

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

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State Senator Brian Feldman and Delegate Brian Fraser-Hidalgo brought the lowdown from Annapolis. Read Local News on page 9.



New Eagle Scouts take the oath. The story is in Tidbits on page 11.



This is part of the 2014 PHS graduating class. Read more in School News on page 7.



It's two against one, but it's not a fight. Read about the best job in the world on page 8.

Poolesville Celebrates the Completion of the Solar Array

By Rande Davis

On June 2, Town of Poolesville officials celebrated the recent completion of the new solar array system at the Poolesville wastewater treatment plant on Fisher Avenue. Last year, the town entered into a twenty-year agreement with UGI Corporation, which paid the \$2.7 million cost of installing the 4,480 solar panels.

In hosting the event, Commissioner Jim Brown talked about the difficulty of the more-than-two-year process of exploration and negotiation, and congratulated his fellow commissioners and town manager Wade Yost "for grinding it out to the end." Brown also acknowledged former commissioner Eddie Kuhlman and credited him with first coming up with the idea to build the solar array.



David Fraser-Hidalgo, Wade Yost, Aruna Miller, Tony Clifford, Chuck Miller, Ike Leggett, Jerry Klobukowski, Chuck Stump, Valaree Dickerson, Roger Berliner, Jim Brown, Eddie Kuhlman, George Leventhal, Brian Feldman, and Joyce Breiner.

The project was developed through a public-private partnership between Poolesville, Standard Solar, Inc., and energy provider, UGI Corporation. The energy-generating system promises to yield both reduced energy costs for the town and innovative educational opportunities for local students studying environmental science.

"Poolesville is proud to be moving forward on the front of renewable energy," said Brown. "Our new solar array is not only a source of energy independence, but it also speaks to our commitment to environmental sustainability and to providing opportunities to educate our

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Crossroads Talent Solutions: Helping Veterans Jumpstart Their Careers

Poolesville resident, Julien Singh, was only seventeen years old when he joined the marines right after high school. He served in the infantry for six and a half years before being honorably discharged. As Singh was entering the workforce with no experience outside his military service, he realized he had no idea what career path to choose or even how to put together an effective job search. Singh said, "My experience when I got out is that there was no transition help from the military." Singh was on his own to navigate a new path for himself.

Today, Singh is devoted to helping veterans acquire the skills needed to stand out in today's competitive job market. In February, Singh began his own recruiting and consulting firm, Crossroads Talent Solutions, to help guide veterans as they forge a new career outside the military. Additionally, Singh's firm works with different companies to attract and place highly-qualified veterans into both temporary and permanent positions.

In the sixteen years since he has left the service, Singh took a series of odd jobs, loaded UPS



Julien Singh of Crossroads Talent Solutions

trucks, and worked as a reserve police officer before forging a successful career in the corporate world. He spent years working as

Continued on page 5.



With thirty-one teams and 226 participants, PREL raised more than \$70,000, for a nine-year total of over \$750,000. Donations for 2014 can be made until August by contacting the co-chair Chontelle Hockenbery at chockenbery@verizon.net.



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Town of Poolesville Town Government Meeting

By Rande Davis

Recommending Approval of a Grant Block Program

Town Manager Wade Yost recommended a town resolution to allow Poolesville residents to qualify for a county community block grant program which would make up to a total of \$25,000 per year available to low-income individuals for home repair assistance. Currently, without this action from the commissioners, Poolesville residents do not qualify for the program.

Senior Citizens Committee Appointments

The commissioners voted to approve members of the Poolesville Area Senior Committee. They are Gene Bennett, Jackie Konkus, Rich Norwood, Maria Briancon, Carolyn Repass, Carl Brill, and Martha Williams.

Sale of Town Lots

A contract to purchase two town lots has been submitted by Jamison Real Estate on behalf of a buyer. Noting the price offered was within an acceptable range of the asking price, the commissioner voted to approve the contract provided the contract meets with the approval of the town attorney and there is more clarity that both parties will split closing costs.

Update on Tractor Supply and Dollar General

Wade Yost reported that CVS is approving parking lot changes for the development of Tractor Supply, which is a requirement in the CVS property lease. He also reported that new sonar survey of the storm water pipe system verifies that the project can move forward without the supposed additional expenses to the Dollar General. It is expected that both projects can now move ahead to completion.

Local News

Not Just a Pretty Face or A Popular Name

By Rande Davis

The Poolesville Day Committee is soliciting nominations for the important position of Grand Marshall for the Poolesville Day parade. Entry forms are available on the committee website, www.poolesvilleday.com.

Every year, a grand marshal is selected to be a part of the Poolesville Day Parade. This position is far more than simply a pretty face or a popular name to headline the parade. In fact, the concept of a grand marshal to lead a parade has long roots. In medieval times, grand marshals were high-level dignitaries who were chosen to lead a parade or celebration, often before major jousting events. In the military, marshals are often the highest-ranking officers in a country, often outranking generals.

The essence of a grand marshal can be seen in both the positions of those who are selected to assume the title and the reverence attached to their role. They are people of great status in their societies whether military or civilian. They are honored for accomplishing more than most of their peers, but, more than that, they are often viewed as putting the society or the organization they represent in the best possible light.

This can all seem a little corny, but the grand marshal in the Poolesville Day Parade is far more than simply a title bestowed on a worthy individual; it is an attempt to honor some of the most worthy individuals in our town who reflect in significant ways important aspects of who we are as a community. The grand marshal is not just a title; it is a meaningful and important part of the Poolesville Day celebration.

Many notable individuals have served as Poolesville Day Grand Marshals over the years, including Maggie Nightingale, Roy Selby and Betty Jean Selby, Ray Hoewing, and Jim Brown.



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Commentary

In Their Order Of Priority

By John Clayton

The June 24 Democratic primary election is, with all due respect to Montgomery County Republicans, where the county council seats will probably be decided. Nothing I can say will change that fact, and for better or for worse, the reality of one-party rule looms large over Montgomery County elections. The county is the most populous county in the state, and as such, our county council along with the county executive have a lot to do with our future quality of life. Out here in the Agricultural Reserve, there used to be a District 2 that ran all the way across the "top" of the county, so that it was all under one district. As of the last redistricting, this is no longer true, and the greater Poolersville area and pretty much everyone out here south of Maryland Route 28 are presently represented by Robert Berliner in District 1, and everyone north of Route 28, broadly speaking, continues to be in District 2, represented by Craig Rice, the current council president. We are all represented by three At-Large council representatives. We get to vote for the representative in our district and three At-Large candidates.

I have tried to draw from each candidate's website the issues that they represent as being most important, assuming that the order of issues they presented means something. The election is June 24. Candidates are in alphabetical order.

District 1

Roger Berliner, Bethesda

Pepco's reliability; Make Montgomery County a more sustainable community; Environment: Protect Ten Mile Creek; Protect our trees; Solar energy; Next generation of transit; McMansion legislation; Protect residential communities; Reduce energy taxes; Smart growth; Economic development, innovation, and efficiency.

Duchy Trachtenberg, Rockville

Creating jobs and economic development; Education; Health and human services; Domestic violence; Transportation; Environment; Agriculture and rural Montgomery; Affordable and quality housing; Arts and entertainment.

