

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

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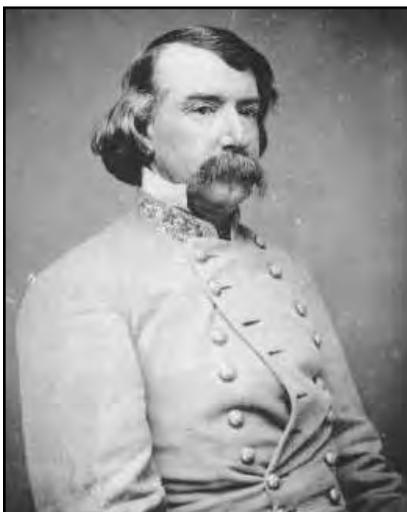
Young hearts as well as old loved the 142nd St. Mary's Chicken Dinner. See more pictures in Family Album on page 2.



The 2017 Poolesville Day Grand Marshal's identity can be found on page 5.



Mother and daughter sharing an important moment. Learn more in Tidbits on page 9.



Is he the mystery man behind the White's Ferry statue? Find out in Mystery History on page 10.

Submerged Car Found in Pond Next to JPMS

By Rande Davis

Town employees got a huge surprise on August 7 when the pond next to John Poole Middle School was being drained in order to remove sediment and rework the channel inflow area.

A maroon Chrysler Sebring convertible, with a 2001 Maryland license plate, emerged from the receding water. The police and fire departments were called. The Montgomery County Police were mystified that the tag number did not immediately bring up a registered owner. The VIN number was too obscured with mud to be traced immediately and will have to wait for further investigation.

Fire department personnel probed the vehicle for bodies and, once it was determined that none were in the passenger sections of the automobile, a large crane was brought to pull the vehicle out. When crane personnel were unable to enter the water as they lacked required scuba certification, Preston King, an avid fisherman of local rivers and ponds, simply jumped on the roof and hooked the line to the front seat belts. With ninety percent of



Poolesville's Parks and Streets Director Preston King had his hands full pulling this car from the JPMS pond.

the Sebring out of the water, they were able to drag it to shore.

Filled with mud, fish, snails, and turtles, the vehicle was otherwise in good condition with no visible wreckage marks from an accident. It was found about twenty feet from the

shoreline suggesting that it had been driven down the steep embankment, then most likely floated for some time before sinking, not to be seen again for sixteen years.

Continued on page 16.

Rev. Ann Ritonia Says Farewell to St. Peter's

The Rev. Ann Ritonia of Poolesville's St. Peter's Church recently accepted a new call of ministry to St. John's Episcopal Church in Ellicott City, Maryland. On August 6, the congregation bid a fond farewell for her service through a celebratory mass of appreciation for her service to the church and community over the past two-and-a-half years.

Reverend Ritonia came to the church in January of 2015 and has had a profound impact on the mission of the church as well as in service to the larger Poolesville community. From the beginning of her ministry at St. Peter's, she focused not only on the spiritual needs of the church members but also initiated a number of unique outreach

Continued on page 11.



Reverend Ann with her young parishioners at her last service at St. Peter's.

Family Album



Photo by Terri Pitts

Steady, steady, easy, steady. Got it!



Photo by Terri Pitts

The winner of the Roger Hayden Jousting Trophy, referred to as the Knights of Sir Lancelot Award, was Bob Enfield. The presenter was Wayne Wiseman.



St. Peter's Nursery set up in the park to fill just four remaining spots. Better hurry up, folks.



Whatever you want, St. Mary's White Elephant sale has it!



Friday Night on the Commons means movie night!



Nothin' beats the heat like running through a sprinkler.



Photo by Terri Pitts

Wayne Wiseman presented the winner of the Roger Hayden Jousting Junior Trophy Award to Marley Enfield.



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Town Government

Commissioners Close Out Current Year's Budget

At their regular meeting on August 7, the Town of Poolesville commissioners voted to close out the current year's budget, paving the way for the implementation of the new Fiscal Year budget on July 31 and opening the books for the annual audit.

Before reviewing the final numbers regarding the current year's budget, the commissioners considered a comprehensive revision of the town's schedule of fees that it charges for various services that it provides. These are, by and large, not items that affect the average homeowner and they aren't taxes but rather charges for services provided by the town or permits it grants. Examples include fees for recording plats or development plans that are filed with the town, permits for construction of various kinds, and impact fees (special fees imposed on a per-house basis for new developments and used to help generate monies to support specific town operations such as park development).

Town Manager Wade Yost made the point that the town last comprehensively reviewed and revised its fee schedules in 2010. He also noted that some services, such as printing, collating, and assembling paper copies of important town documents such as the Master Plan, are today offered without charge; however, there are costs for providing such services that should be recovered so taxpayers are not subsidizing them. While town documents are available online for free, some may want a paper copy for various purposes, and the time and resources (such as paper) employees use to provide such documents should be covered. The new fee schedule would include charges for such services.

The commissioners seemed receptive to the revised and new fees proposed by town staff; nonetheless, there were some questions raised about the levels of some fees (for example, the proposed \$1,000 fee for the submission and review of commercial concept plans), but, on the whole, the proposal was positively received. The commissioners will review the proposal and consider it at a future meeting.

Moving on to the budget closeout, Yost said that the commissioners have to vote to approve the year-end final budget numbers before a required independent audit can be considered and the new Fiscal Year budget can be implemented. He explained that the town's budget contains two basic funds: the General Fund (supporting overall operations such as staff salaries and capital spending for all town functions) and the Water and Wastewater Fund (supporting the operations of the water system and the wastewater treatment system). The overall budget for the current year was a little over \$3.6 million for the General Fund and \$1.2 million for the Water and Waste Water Fund. The town ended up with a positive balance of \$379,000 or so in its overall budget for the year.

Yost said that, as in past years, income taxes and property taxes made up the vast bulk of the revenues the town received; however, unlike recent years, this year's income taxes provided more of the overall revenue stream for the town than it has in the past, equal to the amount of property taxes generated on a percentage basis. The town received \$350,000 more in income taxes than projected, in large measure due to adjustments by the state.

As in past years, the Water and Waste Water Fund came up short of budget needs by approximately \$96,000. Generally, local governments try to generate enough revenues from the fees charged for water and sewer services to cover their costs. Even though the town has adjusted its charges for these services a number of times over the years (including this year), it still has not managed to fully cover all costs. As a result, monies must be shifted from the General Fund to make up the shortfall.

Also, the bulk of spending in the budget covers two items, staff salaries and trash service. While the town has three large loans that it is paying off—totaling several million dollars—it is rapidly reducing its debt, and debt service is only a small part of the overall budget.

