

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

November 6, 2015 • Volume XI, Number 15



Steve Vogel had the Wrap-the-Mummy duty this year at the Monocacy Lions Halloween Party. See more pictures in the Family Album on page 2.



Mark Freedman explained Covanta's important role in environmental care in Montgomery County. Read about it in Local News on page 3.



It was a fabulous day of costumes, contests, and family fun. See more pictures of Walk for WUMCO's Oktoberfest on page 9.



Music is only one part of a good day trip. Read more on page 10.

Poolesville Receives Prestigious Sustainability Award

The Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland announced that the Town of Poolesville was one of twelve Maryland municipalities honored at the Sustainable Maryland Awards Ceremony at the Maryland Municipal League's annual Fall Conference held in Cambridge, Maryland.

In earning the award, Poolesville was recognized for achievements in sustainability because it is home to three Maryland green schools, installed a 1.1 megawatt solar photovoltaic system at its wastewater treatment plant which provides clean, renewable energy and savings of approximately \$30,000 per year, and installed LED streetlights in two of the town's most prominent parks. Additionally, the award lauded the creation of a Sustainable Resource Center at the

town hall, and a partnership with Poolesville Green and the Poolesville Presbyterian Church in the development of a community garden. Finally, the town was heralded for adopting a Green Purchasing Policy for procurement of municipal goods and services, and for retrofitting the town hall parking lot with pervious concrete which provides for improved storm water management.

Poolesville's commissioner Val Dickerson remarked, "Poolesville is not only going green, but we are making every effort to save money and sustain the quality of life of our town. Poolesville has a very clear direction on what actions we plan to take, and how we are going to measure our progress and enhance livability for our families. We are so excited about becoming certified for our endeavors.



Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski accepted a special award on behalf of the Town of Poolesville at the Maryland Municipal League conference.

As a Poolesville commissioner and one of the initiators of this certification process, I am very proud of everyone

Continued on page 11.

Monocacy Lions: Let the Good Times and Good Works Roar

By Murray Deutchman

That swelling Roar you hear every second and fourth Monday of each month is the Monocacy Lions Club meeting at which concerned Upcounty community residents get together to have dinner and look for ways to provide assistance and services to the Poolesville, Barnesville, Boyds, Dickerson, Darnestown, and Beallsville communities. Local men and women have joined Lions International and its local affiliate, the Monocacy Lions Club, to put their heads and hearts together, first, to identify local community needs and, second, to design and implement a project to address those needs on a personal and local level.

Lions International is a worldwide service organization begun in 1917. It is the largest service organization in



Hosting and dressing up for a Halloween party for kids is just one of many community services of the Monocacy Lions Club.

the world with over 1.4 million men and women in two hundred countries joining together to assist the needy, both locally and internationally, and to improve the overall wellbeing of their community and the world. While originally started as a men's organization, it has recognized that women are just as concerned with the welfare of their community and are willing to

play a necessary and effective role in addressing community needs, so now the Lions Clubs have thousands of women as active and full members.

The Monocacy Lions Club meets the second and fourth Monday of each month for dinner at various locales (church meeting halls, local

Continued on page 5.

Family Album



At PDC dinner:
Laura Davis,
Michelle Halbrook,
Faith Etheridge,
and Brice Halbrook.



The Monocacy Lions Club's Halloween Party at St. Mary's in Barnesville has been fun for kids for over six decades.



Sponsors
and volunteers,
Kathy and
Bernie Mihm,
with 2015
grand marshal
Grace Sheppard.



Poolesville Day Committee members joined by sponsors celebrated at a year-end dinner held at the UMCVFD fire hall.



Leadership of the Poolesville Day Committee: Cathy Bupp, Faith Etheridge, and Gina Beck, with volunteer Georges Jacob.



PDC members John and Lynne Rolls (left), with Dave and Sara Ashley, and Susan and Mark Corfman.

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Local News

Covanta: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recovering Energy From Waste

By Rande Davis

Poolesville Green hosted a seminar on October 23 with featured speaker, Mark Freedman, business manager of Covanta Energy in Dickerson. Covanta has been operating its Montgomery County Solid Waste Resource Recovery Facility since August of 1995. The facility processes an average of 1,800 tons per day of solid waste, generating up to 52 megawatts of renewable energy, enough to power 37,000 homes.

Mr. Freedman presented an overview of operations at the facility and entertained questions from the audience of concerned citizens. Covanta is the world's largest owner and operator of Energy-from-Waste (EfW) facilities. EfW is local, and it returns clean, renewable energy in the form of steam and electricity back to the community that provides the fuel (waste product).

The process starts when post-recycled waste is delivered to the Shady Grove Transfer Station in Derwood, Maryland and is then

compacted into waste containers that are delivered by railcar to an onsite rail yard then taken to the facility's enclosed refuse building. This rail system allows the county to eliminate the use of truck traffic in the Upcounty.

The resource recovery facility employs mass combustion technology which combusts waste at furnace temperatures that exceed 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit, reducing the waste to an inert ash that is about ten percent of its original volume.

Covanta states that the waste-to-energy industry is more regulated than coal and oil-fired utilities. The company hails EfW as an environmentally sound alternative energy source. For every ton of waste processed in the Dickerson facility, the need to import one barrel of oil or mine a quarter ton of coal is avoided, saving the equivalent of twenty million barrels of oil or five million tons of coal a year.

The company reports that each new EfW facility has the potential to generate one billion dollars in direct and indirect economic activity, providing up to the equivalent of one thousand construction jobs. In 2000, the Resource Recovery Facility earned the Waste-to-Energy Facility of the Year award by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Solid Waste Processing Division. Covanta offers public tours of its facility.

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Commentary

Ho Hum

By John Clayton

With only four debates in the bag, I think I'm done. There doesn't seem to be anything new going on. We know what all these people think; it's just posturing at this point. The furor over the tone of the moderators' questions is overblown. If the Republican candidates don't want questions related to name-calling and criticism of each other, then perhaps they should—just a thought here—stop calling each other names and criticizing each other. That might help stem the more insipid questions, and yes, there have been some of those in all the debates.

The Democratic candidates clearly know who their candidate is going to be and no one really wants to upset the party too much at this stage. They are also pathetic amateurs at name calling and attacking each other. The only candidate besides Hillary who actually has substantial numbers, Bernie Sanders, took a stab at criticizing with his "We're sick and tired of hearing about your damned emails," but it apparently backfired. From what I have read, it was the front end of a planned broadside that may have questioned her judgement, but the rug got pulled out when Hillary and the crowd reacted to it as an act of bonhomie. There's not much remaining to watch in future debates except whether our own Martin O'Malley can garner enough support to be a viable vice presidential candidate. I'm betting Not.

