farm. Interestingly, Mary's husband, Charles, left the farm much earlier to fight in the Civil War.

The most intriguing structures still standing are two Seneca sandstone buildings. The larger one is referred to as the tenant (manager's) house and the other is a springhouse. The construction date is estimated to be around 1861. These structures are excellent examples of our agricultural heritage and of Seneca stone construction. In the 1700s and 1800s, the Potomac River in Montgomery County near the mouth of the Seneca Creek was rich with sandstone and marble. The Seneca Quarry was located on the C&O Canal near the town of Seneca. This building was used to keep perishables cold by running spring water through a built-in tub.

The largest remaining structure is the decaying crib barn, a wooden-framed structure that had the hay hoisted into the loft above and animals or goods in the cribs below.

Walter and Audrey Pritchard, Dickerson residents and the last family to properly care for the home, lived in the farmhouse in the late 1960s and raised their four children there. Back then, the crib barn made a terrific basketball court, according to Mrs. Pritchard. Mrs. Pritchard also reports uncovering many beautiful rosebushes in the yard which is understandable since the property at one time is reported to have been called Rosehill. After the Pritchards moved out, the subsequent occupants did not take particularly good care of the home, and it decayed and was eventually torn down.

Many members of the Brewer family are buried in Monocacy Cemetery in Beallsville just a half mile south of the site.

Continued from page 22.

A Note in a Bottle Leads to Bride: A Love Story from the Canal

hole in the ground remain with broken glass strewn about. It was next to the berm side road that went along the canal to the store next to the canal basin near the old granary. Their address was described by the census taker as "off Potomac and Monocacy Rivers." Their neighbors were Roy "Squirrely" and Nellie Lambert. Squirrely's occupation was "boat tender" and he was "taking care of Govt. boat." Was he caring for an old canal boat? Harry was unable to work, and Blanche was keeping house in 1950.

In 1952, illnesses with both Harry and Blanche forced them to separate in an attempt to recover. Blanche Johnson went to Front Royal to stay with daughter Blanche Britts. Unfortunately, while staying with her daughter, Mrs. Johnson was hospitalized and died on February 5. She was brought back to Maryland where she was buried at the Monocacy Cemetery. Harry Johnson died on July 14, 1953 at the Newton D. Baker Hospital (now the Veterans Affairs Hospital) in Martinsburg, West Virginia. Harry was taken back to Montgomery County. The Rev. Raymus Hilliard of the Poolesville Methodist Church conducted his funeral service. Pallbearers included members of the Daniel-Jeffers American Legion Post 247. Harry was buried alongside his wife Blanche at the Monocacy Cemetery.

Lockhouse 27 had many inhabitants during the canal operating days; however, it remains vacant today. The lockhouse is awaiting the C&O Canal Trust's action to turn it into a Canal Quarters where overnight guests may stay and enjoy the peaceful experiences of Lock 27.

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Remembrance

Esther (Katonak) Wallace

Esther Wallace, Marie to all who knew and loved her, 85, departed on January 15 and now soars through the universe to which she has always felt a strong connection.

Born to the late John and Esther (Geller) Katonak on July 11, 1938 in Lorain, Ohio, she was the last surviving member of her family and now joins her sisters, Georgian, Katherine, and Lorraine.

She enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1958 and served as a Medical Administrative Specialist at Westover Air Force Base in Massachusetts.

She married Richard Gerard Wallace on September 24, 1960 in Norwalk, Ohio. Together they raised a family and operated two successful businesses. Though they separated shortly before their fiftieth anniversary, they remained as endeared friends.

Marie was the proud mother of Mark Wallace, Glenn Wallace-Weitz (James), Teresa Hopkins (John), and Dawn Kernan (Steve). She was the ever-loving Grandmother of Echo and Corin Hopkins, Ashley Kernan-Moseley, Alex Kernan, Jenna Kernan-Harris, Emma Kernan, Marina Kernan, and Maggie Kernan; and Great-Grandmother of George, James, and John Moseley, Ryleigh and Reagan Kernan, and Peyton and Tyler Harris.

As a lifelong professional genealogist, she dedicated herself to researching every known detail of family tree information for relatives and friends. In her final days, she was comforted in knowing that she would soon be with all her ancestors.

She loved to travel, having visited twenty-six countries, particularly Hungary and Slovakia, in order to visit her ancestral origins. She especially loved the crazy summers spent with family and friends in Bermuda.

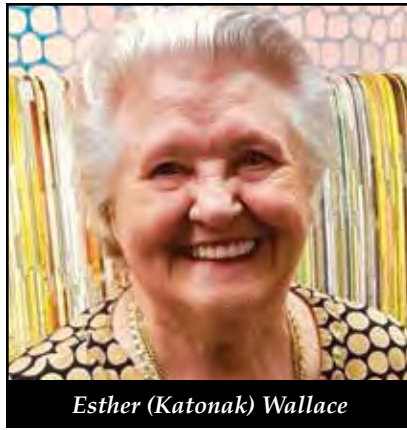
She will be missed by many dear friends and loving neighbors, as well as over seventy Rotary exchange students around the world whom she hosted.

