

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

May 2, 2014 • Volume XI, Number 3



Joanne Tedder and Leandra Connell raised funds for Relay for Life. More Big Flea pictures are in the Family Album on page 2.



Peg Erickson received a service award. Read all about it in Tidbits on page 16.



Nic Fisher slings a fast one. See Youth Sports on page 11.



Alexa Vergelli snags an important out. There's more in Youth Sports on page 15.

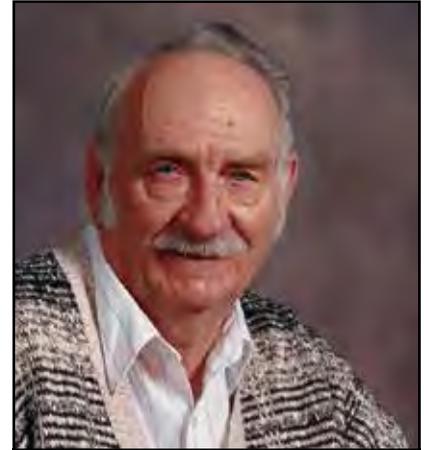
William "Bill" R. Poole, Sr. By Rande Davis

Poolesville lost one of its most dedicated community volunteer servants when Bill Poole passed away on April 25. He was the beloved husband of the late Jane C. (Burdette) Poole and was the son of the late Francis M. and M. Virginia (Young) Poole. Bill served proudly in the U. S. Army for thirty-three months and spoke of his regret in not reenlisting even though his company commander tried very hard to encourage him to do so. While in the army, he served at Ft. Hood and in Germany, attaining the rank of staff sergeant.

The Poolesville resident was born in 1933, and lived much of his youth in Dickerson. He carried the memory of waking up one morning as a young boy only to look through his bedroom window to see the Dickerson school burning down. Today there is a small park near where the school once

stood. Another youthful memory was helping his dad cut ice in local ponds in the winter.

He was very active for many years in Clark Griffith Little League, the Order of Odd Fellows #97, and the Poolesville American Legion Post 247. In all of these groups, he was admired and highly regarded for his congenial manner, passion for the mission, and his leadership skills. He served for years at the highest level in these civic groups including as president of the little league, Grand Noble in the Odd Fellows, and as Post Commander for the American Legion. Anyone who has ever bought a raffle ticket from the Odd Fellows or American Legion almost certainly has met Bill. Perhaps one of the most indelible memories of him is the one of him sitting, often alone, at various locations in town selling raffle tickets to help keep both civic groups financially stable. In the



Past Commander of the American Legion Daniel-Jeffers Post 247 William Poole.

later years, he would sit in his motorized wheelchair. One time, just before Poolesville Day, he broke his wrist and even before seeing a doctor, he still came to the event to help out.

Continued on page 5.

Residents Meet to Discuss School Concerns

By Jack Toomey

An ad-hoc group of area residents have joined forces to investigate the curriculum being offered at Poolesville High School.

The issue was first raised on the Poolesville Community Facebook Group by Poolesville businessman Robert Cissel who asked for comments about whether some students' needs were being met. Cissel said that he was concerned that students who are not part of the magnet programs at the school were being forced to take classes that may be beyond their capabilities.

Cissel said that Poolesville High School was the only high school in the county where ninth graders were forced to take Hon-

ors English and Honors History classes instead of regular, on-level classes. The Montgomery County Public School website, which has a catalog of classes available at every high school, bore out his allegation. Dana Tofig, a spokesperson for the schools, told the *Monocle* that some other high schools had the same system as Poolesville High, but when asked, he could not name the schools and said that he did not "have the time" to call all of the schools.

Deena Levine, the principal of PHS, confirmed that her school only offered Honors English and History classes to incoming freshmen. She said that

Continued on page 8.

Lindsay Named Teacher Of the Year

On April 29, John Poole Middle School English teacher Jane Lindsay was named the 2014-2015 Teacher of the Year, an award sponsored by the Marian Greenblatt Education Fund. Now in its twenty-sixth year, the family and friends of the late Marian Greenblatt established the fund to identify, publicly acknowledge, and reward exceptional teaching. The *Monocle* will provide more details in our next issue.

Family Album

Wes Clem talks to town employees Bobbi Evans and Preston King.



Rebuilding Together's painting team Bernie Mihm, Charlie Auer, Carly Stoliker, Jessica Kuldell, Paris Copeland, Catherine Beliveau, and Gene Lynn.



Alvin Allgood (center) won all the chips and a fine trophy at St. Peter's Texas Hold'em charity poker tournament. Runners up were John Clayton (third place) and Dick Franklin (second place).



At Rebuilding Together, Nancy Riddick, Kim Copeland, and Nettie Streeter proved that helping others can be fun, too.



Legendary 1966 boys' basketball's Coach Mowen (sitting in center) was guest of honor at a recent pre-1970 PHS reunion at Cugini's.



Author Mary Ann Powell chats with fans at her book signing at the Poolesville Library on April 27.



Jan Schultz (right) was interested in buying the lamp owned by Avis and Peter Garcia.



Poolesville's Kylee Hockenberry, returning from a party where she'd had a face painting, rescued a baby rabbit that had been separated from its mother and arranged for its future care.



Town of Poolesville Town Government Report

By Rande Davis

Progress Made in Development of Two New Businesses for Poolesville

At a meeting on April 17, Poolesville town management, along with Commission president Jim Brown, state transportation representatives, and owners of Delmar Deli Provisions, as well as representatives of Dollar General, met to try to resolve infrastructure upgrade issues along Fisher Avenue that have stalled progress toward building new facilities for the new businesses.

At issue is the state requirement to increase storm water pipes to handle the runoff from the nine acres of land that is west of Poolesville Beer and Wine and behind the post office. The state is requiring an upgrade to two twenty-four-inch pipes to manage storm water flow from the property that will increase the cost to the two businesses to \$70,000 and possibly more.

Even with these improvements made by Dollar General and Delmar Deli Provisions on the south side of Fisher Avenue, a water line on town property across the road on the north side (town hall side) has been deemed too small with inadequate grading, creating a bottleneck in the runoff flow within the storm water management system. This troubled juncture is very close to the town sign on Whalen Commons on the Fyfe Road side of the park. From this point in the park, water drains to a runoff pond in the Tama I subdivision. The town needs to facilitate the drainage by the relocation of a water main that is only buried forty-four inches deep now but needs to be around seventy-two inches. This cost for this upgrade in the town storm water system was determined by a contract awarded at the April 21 town meeting to Humphrey and Sons, Inc. The contract was for \$38,190.00 along with additional contingency

and project management fees of another \$7,000.00 bringing the total to \$45,190.00. Funds for this project will be drawn from \$100,000.00 unspent road project funds in the FY2014. The award to Humphrey and implementation of the contract are contingent on Dollar General and Delmar Provisions going forward with approval from the state.

Poolesville Area Senior Center Advancing

Gene Bennett, chairman of the Steering Committee of the Poolesville Area Senior Center (PASC), along with fellow committee members Maria Briançon and Rich Norwood, presented their request to the town commissioners for the town to temporarily sponsor the organization until other funds and grants can be obtained to cover the \$29,600 operational budget. Should the currently-independent group become part of the official town organizational structure, it is believed that grants will be made easier to obtain which will eventually lead to the PASC returning to its independent position. The group offers twice-a-week social and educational programs in fitness, wellness, and recreation at various venues in town, most notably at the Poolesville Baptist Church.

During this exploratory and discussion period, many of the particulars of precisely how the group will interface with the town are being legally and operationally ironed out. Commissioner Chuck Stump opined that an expenditure to support a healthy and enjoyable lifestyle for seniors has as much merit in the town budget as the current recreational programs for youth through its parks and youth programs.

