



It's not easy being king. See the Family Album on page 2.



This Federal-style historical home is the new home of a vintage market emporium. Read more on page 10.



Doug Dobbs (left) and Rob Skeel marched through Poolesville. Find out why on page 21.



This is the 80th anniversary commemorating this first responder hero. Learn more in Tidbits on page 12.

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

July 12, 2013

Volume X, Number 8

## Dollar General to Open in Poolesville

By Rande Davis

The Goodlettsville, Tennessee-based Dollar General Corporation, the nation's largest small-box discount retailer, is planning to build a 9,100-square foot store in Poolesville in the lot located to the west of Poolesville Beer and Wine.

Dollar General differs from other dollar stores as they offer a wide variety of product categories including a selection of dry foods, frozen foods, cleaning products, beauty and health products, pet products, household, etc. Unlike other dollar stores that offer closed-out product lines, Dollar General offers national brand-name products. Their market model is to meet everyday needs by

offering a carefully-edited assortment of the most popular brands at low everyday prices in small, convenient locations.

Robert Boothe, Development Manager for Zaremba Group, LLC, the National Developer for Dollar General, reported to the *Monocle* that they are excited to be coming to Poolesville. "The residents of Poolesville had to endure without a grocery store for over a year now. Having to travel twenty minutes for basic needs is difficult. Dollar General is looking forward to coming to the community and being of service to them."

Dollar Generally could hire

up to ten to twelve employees. The initial meeting with the town planning commissioner was on July 10 and they hope to have the store opening in early 2014.



The future site of the Dollar General Store on Fisher Avenue.

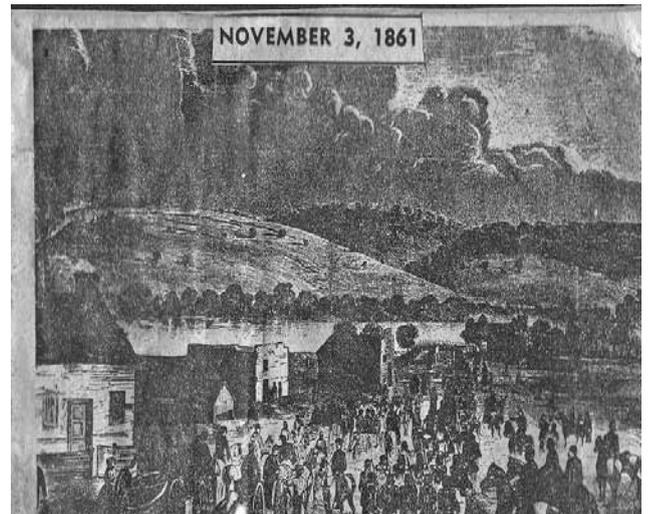
## Summer of 1863 – The Battle of Poole's Farm

By Jim Poole with Rande Davis

Beyond its role as a garrison post for Union troops during the Civil War, Poolesville was significant in other ways, not the least of which was the important role of one of its sons, Col. Elijah Viers White. White's family home, Stony Castle, is on Westerly Road in Poolesville, but a few years before the outbreak of the war, White moved to Virginia. There, Colonel White formed the 35th Virginia Cavalry, a raiding party he called the Comanches, whose members included many from Montgomery County, including Poolesville.

The history of the 35th Cavalry is Poolesville's history, too.

In early June 1863, a few weeks before the battle of Gettysburg, the Comanches fought in a battle at Brandy Station taking many enemy battle flags but losing several local men who were killed or wounded. At the time, the 35th was assigned to the vanguard of Gen. Richard S. Ewell's Corps as it advanced towards



This 1861 lithograph depicts the hills behind the small town of Edwards Ferry and the Union garrison.

-Continued on Page 12.

# Family Album



UMCVFD Fire Chief Mike White (in white) shares a brief moment with fire cadets and fellow firemen prior to the start of the Fourth of July festivities.



The dedicated scouts of Troop 496 as they prepared to direct parking at the UMC FVD Fourth of July fireworks festival.



This trio from Spencerville stopped at the John Poole House for a picnic during Heritage Days weekend.

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Outgoing King Lion Roger Brenholtz (left) passes the gavel to newly elected King Lion Josh Maisel at the Monocacy Lion's installation dinner for new club officers.



The closing ceremonies at St. Peter's Episcopal Church's Vacation Bible School, where over seventy-five local children attended during the week.

## Town of Poolesville

### Town Government Report

By Rande Davis

#### Commissioners Focus on Current Projects and Incentives for Business Growth

The agenda of the July 1 town commissioners' meeting in Poolesville had two primary topics for consideration. The first was a draft proposal of an incentive program to be offered to new business owners who choose to locate in the town or to existing businesses that upgrade to specific criteria. The second was a review of all the projects currently underway or scheduled in the near future.

As part of the town's economic development initiative, they are creating a marketing package of information that is designed to attract new businesses to help fill some of the empty storefronts in town. As part of that package, an incentive agreement to new or existing businesses is being drafted with the objective to improve economic conditions in the town. The current draft identifies a qualifying business as one that is making an investment in buildings and fixed assets, increases the town's full time employment prospects, helps to revitalize the commercial zone, adds to the town's tax base, and/or fills a specific need in the commerce of the town.