I did find it interesting that there is a common thread between the two parties about low wages for average workers and how the middle class is getting the economic shaft; however, while I think they are agreeing on a problem, they describe it very differently and have very different causes

and solutions. The Democrats have their villains all trussed up and ready to go: Wall Street and bankers. In short, malfeasance by large corporations is the source of the significant pay and wealth gap that has arisen between the top one percent and the rest of us. Inequality was their big word of the night—it got used a lot. Government, if I may oversimplify, is the solution to controlling the excesses of the private sector in their generally-adopted canon. No surprise there.

On the Republican side, income inequality isn't much of a buzz phrase at all, and it was only uttered a few times—this was not disinterest so much as a matter of emphasis. The Republicans' solution remains economic growth. This was mentioned quite frequently, at least in comparison to the Democrats, who barely mentioned it at all except to note that it was predominantly flowing to the top, a concern the Republicans did not express. The Republicans' villains were quite clearly described: government, as in big government, too much government, the Federal Reserve, and crony capitalism. The latter is the unholy alliance between big government and big corporations with their lawyers, accountants, and lobbyists, whereby each one helps each other grow and pretty much crush the rest of us. The oversimplified solution here is that smaller government will unfetter private enterprise, which will grow in a happier and healthier manner without its evil government cronies to lead it astray.

See, there's plenty left to argue about. I still think it would be better if the two parties got together and had tag team debates against each other, maybe in a big octagon in the Super Dome. You wouldn't even need moderators; there are plenty of people on both sides more than capable of starting an argument. It's worth a try. The current format is clearly getting worse, not better, so there's really nothing to lose.

Town Government Report Surprising Focus On Substance Abuse Dominates Town Meeting

By Link Hoewing

The commissioners of Poolesville heard from advocates of a proposed coalition to address substance abuse in their meeting on November 2, a surprising development given that most small local governments (like Poolesville's) provide no services or programs that deal with such matters.

Lizette Del Canto, a Public Health Advisor for the federally-supported Center for Substance Abuse, and Peg Arnold, a long-time local resident and John Poole Middle School counselor, spoke in support of developing a coalition to help fight local substance abuse. They both noted a long-term and continuing increase in substance abuse in local schools. The issue is receiving so much attention that a senior legal official for the State of Maryland will be visiting the middle and high schools in Poolesville soon to discuss drug use and alcohol use and what can be done to address the problem.

Del Canto said that the federal government has a program that makes grants to local coalitions formed to fight drug abuse. The coalitions are nonprofit organizations that include officials from local governments, church leaders, business leaders, and local citizens. Grants are not made to local governments or schools but to nonprofit coalitions of local citizens, Del Canto emphasized. Grants run for ten years and, in the case of a coalition in Poolesville, could exceed \$100,000 annually. The money is used to implement a number of local programs, including many focused on better educating parents on the drug and alcohol abuse problem. Generally, a part of the grant is used to hire an executive director with expertise in drug abuse programs, and the coalition works with the professional director to help develop a strategy and set of programs that meet local needs.

Over two thousand coalitions exist nationwide and most are in smaller local communities, explained Del Canto. She said she was not asking for financial support from the town but for assistance in forming the nucleus of a coalition that can help get the program off the ground in Poolesville. Ms. Arnold added that in her many

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Opinion

PHS Needs You! Advocate for Our Schools' Future

By Heidi Rosvold-Brenholtz

A recent update to the Montgomery County Public Schools Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Master Plan has changed the status of Poolesville High School's new building from "programmed" to "recommended," an incremental step forward, according to PHS PTSA MCCPTA representative Jane Lehrman. A feasibility study for the new building could begin in fiscal 2017. The completion date for a new PHS has not changed: it remains 2023.

While this progress is absolutely positive, says Lehrman, all improvements and new construction is dependent on state funding. Advocating to keep PHS's new building funding on track now is as important as ever.

Nothing grabs the attention of our Montgomery County Board of Education (MCBOE) members more than

passionate education advocates. A caravan of parents and students will travel to the Carver Education Building in Rockville, on Monday, November 9, to support representatives from the Poolesville Cluster who are scheduled to testify before the MCBOE about our educational needs. Advocates will address a variety of issues, including the need to fund PHS's new building goals on schedule. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. Advocates from across the county will campaign for their schools throughout the evening. Student testimony will occur first, followed by municipal representatives and cluster coordinators.

Mass matters! Wear your school's colors and bring signs urging support for PHS and the Poolesville Cluster schools.

A new home for PHS will finally provide an appropriate setting for our students' high academic standards and achievements.

The MCPS CIP master plan can be found on the MCPS website:

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/cipmaster.aspx

For information about the meeting, please contact Jane Lehrman, lehrman1@verizon.net.

In 1914, a four-room brick addition was built, and a brick veneer was placed over the original frame construction in order to give the school a more aesthetically-pleasing appearance.

Two more acres were purchased in 1924 for \$300.00 to allow for more school expansion. A combination gymnasium/auditorium was built the same year, and the student enrollment had risen to 275 pupils by 1925 with one principal and eight teachers. It was during this period that some classes were held in school buses parked beside the building while construction was in progress. Today, some parents go into a near-frenzy if portables are used for that purpose. The temporary arrangement worked fairly well until one very warm Indian summer day when a couple of the older boys drove the bus down to the river to take a cool swim during the lunch period. Some older alumni may remember the commotion this escapade created.

The principal in 1926 was Mr. Haymond Black, who was succeeded by Mr. B.O. Aiken, or simply B.O. as he was fondly referred to behind his back. He left in 1930 to enter other fields of endeavor where his initials were not so much of a handicap. We can only guess as to why the initials were preferable

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Monocacy Lions: Let the Good Times and Good Works Roar

restaurants, etc.) to plan projects that raise funds for their programs, to select programs that may have overall community benefit or that may help individual needy citizens, and then to deliver the assistance and services. The Monocacy Lions have provided eyeglasses for those with vision needs, food for families at the holiday seasons, a Halloween party for the children in the area, traffic assistance for the Poolesville Day 5K Race, free eye examinations for local residents in need, funds to help the Leader Dog program, and numerous other projects and community needs. They also sponsor Leo Clubs at the local schools so that the youth of our area can learn and participate in giving back to their community.

It should also be mentioned that as they get together to help their community, they also meet and form friendships with other local residents and businessmen and women. "Old-timers" who have been here since the 1940s, when rural was the only way to describe the upper Montgomery area, share meals, ideas, and make friends with the "newcomers," the families that have joined the old-timers to develop and populate this area, bringing new ideas and hopes for the whole community. The social interaction and personal satisfaction that result from Monocacy Lions activities are a positive benefit to all of us.

Also, in case you have not noticed from the earlier parts of this article, Lions is not a bunch of men looking to get out and raise hell away from the family a couple nights a month. Lions is for the women in our community as well, so the Monocacy Lions welcomes and encourages the women in our community to join them and to participate, side by side, with their spouses, significant others, or just themselves in making their community a better place for everyone. When you join Lions for their bi-monthly dinner meetings, no one has to cook. The Lions would love to have you as their guest at their next dinner/meeting.