Contest for Nickname for Poolesville Narrows Down to Five Entries

After reviewing fourteen slogans offered as part of a marketing campaign to brand the town, the commissioners selected five to be part of a town-wide referendum to determine the winning slogan. The

Continued on page 8

SAVE THE DATE
Meet the Republican Candidates for Governor
Monday, May 12
7:00pm – 9:00pm
Poolesville Town Hall
19721 Beall Street
One block off Route 107 (Fisher Avenue) – Behind Public Park

			
Charles Lollar Decorated Marine Businessman	David Craig Educator County Executive	Ron George Businessman State Delegate	Larry Hogan Business, Activist Cabinet Secretary

Also meet Dan Bongino
 candidate for
 Congressional District 6



Dan Bongino
Former Secret Service Agent
2012 Senate candidate

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Sponsored by the Republican Women's Clubs of Potomac, Upper Montgomery, and Rural & Republicans of LD-15. Come, meet, greet and hear the candidates talk about their platforms.



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 May 2, 3, and 4

Show mom how much you love her with a special present just for her, or let her choose by giving her one of our gift certificates. And last but not least, our foodies can smile again because on Sunday we'll have **MAD BBQ** on hand!

Open: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Friday and Saturday
 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday

Commentary

Listening Still a Work in Progress

By John Clayton

Recently I read that some elected politicians in the state of South Carolina were attempting to prevent the use of gay-related materials in their public universities. This called up issues of academic freedom and free speech, to say nothing of homophobia. A little earlier, Brandeis University in Massachusetts, a long-time bastion of liberal thought, canceled an invitation to a speaker known to be a harsh critic of Islam and all things Islamic. This also called up issues of academic freedom and free speech, to say nothing of political correctness. A Silicon Valley tech CEO got fired for past financial support of an anti-gay marriage initiative. Laws upholding unlimited spending on political campaigns have been upheld, on the premise that the government cannot control free speech. Issues concerning the freedom to speak one's mind are popping up all around us.

Freedom of speech takes many forms and may often involve insulting or demeaning statements that hurt the feelings of other people or groups of people. In the infancy of the Internet Age (yes, I suspect we haven't seen anything yet), outrage and condemnation over comments, opinions, or positions deemed unacceptable to decent folk flow freely through our Facebook and Twitter accounts, and in the comments areas of many sites that carry news and opinion. I am sure there are responsible debates on many sites, where nuanced opinions on divisive issues are respected; I just have trouble finding them. One is more likely to be called an idiot and lumped together with all those other idiots. Neither the liberal or conservative, nor right or left wing has any claim to virtue in these arenas.

The constitution protects us against our government restricting our right to free speech, even when it is hateful or hurts others, up to a point. This allows Nazis

and Klansmen to march publicly, for flags to be burned, and for all sorts of people to make a living on talk radio. Free speech allows some people to display Confederate battle flags as a symbol of an honorable cause, even though most everyone else sees a symbol of slavery and racial oppression. You can display it or burn it, it's up to you, but there may be consequences. We are protected from our government as a result of our speech, but not from others. One can lose friends, respect, one's job, or suffer a lawsuit or any number of eventualities from speaking one's opinions, however admirable or loathsome they may be.

In today's discourse, many seem to seek ideological purity, with very little tolerance for those who stray from acceptable group-think. An irony is that those that demand purity decry that very tendency in others. The Republican party's difficulty in winning national elections surely derives in part from the right-wing's demand of fealty to certain political and cultural standards. No mainstream candidate who wishes to win broad national support will come out of this process unchanged, at least outwardly. The same phenomenon occurs with the Democrats and their left-wing, but no reasonable case can be made that this process of punishing apostasy is nearly as dominant. A better left-wing example may be on college campuses, where political correctness can run amok. Those who espouse opinions controversial and distasteful to mainstream student or even faculty thought can trigger energetic resistance, an attitude that seems highly inconsistent with a goal of free and unfettered discourse in pursuit of universal truths. One person's provocative thought is another person's outrage. Free speech is tricky when both sides attempt to shut out the other.

I have watched a little more than I would like to admit of the saga of the Nevada rancher who doesn't want to pay grazing fees to the federal government. Of course, when the rancher's racist rants started, I really regretted paying it any mind, and most people felt the

Continued on page 6.

Rande(m) Thoughts

Jobs: The Best And the Worst

By Rande Davis

When I first read the survey results, I was taken by surprise, and I felt like that old saying of being between a rock and hard place. I mean, who knew that I had one of the very worst jobs around—certainly not me; however, there it was in black and white for the entire world to see. Careercast.com ranked the top ten worst jobs in 2014 and there between number one, lumberjack, and number three, enlisted military personnel, was newspaper reporter.

What qualifies a job for being among the worst? The metrics are high stress, low pay, career outlook, physical demands, and working environment. Although I could put check marks by all of these criteria, I would not have guessed being a garbage collector, prison guard, or taxi driver would outrank being a reporter as all three did according to Careercast.com.

On the flip side, students at Poolesville High School should be thrilled since STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) careers occupied nine out of ten jobs ranked as the best jobs for 2014.

Yes, there is the stress of writing an article and doing so within the demands of deadlines. I keep two statements on my desk for motivation. One is a plaque that reads: I love deadlines, especially the whooshing sound they make as they go flying by. The other is a note sent to me by my friend and partner, John Clayton, at a particularly low point for me a few years ago. Once when I was bemoaning frustration in my writing skills, he wrote: "The world is full of people who are superb craftsmen as writers, but who couldn't sit down and write 600 words under deadline pressure if you threatened to set their underwear on fire." Every time I get stuck and ask myself, "What the heck are you doing?" I read that and just start writing all over again.

Within the data summarized in the report was one other very

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Local News

Electricity Pole Snaps, Closes Road Near PES

Many residents of Poolesville were awakened to the noise of a low-flying stationary helicopter hovering over Poolesville Elementary School during the early rush hour period of April 25. Subsequently, many also learned they had lost electricity. At 4:14 a.m., a call came into 911 that referenced a car accident and reported loud popping, explosive sound coming from a transformer at the corner of Wootton Avenue and Fisher Avenue. Upon investigation, there was no evidence of vehicle involvement, but the top of the electric pole holding the transformer had snapped off and was dangling precariously over the intersection. The helicopter turned out to be a traffic helicopter for one of the local TV channels.



What's left of a transformer dangles dangerously over Fisher Avenue, causing early morning traffic problems in Poolesville.

An eight-truck crew from Potomac Edison restored electricity to the homes that lost power and replaced the pole and transformer.

Vandalism at Construction Sites

Vandals in the Poolesville area caused damage at construction sites during the week of March 16. Town and county officials first noticed the damage during a March 20 preconstruction meeting at 17001 Hughes Road. The site, which at the time was somewhat secluded, had the survey stakes that determine the construction

limits of disturbance pulled out and removed from the property. At the same time, the windows in the cab of a track loader owned by Tom Maddox Construction Company had apparently been shot out by a pellet gun.

Shortly thereafter, town officials learned of another incident at Bodmer Park where windows in construction equipment owned by Humphrey and Sons, Inc. had also been broken.

Jennifer Beaulieu of Gaithersburg purchased the Hughes Road property to build a family home that is expected to be finished in time for the fall semester. Beaulieu, who had come to appreciate Poolesville as a small, crime-free town, still remains positive about her move to the area of the town. Even before moving here, she and her son have been getting involved in the scouting program. "Except for this incident, moving here has been a wonderful experience. Everyone has been so warm and welcoming. I am concerned, but with the site now more open and less secluded, hopefully there will not be any more problems." There have not been more incidents reported to the town since March, but officials hope that if anyone has further information, they would contact the Montgomery County Police.

Fatal Accident on Darnestown Road Being Investigated

Detectives from the Montgomery County Police Collision Reconstruction Unit (CRU) are investigating a fatal single-vehicle collision that occurred early April 17 on Darnestown Road (Route 28).

At approximately 4:05 a.m., 1st District officers and fire and rescue personnel responded to the 20200 block of Darnestown Road (in the area of the Woodstock Equestrian Park, M-NCPPC) for the report of a personal injury collision. A person driving on Darnestown Road had discovered the collision.

The preliminary investigation revealed that a 2002 Pontiac Sunfire was traveling eastbound on Darnestown Road. For reasons still under investigation, the driver crossed the centerline, traveled

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William "Bill" R. Poole, Sr.

