

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

July 27, 2018 • Volume XIV, Number 10



The boy's got some crazy dance moves going! See more fun pictures in Family Album on page 2.



Curtis Martin, not your grandfather's farmer. Find out why in AgNews on page 6.



Charlie Muldoon and legendary actor Robert Duvall at a sporting event in Poolesville. Details on this in Yeas and Neighs on page 8.



Filling some pretty big shoes. Learn about this new PHS coach in Youth Sports on page 11.

Farming Innovation Turns Fifty

By Rande Davis

Most residents in the county went about their normal day on July 19 with absolutely no awareness of a major local milestone in Montgomery County. This was a day of great celebration by our local farming community; it was the marking of fifty years of "no-till" farming in the county.

Congregating at the Jamison Farm off of West Willard Road, nearly a hundred persons ranging from career farmers, other agricultural experts, county governmental representatives, and citizens shared their pride in the five-decade-long development of the innovative and entrepreneurial method of changing local farming from the past centuries-old process of tilling the soil, breaking up the ground in a not-too-scientific process, to no-till farming.

No-till farming is a way of growing crops from year to year without disturbing the soil through tillage. No-till increases the amount of water

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Local farmers listened to Mike Jamison (being filmed on the left) discuss no-till farming advancements.

Puppy Parents and Volunteers Needed

By Susan Petro

Warrior Canine Connection (WCC) is about warriors helping fellow warriors heal from the trauma of war and military life with the help of man's best friend: a dog. Soldiers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) working with the WCC staff gain new life skills and develop a whole new purpose in life by training Labrador or Golden Retriever pups to become service dogs for their fellow armed forces comrades who are mobility-impaired.

WCC, a nonprofit organization, is the brainchild of executive director, Rick Yount. Yount has thirty years of experience as a social worker with more than twenty-two of those years incorporating animal-assisted therapy into his practices. Yount holds a Bachelor of Arts from West Virginia University and a Master of Science in Assistance Dog Education. Although

Yount has dedicated his career to helping others by combining both his social work skills and his experience with service dog training, he credits a Golden Retriever puppy he received as a gift many years ago with his first "aha" moment where he realized the potential of service animals for helping others who were suffering from trauma.

When Yount received the puppy as a Christmas gift, he was working as a social worker in a specialized foster care program which was a challenging, emotional job. "This puppy was a master at manipulating me," Yount said. "Within a few short months, he convinced me beyond a shadow of a doubt that if I didn't take him to work with me, he was going to surely die." So, on a cool day with no plans as to how Yount was going to juggle a

Continued on page 15.



Executive Director, Rick Yount, holds a WCC puppy.

Family Album



If you could eat ice cream or smile, which would you choose?



Poolesville's Sunday Motorcycle Club had almost a hundred bikers on July 15.



We've all heard of Dancing with the Stars. Here, we have a dance: Reaching for the Stars.



You can lead your little brother to the dance floor, but you can't make him like it.



Walls are always good for resting and shade.



JPMS students having a great time at a Friday on the Commons.



Smilin' faces mean good times. Making memories on the Commons.



What is Reptiles Alive! if you don't have at least one big snake?

In Your Own Backyard

Flooding on the Canal

By Jon Wolz

This past week, we had heavy rains following a similar weather pattern as June's. In late June after heavy rains, I went on two different walks along the C&O Canal and saw the aftermath of the flooding that had occurred earlier in the month. On one walk, we went from Lock 26 to the Monocacy Aqueduct. On that day, the temperature was in the seventies, and as Steve said, "The weather is perfect!"

At the entry point to the towpath at the Dickerson Conservation Park parking lot, there was erosion to the path that was caused when the canal overflowed and crossed the path with the water flowing out to the other side. On the path that leads to the Potomac River and the giant sycamore tree, the wooden foot bridge had washed about forty-five feet downstream. On our walk that day, there were six cyclists and no walkers. At the Monocacy Aqueduct, a man who had left work early to fish unloaded his fishing rods. On the towpath, there was mud left from the river flooding and rutting caused by cyclists. Steve and I removed several branches from the towpath, and a branch fell from a tree with a loud crash after we passed that spot on the towpath. There was no wind that day, so we were surprised that the branch fell. We broke back several branches that hung over the towpath.

Near milepost 40, there was a great blue heron fishing. Near the power plant entry road that crosses the canal, we came upon a very large oak tree that had fallen across the towpath into the water of the canal. We had to walk into the woods and climb over the three-foot tree trunk to get to the other side of the tree. As we were doing so, three cyclists came by and had to carry their bikes over the tree trunk. I immediately called the National Park Service emergency number to request a crew to clear the tree from the towpath.

Between the power plant entry road and Lock 27, the water level in the canal prism was very low. When this has occurred in the past, the Park Service performed repairs to the towpath in this section. Along this stretch we could see the flat stones laid against the towpath wall by canal workers 180 years ago when the canal was built. The canal workers laid a lot of stones! Since the water level was so low, there were dead carp along the banks in the canal prism. At one spot near Lock 27, several black vultures fed on dead carp. Near milepost 42, there was a three-foot black snake with its head raised across half of the towpath. Steve thought it was dead. I suggested he touch it and see. He did, and it moved, with Steve exclaiming, "It's alive!"

At the Monocacy Aqueduct, we noticed that two of the three picnic tables were missing, and we presumed they had floated away in the floods. On our walk on June 28 from White's Ferry to Lock 26, the temperature was in the low eighties, and it was sunny with blue skies with clouds. The towpath was shaded almost completely for our entire walk, and we saw eleven cyclists. There were no walkers. Several spots along the towpath were covered in drying mud left from the river flooding. Cyclists left ruts through the drying mud. Many green paw paws could be seen from the paw paw trees. The canal prism had a lot of water left over from the flooding. There were a lot of turtles sunning themselves on logs, and we saw two snapping turtles. Upon seeing one of the snappers, Steve exclaimed, "That's a big one!"

At two different locations, we saw does drinking water on the bank of the Potomac River. Upon seeing us, the deer turned and ran ahead of us, crossing the towpath and the canal basin. Bullfrogs croaked along our walk. A white egret who was in the canal kept flying up the canal and landing as we approached. A barred owl flew by, and we saw both a lesser blue heron and a great blue heron.

The mosquitoes are now out, and we walked briskly hoping they would not land on us. At about mile 36.5, we walked off the towpath and observed that the river flooding had left a lot of bottles and at least two car tires. We talked about organizing a river cleanup for this location possibly later in the year when it is cooler.