Examples of the incentives being considered for new businesses could be the abatement of corporate personal property tax on a schedule that would be one hundred percent the first year, and fifty percent the second. As an example, should a business owner choose to open a grocery store in an existing space, the incentive could be as much as \$3,900 the first year and \$1,500 the second.

For an existing business that chooses to build new construction, the town might provide an impact fee waiver that would not exceed one year's estimated tax revenue. Another possibility is for a current business that seeks expansion or

façade improvements that meet the Master Plan criteria the town could offer an abatement, grant, or loan equal to two years of corporate personal property taxes.

They will be discussing the incentive program at future meetings before finalizing a vote. The current draft of the proposal is available at [monocleonline.com](http://monocleonline.com).

#### Busy Hands Make Happy Hearts

If that slogan is true, town employees must be real happy campers. The fifteen-page power point presentation reviewed the current project schedule for this summer. Beyond the standard day-to-day activities that include responding to emergency situations such as broken water lines and resident questions, they continue to deal with problems resulting from the FIOS installation as well as monitoring Washington Gas line modifications and Potomac Edison power feeds in Westerly. They hope to complete the sidewalk on West Willard Road that will provide pedestrians a safe area to walk from Fisher Avenue to Westerly Road. The town is blocked by red tape from the county that is requiring the town remove telephone poles before installing new sidewalks. The town has requested a variance as the cost to remove the telephone poles would be too high, up to an additional \$80,000. The town's plan provides a safe sidewalk so pedestrians do not have to walk in the road but leaves the poles in place.

New crossroads are scheduled soon, and the town hopes to have a memorandum of understanding with the county this summer for the new pedestrian crosswalks. They are designed to be slightly raised and made from a material that has a lifespan of nearly twenty years.

The three largest projects starting this summer are the replacement at the Water and Wastewater Treatment plant of its sewage belt press, relining and cleanout of sewer lines in the Westerly Subdivision, and also relining of the sewer lines under Fisher Avenue.

## Business Briefs

#### Crist Retires from Images

Donna Crist has retired from Images Hair Salon in Poolesville after thirty-one years of service to her customers and community. Her official last day was on June 27, and scores of friends dropped in to say farewell and good luck. Images, of course, will continue

The new wayfinder street signage project continues. Wayfinder signs help guide visitors to destination sites in town such as schools, ball fields, parks, pool, museums, etc. They are of a uniform dark green and white design.

Along with all these projects, the town will still continue working on issues on the proposed solar array, new LED street lighting, a new park restroom at Elgin Park, and supervising the new home subdivisions of Stony Springs, with nearly all lots sold, and Brightwell Crossing which is entering into Phase II of develop-

their hair care services. Donna and her husband, Steve, will be heading to The Villages in Florida for sun, beach, and full time relaxation! She will be missed by her many clients and friends in the area, but they are very happy for her new venture in life.

#### The Cage at The Cug

Cugini's now has sidewalk dining! The management, with tongue in cheek, refers to the area outside as The Cage. They now join Asian House of Poolesville and Bassett's Restaurant in offering a patio experience.



*Donna Crist of Images and her husband Steve were toasted by customers and clients prior to their departure for The Villages in Florida.*

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## Commentary

### Sharing the Road

By John Clayton

About this time each summer, I lament the all-too rapid passing of my favorite season. This year, I'm not concerned about the passing of summer as much as I'm worried about whether it's ever going to start. This is as I observe one more cloudy, overcast day which reminds me more of our springs than our summers. With all the rain the corn looks pretty good to these unsophisticated eyes, so I assume that our local farmers are happier than usual. I realize that "happy" is a relative term, as the farmers I have known would remind me that they have seen too many turns of fortune to get too happy about any stretch of weather. Surely the drought is on the way, or Tropical Storm Chantal, which is looming.

However, during my gloomy summer driving in the Monocacy area, I have also noted that we are alive with activity, and, without a doubt, much of it is from our neighbors down county. The soccer and polo—and other sports I probably can't even recognize—are in full throttle, and the farmers' markets (I won't be so brave as to name them all) appear to be doing a thriving business, and that can't all be coming from us.

One of the other constituencies I see enjoying Our roads (more on that later) is bicyclists. On certain days one can hardly drive over the next hill without encountering another group of people on bicycles. They are all around.

I have bicycled around the area in and around Barnesville over the years, and there seem to be three classes of motorists: some swing very wide around you, into the next lane, even waiting out hills and oncoming traffic to do so. Some move about half-way out, giving you wide enough

clearance to feel comfortable, and some barely move out at all, blowing by quite closely, perhaps seeing how close their side mirrors can brush past you. It's a little disconcerting. I have heard of objects being thrown and other abuse, but either I haven't been out enough to experience this, or my efforts to climb hills make me appear too pathetic to engender much scorn. I can't be sure.

There are some very specific laws on the books concerning sharing the road with cyclists, including the very common-sense admonition that "Drivers shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any bicycle, Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Device (EPAMD), or motor scooter being ridden by a person," emphasis on "avoid colliding." Good advice, that. There are some other interesting admonitions, including safe distances and rules of rights-of-way, which go in the favor of the motorist a lot less frequently than one might believe. The rules of the road for cars and bicyclists are easy to find on the www.mva.maryland.gov website. I put "Maryland law bicyclists" in a search engine and was one click away. Try it.

