Poolesville Day 2014 Loaded with Winners

This year’s annual Poolesville Day festival had the most perfect weather possible—and the nearly 10,000 visitors couldn’t have agreed more. It seems that every aspect of the day had dramatic improvements. Simply put: There were more kiddie rides, more music, more food, and just plain more fun.

The day started with the PACC 5K Run/Walk, which attracted 270 participants, a record high for the over-two-decade-year-old event. The festival parade had a record ninety participating groups marching, an increase from the sixty-nine that participated last year. In the new-and-improved category, the kiddie rides were a huge success with a wide variety of new attractions joining the popular Calleva climbing wall. In the equestrian area, the Potomac Hunt Club, with its beautiful horses and gorgeous hounds, one of the most popular parade participants, was joined by the Montgomery County Mounted Police and a big surprise, the 35th Virginia Cavalry, a Civil War re-enactment team that depicts the mounted military unit commanded by Poolesville’s Col. Elijah Viers White. White also bought Conrad’s Ferry in 1866.

The winners of the HMD annual Ag Reserve Photo contest
Continued on page 11.

The Blue Hearth: Behind the Blue Door

September 6 marked the first anniversary of the opening of a delightful new shop in Poolesville, the Blue Hearth. It is located in the historic Federal period home of Dr. Thomas Poole, which was built in 1835. The path to this house’s new role in the Poolesville’s business community goes back many years. Owner Karen Wilson and her marketing consultant Sandra Spiro have been friends for thirty-six years. Karen, an interior designer, wanted to expand her business profile, but she first had to locate an ideal town for her new venture. After visiting many small towns, she fell in love with Poolesville. She was taken by its small-town ambience and its historical past. The Dr. Thomas Poole House was the perfect fit.

Karen, her teenage children, and Sandra put on their work clothes and gloves and set about making this beautiful house on Poolesville’s main street the perfect place to display their wares. There was scraping, painting, and cleaning to be done, but the house’s bare bones provided a very appealing foundation. Where did the name “The Blue Hearth” come from? All of the hearths’ mantels were either white or beige, but in the kitchen, the mantle was blue, a beautiful electric blue the blue hearth.

What is unique about this shop within a home? Its website says it best: “We at the Blue Hearth believe wholeheartedly that the sum of our parts is what sets us apart from other vintage stores. We’ve assembled the most creative group of repurposers, artisans, crafts
Continued on page 6.
Family Album

The Falcons’ mascot was on hand to fire up the fans at the PHS pep rally.

The family of former PHS cross country coach Jim Vollmer attended the PACC 5K which honored his memory. His wife, Sandy, is third from the right in the back row.

PHS 2014-15 sports got off to a rousing start with a pep rally on September 19.

The Boy Scout Troop 496 once again did their civic duty by policing Whalen Commons after Poolesville Day.

8th Annual Lymphoma Research Foundation’s Recreational Ride For Research

STAY ALERT
Sunday, September 28, 2014
7:30 AM @ Barnesville School
Ride: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

DRIVERS URGED TO USE CAUTION
The ride will start at the Barnesville School on Peachtree and Barnesville Rds.
The following streets will be in use throughout the entire ride:
Peachtree, West Willard, Big Woods, Darnestown, West Offutt, Dickerson, Cattail, Edwards Ferry, Mt. Ephraim, Fisher, Club Hollow, Budd, Elmer School, Barnesville, Hughes, White’s Ferry, Rte. 117, Tom Fox, Martinsburg, and Clopper.

For more information, to view the entire course, or to volunteer, please log on to www.lymphoma.org/ride2014

Cugini’s Restaurant & Bar

1st Annual OSC CAR SHOW
Saturday, October 4th
Cugini’s Restaurant & Bar
REGISTRATION STARTS AT 6:00PM. DOORS OPEN AT 4:00PM.
Registration starts at 6:00PM. Doors open at 4:00PM.
1st Annual OAC

Mondays BOGO
Buy 1 large pizza, get a large cheese pizza FREE

Tuesdays Pour House Trivia
Begins at 7:00 p.m.

We Have Gluten-Free Pizza!!
Local News

By Kristen Milton

Bridge Connection Approved

The Planning Board quickly approved plans on September 11 to connect the developing Cabin Branch area with the rest of Clarksburg with improvements to the area’s major roadway.

“I’m grateful for this; it’s a good project,” Commissioner Amy Presley, a resident of Clarksburg, said after the board unanimously voted to accept plans to widen the MD-121 bridge over Interstate 270 from four lanes to six lanes, as well as to add ramps, traffic signals, and other aesthetic improvements to the area.

Larry Cole, with the board’s Functional Planning and Policy Division, noted that trees and other attractive features were important to encourage people to travel between the Clarksburg sites and said the project was consistent with the Clarksburg Master Plan goals.

“You’ve got two activity centers where we’re trying to create one community,” he said.

The Cabin Branch development is proposed for more than 1,800 residential units, both townhouses and single-family homes, plus more than two million square feet of commercial space. The development is planned to take place in phases.

The I-270 road improvements will be constructed by Bethesda-based Winchester Homes on behalf of the State Highway Administration. A representative at the September 11 hearing said that Winchester was already seeking bids on the project and was eager to begin construction.

Planning staff received no citizen comments on the project. The planning board’s approval included specific votes on the work’s water quality and Forest Conservation Plans among other regulatory approvals.

Hearing Announced

Montgomery Parks will hold a public hearing on proposed changes to the Ovid Hazen Wells Master Plan on October 2 at the Montgomery Regional Offices Building at 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring. The hearing is expected to begin around 5:00 p.m., although that is subject to change.

Suggested developments for Clarksburg’s 290-acre Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park include the creation of a recreation area featuring the carousel, a dog park and play area, as well as the acquisition of approximately twelve acres adjacent to the park, some of which may be used for the future Clarksburg Community Recreation and Aquatic Center. The plan also proposes the development of an event area near historic structures in the park.

Citizens may comment on these recommendations at the October 2 meeting, online, by email (Rachel.Newhouse@montgomeryparks.org) or by mail at M-NCP&PC Montgomery Parks, 9500 Brunett Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20901. Those who would like to testify at the meeting should sign up online at www.MontgomeryPlanningBoard.org or call 301-495-4605 before 4:00 p.m. on October 1.

After the public hearing, planning staff will prepare a response to be discussed with the Planning Board at a work session in October or November.
Commentary

Another Poolesville Day
By John Clayton

Was it bigger and better? It was at least bigger, what with the weather, it felt like more people. I'm not sure it has to be better; it's a proven formula and it definitely works. I certainly thought the music was great all day, and the Monocle booth was well-positioned to enjoy it for the entire day.