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



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Rande(m) Thoughts The True Sophisticates

By Rande Davis

I think most people living in the Monocle readership area are typically quite sophisticated, well-educated persons who naturally consider themselves to be up-to-date culturally and socially. I think they would be quite surprised to find themselves on the other end of the "awareness" scale when it comes to farming and agriculture.

I believe this is so not so much from empirical research but from gut reaction after hearing many people last spring voice concern over the notion of adding Ag Science to our PHS educational academic portfolio. Many, if not most, did seem at least somewhat supportive of the notion, but there were clear prejudices in understanding of the scope and breadth of such a program. A typical response? Are there really enough students interested in farming? Such a comment fails to appreciate that Agricultural Science encompasses hundreds of fields of study and career pathways. To think Ag Science is only about farming is a myopic view of that field of study. Back in the seventies, students from down county would disparage PHS students as "a bunch of farmers." Used in a negative way, persons called farmers were considered simple-minded, lacking worldly understanding and knowledge. It is those who do not understand Ag Science that are the ones who are culturally backwards today.

I am literally embarrassed for anyone who might think so poorly of Ag Science today. Just read our headline story in this issue about our local history and progress helping to bring no-till farming to the world. No-till began protecting the environment

even before the word ecology became a general term. In other farm news this issue, read about the new local crop-ad marketing firm, and you will be amazed. Those huge farming combines and tractors that take up so much space on the road when completing their primary task of feeding us all are not simply some kind of mega-offshoot of the bygone field plows digging up land behind a horse or mule. The person behind the wheel is more an IT computer operator and less a driver. Today's farmer uses GPS guidance computer software to auto-steer the combine, with other software so advanced that planting seed on a thousand-acre plot of land causes the seeds to fall within one to two inches of each other, and if desired, the seeds do not have to be the same. As the huge equipment passes over the soil, the computerized system can analyze the ground so precisely that it can skip planting over soil not suitable for planting so as to not waste seed. This new seeding method is so precise that the rock fences belong to history. Built from rock removed to make room for seeding, in many cases, there is no need to even move the rock.

With farming becoming more sophisticated than the average job or career, what term do we now use to call others not as cosmopolitan? Surely, not farmers.

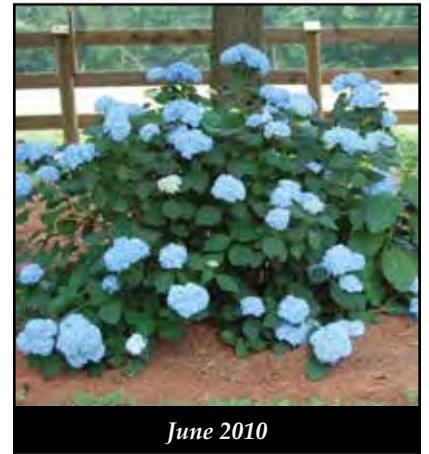
While one can expect down county folks to have educational prejudices, we in the Ag Reserve should at least know better than to think there isn't room in our schools for a world-class Ag Science program. In fact, much of Ag Science is IT and STEM. Teachers and administrators lacking enough sophistication to not fully understand the scope of Ag Science have become the rural-like parochial thinkers of today. The nearly-one-thousand 4-H youth in the county can no longer be dismissed as irrelevant. PHS needs an Ag Science program, the sooner the better.

Garden

Endless Summer— What Happened?

By Maureen O'Connell

In 2004, the garden world was revolutionized by the introduction of a new variety of hydrangea, 'The Original,' from the Endless Summer Collection. Its claim to fame was its ability to bloom on both the previous season's growth as well as the current season's growth. This allowed the hydrangea to bloom repeatedly from spring through fall, and it also allowed for a greater number of big, beautiful blooms. From a marketing viewpoint, you could not find a better branding name than 'Endless Summer.' The plant was not packaged in the usual drab black plastic container in which most garden center offerings came, but in a beautiful blue pot: the same blue as the promised blooms. The plants flew off the shops' shelves. I too was taken in by its promises; in 2008, I bought six of 'The Original' Endless Summer hydrangeas. I carefully planted them in a welcoming location and sat back, waiting for the explosion of gorgeous, blue hydrangea flowers from spring to



June 2010

fall. Things were great for a few years, as the above photo shows a fully-bloomed plant in June 2010. Then about four or five years later, things fell apart. What happened?

Hydrangeas are not newcomers to the garden world. They are native to southern and eastern Asia (China, Japan, Korea, the Himalayas, and Indonesia), Europe, and the Americas and have been viewed hundreds of years ago. There were two types in terms of how they bloomed: old growth varieties bloomed in early summer and finished in mid-summer; new growth ones started in mid-summer and continued until the first frost. No one plant

Continued on page 9.

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Tidbits

Poolesville Day Just around the Corner

The Poolesville Day Committee (PDC), actively working on the 2018 version since February, is excited over the finalization of its 26th anniversary edition! The headline band this year is: The Reagan Years, a multi-talented group of singers and musicians specializing in a tribute to the music of the eighties. They will be coming to Poolesville just after a scheduled performance at Union Station in the District. Although six weeks out from this issue of the Monocle, it's not too early to sign up for vendor spots or entry into the parade. The PACC will still have its annual 5K race/walk the morning of the big day. Registration for it begins on August 5.



The 1980s tribute band, The Reagans, will headline Poolesville Day 2018.

Most importantly, the PDC will need volunteers to help keep the event running smoothly and full of fun. Volunteers do not need to help all day. In fact, the PDC welcomes those who might be on a more limited time schedule and could only give a couple of hours or so. Visit Poolesville Day on the web for more details.

Excessive Drenching Traps Person in Car

The excessive rain over the weekend of July 20 to 22 resulted in a tree crashing down on Norris Road, trapping a person inside a vehicle. Fortunately, no one was seriously hurt, only inconvenienced. While the area remains saturated, with reports of multiple trees and limbs down and Whalen Commons almost swamp-like in parts, the week of rain could have been much worse.



Heavy rains downed a tree, trapping a driver on Norris Road.

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AgNews

Meet the Madison Avenue Farmer

By Rande Davis

John Jamison comes from generations of farmers and real estate professionals, so representing technology that could potentially disrupt both industries with what he calls Crop Ads was a perfect fit for him. His creation was to develop a way to plant crops so that, upon their growth, a message for air travelers overhead could be easily read. Others have done something similar with paint or simple harvesting of crops, but when you are talking about "signage" twenty acres large that lasts for months on end, paint is too costly, and cutting of the crops can be time consuming, costly, and won't last very long. All of Jamison's ads are a harvestable product in the end. He claims that the image cost less than \$500 and was visible for three months.



