

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

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These fans surprised a PHS athlete. Find out how in School News on page 15.



Behind every good holiday party is the chef. Bill Lynch prepared the Monocacy Lions Christmas buffet. More holiday pictures are in the Family Album on page 2.



Commissioner Val Dickerson is just one of our Santas this year. See more in Name That Santa on page 9.



The kids get ready to pull the switch that will light up Whalen Commons. See more of the Holiday Lighting Festival on page 12.

Coach Fran Duvall: Impact and Influence

By Jeff Stuart

This fall, Poolesville High School's girls' volleyball coach and coed volleyball coach, Fran Duvall, let it be known that this season would be her last. In seventeen years at PHS and thirty-six years overall, Duvall's teams won seven region titles and the 2008 State Championship.

In 2013, the Falcons nearly won another state title, losing in five sets to Patuxent by just two points, 15-13. Through her participation in club volleyball and coaching clinics, her influence spread beyond Poolesville. It was not an uncommon sight to see several players from the other team trying to get a word with her after a match.

"Fran is the Coach K of women's volleyball: teacher, motivator, and leader," said Rob Rocco, father of Lauren Rocco who played on the 2008 championship team. "She is the finest coach at any level I have ever met, firm in her convictions, professional, confident, and grounded. She is the only coach I ever knew who had standards and held everyone to them (athletes



The legendary volleyball coach surrounded by members of the PHS Falcons volleyball team.

and parents). She was successful every step of the way—a true Poolesville treasure!" Lauren did not find a volleyball team at Vanderbilt, so she started a successful club team there.

"We have gone ten years with Fran, with Megan winning the state, and Sarah falling two points away,"

said Sharon and Frank Kenneweg who had two daughters play for Fran. "Both Megan and Sarah have learned a high level of team commitment and the love of the sport. She will truly be missed." Megan played volleyball at

Continued on page 7.

The Christmas Telegram

By Rande Davis, as shared by Mary Virginia Bietzel

The holiday period from late November through the New Year, a very joyous time for most, can be especially stressful for relatives of those serving in the military who are deployed in dangerous places around the globe. The late Marjorie Byrd of Poolesville lived with the fear of the worst happening during World War II as a young wife and mother whose husband, Ernest, was serving in the army in Europe.

Two uniformed military personnel unexpectedly knocking at your door is the nightmare scene feared by relatives of those serving today. During World War II, it was the dreaded yellow paper from the telegraph office that sent instant pain to the heart with its terse message of finality.

Mrs. Byrd, a widowed mother who experienced receiving a telegram at Christmastime, spoke of the experience with her family. Her story, as shared by her daughter Mary Virginia

Bietzel, provides insight into the brave heart of courageous military spouses. Her story, in her own words, follows:

"You've got a telegram." Those four words would stop your world from spinning in the winter of 1945. While WWII was being fought in Europe, the mothers and wives here at home kept the stores open, farms running, and the family together as best they could. When my husband, Ernest, left to go overseas, my seven-month-old daughter and I moved in with my parents in Poolesville. With my mother to help care for the baby, I got a job in town to help pay our way and fight off the loneliness.

During that time, a very strong and lasting friendship was made with the elderly storekeeper, Mr. Robert Gray, and another employee, Lucy Beall, a young mother also waiting for her husband to come home.

The small town on one end had a bank, a gas station, and two stores. You know the type. You could get groceries and a new



Marjorie Byrd during WWII, awaiting word about her husband.

pair of overalls or boots, and a bag of penny candy all in one place as well as the latest news about the town's boys off fighting

Continued on page 8.

Family Album



Over 130 people joined in the community dinner at Memorial United Methodist Church on December 3.



Members of the Poolesville American Legion Post #247 held their annual holiday party at Cugini's Restaurant.



The Walsh and Fitzgerald families enjoying another traditional holiday breakfast at the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department.



Bettie Laug, Dan Yates, and Owen Laug enjoyed the festivities of the Monocacy Lions Christmas Party.



The JPMS Phantom Players performed the musical Pocahontas to a sellout crowd on the weekend of November 29.



This brother-and-sister duo shared their lists with Santa at the annual UMCFVD Christmas breakfast.



The Claire Howard Studio on Westerly Road drew many shoppers during the annual Countryside Artisans' Tour. The tour is open once again on the weekend of December 12.



Parents Derek and Katie Longbrake share the joy of the UMCFVD model train with their children Aaron, Rachel, and Rebekah.

Town of Poolesville

Commissioners Adopt New Holiday Lighting Display Policy

By Link Hoewing

At their December 1 meeting, the Town of Poolesville's commissioners adopted a new policy to guide the types of lights and symbols that may be included in the annual holiday lighting ceremony.

Before the adoption of the new policy, the town had no formal policy concerning what types of lights—those with potentially-religious symbolism or others—could be included in the annual event. The issue was brought to the fore at the open forum session of last month's meeting of the town commissioners. At that time, local resident Dan Levine proposed that the town include a menorah as part of its annual holiday lighting ceremony. He explained that the menorah is part of the Jewish religious holiday of Hanukah. He also said that, based on his research, such symbols can be included in secular events sponsored by local governments if they are part of a larger display of lights of many kinds and are given no special status or prominence. Court decisions have determined that such displays are secular in nature.

The commissioners appeared sympathetic to Mr. Levine's request but also noted that they could not simply accept proposals for new lights that might have religious connotations without further researching the legal implications. They asked the town attorney and town manager to frame a policy for them to consider at their December meeting.

The policy adopted by the commissioners unanimously has three central points. First, it requires that the town remain neutral with regard to any lights proposed for inclusion in the holiday lighting ceremony. Second, it requires that all lights be displayed in a manner that is secular, in accordance with court precedents. Finally, no private displays of lights can be displayed on town government property. Wade Yost remarked that there are funds available for the town to purchase a menorah.

The commissioners also discussed the structure and purpose of the Community and Economic Development Committee (CEDC), a citizen advisory board created in the mid-2000s. Valaree Dickerson, the commissioner representative who works with the CEDC, noted that, historically, the

group not only developed and helped implement community activities and events (such as Springfest), it also had a focus on economic development activities. When it was established, the commissioners at the time were focused on infrastructure improvements and renovations (such as the work to seal water leaks into sewer lines), new developments then coming online (such as Brightwell Crossing), and the work to locate and build a new town hall. The CEDC did work on both economic development issues and on creating new community events for town residents in part to fill in gaps that the commissioners could not address.

Since then, Dickerson noted, the town commissioners have focused extensive amounts of attention on economic development. In addition, the position of town events coordinator was established, and the coordinator has helped to manage and maintain the now-extensive schedule of annual town events that are part of local life in Poolesville. Dickerson said that the CEDC had done much good work, but that its mission needed to be refocused. She proposed that the CEDC be replaced by an events committee that would be responsible for managing events in conjunction with her (as the commission representative) and the town events coordinator. The economic development work of the CEDC had already largely been transitioned to the commissioners, Ms. Dickerson said, and the new committee would spend its time managing community events.