For information on how to join or just to get more information about Lions and their activities, contact Roger Brenholtz at rbrenholtz@mac.com.

Mystery History

A Brief History of Schools in Poolesville

By Rande Davis

With the Montgomery County Public School Board of Directors meeting coming on November 9, and the PTSA encouraging parents to attend on behalf of the cluster needs, I think it appropriate to lay out the history of school development in Poolesville even while the building of a new school remains much of a mystery to be solved some day in the future.

Of course the Seneca Schoolhouse on River Road, constructed in 1866, is an appropriate starting point, but it wasn't until 1906 that a Poolesville Elementary School was first built. It consisted of two stories with two classrooms on each floor. In 1910, the eighth and ninth grade courses were added to the curriculum, and the following year, the first school bus in the State of Maryland was operating at Poolesville. It was a horse-drawn wagon that was driven by Mr. Lloyd Grubb. In 1911, the name of the school was officially changed to Poolesville High School.

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Things To Do

Save the Dates

December 5

Christmas Dinner

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Poolesville Lodge 97, is once again hosting its annual Christmas dinner for seniors, widows, widowers, and orphans on December 5. It will be held at *Poolesville's Memorial United Methodist Church on Fisher Avenue* from noon to 3:30 p.m. If you have plans to attend, they would appreciate your RSVP by November 26. For more information, call Richard Norwood at 301-943-6845 or Spencer Schmidt at 301-349-2057.

December 8

Rural Republican

Women's Club Christmas Party
Bassett's. 12:00 p.m.

November 6

Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary Bingo
Featuring Longaberger Baskets filled with extras, Vera Bradley bags, and cash. Includes twenty games, specials, door prizes, and raffles. Refreshments are available for purchase, and participants are asked to refrain from bringing outside food or beverages. Cost is \$20.00. Located at the *firehouse at 19801 Beallsville Road, Beallsville*. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Games begin at 7:00 p.m.

November 6, 7, and 8

The Blue Hearth

Special Market Weekend

The holidays are a special time; get your home ready and plan ahead. We can help make your holiday décor unique and your gift-giving extra special this year. *19964 Fisher Avenue*.

November 9

Speak up for the Poolesville Cluster Schools

Montgomery County Board of Education Meeting. *Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 123, Rockville, Maryland 20850*. 7:00 p.m.

November 10

PASC Special Event

Poolesville Area Senior Center Special Event: Seminar and pot luck dinner with a special presentation of an "Aging in Place" seminar by the Senior Connections executive director Tim Shaw and Montgomery County's Village coordinator Pazit Aviz. *17750 West Willard Road*. 7:00 p.m.

Cugini's Special Event

Celebrating the Marine Corps's birthday! All marines welcome.

November 11

Veterans Day Memorial Event

American Legion Post 247 will host a memorial service in *Whalen Commons* in tribute to America's veterans. 11:00 a.m.

Cugini's Gift to Vets

Veterans offered free personal pizza all day, dine-in only.

PASC Special Events

T'ai Chi. In the café, *17750 West Willard Road*. 10:30 a.m.

Zumba Gold. *17750 West Willard Road (gym)*. 1:00 p.m.

November 12

PASC Special Events

Bone Health Seminar with free bone density scan, *17750 West Willard Road*. Presented by Holy Cross Hospital's Debra Wylie. 1:00 p.m.

PASC Book Club. *Poolesville Library*. 10:30 a.m.

November 15

Homemade Apple Butter

Kingsbury's Orchard will be making homemade apple butter all day. It will be available for purchase until supply is sold out. Come out to the orchard to watch and enjoy. *19415 Peach Tree Road, Dickerson*.

November 16

Town Planning Commission Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

November 17

PHS PTSA Community Presentation

Speak Up, Save a Life: Silence Kills, Good Samaritan Laws Save

Stephen Chaikin, assistant State's Attorney for Montgomery County, will discuss the alarming trend of young people overdosing from heroin, alcohol, and other drugs in Maryland. The program will inform and educate parents, students, and community members about the overdose crisis, and will explain how Good Samaritan laws save lives and protect individuals who call 911 to report a drug-related emergency. *Poolesville High School Media Center*. 7:00 p.m.

November 18

PASC Special event

T'ai Chi. *17750 West Willard Road*. 10:30 a.m.

November 19

PASC Matinée Day

With refreshments. *17750 West Willard Road*. 1:00 p.m.

November 20 and 21

St. Peter's Annual Christmas Attic Sale

Christmas decorations, crafts, bake sale, etc. *St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 20100 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville*. Friday, Noon to 6:00 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

November 20, 21, and 22

The Blue Hearth Special Bonus Market Weekend

The holidays are a special time; get your home ready and plan ahead. We can help make your holiday décor unique and your gift-giving extra special this year. *19964 Fisher Avenue*.

November 22

Three Internationally-Acclaimed Storytellers in Concert

Internationally-acclaimed storyteller Andy Offutt Irwin is back, this time with acclaimed storytellers Bil Lepp and Kim Weitkamp as part of the Uncalled for Trio. St. Anne's is proud

to be the first stop on their annual holiday tour. Tickets are \$20 plus a \$2.00 online convenience fee at www.stannesdamascus.org, click on Concert Series, or \$20 at the door. Reception to follow. *St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 25100 Ridge Road, Damascus*. 4:30 p.m.

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Sunday: 8 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday: 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Hospitality Weekend - Slow down this weekend & enjoy treats, coffee and socializing.

November - We are collecting items for Shady Grove Pregnancy Center & warm clothes for the needy.

Nov. 7th - Volunteers needed for renovating Jane Stearns' House, co-founder of WUMCO.

Nov. 15th - Welcome reception for New Parishioners!

"There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" - Romans 8:1

At Your Service

Bobbie Evans

By Susan Petro

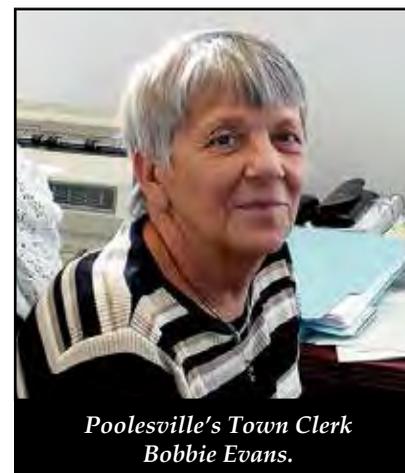
Town Clerk, Bobbie Evans, has been serving the residents of Poolesville for thirty-one years and is a lifelong member of the community. Evans grew up with her parents and four siblings in a white frame house up on a hill on Beallsville Road not far from the center of town. "I have never had a zip code outside of 20837," said Evans, who now resides on White's Ferry Road with her husband of forty years, Raymond "Butch" Evans.