Modern technology brings crop advertising to a new level. Note the large combine at the lower right to see how big this sign really is.

Jamison partners with Curtis Martin of Mid-Atlantic POrtainers and Equipment and, using a GPS-guided tractor and special planter, they lay down two different seeds of the same crop to create a special message, a bit like the old-fashioned dot matrix printers. They first build a data file on a PC, then transfer that file to a tractor's computer. The tractor's computer reads its position from GPS, then directs the specially-built planter that can plant two different seeds in one planting to place the two different seeds in the predetermined pattern. The plants that grow from the seed are two contrasting colors which the viewer can easily distinguish from the air. Laughingly, Jamison jokes, "It's the biggest printer around." In his working model off of Offut Road in Poolesville, his sign proclaims "Maryland Welcomes You" to flyers in the glide path in to Dulles airport. The sign is in wheat, but he can use many other crops, including corn, soybeans, and many more. The whole sign was harvested as well, with good yields. "That's the beauty of it," says Jamison. "It's easy to do and doesn't hurt the yield."

Modern technology has given many farmers additional income from cellphone towers on their farm. Now GPS-guided planters can plant their crops in an advertisement format that Jamison hopes will also generate extra income.

Continued on page 18.

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School News

Lions Award Scholarship

Ben Daughtry, chairman of the Scholarship Committee of the Monocacy Lions, has notified us of scholarships the organization awarded to 2018 graduates at Poolesville High School:

Earl Shreve Memorial Scholarship: Amelia Williams, Stevenson University

Monocacy Lions Club Scholarship: Divya Katt, University of Maryland.

Caleb Burrell Receives National Honor

PHS student Caleb Burrell was selected to become a member of the National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS). The society recognizes scholars who have demonstrated leadership, scholarship, and community service.

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Yeas and Neighs

Polo Local—The Argentinians Come to Play

By Andie Devynck

It took way more than two to tango when it came to putting on an event like the one that took place on the Summerhill Polo Fields off of Beallsville Road just outside downtown Poolesville on Saturday, July 14. In a joint effort with the Embassy of Argentina and the Many Hats Institute, the Inaugural Argentina Heritage Polo Tournament kicked off at 3:00 in the afternoon underneath a hot summer sun, with a saving grace of constant breezes and a long stretch of cooling white tents lining the south end of the field on a grassy knoll just above it. The view was perfect for the crowd of over five hundred guests, sponsors, musicians, vendors, caterers, and volunteers who dressed the part to eat asado (grilled beef) and other traditional food, drink, and listen to live Argentine music while cheering on their teams. The biggest polo event in the area, it was designed to help raise funds and awareness for the largest pediatric hospital in Latin America, the Garrahan Hospital.

After the official welcome, the bids began on the silent auction. Action on the field began with a low-key celebrity chukker (or match, comparable to a single set in tennis) fundraiser for the hospital. Next, Charles Muldoon (brother to Joe, a member of the American team on the field) introduced the many esteemed guests hosting and supporting the event, which culminated in the ceremonial tossing-in of the first ball by one of the two honorary co-chairs, Academy and Golden Globe-winning actor, filmmaker, and polo enthusiast, Robert Duvall, who lives outside Middlesburg, Virginia. His counterpart in the event, the Ambassador from Argentina, Fernando Oris de Roa, watched alongside the Ambassador from Peru, Carlos Pareja, as the Argentinian team scored the first goal.



Raising funds and awareness for the largest pediatric hospital in Latin America, the Garrahan Hospital.

The high-level international competitive match started out fast, with Charles and his sister Mary taking turns calling the game and announcing the various activities taking place between bouts of high drama on horseback. An equine artist, Tyler Robertson, painted en plein air as the crowd watched. There were numerous photo opportunities afforded the crowd with both, celebrities in the tents, and horses and players on the field. The event sponsors offered a diverse array of giveaways and opportunities to win special prizes for adults and children, including polo lessons and season tickets for Summerhill Polo. After the traditional Stomping of the Divots (the grass clumps that fly everywhere on the field out of galloping horse shoes) with complimentary champagne and dancing, the Special Awards Presentation ended the formal event, making way for the celebratory dance party with performances and a DJ that kept the energy high as the sun sank low in the sky.

For those of you interested in learning more about Summerhill Polo, or their connection with the Argentinian team, please contact them at efernandez@summerhillpolo.com. For more information about or a chance to donate to the Garrahan Hospital, please contact them at comunicacionyprensa@garrahan.gov.ar or prensahospitalgarrahan@gmail.com.

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Continued from page 4.

Endless Summer—What Happened?

bloomed continually from spring until frost time. Then in the mid-1980s, in the yard of Dennis Bostrom, a fifth grade teacher outside of St. Paul, Minnesota, a new variety was discovered. It is not unusual that such discoveries (and also in other disciplines and fields) are made serendipitously. The hydrangea showed the unique trait of reblooming and surviving a Zone 4 winter, unlike any others. A local nursery, Bailey Nurseries, took an interest in it and brought it to their lab for testing. In 1998, Dr. Michael Dirr, a respected horticulturist at the University of Georgia, learned of this new variety and was excited with its potential for the garden world. He had been breeding for a remontant *Hydrangea macrophylla*, and he hoped that this new one would be the one for which he had long been searching. He casually remarked: "Let's name it Endless Summer"—and so a brand was born.

All living things are subject to the vagaries of the weather, and plants are no exception. Call it luck or what have you, but for a number of years, 'The Original' lived up to its hype in the North, the Midwest, and the East Coast. Then Mother Nature had

her say, and I began my love-hate relationship with Endless Summer, and so did other gardeners. In the southern U.S. states, the summers are usually very hot. 'The Original' had big leaves and they transpired a lot of moisture and became very thirsty and began to wilt badly starting in July. You could not water them enough, and they stopped blooming. In the East, the winter and early spring weather started to change, as is its cyclical pattern. The plant and its old wood buds survived the winter, but late March and early spring heavy frosts killed the old wood buds and the just-emerging new growth buds, so there were no blooms all summer or into the fall, as Endless Summer could not recover fast enough from the late frosts. Do you need perfect, four-season weather conditions for Endless Summer to live up to its fame? This serendipitous, well-received discovery may not be the panacea for which we all have been hoping.

So what do I do with my long plot of Endless Summer hydrangeas that used to be a sea of astonishing blue flowers that is now a long line of big, green, sometimes-wilted leaves? I could start over and dig them all up, but that is a lot of work and the leaves are at least green, but I miss my long-gone flowers.

