

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

October 19, 2018 • Volume XIV, Number 16



Sometimes the winner in a golf tournament is the best-dressed player! See more pics in Family Album on page 2.



PES Principal Robbins rides a bike with spirit. Find out why in Tidbits on page 6.



The mother of Fran Ichijo was surprised by the recognition for her support of Fran and the Hope Garden Ballet. More pics on page 12.



One stop on the Countryside Artisans Tour is in Beallsville. Find out who in Center Stage on page 18.

Plans for New Grocery Store and Dunkin' Donuts Face Delays

By Rande Davis

The anticipated fall 2018 developments of Dunkin' Donuts in the shopping center that hosts the Subway, and the Chevy Chase grocery store to be built next to Tractor Supply, both face delays of at least six months.

In the case of Dunkin' Donuts, the delay is a result of awaiting final state approval for the site storm water plan. Once the state submits its approval, the owner will have to await the approval of the county for the plan. While it is always difficult to estimate the degree of delay, the town expects at least a three-to-six-month postponement before breaking ground.

Concerning the anticipated grocery, town manager Wade Yost cites that Gray Dobbs of the shopping center's management team reported that a long-term lease has been negotiated for the grocery store, but an unanticipated change in architecture contracts



The location of a proposed Dunkin' Donuts for Poolesville.

has resulted in the timing to break ground no sooner than this coming spring, and not until summer. In the meantime, the owner of the grocery, Jason Karsch, is considering opening a "pop-up" store in the space next to

M&T Bank as a temporary site while awaiting construction of the grocery store. The plan would be to use the pop-up site to gauge public interests and desires while working on the final plan for the store.

Ghosts of the Canal

By Jon Wolz

I read with great interest Rande Davis's "The Ghosts of the Monocacy" in the October 5 edition of the *Monocacy Monocle*. I spend many hours in the woods of Maryland, including walking on the towpath at the C&O Canal National Historical Park. I enjoy having company as I walk; however, at times, I walk alone. I often wonder about and look for clues from the past: Cretaceous period (100 million years ago) worm holes in the stones of the ruins of the 1876 bridge at White's Ferry and fossils from the Devonian period (400 million years ago). I have been startled by nearby bucks snorting then jumping and splashing across the canal in pursuit of a doe. I have jumped at the sound of a great blue heron cawing several feet above me in a tree. I have wondered what Native Americans may have walked along the

banks of the Potomac River. I have admired the Native American fish traps in the Potomac River. I have observed the stone foundation ruins of buildings along the hillside at the mouth of the Monocacy River along with spring daffodils. The first European settlement occurred there in the early 1700s led by Swiss prospector Louis Michel.

When I walk the towpath along the C&O Canal, I notice where the dirt was thrown as the canal was being dug by hand in the early 1830s. Sometimes I see an earthen wall covered with trees and underbrush on the berm side (opposite side) of the towpath. At times the dirt was used to create the towpath when the berm side was comprised of cliffs that kept the water in the canal when the river was close to

Continued on page 25.



Ghostly images along the C&O Canal.

Family Album



Lions District Governor Andrea Cumberland is greeted by Monocacy Lion Bruce Wooden.



Jill Chadwick, Jan Jones Angel, and Dan Seamans.



Enjoying the hospitality at the RWRC annual fundraiser: Thomas Dillingham, Sarah Nichols, Shannon Dillingham Keeper, Patsy Dillingham, and Jackie Kinzie.



Margie and Ed Atkins, with David Drake, joined Audrey and Walt Prichard (seated) at the GOP Women's dinner.



Honoring past presidents of the Rural Women's Republican Club: Bonnie Anthony, Dorinne Armstrong, Jill Chadwick, and Audrey Prichard with Patsy Dillingham.



Monocacy Lions Peter Gallo and Bill Jamison (left) presented a certificate to the winning team at its annual golf tournament: George Coakley, Stan Manstof, Mike Connors, and Sandy Holdahl.



Margie Schultz and Sharon Bauer welcomed guests to the Rural Women's Republican Club's annual Saturday Night in the Country, a fundraising event for WUMCO, scholarships, and other many good causes.



Sharon Bauer (President RWRC), House of Delegate candidates Marc King, Laurie Halverson, Harvey Jacobs, Amie Hoerber (Congress), and David Wilson (State Senate).