Our booth was directly across from Memorial United Methodist’s Casa de Walking Tacos, but I only had one, primarily because the line was really long for most of the day. It was sublime, of course, to the extent that anything with Fritos Corn Chips can be said to be so. This was topped off later by some Smokin’ Ray’s barbecue—because that’s what I do on Poolesville Day.

The annual observation of the presence of Washington Nationals caps is officially ended, unless I’m really desperate (again) for something to say next year. Winning makes all the difference. Nats Caps and togs were ubiquitous. Everybody loves a winner. I saw a few RGIII jerseys; we’ll see how that goes next year. Then again, that may not mean a thing. I still wear a Jason Campbell jersey when I go to games. Those things are expensive; you can’t just buy a new one because someone has a bad year.

As this is an election year, there were a lot of candidates—challengers and incumbents—in the parade and gadding about afterwards, which may have explained the long line for Walking Tacos, as many of their supporters were in the parade and probably worked up a good hunger. Our very own Sixth District congressman, John Delaney, was in the parade, as was his challenger, Dan Bongino, who, if he doesn’t win, should probably be Grand Marshall someday, because by my count he’s been here for a number of Poolesville Days. Larry Hogan, the Republican candidate for governor was also

Continued on page 21.

Rande(m) Thoughts
It’s All in the Name
By Rande Davis

Following a Mystery History article in the August 15 issue of the Monocle, we got a really nice letter from a reader expressing appreciation for the story behind the mystery of the homes on Beall Street, the road at the rear of Whalen Commons where the Poolesville Town Hall is located. She is a relatively new neighbor in Poolesville (I say relatively as my family moved here in 1976, and we are still considered newbies by more than just a few people in town). She lives on Spates Hill Road in the subdivision bearing that name. She asked if we could shed light on why the name Spates was used, so, starting this issue, we are launching a new series entitled Mystery History: Streetwise, and we’re starting with the name Spates.

Fortunately, I have detailed records available from the Historic Medley District, Inc., wonderful biographical information thanks to Glenn Wallace and his Monocacy Cemetery Project, and, often with more personal information, highly-knowledgeable sources like Dots Elgin to rely on.

Here’s an example: Fisher Avenue in Poolesville? The answer for this one is simple. It cut through the Fisher Farm when the road (Route 107) was built in the 1840s to replace the oft-flooded Coxen Road (now known as the just-mentioned Beall Street). Until Whalen Commons was developed, a small pond would occasionally appear at the west end of the field. It would be just deep enough, lasting just long enough for families of ducks to take up residence.

Conoy Road in Barnesville? It’s named after the Native American Algonquian tribe that was part of the Delaware nation, and the name is thought to be an English derivative of the Kanawha Indians.

Continued on page 8.
Town Government

Town Commissioners Move to Clear Way For Sale of Small Land Parcel

By Link Hoewing

Meeting on Monday, September 22, the Town of Poolesville commissioners had a relatively light agenda of items to consider. Aside from general comments made by a number of commissioners about the success of the just-completed annual Poolesville Day celebration, they discussed two other items and heard reports from the town manager.

Commissioner Klobukowski wondered whether the town needed to consider adopting a storm water ordinance to prevent homeowners from making major changes to the contours of their property that have negative impacts on nearby property owners. He explained that he is aware of situations where property contours are changed by homeowners that subsequently create flooding and other problems for neighboring properties. Commissioner Chairman Brown agreed that the point is valid and asked for input from the town attorney and town manager.

Town attorney Jay Gullo explained that, generally, land use ordinances by the county already require that if re-grading or major changes in land contours exceeding 5000 square feet are planned on a property, a permit and approval are needed. It was added, however, that the county has only a relative handful of inspectors who can enforce these ordinances. Furthermore, homeowner covenants signed by people who purchased homes may cover changes in the grading or contours of properties in developments, but individual homeowners would need to go to court to enforce any covenants that may exist. The commissioners suggested that the town manager write a blog post to discuss this matter and to educate citizens. A blog will be part of the revamped soon-to-be-launched town website.

The commissioners also received a report about a piece of vacant property on the corner of Westerly Avenue and West Willard they have long been planning to sell to a developer for the construction of a single family home. In putting together the proposal for the land sale, it was discovered that the driveway on an adjacent property partially lies on the land the town is planning to sell. This issue needs to be resolved to ensure the proper sale of the town’s property and to clarify the situation for the future.

A number of ideas were discussed concerning how to deal with this situation. Since the piece of driveway in question is very small, only about 2500 square feet, and does not affect the value of the property the town wants to sell, the commissioners decided to redraw the property line so that the existing homeowner could retain the use of his driveway. The town will ask the property owner to cover the legal and planning costs of making these changes in land plans and to verify that they are filed properly.

In reports from the commissioners, Commissioner Stump mentioned that, at the most recent Planning Commission meeting on September 17, a large number of citizens testified about concerns they had regarding the proposal by the developer Kettler-Forlines Homes to remove the sign for the “Woods of Tama” and to replace it with a sign signifying the start of the new nearby development, “The Reserves at Brightwell.” Since the sign in question is not a town structure and was placed originally by Kettler-Forlines, owner Tom Kettler was asked to sit down with concerned residents to try to work out a solution. He will report back to the commission in the near future.

Concerning the dog park being considered by the Parks Board, Commissioner Halbrook said that the cost estimate of $60,000 to build the dog park, including fencing and grading, is being considered. The board has not yet made a recommendation on the park to the commissioners.
Lookin’ After You

Neal Brown of R.N. Brown Plumbing is looking to have more time with the family and has found a solution to his goal. His firm has teamed up with Clarksburg Plumbing to expand the number of servicing technicians, to increase response times, and to offer 24/7 emergency service. Brown, who has been servicing the community for thirty-five years, remains engaged and available, especially to all his loyal customers, and still can be reached by calling the company at 301-972-8098 and following the menu for service or for talking to Neal directly. “I am very pleased with the new arrangement as it takes care of the needs of my customers and still allows me the additional family time I have been seeking.”

Poolesville Past and Present in Great New Book

Reva and Ray Hoewing have published wonderful calendars with historical pictures of the Poolesville area. They recently published a book that most residents will love having and can also make a terrific gift to friends and family who have moved away: 220 Years of History – 1793 to 2013. It consists of twenty-eight pages of intriguing photographs from the past. You can get a copy for $15.00 at Crafts-A-Plenty, their shop in Poolesville.

