

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

*Keeping an Eye on Local News*

*A Biweekly Newspaper*

August 15, 2014 • Volume XI, Number 10



*The PES PTA Carnival was a fun fair for all. See more pictures in Family Album on page 2.*



*An outdoor classroom for JPMS. Read more in Town of Poolesville on page 3.*



*There's something odd about Beall Street. Is it the Poolesville Town Hall? The answer is in Mystery History on page 10.*



*Over forty cars and trucks were part of a fundraiser for Matt Williquette. See more pictures on page 11.*

## Hillard Named Grand Marshall

By Rande Davis

The Poolesville Day Committee selected George Hillard to be honored on September 20 as the 2014 Grand Marshall. Last year, George, along with Bill Bliss who passed away last year, was honored for over sixty years of public service with the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department. The two men served together both as fire fighters and as Poolesville Commissioners. In honoring him, the way George sees it, you also honor Bill Bliss and all the men and women he served with and led for four decades.

Hillard was twenty-four years old when the Poolesville fire of 1953 devastated large sections of the town and barely spared his home. As a result of the close call and concern for his neighbors, he resolved to join the local fire

department, working in all areas of service and rising through the ranks to become fire chief, a position he held for thirty-nine years.

In those early days, the fire department was entirely voluntary and, unlike today's fire fighters who are equipped with pagers, the first responders back in the day were alerted to a fire through the sounding of a large siren in Beallsville and another positioned in the parking lot of Jamison's Real Estate offices. Back then, there wasn't a 911 system, so the emergency call would go first to Beallsville where wheelchair-bound volunteer Jack Chisholm would take the call. He would then call the chief's home. George Hillard would run out the door to be first on the scene, and his wife Catherine would be responsible for sounding the alarm.



*George Hillard served as fire chief for thirty-nine years.*

"We had a big family with four kids, and she might drop one and

**Continued on page 7.**

## A Unique Stone Fort

By Ingeborg Westfall

I hate being cooped up in the house in the summer, the AC humming away, so here I sit on the porch, sweating my brains out and wondering, What am I thinking? Ah, the pleasures of summer in Maryland!

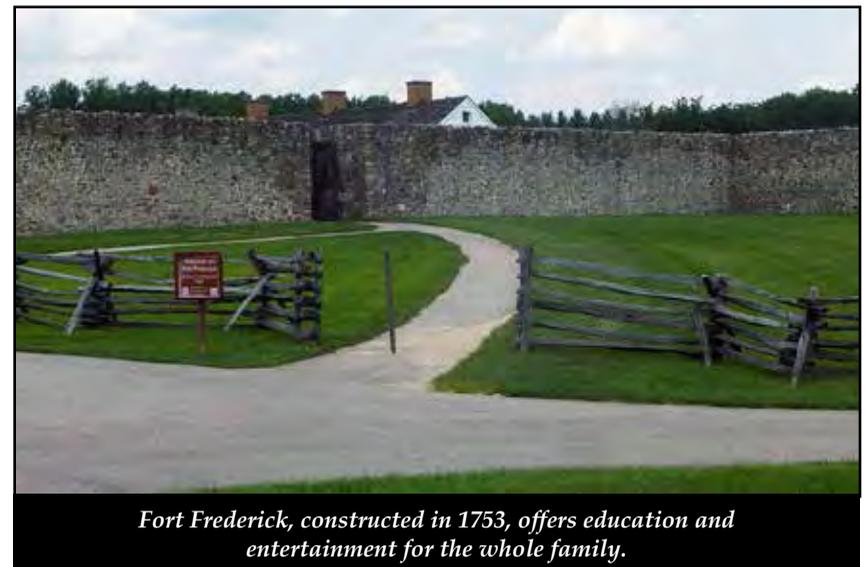
I was thinking cool thoughts, remembering a trip my friend and I took at the end of July past Hagerstown to Ft. Frederick State Park. Granted, it was hot, but I was outside most of the day, and I swear that up there in the trees and just below the Pennsylvania border, it was cool and lovely.

First, let me admit my ignorance here. I had never even heard of Ft. Frederick or its park until the esteemed editor of a certain local newspaper happened to mention it as a, let's see, I think his words

were "Fabulous gem." Well, folks, he has stellar judgment. Ft. Frederick is full of delight and detail for history buffs, and for the rest of us,

it's acres and acres of trees, photo opportunities, people in historical

**Continued on page 3.**



*Fort Frederick, constructed in 1753, offers education and entertainment for the whole family.*

# 2014 P&S PTA Summer Carnival . . .



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## Town of Poolesville Town Government Report

By Rande Davis

### Public Complaints On Trash Service

The town has been made aware of many recent complaints in the trash collection service provided by Unity Disposal and Recycling, LLC. The main complaint was missed pick up on recycling days. Up until a few weeks ago, complaints from the public were minimal; however, Frank Austin of Dowden Circle offered testimony of poor trash collection service that went beyond failed recycling pickup to include improper handling of the trash cans after collection and disregard for town property as evidenced by a truck being driven over town property.

Town Manager Wade Yost reported that he was scheduling a meeting with the owner of Unity Disposal to go over the complaints.

Mr. Yost emphasized that any resident having a problem with trash collection should call town hall, rather than the company. "Unless they call us at town hall, we cannot know of a problem and the extent of concern. We need to know of each complaint, so we can be abreast of problems and seek solutions from the owner for the residents."