Mr. Klobukowski reminded the commissioners that the CEDC was established under the town code, and the commissioners would need to vote to change the code in order to accept Dickerson's recommendations. Town attorney, Jay Gullo, agreed and was tasked with coming up with language to put the reforms into place. The proposal will be voted on at the next commission meeting, but it appeared that all commissioners agreed with the general thrust of the proposed changes.

The commissioners also were briefed by Mr. Yost on the Westerly 7 well proposal that is under development. Mr. Yost noted that a Public Improvement Agreement (PIA) was being developed that included language concerning the new proposed well and how it will be managed. A well was originally dug in 2001 and tested, but it must be retested and approved by both the town and the Maryland Department of the Environment. Westerly 7 is located on the southwestern edge of town abutting the existing Westerly development.

Continued on page 4.



Happy Holidays from



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Commentary

Adding Insult to Insult

By John Clayton

The election has passed, and I don't miss it one bit. The telephone calls have stopped, and for that I am ecstatic. I can see why staging annoying robo-calls (I know, redundant) pretending to be from one's opponent was a favorite and effective, if illegal, dirty trick. One can really learn to dislike a candidate with the also redundant one too many of those dinnertime solicitations.

The emails are also a pain in the neck, but one of my early morning coffee rituals is to delete the dozen or so messages I don't need to read, thereby revealing the two or three I care about, and this is so rote by now that I barely give it any thought. The political fundraising messages are high on the list of to-be-deleted. Occasionally, however, the subject line is so over-the-top, I just can't resist reading the message. For all the times I've laughed and poked fun at the Fox News/Rush Limbaugh penchant for sustained indignation at an endless stream of outrages, designed to keep the faithful in a constant state of righteous umbrage, admittedly there are several lefty fundraising outfits that seem to think my umbrage is just as easily ignited. Numerous messages have informed me that Speaker of the House John Boehner is teetering on the edge of outright panic, and \$15 or so from me could put him over the edge. Then I see him on the evening news, and he looks pretty cool and confident to me, but that may be because I didn't send my money in. Yes, those messages get deleted as quickly as any.

While performing this rite a while ago, I came across a message from DirecTV, a company that manages to keep my wallet open without any emotional manipulation at all. The subject line said I could get a three-dollar gift card if I hurried and did something. They called me "John" right there in the subject line, so, warming to the cordiality, I proceeded. For completing

an oxymoronic short survey I could indeed get a gift card from Amazon.com. While I am wary of such offers, for three bucks I could at least check out the level of effort required of me. For much better advice than you're receiving here, please consult Berry Thompson's Computer Tips article, "Beware the Free Offer," in our November 7 issue. Sometimes, after one slogs through a survey for the promise of getting something in return, it turns out that you have to sign up for some shopping service that clearly guarantees even more surveys and emails you don't want, so I was wary, a quality of which Mr. Berry would approve. The first question seemed innocent enough: How old are you? I answered honestly: 61, garnering the reply: Thank you for completing our survey.

I remember the first time this happened to me. I think I was thirty-eight or thirty-nine, not even forty years old. I answered a call from DC101, a to-this-day local rock station. They wanted my opinions on popular music. Well, they had come to the right place; I was quite knowledgeable and more than a little willing to share my preferences and opinions. I was quite sure that the fine fellow on the other end of the line (yes, most telephones used to use "lines") would probably end up being rather impressed with my expertise in these matters. Perhaps he would like to know that I had seen Cream in concert, and Emmy Lou Harris when she was working local clubs. By now you know what the next question was: How old are you? I supplied the answer, confident that my new friend was thanking his lucky stars that his next survey participant would bring a little experience and perspective to the poll. Instead, with no discernable pause: Oh, sorry, thanks for your time. It was a first step into a world I have occupied ever since. It wasn't as bad as the first time a young woman called me "Sir," but I do still seem to remember it. Your turn is coming, if it hasn't already. Only the mode of communication changes, and there are a lot more of them. If I don't get that gift card from DirecTV, I may send them a cranky email.

Continued from page 3.

New Holiday Lighting Display Policy

A site plan for the new development, which guides how new streets and housing sites will be located, among other things, is under review by the Planning Commission, and the PIA will be included as part of its review and recommendations to the commissioners. Mr. Yost noted that he was only briefing the commissioners so they would be aware that the PIA and the site plans were moving forward. No action was necessary on the part of the commissioners.



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Holy Schnikeys! It's 2015!!! Let's ring in the new year together,
Friday, January 2 and Saturday, January 3 from 10:00-5:00,
and Sunday, January 4 from 12:00-5:00! That's right...we're
open right after the New Year to help shake off the winter blues,
and there may be some surprises in store for ye!

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Local News

Cricket, Anyone?

By Kristen Milton

It may have been quiet at the public hearing for Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park, but the community members made their voices heard, resulting in plan changes that could potentially add cricket and disc golf to offerings at the Clarksburg park.

The current Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park Master Plan, intended to guide development of its 290 acres, was approved in 1995. Work on an update began nearly a year ago, triggered by a condition of the property's donation that will move the Ovid Hazen Wells Carousel from Wheaton Regional Park to Clarksburg.

At a November 20 master plan work session for the park, Planner Coordinator Rachel Newhouse noted that while there were no speakers at the October 2 hearing, residents were active in submitting letters and online comments, including "a flood of letters from the cricket community."

The thirty-six letters were largely from Clarksburg and Germantown residents asking that their sport be accommodated in the master plan.

The planning board staff responded by including a recommendation that newly-acquired land in the western portion of the park be used for cricket if it was not selected as the location of the Clarksburg Recreation, Aquatics, and Senior Center.

The board approved the idea although members pressed for the issue to be settled in the shorter term. Lacking imminent construction on the site, Commissioner Norman Dreyfuss suggested it be used for cricket in the interim while Chairman Casey Anderson suggested land at Clarksburg's Little Bennett Regional Park might be suitable.

"It's not like there's no piece of flat ground in the general vicinity," Anderson noted. "It shouldn't be that hard."

Brooke Farquhar of Park and Trail Planning said the staff was working "aggressively" on recommendations for fields on existing parkland. "We feel fairly confident we would be able to create one or two cricket fields together long before we'd be able to use this site," she said. "We'll be back soon."

"The other contingent group we heard a lot from was disc golf," Newhouse said. Planning staff will now consider Ovid Hazen as a possible site for a disc golf course along with Damascus Recreational Park. A feasibility study is planned for 2015.

Community members' concerns about negative consequences arising due to all the proposed changes resulted in the approval of a recommendation for a traffic and noise study. Among the approximately fifty electronic comments received were concerns that nonresidents would overwhelm roads at the park, bringing increased crime and negative impacts.

In their unanimous approval of the changes, board members expressed support and excitement for the project. "Things to do for everybody—I personally like it," Dreyfuss said.

The next steps toward bringing the master plan vision to fruition include facility planning for the relocation of the carousel, which is funded in the Department of Parks budget, and the site selection study for the location of the aquatics center, which is expected to begin in the coming months.