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Pushed for Master Plan Inclusion and zoning to encourage Age-In-Place Housing



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election platform: poolesville.wordpress.com

Commentary

Loudoun County Plays the Long Game

By John Clayton

Democrats and Republicans in Washington, and elsewhere, are not getting along. Drivers flout the law by talking and texting on cellphones. Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church sold Walking Tacos on Poolesville Day. The sun rises in the east and sets in the west. Somewhere, a dog has bitten a man, and Virginia has renewed the call to build a bridge across the Potomac River into the Agricultural Reserve.

As Gomer Pyle would say, "Surprise! Surprise! Surprise!"

At any time, on any day, when you least expect it, someone is expending energy to keep the idea of another crossing into Montgomery County alive. This time, the voice is from the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors which selected two sites for the desired bridge. As usual, I heard this on WTOP on my car radio while in heavy traffic on I-270. If you find any irony in that, knock yourself out. I don't. None of this is about reducing traffic. Their chosen locations are, on the Virginia side, near Bles Park Drive, not far from Landsdowne Golf Course, and just across from where River Road and Mt. Nebo Road meet.

Virginia's bridge obsession is merely, ahem, a bridge to what this really means: roads in Maryland which will connect to big roads like Virginia Routes 7 and 28. The desired Maryland roads do not actually exist, a small albeit significant detail. My rough estimate of a more-or-less straight line from bridges at this site to a connection with Maryland 200, the Intercounty Connector, paints a picture of a highway that goes through or at least affects McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area, Sugarland, Partnership Road, Berryville Road, and onward through some path across Seneca Road and through Quince Orchard, and Darnestown. This is just me looking at a map and playing bulldozer guy. Try it yourself.

There is a tortuous history of the so-called second crossing issue that goes back decades. I will not attempt to lay it out here, but I would recommend you read up on Potomac crossings on the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association website and the Montgomery County Alliance website.

Opposition to a crossing into Montgomery County has been strong

on the Montgomery County Council, and I believe generally unanimous, or at least no councilmember has taken on the cause of advocating for it. Will this remain true? The composition of the council is changing significantly in this election. Of nine councilmembers, assuming the Democrats in our one-party county all win, three at-large members and Poolesville's District 1 member will be replaced. How do these new members get educated on the importance of the Ag Reserve? Can we assume they already value it enough to strongly resist? How strongly will our own council representatives stand up for us? North of Route 28, we will likely have the incumbent Craig Rice in District 2 and his stronghold is in Germantown. Further south, in and around Poolesville, it will likely be Andrew Friedson of Bethesda, who also represents voters in Potomac and Bethesda. Will Germantown, Darnestown, Bethesda, North Potomac, and Potomac voters value preserving open space out here as much as we do? Will that decay over time? I ask down-county people about this, and a common response is, "That might be a good idea. Maybe it will help."

Does our Republican governor Larry Hogan value the status quo the same way? He is massively popular across party lines, but Republicans are (or used to be, I'm not sure what is what anymore) generally responsive to road building for commercial transportation and development, and that is what these new roads would represent. Hogan has been a pro-roads advocate from the start, although he has also supported major mass transit initiatives, so we do not know how he will react if this issue gains momentum. The governor, especially a popular leader like Hogan, is key to this fight because Maryland owns the river and would have to okay a bridge.

Some Loudoun supervisors made what I thought were some very pertinent points, and I am drawing specifically from WTOP's reporting. They acknowledged that Maryland has resisted the idea of a bridge, but said that there was certainly some support for it in Maryland that could grow. While now is not the time to make a major push, now is the time to be "proactive" for preliminary planning to prepare for the time when Maryland's political will for a bridge increases. They accurately observed that this will be a long battle that will reward the more resolute parties. The sound bite was, "The will of the people

Local News

Key Candidate Forums Scheduled For Town Hall

By Rande Davis

In the last week of October, the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Poolesville will sponsor candidate forums for candidates running for town commissioner and Montgomery County executive. Both are to be streamed via Facebook. Only those in attendance will be able to submit questions directly to the candidates.

The first forum is for the candidates running for county executive: Marc Elrich (D), Robin Ficker (R), and Nancy Floreen (I). The town hall-style forum is scheduled for the morning of Tuesday, October 23, with a reception at 7:00 a.m., and the forum beginning by 7:30 a.m. at Poolesville Town Hall.