The town invested substantial sums in continuing to reduce the inflow of water into the sewer system, making the system more efficient and improving the performance of the plant. This year, quite a bit of attention was paid to a number of leaking and cracked manholes, and Yost added that in the recent "large rain event" (more than four inches of rain fell at one point), the inflow levels were much improved.

The town also now has a new well communications system, Yost reported, that cost almost \$150,000 to implement. The new system allows the town to see for the

Continued on page 16.

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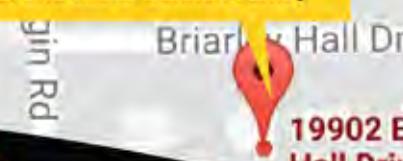
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August 26: Blindside Band




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Commentary

War on My Mind

By John Clayton

I seem to have war on the mind these days. I believe this started with my summer reading list. It began with Michael Chabon's *Moonglow* which touches on war in some serious and disturbing ways. More I will not say; I recommend the book highly, and it is one that you will want to wade into with as few preconceived notions as possible. Chabon is a writer who simultaneously makes me think, "I wish I had worked at being a novelist when I was younger," and "Thank God I didn't become a novelist because I could never write that well." He's that good and more. I also saw *Dunkirk*, which I recommend. Again, you are better seeing it for yourself without the clutter of my thoughts, although I will mention that it is told in three storylines over a week, a day, and an hour, respectively. It's not a movie about context; it tells a story. 'Nuff said.

The book that has really thrown me into the topic of armed conflict, and I am only about two-thirds of the way through, is *Hue 1968, A Turning Point of the American War in Vietnam* by Mark Bowden. The book has received a lot of coverage in the national press, and it is a compelling and eye-opening piece of work, and an entertaining read to boot. Notwithstanding those who may have been there, and a few well-informed others, I can safely say you do not have any idea what the battle for Hue during the Tet Offensive was like any more than I did. If you saw the movie *Full Metal Jacket*, you still know nothing about the battle for Hue. In 1968, no one knew what was going on either, save the unlucky marines, soldiers, and others unfortunate enough to be there in the early days. The North Vietnamese and Viet Cong had quietly taken over the city with a large force, and the American military command refused for days to believe the eyewitness reports of their own troops that they were seriously outnumbered. The command repeatedly ordered troops into engagements over the protests of their officers in the field, to tragic result. This ignoring of reality went to the very top, through Gen. William Westmoreland, to President Lyndon Johnson, the mainstream

media, and the American people. Little by little, the truth emerged from accurate if incredible reports from some very brave journalists on the front lines with the fighters. Some remarkable marine and army officers led the fight into Hue, convinced their superiors of the situation, and got the counterattack on track. The book also reflects the stories of people who fought on the other side. If you would like to believe that the communist forces were simply plucky freedom fighters and don't want to know that they committed appalling war crimes while fighting to further a totalitarian system, then this is not the book for you.

My emotions in reading a book like *Hue* are awe and admiration for the courage and valor of those who willingly walk into harm's way on our behalf. My father walked into the fear, boredom, terror, and filth of frontline combat in Europe, saw brutality, atrocities, and acts of bravery and charity, and is to this day justifiably proud that he was good at what he did, which was shooting enemy soldiers. In a world where someone like Kim Jong-un can have nuclear weapons on ballistic missiles, we need people like that, and God bless them.

We have many people experiencing the same things that the marines and soldiers at Hue experienced, at this very moment, as we go about our lives in peace. We have become used to being at war. This was not always the case. I remember 1991 when Operation Desert Shield turned into a shooting war called Operation Desert Storm which we now remember as the Gulf War, and how disturbing it was that our country was at war again, after so long. I remember that a Division I basketball game was canceled on the spot when the liberation of Kuwait commenced. Can we imagine that happening now? A sixteen-year-old getting his or her driver's permit this year has never known us not to be at war in Afghanistan. Perhaps we are condemned to always being at war in this new world of blurred borders and shadowy enemies, but I think it's important to remember that we are at war in some way, every day. We can continue to display our little flags two or three times a year and offer our platitudes, but we should maintain a consistent awareness of the risks borne by the few. I'm not good at that, but I'm trying to do better.

Rande(m) Thoughts

The Mystery of the Yellow Leaf that Would Not Fall

By Rande Davis

I know I am exaggerating in observing that the world has two kinds of people: those who see the yellow leaf and those who don't. Let me explain by quoting a passage from *When the English Fall*, a new novel by Poolesville Presbyterian's Rev. David Williams. (Reviewed in Center Stage in this issue). In the following passage, written by an Amish farmer in the midst of immense catastrophe, he still has a vision and special gift of keen awareness:

The rising sun played across the tree, catching it with that rich, warm morning light.

And, there, in the air beneath the canopy of the oak, I saw a single bright yellow leaf. It was not falling. It hovered, whirling, floating and bobbing, and moving. It did not fall. It refused to fall.

I watched it as it danced, defying the fall, a leaf that would not come to earth. It was magic, this leaf.

A soft morning breeze rose up, and the golden leaf lifted upward, arcing back toward the branches that had cast it down. Like a fallen angel, repentant, straining back toward heaven.

I knew what I was seeing, even though I could not see it.

Attached to the leaf, defying my sight, beyond my human seeing, there was a single silver thread. That cord was there, though, I could not see it, strong as steel, light as air. I knew this. It was woven by a spider, and fixed to the leaf, fixed to the tree.

That is why I was seeing a leaf that would not fall. I knew this.

But it still seemed magical. Just like everything in our world.

The fictional writer saw something that I would never have seen. My wife, on the other hand, would have seen that yellow leaf. She literally stops to smell the rosebushes she passes. She has that gift of living in the moment. Sometimes in recalling events we have shared, it is not uncommon for me to ask, "Was I there? Did I enjoy it? Would I want to do it again?" I am always pleased when she answers yes to all three questions, although I am not sure why.

I'm someone who needs the full autumn glory of a tree afire with

Continued on page 13.

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Local News

Klobukowski Named Grand Marshal

By Rande Davis

It's a grand year for Town of Poolesville resident and commissioner, Jerry Klobukowski, which has culminated in his being named Grand Marshal for the 2017 Poolesville Day Parade. As reported in the July 14 issue of the *Monocle*, he was recently inducted into the Maryland Municipal League's (MML) Municipal Officials' Hall of Fame.

In his twenty years as a town commissioner, he has been the town's liaison for the town board of commissioners on educational matters, acting as town representative at county board of education meetings during that two-decade period. In that capacity, he has been one of the key voices advocating for the PHS Whole School Magnet Program, modernization of PHS, building of the John Poole Middle School, and full funding for the Global Ecology Studies Program as well as the construction of the school's athletic field facilities.