Mums, Mums, and More Mums

Poolesville’s Lynn Bodmer started to grow some mums, and it looks like she didn’t know when to stop. She’s been doing it now for three years with a typical crop of up to two thousand mums. With her daughter in college, the mums help out with the added expenses. She cultivates the mums from seedlings, lovingly watering them until they reach a fifteen-inch diameter before making them available for sale.

She has a wide variety of colors including yellow, white, purple, autumn orange, deep red, and the very-popular redskin mum, burgundy on the outside, gold inside. She makes them available at the family business, Total Automotive and Diesel, in Poolesville.
Things To Do

It’s Almost Time for St. Peter’s Fall Rummage Sale
St. Peter’s Church is accepting items to be donated for the fall rummage sale. Drop off your donated goods at the church at 20100 Fisher Avenue from September 27 to October 5. Clothes, furniture, household items, tools, and outdoor equipment are accepted. The sale begins on Thursday, October 9, at 5:00 p.m.

Attention Golfers: St. Mark’s United Methodist Church in Boyds is hosting a fundraising golf tournament on October 13. Play will be at the Glade Valley Golf Course in Walkersville with shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. Cost is $70.00 per person, $280 per team. Lunch will be served after play. Entry fees need to be received by October 7. Please make checks payable to St. Mark’s UMC, 15420 Hoyles Mill Road, Boyds, MD 20841. For more information, call 301-829-1462.

WUMCO’s Walk and Fall Festival is coming up on October 25. Businesses can participate by sponsoring a game, encouraging employees to participate, and purchasing a vendor spot. Once again, there will be a scarecrow-decorating contest. In the business category, the winner will receive a free half-page ad in the Monocacy Monocle. Registration for the contest closes on October 3. Entry forms are available at wumcohelp.org.

September 29
PHS Varsity Home Game
Field hockey. Walter Johnson. 7:00 p.m.

October 1
Free Community Dinner
Baked Chicken, mashed potatoes, and green beans. All are welcome. Memorial United Methodist Church. 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Game
Field hockey. Seneca Valley. 7:00 p.m.

October 2
PHS Varsity Home Game
Girls’ tennis. Seneca Valley. 3:30 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Game
Football. Catasauqua. 6:30 p.m.

October 3
Attic Treasures
Pre-sale at Memorial United Methodist Church. Rummage, books, crafts, furniture and more. 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Blue Hearth Marketplace Special Event Weekend 1st Anniversary Bash and Celebration
Along with our fabulous and spectacular revitalized home furnishings and unique accessories, there will be, on Saturday and Sunday, food (MAD BBQ), inflatable bounce house, face painting, and on Sunday, live music by Gina’s Soul Party and the Souled Out Horns. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Thomas Poole Home, 1964 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville.

8th Annual Grape Stomp at SMV Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard features, throughout the festival, the popular and exciting Grape Stomp contest where you can test your skill and competitive juices in this ancient winemaking tradition! Prizes will be awarded! And remember, it’s not the size of your foot that matters... it’s the power of your sole! Live music and food. Over 21: $15.00, under 21 (and non-drinkers): $5.00. Noon to 6:00 p.m.

October 4
Lord’s Acre Community Fall Festival
This annual Memorial Methodist event has something for everyone. The usual events include Attic Treasures (rummage sale), a multitude of children’s games and crafts, silent auction, bake sale, delicious food, book sale, and the church’s trademark: freshly-made apple butter. If you’d like to get a jump-start on Attic Treasures or book sale purchases, please come on Friday, October 3 between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. For more info, contact co-chairs Kirsten and Andrew Lewis at 301-349-2750. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

October 4 and 5
Punkin’ Chunkin’ Time at Lewis Orchards
Shoot pumpkins through an air cannon and win a prize if you hit the target. Fundraising event for Fisher House and Mansfield M. Kaseman Health Center. Noon to 5:00 p.m.

October 6
Monocacy Lions Club Charity Golf Tournament
Format: Shotgun start, Four Person Scramble, Captain’s Choice. Prizes: Longest Drive, Closest to Pin, Putting Contest. Includes: Buffet dinner (flank steak and roasted salmon) and beverage cart. Sponsorships: 4-person teams, corporate/individual hole sponsorships. For more info, email billjamison@mirr.com. Bretton Woods Country Club. Driving Range: 11:00 a.m. Tee off: 12:30 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Game
Girls’ soccer. Wheaton. 5:30 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Game
Boys’ soccer. Wheaton. 7:00 p.m.

October 7
PHS Varsity Home Game
Girls’ tennis. Whitman. 3:30 p.m.

October 8
PHS Varsity Home Game
Girls’ soccer. Watkins Mill. 5:30 p.m.

District 15 Candidates Forum
The GOP Political Action Committee of Legislative District 15 is holding a candidates’ forum at John Poole Middle School. All competing Republican and Democratic candidates for state and county legislative office have been invited to speak. 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Game
Boys’ soccer. Watkins Mill. 7:00 p.m.

October 9
PHS Varsity Home Game
Field hockey. Quince Orchard. 3:00 p.m.

October 9, 10, and 11
St. Peter’s Fall Rummage Sale
Come and shop at the Upcounty’s largest rummage sale. Thursday, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

October 11
Annual Pig Pickin’ Dinner and Bluegrass Concert
Barnesville Baptist Church, featuring the fabulous Goldheart Sisters. Dinner begins: 5:30 p.m. (no charge). Concert at 7:00 p.m. (love offering accepted).

House of Poolesville Event
Bobby Lewis Blues Band. On the patio. 4:30 p.m.

VCA Special Event (details coming at end of day Tuesday)

October 11 and 12
Punkin’ Chunkin’ Time at Lewis Orchards
Shoot pumpkins through the air cannon and win a prize if you hit the target. Fundraising event for Fisher House and Mansfield M. Kaseman Health Center. Noon to 5:00 p.m.

8th Annual Grape Stomp at SMV Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard festival features the popular and exciting Grape Stomp contest where you can test your skill and competitive juices in this ancient winemaking tradition! Prizes will be awarded! And remember, it’s not the size of your foot that matters... it’s the power of your sole! Live music and food. Over 21: $15.00, under 21 (and non-drinkers): $5.00. Noon to 6:00 p.m.

Be sure to send us your events for Things to Do to editor@monocacymonocle.com
Youth Sports

A New Coach and a Surprising Start

By Jeff Stuart

At a late summer practice, the Poolesville High School girls’ varsity soccer team was happily looking forward to a new season. We checked in with the team’s captains to get their take on the upcoming season.