All candidates will open with a statement on "Why I am the best candidate for Montgomery County's future and more particularly for the Western County and its residents."

Rande Davis, of the *Monocacy Monocle*, will moderate the public

discussion with questions for an hour and fifteen minutes. Each candidate will have two minutes to answer each question. The last ten minutes will be divided among the candidates evenly (three minutes apiece), and they will end by answering the question: "Why I am running for office and why I can best make the future better for the Western County."

Then on Thursday evening, October 25 at 7:30 p.m. at Poolesville Town Hall, representatives from the PACC will moderate a panel forum for the candidates running for town commissioner. Jim Brown will be running for reelection while Danny Embrey and Kerri Cook are the two non-incumbents in the race. There are two seats up for election.

Those wishing to submit questions should arrive early to fill out question cards for the evening's moderator to submit. The format will be similar to the county executive forum with opening statements followed by questions submitted by the moderator and audience.

Do you have an interesting story to share?

Send it along to

editor@monocacymonocle.com

The Monocacy MONOCLE

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Continued on page 15.

Town Government

Town Commissioners Consider Issues Surrounding the Deployment of Advanced Broadband Wireless Technology

By Link Hoewing

At their regular meeting on October 15, the five commissioners of the Town of Poolesville discussed issues surrounding the deployment of new wireless broadband "5G" technology. The technology, a new generation of mobile wireless technology, can provide speeds many times faster than those available with today's wireless broadband systems. Speeds are expected to rival even those available now on the fastest landline broadband networks.

Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski acknowledged the enhanced capabilities of the technology but pointed to a decision by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which regulates communications networks, to "usurp the authority" of local governments to manage the right-of-ways where the wireless antennas for 5G will be deployed. He said the FCC's decision would impose mandatory and extremely short time periods for local governments to consider plans for deployment. This would be problematic, he said, because the antennas for 5G would be mounted on poles located at numerous points throughout neighborhoods. 5G technology cannot use centralized antennas placed upon water towers or on high-power electric towers.

As a result, Klobukowski said, local governments face the possibility of seeing companies that build and install 5G transponders and electronics—known as "small cell" companies—deploy antennas that might be as large as three feet in width and length on neighborhood light poles. The technology cannot disperse widely and has only a short range, so many antennas will have to be placed throughout neighborhoods. He also said the FCC's decision puts limits on what local governments can charge for access to local right-of-ways, making it harder

Continued on page 24.



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Tidbits

Barnesville Cemetery Is Looking for Volunteers

Have you ever considered yourself a historian? Here is an opportunity to help preserve a piece of Montgomery County history while also helping to do research. A little cemetery in Barnesville needs some attention. During the Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory, a little gem was discovered, and the property owner was kind enough to welcome more visits to clean the markers as well as the grounds and find out more about those interred at the site. It is known that the daughter of a former Poolesville mayor was laid to rest there along with a Union soldier who perished in the Civil War. Help discover who else is there. The plans are to meet at the site from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on November 17, 2018. If you are interested in helping to preserve a piece of Montgomery County history, please RSVP to barnesvilleme@gmail.com.

WUMCO Walk & Oktoberfest Needs Help

The Oktoberfest committee is looking for volunteers to help at the WUMCO Walk & Oktoberfest held on Saturday,

October 27 from noon to 6:00 p.m. All proceeds will go to WUMCO, so your help will raise money for a great local cause. The festival starts with a one-mile walk at noon. Get people to sponsor you or sponsor yourself. There are tons of fun activities for all members of the family, children to adult.

Volunteers need to be there from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Whalen Commons. They also need people to donate theme baskets for the auction. Create a basket for the basket drawing (nothing temperature-sensitive like chocolate, please).

Other volunteer opportunities include but are not limited to: Volunteer check-in, beer/wine ID check, beer pour help, student volunteer supervisors, and cleanup. Various shifts are still available. Please go to tinyurl.com/y7oftdfk to sign up. Come have some fun with us at the festival!

Chili Is Hot in Barnesville

The Town of Barnesville hosted a popular chili cookoff as the centerpiece of a great town fellowship event. Over forty people (we are guessing a huge part of the entire population), attended, sampling the varying recipes, voting on their favorites, and simply enjoying the great chili on a cool fall

Continued on page 25.