### Grant for Eagle Scout Project Granted

Cole McKenney, a candidate for Eagle Scout in Troop 496, was asked to assist John Poole Middle School in constructing an instructional white board for an outdoor classroom at the school. While the request came from a science teacher, the exterior classroom would be available to any teacher reserving the space for a class. The board itself would be installed within a weatherproof cabinet having appropriate locking options for security.

Scout McKenney reported that the estimated cost is just under \$1,000, and the commissioners approved a grant up to that amount.

Continued from page 1.

### A Unique Stone Fort

dress, a hands-on nature center, many child-friendly events, and a gift shop with t-shirts with owls that glow in the dark (be still my heart).

There actually is a fort at Ft. Frederick, built by the Colony of Maryland in 1756 to protect settlers during the French and Indian War. One of the largest forts built during that conflict, it enclosed one-and-a-half acres and had a perimeter wall length of 1,660 feet. It included two soldiers' barracks and officers' quarters surrounded by a stone wall three to four feet thick. It is these stone walls that make the fort unique because, at the time, most forts were wood. The fort was never attacked, perhaps due to those very stone walls.

Later, during the American War for Independence (1775-1783), the fort served as a prison camp for captured British troops. In 1791, it was sold at auction, and the surrounding land became a farm. Skirmishes came close to it during the Civil War. In 1860, the fort was bought by Nathan Williams, the son of a former slave. He and his descendants farmed the fort's land until the early 1900s. In 1922, the State of Maryland purchased the fort. During the 1930s, a company of the Civilian Conservation Corps was assigned to the land. They

performed archaeological digs, repaired the stone wall, and developed the area into a state park.

Ft. Frederick offers as much or as little as you have time and interest for. Just looking at all the information in the visitor center takes an hour or so (the uniforms and bits from archaeological digs are very interesting and the display is well done). Then if you wander out to look at the fort's walls and the restored barracks, as my friend and I did, you might just be joined by a young man or woman dressed in Colonial attire, answering questions, and giving you a better understanding of the flavor of the times. As well, you might be startled out of your shoes as the roar of musket fire fills the air. There are opportunities for picnicking, camping, fishing, and hiking or biking on the Western Maryland Rail Trail, a twenty-two-mile paved trail built on the abandoned Western Maryland Railway. The campgrounds had a quiet and peaceful feel, hinting of a lovely opportunity for a family getaway.

Ft. Frederick State Park does Maryland proud. As always, consider these words a bare introduction and do your own information-seeking at 301-842-2155 or the park's website—and note that on August 23 and 24, re-enactors will assemble for a French and Indian War muster—seriously fun and interesting.

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## Rande(m) Thoughts

### Fear of Change

By Rande Davis

It's always been done that way. Often that expression is used to ward off an unwanted change. Sometimes people voicing an opinion against change are described as having a fear of change—but is that fair? Many people use the word “change” as a synonym for “progress,” so I can understand why so-called fear of change strikes some people as the same thing as fear of progress. Then again, substitute the phrase “it's always been done that way” with the phrase “it is a tried and true method,” and all of sudden the resistance to change doesn't sound anti-progress.

Personally, I think those who are so enamored by change as to have a knee-jerk approval for change simply for change's sake can be just as closed-minded as those who fight change solely on the grounds that “it's always been done that way.” I like to think of myself as one who is open to change, but I also pride myself on having a natural gut-check when new ideas pop up. My first thought is: “Tell me more.” In many instances, I admit I find myself slow to accept change; however, I view that as a strength not a weakness.

One of those “change things” has come up at the Poolesville Town meeting. For a time longer than I can account for, town meetings have been recorded and then transcripts of the discussion typed up and archived. The commissioners use these transcripts as the official minutes of the meeting. Having minutes of the town meeting is very important and required legally. Having recordings and transcriptions of each meeting,

however, is not required. Legal meeting minutes do not have to be so encompassing. The town must keep written records of all official actions taken by the commissioners, especially things like who made a motion for action, who seconded the motion, what was the vote per commissioner on the proposal made, and a detailed description of the matter brought up for a vote.

The commissioners are wrestling with a decision to end the transcriptions. It could save money. Having transcriptions could prove to be very helpful or hurtful to the town in the event of a lawsuit. One solution is to continue recording every meeting and then, in the event that the need arises, the recording could be reviewed, and a transcription of the meeting could then be ordered if deemed necessary. If archived recordings become the de facto record of choice, then the quality and retention of the recording media are also part of the discussion.

Some people may view the elimination of town meeting transcripts as a step toward a more secretive, more closed government—or, using today's jargon, less transparency. Dropping transcriptions has small financial savings as compared to the full budget (\$6,415.00 in a \$2.5 million budget), but those who are first to argue against cuts just because they are too small to matter should be the last to ever complain about taxes being too high or government spending too much. The road to government efficiency is a long and winding road with short steps not giant strides. Watching the commissioners wrestle with the issue and its pros and cons is interesting for those who find civic issues of interest. If you feel strongly one way or the other as to what the town should do and want your opinion to matter, the next meeting on August 18 is the one to attend.

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The Monocacy Monocle

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# Op Ed

## An Alternative Solution to Cat Colonies

By Erin Comasky

Poolesville is a tight-knit community with considerable heart and spirit. Those who live here genuinely care about it and invest time and effort to ensure its success. For these reasons, I was not surprised when members of this community supported my efforts to control the cat colony that we inherited with our new home.

A cat colony is a group of cats that are born and live outdoors with no owner. Colonies begin with cats that have been abandoned and/or left to roam unaltered (not spayed or neutered). They create new litters of kittens and the cycle continues.