“New coach, a new style: They are all different,” said junior goalkeeper Kristen Darragh, “but we are all adjusting. Lot of new sophomores. I think we are going to do really well. We have been playing well as a team. We just beat Linganore in a scrimmage. They were regional finalist last year and we put up a solid fight in a scrimmage against [Bethesda-Chevy Chase]. I am looking forward to the Churchill game as well as Damascus because they have already put a ‘W’ down in their book against us. They think they are gonna win. There are a lot of big schools on our schedule.”

Elisa Botten, senior forward and captain, agreed. “Everything’s new. I like the new style that we are playing. It’s a new system, and I think we are all coming along really nicely. As far as the key rivals, Churchill is obviously a big game for us…and Bethesda. There are playoff teams in the opening tournament. We play North Carroll. They always have a great group of players, so it is a good test for us.”

Annie Hasselbalch, senior forward and captain, echoed her teammates. The Gaithersburg game has personal significance for her. “I want to beat them because a lot of their girls play on the same club team as I do. We gotta win that one.” Hasselbalch plays with Gaithersburg High School midfielders Jordan Menge and Jamie Montgomery on the Maryland Rush Montgomery Hornets club team.

In the season opening tournament on September 6, the Falcons showed their tenacity and patience. The first half was scoreless with Darragh making a good save of a hard shot directly on goal midway through the first half and tipping it over the goal. The Falcons’ best scoring chance came on a hard shot from the goalkeeper’s right by Lucy Wang with about five minutes left in the half, but it sailed over the goal. Unfortunately, with seconds left in the half, Wang rolled her ankle while chasing a ball near the sideline and left the game with an injury. Both teams played an up tempo style, matching each other’s speed. Hasselbalch and Nesselt helped their goalkeeper by running offensive players off the ball. Finally, the first score came in the second half. Junior Karyn Comfort, positioned to the goalkeeper’s right, put in the rebound of an Abby Beeler shot that the goalkeeper saved. Beeler had made a strong run at the goal earlier to no avail, but just five minutes later, sophomore Hailey Khalil took a throw in, drew the defenders toward her, and lifted a pass over them to Comfort who scored.

Quince Orchard was a great test for the Falcons since their defense has been very strong and has not allowed a goal through two games against Watkins Mill, 4-0 and Blake, 5-0. In fact, they allowed only six goals all last season.

The Falcons will have another big test against Damascus on September 29. The Hornets, a region finalist last season, are in a rebuilding mode this year, but they are off to a 3-0 start.

New coach, Jonathan Reader (former PHS girls’ coach, Christina Mann is coaching at Clarksburg this year) is an accomplished athlete having been a football running back at Paint Branch, class of 1987, and at Western Maryland College. He began his coaching career with Maryland Soccer, Inc. in his twenties when the coach of a fourth grade boys’ team broke his leg. Reader coaches girls’ soccer at Roberto Clemente Middle School in the spring. Previously, he has coached boys’ soccer at Sherwood and girls’ soccer at Paint Branch. He has been a soccer referee for the past eight years. “Honestly, I miss being a referee,” he says. “I gave up coaching before because of the stress involved.” He interviewed for the position at PHS because a number of the PHS girls had played for him at Clemente. “I thought it was a special opportunity to be reunited with them. For me, sports is all about relationships. I tell my girls and I tell the parents that they could have gotten a better and smarter coach, but not one who is as dedicated and not one that will walk to the ends of the Earth for the girls.”

Reader made all the seniors team captains. The other captains are Brooke Nesselt, Julie Skoll, and Po Coulibaly. Other players on the team are juniors, Alex Frost, Emily Gia, Meg Kouts, Allie Niveau, Isabelle Durkin, and Kylin Milisits. Sophomores include Sasha Howson, Allison Huber, and Kat Creedon.

Reader and the team have set a lofty goal: “Our team motto is ‘One goal, one reward, state championship or bust.’
House of Poolesville

Chinese & Japanese Restaurant – Dine in or Carry Out

Markoff’s Haunted Forest Fast Passes
With purchase of entrée – Starting October 3
September 26: DJ Slim Pickens
September 27: Dead Cat Bounce Band
   On the patio at 4:30 p.m.
   October 3: DJ
October 4: Oasia Reggae Band
   On the patio at 4:30 p.m.
   October 10: DJ
October 11: Bobby Lewis Blues Band
   On the patio at 4:30 p.m.

Every Thursday: Corn Hole Tournament – 6:00 p.m.
Every Sunday: Horseshoes Tournament – 4:00 p.m.

Every Wednesday is Trivia Night
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

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Streetwise:
Spates Hill Road

By Rande Davis

Spates Hill Road is part of the Spates Hill subdivision located at the eastern entrance to Poolesville. I still recall when the area was a barren, dusty piece of land criss-crossed with trails from dirt bikes and other all-terrain vehicles, and now it’s twenty-five years old—amazing.

In this area, the Spates family name goes back in time almost as long as the name Poole. Although I cannot verify where they were born, the date of birth for Richard and Amelia Spates is 1792 and 1796, respectively. The Spates family history includes farmers, merchants, managers, a blacksmith, and an hotelier, whose story includes a somewhat famous legend in Poolesville, which we will share in a bit.

Most of the history to be found on the Spates family in the Poolesville area begins with two brothers, George and Richard. George W. was born in 1825, married Ann Boyd, had nine kids, and owned a 345-acre farm (valued in 1860 at $6,960.00), of which he farmed 300 acres. The farm consisted of a farmhouse, blacksmith, granary, and barn. The Spateses raised horses, cows, oxen, cattle, sheep, and swine, and grew wheat, rye, corn, oats, potatoes, and hay.

Just before the Civil War, George was made Superintendent of the Monocacy Division of the C&O Canal for the section running from Seneca to Harpers Ferry. His cousin was Alfred Spates, president of the canal company. Additionally, George was a founder of the Poolesville Literary Association.

The Spates farm was located three miles from Poolesville on Edwards Ferry Road and, based on a compensation claim George filed in 1874 for repayment of supplies, rent, and services to Federal troops during the Civil War, we know that the farm was occupied much of the time by Union troops from November 1861 to 1864. The army units using his farm were under the command of General Stone and included the 39th, 20th, and 19th Massachusetts Regiments, as well as the 1st Minnesota Volunteers, and the 11th New York Infantry Regiment known as Scott’s 900.

His loyalty to the Union needed to be verified prior to payment being approved, and Poolesville Postmaster Samuel Eaton signed a statement of assurance to that fact. Some of the supplies taken by the Union troops included 24,000 feet of lumber that General Hooker used to build a corduroy road (a log-based road to cross over swampy areas) as he moved toward Gettysburg. The document also claimed repayment for twenty tons of Cumberland coal and 2,500

Continued on page 20.
Continued from page 1.