Special thanks to the staff at Holy Cross Trinity Hospice Care for helping her family discover a new level of compassion for Marie, specifically Ann, Dorothy, Diane, Susan, Greg, and Drake. The family is also eternally grateful to their dear cousin, Julie, who shared her spiritual gifts and gentle hands to help Marie in her transition.

Lastly, the family would like to thank all the FedEx, UPS, and USPS delivery folks for their daily "visits." Marie will be sorely missed by Amazon.com and every self-help remedy company that exists on the internet. The sound of that doorbell chime made her smile every time!

A private burial will take place at Monocacy Cemetery in Beallsville.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in support of the Foundation for Women Warriors (foundationforwomenwarriors.org) or Women Veterans Interactive Foundation (womensveteransinteractive.org).



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Remembrances

Diane Hagen Beach

Diane Hagen Beach, 68, of Boyds, passed away on January 16, 2024.

She was the wife of the late Allen M. Beach. Born on June 8, 1955, in Maryland, she was the daughter of the late Dr. Grant L. and Dorothy L. (Linz) Hagen.

Diane is survived by her siblings, Marian H. Falkenstine, Jane H. Clark, Barbara H. Cupps, and Richard W. Hagen. Her brother, Walter L. Hagen, predeceased her. She is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Women Heart: National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease, 712 H Street NE, Suite 2201, Washington, D.C. 20002 (womenheart.org) or Love A Cat (loveacat.org) in memory of Diane Hagen Beach.



Diane Hagen Beach

Dustin Victor Aschenbach

Dustin Victor Aschenbach, 37, passed suddenly on January 4, 2024.

Born on May 20, 1986, he was the loving son of William H. and Joanne Aschenbach.

Dustin grew up in Darnestown, Maryland. He attended Barnesville School for elementary education and then Landon School for middle and high school, graduating in 2005. He then went to college at Southern Methodist University. He studied a semester abroad in Australia and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Engineering Management.

Dustin was extremely well traveled. He visited China, Vietnam, and Japan. In his first job working for a defense contractor, he got to travel to an aircraft carrier with the military. His love and interest for flight continued, and he received his commercial helicopter license shortly after. He was incredibly gifted at learning new things. Dustin was an avid cyclist. He completed an Ironman and many cyclist marathons.

He will be remembered for his amazing sense of humor.

Surviving him are his parents; his two brothers, Conrad R. Aschenbach (Allie) and William L. Aschenbach (Beth); nieces Zoey, Grace, and Edith; his grandfather, Conrad V. Aschenbach; and aunts, uncles, and many cousins.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Mountain View Community Church in his memory which will be dedicated to the youth programs.

Robert Karn

Robert Jerome ("Jerry") Karn, 87, of Boyds, passed away on January 25, 2024.

Born on January 5, 1937 in Maryland, he was the son of the late Bradley C. and Mary G. (Fawsett) Karn.

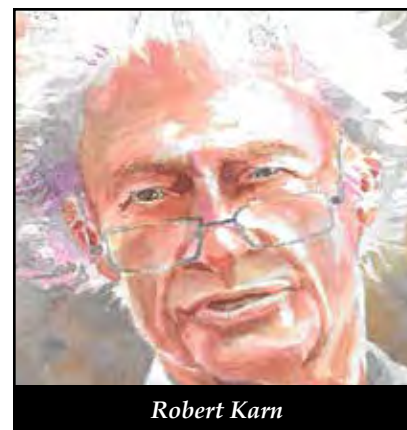
Jerry was born and grew up in Rockville. He married his high school sweetheart and raised four children in the Poolesville area before remarrying and raising an additional two children in Barnesville.

Jerry earned an undergraduate degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) and a graduate degree from MIT, both in architecture. He worked at notable architectural firms, including John Carl Warnecke & Associates, Hugh Stubbins, and Harry Weese & Associates before partnering in his own firm, Karn Charuhas, Chapman & Twohey.

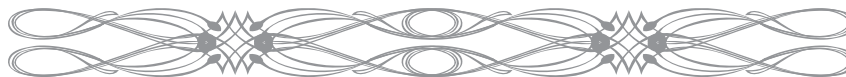
In addition to architecture, Jerry was an avid outdoorsman, prolific gardener, and talented artist. Later in life, introspection and a love of storytelling enticed him to write two books: *Of Frogs, Towers, and Trains: a Memoir and Herding Spiders: Stories & Observations*.

Robert was survived by his six children, Robert J. Karn, Jr. (Cheryl), Kimberly Wilson (Christopher), Gregory Karn, Kelly Holston, Russell Karn, and Brian Karn; two sisters, Donna Moeller and Mimi Hegler (Lou); five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Dr. Sandra O. Karn; second wife, Sally Remund; one brother, Bradley Karn, Jr.; and one sister-in-law, Dorothy Karn.