Evans began her career with the Town of Poolesville quite by chance. She walked into the old Town Hall, which was then located in the Old Town Hall Bank Museum in the center of town, to pay her water bill. The previous clerk, Nancy Fost, asked her what she was doing. "Can you come in for a little while?" asked Fost, who wanted someone to fill in on occasion when she needed time off. Evans agreed to help out, and in 1984, was appointed to be a deputy clerk for the town. When Fost retired in 2002, the town commissioners appointed Evans as the Town Clerk.

When Bobbie was growing up in Poolesville, it was much different than today. Only about 350 residents lived in and around town. "Back then, they had the old Selby's, the old Williams store, and a gas station, and that was it," said Evans. The only school in town was located where Poolesville High School now sits. She attended kindergarten through fourth grade there before moving to the then-new Poolesville Elementary for fifth and sixth grade. Evans then returned to the junior-senior high school to attend grades seven through twelve.

Back in 1959, when Evans was a young child, she became a permanent part of Poolesville history when she and all the other town residents posed in front of the old Town Hall Bank Museum for a *National Geographic* photograph. The photographer snapped their picture from a helicopter. The picture was taken to show a visual representation of the United States population increase in one hour which amounted to 298 people. Today, the photograph represents an important historic documentation of Poolesville history.

In the early 1970s, Evans worked for the builders of Poolesville's Westerly neighborhood. The communities of Westerly, Wesmond, and some of the townhouse communities were all built around the same time until a water moratorium halted future growth



Poolesville's Town Clerk Bobbie Evans.

for another decade or so when newer communities started popping up. As the town grew, so did the size of the town staff. When Evans began working for the town, there were only five part-time employees. Today, the town has eighteen staff members.

Evans worked in the Old Town Hall Bank Museum until 2004 when she arrived to work one day to find water in her coffee cup that hadn't been there the day before. She joked that it was nice of someone to make her coffee for her, but in reality the ceiling had caved in after a heavy ice storm. The staff then moved into a storefront where Mooey's Frozen Yogurt is now located. They remained there until 2008 when the new Town Hall building opened.

Evans's duties include serving the town employees, the commissioners, and the local residents. She takes care of paying bills, payroll, building permits, elections, water and sewer, street addresses, and new developments. Evans also works with the senior center, engineers, and answering phones. "A little bit of everything," said Evans who has the help of Deputy Clerk, Maggie Leibbrand, who does most of the phone answering in addition to other duties.

Although Poolesville has grown considerably during Evans's tenure with the town, many of the original residents and descendants still live close by. Evans jokes that you can't talk about anyone here in town because just about every one of the original residents is somehow related to another. Just last week, Evans said a man from Tennessee came by the Town Hall looking for information about his ancestors, the Cubitt family. Town Manager, Wade Yost, looked at the man, pointed to Evans (née Cubitt), and said, "Well, there's one of them sitting right over there." Evans's grandfather and the man's grandfather were brothers.

"We've had a lot of people stop in over the years looking for other people," said Evans, but this was the



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**November 11
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Continued on page 16.

Tidbits

Costume Winners

Congratulations to all the contest winners in this year's WUMCO Walk and Oktoberfest.

Dog costume winners:

Cutest: Chelsie Albright (construction dog)

Most Original: Dan Savino (honeybee dog)

Scariest: Dustin Weber (Caesar and Roman lions)

People costume winners:

Cutest: Isabella and Sophia DeVrient – Little Bo Peep

Scariest: Dan Hess – Lobster in a pot

Most Original: Jonah Valmonte – ET

Scarecrow contest winners

Best in Show: Nanof Family – Scaregoat

Resident: Brad Stone Family – Sea Nightmare

Business: NFF Stables



Winners in dog contest: Dustin Weber, Chelsie Albright, Dan Savino.



The Hess family won scariest with their tongue-in-check red lobster in a pot.

Veteran Awareness: Gravesite Flags and Green Lights

This is the time of year that Poolesville's American Legion Daniel-Jeffers Post 247 diligently places small American flags at the gravesites of veterans at cemeteries in our area as a symbol of appreciation for their service and sacrifice. The local Legionnaires invite all area residents to join them on Veterans Day, November 11, at 11:00 a.m. at Whalen Commons in Poolesville for a brief but solemn remembrance and memorial tribute to all our veterans. Additionally, the Legion recently learned of an awareness-of-veterans campaign promoted by Wal-marts. Residents are encouraged to shower the front of their home with a green light during the

month of November as a tribute to veterans and as a reminder to businesses to hire veterans. If you are not able to show your appreciation through these suggestions, you have another very important way to help veterans. You can make a financial donation to our local post simply by googling "go fund me American Legion post 247". Funds help pay for the memorial flags, scholarships, certificates, and help cover the costs of operating the post.

Scouting for Food

The annual food collection orchestrated by Boy Scouts from Poolesville's Troop 496 will distribute plastic bags to homes across Poolesville on November 7 to fill with canned or dry food. They will pick up the bags on November 14.

The food will be donated to WUMCO's food bank. Remember to put the bag out on the designated pickup day.

Girls' Volleyball Dig Pink Big Success Again

During the month of October, the Poolesville High School girls' volleyball team raised more than \$3000 to contribute towards Breast Cancer Research. In the featured event of the seventh Annual Dig Pink Campaign, the Falcon girls dug, passed, set, and spiked their way to a straight set victory over visiting Walt Whitman High School. Both teams worked in support of this worthy charity. The seven events at PHS have raised a total of

Continued on page 17.



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| ✓ Sweet Potatoes | ✓ Carrots | ✓ Onions | ✓ Kale |
| ✓ Turnips | ✓ Winter Pansies | ✓ Cranberries | |
| ✓ Broccoli | ✓ Cabbage | ✓ Cauliflower | |

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WUMCO & Walk Oktoberfest



2015

Daytripper

Highlights

By Ingeborg Westfall

It's been a pretty good year for outings with cooperative weather; only a few times was it too hot or cold or rainy to explore something new. Some of the occasions or events were interesting enough to make me want to repeat them—most were also outdoors—so here, in no particular order, are some fun, family-oriented activities to keep in mind for next year.

First, the Barnstormers Tour and Plein Air Paint Out: On a pleasant Saturday in June, it was a self-guided tour of nine barns open to the public only that day. I can still smell the wonderful old-hay smell of those barns, and I admired the scene as oil painters, watercolorists, and pen-and-ink artists worked outside, depicting some part of the properties we visited. We saw blacksmithing, demonstrations of old-time wood arts by a man who restores barns, exhibits on the makers of old, area bank barns, and resident farm animals. A sale of the artwork done that day, along with a concert by the Main Line Gravy Soppers, a string band that played old-time music and told groaner jokes so bad they were good, capped the day; food was available as well.

Then there's Schifferstadt, a historic (1758) stone house in Frederick where various family-type events are held during the year. I attended Frontier Day, featuring costumed people depicting life in the late 1700s. The Heritage Garden was in full bloom, farm animals were on display, guided house tours were available, and various items were on sale either outside or in the Schifferstadt Gift Shop (scherenschnitte [paper cutting] anyone?). Again, I found it delightful and informative.