In my general observations from the safety of my car, which I occupy far more than my bicycle, I would say that most drivers are pretty cautious and polite, but certainly not all. In conversations with friends and acquaintances over the years, many comments have been less solicitous towards our two-wheel-borne friends. "They're a nuisance, they make me late, I hate them, etc." I assume this attitude follows through in driving habits, although I hope it doesn't. One conversation I have contributed to is the suitability of our roads for bicycling: Many of our roads really aren't suited to safe travel by slower vehicles, or probably horses and buggies, either. Route 109 through Beallsville and out to Barnesville, in particular, is narrow, lacks wide shoulders, is

-Continued on Page 13.

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## Rande(m) Thoughts

### The Grand Vision

By Rande Davis

The train has left the station and the Poolesville Economic Express is on its way! Its destination is a robust local economy and an assured vibrant quality of life. The time of negativity thinking is over, and the future of Poolesville could not be brighter or bolder. The concern of boarded storefronts and a declining economy are a thing of the past.

Why do I think so? To begin with, Commissioners Brown, Halbrook, and Klobukowski have returned from the annual Maryland Municipal League Convention, and they have come back enthused with hope, infused with energy, and encouraged that we, as a town, are on the right track. Naysayers of attending such events totally discount the value of building key relationships and sharing ideas with those who

have experience, and the motivational power that comes from both.

Perhaps a highlight of the convention was a presentation by David Ivan, a community and economic development specialist from Michigan State University. This expert in how communities thrive laid out what is needed for a town's strong future through what he labels as the five pillars of economic vitality for townships. They are:

1. Support innovation and entrepreneurial development;
2. Make capital investments in infrastructure;
3. Hold onto a commitment to strong quality of place;
4. Foster strong social capital through community networks and engagement and authentic youth participation;
5. Leverage assets through regional partnerships.

-Continued on Page 16.

## Letter to the Editor

This is in regard to the lawsuit settlement on land previously owned by me. I have been asked by many friends as to why I sold the land for this purpose and wanted to clarify my role in the matter.

The lawsuit came about on matters that followed my sale of the land to Mr. Nelson Hernandez. After being with the Montgomery County Public School system for twenty-eight years, I retired and applied for rezoning from RDT to three-quarter-acre residential lot. For this rezoning, I offered to allow the town to test for water on my property. The result was a well out-producing, so I was told, the other wells in town. At the request of the town, I granted a simple one-quarter-acre site for a small well house which was to be fenced in and surrounded by trees to screen the area. The two-story structure was not something even being considered at the time of my sale to the

town.

The town completed the agreement, although the scrawny trees that were planted did not obscure the site very well.

When I first became aware of the changing of the well house to the two-story structure now in place, I voiced concern to the town. While they told me I was mailed notification of the construction of the new structure, I do not recall ever receiving such correspondence.

I am writing with concern as to what will become of the remaining land now and the appearance of the existing building on a rustic road and want to urge all citizens to stay keenly aware of any future plans for the site.

Mary Ann Powell

## Things to Do

July 12

### Friday on the Commons

Theme: PTA PES Summer Carnival with DJ Valaree Dickerson and the Mike Perrello Magic Show.

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### Movie Concert in the Park

Featuring: *Madagascar 3*

8:30 p.m.

### Cugini's Special Event

Meet the Brewers Beer Tasting: Owners of Full Tilt Brewing Co. of Baltimore on hand for this craft beer tasting.

8:30 p.m.

### Asian House of Poolesville Entertainment Night

Featuring: Fred Topper Band

8:30 p.m.

July 13

### Dirty Dinners: Seasonal Feasts at Calleva Farm

Complete menu of foods produced on Calleva Farm and other farms locally. Music and entertainment. Reservations required at [www.DirtyDinners.org](http://www.DirtyDinners.org).

### Asian House of Poolesville Entertainment Night

Featuring: DJ

8:30 p.m.

July 15

### Commissioners' Meeting

Public Hearing on Landlord/Tenant Ordinance. Town Hall.

7:30 p.m.

July 15 to 19

### Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School

Theme: Come One, Come All! Everywhere Fun Fair takes children to a global celebration with the look and feel of a world's fair.

Register online at [www.pnumc.org](http://www.pnumc.org) or call 301-349-2010.

July 15 to July 20

### 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Urbana VFD Carnival

Featuring Midway rides, food, and a fabulous lineup of musical entertainment nightly. For details, visit [urbanavfd.org](http://urbanavfd.org)

July 19

### Music Concert in the Park

Featuring: Ernie Bradley and the Grassy Ridge Band. Whalen Commons.

7:00 p.m.

### Asian House of Poolesville Entertainment Night

Featuring: Jay Summerour

8:30 p.m.

July 20

### Summer Movie in the Park

Featuring: *Brave*

7:00 p.m.

July 20 and 21

### Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyards Special Event

#### BBQ and Bluegrass Festival

Enjoy wine along with live music, plus barbeque, ice cream, and artisan vendors. Music will be provided by Clearspring, a Maryland-based band specializing in hard-driving, traditional bluegrass with a fresh approach and a focus on vocal harmonies.