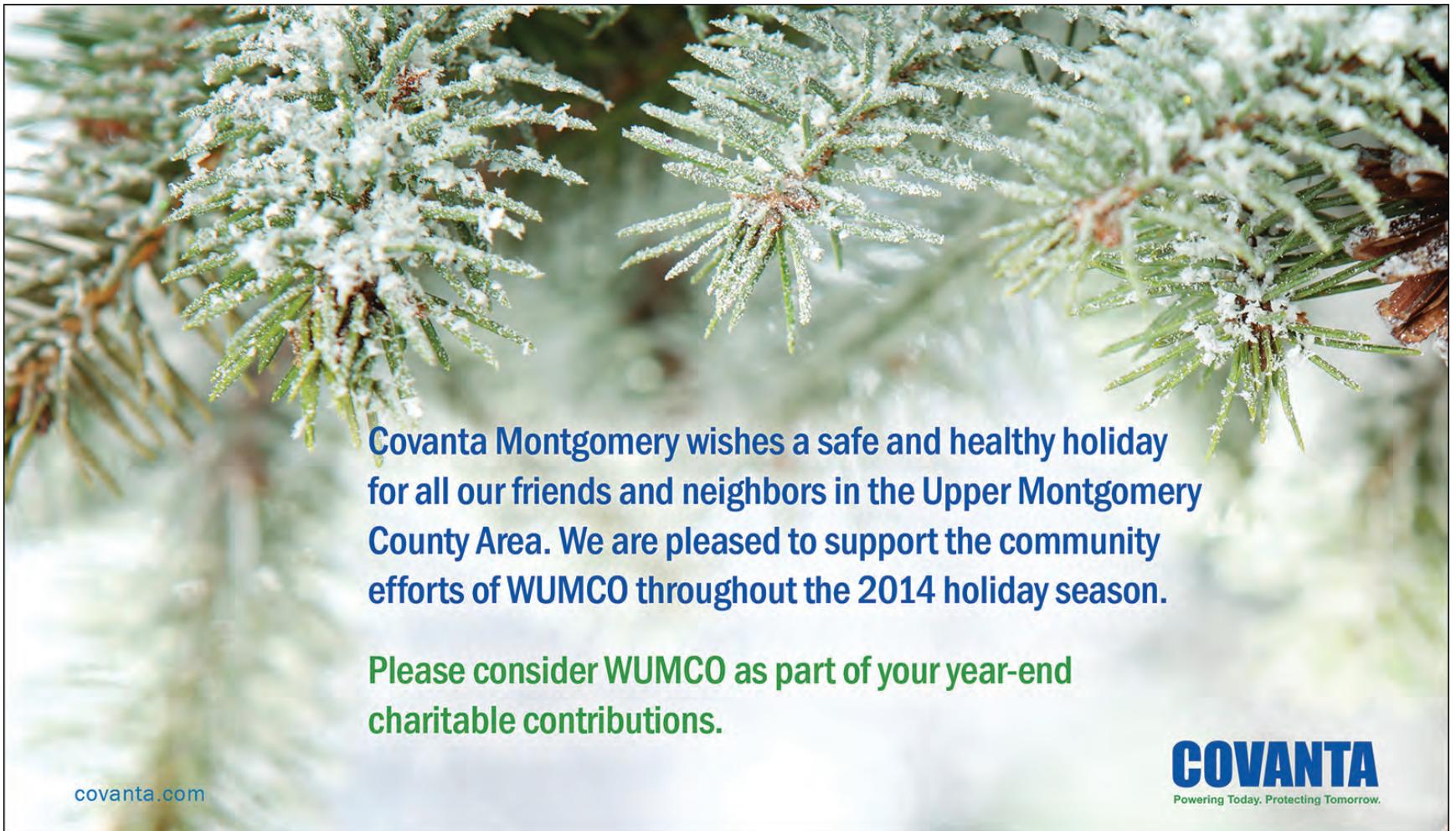
Newhouse emphasized that the property set aside in the master plan as a center site would be considered by the county's Department of General Services with others, including some closer to public transit.

"They may not choose it; that's the bottom line," she said. "This is a little bit off the beaten path. We'll see how that goes."

The draft for the updated master plan divides the park according to three major categories: recreational, agricultural or natural, and educational. It includes installation of the carousel with additional entertainment sites; conversion of the historic Ned Watkins House into an event center; and the development of the Oliver Watkins House as the center of a Home Food Gardens program offering instruction in gardening and edible landscapes as well as a demonstration garden and community garden plot.

Editor's Note

Would you like to voice your opinion on an important issue? The *Monocle* welcomes responsible commentary on a wide range of topics, although Upcounty issues are a lot more likely to get printed. Articles for this page are subject to our discretion and may be edited. No anonymous articles will be considered.



Covanta Montgomery wishes a safe and healthy holiday for all our friends and neighbors in the Upper Montgomery County Area. We are pleased to support the community efforts of WUMCO throughout the 2014 holiday season.

Please consider WUMCO as part of your year-end charitable contributions.

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Things To Do

December 12, 13, and 14

Countryside Artisans' Tour

Shop for holiday gifts in a quaint, rural environment this festive season. Fourteen local artisans open their cottage studios to offer unique handcrafted items. Choose from hand-blown glass, nature-inspired prints and paintings, hand-dyed yarns, art to wear, stone sculpture, handcrafted furniture, pottery, elegant jewelry, and locally-made wines. Watch the artists as they demonstrate their craft and take home one-of-a-kind true American-made products. Keep the artisan tradition alive! For complete information, visit countrysideartisans.com. Friday and Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday: noon to 5:00 p.m.

Bonus Shopping Weekend at the Blue Hearth

An extra weekend of exciting gift ideas from the retailer voted #1 for home furnishings in Montgomery County by *Gazette* readers. Friday and Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday from noon to 5:00 p.m. Then reserve the dates January 2 to 4 for the first weekend of the year that the Blue Hearth will be open!

December 15

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

December 17

Connection Café

Stop by for assistance with questions about computers and internet, chat. Poolesville Presbyterian Church. 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

December 18

Pre-School Storytime

Listen to stories, sing some songs, and learn some rhymes. Registration not required. Poolesville Library. 10:30 a.m.

Community Chanukah Party!

Everyone's invited. Candle lighting, sing-along and jam with David,

the singing Rabbi. Potluck veggie/dairy latke dinner. Bring something to share. Drinks will be provided. Bring your menorah, dreidls, musical instruments, and a canned food for WUMCO. RSVP to: gilah@am-kolel.org with number of adults and children. 6:00 p.m.

Holiday Hay Wagon Ride

Join in the fun of a Hay Wagon Adult Ride through town to view Poolesville's spectacular Christmas lights. Christmas carols will be led by Brian Jamison on the guitar. The festivities begin at AHOP at 6:00 p.m. with music and lotsa fun. The wagons depart at approximately 7:30 p.m., tour the area, make a stop at Bassett's for some spirits, visit more neighborhoods, then disembark at Cugini's. Sign up at any of the establishments. \$10 plus canned food or unwrapped toy donation for WUMCO.