The Fall 2018 catalogue of Wayside Gardens still offers the Endless Summer hydrangea, plus three new ones: BlushingBride, Twist-n-Shout, and BloomStruck. Summer Crush is to be introduced in the summer of 2019. They all promise to be cold-hardy and provide a long bloom show no matter how late your spring frosts lasts. Once again, Mother Nature will have her say—and I still have blooming the wonderful, reliable white *Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Snow Queen.'



June 2018

Do you have a garden-related topic you would like to read about? The Monocle welcomes your suggestions. Send to editor@monocacymonocle.com

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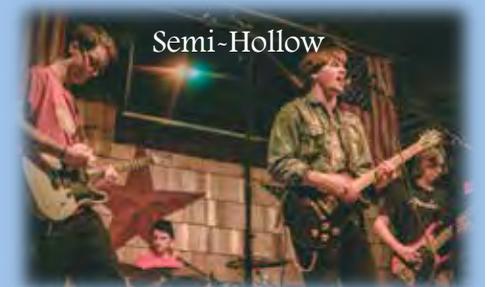
Festivities all day
10:00a – 4:00p



Fuse



Touch of Grey



Semi-Hollow

Things To Do

Poolesville Area Senior Center (PASC Events – Poolesville Baptist Church)

Pickleball: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Free Form Movement: Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in Rm 129.

Zumba Gold: Wednesday in gym at 1:00 p.m.

July 27

Friday on the Commons: Under the Stars

Family fun including yard darts, costume contest, DJ, farmers' market, food trucks, and movie night. Star Wars at 8:30 p.m. *Whalen Commons*. Events begin at 6:00 p.m.

PACC Special Event: Seneca Polo Club—Solo Social

Come watch a practice polo game, enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres, dessert, beer and wine, and network. Free to one PACC member; guest tickets \$10.00. Game starts at 7:00 p.m.

July 28

143rd Annual St. Mary's Chicken Dinner and Festival

Famous BBQ chicken dinners served family style with all the fixings. Just \$16 per adult and all carry out. Children 12 and under free. Enjoy Maryland jousting (1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.), children's games, huge white elephant sale, book sale, baked and candy goods, cake wheel, crafts, and more. Music by Sookie Stomp. Noon to 7:00 p.m.

Library Special Event: Summer Stem Classes

Kids Connect with Computers/ Hands on Science

Learn basic programming with Python. Learn about science basics with

hands-on experiments and activities. No registration required. For elementary-aged children. 1:00 p.m.

July 29

Old-Fashioned Community/ Family Picnic:

Bring your blanket and basket lunch for a lawn picnic at the John Poole House. This is a wonderful time to share fellowship with your neighbors and friends and learn about something we all share in common: Poolesville's historic and important role from America's early days to the Civil War era. Shh! John Poole, Jr. will be making a surprise visit to his old home. He will be reflecting on his time in the old trading post. Come learn of Poolesville's many close connections to Abe Lincoln, why we may be one of the most publicized towns in the nation during the war, and more. You will be amazed. There will be old-fashioned outdoor children games to help entertain the young ones. Watershed Café will be selling its fabulous, homemade ice cream. Noon to 3:00 p.m.

August 1

MUMC's Monthly Community Dinner

Memorial United Methodist Church will be serving sub sandwiches, PBJ, summer sides, and homemade desserts. 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

August 2

PACC Special Event: Businesses Helping Businesses Grow

Networking breakfast featuring speaker, Didier Devynck, of Poolesville Fine Framing. 19960 Fisher Avenue.

August 3, 4, and 5

The Blue Hearth Market Weekend

Original and unique home décor items with refurbished furniture. Great gift ideas galore. Friday: noon to 8:00 p.m., Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Sunday: noon to 5:00 p.m.

August 4

Library Special Event: Summer Stem Classes

Kids Connect with Computers/ Hands on Science

Learn basic programming with Python. Learn about science basics with hands-on experiments and activities. No registration required. For elementary-aged children. 1:00 p.m.

August 6

Maggie Nightingale Library Book Discussion

Enjoy and discuss Book of Ages: *The Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin* by Jill Lepore. Copies will be available at the Circulation Desk. 7:00 p.m.

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

August 7 and 9

Library Special Double Header Event: Science in the Summer

The Science of Space, Level 1 for Grades 2 and 3

Through active, hands-on learning, children will explore the sun's energy, the phases of the moon, human survival in space, and how rockets overcome Earth's gravity. This is a

two-part series, and you must be able to attend both sessions. Session one Tuesday, August 7 at 10:00 a.m. (we will open our doors early this day for participants); session two is on Thursday, August 9 at 10:00 a.m. Online preregistration required. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 10:00 a.m.

Library Special Event: Science in the Summer

The Science of Space, Level 2 for Grades 4 to 6

Through active, hands-on learning, students will explore the sun's energy, the phases of the moon, human survival in space, and how rockets overcome Earth's gravity. This is a two-part series and you must be able to attend both sessions. Session one is on Tuesday, August 7 at 1:00 p.m. (we will open our doors early this day for participants); session two is on Thursday, August 9 at 1:00 p.m. Online preregistration required. 1:00 p.m.

August 10

Friday on the Commons: Big Top

Family fun including inflatables, petting zoo, DJ, farmers' market, food trucks, and movie night. *The Greatest Showman* at 8:30 p.m. *Whalen Commons*. Events begin at 6:00 p.m.

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Youth Sports

An Interview with Kristie Fourcade, The New PHS Girls' Volleyball Coach

By Jeff Stuart

What was your passion/motivation as volleyball coach?

I have loved volleyball from the moment I shagged balls when my older sister played in high school. We are seven years apart, so I was the tag-along little sister mascot. I came to love not only the physical aspect of volleyball, but also the camaraderie of a team sport. I hope to instill that kind of passion and love for the sport in my players since volleyball can be a lifelong sport—and I admit to being a very competitive person.

Prior to becoming coach at Poolesville, what was your coaching experience?

I have many years of coaching experiences, including former assistant coach at Frederick Community College, club level coaching for both FAVOR and METRO, as well as the JV and Head Varsity Coach for my Alma mater, Saint John's Catholic Prep in Frederick. While coaching at SJCP, we built a winning program, advancing the program up a division in the IAAM conference.

Where did you play volleyball?