District 2

Neda Bolourian, Gaithersburg

Income inequality; Education; Equality; Taxes (too high); Environmental justice; Transportation; Accountability for elected representatives.

Craig Rice, Germantown

Job creation and the economy; Education; Public safety; Environment; Community; Transportation.

At Large

Beth Daly, Comus

Traffic and transportation; Responsible growth; Affordable housing; Schools and libraries; Environment.

Marc Elrich, Takoma Park

Budget; Education; Environment; Growth and planning; Housing; Transportation.

Nancy Floreen, Garrett Park

Job creation; Education; Smart growth; Protecting existing communities; Growth and the environment; Transportation priorities; Helping the neediest residents.

George Leventhal, Takoma Park

Access to healthcare; Health reform; Protect the rights of the individual; Environment; Sustainable living.

Vivian Malloy, Olney

Healthcare; Education; Infrastructure and small business; School safety; Seniors, veterans, disabled; Protecting our environment; Public transportation; Development.

Hans Reimer, Takoma Park

Public education; Healthy tax base and great jobs; High-quality, affordable childcare; Protect streams and tree canopy; Build public transportation and focus our future development around it.

Rande(m) Thoughts

Happy Trails to You

By Rande Davis

What is your best way to get unwanted guests to leave? Let's face it, sometimes people outstay their welcome. That doesn't mean you didn't enjoy their visit or that you were unhappy they came. It only means that, sooner or later, everything runs its course, and every party needs to come to a close. When the stragglers don't leave even though most everyone else has departed, how do you give them the message that tomorrow is another day and it may be best to prepare to enjoy it right now?

Simple honesty is still the best way, but prior to blurting out, "Hey, the party is over, time to go—now," it might be nicer to give hints. A little picking up of dishes and glasses might work. Nodding off in mid-conversation or yawning until your jaw cracks, usually works well without saying a word. Asking about their plans for the next day and wondering if

they have to get up early, might get them thinking in the right direction as well.

I ask this because sometimes when people are no longer wanted, hints are given before an actual demand to leave is blurted out. I think the State of Maryland has for a long time now been hinting around that senior citizens are no longer valued and wanted. State officials have not exactly said as much, but while other states seem to be begging senior citizens to move there, Maryland essentially doesn't say a word. Silence can be very revealing, can't it? Other states say, "Come on down, we won't tax your pension, your property taxes will be a lot lower. On top of that, since we haven't spent our way into oblivion, the cost of living will be much more reasonable. Cost of homes, food, transportation is much more like the old days here."

I recently learned a disturbing comparison between Maryland and Florida. The population of Florida is four times greater than Maryland. If Florida were to spend like Maryland, its budget would be

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Crossroads Talent Solutions

a senior analyst for a key government agency and then as a recruiter in the private sector. Singh has both domestic and international experience in security operations, project management, intelligence analysis, proposal and corporate recruiting, leadership, and mentoring.

When Singh decided he needed a career change, he knew he wanted to do something to give back to veterans. He felt that it wasn't fair that people were leaving the military without any transition help. As both a veteran and a recruiter, Singh is uniquely qualified to help others who currently wear the same shoes he once wore.

Today, the military does offer a mandatory transition program, but Singh states it is not up-to-par with what will make veterans successful in the private sector. Singh describes one recent client who came to him for help. She had a ten-year gap on her resume. The client explained that she was told in the transition program that the information wasn't necessary because it wasn't relevant. "A hiring manager will see that gap and the resume won't get a second look," said Singh. He adds that even if the person was going to school, or working part-time, the applicant must fill in the gap so the employer won't think the applicant is hiding something.

Many veterans have no idea how to create a resume that will garner the attention of potential employers. They may leave crucial details off their resumes that will cause potential employers to disregard an application. Singh draws on his experiences as an employment recruiter to guide his clients on how to generate a resume that highlights an applicant's skills and assets. In today's competitive job market, Singh believes it is crucial for applicants to know how to stand out from the crowd.

Singh said that many veterans tend to use military terminology on their resumes that isn't applicable in the private sector. The applicant may need help demilitarizing his/her vocabulary into regular English.

There are all different kinds of career paths a veteran can choose after leaving the military. Singh works with both veterans and businesses to translate military experi-

ences into desirable job skills. He assists the veterans in deciding where they want to go and gives advice on what steps they should take to meet their goals.

As an experienced recruiter, Singh knows what potential employers are looking for on an applicant's resume. For instance, a veteran who drove a Humvee while serving may be an excellent truck driving candidate.

In addition to having an excellent resume, Singh's best advice for veterans looking for job search help is to have an appropriate social media presence. "Let yourself be known in a positive way," Singh emphasizes. "Be out there and be noticed." Almost all recruiters now rely on LinkedIn to search for potential employees. Singh said to add buzzwords to your profile and to include a nice picture. "A profile without a picture won't get noticed," said Singh. "Get your name on job boards and get your email address out there so that companies can find you."

In addition to working directly with veterans, Crossroads Talent Solutions helps companies realize the benefits that veterans will bring to their workforce. Recently, Singh served on a panel led by MNR Consultants to discuss issues related to military-to-civilian transitions. Singh notes that veterans already come to the table with built-in work ethics, and leadership and teamwork skills because of their military training.

Once a week, Singh participates in lunch-and-learn sessions with his mentor, Brendan Wright, a former Marine with twenty years of experience as an executive recruiter. They discuss various aspects and issues of recruiting veterans.

Although Singh's firm specializes in placing qualified veterans into available positions, he also works with non-veterans, as well. When a company reaches out to Singh in search of candidates for a specific position, he will search his available pool of veterans first before checking into the regular pool of candidates. His goal is to get qualified veterans into the mix of applicants.

Singh resides in Poolesville with his wife and two boys. He is an active member of the Izaak Walton League and enjoys volunteering there with his boys in his spare time.

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Things To Do

HMD Photo 2014 Contest

"Architecture in the Agricultural Reserve." The subject can include buildings or a small detail of a structure; gardens; bridges; sculpture or anything else emphasizing architecture. Contest is open to all. Entry forms are on the back porch at the John Poole House or from Maureen O'Connell at 301-972-8307 or MAFOConnell@msn.com. Deadline: June 30.

June 14

Special Event at

Asian House of Poolesville

Public Retirement Party for PES Employees: Bill Harris (39 years), Aileen Dunkleberger, Michael Tibbs, and David Weisberg. Cake and snacks. 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Wounded Warrior

Outing at White's Ferry

Join in for a day of fishing, food, and fun with music and games to show appreciation for wounded warriors and their families. This social event is also a fundraiser to benefit Fisher House Foundation and Yellow Ribbon Fund. Bring your fishing rod, chairs, and a side dish to share. White's Ferry pavilion. 11:00 a.m.

UMCVFD Pit Barbeque

Fire Hall in Beallsville. 11:00 a.m. until sold out

PASC Activity

Special performance: *Julia Child—Queen of Cuisine* by award winning actress Mary Ann Jung, a Smithsonian scholar whose appearances include CNN, *The Today Show*, and *Good Morning America*. 17550 West Willard Road. 7:00 p.m.