December 20

Drive-through Living Nativity

See scenes of Christ's birth from the comfort of your car! Memorial's Youth Group presents: "Drive through Nativity, Live!" This event is open to the community. All are welcome! 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

December 21

Santa Rides through Poolesville

Santa Claus will join the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department in making his annual ride around town. To give the reindeer important rest time before the big night, watch for Santa riding high on top of one of the fire trucks instead. Listen for Christmas music as he approaches. Santa's helpers from the fire department will be passing out candy canes. Remember, Santa believes in safety first, so, parents, keep your children on the sidewalk. He will gladly accept cookies but only when the fire truck is at a full stop. He starts his tour at 5:30 p.m.

December 24

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

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Happy Holidays

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December 18:
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\$10 plus canned food for WUMCO. Followed by Jail Break Brewing tap takeover and entertainment by THE MOTT SQUAD BAND
8:00 p.m. to midnight!
Note: We will be closed on Christmas Day

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Continued from page 1.

Coach Fran Duvall

Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania. She is now back as an assistant coach at PHS. Sarah is playing as a freshman at Seton Hall.

Fran, always intense, could be intimidating. "I told my daughter Kelly (who played on the 2008 championship team) to listen to what she said and not the way she said it," said Jack Rosenberg. Kelly just finished playing her senior year of volleyball at Rhode Island University.

"Having played against her and worked with her, I have one word to describe Fran Duvall: Energy," said Dave Luddington, now Senior Recreation Program Supervisor for the City of Gaithersburg. "I have never seen so much energy packed inside one person. She is always moving, always teaching, and always trying to make things better than they were before. She is an incredible woman."

"I enjoy a challenge," said Coach Duvall. "I did not play volleyball, so I came at it from a student perspective. I am happy for that for I remained the student-coach my entire career. Competition as a coach is different from the athlete. It took me a while to learn that."

Fran graduated from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School in 1978 and

had to scramble a bit before becoming head coach at her alma mater with no experience. "I went to a coaching clinic given by USAV [USA Volleyball]. It was a week-long clinic. The head clinician was Brazilian, and she was fantastic. I was hooked after that week with her. That clinic was all the preparation I had for my first season. We were 4-10. Some years later, I went to Pallotti [High School] because we bought a house in Burtonsville and I had just had Maureen."

"I first coached club in 1984 for Capital Volleyball Club. I then started a small club called Smack's Gang. In 1990, two friends and I started the Metro Volleyball Club. The club was very successful. I was the director until 2002 when we merged with Barry Goldberg and started Metro American VBC [Volleyball Club] which is still an active club today. I stepped away from Metro American in 2009. Metro holds a dear place in me. It was another piece to who I am as a coach.

"My son Daniel and I started Platform Volleyball Club (PVC) in 2009. We wanted to train and teach the game from what we thought was the most important approach to the game, ball control. I know ball control is what I stressed throughout my career. Every coach sees the game differently, and

I see it through the platform (proper passing technique).

"My husband, Lance, played volleyball in college and when I got the job at B-CC, he helped me out. All three of my children played volleyball. Daniel and Maureen both played in college. All three are coaches with the club... It is nice to be able to share what we love through the club. My children are better coaches than I was at their age."

At Poolesville Daniel was named county volleyball MVP four times. He played volleyball at Sacred Heart College. Maureen graduated in 2005 and was named *Gazette* Player of the Year. She played for Shippensburg College.

When asked for one word or phrase that she hoped former players would use to describe her, Duvall replied, "There are several that come to mind, fair, tough, persistent, compassionate, and fun."

What did she try to teach players besides volleyball? "You always have more in the tank than you think. Life is not fair. Always get back up, no challenge is too big. Don't toot your own horn, give credit to others, never give up, and believe in yourself if you want others to believe in you."

Any role models in coaching? "I have a few. Steve Henry, Felix Hou, Peg Worthington, Merlin, and Russ Rose, all of these people have been

generous with their time and energy. Each of them shared something that I needed to learn. Nothing better than an open mentor."

Her best and worst memories in coaching? "My worst is easy, losing the 2003 State Championship after being up 11-8 in the fifth game. We lost, 12-15. It was not my finest hour as a coach. I let my players down. As you can see, it has been twelve years, and I still am haunted by it.

"My best are many; however, I will name a couple. The 2008 State Championship, 1996 NEQ Championship with Metro, and my favorite of all time was winning the first region title at Poolesville in 2002. We were down in the fifth game, 11-2, and came back and won, 15-12, in non-rally scoring. The gym was packed, it was filled with energy, and the players fed off the energy. I will never forget that feeling. My JV coach and friend, Trish Better, and I hugged for what seemed like five minutes. It was awesome!"

On Senior Night, October 21, against Springbrook, the honored seniors dragged Coach Duvall out to center court with them to receive accolades.

In her last appearance as coach at the Poolesville gym, the Falcons earned a hard-fought five-set playoff win over Francis Scott Key High School.



**Merry Christmas
from
Poolesville
Presbyterian
Church**

Christmas Eve candlelight service at 7 pm

Regular Sunday Schedule

9:15 am Classes (Pre-K to Adult)
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Fellowship & Food

Special Christmas Services

Dec. 21, 10:30 am Children's Christmas Pageant
Dec. 24, 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Connection Café

Free computer/smartphone help
Wednesday, 2-6 pm

Poolesville Community Garden



17800 Elgin Rd., Poolesville, MD 20837
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Tidbits

Job Shadowing for Engineering Students

The PHS engineering curriculum, Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is a provider of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) educational programs. PLTW is designed to introduce students to various engineering disciplines (mechanical, electrical, civil, materials, software, architecture, etc.) and to promote critical thinking along with developing problem-solving skills.

The project provides students with a technical foundation through an engaged network of teachers, mentors, and students known as the Partnership Team. One of the goals of the Partnership Team is to develop essential connections in the local business community. PLTW is looking for technical mentors to participate in a work shadow program with the senior design students.

Job shadowing is a great way for these students to learn more about a particular field of work by observing the day-to-day activities of someone in the engineering field. Most shadows involve spending a full day or part of a day with a mentor at his or her place of work.

If you are an engineer or work in the technology industry, you might consider becoming a job shadow mentor during the December through March timeframe. If you are, please contact Kevin Carmack at kevin.k.carmack@nasa.gov.

MCP Makes a Safe Holiday a Priority

The Montgomery County Police Alcohol Holiday Task Force will be devoting its attention to detecting alcohol-related offenses this holiday

season. The task force, which continues through January 10, 2015, will focus on enforcement of traffic laws in areas known for a high number of alcohol-related tragedies, compliance checks of businesses who hold alcohol licenses, including the use of surveillance by officers in plain clothes, and responding to calls about underage drinking parties. Any parent or other adult who hosts such a party can also be held liable and can be issued a citation.

For those who will be drinking, MCP suggests that you do plan on using a designated, sober driver before the party begins. Call a taxi, phone a sober friend or family member, use public transportation, or call SoberRide at 1-800-200-TAXI.

In the event you observe a driver impaired by alcohol or drugs, call 911. If possible, without endangering yourself, obtain the license plate of the vehicle, the direction of travel of the vehicle, and a description of the vehicle (make, model, color).