Poolesville Day

were announced on Poolesville Day: First place, Susan Petro; second place, Sarah O’Halloran; third place, Mason Dominici; fourth place, Julie Shapiro; fifth place, Terri Pitts; and sixth place, Susan Petro. The theme this year was: Building and Structures of the Ag Reserve. The winning picture will be on the cover of the annual HMD calendar published by the end of October.

In the Poolesville Day PACC 5K Run/Walk, congratulations go to Poolesville’s own Chase Weaverling (PHS Class of 2014) for being the overall winner of the annual Poolesville Chamber of Commerce’s 5K event. He came in at 16:16. Gaithersburg’s Claire Beutz (PHS senior) was the top female at 19:38. Poolesville’s Denise Larson took second place for the women at 20:27.

Overall results also had Columbia’s Conrad Orioff at second and Poolesville’s Matthew Psaltakis at 17:28.

The top three winners by age group were:

- **Under 13 Male**
  - First: Noah Lucas, (13), Poolesville, 19:54
  - Second: Caius Kim, (13), Germantown, 21:00
  - Third: Tim Dominici, (12), Poolesville, 21:46
- **Under 13 Female**
  - First: Andrea Johnson, (13), Gaithersburg, 25:33
  - Second: Hailee Williams, (12), Poolesville, 26:14
  - Third: Sarah Frazio, (10), Poolesville, 28:43
- **Age 14-19 Male**
  - First: Andrew Lent, (15), Boyds, 17:54
  - Second: Ryan Lockett, (14), Comus, 18:05
  - Third: Tucker Ross, (15), Poolesville, 18:17
  - Age 14-19 Female
    - First: Denise Alying, (16), Rockville, 23:16
    - Second: Delali Azamati, (15), Gaithersburg, 23:27
    - Third: Suriya Kandaswamy, (15), Germantown, 23:50
- **Age 20-29 Male**
  - First: Jordan Rich, (22), Washington, 21:42
  - Second: Logan Wilson, (22), Boyds, 22:01
  - Age 20-29 Female
    - First: Emily Miller, (27), Washington, D.C, 25:00
    - Second: Kelsey Siegel, (24), Dickerson, 26:05
    - Third: Elizabeth Wolveton, (27), Fredericksburg, 27:04
- **Age 30-39 Male**
  - First: Prasad Gerard, (34), Poolesville, 19:06
  - Second: Jim Weber, (34), Gaithersburg, 21:23
  - Third: Juan Martinez, (34), Poolesville, 21:58
- **Age 30-39 Female**
  - First: Julia Sapper, (38), Rockville, 22:40
  - Second: Kim Lockett, (38), Comus, 23:10
  - Third: Shari Yesnick, (38), Gaithersburg, 24:33
- **Age 40-49 Male**
  - First: Rob Wittwer, (42), Boyds, 20:41
  - Third: Susan Hammelton, (30), Point of Rocks, 21:31
- **Age 40-49 Female**
  - First: Susan Hammelton, (30), Point of Rocks, 21:31
  - Second: Mari Haynes, (37), Poolesville, 22:16
  - Third: Bernadette Morrow, (35), Poolesville, 22:50
- **Age 50-59 Male**
  - First: Thomas Jagodits, (54), Rockville, 20:40
  - Second: Kim Lockett, (48), Comus, 23:10
  - Third: Shari Yesnick, (48), Gaithersburg, 24:33
- **Age 50-59 Female**
  - First: Prasad Gerard, (56), Wootton, 21:23
  - Second: R. Kirk Jackson, (55), Dickerson, 21:51
  - Third: Thomas Jagodits, (54), Poolesville, 21:58
Poolesville Day Festivities...
At Your Service

Barnesville and Poolesville Town Attorney: Jack “Jay” Gullo

By Rande Davis

Jack A. Gullo, Jr. has been the town attorney for Poolesville since 2010 and for Barnesville since 2014, a critical role for both municipalities.

Jay’s hometown is New Windsor and, in 1993, at twenty-four years of age, he became the youngest mayor in Maryland and was re-elected in 1997. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in biology/pre-med from Washington and Jefferson College and his Juris Doctor from Widener University School of Law. He is a graduate of the Senior Executive Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and is a graduate of the Academy for Excellence in Local Government from the University of Maryland’s Institute of Government Service (where he has been an instructor).

He has his own law firm in Maryland and has been chair of the Legislative Committee, and former vice chairman of the Maryland Municipal League. He also has been president of the Maryland Mayors’ Association. He is currently the Legislative Committee Chairman of the Carroll County Bar Association, and he has been admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court and the Supreme Court.

He is the town attorney for Taneytown, Rising Sun, New Carrollton, and has done legal and educational work for Calvert County, Bel Air, North Beach, and the City of Hagerstown.

He still lives in New Windsor with his wife and family.

MM: Tell us about your early political career, especially when you were young.

Gullo: As the mayor of New Windsor when I was twenty-four, the quote I will always remember was overheard by my parents at a local restaurant before my first town meeting. The people at the next table said to each other, “Let’s go to the town meeting and see the young mayor fall on his face.” Well that didn’t happen—hard work. I made it my mission to understand everything about local government, from the big things, like how annexations work or impact fees are calculated, to the small things, like how a water meter works or line-by-line detail of the town’s audit report.

I faced an early challenge from the Town Clerk who had been in that job for forty-seven years, and his comment to the newspaper the day after I was elected was: “This young legal beagle isn’t going to know anything. I will have to stay on for four more years.” Well, that didn’t happen. I made sure he had a nice retirement party the first month after I took office.

MM: You have a lot of experience in town government issues. How does Poolesville compare to other towns?

Gullo: I have attended and participated in town meetings all over the state, and I must say that Poolesville’s government is one of the best. The town administration, Wade Yost and his crew, are responsive and efficient. There is no waste of money, no waste of time. Your elected officials and meetings are inclusive. There are disagreements, but it is done in a professional manner. Citizens are respected, and their opinions are heard.

I truly love coming to the meetings as they are friendly, open, and positive. I have been at town meetings where they gave me a police bodyguard and the Town Administrator wore a ballistic vest—no joke.

MM: Our town meetings are most often poorly attended. What is your experience with public participation?

Gullo: These volunteers do their jobs so that the citizens can enjoy the quality of life that everyone is working to have. It is refreshing to see the room fill up when there is a problem because the people actually know they can come and participate. When I think of our military men and women and the sacrifices they make—those meetings are the tangible example of why.