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**October 27th
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*** Wristbands: \$5.00 for kids' activities ***

12:00 Walk (Registration @ 11:30)

Free wristband with walker registration

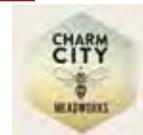
1:00 Kids' Costume Parade & Contest

1:30 Dog Costume Contest

5:30 Winners of  sponsored Community Scarecrow Contest announced.

Music by local DJs: That Spark

Refreshment Tent Vendors



Garden

Autumn Splendor

By Maureen O'Connell

I believe that the English Romantic poet John Keats (1795-1821) was describing the month of October in his poem, "To Autumn": "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun." He speaks of the season of ripe harvest, swelling gourds, and rosy light, the "moss'd cottage-trees" bowed with apples, "later flowers for the bees..." And gathering swallows twitter in the skies." We follow the progression through the season from the late crops to the harvest, late-blooming flowers and shrubs to the last days of autumn when winter is nearing. The sounds of autumn contrast with those of spring: there are full-grown lambs now loudly bleating, not the soft *baa* of the newborn lamb looking for its mother. Many critics and scholars unanimously praise "To Autumn" as one of the most perfect poems in the English language.

There is solace in the autumn garden that is not there in the busy days of early June planting and the labor-intensive chores of the blistering hot days of July and August. By this time of the year, my days in the garden are much calmer. I don't see (too closely) and fret about every new weed, the powdery mildew on the phlox, and the ever-invading bindweed smothering my loyal perennials. That is next year's problem. This is time for Spencer and me to relax and enjoy the last days of this summer's garden. October is its finest month, and it comes in hints and whispers. Late summer flowers can still be exploding—dahlias, sunflowers, Black-Eyed Susans, French marigolds, asters, and chrysanthemums—but nature is getting ready to take charge once more. It is time for the gardener to stand back and learn to let go.



Autumn's splendor.

Now that I have waxed poetically about the October garden, I do have to remind you of a few, small chores that need doing. It will make your life a little easier come spring garden-cleaning time.

1. Remove and discard your summer annuals and any diseased perennials. Don't add anything to your compost pile that could harbor diseases and insects.
2. Clip perennials that are done for the season. I wait to cut until after the first frost, or you will have to repeat this chore. With my three roses, I cut them back by about half so they will not blow in the winter winds and damage their branches. I leave stems that will add interest to the winter landscape, such as 'Autumn Joy' *Sedum*, coneflower, *Agastache*, *Rudbeckia*, *Achillea*, Russian Sage, and the *Rosa Rugosa* rosehips. Some stems also provide winter seed sources for birds.
3. Carefully examine your trees for damage. If they are dying or have

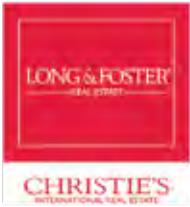
Continued on page 14.



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Things To Do

Poolesville Area Senior Center

All events at the *Family Life Center* at 17750 West Willard Road.

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

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

Mahjong: Thursday in Room 129: 10:00 a.m.

Special October Events

The Blue Hearth Market is open all weekends in October.

Markoff's Haunted Forest every Friday through Sunday in October.

October 19

Historic Deadly Ghost Tour

A ghost trail through the town of Poolesville featuring fascinating ghost stories and legends in historic homes and buildings, bonfire, and s'mores. Starts at John Poole House and Trading Post. Purchase tickets in advance online only on the Historic Medley District Facebook page. \$15. Family tour at 6:30 p.m.; tour for teens and more: 8:30 p.m.

Cugini's Oktoberfest Event

German beers with authentic German appetizers including sausages and Bavarian pretzel rolls.

PHS Varsity Sports Home Game

Homecoming Weekend—Football. Watkins Mill. 6:30 p.m.

October 20

Heritage Harvest 2018

Celebrate autumn and the harvest at FREE events in the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve! Fun family activities will include farm tours, markets, crafts for kids, historic farm buildings, food, adorable animals, and much more! Eleven locations of farms and vineyards. Visit Heritagemontgomery.org for more details. Noon to 4:00 p.m.

October 23

PHS Varsity Sports Home Games

Girls' soccer. Rockville. 3:45 p.m.
Girls' volleyball. Walter Johnson. 6:00 p.m.

October 25

PHS Varsity Sports Home Game

Girls' volleyball. Wheaton. 6:00 p.m.