Persons aware of establishments selling alcohol to minors or private parties serving alcohol to underage persons should call the police non-emergency number at 301-279-8000.

Congratulations to PHS Athletes

The *Gazette* announced the PHS selections for All-Gazette honors for fall sports: Soccer, junior goaltender Kristen Darragh was a first-team choice while seniors Karyn Comfort and Brian Galfond received honorable mention; cross country, senior Claire Beautz was named to the second team; and in field hockey, senior goaltender Anna Murgia was a first team pick, senior Amanda Chasin made the second team, and Jolee Raines earned an honorable mention.

Continued from page 1.

The Christmas Telegram

the war. At the other end of the main street there was a beauty parlor, a small diner, the post office, and a telegraph office.

The day Mr. Gray answered the phone and told me I had a telegram will forever be the most frightening moment in my life. A telegram could mean only one thing during wartime, and in a small town, news travels fast, very fast.

I don't remember walking in the door and when the somber-faced postmaster handed me my telegram. I didn't see the look in his eyes. I was so numb

with fear for what I'd see when I opened the envelope that it took several minutes for me to comprehend what I was reading. "DEAR BUTCH, I AM OK - HOPE YOU AND BABY ARE SAME - HAVE A NICE XMAS, WILL WRITE SOON - LOVE."

Instead of an official notice of my dear husband's death, I found a Christmas greeting! (NB: Ernest Byrd's nickname for Marjorie was Butch.)

Somehow he managed to get a telegram sent to me from Germany in the middle of the war. On the way back to work, the whole town seemed to share in my joy and relief, and it seemed that a cloak of peacefulness settled over us all on the December day in 1945. It said, "We'll be alright and this will be over soon."

The war did end soon, and Marjorie's beloved husband as well the husband of Lucy Beall returned home safely in March.

Marjorie and Ernest went on to become the parents of seven daughters and one son. Marjorie passed away a year ago in February, 2013; Ernest died in 1964; and the brave young wife of World War II not only raised the children by herself through many times of great challenge, but she often took in troubled youths.

Her brave heart was fueled by a strong sense of humor. She would often wonder aloud, "How far could a clothesline with ten thousand diapers really go." One thing is for sure. Marjorie proved that a loving nature, a sense of humor, and a brave heart can go a very long way, indeed.



Ernest Byrd in uniform during WWII.



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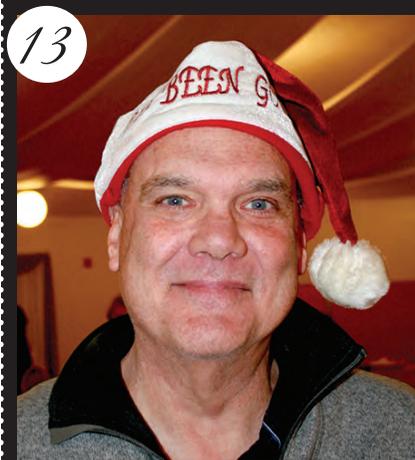
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Name That Santa



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Starts at 6:00 p.m. at AHOP, then Bassett's, and finally ends at Cugini's.

Focus on Business

Chris Jones: Living a Dream And His Heritage

By Rande Davis

Barnesville's Chris Jones lives in the home his great grandfather built. Of course, when they moved in the home, which was built in the 1880s by Charles Ward, it needed a lot of loving care and skillful remodeling, both of which are resources Chris Jones has in abundance. With home building in his blood, he has spent more than thirty-five years building new homes and remodeling others in a journey that began after serving his country in the marines for four years.

Jones, a Richard Montgomery High School graduate and Montgomery County native, got an associate's degree from Montgomery College and went to work for Ryan Homes, successfully working his way up the ladder into supervision and then eventually into management with Ausherman Properties of Frederick.

It was in 1997, with encouragement from his wife and business partner, Mary Lu, that they took the entrepreneurial plunge and started their own firm, Jones Premium Builders and Remodelers, Inc. Their vision was simple: If you can dream it, they can build it. "We have done everything from a duck house and goat playground to a full estate," says Jones, smiling in remembering the fun projects that

were requested by one repeat customer to build a special place for his daughter's ducks.

Custom home building, additions, and renovations are the mainstay of the company, but they also do kitchens, baths, patios, decks, and remodel basements into living quarters.

Mary Lu is the vice president and office manager of the firm, overseeing payroll, project proposal preparations, and bill payments. A graduate of Frostburg State University and a graduate of Gaithersburg High School, like Chris, she also is a native Montgomery County resident.

The couple has four children, Emily Cuga, Marjory, Logan, and Meredith. Chris and Mary Lu shared their excitement of recently becoming grandparents. The couple loves the outdoors and is currently building a second home in West Virginia where they hope to someday retire and enjoy the outdoors on a more regular basis. Chris is an avid hunter and fisherman, and along with Mary Lu, gives special priority to giving back to the community. Chris has been a member of the Monocacy Lions Club for twenty-three years and for many of them, he and his entire family used to coordinate the annual Lions Club Halloween Party at St. Mary's Pavilion, a Barnesville tradition for more than five decades. Community involvement doesn't end there, though, as Jones Premium has been a supporter and contributor of the Fisher House, Circle of Hope Therapeutic Riding, Poolesville Day, Poolesville Prom, Wounded Warriors, and Relay for Life. They are also donors to St. Mary's Holy Name



Chris Jones with partner in life and in business, Mary Lu.

Society and the Knights of Columbus.

The man who builds homes is a man not satisfied with a simple "man cave" to have as a retreat when the time for relaxation finally comes around. He built a complex cabin retreat in his backyard complete with TV, bar, and amenities to maximize fun. Of course, it is not really a man cave as Mary Lu enjoys the retreat as well.

Just as the couple enjoyed remodeling their home together, they now travel to their West Virginia place on weekends to work on finishing up their eventual retirement home there. Chris is especially pleased with the friendliness of the new neighbors. He

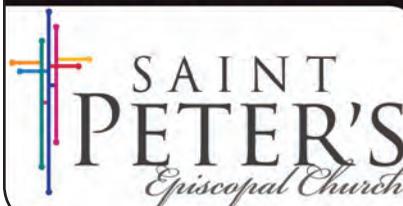
smiles as he notes that his new next-door neighbor and hunting buddy in West Virginia was a former army sniper. It's not that he hasn't always been able to keep his freezer filled with venison, which he shares with friends and family, it's that now his success at hunting is almost a certainty.

In the meantime, with a commute to his Global Offices no greater than the steps to the basement of their home, and with a wall filled with accolades for his work over the many years, he and Mary Lu plan to continue enjoying their work and life in Barnesville with an eye toward West Virginia some day in the future.