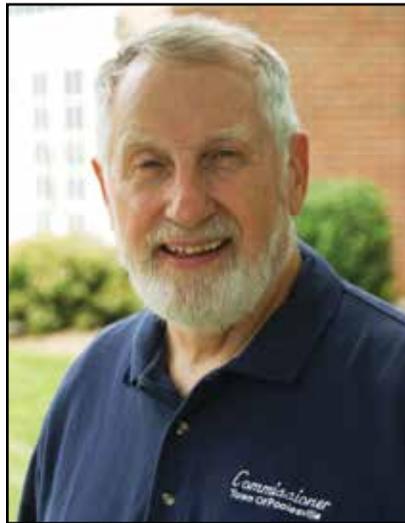
He more recently has been working with Montgomery Countryside Alliance, Councilmember Roger Berliner, and the Poolesville Cluster to establish a Rural Schools Policy to ensure our students are offered the same opportunities and courses that students in more densely-populated county clusters are offered. Jerry is credited with writing much of the education portion of the town's 2006 Master Plan.

Jerry was active in lobbying for renaming the Poolesville Library the Maggie Nightingale Library, and the Western Montgomery County Outdoor Pool to honor Sarah Auer.

He has worked on environmental issues by helping with a Comprehensive Water Resource Plan which led to the establishment of a Wellhead Protection Plan. He is on the Sustainable Poolesville Committee through whose efforts the town received the Sustainable Maryland Award. While on the Parks, Recreation, and Street Board, Jerry surveyed all the town's parks, helping the board to prioritize the rehabilitation and upgrade of the existing town parks to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, and was an avid supporter of the creation of Whalen Commons.

In addition to his contribution as a commissioner, he has volunteered often for his church, St. Mary's in Barnesville, and the local Daniel-Jeffers American Legion Post 247.

In hearing about his selection as grand marshal, Jerry told the *Monocle*, "I can sincerely say that I am very humbled and deeply honored by the Poolesville Day Committee's decision to choose me to be the Grand Marshal of the 2017 Poolesville Day Parade, especially as it falls during Poolesville's sesquicentennial. I just hope that I don't look that old."



Poolesville's Jerry Klobukowski was named the 2017 Grand Marshal of the Poolesville Day Parade.

Congratulations to Sammi & Mike Wrathall on buying their first home!!!



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MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil at 5:00 pm
Sunday at 8, 9:30, and 11 am
Monday - Friday at 9:00 am (Rosary follows)
Confession - Saturday 4:15 pm

LOOKING AHEAD...

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Center Stage

Poolesville Presbyterian Minister Publishes Long-Awaited Novel

By Rande Davis

It was in 2009 that the idea for a novel first began to formulate for Poolesville Presbyterian's pastor, Rev. David Williams. The concept for *When the English Fall* developed from two separate and unconnected events, both seemingly innocuous at the time, but later coming together in an unexpected way to become a novel so compelling that Amazon made the novel one of its July 2017 Top Books of the Month selections.

The first event that began the process of writing the book came as David drove his family to a restful abode in Deep Creek owned by in-laws. During the tedious trip, he saw an Amish couple, presumably a father and daughter, on a hillside overlooking the highway, watching the cars whiz by. With his family sleeping, and the drive peaceful and blissfully quiet, he began to wonder what they must be thinking of him and his many fellow automobile travelers on the road. Over years of many returns to that family vacation place, whenever he came to that spot along the road, sans the couple, he still was drawn to the recurring thought of that image and his curiosity about the couple, and into a sense of calm.

At another time, while he was taking a solitary walk after reading an intriguing article about the 1859 Carrington Event, a powerful geomagnetic solar storm which induced one of the largest geomagnetic storms on record, he was again pulled to the vision of the Amish couple. The article about the mid-nineteenth century storm told of it being so powerful that telegraph lines were fried, individuals touching metal experienced shocks, and a white light flare at night was so bright that observers compared it to daytime. As David strolled, he wondered what the impact of such a natural phenomenon would be on today's society reliant on electrical grids. He worried the most about a solar storm's impact on his family, especially his kids.

What would he do? What would they eat? How would they survive? For some reason, it brought back that protective feeling he had while driving his kids on



Karen and Kevin Koeser got an autograph from up-and-coming author, the Rev. David Williams.

those trips, and his mind returned to the Amish couple on the hill. What would the impact on the Amish community be? Would they be the only ones to survive?

Finally, in 2012, he "took his first swing at writing the novel," a novel he coyly refers to as a post-apocalyptic Amish mystery.

In writing the book, he chose daily journal entries by an Amish farmer and furniture maker whose observations would tell the story of such a global catastrophe. It was after perhaps ten thousand written words that he discovered what he was writing at the time was far too dull. It wasn't working.

He could not find an Amish voice, a voice simple, plain, straightforward that would become an authentic voice of Jacob, the name of the character, who tells the story of such a tragedy. His inspiration for that style came from letters written to his own family by a great-grandfather, himself a farmer in the latter part of the nineteenth century, who studiously wrote a diary. As his distant relative started out in his writings, his paragraphs were what would be considered

Continued on page 7.



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Poolesville Presbyterian Minister Publishes Long-Awaited Novel

normal, but the more he wrote, his entries became shorter and shorter, until he wrote only what a farmer would actually have the time and energy to say. The level of terseness was intensely to the point. In his further research of the Amish, he discovered something equally helpful in developing an authentic Amish voice: Amish romance novels, which are written in a warm, gentle, chaste, and attractive tone. The voice of Jacob began to take shape, a voice so real and magnetically-spellbinding that one is lost completely in the absolute certainty of Jacob's real existence. His thoughts seem not to be by a detached author but by someone who must have experienced the fictional global tragedy.

Reverend Williams's self-published novel was picked up by Algonquin Publishing, and through the process of professional editing, the book was reviewed for accuracy by an authority on the Amish community and its lifestyle. David says that while she spotted a few technical things that needed changing, he was most grateful for her observation that he was able to fully capture the authentic voice of the Amish—what had been his primary goal—and her comment was the most rewarding, knowing that he achieved his aspiration.

From the opening paragraphs, the novel is riveting. While we all can envision to some degree the immense chaos during a time of intense anarchy resulting from a solar storm so severe it destroys our electrical grids, it is his ability to personalize the event so realistically that it transfers our imagination into the utter peril of the incident. The story of the storm floats above the reader, always asking him or her what we would do—how would we survive?—at a time when nothing is available to ease our way: no water, no food, banks are closed, gasoline is no longer available, and public communication is down to word of mouth with only some hoped-for slow commercial airwaves sporadically recovering.