I have played volleyball since the age of ten. Through the Chesapeake Regional Volleyball Association (CHRVA), I had the opportunity to travel with my MVSA club teams to Junior Nationals twice: Dallas, Texas and Salt Lake City, Utah. I also played for the WACO Club program. In high school, as team captain and setter for the St. John's Prospect Hall team, we won the IAAM Division championship, and I was named a conference all-star three years and was also named to the *Frederick News-Post* All-Star First Team. I played volleyball at McDaniel College as a setter from 2004 to 2009, holding several school records in both setting and serve aces. I still play in the USAV Chesapeake Region Women's Volleyball program, and have played at Nationals in Orlando, Florida in 2016.

When did you know you had gotten the head coaching position at PHS?

Late winter, early spring of this year.

What are your expectations for this season?

I expect to have a positive season with the players growing each time they step on the court, bettering their best in their individual skill and learning to trust and depend on each other as a team. Teams who can do that can win against any opponent. As the season hasn't started yet, I have not seen the team play as a whole. I have met the players at the spring interest meeting. I have also observed several of the girls play in club tournaments I have been coaching at and have gotten to know them a little.

I have high expectations for them in terms of effort and commitment not only to themselves, but to their teammates. It is gratifying to see these young athletes learn about themselves, surprise themselves with what they are capable of, and learn and grow in those lifelong skills I mentioned.

What do or did you try to teach your players besides volleyball?

Sports in general teaches so many life skills beyond it just being a game played for fun. For high school players, they learn time management: balancing schoolwork with practices and competition. They build confidence in themselves, learn teamwork, and build communication skills.

What are three things that your previous experience in coaching have taught you?

How to stay organized and productive in practices, how to communicate with each player in a way that reaches them as an individual, and not to lose sight of having fun!

How would you promote a positive energy with your team through both positive and negative situations?

Continued on page 12.



SUGARLOAF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

July 2018

"Protecting our rural legacy"

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Lauren Greenberger, President
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 Visit our Web site: www.sugarloafcitizens.org

Since When Is a Brew Pub an Agricultural Enterprise?

Our County Council, and in particular, the Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee led by Nancy Floreen, is determined to pass Hans Riemer's Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) to our Master Plan to allow breweries in the Ag Reserve with virtually no ingredients grown on the property. Their current language requires "some ingredients" coupled with a nutrient management plan. This simply isn't going to ensure that the alcohol production is accessory to farming. Hops do not currently grow well (i.e., decent commercial quality) in Maryland, so a farm brewery would be purchasing nearly all of their hops for use in their beer production probably from somewhere in the Pacific Northwest.

Breweries need to be uncoupled from this ZTA. Montgomery County can have excellent local craft brew production without being on Ag Reserve farms. Wineries are already regulated; that regulation should not be weakened. Cideries and probably distilleries could more readily be grouped with wineries. The bottom line is that a farm producing alcohol as its end product should be required to produce at least 50% of its ingredients on that farm. The Agricultural Reserve was established for agriculture. Any business that produces an end product from crops grown on its farm is appropriate to be in the Agricultural Reserve. A business that is not using farmland to produce a product is not agricultural. Montgomery County will lose the ability to retain this zoning if businesses that are not based on agricultural production are allowed to develop here. We all love breweries, but they don't belong in our Agricultural Reserve. Like any other business, they belong in areas zoned for business whether it be Clarksburg or Silver Spring or Bethesda.

For alcohol production businesses that ARE growing their ingredients on the land, the limited use permit should be clear and unequivocal:

1. The property should front on, and have access to, a road built to primary or higher standards.
2. Events should be capped at nine per venue (e.g., weddings) per year.
3. The number of attendees should be set at 150 (that's a common, moderately large wedding) not the 300 that the PHED favors; 75 cars on one property is already a lot. On-farm weddings are largely outdoor events, so these events will be bunched into fair-weather months. That means greater impact in terms of traffic, sound and light, to farms and nearby residents during critical planting and growing seasons.
4. Event venues should be set back at least 100 yards from neighbors' homes and sightlines should be blocked.
5. Outdoor music should have a decibel maximum and should end by no later than 11:00 in the evening.
6. The required onsite parking must be kept off prime farmland.

As written, the currently-proposed ZTA gives considerable advantage to alcohol-production facilities. It would grant them opportunities for events that other farms would not have. Why shouldn't a farm that is producing food or fiber have the chance to further support the farm with events that use ingredients produced onsite?

Despite much testimony from local producers and residents, the PHED has ignored their concerns and not modified the language of this Amendment. As written, it could threaten the very existence of the Ag Reserve.

Please consider contacting Nancy Floreen, Hans Riemer, and George Leventhal and asking that ZTA 18-03 be rewritten to:

1. Require alcohol production facilities to actually grow their ingredients and
2. Limit in the number and size the events they can host. Events must be accessory to farming, not the other way around.

Lauren Greenberger, President

Continued from page 11.

An Interview with Kristie Fourcade, the New PHS Girls' Volleyball Coach

Simply set the expectation that they treat each other the way they would like to be treated. I expect them to respond to any situation, negative or positive, with a teammate or opposing team, with dignity and respect and positive communication.

How do you motivate players?

Motivation comes from each person within themselves. What I can do is help them clarify their goals as individuals, as a team, and set common goals that they all are motivated by and desire to reach. That combined with constant skill development builds a winning program.

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MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 28 - 4 & 5 pm
Sunday, July 29 - 8, 9:30, 11 am
Daily Mass - Monday - Friday 9 am
Rosary follows daily mass



Saturday, July 28

143rd Annual Chicken Dinner from Noon - 7 pm

Jousting Tournament - 1 pm - 4 pm

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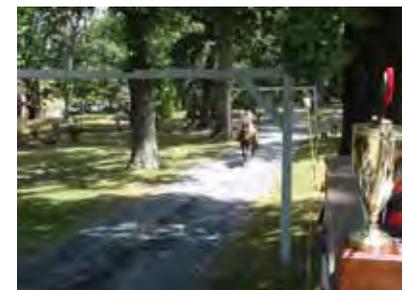
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Continued from page 1.

Puppy Parents and Volunteers Needed

four-month-old pup and his social work duties, he put the pup in his car and headed off to work.

Soon afterwards, Yount received a call to remove an eleven-year-old boy from a bad situation and deliver him to a foster home located in another county. The boy was frightened and crying, but soon the car grew silent on the trip to the foster home. When Yount glanced into the rearview mirror, he saw the boy's hand petting his pup's head, and the dog's head resting on the boy's leg. That was Yount's first aha moment.

The pup became an official service dog and worked with Yount, who also went through schooling to become a service-dog trainer. "What really drove my interest in becoming a mobility service dog trainer was to break the cycle of abuse and neglect through service dog training," said Yount, who began working with alternative education high school students and other high-risk youth, teaching them to train service dogs for others with mobility impairment.