June 15

The Blue Hearth

Father's Day Special Event

June 16

Poolesville

Commissioners' Meeting

Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

June 18

PASC Activity

Senior Center Program. Ethical Wills Workshop with Linda Tebelman, LCSW, Montgomery Hospice. Writing exercises to inspire us to create an Ethical Will. Poolesville Baptist Church Family Life Center. 1:00 p.m.

June 19

Therapeutic Massage as Medicine

Interactive (optional) demo from rep of Family & Nursing Care. Poolesville Baptist Church. 1:00 p.m.

June 25

PASC Activity Zumba Gold

Senior Center. Zumba with Karen McPhatter. Poolesville Baptist Church. 1:00 p.m.

Financial Long Term

Care Planning Seminar

Momodou Bojang, Axiom Value Insurance & Financial Services. Poolesville Town Hall. 7:00 p.m.

June 26

PASC Activity

Senior Center Special. Warning signs of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder (COPD) with Maryland Collaborative Care. Poolesville Baptist Church. 1:00 p.m.

June 28

Odd Fellows #97

Annual Picnic for Seniors

Chicken and ham meal with sides, drinks, entertainment. Memorial United Methodist Church, Elgin Road. RSVP to Rich Norwood at 301-349-5103. 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

June 23 to 27

St. Peter's Episcopal

Church Vacation Bible School

Theme: Weird Animals—Where Jesus' Love is One-of-a-Kind. Four-year-olds to fifth graders. 12:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

June 28 and 29

Montgomery County Heritage Days 2014

Countywide auto tour of history with forty historical, educational, entertaining, and fun-filled sites for the whole family. Sites are open from noon to 4:00 p.m. each day. Plan a full weekend or just visit the local sites, including the John Poole House, the Old Town Hall Bank Museum, Seneca Schoolhouse, Sugarland Ethno-History Project's historic St. Paul Community Church, Edwards Ferry C&O Lockhouse, the Boyds Negro School, Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard, White's Ferry, Hyattstown Mill Arts Project, and the Warren Church and Historic site. Complete brochure available at retailers and online at heritagemontgomery.org.

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Garden

Flower Farm Business Blooms

By Maureen O'Connell

Ask Melane Hoffmann her occupation, and she will tell you that she is a farmer and her crops are flowers. Melane, her husband Tom, and their three children live on Hidden Ridge Farm in Clarksburg. For the many years that I have known Melane, she worked outside the home while devoting many hours to her children's schools and sporting activities and to local community causes, so last year, when I heard that she had started a commercial flower business, I was curious about her new venture. I recently visited Melane to tour her flower farm and to talk about her new business career.

You often hear about people who make a career change at that certain time of life called mid-life. It doesn't always have to be a mid-life crisis or a reaction to an empty nest. Melane was in that

stage of life when she wanted to do something different. Her children were grown, and she now had the time to travel down a new pathway. That pathway led to flowers. Melane and her family have lived for over twenty years in Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve, and she strongly supports its tenets and goals. It is considered the country's most successful farmland preservation program. The county has many large farms growing wheat, soybeans, hay, and vegetables, and others raising cattle, but there are many small, family-run farms that add immensely to the value of the Agricultural Reserve. Melane believes that her small, two-acre flower farm is a very viable addition to the preservation of farmland and to the Agricultural Reserve. She also sees her business as a means to provide local students a fair-wage job opportunity. To this end, she employs two students from Clarksburg High School's Horticultural Program. They work two days a week, on their own time, not school time,

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School News

They Did It

By Dmitri Agnew

June 2, 2014 marked the date when the young seniors of Poolesville High School transformed into the men and women of this great society we call America. The graduation opened with the PHS concert band playing "Pomp and Circumstance" as the graduates all filed into the Mt. Saint Mary's University gym two-by-two to their seats. Senior Whitney Carmack, Class of 2014 vice president, invited the concert band to play the "Star-Spangled Banner." Following this tribute, senior Charles Lyles, Class of 2014 vice president, introduced the principal: Miss Deena Levine. Miss Levine introduced the distinguished guests of the graduation and welcomed all the people in the audience to the 2014 graduation of PHS. After Miss Levine's introduction speech, the Class of 2014 secretary, Marie Jankowski, introduced the commencement speaker: Mr. Stephen Swift, a teacher retired from PHS.

Mr. Swift spoke eloquently to the Class of 2014 along with anybody else who would take his words to heart. He advised the students against the dangers of laziness, procrastination, and idleness. "You're likely to have more challenges than cakewalks," he said. He spoke of the importance of individuality (ironically, to a crowd of people all dressed identically) as well as the pursuit of knowledge. In a memorable quote of Cat Stevens, Swift said, "Your identity is the thing you never stop becoming." Swift spoke of a single important moment in his life that stuck with him nearly fifty years later and the importance of how something seemingly small and meaningless can stay with a person for a lifetime. He closed with the words spoken to him in that memory crystallized as if in amber, "God bless you."

When Swift concluded his speech to loud applause, the Class of 2014 treasurer, Craig Morton, welcomed the senior class vocalist, Deepti Konduru, who sang "It's So Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday" beautifully to a captivated audience which answered with frenzied

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Profile

The Best Job In the World

By John Clayton

Twelve years ago, a local woman—a self-described city slicker, a kid from Rhode Island, a graduate of Yale University and the University of Michigan, and an accomplished web developer—bought a farm in Boyds which she turned into an animal sanctuary: Star Gazing Farm Animal Sanctuary. She had some sheep, and about two years later she thought it might be nice to be able to shear them herself. After all, she was dedicated to the welfare of animals of all kinds, so it fit in nicely with her other pursuits, and who knows, it might even be good exercise.

This is the process that initially started Anne Schroeder on the path to becoming an extremely busy sheep and alpaca shearer. She heard about a shearing school, which was “the coolest thing I had ever heard,” and after she received that training she started shearing her own sheep. She said that her neighbors then asked her if she could shear their sheep, but she really didn’t feel confident enough in her skills and experience to take that step, and she told them, “I don’t really know how.” They replied, “That’s okay, we just need them sheared.” Then more people called, and then a few more, and what was once almost a hobby, an intention to be more self-sufficient on her own farm, became a full-time job.

Schroeder, or Farmer Anne as she is more widely known,

insists that while this is the best job in the world—wrestling occasionally uncooperative animals which at best are two-hundred-pound dead weights—it is a service, not a business. At the start, when she complied with those friendly-neighbor requests, she would just go and shear one or two sheep here or there. This is indeed a service, because as any owner of a small flock will attest, it is hard to find a shearer who will travel to your farm for just a few animals. Ten years later, she has over 175 clients in five states, assisting clients in this immediate area, Southern Maryland, the Eastern Shore including Delaware, the Shenandoah region of Virginia, Southern Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

As the sheep service started to expand, she also took an advanced shearing course, and learned how to shear alpacas, which she began shearing in 2006, which is about when things really began to take off. In fact, “They exploded.” The job is full-time March to June, and while she also shears some llamas and goats, her primary service (this might be a business) is sheep and alpacas. She sees her hard-earned shearing fees as a source of income for her farm, and she is presently saving up money from shearing to build a new barn for her sanctuary.