Schifferstadt, a historic (1758) stone house in Frederick.

As usual, the hot weather of late summer kept me inside or on minor trips to places with good air conditioning. Later, as October beckoned, I visited Distillery Lane Ciderworks near Jefferson, the first cider mill licensed in Maryland. Hard cider was the drink of choice in Colonial America, and so it's good to see a resurgence of interest in it and in the preservation of the gnarly, old-style apples themselves. DLC grows both hard-cider apples (definitely too tart to eat out of hand) and eating and cooking apples, and on display in mid-October were Newtown Pippin, Lady, Baldwin, Roxbury Russet, and other old varieties to taste and buy. Samples of cider were available for a modest charge. Owner-led orchard tours were also conducted. I fancy taking their cider-making classes. They offer several distinctive ciders, including my personal favorite, Scrumpy, fashioned in the manner of old-style English ciders. Of course, regular cider is for sale as well.

Also in October was another self-guided tour, this time the Loudoun County Farm Tour. Since a child, I've loved draft horses, those huge, gorgeous, gentle giants, and so the farm I most wanted to see was Upperville's Ayrshire Farm, one of the biggest certified-organic farms in the area, about an hour away on scenic roads. It was wonderful to see the farm with its heritage breeds (Highland and Ancient White Park cattle [picture white cattle with black noses and black ears], Gloucestershire Old Spot pigs, heritage turkeys, and Shire horses). After that stop, I went to Purcellville to a meadery, mead being a honey wine of which my mother always spoke fondly, and then to Lovettsville to visit a maker of artisanal goat cheese. Would you believe that farm has been in the same family for eight generations? Astonishing.

We're lucky that there are such diverse offerings around us—even I need the occasional change from museums—and don't forget all the ethnic Christmas or winter festivals or bazaars coming soon, one of the first being St. Mark's Orthodox Church's Greek/Russian bazaar on River Road in Bethesda, November 6, 7, and 8.

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Continued from page 4.

Surprising Focus on Substance Abuse Dominates Town Meeting

years of experience in Poolesville as a counselor, she too has seen the drug abuse problem grow.

In discussing the presentation, Poolesville's commissioners seemed uncertain as to how to proceed. There was a strong level of support for the general concept, but the role of the commission in helping the coalition was unclear to many of the commissioners. Commission president Jim Brown suggested that he believed in the concept and felt the other commissioners did as well, but he felt it would be useful to take some time to study the program further to come up with a well-considered response from the commission. Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski wondered what happens to the program once the ten-year period is over. Commissioner Brice Halbrook, who was originally approached by Del Canto and Arnold about the program, said he was very much concerned about the drug and alcohol abuse problem, especially after hearing some of the concerns of coalition supporters. He agreed that the commission should look a little more deeply into the idea in order to determine an appropriate role but supported the concept strongly as did Commissioner Dickerson.

After the discussion regarding substance abuse, the commission considered the Overlay Zoning ordinance that has been before it for some weeks. The body has already held a public hearing on the proposal which had been developed over many months by the Planning Commission. The Overlay Zone would provide more flexibility in the Central Business District (CBD) in town, so that residential buildings could be constructed. Language in the new ordinance is not designed to be prescriptive but rather to give the Planning Commission the ability to green light ideas for residential structures to be located in the CBD. It also is focused on ensuring that any new buildings for use as homes be designed to fit the rural and small town character of Poolesville. For example, the proposed ordinance does not prohibit the use of

synthetic materials (such as plastics) in new residential buildings, but gives the Planning Commission the authority to deny the use of such materials when it is determined that they would detract from the town's historic downtown character. The new ordinance was approved unanimously.

In what is normally a routine process, town engineer John Strong presented information about the bonds that are in force now for the Stoney Springs development. Bonds must be taken out by homebuilders to ensure that local builders complete important projects, such as storm and sediment control programs, street light construction, and so on. If they do not, the bonds can be called by the town and used to help complete projects when builders fail to do so. Builders want bonds to be closed out promptly once their projects are completed to relieve them of the financial obligations they represent.

Strong remarked that the builders of Stoney Springs, Winchester Homes, had been inquiring about retiring a number of the bonds they held, but the company had not completed a number of tasks, such as ensuring that all street lights were operational and submitting an approved sediment control plan or even paying all mandated town inspection fees. As a result, he recommended that the town not retire the bonds and continue to hold them as leverage until these projects and commitments are completed. The town commissioners agreed with Strong's recommendation.

Finally, town manager Wade Yost gave a first quarter overview of the town's finances. He said that revenues under-ran projections but that was due to the fact that highway grants from the state have been lower than expected. Expenditures for the quarter on the other hand, at a level of almost \$635,000, were right in line with expectations. Spending in the first quarter, Yost noted, is often higher proportionately than other quarters because of payments that come due early in the fiscal year for such things as insurance. He also pointed out that the town retains a healthy rainy day fund of over \$800,000 that can be used to fund town operations in the event of shortfalls that might emerge.

Continued from page 1.

Sustainability Award

involved. We started with a 4,400-panel solar farm and quickly moved to LED streetlights, permeable concrete, community garden, farmers' market, and health and wellness programs for residents, and expect many more amazing projects yet to come."

"We are excited to welcome more municipalities to the growing Sustain-

able Maryland community," said Dan Nees, director of the Environmental Finance Center. "This program is a hallmark of our work at the Environmental Finance Center, guiding communities towards healthier, more sustainable futures. Each certification award represents the commitment of local elected officials, municipal staff, and Green Team volunteers in these towns and cities to create a stronger, more resilient Maryland."



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Youth Sports

A Win over Seneca Valley Is a Win

By Jeff Stuart

"Wherever you fly, you'll be the best of the best," wrote Dr. Seuss. "Wherever you go, you will top all the rest. Except when you don't. Because, sometimes, you won't." Well, this season was one of those "sometimes you don't" times for the Poolesville High School boys' soccer team.

Injuries, including one to All-Gazette and Washington Post All-Met Honorable Mention Christian Andrade, a sophomore, and a tough schedule, particularly early in the season, hampered the PHS boys' soccer team. Their first four opponents have collected a total of thirty-six victories.

The effort was there, both in games and on the practice field. After giving up key goals late in a few of the more competitive games, the team focused on endurance and began to run more. They ran around the stadium track and up and down the bleacher steps, but the losing streak reached seven before an October 7 encounter against Seneca Valley at home in which the Falcons finally won, 1-0.

"It was a pretty hard season up until that game," said junior Matthew Lee, afterward. "The win over Seneca Valley means a lot for us emotionally and mentally. It shows us that we are coming together and can achieve what we want to achieve. Henry Heemskerker's goal was of course the highlight of that game for us. Seneca Valley had ball possession in the back. Our forwards, Filip Burnett, Henry Heemskerker, and I stepped forward and pressured them. I got the ball. I passed it to Filip. He passed it to Henry who shot and scored, and we got the win. Shane Geisler (junior) and Kavon Badie (senior) played well on defense that game. Christian Andrade made some amazing stops in goal. I am looking forward to the Rockville game on senior night. I think that is a pretty winnable game if we just focus and play our best."