October 27

Annual WUMCO Walkathon and Oktoberfest

Fundraiser to benefit WUMCO: kids' games and activities, costume parades, pet costume contest, basket auction, Calleva rock wall, DJ, Barley & Hops Beer Garden, and German food! \$5.00 wristband for kids' special activities. Noon to 6:00 p.m. at *Whalen Commons*.

89th Annual St. Mary's Ham and Turkey Dinner

Dinner fixings include mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, green beans, sauerkraut, and rolls. Featuring crafts, baked goods, pumpkin country store, and Christmas shop. \$16 for adults and carry outs. Dining room guests 10 years old or younger eat free. *St. Mary's Pavilion in Barnesville*. Starts at 5:00 p.m.

October 31

Monocacy Lions Club Annual Halloween Community Party

Bring your kids, grandkids, and the neighbor's kids to a safe and fun-filled Halloween evening. Get in the Halloween spirit and come dressed in a costume yourself! There will be a costume competition for both kids and adults, games, refreshments, and prizes—all treats and no tricks. *St. Mary's Pavilion in Barnesville*. 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

November 2

UMCVFD Auxiliary Bingo Night

Featuring cash and gift cards as well as door prize drawings. Refreshments available for purchase. \$20. *UMCVFD Firehouse, 19801 Beallsville Road, Beallsville*. Doors Open: 5:30 p.m.; games begin: 7:00 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Game

Football. Manchester Valley. 6:30 p.m.

November 3

An Evening of Jazz

St. Peter's Church presents: Fall-O-Rama: An Evening of Jazz, featuring a twenty-piece band, The Blue Notes, from Montgomery Village. Wine and cheese, cash bar. \$20/person. *St. Peter's Church*. 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Would you like to announce a meeting, club, or upcoming event in **Things To Do?** Then let us know! Send it along to editor@monocacymonocle.com



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Raised and educated in Poolesville, then making the decision to do the same with his own family, Danny's devotion to this town is unmatched. With a successful career in Private Wealth Management, he knows how to cultivate relationships and drive outcomes. He is effective in all that he does. That's what we need in a Town Commissioner. Please join us for the PACC Candidate Forum on October 25 @ Town Hall.

VOTE EMBREY!

Local News

Poolesville Receives Prestigious Sustainable Maryland Certified Award at Maryland Municipal League Conference

By Rande Davis

The Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland announced that the Town of Poolesville was one of eight Maryland municipalities honored at the Sustainable Maryland Awards Ceremony at the Maryland Municipal League's annual fall conference last Friday in Annapolis.

Highlights of Poolesville's accomplishments include:

- Poolesville installed a solar array in 2013 comprised of 4,480 solar panels. The town also provides tours and education to the local high school and multiple other groups.
- The town has introduced Wellness Wednesdays, a series of free health and wellness seminars. The seminars are given by health professionals in their respective fields and are designed to raise awareness, educate, and provide useful strategies to our residents for making positive lifestyle changes.
- The Poolesville Community Garden continues to be a community-wide collaborative effort managed by a community committee and comprised of twenty-four raised beds.
- In 2016, the Town of Poolesville began expanding its Buy Local campaign, creating a bridge between residents and participating businesses.
- The town has eleven pet waste stations located in various town parks. They have conducted a pet waste outreach campaign, including brochures, pet waste leash attachments, and posters.

"Our recertification was accomplished through a combined effort by resident members of the Sustainable Poolesville Committee, town commissioners, and town staff to improve and ensure the quality of life of Poolesville residents for years to come and the town's long-term sustainability," said Commissioner Jerome Klobukowski

According to Mike Hunninghake, Program Manager for Sustainable Maryland, "This year's class of Sustainable Maryland Certified communities represents significant continued progress on sustainability issues, in small towns and large cities, from all across the state. The Green Teams, elected officials, and municipal staff that have accomplished so much provide both inspiration and real-world examples for their peers to follow."



Poolesville Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski proudly accepted a sustainability award on behalf of the town.

IT TAKES TEAMWORK TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY STRONGER!