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NTS9: **Bob Sinclair**, principal, JPMS

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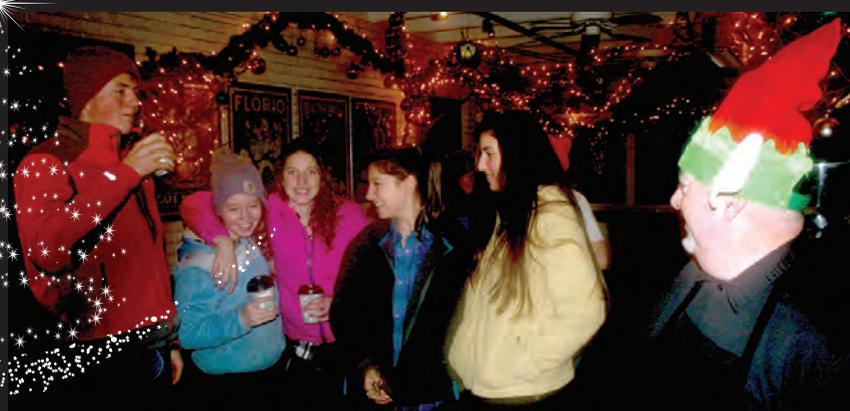
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School News

PHS Students Prepare For Summer Internships

For a third straight year, local business Corporate Network Services (CNS) hosted mock interviews for approximately seventy Poolesville High School juniors enrolled in the Science, Math, and Computer Science (SMCS) curriculum. The goal of the initiative is to better prepare tomorrow's leaders for the work environment.

As part of the program, PHS juniors, under the supervision of teachers Mark Curran and Kevin Lee,

students to participate in the interview program, which has grown in popularity each year.

"All the students were fascinating," said Saundra Hudnall, a volunteer interviewer. "One student was working on bone regeneration and was hoping that he could work in a lab using 3-D technology and replicate it for human regeneration. Another student was focusing on stem cell research after his grandmother passed away. His life mission is to knock out diseases."

The interview program occurs each fall and anticipates adding a resume-writing workshop to the mix. Local business leaders are welcome



PHS Internship Program volunteers (back row), Mark Hessels, Brenda Sneed, and Saundra Hudnall, with students, Angeline King and Alex Hsu.

compose resumes, cover letters, and research in preparation for a required summer internship. Each student is assigned to a business professional from the Poolesville community to participate in a twenty-minute interview in a real office setting. Interviewers provide immediate feedback to students following the session. They coach them on all aspects of interview etiquette, including the initial handshake, eye contact, attire, communication style, and provide detailed feedback on their resumes.

"The competition for a career is fierce," said CNS president Brenda Sneed. "We have a very rigorous interview process. It only makes sense for us as a community to help these motivated, young adults get a leg up on the competition by starting early. Practicing these skills now will prime them for the real thing when they're ready to enter the workforce."

The SMCS program, designed to challenge students with rigorous mathematics, sciences, problem-solving, and research skills, encourages

to volunteer by contacting CNS at info@cornetser.com or 301-948-8077.

Poolesville's Kenneweg Gets Surprise Support from Local Fans

Former PHS volleyball standout, Sarah Kenneweg, is a starter as a freshman at Seton Hall. When Seton Hall played at Georgetown on November 21, many of the players on the current PHS team, along with their Coach Fran Duvall and a considerable contingent of Poolesville fans, showed up at Georgetown's McDonough Gym to cheer her on. Kenneweg happened to be the first player introduced and received a long, warm round of applause from the Poolesville fans. After the Georgetown announcer proclaimed, "And for Seton Hall, number one, from Poolesville, Maryland, Sarah Kenneweg," he graciously let the applause linger. In the end, Seton Hall won in three straight matches. After the game, Kenneweg greeted her supporters and posed for selfies with her former teammates, coach, and friends from Poolesville.

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Advent Confessions - Dec. 13 & 20 at 9:30 am

Anointing of the Sick - Dec. 14 at 9:30 am Mass

Looking Ahead

Christmas Eve
4:30, 7:30, 11:30 pm Mass

Christmas Day
9 & 11 am Mass



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Garden

Gardening In Harmony

By Maureen O'Connell

This is my last garden column for 2014. The past year has been a bittersweet sort of way. Gardens always exist in a state of flux, but I have seen more changes this past year than ever, some welcome and some not. My Garden Phoenixes were pushed to new levels of endurance. I shall gather my thoughts now and tell you about a different kind of garden in a different country.

In November, I traveled to Japan, visiting Tokyo, Hakone, Takayama, and Kyoto. Thanks to the famous Bullet Train, the Shinkansen, it is easy to cover

try in design. Japanese gardens don't try to transform nature to their own desires; they strive to imitate it using elements such as stones, gravel, sand, ponds, streams, waterfalls, islands, and bridges. Color and shape are important as they try to produce miniature reproductions of natural scenery.

Gardens in Japan started to evolve in the sixth century and were heavily influenced by Chinese culture and Buddhism. The cultural and religious beliefs of the ruling classes of aristocrats, monks, warriors, politicians, and industrialists were reflected in the various types of gardens. There are three main styles: tsukiyama (artificial mountain or landscape garden), karesansui (dry landscape in which water flows are suggested using stones), and chaniwa (a garden surrounding a teahouse). From the earliest garden forms found in Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines



The Japanese tea garden in the shadow of Tokyo skyscrapers

a lot of ground quickly and efficiently. Running at speeds of up to 200 miles per hour, it stitches Japan together both socially and economically.

Japan is a country of contrasts: The old and the new peacefully exist side by side. Its population of approximately 127.6 million people is about fifty percent of the United States population, and it lives in an area roughly the size of Montana.

Japanese gardens are totally unlike most others that we know. The average family garden is small. All over Tokyo, apartment balconies are covered with pots, and bonsai cultivators cultivate miniature trees in small backyards. You don't see a large variety of flowering plants and geometrically-arranged lawns and beds. There is no symme-

try to today's gardens found in public parks and small, backyard gardens, they are all considered sacred places in the midst of nature. The most important element in all of these garden designs is achieving harmony with nature. Flowers are not a prime element in Japanese gardens. They are thought to be distractions and are reserved for ikebana arrangements, while other potted plants such as chrysanthemums are used in seasonal displays. You do see a few indigenous species such as iris, lotus, and flowering shrubs camellia, azalea, hydrangea, and the tree peony. Everywhere you look, there are pine trees, Cherry blossom trees, and the ubiquitous Japanese maple trees.

Continued on page 19.

Tidbits of The Past

By Jack Toomey

December 2, 1930 The Kensington National Guard basketball team easily defeated Rockville, 38-7, at the Kensington Armory.

December 10, 1930 The newly-constructed bridge over the B&O railroad tracks in Gaithersburg opened and, as a result, traffic backed up in both directions. It was thought that some of the motorists were simply enjoying a ride over the bridge and, when the novelty ended, traffic would subside. Costing \$118,000, the bridge was built due to the number of train and auto crashes at the former grade crossing.

The county commissioners voted to lower the price paid to residents whose horses were killed by dogs from \$100 to \$75. At the same time, they raised the price of cows killed by dogs from \$60 to \$75.

The Board of Education accepted the resignation of Mrs. J. W. Martin, a teacher at the Poolesville School.

December 12, 1930 The county commissioners announced that the county's idle (unemployed) would not be helped with cash handouts as in the past. The commissioners said that because of the dire conditions caused by the Depression, the cash reserves were low.