Two of Yount's first service dog graduates in that program were placed with veterans. "It really opened my eyes to the needs of mobility-impaired veterans," said Yount who learned that many veterans waited for years for the help a service dog provides.

In 2004, the subject of PTSD was becoming a topic of discussion as soldiers were returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with a barrage of both physical and mental wounds. Yount had another aha moment. "Wait a second, we should be training these service dogs for veterans with follow veterans. I thought about how the training of the dog could be useful for veterans who are dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder," said Yount. He began to write up his ideas and to interview veterans for feedback. He met the Chief of Recreational Therapy of Veterans Affairs (VA) in Palo Alto who understood the potential of such a program.

Soon the Warrior Canine Connection was born, and Yount was introduced to his first cohort of service-members: three active-duty, battle-hardened marines. One was a drill-instructor, another, a patient who had been there a week and wouldn't talk to anyone, and a third patient who was so depressed that he was having trouble getting up in the morning. These men were in a premier VA inpatient program for those who were really struggling.

For these men to be successful in training the service dogs, Yount had to teach the men one of the first things he learned as a service dog trainer: that using a manly, monotone "good boy" when trying to inspire a dog wasn't going to cut it. "I realized that I'm going to have to sound like Richard Simmons (fitness guru) with a high-pitched (and enthusiastic) 'Yes!' and giving the dog a treat every time I said that."

Imagine Yount having to tell these combat-hardened marines that they have to go from a non-aggressive, but firm, assertive Arnold Schwarzenegger voice to issue the command "down" to their service dogs in training to their finest, high-pitched character voice "yes" as soon as the dog's belly hits the ground.

One trainee quickly reminded Yount that they were combat-hardened vets with PTSD and they "don't sound like that!"

To which Yount responded, "Look, you don't have to be happy, but to train this dog to be a quality service animal to help a fellow marine that may have a spinal cord injury or missing limbs, you don't have to be happy, but you just have to pretend to sound happy." Yount had given these men a mission, and not one said "No, I'm not going to do that."

In the process of training the service animals, the men with PTSD began to heal some of their own intrusive thoughts and mental wounds. As the veterans took the dogs out into the community, they had to get the future service dogs used to sounds like dumpster doors slamming and other loud noises that could be triggers for patients with PTSD. The veterans, by design, now had to focus on the dogs and to teach the dogs to accept those noises with positive reinforcement and happy voices.

Additionally, these gorgeous Golden Retrievers served as both a buffer and a social attractant for the service members, making isolation impossible.

Today, WCC has programs located throughout the country and makes its headquarters in Boyds on a beautiful piece of park property that is part of Seneca Creek State Park. The former dairy barn that once produced milk for soldiers is slated to be restored and will soon serve as the main training facility and offices. Currently, breeding and training facilities are located on-site along with a former farmhouse where Yount and his wife live fulltime.

The puppies even have their own twenty-four-hour "puppy-cams" that stream live around the world. The popular cam has viewers from every state and seventy countries after a popular video hosting site chose WCC's site to be a part of their lineup. The site went viral, and the WCC's puppy-cam had over 5.5 million viewers in the first year alone.

Civilian puppy parents and petters are always needed at WCC. Raising a puppy is full of rewards and challenges. Each puppy lives with the volunteer but comes to the WCC facility once a week for training. The volunteers are encouraged to take the puppies everywhere with them, even to work, restaurants, and theaters. Although returning the puppy is difficult, the sense of reward and knowing that the service dog graduate will provide much-needed help to a veteran in need makes the effort worthwhile. Many volunteers will take on another puppy after returning the one they raised.

For those who can't take on the fulltime role of a puppy parent but still want to volunteer, puppy petters are also needed. The petter's job is simply to pet puppies that are currently on-site.

To learn more about Warrior Canine Connection or to volunteer, visit www.caninewarriorconnection.org.

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Mystery History

Toasting Poolesville's Peter's Forest

By Rande Davis

In 1802, traveling to our area was considered going into the wilderness. The difficult ride (on horseback or carriage) would have most likely left the weary traveler tired, hungry, and thirsty. Arriving into town, a welcomed sight would have been the tavern on the north side. Since it is located behind Watershed Café, most readers would not even know that Riney's Tavern, named after the innkeeper, William Riney, still stands there.

Back then there was no Fisher Avenue. The main road into town, Old Coxen Road (now Beall Street), came into town behind the BB&T Shopping Center. Today, that little neighborhood is named Peter's Forest, and the tavern is the residence of Paul and Betty Hauck.

Why Peter's Forest? When this part of the "wilderness" was finally surveyed back in 1784, its owner and surveyor, Robert Peter, called this plot of land the "forest."

The question about today's obscure location is solved now that we know that it was originally on the main road into town, but the mystery of its location is but a small part of the intrigue of Peter's Forest. It is the surprising stories of its owners that our Mystery History readers will find most appealing.

The man who owned the property at the end of the 1700s was a refined gentleman from Georgetown. His name was Thomas Plater. Back then, friends of Mr. Plater probably called him Colonel since Mr. Plater achieved that rank while seeing action in the state militia during the Whiskey Insurrection of 1794.

Then again, friends and foes alike would have referred to him as the Hon. Thomas Plater. Why? Because this tavern in the woods was owned by Maryland Congressman Thomas Plater, who, as a member of the Federalist Party, served all the citizens of Maryland as a member of the House of Representatives from 1801 to 1805.

Why was he a representative for all the citizens of Maryland? Back then, the district was an at-large district. It was not until a movement that was organized

Continued on page 21.



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Continued from page 1.

Farming Innovation Turns Fifty

that infiltrates the soil, the soil's retention of organic matter, and its cycling of nutrients. In many agricultural regions, it can reduce or eliminate soil erosion. It increases the amount and variety of life in and on the soil, including disease-causing organisms and disease organisms. The most powerful benefit of no-till-age is improvement in soil biological fertility, making soils more resilient. Farm operations are made much more efficient, particularly improving time of sowing and better trafficability of farm operations.



No-till farming pioneer Bob Raver was honored by Montgomery County councilmen Craig Rice and Sidney Katz.

Jamie Jamison recalled his return from Viet Nam in 1969 as his initiation into no-till farming. "Even my father, who began in 1911 by looking at the end of a horse all day, had resistance to the new approach."