A neighbor, who had been feeding the cats, came to me for help after a litter was born last spring. I spoke with veterinarians at Poolesville Veterinary Clinic, volunteers with cat rescue organizations, and dozens of low-cost spay and neuter clinics to gather advice. It was obvious that better management of these cat colonies would benefit our community.

In 2012, the Poolesville Town Council worked with Montgomery County Animal Control in a catch-and-kill effort to control the colony populations. Yet in 2014, Poolesville is still dealing with unmanaged colonies. Scientific and anecdotal evidence suggests that catch and kill is not effective in reducing the number of feral cats. The ASPCA and the National Wildlife Research Center, amongst others, have noted the Vacuum Effect created by culling. Animals that survive the cull move into a cleared area and reproduce at an even higher rate.

Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR) is the most successful documented program for colony management. Numerous communities

across the country have abandoned catch and kill in favor of TNR. In 2008, the National Animal Control Association amended its guidelines to support TNR programs as part of effective colony management.

This process involves: Trapping; securing the cats in humane traps; Vetting; bringing them to a low-cost spay and neuter clinic. Here, the cats are spayed or neutered, thus eliminating the possibility of new litters. They are also vaccinated against rabies and other common communicable diseases, reducing the amount of sick cats and protecting public health. Cats that are vetted are less likely to exhibit behaviors such as howling, fighting, and marking. The final step in the process is: Return: returning the cats to their territory ensures against the Vacuum Effect described earlier.

In November, with community donations, I successfully trapped our colony. In collaboration with Metro Ferals ([www.metroferals.org](http://www.metroferals.org)), all cats were sterilized, vaccinated, and ear tipped (a method of ear clipping so vetted cats can be identified). After a difficult winter, they are enjoying the warmer weather. Most importantly, there are no new kittens. There are undoubtedly other community members managing cat colonies alone. This town can do better. Resources used towards a catch-and-kill effort should be redirected to a community-supported TNR program. This would, over time, eliminate feral cat colonies altogether. Educating Poolesvillians about low-cost spay and neuter options for all their animals and supporting efforts to manage established colonies would go a long way in proving what we all know about Poolesville: It's a town that cares, and it's a good place to live.

*The opinions expressed are those of the author, and not necessarily those of Monocacy Press, LLC. The Monocle welcomes responsible commentary, although we may edit as necessary, or choose not to print it at all.*

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## Things To Do

### Poolesville Day Prep

Save money by signing up for vendor space now and submitting parade applications at [PoolesvilleDay.com](http://PoolesvilleDay.com), and save money by signing up for the PACC 5K early at [poolesvillechamber.com](http://poolesvillechamber.com)

August 15

### Summer Music Concert

The Wandering Peacocks, a female-fronted band featuring an eclectic mix of music from the 60s to the present, including: classic rock, country rock, and pop. *Whalen Commons*. 8:00 p.m.

### House of Poolesville Event

Karaoke. 8:30 p.m.

August 16

### House of Poolesville Event

Beyond Blues Band. 4:00 p.m.

### Gaithersburg Music Concerts

A Cappella Festival: Five local

ensembles perform. *City Hall Concert Pavilion* (31 South Summit Avenue). Free. 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

August 18

### Poolesville

#### Commissioners' Meeting

*Poolesville Town Hall*. 7:30 p.m.

August 20

### Bassett's Fundraiser

To benefit WUMCO Help, Inc. 10% of all food sales, all day, dine in or carry out.

### PASC Event

Poolesville area seniors. **Zumba Gold**. *Poolesville Baptist Church*. 1:00 p.m.

### Connection Café

Stop by for a chat, coffee, and computer use and help. *Poolesville Presbyterian Church*. 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

August 21

### PASC Event

Poolesville area seniors. **Library website workshop** plus bonus

presentation from the Social Security Administration on new changes in policy. *Poolesville Library*. 1:00 p.m.

**T'ai Chi**. *Poolesville Baptist Church*.

7:00 p.m.

August 22

### House of Poolesville Event

DJ Slim Pickens. 8:30 p.m.

August 23

### The Guardian

Movies in the Park. The Military Support Group will be offering free hot dogs. *Whalen Commons*. 8:30 p.m.

August 25

### Last Night at the Lobster

By Stewart O'Nan. Book discussion group for adults. *Poolesville Library*. 7:00 p.m.

August 27

### PASC Event

Poolesville area seniors. **T'ai Chi**. *Poolesville Baptist Church*. 1:00 p.m.

### Connection Café

Stop by for a chat, coffee, and computer use and help. *Poolesville Presbyterian Church*. 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### Westview Promenade

#### Summer Concerts

Jim Counter started his musical career at the age of twelve. He has opened for the Marshall Tucker Band, Toby Keith, and Martina McBride. In front of *Westview 10 Movie Theater*. 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

August 30

### Cugini's Special Event

Pool Tournament. 8:00 p.m.

### House of Poolesville Event

The Wandering Peacocks. Patio. 4:30 p.m.

Be sure to send us your events for Things to Do to [editor@monocacymonocle.com](mailto:editor@monocacymonocle.com)

## Local News

### Town May Halt Written Transcripts Of Meetings

By Rande Davis

The August 4 town commissioners' meeting focused on a discussion of whether the town should cease written word-by-word transcriptions of town meetings based on electronic recordings and switch to written minutes that record only official actions and votes taken by the commissioners. In this proposed scenario, the meetings would continue to be recorded, and the recordings maintained in an archive.