Her service is primarily word of mouth, and while she hasn’t had much luck with advertising, her website (stargazingfarm.org/services/shearing) has brought in new clients, and increasingly she finds herself shearing production flocks of larger and larger numbers of animals, often using an assistant for alpacas or the larger flocks of sheep. Farmer Anne still promises

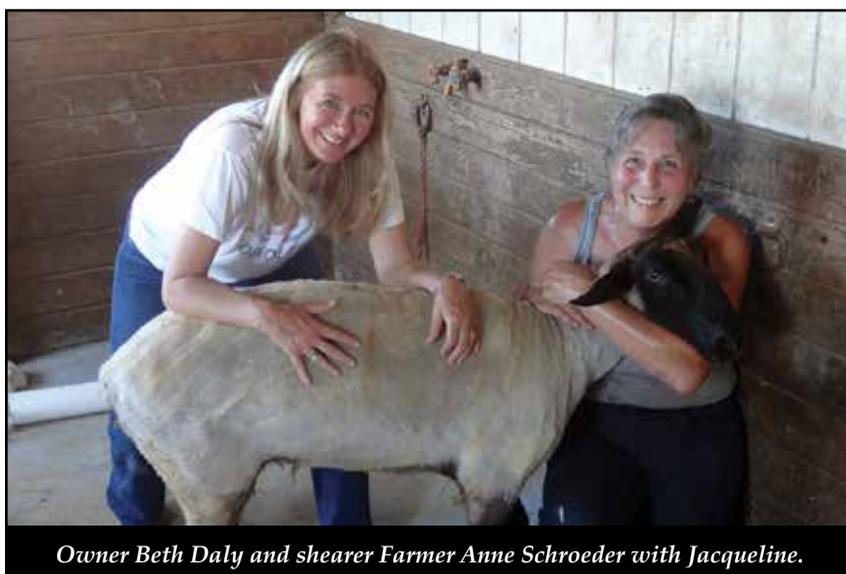
on her website, however, to show up for only one or two animals as long as it is in her travel area.

Opportunities for shearers abound across the country and even the globe. Schroeder says that while the population of shearers has grown somewhat in our area, and many are women, shearers are frequently scarce. She said she would love to act on open opportunities to travel out west and shear, but that is difficult to do as she is responsible for the relentless day-to-day needs of her farm.

One of her more ambitious dreams would be to go to a week-long professional shearing school

in New Zealand, where she said that everyone she knows that has gone there “comes back a different shearer.” Unfortunately, that trip is made difficult by those familiar limiting factors, time and money, to say nothing of the aforementioned farm requirements.

Schroeder says the work is “sweaty, dirty, hard, often frustrating, and you hurt when you get home,” but it is also “incredibly satisfying. It is the best job in the world, and even when it’s a really hard job, I love it.” Besides, she asks, where else can you do something you love and “leave behind a trail of naked animals?”



Owner Beth Daly and shearer Farmer Anne Schroeder with Jacqueline.

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Local News

Update on State Matters

By Rande Davis

State Senator Brian Feldman and Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo provided the annual update on state matters at the June 2 town meeting. Feldman noted that the legislature was very busy handling a thousand bills in the Senate and another fifteen hundred in the House of Delegates.

He began on a positive footing stating that the state is the wealthiest in the nation, continues to enjoy a triple-A bond rating, and has unemployment levels at five percent. He credits the educational level of the citizens for much of the state's success. He also mentioned that, by law, the state must balance the budget each year through sales tax and personal income tax.

Senator Feldman further emphasized the need for tax reform so the state could become more competitive, especially with Northern Virginia. He was encouraged by reform to the state estate tax but remarked that its full benefit will take five years to be realized.

Last year, he sponsored legislation for the state to complete a thorough review of the state's tax structure, something that has not been done 1987. While the legislation did not pass his bill, there is a private sector group being put together that may be able to do a similar review.

He touted Delegate Kathleen Dumais's successful legislation to expand penalties for child abusers who expose violence to children. Additionally, he applauded the passing of a bill allowing farmers to use up to five percent of their land for renewable energy that will help sustain their farms by providing them with additional income.

Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo, in speaking about the annual 32,000 motor vehicle accidents caused by hitting deer, spoke about a bill that will facilitate bow hunting to reduce deer population. The bill would lower the minimum safety zone for deer hunting in

Montgomery County from 150 yards to 100 yards from dwellings or other occupied buildings. Commissioner Chuck Stump inquired about ways the state delegation could assist to better use the local golf course to help the local economy. Senator Feldman commented that the state has begun looking into passing a bill to make it easier to process wine, one of the commercial uses of the property near the golf course.

Commissioner Klobukowski inquired about fracking in the state, warning that to restrict it could also impact water availability as the fracking process is also used to expand well water flow. He also took the time to educate the state representatives on the continued need to keep the high school renovation on track for 2021.

Senator Feldman said that the school population increases by about two thousand students per year, the equivalent of having to build one new school per year.

Commissioners Halbrook and Dickerson voiced concern over state policy and the negative consequences on seniors, especially in allowing the state to tax pension income and the deleterious impact that pension tax has on retired senior citizens. Fraser-Hidalgo, while not offering any ideas for a solution, did confirm he has been hearing this concern from many citizens and believes that the increased dialogue on the issue is the first step to getting reform.

Commissioner Brown expressed his disgust with the loss of \$150 million dollars on a failed affordable care act computer system and the additional cost of having to run a new system similar to the one used in Connecticut. He wanted to know why no one has been held accountable.

A discussion of the increase in Maryland residents leaving the state turned into a more extensive discussion on the issue, especially as it concerns retirees. Feldman pointed out that since the state is not losing population, others are coming in to replace them. Feldman questioned the validity of a poll that shows forty-seven percent of Marylanders would leave the state if they could, as he does not know the parameters of the poll used.



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Continued from page 1.

Poolesville's Solar Array

next generation on the importance of renewable energy sources."

State and county leaders joined the town commissioners at the ribbon-cutting ceremony to symbolically bring on board the electrical energy system. "The Town of Poolesville is among a select few forward-thinking municipalities in Maryland and throughout the U.S. that are taking steps toward a more sustainable future," said Tony Clifford, CEO of Standard Solar. "We commend Poolesville for being proactive in demonstrating the value and benefits of solar power to its residents and future leaders." He also noted that this is "a win, win, win for the town economically, ecologically, and educationally." Poolesville is the only municipality in Montgomery County—and one of the first three municipalities in Maryland—with its own fully-operational source of renewable solar energy.

County Executive Ike Leggett noted the descriptive use of the term "grinding it out," stating, "Poolesville is to be congratulated for going through the hard, costly, and time-consuming process and grinding it out through a difficult process. This experience is a model to other communities in the county and state and marks this as a defining moment for the town and county, and through the experience here in Poolesville, we can find a simpler process for the future."

State Senator Brian Feldman spoke of the pride of having this exemplary project come from Poolesville. "I love the fact that this comes from Montgomery County and that the town is out front in leading in

renewable energy." He also noted that Kuhlman alerted him to state restrictions that limited the usage of the system and promised to look into the matter so that the Poolesville project can become a pilot program to help remove some of those restrictions.