As Jacob speaks, the reader is magnetically drawn into the bitter and harsh situation, lulled by his calm yet faithful voice describing a nearly unimaginably dangerous world. The Boston Globe got it precisely right in writing, "Entrancing, the narrative voice is deceptively simple, lulling, holding, at times, the power of prayers." I would add that much of David's descriptive phrasing is so very beautifully-poetic in a style that keeps the reader in the most enviable mindset of "tell me more."

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Things To Do

Poolesville Area Senior Center (PASC) Events

Pickleball: Mondays and Fridays: 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.; Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

Game Day: Tuesdays: 1:00 p.m.
Poolesville Baptist Church

Zumba Gold: Every Wednesday in gym, 1:00 p.m.

August 11

Nightingale Library Special Event: Lock-In Bowl-A-Rama

When the clock strikes six and the library closes, the stacks come alive as a bowling alley! Make your own bowling pins and strive for a perfect game. Refreshments will be served. Grades 4-8. Registration required. 5:00 p.m.

Fridays on the Commons: Wine Down in the Park

Wine Garden featuring local wineries, food truck, farmers' market. 6:00 p.m. Music by Jay Summerour and Friends at 7:30 p.m.

August 16

Nightingale Library Special Event: Maker a Paper Skyscraper

How can a tower made of weak paper be strong enough to stand? A little bit of physics and some engineering tools will enable you to find out. Some coding design will allow us to light up the building. Registration required and closes on August 15. Limit 20. Grades 4-8. 3:00 p.m.

PASC Special Event: Technology Workshop for Smart Phone Owners

Get help with basic operations, settings, music, message, photos, and apps. Please register for the classes by emailing pvilleseniors@comcast.net or by calling 301-875-7701. Free. 17550 West Willard Road. 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

August 17

Nightingale Library Special Event: Book Discussion for Seniors

This month's selection is Run, Don't

Walk. Copies available at the circulation desk. No registration required. 7:00 p.m.

August 19 (rain date August 20)

2017 Hyperflite/Skyhoundz Disc Dog Classic World Qualifier Competition

Official qualifying event for all dogs. Dogs must be registered by 8:00 a.m. Open to public. Spectators may bring their dog on a leash (no retractable leashes allowed. Bring own water.) Free. Stevens Park, Poolesville. 9:00 a.m.

August 18, 19, and 20

Blue Hearth's Fourth Birthday Versary

Featuring the Common Ground Farmers' Market. Friday and Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday: noon to 5:00 p.m. Free summer concert series, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.: Friday, Chris Doto; Saturday, Dan McCarthy; Sunday, Wandering Peacocks. M.A.D. BBQ on Sunday: noon to 5:00 p.m.

August 21

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting. Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

August 22

Nightingale Library Special Event: Terrific Tales

Join us for this fun-filled program of stories, films, songs, crafts, and activities that all will enjoy. For preschoolers and up. 3:00 p.m.

August 23

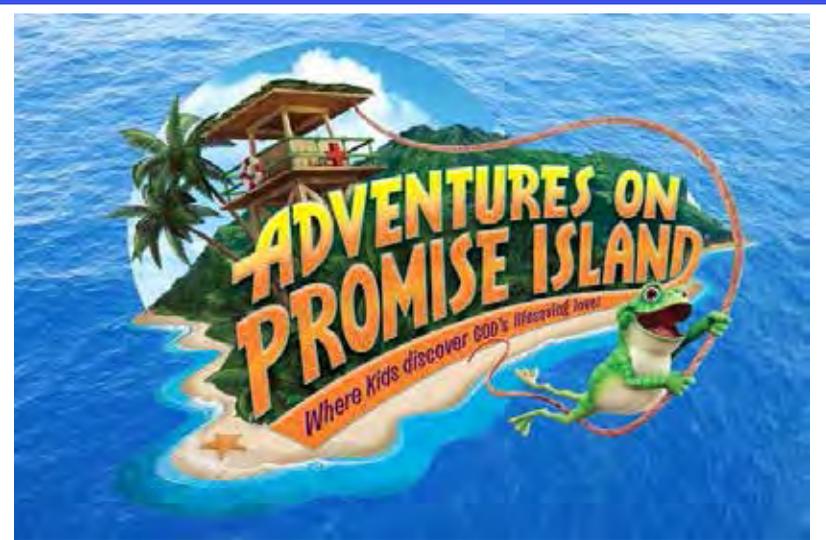
PASC Special Event: Technology Workshop for Smart Phone Owners

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August 25

Square Dance

Learn to dance and support your local American Legion Post's fundraiser. Adults \$15; couples \$25; ages 10-17 \$10; ages 10 and under free. All tickets are purchased at door, cash or checks only. Calvea Barn, 19120 Martinsburg Rd., Dickerson. 7:00 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.



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Would you like to announce a meeting, club,
or upcoming event in **Things To Do?**

Then let us know! Send it along to

editor@monocacymonocle.com

Tidbits

Youth Return from Mission Trip

Fifteen St. Peter's teenagers just returned from Niagara Falls where they spent a week in service to an urban community desperately in need of help. It was just a few years ago that the Bloomberg Report referred to the town as "decrepit" and "a god-forsaken place." The town suffers from neglect, decay, and financial collapse. The teens stayed at facilities associated with the now-closed Holy Trinity Catholic Church, a historical church thankfully under preservation.

The students spent time in mission doing things like painting rooms in the Niagara Arts and Cultural Center, a former school, now a home to a variety of artists that will hopefully help revitalize a suffering community; working closely with young urban children from troubled homes; assisting in a local soup kitchen; and helping on other essential projects. They did get one day to visit the nearby natural wonder, the famous Niagara Falls.



Some of the returning youth from St. Peter's mission trip: Olivia Romano, Victoria Robinson, Angelina Kolomiets, Anya Speck-McMorris, Liam Speck-McMorris, Ethan Rolls, Aaron Longbrake, and Andy Romano.

Poolesville Day 2017: Are You Ready?

With Saturday, September 16, 2017 just a little over a month away, now is the time to focus on things you must do, like signing up to participate in the parade and sending in your vendor booth application and payment (for best positioning, do not delay further).

The Poolesville Day Committee is always in need of volunteers to help in various ways on the big day. Visit www.poolesvilleday.com to see how you can volunteer just a few hours of your time to support this year's 25th Anniversary. They are in special need of stage managers; please email the committee at poolesvilleday@yahoo.com if you are interested in making the music sound awesome!