According to town counsel, Jay Gullo, the town is legally required to maintain minutes of every meeting that records all information relating to official actions based on votes of the commissioners, identifying the commissioner making a proposal, and the one seconding it. Accordingly, other detailed transcripts of all dialogue at a meeting by the commissioners or others making public statements is not necessary

to meet the legal requirements.

The primary reason for making the change is for cost savings. The line item in the budget for transcriptions lists the cost at \$6,415.00.

The discussion emphasized that electronic taping of all meetings would continue, and they would be archived and available for review. Written word-by-word transcripts could be produced from archived recordings on a case-by-case basis. The process for review of the recordings by the public and a mandated time of retention was not determined at this stage of discussion. Commissioner Halbrook recommended that the written minutes also include a record of the time that each official action was taken so that in the event a review of the transcripts becomes necessary, the reviewer would not have to listen to the entire meeting to hear the specific part in question.

Mr. Gullo offered to provide an example of the proposed change in minutes based on the August 4 meeting at the August 18 town meeting. The discussion on the proposed change will continue at that meeting and, since a public hearing for such a change is not required, a final vote may be made that evening.

Continued from page 1.

### Hillard Named Grand Marshall

trip over two, but she would make sure to set the alarm off all right," says Hillard.

Hillard owned an insurance business. Being willing to take on a voluntary firefighting position is a sacrifice for anyone, but when you own a business, it can be even more challenging. You never know when the call will come, day or night, weekday or weekend. When the call comes, the firefighters go, and business has to wait.

Bill Bliss, on the occasion of the two men sharing their sixtieth anniversary of service in the fire department, had many good things to say about George. Bill explains it with a smile, "They let me be chief for one year, but after that, they gave it right back to George." As Bliss saw it, "The government may run the fire departments today, but not a-one of them was started by the government." In recognizing George Hillard this year, the Poolesville Day Committee also honors all fire first responders in the fire departments and recognizes that the fire department

came about by concerned citizens such as George recognizing a public need and joining together for the common good.

Over the years, George served in an advisory capacity down county in assisting the Montgomery County Fire Department through its growth and development. The recipient of too many awards to list, his crowning honor came when he was named to the county Fire Fighter Hall of Fame.

Hillard and Bliss also served as Poolesville's town commissioners together. Their crowning achievement was the water and water treatment system. If you love living in Poolesville, are comforted knowing you have excellent fire department services, and you live in a house built after the early 1960s, then George Hillard is one of the key persons to thank.

The Poolesville Day Committee reported that in addition to George Hillard, the following persons had their names placed in nomination for Grand Marshall: Bill Harris, George Coakley, Conrad Potemra, John Speelman, Charlie Glass, Drs. Pike and Valega, and Gail Lee.

## Focus On Business

### Chrisler Homes: Striving for Perfection for All Projects, Large or Small

By Susan Petro

When Joe Hetrick, owner of Chrisler Homes, was growing up, he never imagined that he would find his calling as a builder; however, one summer, when Joe was about twelve, his stepfather decided that his son needed something to do. "You are not going to lie around the house all summer," said Joe's stepfather. "You need a job, so you can come work for me." Thus began Joe's early career as a carpenter and future general contractor.

As Joe spent summers and weekends working for his stepfather, he realized he had a natural ability for carpentry. After Joe graduated from high school, he went to work full-time for his stepfather. By then, he was ready to run his own construction crew.

When Joe was twenty-one, he was offered a job as a project manager for a large builder. Joe was hesitant to leave the company, worried that his stepfather would be disappointed in him for not carrying on the family business. His stepfather, however, encouraged Joe to accept the opportunity, saying it would be better from him in the long run.

Joe worked for that builder and then another for the next thirteen years. His goal was to open his own full-service building company by the age of thirty-five. He was able to realize his dream even sooner. Eleven years ago, Joe began his new business, Chrisler Homes LLC, in the basement of his home. The name Chrisler comes from a variation of the middle names of his sons, Joseph Christian and Jonathan Tyler. Six years ago, Joe moved his office to the Frederick Poole House in downtown Poolesville.

Since its inception, Chrisler Homes has completed projects ranging from million-dollar-plus

custom homes to smaller jobs like decks, bathrooms, kitchen renovations, and everything in between. Some clients already have a set of plans to work with, and others come in with just ideas. "We are a full-service general contractor," said Joe. He added that Chrisler Homes has all of the resources available to help their clients through every stage of the design process from start to finish.

Joe takes pride in the fact that his small company provides all of the same services as the much larger builders for a lower cost. Additionally, Joe stays personally involved with every job from start to finish. "You'll see me on the job every day," said Joe. He added that with the big-time builders, the customers may never see the owner again once the presentation is made and the contract is signed.

During the years that Joe worked for the big-name builders, he learned to differentiate the good sub-contractors from the bad. He has worked with some of his sub-contractors for over twenty years. "I have to know that the people that I am sending into your home are going to be courteous, polite, and clean."

Many clients like Kevin and Jaralyn Finn have worked with Joe and his crew on a wide range of projects, from a custom-built home to a variety of smaller projects. Kevin said he likes Joe's laid-back personality and his commitment to his projects. Kevin said that Joe treats the home that he built for them as "his baby" and has always been there for them if an issue arises, even after the work is completed. Depending on what needs to be done, Joe will either come personally or send one of his trusted employees. "We feel very comfortable with them," Kevin said. "They have really helped us out."