December 14, 1930 Dr. William Pratt, county health officer, announced new sanitary codes. From that day onward, all cows producing milk in Montgomery County for shipment to Washington had to be tested for tuberculosis. In addition, thirteen men who were working in the dairy industry in the county were removed due to the fact that they were tuberculosis

carriers. Dr. Pratt also announced new rules that would govern trash dumps which were often unpleasant.

Judge Charles Woodward of Poolesville and a fellow attorney flew to New York by airplane to attend the Army vs. Navy football game. Judge Woodward said that he planned to remain in New York until the next Monday.

December 15, 1930 Dr. Edward Broome, superintendent of the county schools, announced that attendance rates during the fall term were at an all-time high. Elementary schools reported a ninety-three percent attendance rate, high schools scored ninety-five percent. Damascus Elementary School had the highest attendance in the county with ninety-eight percent.

December 16, 1930 A twenty-three-year old woman was granted an annulment from marriage after a hearing at the Rockville Court. Mrs. Stoner testified that because of her nervous condition, she did not fully understand the obligations of marriage when she married Mr. Stoner. She also said that after the marriage ceremony, she fled the church and had not lived with her husband.

December 19, 1930 Manager Donovan of the Mohawks was irked by charges that he had padded his lineup for the upcoming championship game against Saint Mary's. He admitted that he had contacted two players to replace Biggs, who had a shoulder injury, and Abbey who was suffering from a broken leg. He refused to name the players in which he had shown interest. It was also revealed that the Virginians had been disqualified from the football league for using several marines in their lineup who played using aliases.

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

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6:30 p.m. Travelers' Mass
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Sun. Dec. 7 Hours: 1 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Thurs. Dec. 11 Hours: 4 to 8 p.m.
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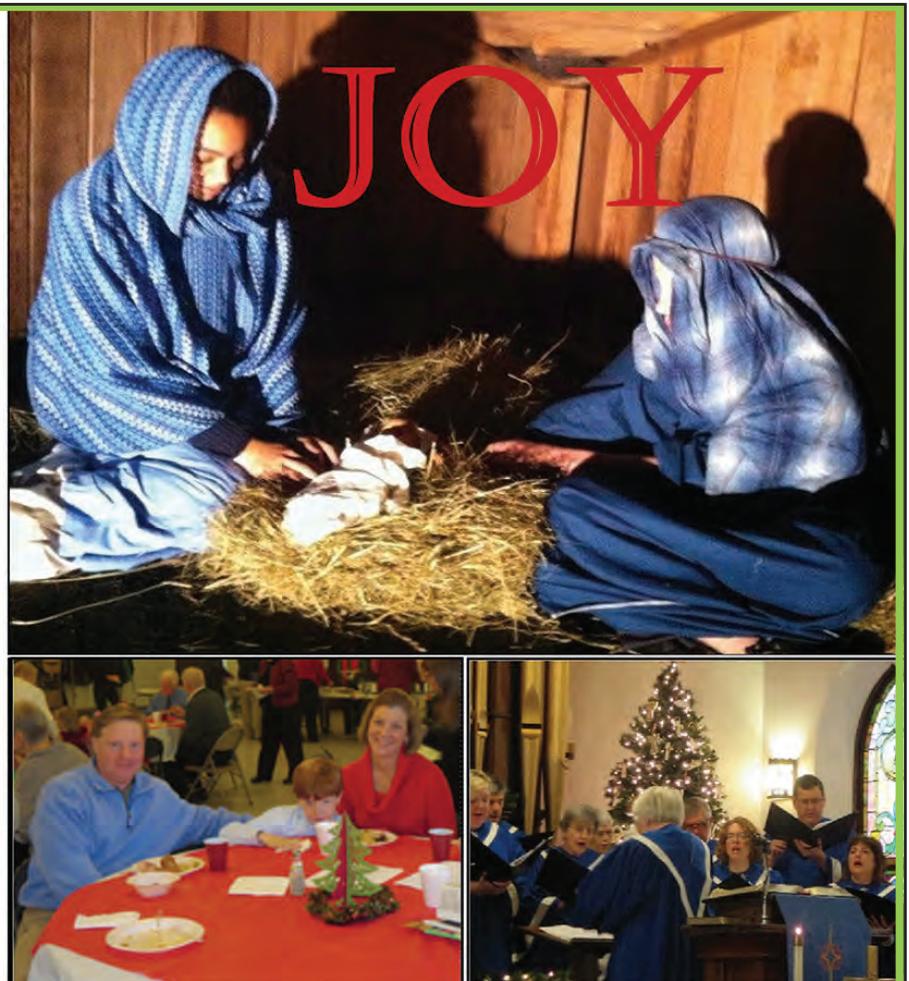
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- ✦ Live Nativity: Drive through Scenes from the Birth of Jesus! *Saturday, December 20 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm*
- ✦ Praise & Prayer Contemporary Worship Service* *Sunday, December 21 at 8:15 am*
- ✦ Christmas Eve Services* - *Wednesday, December 24*
4:00 pm *Family-friendly Worship Service*
8:00 pm *Traditional Worship Service*
- ✦ Sunday Worship Schedule
9:15 am *Sunday school for children and adults*
10:30 am *Traditional Worship Service**

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Assault: 19200 block of Hempstone Avenue.

Burglary: 17400 block of Hughes Road.

Theft: 18900 block of Beallsville Road.

Past Crime

December 15, 1940 All was not well in Rockville when, for the first time in eighteen years, the fire siren atop the courthouse did not sound. Every Saturday at 4:00 p.m., the community was used to hearing the test of the siren. People would check their watches, and visitors would scramble for the curbs. Fire Chief Wilson later explained that the volunteer whose duty it was to sound the siren had gone hunting and had forgotten to appoint a substitute.

December 15, 1941 All county firemen and policemen were ordered to be on duty for the county's first air raid test.

Residents were told to participate in the test which was to include five short blasts repeated three times as a take-cover signal. Citizens were then told to go to a darkened room and wait five minutes until three long blasts were heard which was to be the all-clear signal. People living above Rockville in the rural zones were not required to participate.

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

December 19, 1943 Montgomery County Police and a group of bird hunters came to an agreement after a meeting in Rockville. A dog quarantine had been in effect in the county to prevent the spread of rabies, thus preventing bird hunters from using their hunting dogs. The agreement stated that hunters would not take their dogs into areas where rabies was known to have been identified. It seemed to have helped that Walter Johnson, the famed former major league pitcher, testified in support of the hunters.

December 23, 1940 A Bethesda woman called the police to report that a dressed turkey had been stolen from her ice box. She was startled when the desk clerk told her that her turkey was at the police station. It seemed that Officer Garrett had become suspicious when he saw Andrew Smith walking up Wisconsin Avenue with a turkey in his hands. It was reported that Smith also had \$249 and a pint of milk in his possession.

December 31, 1943 Elsie Mills, of near Boyds, was charged with a variety of offenses in regards to the escape of her son from the Frederick County jail. Robert Mills had gone AWOL from Fort Meade and committed a series of crimes before being arrested and placed in the jail at Frederick. After his escape, Robert Mills was said to have stolen six cars and broken into a building. His mother was charged with aiding his escape.