His joy in his civic efforts was contagious and as a leader, role model, and mentor, he personally was responsible for many people joining in to help.

Whether to help his civic groups or as an early volunteer with the Historic Medley District, he would dress in costume to help out as John Poole, Jr. or Santa Claus. He drew great pleasure in dressing up as Santa Claus (purchasing a professional outfit at his own expense) and bringing smiles to the faces of not just the many children he visited but on those of adults at luncheons and holiday gatherings. He loved sharing the many stories of the things children do and say around Santa Claus. Typical of Bill, his Santa Claus efforts were often a way to help raise funds for his favorite good causes.

For many years, he served on the Poolesville Day committee at a time when the committee consisted of only a handful of volunteers and was in its fledging stages of development. If only one phrase could be used to best describe Bill best, it would be: You can count on Bill. Surviving are three sons, Joseph K. Poole of Poolesville, Ronald C. Poole and wife Karen of Frederick, William R. Poole and wife Leslee of Damascus; one sister, Mary F. Woodfield of Rockville; one brother, Lenwood H. Poole of Georgia; and four grandchildren, Shannon Adams, Katharine Spain, Kara Poole, and Christopher Poole. Bill was preceded in death by two brothers, Charles L. Poole, Francis R. Poole, and one sister, Anna M. Poole.

The family will be receiving friends on Tuesday, April 29 from 1:00 to 3:00 and from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Hilton Funeral Home, 22111 Beallsville Rd. (Rt. 109), Barnesville. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Heart Association (heart.org) or America Cancer Society (cancer.org).

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Pulse

Local Groups to Celebrate Together

By John Clayton

Two local organizations that have been active in the Upcounty for a combined one hundred years (almost) are joining together for the first time in a "Celebration of Rural Montgomery" on Saturday, May 10. The Sugarloaf Citizens' Association, which just celebrated its fortieth year, will co-host the event at its Linden Farm headquarters, at 20900 Martinsburg Road in Dickerson. They are co-hosting with the almost-sixty-year-old Monocacy Garden Club. The theme of the event is "Simplicity," and it will feature a flower show and plant swap. The event is open to the public.

Linda Pepe, who is coordinating the event and has served as President of the Monocacy Garden Club, and is the outgoing secretary of the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association, said that even with the long local history of the two groups, "There has not been much crossover between the memberships of the two organizations." Her hope, and that of the other organizers, is that the event will help graft a closer relationship between the two, and perhaps

branch out to the community as a whole.

The seed of an idea for the event sprouted when Peg Coleman of the MGC expressed a desire for the club to hold a less formal flower show than was customary; consequently, the flower show chairs, Lisa Hilton and Karri Morningstar, approached the SCA about holding the flower show in the Linden Barn. That blossomed into the idea of holding Sugarloaf's annual plant swap at the same time, leading to the two groups' first-ever hybrid event.

The event will run from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., with a wine and cheese social from 4:00 to 6:00. There will be over ten vendors and exhibitors on display with a theme of growing flowers and vegetables, and horticulture in general. There will be refreshments available, live music, and an opportunity for visitors to vote on Best in Show for floral design and horticultural entries in the flower show. People are encouraged to bring their plants, seeds, divisions, flowers, veggies, pots, tools, and garden gear to swap, buy, sell, or share. The SCA will offer walking tours of Linden Farm for anyone curious about what Linden Farm actually is and how it came to be, and to showcase their current stewardship activities at the farm.

More information is available at www.sugarloafcitizens.org.

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Listening Still a Work in Progress

same way. It was sort of a constitutional circus out there, with various freedoms involving criticism of our government and the public display of firearms in full flower. Until he poisoned the well with his ignorant remarks on race and slavery, he had his sympathizers drinking it up, his detractors apoplectic, and he was unintentionally responsible for some of the funniest "Daily Show" and "Fox News" segments I have seen. As I write this, however, he has been bumped out of the news hole by a professional basketball team owner with some unfathomable racist remarks of his own. Unlike the rancher, he didn't intend for his remarks to go public, but there's that Internet Age at work again. The team owner's sins will remain in the public eye a little longer than the rancher's, as he is prominent for his ownership of a major sports team, not just for flouting the law. He will soon find out the costs of the exercise of his particular form of free speech, not all of which is worth listening to.



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Things To Do

Calling All Photographers: Get Your Cameras Ready

Historic Medley District, Inc. (HMD) announces the opening of its 2014 Photo Contest. This year's theme is "Architecture in the Agricultural Reserve." The subject matter can include buildings; parts of a structure, such as windows, doors, stairways, or a small detail of a structure; gardens; bridges; sculpture; or anything else emphasizing architecture. Judges will make decisions on quality, composition, content, originality, creativity, and consistency with contest theme. Winners will be placed one through six. Contest is open to all. Entry forms will be in wooden box on back porch of the John Poole House in Poolesville, or from Maureen O'Connell at 301-972-8307 or MAFOConnell@msn.com. Deadline is Monday, June 30.

May 2

PHS Varsity Home Sports

Baseball versus Bethesda-Chevy Chase at 3:30 p.m.

Softball versus Bethesda-Chevy Chase at 3:30 p.m.

Pink-Themed Bingo

Sponsored by Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary, featuring cash prizes, Vera Bradley bags, Longaberger baskets filled with spring bingo extras, as well as door prizes. Fire Hall at 19801 Beallsville Road, Beallsville. \$20.00. Refreshments available only by purchase. Doors Open: 5:30 p.m. Games Start: 7:00 p.m.

May 2 to May 4

The Blue Hearth

Marketplace Weekend

Featuring even more revitalized treasures and great gifts, both large and small to help you celebrate that special lady in your life: Mom! Show her how much you love her with a special present just for her, or let her choose by giving her one of our gift certificates. Foodies can smile again because on Saturday they'll have Jeff Brooks and his delectable offerings, followed by the return of MAD BBQ on Sunday! 19964 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville. Friday and Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday: noon to 5:00 p.m.

May 3

American Legion Post #247- Red Cross Blood Drive

St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Walk in or schedule an appointment by calling 301-349-0174, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Dairy MOOseum Reopens

Grand opening of train exhibit at the King Barn Dairy MOOseum, as it reopens for the 2014 season. The historic dairy barn museum showcases the history of local dairy farming.

This special new exhibit illustrates the arrival of train service that delivered farmers' fresh milk to local markets. Exhibits also include a historic century-old restored milk wagon, a unique robotic milking unit with video, and an interactive dairy nutrition display to test all ages' knowledge of healthful dairy foods.

The MOOseum is located in the South Germantown Recreational Park, at 18028 Central Park Circle, Boyds. Admission is free. Open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each Saturday.

AHOP Special Event:

Raising the Tent

Start of outdoor dining on patio. Come join the tent raising at 11:00 a.m. with food and fun for all. Band plays from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

May 5

PHS Varsity Home Games

Boys' lacrosse versus Churchill at 5:15 p.m.

Girls' lacrosse versus Churchill at 7:15 p.m.

May 7

PASC Driver Safety Seminar

Special event of Poolesville Area Senior Center. Provided by Shawn Brennan of County Transportation Department on aging. Poolesville Baptist Church. 1:00 p.m.

St. Peter's Community Dinner

Free dinner open to the public. Meatloaf, potatoes, vegetables and more. Call 301-349-2073 for information. 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

May 8

PASC T'ai Chi with a Chair

Special event of Poolesville Area Senior Center. With Maria Briançon of Glad-I-Yoga. Poolesville Baptist Church. 1:00 p.m.

May 9 and 10

Cinderella, Jr

JPMS Phantom Players present *Cinderella, Jr.*, a performance for the whole family.

PHS Auditorium. Friday and Saturday nights: Tickets cost \$8.00 and show starts at 7:00 p.m. Saturday matinee and special party event: Ticket cost of \$12.00 includes audience participation in cast party after 1:00 p.m. performance.