Although Joe is originally from Germantown, his ties to Poolesville go back a long way. He met his wife, Pam, a native of the Poolesville area, when he was just thirteen. They began dating at age sixteen and were married when he was twenty-two. They purchased her family home in Beallsville where they reside with their two sons.



Poolesville's Joe Hetrick of Chrisler Homes

When Joe isn't busy working with clients, he likes to spend time helping out in the community. He coached both of his sons through Little League Baseball, and also coached the Poolesville High School summer baseball team. He continues to assist the team even though his son graduated last year. Additionally, Joe is involved with the local Helping Hands organization, a group of volunteers from area churches who get together every year to help local families in need by making needed improvements to their homes. In the past few years, the organization has been able to help five families.

the smallest company within the organization, it has consistently won either gold or silver awards every year since 2008.

"I strive for perfection every single time, for every single project," said Joe. "My name is all I've got." Joe wants his clients to know that they can leave their home and know that he and his staff will take care of it. Joe said that some of his customers don't even want him to return their house keys at the end of a job, saying they know he'll be back for future projects. They appreciate that Joe is just a phone call away and will always be there when the need arises.

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**Rocco Bliss of Poo(d)lesville likes to relax while reading the Monocle. Photograph by Erin Bliss.**

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## Mystery History

### The Mystery and Oddity of Beall Street

By Rande Davis

The Poolesville Town Hall at Whalen Commons is located on Beall Street. This little road that stretches about 150 yards has a lot of intriguing and mysterious history, but, before going into the mystery and oddity of our story, a little bit of history first.

The blue/gray Colonial, next to the town hall and recently renovated from its old cedar siding days by Chris and Chip Baker, is the 1893 home built by W. Scott Beall, the namesake of the road. At one time, a Civil War sword was found in the attic, but how it got there and who put it there, we do not know (yes, it is a mystery, but we have another one).

Next, the brick side of the white house with the black shutters was built in 1828 and is affectionately known as the Hersperger House, after the late Virginia Hersperger, a highly-beloved resident of Poolesville and teacher who was also Montgomery County's first female principal. She called the home, presently owned by yours truly, Wit's End. We renamed the home Virginia's Grace in her honor. One of its earliest owners was a freed slave woman.

Tucked out of sight and right behind Zaglio's Bakery, is a house owned by Mike and Haley Mott. It was originally built in the mid-1790s, by Col. Thomas Plater, the son of George Plater, the former sixth governor of Maryland. The land was previously owned by Robert Peter, hence, the property's name, Peter's Forest, an appropriate description since in the late eighteenth century, our area was truly considered the wilderness. In the early 1800s, the home was used as a tavern for weary travelers.

The other historical home fully visible from Fisher Avenue is the home of Paul and Claudia Shibelski. The first building on this site was known as the Thomas Cator House, but since that house has burned down, it is not part of our mystery; however, the house standing there today, the Talbert-Willard-Cubitt House, sits on part of the previous home's foundation. This house might be considered Poolesville's first mobile home; therefore, it is the odd part of our story, but first, back to the mystery.

Why do all these houses stand so far off from the main road into town? Today's main road (Fisher Avenue) was not the original main road when the houses were built. Originally, the main and only road into town was the one now called Beall Street (in the 1700s it was known as Coxen Road).

Back then, Coxen Road was the main road from Rockville, and it passed within a few feet of the front of Peter's Forest and continued west where you can currently see its path as evidenced by the path of Beall Street. Rather than end at the town hall, old Coxen Road extended straight into Poolesville, passing just in front of the John Poole House. That sharp, unexplained curve in the road just as you come into town did not exist when it led to Coxen Road.

Coxen Road, due to swampy conditions, was closed down around 1841 with the current road (Route 107) taking its place and named after the Fisher Farm.

Now that clears up the mystery part of Beall Street, but what about its oddity? Going back to the Talbert-Willard-Cubitt House, there is an explanation as to why it could be called Poolesville's first and perhaps only mobile home. While the house you see today was built in 1867, it was not located on its current lot. Its original location was a quarter mile west of where the white Willard/Pumphrey House now stands (the large white house across from the post office). Its owner, Harry Willard, had it moved using log rollers and two steam engines in 1912. Not the kind of mobile home we see nowadays, but that would have been an event worth watching.

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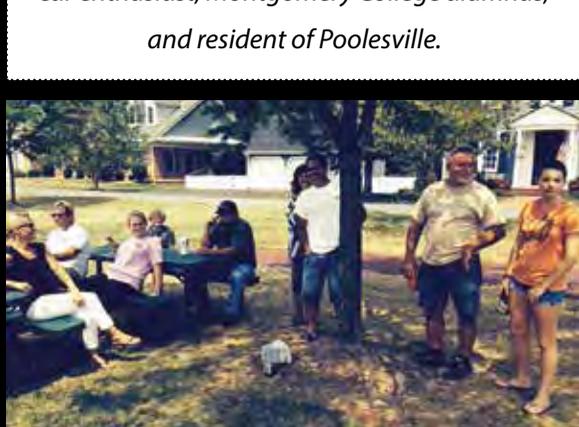
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**Tidbits of The Past**

By Jack Toomey

**August 1, 1953** Homecoming services were held at the Poolesville Methodist Church. The Rev. McIntire, the former pastor of the church, spoke. Afterwards a picnic was held under the big elm tree behind the church where there were music, historical statements, and addresses by clergy.

**August 4, 1953** Robert Jones, the boy who lost both of his hands in a chemistry lab explosion at Richard Montgomery High School in 1947, announced that he was going to be married. Jones managed to lead a productive life and was working as a clerk and dispatcher at the Takoma Park Police Department.