Also on hand to share in the celebration was county councilman Roger Berliner. He told the crowd, "What I love about being here at this moment is that Poolesville has a unique character and wonderful history, but at the same time you are able to achieve this kind of progressive end result. You are to be congratulated for honoring who you are and the core of yourself but still embracing the future in this way."

Chuck Miller of UGI, the Pennsylvania gas utility that financed the project, noted that he was excited and proud to partner with this exceptional town for the next twenty years.

Poolesville will still be served by Potomac Edison, but the solar panels will generate electricity to offset energy costs for the town hall, wastewater plant, and various water pump facilities. According to Poolesville officials, the new energy source is projected to save the town up to \$30,000 in its first year of operation.

Poolesville's solar array project was made possible, in part, by the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA), which has created incentives and limited upfront costs for renewable energy systems through Solar Power Purchase Agreements (SPPA). These efforts were implemented in order to help the State of Maryland realize its Renewable Portfolio Standard goal of twenty percent renewable energy generation by 2022.



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Tidbits

Congratulations to Two New Eagle Scouts

Brian Habib and Allan Beers, both of Poolesville, became the latest in a strong line of Poolesville area young men achieving Eagle Scout rank. Brian is the son of Donald and Denise Habib, and Allan is the son of Allan and Anne Beers. The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America hosted the event on May 31, 2014.

Eagle Scouts must achieve the rank of Life Scout and earn twenty-one merit badges or more. Additionally, they must complete a significantly-important project to the benefit of the community or worthy groups in their area. Brian chose to provide a new Civil War fencing in front of the John Poole House, creating a more open, welcoming appearance to the historical trading post. Allan restored a damaged wall in the historical church on West Willard Road that is now used as a Thrift Shop. The building was also a town hall and housed the headquarters of a Union signal corps during the Civil War.

In addition to the Eagle Scout rank, both young men received certificates of achievement from the Poolesville Daniel-Jeffers American Legion Post 247, the Town of Poolesville, and Brian also received a certificate of appreciation from the Historic Medley District, Inc., the guardians of the John Poole House.



Allan and Anne Beers with their son, new Eagle Scout Allan Beers, and Don and Denise Habib with their son, also a new Eagle Scout, Brian Habib.

Hm! Heritage Montgomery

Each year since 2004, Heritage Montgomery has hosted the Annual Heritage Days celebration on the last weekend of June, a countywide auto tour of history with forty historical, educational, entertaining, and fun-filled sites for the whole family. The sites are open from noon to 4:00 p.m. each day, and many are located right in our backyard.

John Poole House and Old Town Bank Museum: On Sunday only: A special presentation by local author Steve Vogel, "A Tale of Two Invasions." Vogel is the author of *The Pentagon* and *Through the Perilous Night—War of 1812*. Steve will speak about Montgomery County's role during two enemy attacks on the American capital: The British burning of Washington 200 years ago in August 1814, and Confederate Gen. Jubal Early's raid on Washington 150 years ago in July 1864. Come early for his meet-and-greet book signing at 1:00 p.m. and for his presentation at 1:30 on Sunday, June 29.

Saturday and Sunday: Special showing of Montgomery County Alliance's short film *Growing Legacy* and Heritage Montgomery's *Life in the War Zone*, an Emmy-winning film about life in Montgomery County during the Civil War.

Edwards Ferry Lockhouse: Historical C&O lockhouse open to the public both days. On Sunday only, enjoy a special performance by the highly-

talented and renowned banjoist Clarke Buehling, offering songs from the Civil War and Re-Construction Era.

St. Paul's Community Church in Sugarland: Featuring a 12:45 p.m. first-person interpretation of Nettie Branison-Johnson, a turn-of-the-century midwife, and at 1:30 p.m., a concert by the Ladies Ensemble Gospel Choir.

Warren Church and Historic Site: Special history presentations by the Rev. Joseph Trammel at 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Hyattstown Mill Arts Project: Enjoy stone carvings and crafts for children and musical entertainment by the band Shortbread.

Boyd's Negro School: This one-room structure served as the sole public school for African American children in the Boyds area from 1895-1936. Watch the *Boyd's Negro School: Historic Lives* video. Special children's activities include calligraphy writing, making button necklaces, and playing with marbles and horseshoes.

King Barn Dairy MOOseum: A new model milk train exhibit depicts how milk was transported from farm to city. Milk the model cow and see the hundred-year old restored milk wagon, exhibits, and demonstrations. Balloon Man will entertain children from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Crafts and children's activities.

Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard: Visit Montgomery County's only vineyard/winery. The eighty-five-acre farm includes a restored red barn, silo, and windmill, and abuts the scenic Sugarloaf Mountain, a Registered National Landmark. Fermentation and barrel rooms tours both days at 12:30 p.m. There is a charge for wine tastings.

Seneca Schoolhouse Museum: Take a step back in time at this nineteenth-century one-room schoolhouse. An 1880s-era class will be in session with a period-costumed teacher. Enjoy classroom activities, games, and refreshments.

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Live Band at 8:30 p.m.

June 14: Beyond Blues Band 8:30 p.m.

June 20: DJ Slim Pickens

June 21: Mott Squad on Patio – 4:00 p.m.

Karaoke inside in the event

June 27: DJ Slim Pickens

June 28: Sidewalk Mule Band

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Remembrances

PHS Coach Jim Vollmer



PHS Cross Country Coach
Jim Vollmer

James H. Vollmer, 60, of Frederick, died suddenly on May 26 at his home. He was the husband of Sandra Long Vollmer.

Born November 11, 1953 in Annapolis, he was the son of Lourdes Correia Vollmer of Florida and the late Harold F. Vollmer.

Mr. Vollmer was a security guard and athletics coach for the Montgomery County Public Schools for thirty-five years. He was the head coach of the Poolesville High School Cross Country team and assistant track coach

at Watkins Mill High School, his alma mater. Coaching was a large part of Jim's life. In addition, he was commissioner for cross-country and track and field officials for the past thirty-two years. He was a member of the American Legion Post #11.

Kevin Milsted of MoCoRunning.com shared fond memories by calling him a treasure trove of information, a historian in his own right when it came to knowledge of the great track and field athletes dating back to the 1970s. What really put a gleam in Jim's eye was watching the athletes he coached achieve their very highest possible level. He loved to boast about his athletes as when he raved when Poolesville's Chase Weaverling shaved off 1:15 of the record, likely putting that record away for a long time.

In addition to his wife and mother, he is survived by two children, Kristin and Jessica of North Carolina, his siblings Richard Vollmer of Rhode Island, Michael Vollmer of Missouri, Debbie Stewart and husband James of Florida, and David Vollmer of Florida. Many nieces and nephews also survive.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Wildwood Baptist Church or the American Cancer Society.

William E. Klein

William Klein, born in June 1957 in Youngstown, Ohio, died June 4, 2014.

Bill was a graduate of Boston Latin School, and received degrees from Stonehill College, University of Massachusetts, and Boston University. He started his career as a child psychiatric worker, then as a registered nurse, and later became an electrical engineer and software consultant.



William E. Klein

Bill ran at least thirteen marathons. He enjoyed hiking, biking, and kite surfing. He was a woodworker and a

home beer brewer. Most of all, he loved being a father.