May 10

Poolesville Community

Garden Grand Opening

Everyone invited. 17800 Elgin Road next to Presbyterian Church. Light refreshments. 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Celebration of Rural

Montgomery County:

Flower Show and Plant Swap

Sponsored by the Monocacy Garden Club and Sugaloaf Citizens' Association featuring public vote for Best in Show for floral design and horticulture entries.

Flower Show and Swap: Bring your plants, seeds, divisions, flowers, veggies, pots, and garden gear, and swap, buy, sell, or share. 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Wine and Cheese Social: Winners announced during social. 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Linden Farm, 20900 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson. Free.

May 12

Republican Candidates

Public Forum

Featuring gubernatorial candidates: David Craig, Ron George, Charles Lollar; Larry Hogan will send his lieutenant governor. Plus: Candidates for Congressional District 6: Dan Bongino and

Harold Painter. Poolesville Town Hall. 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Hope Garden Ballet

Informal Recital

Hope Garden Ballet Children's Theatre will have an in-house show with a few select dances for about a half hour for the community, complete with light refreshments. 7:00 p.m. Free.

May 14

PASC Zumba Gold

Special event Poolesville Area Senior Center. Zumba gold with Karen McPhatter. Appropriate for seniors. Poolesville Baptist Church, 1:00 p.m.

May 15

PASC Games Day

Special event Poolesville Area Senior Center. Room 128, Poolesville Baptist Church, 1:00 p.m.

May 17

Special HMD Event:

Tour of Monocacy Aqueduct

Researcher and author Robert Kapsch will offer the tour and provide his insight and knowledge of the history of the unique historical attraction and an autographed copy of his book, *Monocacy Aqueduct*.

Cost: \$20.00 for non-members; \$18.00 for currently-paid members. Students: \$5.00. Book extra. 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

6th Annual Haiti Festival

Dinner, silent auction, and entertainment. Proceeds to benefit healthcare, education, and economic development for the people of Carcasse, Haiti. St. Mary's Pavilion, Barnesville.

5:00 pm. to 9:00 p.m.



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Continued from page 1.

Residents Meet to Discuss School Concerns

the ninth graders were prepared to take honors classes because of the foundation that they had received at John Poole Middle School where eighth graders take only advanced classes. She added, "We find that our English department is outstanding" and that teachers are available for support at lunch and after school.

Cissel and others reasoned that not every child will need a college degree to succeed in the world. He gave the example of a tradesman that everyone will need at one time. He asked if such a person needed to take advanced classes or attend college. He continued, "I've lived here for thirty-four years. My children went there when it was seventh through twelfth grade. We didn't have a middle school. Without the magnet program, the high school would have been closed, but that is no excuse for not offering the same full range of classes that are offered elsewhere in the county system. Again, because we are small in numbers, our students suffer. A student that lives in Poolesville should be able to sign up and take a standard ninth grade math, English, or science course. They (should not) be put into a situation that sets them up for failure."

A large group of residents weighed in on Facebook and some provided anecdotal evidence that supported Cissel's concerns. One parent said that her child was an average student and having difficulties with Honors English and that he had failed in two of the three marking periods. When she asked for help for her boy, she was told that one of her options was to hire a tutor.

The group of parents plans to consult with the Poolesville High Parent, Teachers, and Student Association about their concerns. Poolesville High School was recently ranked as the top school in the state of Maryland in a survey of schools conducted by the *Washington Post* that is based on the number of students who take Advanced Placement exams. The school was also ranked eighty-third in the nation by *U.S News and World Report* in a survey predicated by other criteria.

The *Monocle* is awaiting further comment and data from the school system and will report as the information becomes available.

Continued from page 3.

Contest for Nickname for Poolesville

referendum will be in the form of a survey to be placed on the town website in the coming weeks.

The five slogans are: Come Grow With Us; Timeless Charm; In the Heart of the Ag Reserve; Small Town Charm, Down Home Character; and a combination of the first and third, Come Grow With Us in the Heart of the Ag Reserve.

Odds and Ends

Town Manager Wade Yost reported that efforts to get the county to upgrade and improve West Willard Road, particularly in the area of the high school, have met with resistance. Although the town sought the support of county representative Roger Berliner, the rating system for road repair rated West Willard too high to receive priority funds. On a scale of one to one hundred, West Willard was rated at seventy, while other, most notably down county roads, were rated at eighteen and were selected to get the funds.

The town meeting also included the interview and the approval of Kathryn Lane as a volunteer on the Board of Elections.

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Continued from page 5.

Accident on Darnestown Road

into the westbound lane, and left the roadway. The vehicle struck a utility pole, overturned, and came to rest on the roadway at the entrance to the Woodstock Equestrian Park. During the collision, the driver, the only occupant in the vehicle, was ejected. He was not wearing a seatbelt. There are no known witnesses to this collision.

The driver, Kenneth James Lovelett, age 58, was pronounced deceased at the scene of the collision.

The circumstances surrounding this collision remain under investigation. Anyone with information regarding this collision is asked to contact the Collision Reconstruction Unit at 240-773-6620 or the police non-emergency number at 301-279-8000. Callers may remain anonymous.

GOP State Candidates Hold Open Forum in Town Hall

The father-son team of Robin and Flynn Ficker has joined together in a mutual campaign effort to get elected to the Senate for the father, and House of Delegates for the son. Both were part of a public forum held at the Poolesville Town Hall on April 14. Joining the duo were Christine Thron and Ed Edmundson, both running for House of Delegates in District 15. The state candidates were joined by Edward Amatetti, a candidate for the Montgomery County Board of Education.

The congenial format allowed each candidate an introductory remark followed by two questions from moderator, Jerry Cave. The evening's theme was a call to end one-party rule in Maryland. All state candidates called for economic growth to solve budgetary problems and deficits by making Maryland friendlier to existing businesses and business development.

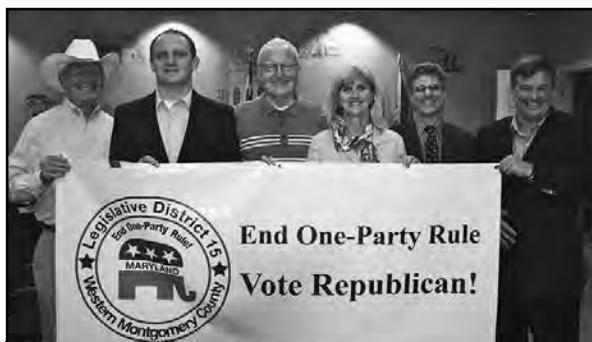
Robin Ficker, an attorney who previously has been

a state delegate, led off with a call for lower taxes noting that a strong Republican turnout could result in getting Republicans elected even in a state dominated by the Democratic party. Christine Thron, a former congressional candidate who holds a master's degree from John Hopkins University, has a background in education and working with at-risk youth. Ed Edmondson, a small business owner and policy advocate for fair trade that fosters better working conditions and pay for women, is running a campaign that is centered on what he labels "international commerce with a social objective," combining profit with mission. He is advocating using tax incentives to convert the Dickerson energy plant to natural gas, a three-year tax holiday for new businesses relocating to Montgomery County, and a three-year freeze on taxes and state hiring.

Flynn Ficker, together with his father, has visited over 30,000 homes in his campaign which began one year ago. He holds post-graduate degrees in environment and energy policy.

Edward Amatetti, candidate for the Board of Education, is a former Montgomery County teacher and who combines fifteen years' experience as an operations auditor and improvement consultant to local government. In his consultant position, he has advised cities and counties such as Cleveland, Ohio and Providence, Rhode Island as well as dozens of regulated utilities.

The standing-room-only event was moderated by Jerry Cave, who is president of Cave Communications Company and a regular commentator on Channel 21's "This Week Public Affairs TV" program.



GOP candidates Dick Jurgena (County Council #2), Flynn Ficker (Delegate), Robin Ficker (State Senate), Christine Thron (Delegate), Ed Edmundson, (Delegate) and Edward Amatetti (Board of Education) all share a goal of victory for the GOP.