"That win means a lot to everyone," said Heemskerker. "It is really difficult for us because we don't have the strongest team this year, so it means a lot more to have quite a good win over a team that is a rival. I scored around the middle of the first half. Filip laid it off to me and I hit in the left corner. Shane and Kavon and Matthew and Filip Burnett played really well. We had some injuries to our goalie Christian and others, but we have a

good chemistry. We are having fun. The good thing is all our future games are winnable."

Seniors are Eltayeb Abdelrahman, Badie, Ben Grimes, Blake Hinkson, Andrew Kocur, Jason Kuldell, Sean Murphey, Xavier Phelps, and Ankit Sheth. The Rockville game on senior night, October 21 was scoreless until the Rams scored late in the first half. The Falcons had some good scoring chances in the final minutes of the first half and in the early minutes of the second half, but Rockville eventually pulled away for a 3-1 win.



PHS soccer players, Sean Murphey and Henry Heemskerker.



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November 14: DJ Slim Pickins at 8:30 p.m.

November 20: DJ Slim Pickins at 8:30 p.m.

November 21: Brian Jamison Band at 8:30 p.m.

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Youth Sports

A Lesson in Perseverance

By Jeff Stuart

The top five runners score points in a cross country meet—so what do you do when one of your top male runners transfers, another opts to concentrate on another sport, and your top returning runner gets hurt early? Well, you regroup—and you take advantage of your senior leadership and a talented group of incoming freshmen and underclassmen on both the boys' and the girls' sides, and you set your sights on qualifying for the state competition again.

"We lost a lot of seniors last season," said Poolesville High School senior Alex Merchlinsky before the Georgetown Prep Classic on October 17, "and a few guys didn't come back this year, but a lot of the people who are new to the team this year are stepping up to fill their roles...We still have a pretty good chance, in spite of all that we have lost, to qualify for the states again...As for newcomers, Anthony Meza is a freshman, but the last few weeks he has been running right up there with me and some of the front runners. For a freshman that is pretty special. I am looking forward to the regional meet because that is where we really need to qualify for the states. The last few years, qualifying has been a forgone conclusion. We can still do it, but it is something we will all have to work very hard at."

Junior Andrew Lent was expected to lead the boys' team this season but was sidelined with an unfortunate leg injury in September.

"We have got a great group of girls," said senior Fiona Whitefield. "We have a lot of individual talent. Heading into the championship season, we are really excited and ready to peak. We

have put in a lot of hard work over the summer. We are all really driven. It is exciting to work with this group of girls who have this level of dedication. For me...a highlight was Howard County Invitational early in the season. I broke twenty minutes for the first time. That was a really good moment because that has been a goal for the past few years. For the team, one of the highlights was the Scorpion Crawl Invite on October 9 at Oakland Mills. It was great to see everyone working so hard. Two freshman girls actually had their first varsity race that day: Grace Bodmer and Kasey Van Wert. That was good to see. Several of us set PRs."

Both the boys and girls looked to the Georgetown Prep Meet as a final tune-up for the county and region meets. They did not disappoint. "Nandini Satsangi ran a great race to finish first by over forty seconds in the freshman race," said Coach Prasad Gerard. "She excelled at running the hills and increased her led by thirty-four seconds from two miles to the finish. Meza finished fourth and continues to show grit by moving up through the race. Jairo Huaylinos and Darian Berger continue to make big improvements and finish strong.

"Fiona has been racing smarter and it showed in a sixth place finish moving up the whole race. Alesya Sarakhman's times continue to drop as we head into the county championships. Her place helped insure a third place finish for the girls' team in the unseeded varsity girls' race. Junior Delali Azamati's times drop as she continues to race effectively. The freshmen and sophomores are making great improvements and will show tremendous gains by the time they run at the county championships."

Coach Gerard's predictions were accurate. On Monday, October 26, at the Montgomery County Championship at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg, the girls finished ninth out of twenty-four teams with 226 points. Satsangi finished in seventh place overall at 18:57.6.

Each of the top seven boys set personal best records, and collectively, the boys finished twenty-first.

At seventy runners strong, the cross country team continues to be the largest of the PHS athletic squads. About one-fourth of the team is drawn to the school from different districts by PHS's magnet programs, making team bonding somewhat more difficult. That makes the few Saturday morning practices at the Seneca Creek Greenway Trail, a more central location east of Poolesville, a special treat.

"Going out to the park is unique," the runners explained. "We take it as a fun time to get off campus."



PHS cross country runners, Alex Merchlinsky and Fiona Whitefield.

Police Blotter

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Burglary: 19800 block of Beatriz Lane.

Disorderly conduct: 16400 block of River Road.

Past Crime

November 6, 1912 Richard Mackall, his wife, their baby, and a friend, all of near Olney, were all injured when their carriage crashed in a building after the horses shied away from an automobile. Witnesses said that the group was proceeding towards Rockville on the Pike when an automobile approached from the opposite direction. The horses bolted, and the carriage careened into the side of the building. All were thrown to the ground, and Mrs. Mackall was the most seriously injured, suffering bruises and lacerations. All four were able to return to their homes.

November 8, 1913 A gun battle broke out at the home of William Hutton at Linden (north of Silver Spring). After all was sorted out, it was learned that Mrs. Hutton had become separated