Change of Command for Poolesville's Colonel Guilmartin

Army Col. Ginee Guilmartin, daughter of Judy Ohr of Poolesville, relinquished command of the 16th Military Police Brigade, Fort Bragg, last week. Colonel Guilmartin's next assignment is as Assistant Commandant of the U.S. Army

Military Police School, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. The colonel is a 1993 graduate of West Point and received her Ph.D. in political science from Stanford University.

Local Dance Troupe Scores High in World Dance Championships

Dancers from all over the United States and seventeen countries participated in the World Dance Championship held in the Meadowlands Complex in New Jersey. Dancers from Denise Shores Studio of Dance in Poolesville achieved semi-finalist status with honorable mention.

Denise Shores teaches at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.



Dancers: (front row) Violet Steinberg and Stella Torrey; (second row) Amaya Hill, Erica Dower, Zoe Conway, Lily Steinberg, and Genesis Escobar; and teacher Jennifer Shores.



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Mystery History

Colonel White's Return Home: Fact or Legend

By Rande Davis

I have had some fun regarding the recent installation of the Confederate statue at White's Ferry this past month. For those readers not up to speed on the subject matter, a statue in memoriam honoring all of Montgomery County's Confederate soldiers was erected in 1913 by the Daughters of the Confederacy on the grounds of the Old Courthouse in Rockville.

There is a number of theories regarding who might be the model of the statue, and one suggestion coming from Upcounty folks is a theory in favor of Col. Elijah Viers (Lige) White, a person whose name you know well as he bought Conrad's Ferry in 1866. Is that just legend? Is there proof the statue was modeled after him?

Fast forward to 2017, and the statue which was once thought to be a sincere and benign tribute to deceased county friends and family whose memory was fresh in the minds of many living at the turn of the twentieth century has evolved into a modern-day, distressing symbol of a time when slavery was a part of our county's economic and social structure.

Whether the statue honors the South's political cause (the "why" of their actions) or simply a monument to their personal courage (the "what" of their war activities), we leave to others to decide. The fact is it was no longer going to be allowed to stand in Rockville without controversy and debate. Too many hearts are rendered anxious and sorrowful at its sight.

Just who was Elijah White, anyway? He was born in 1832, was a well-educated farmer who was born in the family home called Stoney Castle, an historic plantation manor on Westerly Road in Poolesville. He attended Lima Seminary in New York and Granville College in Ohio.

He was a man of striking appearance. Upon his re-enlistment on June 15, 1861, he was listed as quite tall for the time at 5' 11" with light hair and blue eyes. He had fought in the border wars in Kansas in the 1850s before returning to the area and buying the 350-acre Ball Farm in Loudon County, Virginia.

His personal dedication is attested by his having served as an aide and scout for the 8th Virginia Infantry during the Battle of Balls Bluff, even though he was officially on furlough during the battle. His personal connections to and knowledge of Poolesville would serve him during other times as well. In December of 1863, with knowledge that the Union garrison guarding Poolesville was minimal, he surrounded the Presbyterian Church in December, taking prisoners. The pastor of the church knew him and many of these Poolesville and Montgomery County Confederates well, and, as the church became surrounded, he comforted the forty Union soldiers in prayer by letting them know not to fear, "as their captors were gentlemen and would not hurt them." True to their reputation, after marching them to Conrad's Ferry (now White's Ferry), White released them after taking their horses and supplies.

Rising through the ranks through courageous actions, White eventually commanded the 35th Virginia Cavalry, made up primarily of Montgomery and Frederick soldiers. The fierce unit was nicknamed the Comanches when Gen. Tom Rosser witnessed a vicious charge by these "screaming" riders. His burial site information states that the unit, at one time, traveled seven hundred miles in just twenty-one days, destroyed sixteen bridges along the way, earning them a reputation for ferocity within both armies. Surviving four years of war, White returned to Loudoun County to eventually become a sheriff, banker, and preacher. He is buried in the Leesburg Union Cemetery in Leesburg.

Was he the person the statue's creator had in mind?

Not so fast, says Peerless Rockville, guardians of Rockville's heritage, in making a strong case on behalf of their former Rockville mayor Spencer Jones, who served as an enlisted man in the 2nd Maryland Cavalry and who fought in the Battle of Monocacy. They think Jones was the vision for the statue, or at least its head. He was a prominent and notable resident not only for being a successful lawyer who became mayor of Rockville, but he was also elected to the Maryland State Senate where he became State Senate president. Montgomery County's Public Information Director, Patrick Lacefield, tells the Monocle that at the time the statue was being conceived, Mayor Jones was still involved in important issues like veterans affairs but could not attend its initial installation due to ill health. A big clue in favor of him is that the statue lacks an insignia of rank, more in keeping with an enlisted person.

Is this a clue to the identity or is this because the statute was in honor of all who served regardless of rank? The pictures of Jones I have found are of him as an

older man with a very pronounced beard, not useful in trying to determine if it was his younger face on the statute. The statue has no beard; however, Elijah White, pictured during the war, clearly has the strong facial characteristics of the face. A profile of the statue has a prominent nose, something in line with White. White had a very light beard which is not on the statute. Was Jones beardless during the war?

Neal Brown, son of Ed Brown, whose family owns White's Ferry, spotted something we think could be a very important clue. The statue is clearly a man who was left-handed. The pistol, located on the right side, has it handle facing forward for the draw of a southpaw. In the picture we have of White, while the pistol is on the left side, the handle is in position with the butt facing backward, in a standard fashion, appropriate for a lefty. White was and the statue is left-handed. Was Jones? Only ten percent of the population is left-handed. Both men could also be, of course, yet the odds are not in favor of that possibility.

Spencer Jones, although very renowned after the war, does not compare to the wartime esteem of White. The statue was not originally scheduled to go to Rockville but, interestingly enough, to Monocacy Cemetery, closer to White's Maryland roots than Rockville. Did friends of Jones simply promote him as the statue's model at the time since he was a beloved politician near the end of his life

Continued on page 11.



Col. Elijah Viers (Lige) White.

Daniel-Jeffers Post 247 The American Legion





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Local News

Residents Find Disturbing Notes

By Jack Toomey

On three consecutive days in early August, three residents living on PeachTree Road found notes in their mailboxes. The notes, which were in envelopes, contained racial epitaphs, derogatory comments about sexual orientation, and drawings of male genitalia. The envelopes had not been delivered by the USPS.

Montgomery County Police spokesperson Rebecca Innocenti, citing departmental policy, would not comment when asked if the racist notes were directed at any minority families.

She did say that detectives from the Rockville and Germantown Stations, and the Community Outreach Unit were working on the case and trying to identify the author(s) and determine if a crime had been committed.