Food vendors will

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Catering, Harborque, 3rd Alarm BBQ, and Marble Slab Creamery.

Confirmed artisan vendors

include Gourmet Steve, Sara England Designs, Handwoven

Baskets by Myrna, and Just Write Studios engraving by Jenny

Muffler.

For ages 21 and higher: \$15.00

(includes a souvenir wine glass and personalized engraving by

Jenny Muffler and a glass of wine or sangria). Under 21: \$5.00

July 25

### Asian House of Entertainment Night

Featuring: Jay Summerour and

Open Mic

8:30 p.m.

July 26

### Music Concert in the Park

Featuring: Chris Adams Band

7:30 p.m.

### Cugini's Entertainment Night

Featuring: Sooky Jump

-Continued on Page 14.

### FROM AUTHOR MARY ANN POWELL

**Shells of My Heart:** An exciting, can't-put-it-down adult drama about a young couple, Nancy and Frank Miller, living and working in New York City. The couple is very happy despite her mother, Grace, who sometimes tries her best to control them. This is an interesting, exciting story, and holds lots of surprises.

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## Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

### Present Crime

**Disorderly conduct complaints:** 19800 Spurrier Avenue (multiple complaints), 19900 block of Fisher Avenue.

### Past Crime

**July 17, 1956** Montgomery County Police charged the driver of a frozen foods truck with larceny after he was discovered selling lobster tails and frozen shrimp out of the back of his employer's truck. Police said that the man would pick up his truck at a location in Washington and make his deliveries but would then move to a parking lot where he would sell the leftover food to passersby.

**July 17, 1957** Police responded to a report of a man with a machine gun shooting at road workers on Hawkins Creamery Road near Damascus. Instead, they found that a pine tree had been placed between four bar-

rels which resembled a machine gun. In addition, firecrackers were being set off behind an embankment. Officers learned that a dispute between a property owner and the road crew caused the disturbance.

**July 24, 1954** Thieves broke into Counseleman's Supermarket in Potomac and stole \$85 from two cash registers.

A Montgomery County woman, who had been the object of a nationwide search, was found sitting in a church in upstate New York. Montgomery County Police said that the woman had disappeared fifteen days before and that foul play had been suspected. When contacted, the woman said that she had decided to go "visit churches."

**July 24, 1955** A Silver Spring woman was buried head-first in mud after her car slipped out of gear at White's Ferry. Police said that the woman was parking her car when her foot slipped

from the brake to the accelerator. The car then careened down a twenty-five-foot embankment, and the woman was thrown out into the mud. Two bystanders pulled her out. Her husband had been attaching an outboard motor to their small fishing boat at the time of the accident.

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

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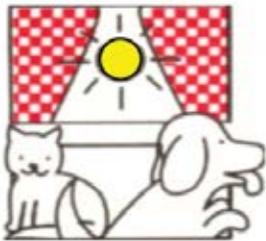


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## Local News

### Hidden Heritage A Surprise to Many

By Kristen Milton

As the final hours of the sixteenth annual Heritage Days ticked by, many visitors scrambled to squeeze in one more stop—often wondering how so many historical gems had remained hidden so long. “This is such a prize that people don’t even know about,” said Andrew Nader of Potomac as he gathered brochures on other area historic sites following his family’s June 30 tour of several Poolesville locations. “We have to read up and just go, take advantage.”

Nader moved to Potomac eleven years ago from Connecticut, but until a Heritage Days pamphlet made its way to his home—wife Gayle wasn’t sure where she picked it up—he had no idea so many interesting sites were close at hand. With more awareness, Nader said, Montgomery County’s history could draw people as “The Freedom Trail” attracts Boston tourists. Since sixteen-year-old Aaron admitted to finding the afternoon “cool” in spite of his initial reluctance—“It was really interesting to know that these things are still here”—Andrew Nader hoped his handful of maps and brochures would lead to other summer outings.

Heritage Days, hosted by Heritage Montgomery, is a two-day free event that this year featured thirty-four historical and cultural locations from Hyattstown Mill on the county’s northern border to the C&O Canal’s Lockhouse 10 on the southern. Attendees chose from offerings that included hikes, children’s activities, concerts, and author lectures.

Not far from the Naders on June 30, the Schramm family, Poolesville Elementary PTA president Kevin, wife Kristina, and eight-year-old Kaitlyn, closed out Seneca Schoolhouse, still grouped around its cast iron stove as the festival’s 4:00 p.m. ending time passed. Kristina Schramm said Kevin had spoken repeatedly over the years of his fourth grade field trip to the school and his intention to visit again. “It made such an impression on him, and he really wanted Kaitlyn to see it,” she said; nonetheless, this was the family’s first trip to the site only minutes from the school Kaitlyn attends daily, and Kristina wasn’t sure why. “People get so involved in their lives, and they just forget what’s there,” she said.

Birthday parties, athletic games, and other activities fill the weekends of many young families, Kevin Schramm volunteered as explanation. Schramm dived into his first Heritage Days weekend with both feet, serving as a docent at Poolesville’s Old Town Hall on June 29 before his turn as tourist the next day. “It was great,” Schramm said. “You get a sense of time, that life wasn’t always iPads.”