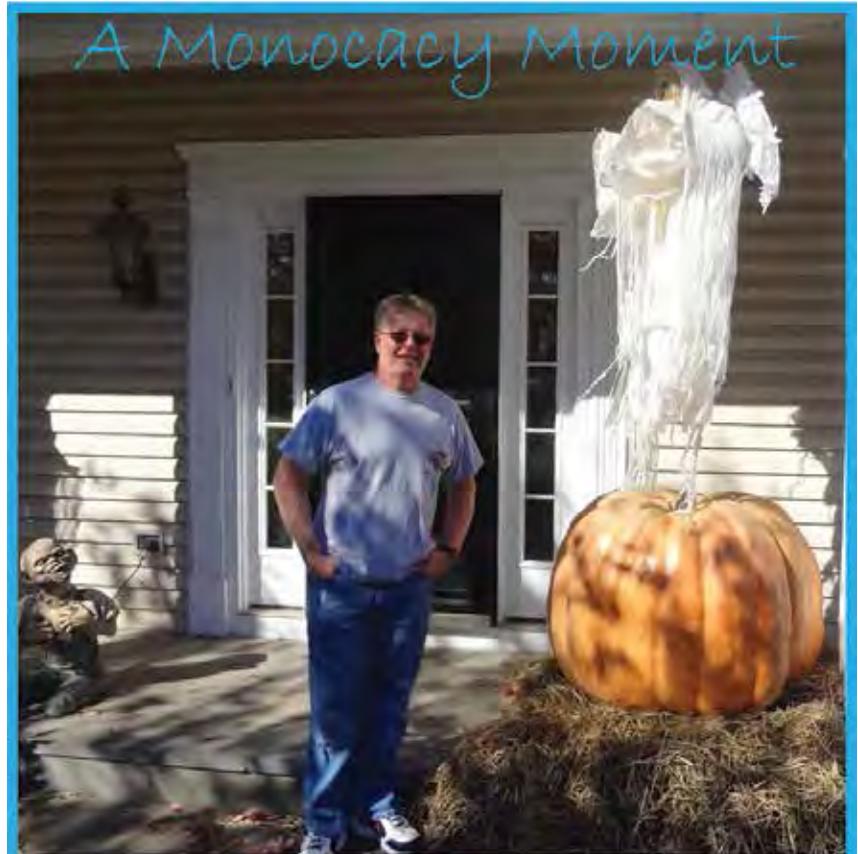
from her husband weeks before. In the meantime, Thomas Garrett had called on her several times to the annoyance of Mrs. Hutton. That evening, Garrett came to the house and pressed a revolver against her side and said that he was going to kill her and himself. Mrs. Hutton then produced a gun of her own and shots were fired by both parties. Neighbors, hearing the shots, found both lying in the street suffering from gunshot wounds. Sheriff Howard and States Attorney Spates responded to the scene and started an investigation.

November 9, 1910 The home of James Greenfield, who had died several weeks before, had remained vacant since his death. His sister, Mary Atwood of Beane, visited the house to take inventory and found \$410 in greenbacks stuffed into a coffee can. She summoned the sheriff who declared that the money was hers to distribute since she was the executrix of the will. She then distributed the cash to family members who had thought that Greenfield had died in poverty.

November 9, 1912 Thomas Wilson of Mount Ephraim and his sixteen-year-old bride Miss Goldie May Burdette returned to Clarksburg after eloping two weeks before. Miss Burdette's father had both arrested and placed in the county jail, charging that Wilson had taken his underage daughter. Thomas Dawson, a well-known Rockville attorney, appeared with a writ of habeas corpus, and Judge Peter ordered the couple released from jail.

November 10, 1911 Citizens of Rockville were in a state of excitement after three prisoners broke out of the county jail. The three men were supposed to be bathing but instead picked a lock which allowed them to climb down into the courtyard and then to scramble over the wall. Anne Lillard, sister-in-law of Sheriff Vielt, was visiting at the jail and saw the escape. She took a pistol from her purse and fired three shots at the escaping prisoners. In the meantime, George Hubbard also witnessed the escape and chased the men on his horse to a point where he caught up with them. They threatened him, and he returned home. Deputies Ramey and Andres scoured the countryside in an automobile but did not find the escapees. The county's new bloodhounds were of no value as one was sick and the other refused to work without his partner.

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



Jason Williams of Poolesville with his 500 pound pumpkin on his front porch.

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Musings by Mama Boe

Emotional Suck-Bombs

By Pamela Boe

It's funny how life comes around full circle to smack you in the rump in various ways. I've been experiencing it more and more recently with my children, who are both entering their teens. And by "entering their teens," I mean "ENTERING THEIR TEENS." None of the obvious symptoms of the teenage malady have surprised me, because, though my own brats would not believe it, I, too was once fourteen. I swear I was, and I have Grandma Jane to back me up on that.

But one thing that has come around that irks me so, even though I *was expecting* it, is the way my children and their peers look at me with this sort of sympathetic, condescending forbearance. I swear my kids exude an aura of long-suffering disappointment whenever they have to be with me in public anymore. (My husband does, too, but we'll ignore that fact for now.) Overnight my beloved Critter and Varmint went from adoring me, trusting me, and following my footsteps, to just kind of *putting up with me*.

It's not that they think I'm a moron that surprises me, because I remember thinking the same of my parents in my smug, hormone-driven teen years. No, what is eating me up is the FORCE of their disappointment. I had not realized how much I'd begun to *expect* their adulation. I wasn't aware that this point in development would be where I had to actually EARN their respect. It was a fine how-do-you-do, I promise you.

I found myself hesitating to give them reason to feel this way. I stopped asking them to help me figure out the Amazon Fire TV gadget. I stopped asking, for the thirtieth time, what time

their respective school days let out, (because danged if I can remember the stinkin' time changes in this school year). I no longer wondered aloud what the difference is between a Gigabyte and a Megabyte. Those are just eye-rolls I don't need to see anymore.

I realized that it didn't help my case when I unknowingly closed my sweater in the car door and drove with it flapping gaily in the breeze all the way to school last week. I didn't climb higher in their esteem when I yelled "Bingo!" at the fire house, when in fact, it wasn't a true "Bingo" (as any self-respecting dobber could tell you) and everyone snickered at me. I most emphatically did not buy any tickets to the Way-Cool train when we realized I was wearing my house slippers all through the grocery store...again. I fully understood all of these things and more. But the harder I tried not to slide farther and farther down the teen scale of parental disappointment, the farther I actually slid.

But then I remembered that, in the end, the dorky, human me that is Me is the me who brought them into this world. She's the same Me who put them on the paths they are on now, whether they can acknowledge that fact, or not. It took me nearly 50 years to reach the me that is Me, and I really respect how far she's come.

And therein lies the answer to this particular parental emotional suck-bomb. As long as I remember and respect who I am, they will recognize that part of me in every stage of their development. *They* might not respect me right now, but they will see that I respect *myself*, and that is a very important lesson for them to absorb... to respect themselves regardless of how others see them.

I guess Mama's not a moron, after all. 'Course, they won't figure that out until life circles around to smack them in the rump, too.

Do you hear that? That's Grandma Jane, snickering.



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Continued from page 7.

Bobbie Evans

first time a distant relative stopped in looking for her family. The visitor provided a reminder of her long-time connection to the town that she has served so well over the years.

Bobbie and Butch Evans raised two children, a daughter Kristy, who now resides in New York with her husband and three children, and a son, Michael, who passed away in January of this year. Michael is survived by their grandson with whom the Evans enjoy spending frequent weekends.

Continued from page 5.

A History of Schools in Poolesville

to using his name. After him came Mr. Dollarhide who served until 1934. Then the school's agriculture teacher, Mr. Merrick, was promoted to principal and served as a coach and as an agriculture instructor at times of staff shortages. It was under his tutelage that the twelfth grade was added.

In 1937, the beloved Mr. Harry Rhodes, a science and math teacher, was named assistant principal. He also coached a number of athletic teams, which are reported to have been small but strong in spirit. At this time, there

in that position in the county. Also, during the same year, the Board of Education purchased five additional acres from Mr. Harry Stevens that included a well-built barn, which was used by the Future Farmers of America boys to study livestock. A combination shop and agricultural classroom was built in 1941 to the north of the main structure on the campus and remained that way until the present school was built in 1958.