Robert Karn



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Linkage to Social Services



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10:00am-6:00pm



Health Screenings may include: Blood Pressure, Body Mass Index, Diabetes, Vision

Continued from page 1.

Falcon Wrestlers Off to Surprisingly Strong Start

finished first at 144 pounds, and Shimma Wexler finished first at 165. Ethan Dimmerling was second at 113, and Andrew Fraser at 215 was also a runner-up. Nathanael Tao finished in fourth place at 150. Racer Anderson was fifth at 120, and Nico Hoehler was fifth at 132. Tiago Coppage was sixth at 285.

“Going forward, I would like to see a few kids qualify for the states this year. Fraser is the one returning wrestler who made it to the region tournament last year. He was an alternate to the state tournament.”

“It was a little intense,” said Wexler about his finals match at Mad Max. “The guy was a little bit bigger than me, but I was not going to let that stop me from crushing in the tournament. I was listening to my coach closely during the match. I could hear him

telling me how to wrestle and what moves to try, and I pinned him. This is my second year on varsity. Thankfully, this season, there have been a lot more people showing up at practice. We have a lot more teammates. Last year, we were down thirty-six points in every match because we did not have enough people to fill all the weight classes.

“Winning our first dual meet over Wootton was exhilarating after a frustrating season last year. Getting that first pin and helping my team get that first win in their first varsity match felt pretty amazing. I want to give a shout out to Tom Blackstone at 106 and Andrew Fraser because, without them, we would not have won the match.”

In the Mad Mats final Shimma pinned Omid Shirzoi from Einstein High School.

“In the Mad Mats final, I wasn’t thinking about the guy I was wrestling,” said Volpe. “I was concentrating on what I wanted to do. The guy was

stronger than me, but I did not think about that. I just overpowered him with my skills and pinned him in the first period. It is a lot better than last year. There is more teamwork, especially in that first match against Wootton. Last year, we lost every match. We had a lot of forfeits. This year we are filling up most of the weight classes. We have a lot of teammates. The Wootton match was a pretty good match. I pinned my guy. It went down to the last match. If Andrew Fraser got pinned, we would have lost. He really battled. It looked like we were headed to a tiebreaker. We are having a good season. I would like people to come out and watch our upcoming matches.”

In the Mad Mats final Vinnie pinned Anthony Keene from Magruder High School.



Continued from page 20.

Local Arts

learn how to manipulate the graphite to create value and shading using a blending stick. Sign up for remaining classes or sign up for individual classes. \$40. *Riverworks Studio*. 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturdays, ending February 24

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Students explore creative challenges in this class, dabbling in different artistic media, viewpoints, and visual expression. This class fosters creative thinking, problem solving, and practices observational drawing to create four compositions using the principles of art and design. Available for late registration and pay only for remaining sessions. *Riverworks Studio*. 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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Celebrating 35 Years of Service

Be Sure Your New Furry Friend Had the Appropriate Amount of Time with Its Mom and Siblings

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

Getting a new four-legged friend is a wonderful day. Follow these tips so that your furry friend has the best chance at a happy, healthy, and well-adjusted behavioral life with you.

Taking a puppy or kitten from their mother and siblings before 10-12 weeks of age is a recipe for lifelong emotional, social, and behavioral problems:

1. Inability to bond with the family
2. Increased anxiety, fear, and potential aggression
3. Significant increase in destructive behavior
4. Poor ability to learn training requests or outright refusal
5. Playing too rough or biting as a play response
6. Resource guarding (aggression at meal/treat time)
7. Low tolerance to people and other animals
8. Easily frustrated, leading to inappropriate behaviors
9. Lack of self confidence
10. Difficulty toilet training
11. Aversion to touch, sounds, lights, and strange locations.

If you are buying a puppy or kitten (there are thousands of homeless dogs and cats, so look there first), be sure the breeder has followed the nurturing protocols for puppies and kittens. These include not releasing them until after 10-12 weeks.

Having them interact with people, animals, sights, sounds, and smells. Living in a house, not outside, in a barn or in a crate, as they grow. Being helped to understand correct social cues.

Getting love, attention, and appropriate diet. Never under any circumstances allow anyone to be rough or hit them.

If you are getting a rescued puppy or kitten that is a little older (4-12 months) be sure to collect as much information about the furry kid's previous life as you can. Most importantly, try to find out when they were taken away from their mothers and siblings. You may not always be successful in finding out, but if you use the above list of emotional, social, and behavioral problems, you can quickly determine if your potential new pet has been neglected in its early formative time.

Set up an appointment with your veterinarian before you get your new friend. Be sure to bring all the paperwork that the breeder or rescue provided you. Your veterinarian will go over them with you and let you know what they think may be potential pitfalls for this pet and your relationship with it.

There is no perfect way to be sure you get the most emotionally-, socially-, and behaviorally-stable pet, but don't be afraid to ask hard questions from the breeders or rescues about the early development of the puppy or kitten.



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