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Youth Sports

Outstanding Baseball Seniors Rounding Third

By Jeff Stuart

The seniors on the PHS boys' baseball team are heading for home, both on the baseball field and in the classroom. On April 23, the *Washington Post* ranked Poolesville first in the D.C. area, a first-ever such ranking for PHS athletic teams. In their first eleven games, the Falcons, now 14-0, outscored their opponents by a combined score of 122-10. On March 22, at home against Paint Branch, Robbie Metz threw a no-hitter, striking out twelve in a 4-0 win. Chris Converse went three for three with a pair of doubles, and on April 9, Tony Parker and Thayer Seely combined to hurl another no-hitter against visiting Einstein. Converse drove in four runs. Seely drove in three and scored twice. Junior Michael Vetter had a hit and scored twice in an 11-0 win.

Nonetheless, there is some unfinished business. Winning the division is nice, but for this team, the playoffs are the thing.

"It's a veteran team," says Head Coach Steve Orsini. "We are led by Metz, Converse, Hunter Pearre, and Seely. Joey Ingler is our third baseman and Matt Schramm is our first baseman. These guys are all seniors and have contributed to all our wins. I have a sophomore catcher who has done an outstanding job. At second base and in left field, I have players competing for the starting job. I rotate those positions between three or four players. The competition makes them work very hard. Our success is because of that hard work. My lineup switches due to who is pitching." The lineup is rounded out by center, Justin Souder, Craig Morton or Steve Morningstar in left field, and Nic Fisher or Vince Guanciale at second base. Morton and Guanciale are also seniors. "These players are fun to watch play. This is a special group of players."

Pitching ace Metz, headed for George Washington University

next fall, doesn't feel any pressure. "I just want to have fun," he said at practice prior to an 8-0 win over Churchill on April 22, "make it a memorable season and hopefully just start from there. Hopefully, we will make a run and get pretty far in the states." He is looking forward to the Sherwood and Gaithersburg games. He is not intimidated by their shutdown pitching. "I just have to do my best." As for his favorite moment at Poolesville, "I just enjoyed hanging out with my friends." Metz has a .429 batting average and leads the team in stolen bases with twelve. On the mound, he has yet to give up an earned run and has struck out forty-two in twenty-one innings.

"I think our chemistry is better than last year," said Converse, "so I think things will be a little bit easier. It has been a rough year weather wise, working inside, but the gym works pretty well. Our big game is going to be with Gaithersburg, We beat them last year, 2-1. It should be a good game again this year." The Falcons led only 3-1 after four innings but pulled away late. Converse hit a two-run homer



PHS varsity baseball's Core Four: Chris Converse, Hunter Pearre, Thayer Seely, and Robbie Metz.

in that game. Pearre had four hits. "I am having a pretty good season," Chris said. I have done pretty well every game so far...I think we have a pretty good shot in the playoffs." Converse leads the team in batting average (.562) and in RBIs (24). He has two homers. He is headed for UMBC in the fall.

Seely has high expectations for this team. "Yeah, I think we're going to go ahead and have a great season. There is a lot of team chemistry, and we enjoy playing with each other. We've been playing together ever since we were little kids pretty much. We have all been together." For him there have been

Continued on page 20.



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Local News

County Executive Candidate Phil Andrews at PTSA Public Forum

By Rande Davis

The second PES PTA public forum of candidates for county executive on April 29 at the Poolsville Town Hall featured the four-term county councilman Phil Andrews. Andrews is running against incumbent Ike Leggett and former county executive Doug Duncan. Decidedly behind the other two candidates in fundraising, Andrews, a former executive director of Common Cause Maryland, does not accept donations from special interests such as unions, developers, or PACs, and does not accept donations greater



District 3 county councilman and candidate for county executive Phil Andrews has served for sixteen years.

than \$150. He hopes his door-to-door campaign visiting eighteen thousand homes will blunt the donation gap.

A 1981 political science major from Bucknell University, he received a master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania in governmental administration.

The attendance at the meeting was about two-thirds of that which came out for Doug Duncan. The key issues raised during Andrews's appearance were school modernization, county support for social services in Poolsville, especially as it relates to senior citizens, continued protection and promotion of the

Ag Reserve, and the diminishing position in the county vis-à-vis other regional jurisdictions for economic growth.

Andrews minimizes the ability of the council in matters of school modernization, stating that while the council exercises general oversight over the funds for education in the county, it does not set policy and priorities. While funds are allocated to the Montgomery County Public Schools, the Board of Education (BOE) is the sole decider in how the funds are spent. He does not think that the BOE is likely to move away from using capacity rather than structural needs as a priority metric in school construction and modernization. Dan Savino asked what Andrews would suggest as to ways Poolsville residents could influence higher priority for school renovation at PHS. Andrews pointed to effective constituency organizing as an important way to make sure concerns are heard by the BOE and to get involved more directly in BOE elections as the most effective ways for residents to have their concerns and desires on modernizing PHS understood and acted on. He suggested inviting all the BOE candidates to a public forum similar to the one at the town hall that evening.

He went on to cite recent changes in priorities in the school budget regarding security resource police officers for each high school and bus cameras to better monitor school traffic violations as examples where the BOE has been influenced to make changes in the budget.

Asked about ways the county can help economic development in the town, he expressed support for the discussions underway to bring a local agricultural food hub to the town as one way the county could help the local economy, support farmers, and thereby help to preserve the Ag Reserve.

Regarding a concern expressed by Bob Roit about the county losing out to other jurisdictions competitively, he cited his support for smaller tax increases and reform as ways he is trying to make the county more competitive. He

Continued on page 18.




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May 9: DJ - Slim Pickens

May 10: Kenny Ray Horton

May 11: Mother's Day Buffet

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Youth Sports

A Time to Grow

By Jeff Stuart

To everything there is a season. For the Poolesville High School softball team; spring 2014 is a time to grow.

"We've got a whole different dynamic," says senior right fielder Katie Truppo. "We lost eight seniors last year, so we've got a whole lot of newbies to the team, a couple of freshmen and a lot of sophomores, so it is interesting being a senior, a returning player, and coming out with all the new girls who haven't played varsity." Katie, herself, has gotten a lot more playing time this year and is making the most of it. She leads the team with seven RBI. Her favorite game this year was at Watkins Mill on April 5. She had a hit and a walk and two RBI in a 15-4 win. She also made a memorable catch in a 12-2 win against rival Damascus on March 28. "I ran in all the way from the outfield and it was practically at the dirt when I caught it," said Katie. "That catch in the first inning saved a run and stopped any momentum that Damascus had," said Head Coach Laurie Wohnhas. Truppo had two hits and three RBI against the Hornets.

"The best thing about them," said Wohnhas about her young team, "they are very coachable. They look me in the eye. They

watch and learn. That's nice. They work hard in practice. To have a group like that, that wants to win. We are going to take our lumps. I know that, but next year we are going to be okay."

Her team is currently 5-4, and though Rockville broke a long streak of division titles by the Falcons last year, the journey back to the top has begun.

Junior Alexa Vergelli plays first base. She thinks their best game was against Damascus. "That was a team win. I think we all did well." Her personal best moment came earlier. "When we played Magruder, even though we lost as a team, it was a tough pitcher, Fiona Johnson. I played against her before and to get a hit against her was kind of a personal accomplishment. I had improved my game to be able to get a hit off of her." Johnson only allowed five hits that day while striking out twelve. There was cold weather this year to be sure, but Alexa feels it was colder last year. "Last year, some of the early games were absolutely freezing." Vergelli leads the team with a .344 average and twelve runs scored. She also has five stolen bases. Sophomore Alesya Sarakhman is a close second with four stolen bases, all against Northwood. Alesya also had two hits that game.

Sophomore pitcher Jolee Raines is another part of the Youth Movement. "We are all sophomores this year," said Jolee, whose sister Alexa played second base for the Falcons and graduated last year. "This is my first year of varsity, so I'm facing a lot faster pitchers. Overall it's a much faster game than JV." Raines is tied for second on the team in runs scored with junior Christy Ng. Both had scored eleven times. Raines has three stolen bases. Sophomore Liesl Green also has three.