He is survived by his wife, Dr. Barbara A. Brookmyer, and their two sons, Gregory and Timothy, of Poolesville; his parents William S. and Mary T. Klein of Weymouth, Massachusetts; and his sister and brother-in-law, Brenda and Jim Blaise, his sister Theresa Klein, and his brother, Chris Klein.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Bill's memory to the Gathering Place Senior Center, 19520 Darnestown Road, Beallsville, MD 20839; Upper Montgomery County VFD-Co 14, 19801 Beallsville Road, Beallsville, MD 20839; or Izaak Walton League of America, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter, 20601 Izaak Walton Way, Poolesville, MD 20837.

Michael S. Kolb

Michael S. Kolb peacefully passed away in the early morning hours of May 24 at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He was born in the small town of Souderton, Pennsylvania that was no match for his thirst of adventure. He joined the navy at the young age of sixteen and traveled the world while serving our country. He was quiet, but with a natural charm that was undeniable once you met him. He was kind, loving, and sensitive as much as sensible, incredibly thoughtful, terribly funny, and totally honest. He loved music and had a passion for life that was only matched by his dreams.

He met his wife Monica while traveling through Cuzco in Peru. They married in 1994 and, after a few years of living in the Pennsylvania area, moved to Poolesville, which he called home since 2001.



Michael S. Kolb

Together they had two children, Wyatt and Josie, who will forever remember him for his love and guidance, especially during the last years of his life.

Donations in lieu of flowers can be made to the Leukemia Lymphoma Society.

Patricia Webb Ahearn

On May 27, Patricia Ahearn passed away at her home in Dickerson, surrounded by family. She was the beloved wife of Allen Ahearn for fifty-five years. Pat was also the loving mother of Beth Fisher (Martin), of Middletown; Sue Regan (Ralph), of Smithsburg; Allen Ahearn, Jr. (Colleen), of Douglassville, Pennsylvania; and Dyanne Ryan (John), of Silver Spring.

Born in Virginia Beach June 26, 1937, she attended Northwestern High School where she co-edited the school paper and worked on the yearbooks and was a member of the Quill and Scroll Honor Society. She attended the University of Maryland. Pat was an active member in the 1960s and 1970s of St. Patrick's Church (Rockville) and the League of Women Voters. She coached girls' Catholic Youth Organization basketball (making the finals once) and also coached for the Olney Boys and Girls Club for many years. In 1976, she co-founded with Allen the Quill & Brush, a book-and-art store in Bethesda until 1987, when the business moved to their home in Rockville. A talented artist, she studied art at the Maryland School of Art and at the Corcoran, and illustrated the covers for many early Q&B catalogs. She co-authored with Allen seven books on book collecting and rare book values, and she edited and published several small-press literary editions and hundreds of Q&B collectible-book catalogs. She was preceded in death by her parents, Guy and Fidelis McLaughlin Webb; and brothers John, Robert, and Richard. In addition to her husband and children, she is survived by her brother Thomas Webb (Betty), of Dickerson; thirteen grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. She will be remembered for her fun-loving nature, quick wit, and love of a good story, whether or not it was true. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or to the Hospice of Frederick County.

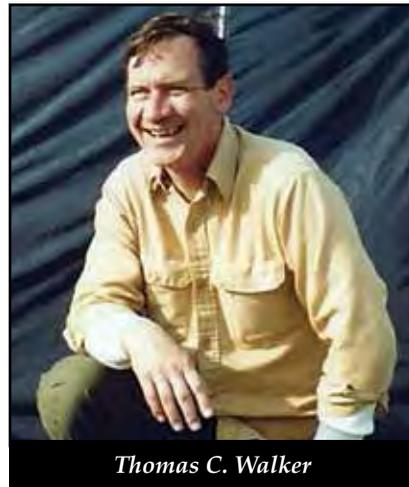


Flags were lowered June 5 In honor of:

Firefighter Robert Fogle, III, a 27-year veteran of the Baltimore County Fire Department, who died on May 3 as a result of injuries suffered in the line of duty.

Thomas C. Walker

Thomas C. Walker, 69, of Poolesville, died on May 23, 2014. He was the husband of Rosemary (Castellano) Walker. Born on August 13, 1944 in Teaneck, New Jersey, he was the son of the late Samuel C. and Helen (Maves) Walker. Surviving besides his wife are four children, Michael, David, and Stefanie Walker, and Leila Gale; two sisters, Mary Ellen and Judith Walker; and one granddaughter, Emily Gale. Tom was a member of the Izaak Walton League.



Thomas C. Walker

Shirley Arens Jackson Wildman

Shirley Arens Jackson Wildman died May 17, 2014 at the National Lutheran Home in Rockville. Born on July 20, 1926 in Cincinnati, Ohio, she was the daughter of the late Harold and Emily Huber Arens. Shirley moved to the Washington area as a bride in 1946. She was a resident of Germantown for thirty-five years before moving to Asbury Methodist village in 1998. She worked as an accountant in the Gaithersburg area for thirty years and retired from J. Daniel Rawlings, CPA firm in 1985. She then helped launch her sons' automotive repair business, Precision Auto Service in Germantown, where she was treasurer of the corporation before retiring a second time. She leaves behind her beloved son Mark A. Wildman and wife Mary Siegfried, as well as Cornelius H. A. and Jackie Wildman, and Andy and Robert Wildman, all of Darnestown. She was preceded in death by her first husband Charles M. Jackson and daughter Carol Ann Jackson.

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Youth Sports

Weaverling, Girls' 4x800 Show Well In Post-Season

By Jeff Stuart

Chase Weaverling finished first in the 3200 at the 2A State Track and Field Meet at Morgan State University on May 22. "It has been a great experience," said the senior distance runner of his four years at Poolesville. "Coming in my freshman year, I didn't know I really had such a talent for running. It's really been a great four years." In those years, Chase accumulated two state, two region, and one county indoor track championships; three state, three region, and one county outdoor championships; and one state, one region, and two county cross country championships. His very first win came in a dual cross country meet on September 27, 2011. In 2014, he set personal bests in the 800, 1600, and 3200, both indoor and outdoor, and in the mile.

At practice before the state meet, senior Chelsie Pennello said of her four years, "Honestly, it's been like a roller coaster. I have had my ups and downs, but I'm going to be running in college next year for Syracuse, so I'm looking forward to that. Our 4x800 relay team is trying to win the states. We took second at the regional. Our 4x8 won the county. Anytime we run the 4x8, it's special." The 4x800 (Pennello, Denise Larson, Theresa Nardone, and Claire Beautz) took third in the states in 9:29.73. They hold the school record in the event. Chelsea took sixth in the 800 in a personal best of 2:20.54 and came close to a personal best, finishing seventh in the 1600. She has persevered through injuries. "Chelsie has worked hard and fought back to find her groove from sophomore year, running times equivalent to her 2012 campaign in the 1600m and 800m. She is a key part of the 4x800 and 4x400 relays, as well," said Head Coach Mike Trumbull.