**August 6, 1953** A sister and brother from Germantown were diagnosed with polio and were admitted to the Children's Hospital in Washington. Montgomery County had recorded thirty cases up to that date.

**August 13, 1953** An Arizona woman sued the Glen Echo Amusement Park for \$750,000, alleging that she had suffered back and neck injuries while at the park. The woman claimed that she was riding the Whip when the machine made unusual movements, throwing her about her car and causing the injuries.

**August 14, 1953** Gordon Strong, the self-proclaimed Squire of Sugarloaf, explained how he opened his mountain to the public. In 1899, he was riding his bicycle

from Frederick when he spotted the mountain and decided to buy it parcel by parcel. It took nearly twenty years to buy the entire mountain. In 1926, the first year that it was opened to the public, 786 people visited. In 1952, Strong said that 55,000 visitors came. Strong added that he once hired a geologist to explain to him how the mountain came to be. Strong said that he never understood the scientific explanation.

**August 18, 1953** The Montgomery County School Board gave tentative approval for the purchase of four acres of land in the Lytons-ville area of Silver Spring to build a fourteen-room consolidated Negro Elementary School. School board president Stanley Stine argued that before any money was spent, the board should await the decision of the Supreme Court about the constitutionality of segregated schools.

**August 21, 1953** The State Roads Commission opened bidding for the construction of another four miles of the new Route 240 between Washington and Frederick. The stretch under bid ran from Maryland Route 121 to Route 118, formerly known as the Brink-Germantown Road.

**August 30, 1953** The Montgomery County Fair closed after a five-day run. Attendance was up that year, and it was estimated that 50,000 people attended. Poultry owned by Sen. Wayne Morse were awarded thirty-six prizes.

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

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## Remembrances

### Joanne Louise Gross

On July 30, Joanne Gross of Reston, Virginia passed away after her short but valiant battle against breast cancer. She was first diagnosed with stage four breast cancer last September. A memorial service was held at Memorial United Methodist Church on August 5.

Joanne grew up in the family home in Boyds, attended Monocacy Elementary School, and graduated Poolesville High School in 1996. She was an avid athlete, playing soccer in high school, and basketball and field hockey in both high school and at Salisbury University where she graduated in 2000 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration.

After college, she returned to Boyds and began a ten-year career with Avaya, a communications company in Washington. She moved to Arlington in 2000 and soon after met her husband, Paul.

She and Paul were married in October of 2005 and spent their first years together traveling, including trips to Australia, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Canada, and many cities in the United States.

When their oldest child, Kelsey Amelia was born in 2010, Joanne retired from Avaya to become a stay-at-home mom. In November of 2012, the couple's second child, Caitlin Lilly, was born.

The family has resided in Reston, Virginia since August 2013.

Along with her immediate family, Joanne is survived by her parents Jane and Terry Clark; her older brother Randal Clark and wife Stacy Sweetser, and younger brother Danny Clark; her mother and father-in-law Gary and Mary Ellen Gross; her brother-in-law Brian Gross and wife Beth, and sister-in-law Lauren Gross. She was preceded in death by maternal grandparents Grant and Dorothy Hagen and paternal grandparents Thelma and Raymond Clark.

In lieu of flowers, Joanne asked that donations be sent to Life with Cancer. This is a program associated with the Inova Health System that provides support and education for patients with cancer and their families and friends. Joanne had built special relationships with counselors there and had a wonderful support group she attended.

Donations can be made to: Inova Health Foundation, 8110 Gatehouse Road 200E, Falls Church, VA 22042. In the memo of the check, please write "Life with Cancer in memory of Joanne Gross."

### Dorothy Elizabeth Hunsecker

Dorothy Elizabeth Hunsecker, 93, of Walkersville, passed away on August 8 at her home. Born January 11, 1921 in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, she was preceded in death by her husband, Wilmer A. Hunsecker. Together they shared a ministry at Dawsonville Mennonite Church; she as a Sunday school teacher and he as pastor. Dorothy loved to sing and was renowned for having an incredible number of hymns memorized.

Always a gracious host, she loved to cook and bake. She also enjoyed knitting, gardening, and traveling, especially in the couple's recreational vehicle. She retired in 1981 from her work in Montgomery County Public School cafeterias after serving for eighteen years. Favorite memories of friends and family were her quick sense of humor and the beautiful way she prayed. Contributions in her memory may be made to the charities of the donor's choice.



Joanne Louise Clark Gross

### John Burdette

John (Teeny) Burdette, 81, originally from Boyds and the loving husband of Edith Burdette, died peacefully on July 27, 2014. He was born on April 25, 1933 and was the son of the late Kenneth N. and Alice N. Burdette. Besides his wife, he is survived by his four children, Deb Burdette (Wendy Tresselt), Linda Brenner (Kenneth), Kimmy Burdette (Jeff Fogle), Tony Burdette (Lisa); two stepchildren, Jr. Coeburn (Lynn), Darrell Huffman (Angie); his first wife Margie Hickman; one brother, Samuel Burdette; two sisters, Bertha (Sissy) LaFleur and Louise Fritz. He was a loving grandfather to six grandchildren, Amanda and Ashley Paxton, Samantha Brenner, Bryan Burdette, Natalie and Ian Rhoades; one great granddaughter, Aubrey Jones; three step grandchildren Jimmy and Elizabeth Coeburn, Brian Coeburn; and two step great grandchildren, Tyler and Jessica Coeburn.