In the meantime, there have been several incidents of graffiti drawn on surfaces in Poolesville, and the common theme seemed to be phallic symbols. Innocenti did not know whether the two series of incidents were connected. Town Manager Wade Yost said that he was contacted by detectives and asked to be on the lookout for such graffiti.

Continued from page 10.

Colonel White's Return Home: Fact or Legend

and to identify him thusly was to give him special honor for political reasons?

Who is it, then, Jones or White—or simply everyman? While Rockville argues for its son, we stand on White's behalf. The thought of the colonel finally and gratefully standing longingly and lovingly overlooking his Virginia, while perhaps far too wildly romantic for many, brings a special sense of peace of mind amidst the statue's sometimes caustic controversy.

Perhaps there is still room for compromise. Perhaps it's a grand mixture after all. Is the head Spencer, like Peerless Rockville maintains, but the left-handed body that of good old Lige, and the uniform, lacking rank so as to not honor just Jones or White but all who fought on the southern side. Old statues may never die, nor do they always just fade away, but such statues never exist to proclaim the future but simply to contemplate the past: In this case, a memory of a war we can never forget, and a war that never should come again. Something we can all agree on, at least.

Continued from page 1.

Rev. Ann Ritonia Says Farewell to St. Peter's

programs to the local community. Perhaps her single most noticeable contribution in local outreach was the development of a school luncheon program for high school students that is available every school day in the narthex of the church. Begun modestly to focus on the simple nutritional needs of some students who might not have enough family funds for lunch, it has grown to serving nearly one hundred students a day, many of whom do not have a spiritual home, in an atmosphere that reaches all in a spiritual and welcoming environment. Making the church an "in" place for teenagers can be considered quite an achievement in this day and age.

Another innovation she initiated was the Lenten Ashes-to-Go outreach effort whereby she and other Eucharistic ministers of the church provided the special blessing of ashes and special prayers on Ash Wednesday at White's Ferry and on Fisher Avenue across from McDonald's. Scores of persons, busily driving on their hectic daily commute to work still took the time to pull over, get out of their cars, share with her a private concern, receive a prayer, and then have ashes in the form of a cross placed on their foreheads with a blessing of forgiveness.

Additionally, within the church, she expanded many new spiritual educational programs. One of her most unique gifts was her talented singing voice and love of music. She served in the U.S. Marine Corps in its famed musical program.

At her final service, she told her flock that she was "so grateful for the time I have spent with you, the ministry, and friendship we have shared and, while I am looking forward to starting a new ministry, I am sad to lose all of you. I want each one of you to know that it has been a profound joy for me to be a part of this congregation, to get to know you well, to be with you in times of pain, and to celebrate with you in times of joy."

Do you have an interesting story to share? Send it along to editor@monocacymonocle.com

Monocacy Critters

Serendipitous Pet and Animal Pictures*



An Albino White-Tail Deer peeking out through the trees.

Photo by Unknown

*Do you have an unusual or funny picture of a pet or animal? Mail or email the picture to editor@monocacymonocle.com or P.O. Box 372, Barnesville, MD 20838

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Local News

Poolesville Hosts Venue for World Championship Dog Show

By Rande Davis

Stevens Park will be the venue for an official qualifying event for the 2017 Hyperflite/Skyhoundz Disc Dog Classic World Qualifier on August 19 (rain date: August 20).

The Skyhoundz Disc Dog World Championship will be held at Coolidge Park in Chattanooga, Tennessee in late September.

The classic-style competition is a multi-round event where dog/handler teams will showcase their abilities in various combinations of freestyle and/or distance/accuracy (toss and fetch) rounds. Winners are determined by cumulative scoring.

Freestyle is a ninety-second, free-form, choreographed routine with a musical backdrop scored by judges using the Skyhoundz P.A.W.S. judging

system: presentation, athleticism, wow-factor, and success. Emphasis is placed on success, variety, innovation, and the athletic skills of the canine and thrower. Competitors can use up to five discs in their freestyle routines.

Distance/Accuracy (D/A or D&A) is a fast-paced event in which teams attempt to score points by completing as many catches as possible within various scoring zones in sixty seconds.

The competition will be hosted by the Mid Atlantic Disc Dogs and is sponsored by Nutramax Laboratories, Inc., makers of cosequin, dasuquin, and cosamine joint supplements for canines, felines, equines, and humans.

Event check-in for competitors is at 8:00 a.m., and competition begins at 9:00 a.m. Spectators and their dogs are welcome. Spectators are advised to bring water and shade accommodations for their dogs. Dogs must be leashed at all times unless a registered competitor on competition field or practice area. No retractable leashes allowed. For more information, check out the club's event page at www.mad-dogs.org/competitions.

Visit the *Monocle* online at www.monocacymonocle.com



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Ag News

Having a Dream

By Rande Davis

Shanlai Lu is a man with a passion and a dream that is something that, as a boy, he swore he would never, ever do again.

If you have traveled down Cattail Road lately, you would have noticed a new driveway climbing the hill along the road with a sign out front that reads, Lily Farm. Mr. Lu is planting a small seven-acre organic orchard there that won't bear fruit for another five years or so, but that's alright with him since he knows all too well that dreams most often take time to come true.

His story begins in China as a boy being raised by parents who were professors at a college. The Chinese government removed the family from their home to a "re-education" camp where, they, as with the others, were parceled a small plot of land that they were required to farm as part of the collective farming of that time. While his farm teemed with produce, however, the Chinese lacked decent roads and their distribution system could not get the fresh product to the people. His family, at least, ate well.

As a boy, he would sweat and toil

on that little farm dreaming of one day moving on and having a job in a city, in a big building, and having an office with a nice view. Farming, he told himself and his parents, was something he never wanted to do—ever again.

Eventually, Lu immigrated to America, became an American citizen, found a job with the federal government, and today has an office in a big building in Rockville with the view—yet something lingered in his mind and spirit. Almost inexplicably, he was drawn back to his youth, those arduous days of farming and working the land with his hands as a boy, and surprised himself by yearning to once again farm. This time, though, on his own land, and it would be not just any farm, but an organic orchard.

Today, as a Potomac resident, Lu marvels at the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve and its essential importance, saying, "I have traveled throughout the world, and there is nothing like it anywhere. It is so important to preserve this wonder."

Today, he travels from that big building in Rockville often spending a great deal of personal time working the land and preparing it for the orchard he envisions. He is excited about this dream coming true and notes that, in time, he, and all of us, will be enjoying the fruits of his dream and labor.

Do you or someone you know have a special announcement, or milestone you would like to share with our readers?

The *Monocle* welcomes your contribution. Send to editor@monocacymonocle.com



Correction: Elle and Cole Johnson from Artie-Jay Farm were incorrectly identified as Henderson in the July 28 issue.