In 1945, Mr. Wilson resigned and was replaced by the very, very popular Miss Olivia Green, an English teacher who was remembered as "everyone's favorite English teacher" and who

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were only seven public high schools in Montgomery County. Mr. Rhodes interrupted his academic career by serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, returning in 1947, and then becoming principal in 1953.

What was called the Old Comus School was placed on site in 1938 and was remodeled and partitioned to make a model house and to serve as an attractive home economics building for training many of the female students who took Home Ec under the guidance of Mrs. Curry Nourse Caples.

By 1938, the school was bursting at the seams due to a population explosion in the Upcounty. In 1939, WPA funds (Works Progress Administration, created during the administration of Franklin Roosevelt to address unemployment issues) were used to build a three-room primary school building on the northeast corner of the school grounds. Mrs. Virginia Hersperger served as coordinator and later principal of the elementary school, becoming the first female

became acting principal for the remainder of the year. Robert Sakife served as principal from 1945 to 1947.

This information comes from a brief article presented at a class reunion for classes 1941 to 1950 in 1992. The author is unnamed, but the following sentiment expressed at the end points to the abundant value of beloved administrators and teachers over and above bricks and mortar.

"It goes without saying that Messrs. Wilson and Rhodes made a formidable team as administrator and educators, and they were supported by a small but dedicated staff of fine teachers who were instrumental not only in teaching us the three Rs but also helped us to develop our characters and make us what we are today—so our story ends along about here. Our school building was torn down in 1958 and replaced by a larger, more modern and more sophisticated schoolhouse, but who could say it's better—it couldn't be!—for we had the Best, and that's what the good ol' days are all about."

Do you have some local history you would like to share with our readers?

Send it along to editor@monocacymonocle.com

Remembrances

Arthur R. Tetlow, III

Arthur R. Tetlow, III, 58, of Poolesville, Maryland, died peacefully at his residence on October 21, 2015. He was the loving husband of Jean Tetlow. Born on May 4, 1957 in Olney, Arthur was the son of Nancy (Webb) Tetlow and the late Arthur R. Tetlow, Jr.

Artie was a man who lived for his family and loved the outdoors. This love was expressed through his devoted work at Beallsville Valley Farm. Surviving besides his wife and mother are three children, Kristi Cox, and Justin and Kirsten Tetlow, all of Poolesville; two brothers, Gregory Tetlow and wife Pamela of Frederick, and Brian Tetlow and wife Samantha of Poolesville; three sisters, Carol Tetlow of Poolesville, Elizabeth Bower and husband Ronnie of Frederick, and Kelly Tetlow of Frederick; ten grandchildren, Matthew, Meghan, Nicholas, Annie, Alyssa, Riley, Hailey, Angel, Logan, and Lexi; one great-grandchild, Brooklyn; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Artie was preceded in death by one brother, David Tetlow, and one sister-in-law, Jane Tetlow.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to UMCVFD Ladies Auxiliary, P.O. Box 553, Poolesville, MD 20837.



Arthur R. Tetlow, III

Suanne E. Demory

Suanne E. Demory died suddenly on October 22, 2015. She was born on January 23, 1944 in Poolesville and was the daughter of the late Alvin and Elizabeth (Titus) Moore. She is survived by one son, James R. Demory, II and wife Catherine of Damascus; three brothers, Earl Moore, former fire chief of UMCVFD, and wife Suzie, George Moore and wife Fara, Ralph Moore and wife Connie; two sisters, Linda Moore, and Christine Shelton and husband Mike; four grandchildren, Amanda, Noelle, Jim, and Hannah Demory; and special friend, Jimmy McGinley. Sue dearly loved her grandchildren and the children on her bus. She was preceded in death by one brother, Dean Moore.



Suanne E. Demory

Continued from page 8.

Girls' Volleyball Dig Pink Big

nearly \$45,000. Since 2004, the national event, supported by over 1,500 college, club, and high school volleyball teams in all fifty states and around the world has raised nearly nine million dollars.

Holiday Lighting Ceremony Committee

Our Holiday Lighting Committee is looking for fun, hard-working, creative volunteers to join our Holiday Lighting Ceremony Committee. This event takes place the first Friday in December at Whalen Commons. The committee also judges the Town of Poolesville's Holiday Lighting Contest, with judging taking place the

weekend of December 18. Please contact Cathy Bupp at 301-428-8927 or catbupp@aol.com if you are interested in joining this committee.

Dots Elgin's Birthday

Happy birthday to Poolesville's Dots Elgin, a beloved woman and a foremost historian of our area. Dots celebrated her ninety-sixth birthday on November 5. She graduated from Poolesville High School in 1937 out of a class of eighteen. She went to Baltimore to become a registered nurse and was married for "fifty-five and half years" to Charles Elgin, Sr., the longest-serving mayor of Poolesville; consequently, she is often regarded as the first lady of Poolesville but, more likely, we think, because she remains first in the hearts of so many.

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Inappropriate Litter Box Behavior and Your Cat: Part III

Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF, FASLMS

This is the third and final article in our review of litter box behavior changes (I know you were hoping this would be an ongoing discussion). Today we will cover some final aspects of identifying why your feline friends may have started to go elsewhere to accomplish their bathroom needs. We will also touch on when it is not the box.

1. Fill It Up!

When a litter box does not have enough litter to allow your cats to cover their waste, they may seek other locations. Without a full litter pile, the odor will build and the amount of waste will be easily visible to your cat and you. Be sure to always keep about 2-3 inches of clean litter evenly spread throughout the litter box. Each time you scoop, add a small amount of litter. Deeper may not be better. If the box has an excess of litter over 3 inches, it may feel unstable to your cats, and they will go other places.

2. Traumatic Associations

Even if your cats' litter box is clean and happily used for years, a traumatic event occurring while in or around it can convince them to stop using it. Repeated dog interruptions, or another cat lurking or blocking the box, falling objects, small humans, loud noises, or a number of other traumatic events can sour their desire to use the box. So be sure to routinely check the area around the box and police who is in association with the box. Dogs and small humans can be very clever in avoiding your observation of their activities with respect to the litter box. If a trauma does derail the box use, moving it to a new location can solve the problem.

3. Sick Leave

A sick feline often changes his/her elimination habits, so it is important that you consider seeing your Local Veterinarian if you notice a change in your furry feline friend's box behavior and cannot determine why the change has occurred. Urinary tract infections, bladder stones, cystitis, and viral, bacterial, and other infections can have a dramatic effect on litter box use.

4. When it is not the box

Blame cannot always be placed on litter-box-specific events. Sometimes just a simple change in the home environment can throw your cat into litter box rebellion. New furniture, new humans, new pets, etc. all can play a role. Construction, yard changes, new paint, and new rugs can play a role. So try to introduce any change gradually instead of all at once.

Happy Litter Box Activity to you and your feline friends.



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