Against Einstein on April 9, the Falcons had a 3-2 lead going into the top of the seventh, but Einstein rallied with five runs to take a 7-3 lead. The Falcons scored one more run in the bottom of the seventh but were unable to manage any more runs. Vergelli had two hits for the Falcons and

scored a run. Brianna Roche and Leisl Green added clutch hits with two outs. PHS won their home opener against Paint Branch, taking advantage of fourteen walks. The Falcons had a nine-run fourth inning against a very good PB team.

Freshman shortstop Samantha Goldsborough had two hits and two RBI in a 20-7 win against Northwood on April 11. Ng has the team's only triple of the year against Wheaton on April 3. It came with the bases loaded. She

was also stellar at second base with multiple putouts. Truppo was 3-4 with two runs batted in.

"My basic line up this year is: pitcher, Madison Lamanna, first, Vergelli, second, Ng, shortstop, Goldsborough, third, Raines, left field, sophomore Lauren Lightcap, center field, freshman Lauryn Graham, right field, Truppo, and center, sophomore Brianna Roche," said Wohnhas. Two are juniors, three are sophomores, and two are freshmen. That's a lot of growth potential.



Falcon softball players Alexa Vergelli, Katie Truppo, and Jolee Raines.



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Tidbits

Poolesville Gaining New Garden

The Historic Medley District (HMD) is renovating the herb garden at the Edward L. Stock Memorial Arboretum at the John Poole House. It was designed and planted by Mr. Stock in 1976, but for many years lay neglected. Now is the time to bring it back to how it originally looked. HMD is starting with the herb garden and would like to replant and clean up the entire back yard but needs your help in keeping it in good health. There are six plots which will be planted with English boxwoods (they are already in the ground, thanks to the donation of twenty-one beautiful shrubs by Chet Anderson), annuals, and perennials. HMD is looking for people to sign up for a week during the growing season to weed and water the plots, as necessary. No gardening experience needed. Please call Maureen O'Connell at 301-972-8307 or email MAFOConnell@msn.com. Any help you can give HMD is much appreciated.

Dickerson Honored as Volunteer of the Year

WUMCO Help, Inc. named Valaree Dickerson as its volunteer of the year at its annual meeting this month. WUMCO thanked her for her dedicated organizational skills in coordinating the collection of toys and the distribution of holiday food baskets and toys for children. Her effort, which involved many hours of work weeks before the distribution day and long hours in the days just preceding the delivery, resulted in one of the most important missions of the organization once again being successful.

MCPS Places 11 on 'Best High Schools' List

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) placed eleven schools on the 2014 Best High Schools list, published by *U.S. News & World Report* Tuesday. Seven MCPS high schools received a gold medal for being among the top 500 schools in the nation, and

four received a silver medal for being among the top 2,019 schools.

The gold and silver medal MCPS high schools and their national rankings are Walt Whitman (61), Thomas S. Wootton (65), Poolesville (83), Richard Montgomery (163), Quince Orchard (176), Col. Zadok Magruder (319), Montgomery Blair (389), John F. Kennedy (583), Wheaton (589), Gaithersburg (591), and Springbrook (1,047).

Pancrazio Awarded Scholarship

Senior Stephen Pancrazio was awarded a \$1000 Scholarship from Fidelity Investments. Stephen was one of five award winners out of a pool of twenty-eight student-athletes at the Eighth Annual Fidelity Investments Scholar-Athlete Banquet run by the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame, Inc. National Capital Region Chapter.

Students from Fairfax County, Prince William County, Loudoun County, Alexandria City, Arlington City, D.C. Schools, Montgomery County, and various private schools were eligible for awards. Student-athletes were selected based on their academic achievement, football ability, performance, and attitude, and their campus leadership and citizenship.

Montgomery County Historic Preservation Award to Peggy Erickson

Kudos to retired Heritage Montgomery Executive Director Peggy Erickson, recipient of a 2013 Montgomery County Award for Historic Preservation.

County Executive Isiah Leggett presented Ms. Erickson with the prestigious Montgomery County Executive's Award for her leadership, vision, and creativity.

As the founding director of the not-for-profit Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County (Heritage Montgomery), Ms. Erickson built the organization into one that has brought over \$2 million in grant funding to local heritage, cultural, and natural resource projects and tourism efforts. Her work at Heritage Montgomery capped off many years of service to the county.

Led by Ms. Erickson, Heritage Montgomery has produced two exceptional documentary films on Montgomery County history. In 2011, the Emmy® Award-winning *Life in a War Zone: Montgomery County during the Civil War* was produced to great acclaim. Building on that success, the organization's second documentary premiered on March 24, 2014. *Community Cornerstones: African American Communities in Montgomery County, Maryland* features five historic church communities with ties dating back to the mid-1800s. These projects

would not have come to fruition without the strong leadership of Ms. Erickson.

Don't Let the Moment Pass Unnoted: PHS #1 in Baseball

The *Washington Post* ranked Poolesville varsity baseball as number one in its rankings the week of April 21. With eleven wins and no losses, the Falcons took the top of the hill for what is believed to be the first time in its sports history. Congratulations to our boys of summer! Read about the team's success on page 11.

Musings from Mama Boe

Mayberry

By Pamela Boe

I love this town.

Of all the places I've lived (here and abroad) this is my favorite place to raise my kids. Yes, we're going through an economic slump, but it is temporary, and doesn't really affect our personality. Why? Because we are a lot older than the past ten years. We carry generations of families who stay and wind the comforting thread of tradition through our ever-growing community fabric.

Poolesville has one foot in 2014, and the other sometime in the '50's, I think. And we seem to like it that way; we take the best of both. It's small enough that we are somewhat connected, but large enough that not everyone knows your business, unless you're misbehaving.

Our crime rate is way lower than the national average.

Our school's academic rate is way higher than the national average.

Our priorities tend to be in a healthier place than the national average.

People tend to be a little politer here than they are farther south in Montgomery

County. Maybe it's because we are not as much in a hurry. Maybe it's because we aren't so full of ourselves that we need to push one another out of the way. Maybe because at any given time, someone around *does* know you, and *will* tell your Ma if you're being an embarrassment to the family.

Oh, don't get me wrong, we do have our beloved McDonald's, and I have been known to get a little snippy in line if I am really super hungry and my sausage burrito is being held up by the lady in front of me who has to count out her exact change, and in doing so finds she has some Canadian coins that she wonders could they please take anyways, and no, says the weary kid behind the counter, and could you get the manager please, she asks, and meanwhile the eggs in my burrito which I can SEE under the warmer are turning to rubber as we speak... wait, what was I talking about?

Oh, right. Small town. Polite. Healthier priorities. Got it.

What I'm saying is, on the whole, we are fairly like "Mayberry." And, lukewarm sausage burritos aside, I like it that way.

Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Current Crime

Assaults: 19200 block of Hempstone Avenue – two incidents.

Theft from vehicle: 19700 block of Fisher Avenue.

Theft: 17600 block of Shores Drive, 24800 block of White's Ferry Road, 18500 block of Elmer School Road.

Disorderly conduct: 19900 block of Fisher Avenue.

Past Crime

May 3, 1964 A Poolesville farmhand was killed during a fight that broke out at a party on Hughes Road. Police said that two men had argued during the party and at about 1:00 a.m., a .22-caliber rifle was brandished by Roscoe Barnes. Barnes then fired a shot striking Dave Anders, age 22, in the chest. When Anders did not fall to the ground, Barbara Barnes, the wife of Roscoe, struck Anders over the head with a hammer. Barnes and his wife were charged with murder.

May 3, 1968 A tractor trailer truck struck a phone pole, knocked it down, and eventually came to rest against a farm fence on the Frederick Road north of Gaithersburg. Over 4500 customers in upper Gaithersburg, Germantown, and other nearby areas lost phone service for most of the day.

May 7, 1966 An eleven-year-old Bethesda boy was found murdered in a wooded area near Little Falls Parkway in Bethesda. He had gone down to a creek near his home to look for turtles and then failed to return home. An all-night search failed to locate the boy until dawn when he was found by an off-duty fireman. The case remains unsolved today although the assailant is known to the police. The lack of evidence has prevented detectives from making an arrest.