Continued from page 4.

The Mystery of the Yellow Leaf that Would Not Fall

yellow and red leaves before I take notice. In upstate New York, we call these one-day foliage fans leafer-peepers. When the soft rolling hills along the Hudson River are alive with its full-blown show of color, even people like me are in awe—but it's the naturally more-keenly aware folks who can spot that little, single yellow leaf well before the showcase of color explodes.

I believe most people think of themselves as yellow leaf-peepers. Actually, despite so many people proclaiming themselves to be stop-to-smell-the-roses-types of people, very few really do halt their daily routine for a moment of serenity. I think most are more like me, people with good intentions, as in the hymn "I Sing a

Song of the Saints of God," "and I want to be one, too." Yet they are not quite able and too busy with their daily routine.

Like those of us on the other side of the leaf-seers, I am much more talk than action. I talk about being more focused all the time, but generally can't downshift out of third gear.

It's called living in the moment. Life is measured most often in length, but people like the farmer and my wife understand there is something even better than length. Such individuals will always live a life experience much, much longer than I will, irrespective of the years accumulated, as they can live in the moment and every moment counts. As I grow older, it is not the passing decades slipping by that startles me but the thousands of moments I know I missed. Excuse me, while I go looking for a yellow leaf.

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.

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Youth Sports

The Poolesville Piranhas: Summer Swimming Is Fun

By Jeff Stuart

The next generation of the Poolesville Piranhas swim team, the team coached by the late Sarah Auer some fifteen years ago and boasting some 105 swimmers, is still competing in the summer and doing well at the Upcounty pool recently renamed for Sarah.

"This will be our first winning season in a long time," said new coach Tracy Craemer. "We have twelve swimmers earning twenty-eight All-Star times between them, and we are in a pretty low division."

The Piranhas have multiple meets per summer: five dual meets, a division meet, a relay carnival, five B meets, a B relay carnival, and Superstars (a division for the B meet swimmers). The team won its division for the first time in over a decade. All the meets take place at outdoor pools in and around the county, half at home and half away.

Craemer lives in Frederick County and coached at the Potomac Swim and



Tennis Club for six years in the nineties. She coached the Piranhas six years ago and this year came out of retirement because the team had no coach. "At the last moment, I stepped in," she explained. "I have been involved in the MCSL since I was five, and I love the sport. Coaching is a lot of work, but the kids on this team are awesome so it was worth it to come out of retirement for them." Craemer's children have been on the team for fourteen years.

The assistant coaches are Roger Yerger, Victoria Yerger, and Grace

Bodmer. Grace, sixteen, is in her first year as assistant coach. "We almost always have a few teenage assistant coaches," said Craemer. "Sarah [Auer], at seventeen, was definitely the youngest head coach in the team's history."

The league started in 1959, Poolesville joined the league in the early eighties.

Two former swimmers, Elizabeth Pepper and Lauren James, competed in the Olympic Trials for the second time on June 29 in San Antonio (Pepper swam in the 200 fly, James in the 200-meter backstroke).

The following relays made it into the All Stars on July 29.

15-18 Mixed Free & Mixed Medley:
Theo Jagodits, Roger Yerger, Theresa Nardone, Logan Rhode

9-10 Boys' Medley:
Caleb Bodmer, William Rook, Adam Abzakh, Owen Robbins

13-14 Boys' Medley:
Jonathan Ye, Sam Bodmer, Daniel Lowell, Anthony Witt

18 & U Girls' Crescendo:
Claire Main, Lina Abzakh, Mackenzie Walton, Theresa Nardone, Alyson Nadon-Ortega

"I've lived in Poolesville my whole life," said Jagodits, a 2017 graduate of PHS and a member of the Falcons championship swim team. "I have been swimming with the Piranhas since I was six years old. I swim shorter distances in the summer. Lots of sprints. It's a lot different. It's more for fun—and it is fun. It was a little rough for the summer team the last few years. We had some coaches leave, but we finished 4-1 this year. The wins were blowout wins and the loss was only by eleven points."

"I have been swimming here for many summers," said Nardone, another PHS graduated senior, a Falcons

Continued on page 16.



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Police Blotter

1913

By Jack Toomey

A collision between a freight car and an automobile caused serious injuries to Stambaugh who was the motorman. Two other employees were shaken up. The collision occurred on the Rockville Electric Railway just south of Rockville. The freight car was able to be towed to the barn at Tennallytown.

William Fisher, 25, the canal company clerk, made his first appearance in court after being charged with the murder of William Altorfer, a magazine and newspaper writer, in his Chevy Chase home. Altorfer and Fisher had met in the Philippines, and Altorfer invited Fisher to become part of the household when they moved back to Chevy Chase. On the night of the murder, Fisher had come home and was warned by a female living in the house that Altorfer had been drinking and was quarrelsome. Soon afterwards, Altorfer grabbed Fisher by the neck and Fisher pulled out a knife and stabbed Altorfer. In an interesting aside, one of the jurors had been pulled

off the street by the sheriff when the judge ordered more jury members to be summoned. The man said that he was in Rockville to be married, but the excuse held no weight with the sheriff. After two days, he was allowed to write a letter to his fiancée explaining his predicament.

A shooting affray broke out at the Linden home of Mrs. Hutton. It seems that Hutton had become separated from her husband and that Garrett had become interested in her. In the evening, Garrett visited Hutton at her house. He had been told to stay away on several occasions. They argued and both produced revolvers and began shooting. Mrs. Hutton was shot once and Garrett three times. Officers who came to the scene could not determine who should be charged and decided to refer the case to the states attorney.

Mrs. Hutton, who was described as "decidedly prepossessing," was twenty-five years old and the mother of two small children. Garrett was thirty-three, married, and lived down the block.

Fears that Hilary Sims of Rockville had been murdered were allayed by Dr. Henderson. Sims had been to Georgetown and had become ill and was taken home by friends. Shortly

after returning home, Sims died. Dr. Henderson was called by family, and he was told that they thought that he had met with foul play. Dr. Henderson performed an autopsy and found that Sims had died of pleurisy. Detective Vermillion of the D.C. police was contacted and notified of the results of the autopsy.

John Earp of Germantown supposedly interfered with the matrimonial plans of Vernon Thompson also of Germantown. As a result, Earp went to Thompson's residence and threw a

large rock through the window, striking Earp in the head and seriously injuring him. Thompson was arrested by deputies and taken before a magistrate who jailed him until the grand jury met. Note: Vernon Thompson later blew up the house of a romantic rival, killing three people. He was the last man hanged in Rockville.