"I'm finally getting my hurdles form correct," said junior Josh Cocker. "Everything was a



2014 PHS Varsity Outdoor Track team

At the Pikesville track classic on April 5, Weaverling, who is going to the University of Virginia to run cross country and track, lowered his own school record in the 3200, finishing second overall in 9:12.60. Junior Claire Beautz lowered her school record at that meet as well in the 3200, finishing fourth in 11:06.72. Beautz placed sixth in the 3200 at states and tenth in the 1600.

personal best. There was big improvement. Coming back to track, I kind of missed everyone. I played lacrosse last year." He qualified for the 300 hurdles in the state. Josh placed second in the region and ninth in the state.

"Josh made an immediate impact in the 300 hurdles," said Trumbull, "and Sophia Coates

Continued on page 15.

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Current Crime

Assault: 19200 block of Hempstone Avenue, 20100 block of Fisher Avenue, 21100 block of Westerly Road.

Theft from vehicle: 17500 block of W. Willard Road, 19700 block of Wootton Avenue.

Theft: 18300 block of Cattail Road.

Drug use complaint: 17300 block of Dowden Circle.

Past Crime

June 15, 1962 A man who told a judge that his motto was "hit hard and run fast" was sentenced to six months in the county jail for failing to pay a \$2.37 bill at the Bethesda Hot Shoppes. Frank Wilson, Jr. had ordered a filet mignon meal but left without paying for it. Wilson told police that his occupation was "bum" and his skills included "stealing." After arriving at jail, he was assigned to a work crew on Seneca Road, Wilson escaped and was found hiding in the woods near Poolesville.

June 18, 1961 The end of the school year brought brawls and disorderly conduct at several county high schools. At Peary High School in Rockville, students stormed through hallways setting off fireworks and shooting fire extinguishers. Police were called to break up two fights, one involving eight girls who were battling on the front lawn and another where

a group of boys were slugging it out. Police announced that students "were letting off steam" in celebration of the end of classes.

June 18, 1961 Juvenile Court Judge Alfred Noyes went on a tirade during a hearing for six Walter Johnson High School students who had been ticketed for speeding near the school. Judge Noyes called for the legislature to pass a law prohibiting those under eighteen from driving after dark. He also called on parents to limit their children's driving to necessary errands. Judge Noyes also asked principals to prohibit students from driving to school.

June 23, 1961 A twenty-year-old defendant who had just been sentenced to a year in jail broke away from sheriff's deputies in a courtroom and ran through the streets of Rockville. Police and deputies eventually captured him hiding in a small wooded area. The man had been found guilty of shooting out the windows of several stores. Several weeks later, the man was indicted on escape charges.

June 25, 1961 A lookout was placed by Montgomery County Police for a fifty-six-year-old chauffeur. Police said that the man had attacked two women with a hammer inside their Kenwood area home. He stole cash from the house and fled. He was a former employee of one of the women but had left her employ two years before.

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

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They Did It

cheering and applause. Then Patrick Krisko, Class of 2014 Historian, announced the senior speaker, Dhruv Shankar.

Dhruv's speech was a reminiscence of high school with its up and downs. From World History notes to AP exams to finally graduating, Dhruv took the seniors on a trip back through four years of high school filled with nostalgia but definitely without regret. Dhruv at one point said, "Poolesville High School is ranked number one by *U.S. News and World Report*, the *Washington Post*—and, of course, the *Monocacy Monocle*." For obvious reasons, that tidbit of information found its way in this article. Dhruv's emotion-wrought speech brought a metaphorical tear to many a person in the audience.

After the student speaker took his bow, up came the senior class of

2014 president, Mitchell Poe, for the mantle ceremony. Next on stage was assistant principal Ms. Jacqueline Orrence to announce the top five percent of students from the senior class for the Governor's Merit Scholastic Award: Pushkar Aggarwal, Ayush Goyal, Andre Guzman, Vincent Hsiao, Junye Kang, Edward Liang, Eshwar Manoharan, Nathan Olaiya, Alaina Pak, Conner Pike, Eleanore Ritter, Ashwin Sekar, Dhruv Shankar, Vinay Sriram, Courtney Steininger, Rosalyn Xu, and Sarah Yang. This award is an outstanding feat, and these students worked hard to achieve this award of excellence. Miss Deena Levine returned to the stage for the presentation of diplomas. The graduates processed to receive their diplomas while friends and family in the audience competed to be the loudest supporters. The 2014 Graduation Ceremony closed with the tassel ceremony, led by Fangfei Lin, the Leadership Team Representative.



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Girls' 4x800 In Post-Season

was a nice surprise in the long jump. She had a great final leap at regionals that springboarded her into the states." Coates jumped a personal best 16'06" to finish fourth in the state.

"It's been great," said Coates, a senior. "Track was just something I focused on. I have always done it, and I love the team atmosphere. Everyone likes to cheer each other on. I like to try new events." She has run the 400m dash, the 800m, 1600m, and 3200m runs, and thrown the discus.

Sophia placed third in the tetra-athlon (400m-third, 1500m-third, discus-fifth, and long jump-first) at the Katie Jenkins Invitational on May 3.

"Senior Rebecca Basehore decided to try high jump last year for fun," said the coach. "She qualified for states with a 4'10" leap at regionals." Basehore placed first in the Montgomery County B Championships and placed seventh in the state with another 4'10" jump.

"Freshman Theresa Nardone has taken this year by storm," said Trumbull, "running phenomenal times in the 1600 and 800. She is

a big leg in the 4x800 and 4x400 relays, and sophomore Sayaka Vaules is the first girls' sprinter in the 100 and 200 in nearly five years to make states for us. She saved her best for the regional meet and ran personal bests to qualify this year."

The boys' 4x800 relay team (Weaverling, Matthew Psaltakis, Elan Guzman, and William Stamm) finished fourth in the state. The girls' 4x400 (Pennello, Nardone, Sarah Onderko, and Rachel Kitchen) finished eighth. The boys' 4x400 (Nick Eppard, Cocker, Guzman, and Stamm) finished sixth in the region. The

boys' 4x200 (Jesse Stevens, Seungkyoon Bong, Jonathan Garagiola, and Cocker) set a personal best at the region final.

"Junior Allyson Convers decided to try track this year and did real well in the 300 hurdles, finishing fourth in the regionals with a personal best that qualified her for the state meet," added Coach Trumbull. "We had a great regional meet and qualified more to states than we have the past few years which is exciting. These kids have definitely earned it with the hard work they have put in all season."

Continued from page 7.

Flower Farm Business

weeding, handpicking harmful bugs, such as Japanese beetles, harvesting the flowers, and preparing floral bouquets. Melane teaches them about the plants, the good/bad bugs, and cultural methods of flower farming that protect the environment. For any students who might be interested in horticulture as a career, Melane offers them a valuable hands-on exposure to this line of work.

How does one get into growing flowers as a business? You first have to do your homework, and Melane did. You have to know plants. Which ones do best in our climate and our pest environment? Is there a market for your products? How much time and money can be put into this? Do you want to grow organically or chemically?