While schoolhouse docent



Docent Kevin Schramm (front) greeted his parents Kevin and Jean Schramm (standing behind him) along with other Heritage Day sojourners.

Laura Davis said most of the weekend’s approximately one hundred visitors were young families, Schramm estimated that seventy-five percent of visitors during his hours at the town hall/bank building were county retirees. Many were Civil War buffs drawn by the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of local events connected to the Battle of Gettysburg.

That description could have applied to Bob DeFraités of Kensington, who had the John Poole House to himself during his stop with wife Colleen. It was their first time participating in Heritage Days. “It looks authentic,” DeFraités observed of the 1793 log cabin as he eyed merchandise on the shelves and a post box near the counter illustrating the structure’s joint uses as store, post office, and gathering spot. “It’s amazing that it’s still here... This is where everything happened [in town].”

“We’ve driven through Poolesville lots of times on our way to White’s Ferry or Leesburg,” Colleen DeFraités said, but never had reason to stop before. Colleen said that while she was not the history buff her husband was, she enjoyed seeing how people lived in the past. In the John Poole House, she admired the handmade 1836 coverlet on a rope bed. “I’m glad I didn’t live then though,” she said. “I guess they’d throw me out since I don’t

sew. I couldn’t make us anything to wear!”

Linda Roberts of Beallsville has lived Upcounty for nearly all her sixty-six years but visits Heritage Day locations every year to listen to lectures by authors and experts as well as take in the sights. “This time it was a review, but next time it might be something new,” she said. Roberts was joined June 30 by Susan Rice, a college friend who, after more than forty years of Upcounty visits, moved to Beallsville last year. “Every once in a while she pulls me over to see something I’ve been ignoring all my life,” Roberts said with a laugh, remembering how Rice had spotted a tombstone in the wall of the Friendly Thrift Shop—a holdover from its life as a Methodist church.

Carter Van Devanter of Poolesville, decked out in an apron for her role as docent at Seneca Schoolhouse, hoped that more county residents could catch the spirit of Heritage Days by making use of the resources around them. “We just had a big group of locals from Poolesville who had never been here in eight years,” Van Devanter said. “It’s too far to go to D.C. to tour and you’re using time and gas; why not tour in your own backyard?”

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## Local News

# A Major Home Décor Marketplace Coming to Poolesville

By Rande Davis

Karen Wilson and Sandra Spiro recently purchased the Dr. Thomas Poole House at the corner of Fisher Avenue and West Willard Road and will be opening The Blue Hearth, a multi-vendor facility that will feature a wide variety of revitalized furnishings, monthly home décor clinics, painting parties, makeover clinics, and special event planning for birthdays, anniversaries, and other celebrations.

The name for the establishment comes from seven blue-themed fireplace hearths in the historic 1830 six-thousand-square-foot Federal-style home. The marketing model for the business is similar to successful enterprises in Frederick County such as Chartreuse and Co. in Buckeystown. "We think Montgomery County should have its own upscale vintage market location, and we find Poolesville to be the perfect location." While the other locations open on the third weekend of the month, Karen tells us that "we do not want to conflict with any of our friends' market days, so we will follow a monthly model, but we will be open the first weekend of the month instead."

They hope that people will put their themed events on their calendar every

month, as a place where families can come and spend a few hours, catch up with friends, and buy a few treasures. They plan to use every inch of space including the large foyer, second floor bathroom, even making sure the walls throughout the home also are used properly by artists, many of whom they hope will be locals.

The establishment will have its very own Tea Garden patio, where customers can sit, rest, and snack on some refreshments provided by the Blue Hearth or commercial caterers.

The Blue Hearth will have an open house on July 27 for prospective vendors to familiarize them with Poolesville and allow them to make their space selection. They promote that they plan to partner with their vendor/sponsors in making the establishment a destination to showcase their wares and to be a part of making the community special. On the weekend of September 6, 7, and 8, they will have their grand opening. They will also open occasionally for other special weekends such as Poolesville Day.



*Karen Wilson and Sandra Spiro of the Blue Hearth, the newest enterprise in town. *Aqui duciati aestiust ullani denet fugiatis plit as mi, que volorbis.**

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## Tidbits

### Death of MCP Police Officer Commemorated

The Montgomery County Police Department recently commemorated the fatal accident that took the life of Patrolman Webb S. Hersperger on Sunday morning, June 18 at approximately 7:30 a.m. in 1933. Officer Hersperger was married to Virginia Hersperger, who later became the first female principal in Montgomery County Public Schools. Hersperger Lane in Poolesville is named in her honor.

The accident occurred on the Rockville-Darnestown Road near Quince Orchard. The thirty-one-year-old patrolman had left his home in Poolesville operating his police motorcycle and was traveling to work at the Bethesda substation when a passing vehicle coming towards him confronted him, and he collided head-on with the automobile. Hersperger was killed instantly when he was thrown through the windshield of the automobile. The other driver was transported to Montgomery General Hospital for treatment and was ultimately charged with manslaughter and reckless driving by Officer John Butts who had come along within minutes. Ironically, Officer Hersperger knew the operator of the car. Officer Hersperger had been commended often for outstanding service, including a time when he leaped on the running board of a getaway car from a moving police car and arrested two men who had been preying on motorists in

Rock Creek Park.