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

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Continued from page 1.

Submerged Car Found in Pond Next to JPMS

Signs of a hasty departure were evident as the keys were still in the ignition and the driver's side window still open. The police checked to make sure there was no body in the trunk. The year of the car has yet to be determined, but the police will trace the vehicle number or perhaps a reader with a long memory may remember an individual in the area who drove a similar car.

Continued from page 3.

Commissioners Close Out Current Year's Budget

first time on a real-time basis what is going on with regard to each of its wells so it can make shifts in pump operations as needed.

Finally, the commissioners voted earlier this year to change the level of reserves or so-called rainy day funds maintained by the town to 17.5% of the total budget. The town actually has more than \$260,000 in excess of what it needs to meet that target.

In discussion, it was noted that electricity still remains a large part of the costs of running the wastewater plant. In part, the town invested in the solar array to help defray the costs of electricity, but these costs have continued to be significant. Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski asked about this and asked for a report detailing the degree to which the town's investment in the solar array has offset electricity costs. The town manager said he has not done a complete analysis that included an assessment of the electricity fees charged by Potomac Edison over the years. He promised to do so.

After this exchange, there was no further debate, and a motion to approve the closeout report was adopted unanimously by the commissioners.

After the business portion of the meeting, Commissioner Klobukowski expressed concern about the physical condition and appearance of some older buildings in town, particularly what is historically known as the Frederick Poole House, a large, white now-commercial building built in 1820 located next to Bassett's Restaurant. Commissioner Klobukowski said its appearance does not present the town in a good light and wondered whether there were some actions that could be taken to improve its condition.

President Jim Brown said that while he appreciated Commissioner Klobukowski's concerns, he could not support the use of public funds or mandates on private companies to try and force improvements to buildings in town. Town Manager Wade Yost said that the town attorney would be present at the next town meeting to discuss these issues and offer opinions for the commissioners to consider.

Continued from page 14.

The Poolesville Piranhas: Summer Swimming Is Fun

swim teammate of Jagodits, and a 2017 state qualifier in outdoor track. "I have been swimming with the Pirhanas since I was six years old. It's been like a family. It has given me a chance to develop as a swimmer and to be a mentor to younger swimmers."

"I started swimming when I was six," said ten-year-old Alyson Nadon-Ortega. "When I joined the swim team I was very scared, but then everyone made me feel welcomed here, and that made me feel good. We had a winning season this year and that was fun. Having a new coach made a big difference. I made the All-Stars. I really don't know how I am going to do in the All-Stars. I'm a little scared, but I hope I am going to do well."

Receiving awards at the annual ice cream social held at the Poolesville Baptist Church on July 23 for Most Improved were Brady Rook, David Butler, Ben Lowell, Connor Shelburne, Aiden Dullaghan, Luka Brizhik, Adi Coppage, Lydia Kim, Sidney Robinson, Angelina Kolomiets, and Kelly Craemer. The Dean Ingleton Award went to Begonia Zapata and Alexander Yang. The High Point Awards went to Isaiah Valmonte, Adam Abzakh, Aaron Longbrake, Daniel Lowell, Theodore Jagodits, Claire Main, Alyson Nadon-Ortega, Lina Abzakh, Harriet Gaughan, and Theresa Nardone.

The Sarah E. Auer Award was presented to Gianluca Radice. "He embodies the enthusiasm, passion and great attitude that Sarah tried to instill in her young swimmers," said Craemer. "He was a wonderful addition to our team this year."

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Back to School Tips for Your Pet

Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF

The hurried rush of back-to-school and shorter days means families are spending more time focused on school work and active schedules. As a result, the change in routine can be confusing for pets. Instead of going for walks and playing in the yard, their companions suddenly head out the door without them.

Dogs especially are creatures of habit, and it is important to establish clear rules and a set schedule. Here are some tips to help your pups be happy and well adjusted.

Avoid Anxiety. Changes in routine can also lead to anxiety in many dogs. Following some of these tips may help alleviate the stress caused by the changes that happen when it's time to go back to school.

Transition Time. About a week before the kids return to school, begin getting your dog used to their absence:

- Leave your dogs inside early in the morning to simulate school time. You only need to leave them for thirty minutes or so. Let them know the long, lazy summer mornings are coming to an end!
- Start getting out the lunchboxes and other items your dog associates with leaving for school in the morning. The idea is to desensitize them to any anxiety-producing cues prior to school starting.

Set a Routine and Responsibilities. Work with your children to set and follow a daily routine that works for your family's lifestyle all year long.

The schedule should include: Feeding; Walks to one spot for bathroom business; Walks around the neighborhood or at the park; Appropriate play at approximately the same time every day.

Some routine ideas may include: Exercise and play in the morning before the kids leave the house; Extra attention and play when they get home from school; Exercise and "family time" in the evening.

Establishing a routine your pets can depend on will help them deal with the changes. This not only ensures your pets get the attention and love they deserve, but will also help your children learn how to be responsible and caring pet owners.

Turn on Some Tunes. During the summer, the house is full of sounds! When the kids go back to school, many of these sounds will suddenly be cut off for the majority of the day. Whenever your dog is left alone, the sound of human voices or music can be soothing. Try leaving slow (50 to 60 beats per minute) and relaxing music playing when the house is empty.

Enrich the at-Home Environment. When your pets' favorite play buddy heads back to school, their day can suddenly feel very empty. Rotating a selection of toys helps your dog or cat feel at home when he's alone.

- Leaving interesting and interactive toys and food puzzles out during the day helps your pets stay occupied.
- Hide favorite pet treats around the house for your pet to discover while you are away.
- Rubber Kongs or hard hollow bones can be stuffed with a little peanut butter or cream cheese and can even be frozen for a long-lasting treat!
- Save a special toy that your pet really loves and have your children take it out just before they are ready to go out. Put it away again once the children come home so it remains the "special toy."

Doggy Daycare. Consider letting your dog socialize and play at doggy daycare some days while the house is empty. This will allow your dog to expend some energy, while being in good care and the company of others.

Quality Time. It is important to reconnect with your pet at the end of a busy week. With school back in session, your dog may not get as much time playing with your family as during the carefree days of summer. Remember that even though your pet wasn't at work or school all day, he still needs time to unwind.

Consider activities like: Long walks at the park; Lounging around on the couch; Daily walks, even as the days get shorter; A weekend picnic; A weekend hike; A visit to a restaurant or establishment that allows dogs; A special weeknight brushing.

Getting back into the school mentality is never easy for humans or dogs! It is a gradual process that requires patience and consistency. Considering the above tips will help all of your kids (the two- and four-legged ones) transition back into the school year smoothly.



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