May 11, 1965 A forty-one-year-old IRS agent was arrested for the murder of his girlfriend. Police said that the two had been traveling on the Capital Beltway when they began fighting. They got out of the car and the woman began running away and ended up on the Sligo Creek Golf Course. In front of several startled golfers, the man shot the woman twice in the back, killing her. In the meantime, a county police officer ran onto the golf course and arrested the gunman.

May 14, 1964 Two men were injured when their private plane plowed into a hedgerow along Route 109 near Barnesville. The pilot told police that he took off from the Frederick Airport with the intention of reaching Gaithersburg. He added that the altimeter in the plane must have been faulty since it read 2500 feet up to the time of the crash.

Monocacy Critters

Serendipitous Pet and Animal Pictures



Chow time in the big squirrel-head feeder.
Photograph submitted by Judy Ohr.

Send your unusual pet or animal picture to:
editor@monocacymonocle.com

Continued from page 4.

Jobs: The Best and the Worst

intriguing item that trumped all other criteria. For those with these worst jobs was an overwhelming and unique footnote: They all passionately loved their work. So, you see, rather than being a whine, it turns out my thinking on this issue is really a statement of gratitude; thankful for being able to pursue a passion. Naturally, my thoughts this week turn to another job that truly requires the greatest passion, offering a very severe level of difficulty, but ranking highest in personal reward.

Perhaps you saw that faux interview on the internet showing persons interviewing for a job as director of operations that offered no breaks, ran all day every day, and with responsibilities that were categorized requiring skills in medicine, finance, and culinary arts, and just to make matters worse, it offered no pay. The job being offered turned out to be that of Mom. As a dad, I do not disrespect fatherhood in saying mothers have the most difficult job ever. Any dad worth his salt will tip his hat to the women in the family knowing that while he tries hard to be the Head of the family, it is the mother who is the center, the nucleus of the most important organization in the world, the family.

Here's to my mother who, among all the responsibilities inherent in the position, was also a talented registered nurse. Here's to my wife, Laura, who lived her passion by making her job as mom the most important career of her life. Here's to my daughter-in-law Camille, also a registered nurse, who, on top of everything else, is a heroic military wife having near total parental responsibility of the family at the home front during my son's many deployments. Finally, here is to my oldest daughter Mieke who, although swamped by career, three children, and pets, still knows how to set her priorities by doing her best through love and passion. Happy Mother's Day to them and all other irreplaceable Directors of Operation.

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Garden

The Aftermath Of a Rough Winter

By Maureen O'Connell

Wow, what a winter it has been for our gardens. Between the frigid temperatures and extensive deer grazing, mine suffered the most damage that I have seen in the past thirty years. Due to the recent cold, wet weather, I was late in assessing how all my plants came through the winter. I was shocked at what I saw. I lost most of my sixty-five rose bushes. The thirty lavender plants never recovered from the cold. The ever-increasing deer population ate most of the leaves from the lower sections of my Nellie Stevens holly shrubs. My hydrangeas, many of them ten to fifteen years old, have barely set any buds on the old, brittle wood, whence the new blooms come. I am waiting for about a week to see if there are any signs of life; if there are none, I shall have to cut them down to the ground and hope they will set out new growth. I will plant new lavender and hydrangeas, but I will not plant any more David Austin or hybrid tea roses. As much as I love them, the winter weather is becoming too harsh for them; their assigned planting areas are becoming too shaded; and I have stopped chemical spraying for pests and diseases. I shall carefully choose only the hardiest and most reliable plants for our area to include in my gardens.

So what are good choices of small (and one large) trees and shrubs in the Monocacy area? From A to V, here are some recommendations.

Abelia x grandiflora was first raised in 1866 at a nursery on Lake Maggiore in Italy. It is a deciduous or semi-evergreen, multi-stemmed shrub with bright, glossy foliage and fragrant, bell-shaped flowers, growing to about four to six feet. It can be used in a border or grown as a hedge. Considered a low-maintenance plant, it does well in sun or partial shade.

Arborvitae *Thuja* is a genus of six evergreen conifers native to North America and east Asia.

'Green Giant' is a superior variety introduction from the United States National Arboretum. Even though it will grow to sixty feet, I am including it in my small tree recommendations because it is such a reliable, low-maintenance, and tolerant specimen for our gardens. It is impressive as a specimen, but many planted together will form a fast-growing, year-round screen or hedge. It is resistant to pests and diseases and will withstand the branch-breaking ice storms and heavy snows that come with our winters.

Buddleia 'Lo & Behold Blue Chip' (butterfly bush) is a wondrous, beautiful, reliable, and low-maintenance shrub that belongs in your garden this spring. It made horticultural history as the first cultivar to be released commercially in a new miniature butterfly bush series named 'Lo & Behold.' This series is being developed at the Ralston Arboretum in North Carolina. 'Blue Chip' grows only two feet tall with intense blue flowers in spike-like clusters blooming continuously from June to September. Several years ago, I planted six in a crescent shape behind four hybrid tea roses and lavender plants. In the spring, I cut them back to about six inches and they grow back beautifully. I will admit that mine are taller than two feet; they are about five feet, but that size is still manageable. What I like about them the most is that they are drought and heat tolerant, deer resistant, a super magnet for butterflies, and can handle our winters.

A shrub that I think is underused in our area is the *cotoneaster*, especially the dwarf variety 'Tom Thumb.' This compact, low-growing deciduous shrub does well in sun to part-shade and has a well-behaved manner. I have several planted along the back wall of my house. It blooms in early and late summer and has very showy fall foliage. This very low-maintenance shrub can also handle the vagaries of our weather.

Ilex opaca, the American Holly, is a species of holly native to the eastern United States. Think of Christmas decorations and songs and you see and hear of holly. It is

Continued on page 20.

Continued from page 12.

County Executive Candidate Phil Andrews

specifically pointed to his efforts to reform abuse of the state public employee disability retirement process using, as an example, that sixty-two percent of police have filed for disability retirement—an unusually high percentage.

With seventy percent of the county budget tied up in salary and benefits, he claimed to be the only council member to vote against excessive salary increases by Leggett that ranged from 6.75 percent to 9.95 percent.

When asked about the service needs for seniors in the Poolesville area, he expressed support for expansion of what he called satellite services to embolden them, for example, using the library for county social services as a facility to offer help to aging residents. As to the town not getting any funds for senior services specifically, he encouraged residents to be more active in addressing those financial needs directly to the council, stating that in sixteen years of being on the council, no one from

Poolesville has ever brought the issue up before them.

A suggestion made by Bob Cissel to form a private/public sector partnership of individuals, town, county and state participants to provide financial support for a community multi-use center was something Andrews said he would support strongly.

Andrews stated he is a strong advocate of the Ag Reserve, noting it is very important to the county. He offered his opinion that having three representatives with voters in the Ag is better than having an Ag Reserve-only delegate.

He called the congressional gerrymandering in the state outrageous and said that he had testified against it. "It is hard to shame those in Annapolis, though, their tolerance of shame is very high." He does not think boundaries for voting districts should be determined by incumbents, rather through an independent commission.

The next county executive public forum with Ike Leggett is scheduled for June 19 at the town hall at 7:00 p.m.

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School News

Impossible? Not for The Phantom Players!

Even with canceled rehearsals because of snow days, illness, and a couple of twisted ankles and bruised knees, the JPMS Phantom Players will proudly take the stage on May 9 and 10 at the Poolesville High School auditorium. "Dreams will come true" as the students perform the Rogers and Hammerstein classical *Cinderella Jr.* This show is sure to be one that the whole family will enjoy.

The characters that these performers bring to life are amazing. Trying to show real emotion in a play is hard for anyone, but for middle-schoolers it can be even more challenging. "Watching them develop the characters, come up with ideas to add more to the show, and working on dances and songs

on their own time shows just how dedicated they are to the arts," said Dorald Turner, the director. "The magic would not be possible without the talents of so many involved in this production."