MM: Is there any information that might surprise our readers?

Gullo: Did you know that I am the great grandson of Jacob T. Fisher—the guy after whom Fisher Avenue is named? I spent many Christmases and holidays in Poolesville as a kid (hating every minute because the only thing in town was a High’s store and the Meadowlark Inn—neither of which a kid would like!).

Continued on page 20.

Maryland Government

The Monocacy Monocle
September 26, 2014

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Win a $25 donation for your school library

Draw a picture of your pet

Submit by October 4, 2014 to:
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18620 Darnestown Road · Beallsville, MD 20839 · 301.972.7010.
(By mail, or in person.)

Submissions for K-5 categories, there will be one first prize for each grade.

Winners will be displayed at the animal hospital.

Judging and awards on October 11, 2014 from 12-3pm.

Special guest: Dr. Chet Anderson, to judge contest.

Raffle and fundraiser for Equine Therapy Associates Martial Arts Exhibition.

Permission slip signed by adult over the age of 18 must accompany entry.

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PetArt Participation Permission Slip

I authorize ________________________________ to participate in the PetArt Contest at VCA Peachtree Animal hospital on Saturday October 11, 2014. I acknowledge that the art that is submitted will not be used for any financial profit and/or sold and will be displayed in the hospital as a show item. The prize awarded to the winner will be donated to the elementary school library for the purchase of books. These said books will be donated in honor of the student and VCA Peachtree.

__________________________________________  ________________________________
Student Signature  Parent or Guardian Signature
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**Potatoes:** White & Sweet

**Peppers:** Hot & Sweet

**Turnips**

**Okra**

**Fall/Winter Squash:** Butternut, Acorn, Carnival & more

**Eggplant**

**Carrots**

**Lewis Orchard Cake and Crisp Mixes**

**Coming Soon:** Broccoli, Cabbage, and Cauliflower

**Dairy Products & Eggs:** Trickling Springs Creamery including Chocolate Milk, Buttermilk, and Goat Milk & Cheeses

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**Fire in the Hole:** Punkin’ Chunkin’ for Charity at Lewis Orchards
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**Entrées:**

- **Sauerbraten:** German-style pot roast with gingersnap gravy, braised red cabbage, and German potato salad
- **Bratwurst:** Traditional German pork sausages served with sauerkraut, garden salad, and warm chunky applesauce
- **Schlachtenschüssel:** Roast pork loin, topped with caraway seed sauce, braised red cabbage, and mashed potatoes

**With the purchase of an Oktoberfest Entrée:**
Shock Top Pumpkin Wheat Draft beer - $2.50; Or Sam Adams Oktoberfest Draft Beer - $2.50

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With purchase of entrée (Dine in only)

Available
October 3
Police Blotter: Past and Present
By Jack Toomey

Present Crime
Assaults: 19100 block of Dowden Circle, 17600 block of Kohlhoss Road, 19700 block of Fisher Avenue.
Theft from vehicle: 17800 block of Elgin Road.
Theft: 18200 block of McKernon Way.

Past Crime
September 26, 1956 Montgomery County Police ended their daily presence at Poolesville High School. They had been stationed there since the beginning of school when protests by parents prevented black students from entering the school as segregation ended. After three weeks of school, the protests had ended and the attendance rate was back to normal.

September 29, 1955 Police were investigating a series of sexual attacks committed by a man whose face had been concealed by a bandana. Two school children reported, in separate incidents, that a man stepped out of the woods while they were walking home from school and attacked them. Schools in the Viers Mill area were alerted, and parents were encouraged to pick up their children after school.

October 3, 1954 A thirty-four-year-old Norbeck man was charged with murder after he shot to death a twenty-one-year-old woman in the home of his mother. Police said that a card game was in progress when a row broke out among the card players. The man retrieved a shotgun and fired once, striking the woman in the chest.

October 4, 1954 Five Richmond youths were arrested by the Montgomery County Police after a wild Sunday morning chase that led them around the county. Police said that a ten-year-old boy noticed that strangers were in the act of breaking into his neighbor’s auto repair shop at Aspen (Hill). He ran to Donald Rabbitt’s house to notify him, and Mr. Rabbitt then drove to his shop and chased the culprits as they drove off. Rabbitt then flagged down a passing police car which began chasing the thieves. Eventually, three police cars were involved in the chase which ended in a crash and the arrest of the five men.

October 5, 1955 A Police Court judge found a Bethesda restaurant owner not guilty of a gambling charge. Undercover detectives testified that the man allowed a pinball tournament to be played inside his business with a one-dollar-per-game entry fee. Other witnesses testified that the owner was at his home eating dinner at the time.

Annual Car, Truck, and Motorcycle Show Winners

Once again, Jim Brown had some very intriguing and historical vehicles. The competition was so intense, there were a couple of ties. In a tie for first place for Most Popular Car/Truck was the 1957 Chevy Bel Air, owned by Ron Zeigler from Point of Rocks and the 1970 El Camino Roadster owned by John Joyce of Germantown. Taking first place in the motorcycle contest was a 2012 Harley Davidson Heritage Softail owned by Poolesville’s Kevin McCarthy. Also honored by Commissioner’s Choice was the 1934 Ford Roadster owned by Bill and JoAnn Fox of Dickerson, a 2014 Ferrari 458 owned by David Hwang of Potomac, and a 1997 Jeep Wrangler owned by Poolesville’s Mike O’Donnell.
Tidbits

Equine Therapy Associates Seeking Help for Wounded Warriors

Dr. Carol Rae Hansen of Equine Therapy Associates (ETA) in Seneca is partnering with the Wounded Warrior Project through the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International to provide equine services to wounded warriors.

An important part of the healing process physically and mentally for wounded warriors is finding activities that strengthen physically and are relaxing mentally in a positive and welcoming environment. Research has shown that, for individuals facing emotional or mental challenges, the discipline, companionship, and routine of the partnership between horse and rider help promote self-esteem, patience, and confidence.

ETA is specifically looking to civic organizations, the churches, and the public at large for volunteers who are taller, stronger, and male to add to their instructor team to work with the military clients. If you would like this opportunity to assist those who so bravely served their county, please contact Dr. Hansen at 301-972-7833 or director@equinetheraphyassociates.com.

JPMS Teacher Finalist in Maryland State Teacher of the Year Contest

Jane Lindsay, an eighth grade teacher at John Poole Middle School, has been named one of seven finalists for the 2014-2015 Maryland Teacher of the Year. Last April, Lindsay, who teaches English and reading, was named the MCPS Teacher of the Year. Oral interviews occurred on September 20, and a final decision will be announced on October 10.