### Volunteer Opportunities

**Town of Poolesville:** The Community Economic Development Committee is made up of three members each from business, government, and resident. They currently have an opening for the residency position. The committee seeks to identify those things that can foster a strong community spirit and help expand economic opportunities for business within the town. They meet once per month at the Poolesville Town Hall. Call Town Hall at 301-428-8927.

**Senior Citizen Work:** The Gathering Place Senior Activity Center is seeking to expand participation on its Steering Committee. The committee meets once per month and acts as an advisory board for development of this group that provides day trips and other social and educational events for senior citizens throughout the area. Call Executive Director Valaree Dickerson at 301-349-2799.

**History Enthusiasts:** This is especially attractive to those with a passion for history, in general, and the Civil War, specifically. The Historic Medley District, Inc., guardians of the John Poole House Trading Post and the Poolesville Old Town Hall Bank Museum, are seeking volunteers to host their facilities on Sunday afternoons. Volunteers are asked to host the John Poole House or the Museum for two hours every other month. Training is provided. Call Executive Director Rande Davis at 301-509-9232.

**Civic Groups:** The Monocacy Lions Club and the International Order of the Odd Fellows (IOOF Lodge #97) seek new members to join them in their service to the community. Monocacy Lions Club has dinner meetings twice a month and various service functions throughout the year. The Odd Fellows has an evening meeting monthly and provides various services primarily for seniors throughout the year. For the Lions, call Bill or Frank Jamison at 301-428-8200. For the IOOF, call 301-972-8007.

### Summer in Dublin



*A typical sunny day in Dublin, Ireland.*

Poolesville High School graduate Elaine Clayton is in Ireland this summer as an intern at the U.S. Embassy in Dublin. Elaine just finished her first year as a graduate student in International Communications at American University, and also works part-time at the State Department during the school year.

During her time in Dublin, in addition to her regular official duties, she has assisted with a visit

from First Lady Michelle Obama and the Obama daughters. The embassy hosted Caroline Kennedy and a number of other Kennedy family members to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's visit to Ireland. Elaine also went to the Irish White House to help record a video about the Kennedy ceremonies with the president of Ireland. Over July 4, the embassy hosted a visit from former ambassador to Ireland Dan Rooney (owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers football team) and Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger. In her free time, Elaine has been able to tour Ireland and Scotland. She can be followed on Twitter @eclayto or at [Travelaine.org](http://Travelaine.org).



*Elaine Clayton (right) at the U.S. Embassy in Dublin with visiting quarterback Ben Roethlisberger.*

**“Battle of Poole’s Farm”  
Continued From Page 1.**

Pennsylvania. Interestingly, it was Ewell who proposed to the Confederate States’ president, Jefferson Davis, shortly after the Battle of Bull Run, the idea to free the slaves and to enlist them into the Confederate Army as a way of ending the war early. Davis declined the idea.

The Comanches broke from Ewell’s Corps for a short time to capture Point of Rocks, destroying the railroad, a vital supply line, and cutting the telegraph line as well. Then they rejoined the main Confederate Army already in Pennsylvania.

On June 26, 1863, the 35th found itself on the western outskirts of Gettysburg where it made contact with area militia. With their usual style, the Comanches made quick work of the town defenders, chasing them down its streets, thus becoming the first Confederate soldiers to enter Gettysburg. Once the infantry had secured their position, White’s men moved on towards

York. After that they captured and secured Hanover, advancing on to Hanover Junction, burning railroad bridges and government stores, and cutting the telegraph as they went. This action cut Washington off from Harrisburg. On June 28, they reached the banks of the Susquehanna River at Wrightsville where the fleeing Union troops had set a bridge afire, which resulted in the town catching fire as well. With the Federal troops on the run, the 35th Cavalry stopped to help put out the fires, thus saving the town but not the mile-long bridge. On the first of July, they received orders back to Gettysburg. There they guarded the left flank of Gordon’s Brigade, and the second day they were used as scouts trying to find Mead’s right flank. One party happened through a gap in Mead’s line and found itself behind enemy lines. The next day they regrouped and, with other cavalry units, made contact with Federal cavalry. Fortunately for them, Gen. J.E. B. Stuart showed up and took on the battle. They were dispatched to

hold the flank of the infantry. On the fifth of July, White split his command; one section led the army towards Hagerstown while the other covered its rear. This meant that it was a Poolesvillian who led the Confederate unit that was first in and the last one out of Gettysburg.

For the next few months, the Comanches did what they were famous for: guerilla warfare. On the night of August 26, 1863 Colonel White, with a hundred and fifty men, crossed the Potomac River at White’s Ford (about two miles upstream from White’s Ferry). His plan was to attack the camp of the 11th New York Cavalry on the high hill above Edwards Ferry, a farm belonging to William D. Poole. He hid his men along the riverbank and watched the enemy patrols pass up and down the canal, timing them to every half hour. He dispatched Charlie Butler and John O. Elgin (whose family farms bordered the river near the area) for a closer look. Unknown to the colonel, Charlie was a bit tipsy.