Taylor Byrd in rehearsal for the JPMS Phantom Players' production of *Cinderella, Jr.*

This will be the first time that the Phantom Players will be performing three shows on the high school stage. Tickets for the Friday and Saturday night show at 7:00 p.m. are \$8.00. The Saturday matinee will be at 1:00 p.m., and there is a special party for *Cinderella* and for the audience as well. After the show, audience members are invited to enjoy cake and punch as they get to meet the cast and take pictures with them. Tickets for the matinee are \$12.00 and need to be purchased in advance. Tickets can be reserved by email at Dturner322@aol.com or you can call 386-453-9007 to find out where to purchase tickets for the Saturday matinee. The box office will be open about forty-five minutes before the start of the performance.

There may be a limited number of tickets available for the Saturday matinee so advanced purchase is strongly recommended so the chefs can make sure to have enough refreshments for the party guests!

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See current updates to Things to Do



Continued from page 18.

A Rough Winter

the state tree of Delaware. From April to June, it blooms with small white flowers. Plants of this species are dioecious, with separate male and female plants. For females to bear fruit, the shiny red berries, a male pollinator must be within two hundred feet of them. Typically it grows as an understory (under trees) tree in forests. In our back yards, this tree plays an important role: the flowers are pollinated by insects, including bees and wasps, its thick canopy provides nesting sites for many birds, and its berries offer food. Unlike many hollies, especially Nellie Stevens, its leaves are not attractive to deer. As I drove around our area recently, I noticed many evergreen trees and shrubs with denuded lower sections. As our deer population grows, they become hungrier and are attracted to many house plantings.

The one rose variety that did not suffer winter dieback this year (or actually any other year) was the *Rosa rugosa*. I have ten of them, three of them given to me by an avid gardener friend when I moved to Barnesville in 1980. They are my Phoenixes. Every year in the early spring, they rise again from their winter death and bloom profusely again for another summer season. I lost all of my David Austin and

hybrid teas roses this year, but like Paris, I shall still have my *rugosas*. Yes, they don't have the florist-like look, and their petals tend to flop this way and that, and they have a shaggy, unkempt air about them, but they have character and a fragrance beyond description. My favorites are: 'Roseaie De l'Hay,' 'Blanc Double de Coubert,' 'Hansa,' and 'Marie Bugnet.' The garden centers in our area usually do not stock these roses. You have to go online to order them. With *rugosas*, I think that you will find a new appreciation for roses.

Viburnum is a genus of about 150 to 175 native species of shrubs. Some are deciduous and some are evergreen. They are good additions to your gardens for their showy, fragrant flowers and berries and good autumn color. Among the many varieties, *Viburnum x Burkwoodii* is a reliable and low-maintenance choice for our area. I have several near my house, and they survived the winter weather very well.

There are many other trees and shrubs that do well in our area. I selected the above as I have grown them in my gardens and they have done very well. Gardens live in a state of flux. As our weather patterns change, we also have to change our gardens to fit into new guidelines. That is the interesting, and sometimes frustrating, side of gardening. The Gardener.

Continued from page 11.

Outstanding Baseball Seniors

no particularly memorable games so far. "The Gaithersburg game at the very end of the season is a big one." Thayer is headed for Towson next fall. Seely has a .375 average, thirteen RBIs and two homers.

Pearre is headed for Barton College in North Carolina. "This year we just expect to win. Before everyone was saying we were young. Now we are all seniors. It's time to get it done." For Hunter there have been no games so far that have stood out. "We've been running everybody off the field." He continued, "With all the snow and stuff, it's been tough. We don't have the space indoors. Lots of bunt coverages and we just practice as best we can. Gaithersburg will be our toughest game, and in

the playoffs, there are some good teams out there, but if we play well as a team, I like our chances against anybody." What's his favorite moment at PHS? "Hopefully it will come this year, winning the state championship." Pearre has a .533 batting average. Morningstar is batting .455 and Guanciale .368. Metz and Seely have scored twenty-one runs each. Souder, Ingler, and Morningstar each have six RBIs.

PHS defeated Blair, 7-5, and needed a three-run rally in the bottom of the seventh to beat Seneca Valley, 6-5, on April 24. It was their third game in three days. The Falcons won at Sherwood, 3-0, on April 28. Senior day is Friday, May 2, against Bethesda-Chevy Chase. PHS plays at tenth-ranked Gaithersburg (13-1) on May 5, the last game of the regular season.

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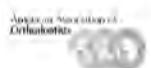
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Remembrance

Genevieve U. Santucci

Genevieve "Jenny" U. Santucci, 91, peacefully passed away at home on April 9, 2014. Jenny called Poolesville her home since 1976. Her youngest son Bryan attended Poolesville High, along with her grandsons Ben, Jay, Pat Santucci, and Timothy, Clint, and Melissa Cornell.

Beloved mother of Daniel and Bryan Santucci, Joyce McCartin, Arlene (Peg) Leonard, Jennine Cornell; grandmother of nineteen; and great grandmother of twenty-three.

Jenny was preceded in death by one son, Gary Santucci, one granddaughter, Denise Leonard LeGrand, and five brothers and a sister.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, April 14 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 18230 Barnesville Rd., Barnesville, MD.

Donations may be made to Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard Drive, Suite 100, Rockville, MD 20850 (www.montgomeryhospice.org).



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Heartworm infection and your pets: Important facts you need to know to protect your pets.

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You may have noticed that I am talking about Heartworm infection and "your pets", dogs and cats. You may not be aware that your cats are at risk of heartworm infection just as your dogs are in this area of the country. Even for cats and dogs that spend very little or no time outside, Heartworm infection can potentially strike them. The good news is there are preventative measures that you can easily utilize to protect your furry friends. Let's start by looking at how a Heartworm ends up in your pet's heart where it can cause significant disease and even death.

The immature infective L3 larval stage of Heartworm infection is carried by a number of mosquito species. These stealth carriers are always a threat and even more so as the climate continues to warm. They are expanding their territories from the southern states. Mosquitoes can be found in all 50 states. There are mosquitoes that live in the house (unknown fact), mosquitoes that live in rainwater runoff, mosquitoes that survive in small wet areas of houses and barns even in the cold of winter. Mosquitoes take a blood meal from an infected dog, coyote, or fox. They ingest the micro-filarial (baby) stage that are circulating in the infected animal's blood stream. Over a number of weeks, this stage develops into the L3 Larval stage in the mosquito. This stage moves down to the opening in the skin caused by the bite and then can infect the animal. This immature stage of the Heartworm then migrates through the animal's fatty tissue before penetrating a blood vessel and moving to the heart to become an adult. The total transformation to an adult takes about 5-7 months.

Prevention is a multi-pronged approach. First, it is very important to limit the areas where mosquitoes can have a chance to reproduce. This means trying to eliminate any areas of standing or pooling water. Check your basement, barns, equipment, and surrounding areas of your house for anything that would allow water to pool.

Secondly, it is important to consider using one of the newer flea and tick preventatives that also repel mosquitoes. Older generation flea and tick products sold at most of the national big box retail stores do not repel mosquitoes.

Vectra-3-D is a newer product (for dogs only) that is labeled as repelling mosquitoes on your dog. There is no product that will do so for your cat at this time.

Thirdly, be sure that you do not miss even one dose of your heartworm preventative medication. Newer studies have found that missing even one dose during the year (especially the spring and summer months) can allow the L3 immature stage of the Heartworm to mature to the more resistant L4 stage. Once this has occurred, an adult Heartworm can form in the heart. Most current studies find that the injectable product, **Pro Heart 6**, provides continuous protection for 6 months. You cannot forget to give a dose because it stays in the dogs' fat, killing any Heartworm Larvae that migrate through the fat. This product, which is in the same class as many of the currently-used oral forms, is proven to be as safe. Prevention for your cat can be provided by **Feline Revolution**. This is a monthly topical that protects the cat. Your pet should have a negative Heartworm test that your veterinarian can perform before you start the Heartworm prevention. This is a simple in-office test that uses a small amount of blood from your pet. It is safe and highly accurate.

Don't let your pets go unprotected. Contact your veterinarian today for more information.



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