He was preceded in death by one stepson, Michael Lawrence; sisters, Ruth Cantler and Eleanor Pullen; and his brother, Kenneth E. Burdette.



John Burdette

### William Howell Graf

William Howell Graf died peacefully on Tuesday, August 5, 2014. Bill, as he was known to friends and family, was born in Elmsford, New York November 2, 1928 to Maximillian Joseph and Eva Viola Graf.

He spent his life building and improving homes in the area where he lived, and devoted years of his time in support of the Boyds Presbyterian Church as a member and trustee and in this way touched many, many people of the community.

He is survived by his sister Barbara Pratt, his brother Max J. Graf, III, his brother and sister-in-law Charles and Audrey Graf, his four children, Jennie Broadwell, Bill Graf, Jr., Kim DiBiasio and Mary Logan, their respective spouses Ed Broadwell, Kate Graf, Mark DiBiasio, and Tom Logan, as well as his nine grandchildren and one great grandchild. Relatives and friends are invited to attend a memorial service at 2:00 p.m. at Boyds Presbyterian Church, Saturday, August 23, 2014, 19901 White Ground Road, Boyds, Maryland, with a graveside service to follow. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made in his name to the Boyds Presbyterian Church.

### John William Shawver

John W. Shawver, 65, of Dickerson, died on August 1. He was born on September 14, 1948 in Frederick and was the son of the late Audry J. and Carrie (Steele) Shawver, Sr. and the brother of Audry "Jack" Shawver, Jr. of Dickerson, Charles F. Shawver of Frederick, and sister, Barbara A. Edwards of New York.

John graduated in 1967 from Poolesville High School and then joined the U. S. Marine Corps, serving in Viet Nam and earning various medals including the Iron Cross of Gallantry. He was a farmer in Dickerson most of his life. Inurnment will take place at a later date in Arlington National Cemetery.



Dorothy Elizabeth Hunsecker

Do you or someone you know have a special announcement, achievement, milestone you would like to share with our readers in our Tidbits column?  
Please send to [editor@monocacymonocle.com](mailto:editor@monocacymonocle.com)

## Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

### Present Crime

**Assault:** 17400 block of Anita Court.

**Theft from vehicles:** 19900 block of Briarley Hall Road, 17900 block of Bliss Drive, 19700 block of Selby Avenue (two incidents), 19900 block of Spurrier Avenue, 17400 block of Hoskinson Avenue, 17100 block of Butler Road.

**Drug use complaint:** 18600 block of Jerusalem Church Road.

### Past Crime

**August 21, 1956** The manager of a Silver Spring warehouse took matters into his own hands when he made a citizen's arrest of two men who were stealing television sets from his business. The man had made arrangements with the police for them to stake out the building overnight but, before the police arrived, the manager found two men loading a car with television sets. He drew a gun and held the two thieves at gunpoint until the police arrived.

**August 24, 1957** A construction worker was found crushed to death under a ten-ton stone loader at a construction site on Viers Mill Road. Police said that apparently the man, the father of five, had

accidentally backed into a hole, and the machine toppled onto him. **August 26, 1957** A thirty-two-year-old Gaithersburg man was critically injured when he was struck by a train in Gaithersburg. Police said that the man had wandered onto the tracks and was struck by an express train. He was taken to a hospital with a severe skull fracture.

**August 27, 1957** Four men were arrested on gambling charges after police raided Fred's Store in the 1100 block of Rockville Pike. It was said that police had received information that a card game with high stakes was being run inside the store, so surveillance was conducted until enough evidence was obtained. When police entered, they found the card game in progress.

**August 28, 1956** A research engineer at the David Taylor Model Basin at Cabin John was arrested by police for a burglary at the White Flint Golf Course pro shop. Police had been called to the course when an employee noticed lights on in the shop. When they searched the building, they found a monogrammed briefcase with the name of the engineer on it. They went to his house in Bethesda where he was arrested.

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



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## Garden

### Capturing the Essence of Summer

By Maureen O'Connell

If you have an herb garden, now, as we head into the middle of August, is the time to consider whether you want to save any of them for use during the winter. I am not into canning or freezing summer's bounty of fresh vegetables; it is too hot to spend that much time in the kitchen; Birds Eye can do it better, and you can usually find fairly good vegetables (except tomatoes) in the winter at the local grocery stores (Whole Foods has competition now in that department), but I do like the convenience of a having a stash of summer's herbs tucked into a corner of my freezer. Preserving them is easy; it is also a good, summer kitchen activity for your children, from harvesting the herbs to picking leaves off woody or soft stems. There is an ideal time to harvest herbs and now is a good time for many (if you are growing basil, I hope that you have been continually nipping off any emerging flower heads). Herbs are best harvested right before flowering. During and after flowering, the plants put all their energy into flowering and seed production. As a result, their leaves are not at their best flavor. Before I discuss the various ways of preserving herbs, allow me to tell you about some ways to use fresh herbs now in two recipes.