If one were to ask the average layperson to describe farming, they would almost certainly envision the plowing and turning of the soil, not realizing that, for fifty years already, most of farming in our county has been no-till. Conventional farming used plows to work the soil, turn it over, make two or three passes, while wasting fuel and labor and inflicting wear and tear on equipment, not to mention the depletion of the soil. In no-till farming, the soil is left undisturbed from harvest to planting except for much smaller strips.

Much of the innovation of no-till started in Kentucky, but it was in 1968 that local farmers like Bob Raver, Dave Weizter, and Drew Stabler first began experimenting with no-till. The first farm of no-till in the county was at the corner of Budd and Hughes Roads.

Today's no-till farmer plants using a large combine costing nearly a quarter of a million dollars, pulled by a GPS-directed, auto-steer tractor whose on-board computer adjusts the planting of seed based on every inch of the soil it passes over. While big manufacturers like John Deere produce the equipment, it is still the local farmers like Jamison, making innovations to the equipment in their shop over the slower winter months for their local soil needs, that has brought no-till to its preeminent role today.

The seeding is so precise that the computer can prevent seed from being dispersed over an area already seeded.

After the farm tour at the Jamison Farm, participants convened again at a luncheon at the Montgomery County Ag Center for an additional celebration and to honor farmer and retired ag extension agent Bob Raver for his innovative role in developing no-till. Councilmen Sydney Katz and Craig Rice were on hand to deliver a Proclamation from the County Council honoring Raver.

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Continued from page 6.

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Remembrances

Doris B. Glass

Doris B. Glass, 79, of Poolesville, died on July 16, 2018 at her residence surrounded by her family.

She was the loving wife of Charles Glass.

Born on May 12, 1939 in Poolesville, she was the daughter of the late Marion and Helen (Rutter) Beall.

Doris was a member of the Memorial United Methodist Church and the Upper Montgomery County Ladies' Auxiliary where she served for fifty-five years. She enjoyed working with the auxiliary, crabbing on the Eastern Shore, and spending time with family.

Surviving besides her husband Charlie are two daughters, Sandy Chisholm and husband Jon of Frederick and Lynne Bodmer and husband Tad of Poolesville; one sister, Jean Tetlow of Poolesville; four granddaughters, Kelli Vaughan, Jennifer Karolick and husband Andrew, both of Frederick, Jocelyn Bodmer of Blacksburg, Virginia, and Mollie Bodmer of Manassas, Virginia; great-grandchildren, Aiden and Addison Karolick; and several nieces and nephews.

Doris was preceded in death by two brothers, Wilson and John Beall.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations be made to the UMCVFD Auxiliary, 19801 Beallsville Rd., Beallsville, MD 20839 or to Memorial United Methodist Church.



Doris B. Glass

Tara Oleta Cantrell

Tara Oleta Cantrell was born August 15, 1981 to Mark Trynor and Tamar Hoewing in Takoma Park, Maryland. She departed this life June 25, 2018 at her Depew, Oklahoma home after a lifelong struggle with Type 1 diabetes and numerous autoimmune diseases.

She graduated high school in Poolesville, Maryland. On December 11, 2008 Tara and Bobby were united in marriage. They were soulmates from the beginning. From this union was born a daughter, Emma. Tara dearly loved Bobby and Emma. Her life revolved around them.

She had many interests in life, such as animals, in particular dogs and horses. She had several dogs and would always welcome in another stray that needed a home. Tara was involved with horses most of her life, including riding, training, trailering and boarding polo ponies, and showing horses. She also enjoyed fishing, but most of all, she loved to just spend time with her family.

She is survived by her husband, Bobby Cantrell; one daughter, Emma Oleta Cantrell; mother, Tammy Hoewing (Gary Fink); father, Mark Trynor; one sister, Jaclyn Kozlowski (Josh); nieces, Ivy and Savannah Kozlowski; nephews, Jaxson and Eli Kozlowski; grandparents, Ray and Reva Hoewing; uncle, Link Hoewing (Franny); uncle, Mark Hoewing; aunt, Becky Burriss (Teddy); aunt, Francie Kitzmiller (Allen); father and mother-in-law, Billy and Phyllis Cantrell; brother-in-law, Benjamin Cantrell; aunt and uncle, Janet and Mike Riley; cousins, Adam Titus, Philleesha and Greg Davidson, and Preston and Kortnie Mercer.



Tara Oleta Cantrell

Ingeborg Emma Westfall

Ingeborg Emma Westfall, 73, of Dickerson, departed this life on July 16, 2018. She was born in Frederick, on July 17, 1944 to the late Benton B. Westfall and Marguerite Frances.

Ingeborg was blessed with many creative talents, including being the *Monocacy Monocle's* Daytripper columnist for many years. She used nature and many other mediums as her canvas. Her vegetable gardens grew bountiful produce that she used in a wide variety of ways and shared generously with family and friends. She thoughtfully established lush natural habitats for all wildlife, especially butterflies, bees, and birds.

Ingeborg's artistic interests included photography, painting, and watercolor. Her steady hands and an eye for detail created exquisite marquetry and illustrations using the little-known fine art form of scratchboard. She adored opera and her discerning ear could quickly identify the composer and title of work, no matter how obscure.

An avid reader, Ingeborg had a keen mind for proper grammar and use of the English language. A talented wordsmith, her writings to friends and family throughout the years are poignant reminders now of how she could capture sentiment in just the right tone and phrase. She was one of a kind and will be greatly missed not only by her family and friends but by all the creatures whose lives she touched.

Ingeborg is survived by her two sisters, Sigrid Lampert (Richard) of Leesburg, Virginia and Kristin Westfall of Purcellville, Virginia; two nephews, Stephen Hull (Erin) and George Hull (Kyoko); two nieces, Camille Westfall and Maigann Westfall (Petra); two great-nieces, Jenna and Grace; and three great-nephews, Winston, John, and Jon A.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Jon Westfall.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to one of the following: The Smithsonian, Days End Farm Horse Rescue, 2nd Chance Wildlife, or WETA.

A memorial service will be held August 25, 11:00 a.m. at Hilton Funeral Home, Barnesville, Maryland.



Ingeborg Emma Westfall

A Monocacy Moment Lost in Time



This one-room schoolhouse, located at the corner of West Willard Road and Fisher Avenue, was built in 1841 and operated until the early 1900s.

Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Arrest for Possession of Marijuana:
19400 block of Cissel Manor Drive.

Theft: 19700 block of Fisher Avenue.

Past Crime: 1934

Two Silver Spring officers saw a car that was heavily loaded with whiskey speeding down Georgia Avenue. They gave chase, and the car entered the District. They continued to chase the car to 3rd and Emerson Streets NW where the D.C. Police intervened and arrested the occupants of the car and charged them with possession of untaxed liquor.