Their mission was simply to determine if the enemy was aware of the presence of the 35th Cavalry and to report their findings. Instead, around 1:20 a.m., two Federal riders rode down the towpath. Suddenly, Charlie Butler decided to jump out of his hiding spot and grab the reins of the lead horse. This action startled the Union rider, who pulled out his pistol with the intention of shooting Butler when Private Elgin shot the Yankee, Pvt. Alonzo Picket of Company D, 11th New York Cavalry. The other was captured; however, the shot alarmed the Union troops at the Edwards Ferry camp. There, the forewarned commander, Lieutenant Colonel Wilkerson, ordered out a patrol of sixteen men to check out the cause of the bullet shot. With his remaining men, he mounted up and formed a line of battle behind their earth works.

Wilkerson’s patrol advanced up the canal with four riders out front when they ran into White’s

people, who, having heard the bullet shot, were themselves hurrying towards Edwards Ferry. The four Federal riders were taken prisoner before they could react. The captain of the patrol, upon seeing this, quickly made a hasty retreat out of the fight. Time was running out with the rising sun, as Colonel White, advancing to the rear of the Union camp, hoped to complete his original mission. With the element of surprise gone, White’s men were met by a volley of bullets just as their horses were clearing the ditch toward the camp, wounding Robert W. Jones seriously and several others slightly. Jones’s wound was not fatal, but the ball passed through his body and lodged near his spine, forcing White to leave him behind in the care of a local farmer’s family. Jones would never walk again.

As the battle at Poole’s Farm commenced, the 11th New York turned and ran, not stopping until they got to Muddy Branch. White’s people took twelve more prisoners, two of which were wounded, killed two others, and captured thirty-five horses. Once the battle was over, White had the camp burned and crossed back into Virginia unchallenged with his spoils.

**“Sharing the Road”  
Continued From Page 4.**

hilly, and has many blind turns. White’s Ferry Road, a popular bicycle route out to the ferry and the canal, is also narrow and bumpy. Route 28, conversely, has wide bike lanes built into many places. I don’t think that we can limit cyclists to certain roads, although perhaps some think we should. They’re wrong, though. It’s incumbent on those of us in the motorized vehicles to make the adjustments. It’s the law.

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"Things to Do" Continued  
From Page 5.

## In the Garden

### The Chelsea Chop

By Maureen O'Connell

It is mid-July, and we are about halfway through our gardens' flowering season. The weather in our Monocacy area in April and May was a veritable mixed bag. One day, you needed the heat on in the house, and the next day the air conditioning was necessary. Our rainfall was fairly close to normal, which was good for some developing plants. Hydrangeas, ferns, and hostas, thrived in these climatic conditions, but others, especially hybrid tea roses, suffered.

About early to mid-July, I survey all my plants to see which ones could use some minor or major pruning. Many plants are a lot stronger than most people think. A little tough love now can result in healthier plants, prolong or delay flowering, and produce stockier, more branched and more floriferous specimens. Left alone, they may grow taller, lankier, need staking, and set out smaller and fewer flowers. London, UK gardeners call this pruning the Chelsea Chop. It is so called because it is usually carried out at the end of May, coinciding with the immensely-popular and famed Royal Horticultural Society Chelsea Flower Show in London. Our area's climate is different from that of London; the bloom time of many of their flowering plants is earlier than ours, and as their winters are not as harsh as ours, their plants experience less winter damage from snow, ice, and bitter winds. My Chelsea Chop time is about now.

Which plants are candidates for pruning?

Through experimentation, I have found that the following respond well to selective pruning: coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) sneezeweed (*Helenium*) Shasta daisy (*Leucanthemum*) Phlox paniculata, salvia, verbascum, true geranium (Cranesbill) coreopsis, *Nepeta*, monarda, rudbeckia, Sedum 'Autumn Joy,' and lavender. These are all perennials, but most annuals, especially petunias, do better with regular deadheading

and pruning.

How to prune?

There are several methods, depending upon the plant species and the purpose of the pruning. Deadheading, cutting off just the spent flower, is good for all flowering plants. It encourages new growth, and it keeps the garden looking tidier. That is one of my pet peeves about the Knockout Roses: unless you regularly deadhead them, they can look quite messy. Some perennial plants flower in cycles. After the first flowering, remove the flowering stalk. This will promote more side branching and new flowers. They might not be as strong as the first growth, but it will extend significantly the season. It will also stop self-seeding. Phlox 'David' responds very well to this method. Sedum 'Autumn Joy' is a beautiful plant and a welcome addition to the autumn short-on-flowers season, but if left to its own growth habit, it can become very tall and lanky, and will fall over all of its neighbors. Cut the top growth back now to slow its growth. Some perennials, such as foxgloves, delphiniums, and verbascum, can be quite temperamental, especially in our climate. They are basically cool weather plants, but sometimes if I cut them back to the ground now, they might rebloom in September or October.