I asked Melane how she went about creating her flower farm. The first thing she had to address was her soil type. Was it alkaline, acidic, loamy, hard-clay, or rocky? Melane was lucky, her allotted garden plot was previously a hay field; it was loamy, but very rocky. The large pile of stones in the far area of the garden area attributed to this fact. In her first business year, she had to buy seeds or flower plugs to get started; this can be very time and labor consuming. This year, she had stock available from cuttings last year and transplants from growing perennials. Melane does not mulch her garden plots. She says it can be counterproductive and very costly. How does she water her plants? She does have a series of irrigation hoses throughout the plots, but she deliberately chooses plants that are drought tolerant. The bad bugs, like the Japanese beetles, can decimate a flower garden in a short amount of time, and diseases can reduce their flower output and significantly weaken a plant. Melane's flower gardens are one hundred percent organic. She does not use any chemicals to control pests and diseases. I asked her how she deals with our area's outstanding nemesis, the Japanese Beetle. Sheer manpower and buckets of soapy water. As needs be, she and her student workers pick them from the plants and drown them in the water. That does work, but it is very labor intensive.



Melane Hoffman

Melane practices what she speaks. She does not use synthetic fertilizers. Why waste money on commercial fertilizers when your kitchen vegetable scraps, grass clippings, and fall leaves provide you the best fertilizer for free?

How did Melane select the flowers she was going to grow? She had an advantage in this area: For years she had beautiful home gardens. Through experience, she knew which plants would do well in our environment. They would have to survive in high summer temperatures, humidity, and drought conditions. They would have to face Japanese beetles, rose slugs, thrips, leaf miners, and more hungry insects. The key to a successful garden is the ability to choose the right plant for the right place.

Melane is now starting her second year in the flower business. Is it profitable? Is the time input worth the monetary return? Where does she sell her flowers? What are her plans for the future?

Melane said that when she began this business, a fellow flower farmer advised her: "Don't give up after the first year. It takes time for any business to grow, and the flower business is no different." After slim monetary returns last year, with start-up costs, soil preparation costs, garden supplies, and inventory costs, she thinks she might see a slight profit this year—but money is not what motivates Melane. As anyone who is into gardening knows, the return is that special connection to nature and your ability, as small as it might be, to contribute to the betterment of the environment.

Where can you buy Melane's flowers? Currently, you can find her floral bouquets at Kingsbury's Orchards and Lewis Orchards, both on Peach Tree Road, Dickerson. You can also pick up subscription bouquets at Novel Places Bookstore in Clarksburg.

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Happy Trails to You

\$152 billion dollars. Yet, Florida's budget is half that. It's \$70 billion compared to Maryland's \$38 billion. With four times the people, it spends only twice as much. Pity the poor people of Florida whose homes must burn down for lack of a fire department or get burglarized for lack of police protection. I am pretty sure the kids don't go any further in school than the eighth grade, too.

Why is this happening? I think I know why, and it disturbs me very much to think that I might be right. It's happening because Maryland does not want the seniors to stay even though state officials are too timid to just blurt out: It's time to go. They prefer to hint around.

Every time a senior couple vacates a house to retire somewhere else, their home is sold (the housing market is still vibrant here, primarily due to its proximity to the Federal government). The new couple is nearly always much younger, with both adults working and a household income far greater than the old folks'. Additionally, since

the younger couple earns more, they spend more, too. Since the state revenue comes mostly from personal income tax and state sales tax, replacing an old couple with a younger couple is a win-win for the state. Add to that the reduction in social services for the old folks like Medicaid, the budget crunchers, especially those who cannot ever fathom reducing costs, are pleased the old folks are gone. As the old geezers leave, state budget managers whistle "Happy Trails to You." Roy and Dale are sick to heart. If you are too young to know the song or don't understand that last sentence, Google it.

Words of emotion are meaningless. They can say they love the old folks till they are blue in the face. The cold fact is that through its actions, the state shows what it values. It shows its priority by what it financially supports, either by money spent or taxes reduced. If you are a candidate for the AARP, it's quite clear. Maryland, through its policies, priorities, and actions, speaks its priorities louder than words. It is just like Maryland politicians saying to Mom and Dad, "It's time to go, the party is over."

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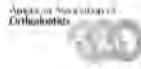
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Hot Weather Dangers

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

Poolesville Veterinary Clinic

I am again reviewing this serious condition because one of the most overlooked emergency conditions during the summer months for our pets is heat trauma. Our furry friends cannot tell us when they are getting very overheated. This can often lead to a delay in treatment and severe adverse effects to the kidneys, liver, and especially the brain.

The combination of heat, humidity, and our active outdoor lifestyles with our pets in this area of the country raises the potential for heat trauma by causing too much muscle activity and excess metabolic heat production. The closer the outside temperature is to body temperature, the harder it is to cool off.

So let's discuss what signs to look for, what initial steps to take in the event of heat trauma, and what steps can be taken to reduce this dangerous condition in our pets.

There are some classic signs to look for in your pet on any hot and humid day. As little as ten minutes of extreme activity during the peak of heat and humidity on a typical summer day in our area can expose your pets to heat trauma.

If your dog or cat suddenly appears to be "lazy" or "lethargic" within 5-10 minutes of exposure, this could be more than just a friend taking a break. This is one of the most overlooked clinical signs. Secondly, you may see your friend panting very heavily and his/her mouth completely dry. This indicates that they do not have enough fluid to keep the mucous membranes moist and thus transfer heat away from the body. Remember that your dogs can only transpire heat from their mouths. Cats do so from their mouths and paws (they have sweat glands in their feet). A third sign of impending heat trauma is a cherry or bright red/pink gum color. Fourth, and most importantly, the body temperature will rise rapidly. Normal dog body temp is 101° F to 102.2° F. Cat's body temps should be between 101° F to 102° F on average. Any temperature about 104° F is of concern and needs immediate attention. Temperatures above 106° F begin to damage organ tissues, above 107° F permanent brain damage or death can occur.

If you are concerned that your furry buddy is in the early stages of heat stress, there are immediate actions you can take to reduce the potential damage until expert veterinary care can be obtained.

It is critical to get your pet to a cool environment. Apply a steady flow of cool (70°-80° F) water (not cold) over their body. Be sure to get some water into the mouth to help them cool while panting. Applying a fan over their bodies while rinsing with water will also increase cooling.

Always seek veterinary care as soon as possible. Supportive fluid therapy and medications to reduce fever are critical. Other important steps to support kidney, liver, and brain function are also critical for your pet. Your veterinarian can determine what steps are needed to minimize long-term damage.

There are several common sense measures you can take to help you and your four-legged friends from falling victim to heat trauma. Follow these guidelines and you and your pet can have a fun and heat-stress-free time.

It goes without saying (but I am saying it anyway) NEVER, NEVER, NEVER leave your pet alone in a car regardless of the outside temperature. Inside car temperatures can reach 120° F in 10 minutes. ALWAYS let your pets have access to water, shade, and the ability to move to shade. If you are exercising, do not push your pet. Pushing your pet because you want to push yourself is a receipt for heat stress. If your pet is slowing down or falling behind, stop, give fresh water, and get into shade immediately. Remember also that the digital footpads can receive second and third degree burns on hot asphalt or dark cement. Remember that the water sitting in your garden hose in the sun can reach temperatures of 200° F. This can cause severe burns to your pet. Spray yourself first to test the water temperature.

Have a great summer but be Heat Stress Aware for your pets and yourself.



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