2014 Inductee Class for the PHS Sports Hall of Fame

Congratulations to the below-named athletes and supporters of PHS sports who will be inducted into the Poolesville High School Sports Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will take place on September 26 during halftime of the varsity football game against Walter Johnson High School. The game starts at 6:30 p.m.

Carla Thomas, Class of 1983
Chris Pierce, Class of 1991
Troy Mason, Class of 1989
Katelyn Poss, Class of 2006
Jeff Oyer, PHS Booster President, 2009 – 2012
Kevin Dorsey, PHS Booster Volunteer and Wrestling Coach

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1966 State Champions – Cross Country Team
1966 State Champions – Track and Field Team
1967 State Champions – Track and Field Team

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Tidbits Of the Past
By Jack Toomey

September 5, 1921 Funeral services were held in Potomac for Frank Windsor who had been killed in action in 1918 during the Great War. Corporal Windsor, a member of the 23rd Infantry Division, was killed on July 1, 1918, but his body had only recently been returned to the United States.

In Montgomery County baseball action, Rockville beat Kensington, 7-6, and Gaithersburg defeated Boys, 12-0. The game between Kensington and Bethesda was halted due to rain. The next day, Boys was scheduled to play at Bethesda in the morning and then Bethesda was to travel to Boys for an afternoon game.

September 7, 1921 Montgomery County marked its 146th anniversary with a large ceremony in the Circuit County building in Rockville. Patriotic songs and speeches were offered until the crowd adjourned to the lawn of the courthouse building where ten tablets were nailed to various trees. The tablets, a sort of Hall of Fame, bore the names of the first leaders of government when the county was founded. Nathan and Zadok Magruder, Richard Wooton, Allen Bowie, John Wilson, John Perry, and others were honored. Marie Sprinkle sang a rousing rendition of “Follow Old Glory.” Edward Stack, a personal friend of President Harding, spoke and expressed the president’s regret that he could not attend.

September 9, 1921 Public schools in Montgomery opened for the fall term. It was said that most schools were manned with teachers, and that conditions in the schools were better than at any time since the outbreak of the war.

September 10, 1921 Miss Ethel Kidd and Phillip Belt were married at the courthouse at Rockville. It seems that they had appeared a few days before, but Miss Kidd had still been seventeen years old, so the couple was denied a marriage license at that time.

September 18, 1921 Miss Ellen Virtue filed a $10,000 law suit against Charles Miller, alleging that he struck her with an umbrella and large stick.

September 19, 1921 The United States Civil Service Commission announced that, due to the absence of a postmaster at Poolesville, an open examination would be held on October 8. Pay was $600 a year. The American Red Cross said they would open an office at Rockville on October 10 to hear claims of injury incurred during the World War. Any former members of the armed forces who had not been compensated for wounds or disability were urged to visit Rockville on that day.

September 23, 1921 The Democratic Party nominated Harry Willard of Poolesville to run for sheriff in the November election. Also Walter Pugh of Brookeville, the only Negro ever to be nominated for public office in Montgomery County at that time, announced that he was withdrawing from the race for House of Delegates.
Continued from page 10.

Spates Hill Road

pounds of iron. In addition, there were tens of tons of hay taken by various regiments, over 1600 fence rails burned for fuel, and the farm wiped out of its crops of corn, hay, straw, and oats.

A neighbor, John Johnson, signed an affidavit stating that “the field appeared to be badly foraged on estimates that the troops took three fourths of the crop.” He further stated that at the time of Gettysburg, a large body of troops, in passing through, turned their horses and cattle into Mr. Spates’s wheat and rye pasture, destroying over thirty acres of those crops.

Spates must have been on reasonably good terms with some of the Union troops, because even Alex G. Campbell, a former Union Captain in Scott’s 900, filed an affidavit of support for Spates’s compensation claim with his eyewitness account supporting Spates’s claim over twenty years after the war.

The other Spates patriarch was George’s brother Richard. Richard died on March 20, 1863. He was married twice, first to Amelia Breasher and then to Jane Benton. He was buried in the cemetery at the Poolesville Methodist Church (now the Friendly Thrift Shop), the Poolesville Methodist Church (now the Friendly Thrift Shop), the Poolesville Methodist Church (now the Friendly Thrift Shop), the Poolesville Methodist Church (now the Friendly Thrift Shop), the Poolesville Methodist Church (now the Friendly Thrift Shop), the Poolesville Methodist Church (now the Friendly Thrift Shop).

The hotel was occupied and used by General Hooker from June 1861 until November 1862 as a hospital, and the estimated rent for its use in the claim was $4,000.00. A witness, Thomas Duffin, testified that the hotel was used by Union troops as a hospital, surrounded by buildings for stables and an ambulance stand. He further stated that just after the battle of Balls Bluff, Richard Spates had a horse and carriage team driven by his slave hauling Union troops (this as an eyewitness account of Spates’s loyalty to the Federalists).

It is in the hotel/tavern that a legendary tale is referred to in the notes of the estate. The 1865 document stated in footnotes that at one time Spates escaped from a Confederate raid by hiding in the basement with his horses.

From these roots of the Spates family, generations followed, contributing to Poolesville and the area to this very day.

Footnote: The original hotel was burned down at the turn of the century, but the red brick building standing behind the Old Town Hall Bank Museum, which is the home of Jeff and Zoe Walsh, was built on the same foundation.

Continued from page 14.

Jack “Jay” Gullo

I love so much. Whether it is wreck diving, night diving, deep diving, spearfishing, ice diving, etc., I’ve done it all over the world.

When you compare explaining the complexities of an ordinance to the public so they understand it as compared to explaining the complexities of deep decompression wreck diving where a person could die, it makes my day job seem pretty tame.

MM: Anything else that may better explain Jay Gullo to our readers?

Gullo: Just some insight in what makes the “new Jay” tick. I say the new Jay, because much of the above was the old Jay—pre-2008 when I almost died when I had a heart attack at thirty-nine. The old Jay weighed 260, ate poorly, never exercised, and thought he was invincible.

One day I came back to the office tired and thought I would just lie on the conference table for a while (because that’s normal, right?). My mother, who was my office manager for twenty-one years, insisted I was having a heart attack. When the first responders hooked me to the machine to see my heart function in the ambulance, it was lights and sirens and a rush to the hospital where I met a waiting helicopter to fly me to the University of Maryland in Baltimore. A stint was put in to unblock the artery they call the “widow maker.”