Yotam Ottolenghi is an Israeli-born chef, cookery writer, and restaurant owner. I became familiar with him several years ago; he has several acclaimed restaurants in London, and his cookbooks are very popular there. My daughter Christine gave me his cookbook *Plenty*, and I have since become a big fan of his. In the introduction of *Plenty*, he says, "I'll start with something as simple and unassuming as rice. When I try to think of all the uses of this grain, I immediately go dizzy with countless possibilities—within and between cultures, pairing them with other ingredients... What I am getting at is how lucky we are (although unfortunately not all of us) living

and cooking in a world that offers such a spectrum of ingredients and so many culinary heritages to draw on." Ottolenghi's business partner and co-owner of their restaurants is Sami Tamimi; they were both born in Jerusalem. Ottolenghi is Jewish; Tamimi is Palestinian. Ottolenghi is not a vegetarian, but he has become famous for what he does with vegetables and grains. From *Plenty*, here is a very simple starter using fresh herbs and vegetables:

#### Marinated Buffalo Mozzarella and Tomato

8 oz. buffalo mozzarella  
2 ripe medium tomatoes  
**Marinade**  
½ tsp fennel seeds  
Grated zest of one lemon  
15 basil leaves, shredded  
2 tsp chopped oregano  
2 tsp best-quality extra olive oil, plus extra to finish  
2 tsp rapeseed oil  
1 garlic clove, crushed  
½ tsp Maldon sea salt  
Black pepper

Start with the marinade. Scatter the fennel seeds in a small frying pan and dry-roast them until they begin to pop. Transfer to a pestle and mortar and crush roughly. Place the crushed seeds in a small bowl and add the remaining marinade ingredients.

Break the mozzarella roughly with your hands. Smear it with the marinade and set aside for 15 to 30 minutes.

To serve, cut the tomatoes into wedges and plate along with the marinated mozzarella. Drizzle with extra olive oil and serve.

#### Herb Salt (*Bon Appétit* August 2014)

8 fresh sage leaves  
¼ cup fresh rosemary leaves  
2 Tbsp fresh thyme leaves  
1 cup Kosher salt  
1 Tbsp Crushed red pepper flakes  
1 tsp Fennel seeds  
¼ tsp freshly ground pepper

Pulse sage, rosemary, and thyme in a food processor until coarsely chopped. Add salt, red pepper flakes, fennel seeds, and black pepper and pulse to blend.

**Do ahead:** Salt can be made two months ahead. Store airtight at room temperature. Great for rubbing lamb, beef, chicken, or shrimp with oil.

There are several ways to preserve fresh herbs. It somewhat depends upon the type of herb and your desired end result. I have tried many ways. Being used to buying jars of dried herbs, we often think of that method of preserving, but I have found, unless you have a good dehydrator, that some herbs do not dry easily, and our hot, humid weather in August is not the best drying environment. I prefer to freeze them. There are two mediums in which to do that: water or butter/oil. Freezing delicate-leaf herbs such as parsley, cilantro, or chives can leave you with a soggy, limp, discolored mess. Each herb's distinctive taste comes from aromatic oils in the leaves. Preserving them in a fat,

such as butter or olive oil, protects their flavors and helps retain a better color.

With herbs with woody stems, such as rosemary, thyme, and sage, you can freeze the entire stem and place it in a freezer bag, or you can pick the leaves off individually, wash and dry well, pulse in a food processor, mix with a bit of melted butter or olive oil, and place in sealed bags in the freezer. Sometimes I will add grated citrus, ginger, or garlic to the mix. For smaller portions, you can store them in ice cube trays or tinfoil cupcake liners and freeze.

Capture a little bit of summer now and save it in your freezer. It will look very comforting come the wintry chills of January.

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## Musings by Mama Boe Little Nuggets

By Pamela Boe

A friend of mine on Facebook, who is the mother of a couple of young kids, asked me for my thoughts on how to parent well. She seemed to think, *and this still cracks me up*, that I am doing something right in the raising of my Varmint and Critter. She bases this on my postings on Facebook and here on Mama Boe.

My immediate response is that there is *no single way* to raise a kid. My second response is that life is *so dynamic* that one moment you think you're doing it well, and the next you are sure you've scarred them for life. My third response is it depends on how you define "parent well." If by "parent well" you mean help your children grow up to be productive, positive, content members of society, that is one thing. If you mean that *you* survive the process, that's quite another.

She said, "No, seriously."

I was serious.

But since that didn't mollify her, I gave her a trite little nugget to cling on to like a drowning woman to a life-preserver. I threw out the ol', "Try to encourage them twice as much as you criticize them." Because kids tend to only remember the negative for some godforsaken reason. I swear, despite every time I've told my kids how wonderful they are, they only remember the time I called them butt-heads.

And they *can* be butt-heads.

But then it hit me. EVERY life we touch we would do better to encourage twice as much as

criticize. Not just our children, but also our neighbor's children and our neighbors and their parents and their dog. My trite little nugget actually had substance when I gave it a moment of thought. I don't know about you, but I'd rather be told what I'm doing right as opposed to what I'm doing wrong.

You want to raise your kids to be happy and positive? Show them that. Live that. And then, while you're at it, show the rest of the world, too. It's hard to do that when you're in a funk, or when you're bitchy, or when things around you go awry. But even in all those instances, the point is no less true.

*Lift up more than you pull down.*

And that includes yourself. So many people I know love to tear themselves down. It's easier for them to believe they are screw ups than it is to believe they are wonderful. I joke around and say I'm slow-witted, or fat, or whatever silly thing might make a joke, but *I am* jesting. I really *do* like myself. There is no one I'd rather be.

In trying to help out this lovely young mother, I ended up getting smacked upside the head with my own pithy truth. I went from "hug 'em more than you yell at 'em," to "love and accept yourself."

Anthony Robbins has got NOTHIN' on me.

So there it is: Spend twice as much time praising as you do criticizing. It applies to everyone. Your kids. Your spouse. Yourself.

She asked if I had any other nuggets of wisdom for her.

I figured I was on a roll, so I added: "Never give a child a drum."

Word.



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