Chief Moxley instructed his officers to begin warning merchants to get rid of the slot machines that they had on their premises. The whole matter had come from the states attorney's office. It was said that many merchants were not aware that having a slot machine was illegal and that it was best to give a warning first. Almost every store or other establishment had at least one slot machine at the time, and one merchant said that he paid his rent from the proceeds of the machine.

Both Montgomery County and District Police were on the hunt for the slayer of newspaper distributor Allen Wilson who had been gunned down in front of his house in Silver Spring as he left

for work. One theory was that the killers had mistaken Wilson, a man without any criminal convictions, for a well-known gambler who lived two doors down. Several known gamblers and liquor men had already been hauled in for questioning.

Russell Magruder was arrested and convicted of disorderly conduct for arguing about politics at the Montgomery County Charity Horse Show. A total of six witnesses testified that Margruder was arguing with other men and that they were afraid that a fight would break out. One lady testified that she heard a curse word hurled, but she was not sure who had spoken. The defense brought up the fact that one of the participants in the argument was hard of hearing and that the other men were loud for that reason. Magruder was found guilty, fined five dollars, and then the judge suspended the sentence.

Two Montgomery County men were arrested in Prince George's County and were being held until they were picked up by the state police. They were charged with reckless driving and leaving the scene of an accident after their motorcycle had run into Maryland State trooper Nolan and had broken his leg. Instead of stopping, they fled into PG County.

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

Monocacy Critters

Serendipitous Pet and Animal Pictures*



Bye-bye, Poolesville Bear. Our new mascot? The Poolesville Eagle.

Photo by Terri Pitts

*Do you have an unusual or funny picture of an pet or animal?
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A Monocacy Moment SPECIAL TRIBUTE



With the recent passing of one of Poolesville's grand ladies, Doris Glass, we wanted to give her a special tribute for her 55 years of community service in the Upper Montgomery County VFD Ladies' Auxiliary. This picture of Doris (center) shows her doing what she did so well: Lovingly serving others.

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Continued from page 16.

Toasting Poolesville's Peter's Forest

in Beallsville, which challenged the powers-to-be in Baltimore, that congressional districts changed from at-large districts. Our area eventually became known as the Medley District.

Mr. Plater, a man of significant financial means, possessed historically-interesting wealth. He owned two major pieces of land. One consisted of 900 acres (valued at \$7.00 per acre!) and another 150-acre holding (valued at \$3.00 per acre). Records show that part of his "property" included "five Negro men (\$1725), four Negro boys (\$1,000), two Negro women with children (\$450), five Negro girls (\$500), and, inexplicably, one Negro woman and her husband (\$10.00).

Mr. Plater left his residence in Georgetown and moved to Poolesville where he died in 1830. Only adding to the mystery surrounding him is that no one knows where this man of accomplishment and wealth was buried.

The intrigue about Thomas is only one part of the story about the Plater Family. It really began with his father. You see, the little house at the end of Beall Street was owned by the son of one of the participants in our nation's Constitutional Convention. His father was George Plater, and students of Maryland history would know of him for something else. He was the state's governor from 1791 to 1792. Was this a one-year term? No. An untimely death cut short his time as governor.

Of course, there are other tidbits of information from the family of the owners of this house. One of Thomas Plater's daughters, Jane Williams, was quite a character in her own right. Her first husband was old enough to be her father, and her second husband, Mr. Pleasants, was young enough to be her son. She wasn't shy about defending her reputation. In her personal notes, she recorded that she wanted it known that her second husband was not to be confused with a Mr. Basil Pleasants. Seems that that gentleman was "infamous in the area" for his painful and unsuccessful attempts to fly! She just wanted to clarify to everyone that she did not marry "that flying Pleasants" (sure sounds like some more Mystery History to us!).

In 1850, the house became known as the Cator Home after its owner, Samuel Cator (sometimes spelled as Cater). Mr. Cator's granddaughter, Anna Mary, reported an incident we found interesting. During the Civil War, some Union soldiers came to the home to demand dinner. While the troops were fed by the Cators, it was duly noted that they never "remunerated the Cator family" for the meal. Damn Yankees!

Later, the home once again became a tavern for a time. Richard P. Spates (a blacksmith by trade) also ran the hotel/tavern that was near the triangular property where the Old Town Hall and Bank Museum is now located.

In 1950, Rinery's Tavern underwent extensive restoration. Today, for those of you who visit Whalen Commons, be sure to peek to the east behind the shopping center where you will see for yourself Poolesville's very first watering hole.

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 The *Monocle* welcomes your contribution.
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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 are subject to our discretion and may be edited. No anonymous articles will be considered.

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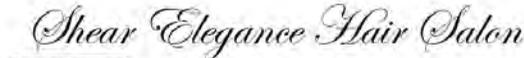


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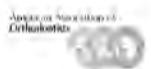
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United States Food and Drug Administration Issues Warning after Assessing Reports that Have Associated Certain Specialty or Boutique Diets with Cardiovascular Disease in Dogs.

By Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF

Researchers are looking at the correlation between certain diet types and the potential to promote dilated cardiomyopathy, a disease of the heart muscle in dogs.

The condition can enlarge the heart, causing it to reduce its function and potentially leading to heart failure. This disease is typically associated genetically with larger breed dogs such as Great Danes, Newfoundlands, Rotties, and Dobermans, but of late, other non-identified breeds, medium and smaller breeds, and mixed-breed dogs not genetically predisposed have been showing up with the condition. This has led the FDA to conduct an investigation into the potential link between this disease and certain canine diets.

The types of foods of concern have peas, chickpeas, lentils, other legume seeds, or potatoes as the primary ingredients with an atypical animal protein source such as kangaroo meat. These are typically specialty diets created for dogs. The time periods for ingesting this as a primary diet have been from months to years in the identified cases.

The potential cause of the connection is the potential that these specialty diets contain too little taurine, an amino acid found in meat and milk. It is a neurotransmitter and cell membrane stabilizer, among other functions. Dogs can typically make their own taurine as long as the food source has adequate cysteine and methionine amino acid levels. Many of these specialty diets are also lacking in sufficient levels of these amino acids.

Owners of pets that are eating homemade diets, raw diets, vegetarian diets, or highly-specialized diets made by small companies should consult their veterinarians. A test for taurine levels can be done to determine if a deficiency is present in the pet.

If your pet has heart disease and a taurine deficiency is identified, there are taurine supplements available from your veterinarian.

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