I came home to start my new life, eating right, and starting an exercise program. Now I’m seventy pounds lighter, fitter than I have ever been. I am a marathon runner, a veteran tri-athlete of four half-ironmans, and a finisher of the challenging Escape from Alcatraz triathlon.

MM: Thanks for giving us a chance to get to know our town attorney. I must say, it’s kind of reassuring that our attorney likes to swim with the sharks.
Remembrances

Mary Rosvold

On August 29, 2014, beloved matriarch, sister, mentor, and friend, Mary Rosvold, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family. She was 93. Mary’s cherished husband of fifty-one years, neuropsychologist Haldor “Hal” Rosvold, died in 1997.

After graduating from the Nova Scotia Hospital School of Nursing, Mary responded to the call for medical support for troops injured in the D-Day invasion and enlisted as an officer in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. Stationed in England from 1944 to 1946, she nursed wounded soldiers, danced at officer parties, began a lifelong passion for psychiatric nursing, and met her future husband. Their wartime romance became a lifelong love. Mary pursued her nursing career while raising their three children. She was a head nurse at Chestnut Lodge, a renowned psychoanalytic hospital in Rockville. Mary was known as a firm but compassionate supervisor who cared deeply about her patients, mentored staff, and enjoyed enduring friendships with her colleagues. Mary relished travel and family vacations on the Chesapeake Bay and in Canada. She loved the ocean’s salty breeze and crashing surf. In retirement, Mary was an active volunteer and cared for Hal, together battling his Parkinson’s disease. Mary is remembered for her sense of humor and fun; her spirit of adventure; her strength, independence, and wisdom; her love for children, dogs, and books; her interest in world affairs; her pride and love for her family; and her absolute respect for personal dignity.

Surviving her are: son Daniel (Barbara) of Middletown; daughters Rae (Richard Skinner) of Charlottesville, Virginia; and Heidi (Roger Brenholtz) of Beallsville; grandchildren Eva, Jason, and Matthew (Alie Murphy) Rosvold, Christopher Skinner, Ben, Mack, and Quinn Brenholtz; great-granddaughters Naomi Englebach and Maple Rosvold; and numerous nieces and nephews in the United States and Canada. Also surviving are her sister, Teresa M. Vaughan, of Ottawa, Ontario, and brother, Buddy McKinnon, of Grande Prairie, Alberta. Brother Bernie McKinnon, and sisters Virginia Hughes and Jean McKinnon also predeceased her. Mary McKinnon was born in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. She lived in Poolesville from 1973 to 1984 and was a member of the St. Mary’s Catholic Church parish and of the Monocacy Garden Club.

Donations may be made in memory of Mary Rosvold to Montgomery Hospice, Casey House Charity Fund, 1355 Piccard Dr. #101, Rockville, MD, 20850.

Another Poolesville Day

there, to his credit, and his opponent, the current lieutenant governor was not. Hey, you want your name here, try showing up. You haven’t won yet. State Senator Brian Feldman and Poolesville’s county councilman Roger Berliner also worked the parade, but my notes are sketchy beyond that, so for all you state assemblymen and at-large councilmen, I’m going to chicken out naming any more names so I don’t get anyone wrong.

We handed out candy again. I bought the big cheap bag from Oriental Trading Company (sounds like a Joe Biden kind of place), and kids seemed to like it, except for Tootsie Rolls, which seem to be out of favor in this unscientific observation. And by the way, Upcounty kids who want candy are unfailingly polite. There’s hope for the future after all.
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Pets and the Public: What You Need To Know

I want to thank all the pets and their humans that stopped by the Poolesville Veterinary Clinic Big Treat Booth in front of the BB&T Bank on Poolesville Day. It was really great to see so many of you out having a great time. I also was very proud of you all for how well you handled your humans during the festival. We all know how much trouble they can get into. I wanted to give you all some additional pointers on how to keep your friends under control when in public.

First, it is critical to begin to train your humans early, but do not begin to go out into public until they have been vaccinated and checked for parasites. We do not want to spread anything to others. Always see your veterinarian before you begin to socialize your friends in public. Your veterinary clinic has great information on positive behavior programs and protocols. Once you know your humans are healthy and parasite free, it is time to begin the socialization process.

Start by having the right equipment. There are really great collars that will give a gentle tightening on the neck without pinching or causing pain. There are also gentle leader collars and harnesses that work very well to give you control over your friends when they want to pull you over to sniff or check out something. Never use a retractable leash. These leashes only allow your friends to not understand or respect a leash. They also can easily get tangled in things, other people, and their pets. This can create stress and conflict. If there is an aggressive individual in the group, and they get tangled up, it can lead to big trouble, big bites and big veterinary bills. Use a good quality leather leash. Be sure to work with your human on the leash in your own yard until you are comfortable they understand that they are on a leash.

Now you can begin to work in small groups. It is best if you give treats to the other individuals that are going to be in the group. Each time your friend comes up to someone, they should get a small treat. This helps them see others as positive and a potential friend. Ask other individuals that you come up to with your human not to pet them on the head. Placing your hand over their nose and face can be considered an aggressive posture. Be sure to offer them a hand that is face up and a closed palm. This protects the fingers should your human think it is a treat and try to eat it first. Once they have sniffed the hand, rub them gently under the chin. This is how mom comforts the young as they grow to let them know she has their back and everything is all right. Do not let your friends leap or jump on others. This may seem fun, but it is an early attempt at domination. We want everyone to be equal. If your friend tries to jump or leap up on another individual, turn around and walk away. If they learn that they will not get any reward for their actions and instead have to go away, they will understand very fast that the correct greeting is on the ground on all fours. This also goes for any verbal or facial aggression, lip lifting, low growl, or barking. Never reward this behavior. It will only make it worse.

NEVER HIT YOUR FRIEND FOR ANY REASON. They do not understand the implication and often get the wrong behavior result long term. Treats and avoidance are the key. Make sure that you can devote all your attention to your human when walking in public. If you are on your cellphone, talking, texting or using an app, you are not paying attention to what they are doing or who they are preparing to interact with in public. Then you are allowing your friend to control the action around you. This often leads to problems. Humans are easily distracted and will pick up and chew things that may make them sick.

There is great value in going to good citizen classes early on. Trainers do a great job in providing you with things to look for and things to do to correctly train your friends to be good public citizens. Your veterinary clinic has the numbers of several excellent group trainers. So be prepared, be alert, be attentive, be involved, and be careful when you are out with your human. It takes only one bad experience to create lots of headaches for you and your human.

Poolesville Veterinary Clinic

Dr. Peter H. Eeg, DVM

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