Continued from page 16.

Gardening in Harmony

It is surprising how much forest exists in Japan. As one of the most densely-populated countries in the world, sixty-seven percent of the land is covered in forest. Why has Japan kept so much of its forest cover, while so many other countries (the United States included) are recklessly denuding their natural landscape? The natural environment and topography of Japan are ideal for tree growth, and their steep mountainous area hinders land development. Most farmland consists of rice paddy fields which depend upon water from higher elevations for irrigation. In keeping with the culture and religious beliefs of the Japanese, a higher motivation to keep the forests is their belief that gods lived in the deep forest and among huge trees.

Like the revered Japanese tea ceremony in which every part is in harmony with the season or the occasion, everything in a Japanese garden—the trees, a pond, moss, the placement of stones—has a purpose; nothing is accidental.

I ended my journey back in Tokyo. Upon entering the city, the first thing you notice is the sea of skyscrapers stretching almost endlessly towards the horizon, and a majestic mountain range not too far in the distance. On a clear day, you can see the famed snow-covered Mount Fuji sparkling in the sun.

I grew up outside of New York City. I have seen the neon lights of Broadway, the maze of skyscrapers, and the crowds of people in Times Square. Tokyo is somehow different. As in New York, there are technophiles everywhere; they have embraced technology in almost every aspect of their lives while still holding strong to their own cultural identity. Tokyo is the largest, most overwhelming huge, dense, urban landscape that I have ever seen, more so even than Mumbai or Hong Kong. The Japanese obsess over flowering trees, the changing colors of the red maple trees, fresh sushi, attention to detail, onsen (hot springs), cool fashion on the Ginza, organization, ramen noodles, and a perfect cup of green tea. I was struck by the sheer number of people pouring out of shiny, glass architectural jewels of office buildings, narrow alleyways filled with small shops selling beautiful paper, chopsticks, lacquerware bowls, eels and other exotic fish, soybean sweets, green and brown tea, and rice. The metro and train stations run like clockwork; the streets are clean and litter-free. The people that I met, from the airport security clerk to someone I stopped on the street for directions (me with very limited Japanese and he or she with no English) to the waiters in the hole-in-the-wall noodle restaurants, were all polite, kind, and helpful.

Japan overwhelmed me, excited me, and amazed me. I will return.

Best wishes to all for the coming holidays and the New Year.



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Remembrances

Judith K. Benson,

Judith K. Benson, 86, of Dickerson, and formerly of Frederick, died on November 29, 2014. She was born on March 15, 1928, in Gaithersburg, and was the daughter of the late Vernon and Mabel (Lawson) Kephart. Judith was retired from Montgomery County Public Schools after many years of service as a librarian.

Surviving her is husband, Harrison "Gene" Benson; two sons, Thomas and Michael Benson; one sister, Eleanor Benson; two brothers, Reginald and George Kephart; five grandchildren, Andrew Benson, Jamie Krute, Christina and Jim Minks, Anna Meadors; and one great-grandson, Wyatt Henry Krute.



Judith K. Benson

Judith was preceded in death by one son, Douglas Benson, and one brother, Jack Kephart, Sr.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Pauline Williams

Pauline Williams, the wife of Rev. John Edwin Williams, a former rector at St. Peter's, will be interred with a memorial service at Monocacy Cemetery at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 13, 2014. Mrs. Williams passed away on November 5, 2014 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Rev. Williams was the rector at St. Peter's from 1960 until he passed away in 1968. Mrs. Williams is survived by four sons: David, John, Christopher, and Stephen, and ten grandchildren. David Williams provided the following tribute to his late parents:

North and South

On December 13, St. Peter's Church laid to rest Pauline Williams, from Vermont, next to her husband, Rev. John E. Williams, from Arkansas. My father, a former rector of St. Peter's, had written in a little white Bible given to my mother on their wedding day, "May the Lord watch between you and me when we are absent one from the other." Genesis 31:49.

They are no longer absent but



Pauline and Rev. John Williams

present together in heaven. I'll always remember my parents being together in every way throughout their lives.

My brother and I learned much from having a Yankee mother and a Southern father. Two distinct cultures and ways of thinking blended into our lives. My mother was quiet and reserved. My father was openly fun-loving. We enjoyed New England beef stew and southern biscuits and baked ham.

Personally, I'm proud to say I was born in Virginia. I'm also happy to have roots in New England. North and South.



Maryland and Poolesville flags were lowered in honor of **Firefighter James E. Bethea**, a forty-year veteran of the Baltimore City Fire Department, who died on **November 12, 2014** as a result of injuries suffered in the line of duty.

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SAFETY TIPS FOR PETS AT HOLIDAY TIME

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Peter H. Eeg BSc, DVM, CVLF, FASLMS

Keeping your furry family members safe during the holidays can be a difficult task. There are the ornaments, plants, presents, lights—oh, and who could forget the Christmas tree (if do you decide to put one up this year)? Let's take a look at some simple steps that will allow your pets to join in the holiday fun this year, while avoiding any trips to the animal emergency room.

Christmas Tree Tips:

1. Place your Christmas tree in a corner, blocked off from your pet's wanting eyes. If this doesn't keep your dog or cat from attempting to jump onto the tree, you can place aluminum foil, a plastic drink bottle filled with knick knacks, or anything else that creates noise on the tree's bottom limbs to warn you of an impending tree disaster.
2. Tinsel can add a nice sparkling touch to the tree, but make sure you hang it up out of your pet's reach. Ingesting the tinsel can potentially [block their intestines](#), which is generally only remedied through surgical means.
3. Do not put lights on the tree's lower branches. Not only can your pet get tangled up in the lights, they are a [burning hazard](#). Additionally, your dog or cat may inadvertently get [shocked](#) by [biting](#) through the wire.
4. Ornaments need to be kept out of reach, too. In addition to being a choking and [intestinal blockage](#) hazard, shards from broken ornaments may injure paws, mouths, or other parts of your pet's body.
5. For those buying a live Christmas trees this year, keep the area free and clear of pine needles. While they may not seem dangerous, the needles can puncture your pet's intestines if ingested.

Other Great Holiday Item Tips:

1. Did you know holly, mistletoe, and poinsettia plants are poisonous to dogs or cats? If you normally use these plants to decorate your home, they should be kept in an area your pet cannot reach.
2. Edible tree decorations—whether they be ornaments, or cranberry or popcorn strings—are like time bombs waiting to explode. These goodies are just too enticing, and your pet will surely tug at them, knocking down your wonderfully-decorated spruce.
3. Burning candles should be placed on high shelves or mantels, out of your pet's way—there's no telling where a wagging tail may end up. Homes with fireplaces should use screens to avoid accidental [burns](#).
4. To prevent any accidental [electrocutions](#), any exposed indoor or outdoor wires should be taped to the wall or the sides of the house.
5. When gift wrapping, be sure to keep your pet away. Wrapping paper, string, plastic, or cloth could cause [intestinal blockages](#). Scissors are another hazard, and they should be kept off floors or low tables.



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