Another reason to prune at this time of the year is to remove diseased or dead branches. As my regular readers know, I love roses—I have over sixty bushes—but it is getting harder to maintain them. Years ago, I sprayed them all about once a week with systemic insecticides and fungicides. Many of them, especially the delicate hybrid teas, still got blackspot and powdery mildew and were eaten by Japanese beetles, but I felt that I was making a difference with my spray program. Over the past couple of years, more attention has been being paid to the dangers of pesticides to the environment. I started to notice the number of dead bees on my roses after I sprayed, and I couldn't do it anymore. At first, I tried different organic, safe-for-the-environment, nontoxic-to-bees sprays. Even if you carefully read the fine print at the end of the attached label

entitled Environmental Hazard, it was all too confusing and deceptive. Walk into any Lowe's, Home Depot, or garden center, and you will probably see a product called Bayer 2-1 Systemic Rose and Flower Care, a broad spectrum pesticide to solve your garden's pest problems. I used to use it; it is probably one of the most toxic pesticides you can use in your garden. Look closely at the ingredients label; its active pesticide is imidacloprid, a neonicotinoid. Great news for your flower gardens; bad news for the bees. Neonicotinoids are one of the main suspects in the spreading bee decline, Colony Collapse Disorder.

So this year, my roses are not as glorious as they used to be. Some of their leaves are holey, and they have a bit of blackspot. Last week, I cut back all the bad areas; some will bounce back, but others will be a shadow of their mid-June glory days.

Our future gardens?

We will all have to adjust our gardening and agricultural practices to try our best to protect the environment. I know what the responses will be of the Climate Change Naysayers, but I, after more than forty years of gardening, can see the change. There are small things that home gardeners can do: select native plants that suit our area, plant flowers that are more drought, disease, and pest resistant. This will reduce your dependence upon chemicals. While they may have increased productivity in agriculture in general, I question what we are doing to our environment.

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July 29

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July 29

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**"Rande(m) Thoughts"  
Continued From Page 4.**

If he is right, we have it all. All the pieces to the puzzle are there. I think that all we need to do is to focus on three things: more employment opportunities, enhanced promotion of Poolesville as a leisure time destination for visitors, and structured growth to enable a younger population to choose to live here, perhaps work here, and just as importantly, choose to stay here.

The solution to the town's in-fill problems begins with small, entrepreneurial service businesses. A great example is Corporate Network Services. Our vacant storefronts can be filled by such service companies, a more practical goal than trying to find more retailers. More people working here will increase weekday commerce so lacking now.

Weekend visitation by hundreds of cyclists, soccer players, in addition to the scores of tourists who came here for Heritage Days are a few examples of how a temporary population can boost our economy without the fear of losing our small town qualities. Our weekend festivals remain one of the most tightly-kept secrets to the folks in Leesburg, Gaithersburg/Rockville, and Frederick. We really are a town of the arts, culture, and sports. Those who don't think so have not attended the ballet, experienced our concerts or art shows, or have not bothered to explore our history. It's not so much that we need to have a farmers' market, as we need to promote the fact that we are the farmers' market. With or without a special day of the month, we have Lewis Orchards, Kingsbury's Orchard, Mixed Greens, Hearthside Gardens, and Alden Farms. Add to that, we now have Chicque Antiques, Artifacts, and coming soon: The Blue Hearth, a multi-vendor vintage antiques retailer offering revitalized furnishings and upscale home décor ideas and classes to help draw weekend visitors.

Now I know there are many

who are appalled at town expenditures for marketing advice by hiring Mike Knapp and eventually another firm to manage the day-to-day operation of marketing the town. Whether he or others are the right persons for the job remains to be seen; however, we cannot rely on volunteer public servants or an overburdened town staff to get this important job done.

While I do not believe any of this this will give us a supermarket, it can lead to a very viable and worthy grocery. Our fear of the super box store is unwarranted as we are very far away from the required population to attract those stores. How far away are we? Our master plan looks to a Poolesville population up to 6,500, maximum. Including the surrounding area, our market population barely reaches 10,000. Box stores look to a population of a minimum of 40,000 to 50,000 or more—usually much, much more.

I think the Stony Springs and Brightwell Crossing developments have brought wonderful new neighbors, and the proposed new townhouses will bring in a younger demographic so important for the vitality of the town. You say you are concerned about increased traffic? If anything new has increased traffic in town, it's that traffic in the morning and afternoon bringing students to our incredible school. Is that increased traffic worth it? You bet it is.

While we may not all share the same definition of acceptable change, that change and progress are required for the vitality of a community is about as close to a law of science as economics can muster. Stagnant communities almost always become dying communities.

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## Local News

### Marching to Gettysburg

Civil War living history uniformed re-enactors of the Union's Federal Sixth Corps marched through Poolesville on June 28 on their way to Gettysburg to participate in the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle.

The size of the group varied during the full march, but as they came through our area, they were a color guard.

In 1863, the more than fourteen thousand men of U. S. Gen. John Sedgwick's Sixth Corps marched from Chantilly, Virginia to Pennsylvania. They were ordered to arrive in Gettysburg by 3:00 p.m. on July 2 on Little Round Top. The soldiers force-marched the last thirty-seven miles in seventeen hours and

arrived at 4:00 p.m. Their timely arrival was key in the defense of Little Round Top, which eventually proved to be pivotal in the success of the Federal Army.

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