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Sen. Brian Feldman
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Delegate Nominee Lily Qi
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Focus on Business

Watkins Cabinet Company: A Modern Showroom and Premium Custom Cabinetry in the Country

By Susan Petro

Who knew one could take a short drive to the country and just a few short months later have a dream kitchen or other custom home project come true: imagined, designed, and built all in one location and professionally-installed by craftsmen and women who have called Watkins Cabinets Company their workplace—many for decades

The modern showroom and manufacturing facility lie all under one roof on Sellman Road near the Barnesville train station. There, one can view a variety of kitchen layouts and cabinet choices. Customers can meet with a design expert who will help create the custom kitchen bathroom, office, or entertainment cabinetry that fits perfectly in the desired space. Additionally, they can even tour the facility to see exactly where and how their pieces are created. All of the custom cabinets in the showroom are built from start to finish on site.

Back in 1952, Wilbur and Jeannette Watkins first opened their custom cabinet-making business in Germantown before moving a few years later to their current location. Train tracks delineate the property to the rear, and farm fields across the street change with the seasons—not your typical location for a modern showroom or manufacturing facility. The Watkinses' goals were to be the best cabinetmakers in all of the D.C.-metro area.

Wilbur and Jeannette had three children when they originally opened their doors, but the family expanded to seven children over the years. Many of the children learned the cabinet-making trade from their parents. Sadly, Jeannette passed away a few years ago, and Wilbur is now retired from the company, but three of the now-grown children remain with the company which currently has a staff of fourteen.



Watkins Cabinet employees: Joshua Madison, Rex Schmidt, Clyde Lenhart, Rudy Day, Rick Thomas, Mark Crowe, Todd Rice, and Joan Watkins.

Joan, the oldest daughter, worked for the company as a teenager then left for college. She taught home economics in Massachusetts for eight years before returning to Watkins Cabinet Company in 1981. Joan spends much of her time designing kitchens and other projects. She loves to quilt when not working.

Son, Frank, was not yet born when the company first opened. He has spent his entire career with the company and most often can be found installing the finished cabinets. He also does design work. Frank enjoys camping in his spare time.

Youngest daughter, Gerri, also worked for the company as a teenager. She returned to the company in 2001 and crunches the numbers at the office. She also enjoys camping and making jewelry in her spare time.

The Watkins family relies on a team of long-term employees and craftsmen to bring their customers' design aspirations to life: anything from a custom bathroom vanity to an entertainment center for a family room to a completely renovated and redesigned kitchen with dozens of carefully-crafted cabinets to fit their customers' individual needs and wishes.

Continued on page 11.



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Continued from page 10.

Watkins Cabinet Company: A Modern Showroom and Premium Custom Cabinetry in the Country

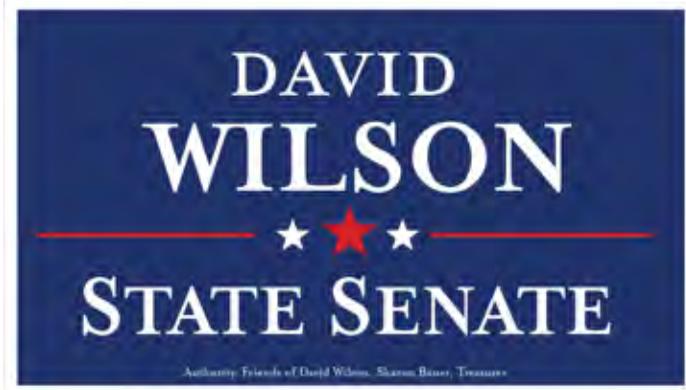
Many of the Watkins Cabinet Company employees have worked with the company for decades, including Rudell (Rudy) Day who started working there as a teen and sixty-plus years later is still going strong. He is known for his creative mind and ability to think outside the box to design the perfect kitchen or other family space.

According to foreman, Rick Thomas, Rudy is not only known for his design expertise but also for his military-like precision when it comes to scheduling installations once the cabinets are completed. When a project is ready for installation, Rudy makes sure the electricians, plumbers, and other contractors are lined up and ready to do their part on a tight schedule to ensure that the project is completed in a timely manner with as little disruption to the client as possible.

In addition to employing a top-notch team of craftspeople, the company is very particular with the outside contractors necessary to complete each project. "We are very selective on who we have work for us," said Thomas, referring to the network of outside contractors who work in harmony with the Watkins Cabinet team to ensure each client receives a first-class, quality finished project built to the highest standards.

When visiting their showroom that has numerous kitchen layouts and cabinet choices, one should be sure to ask for a tour of the manufacturing facility in the rear of the building. Inside the spacious, modern work area, a team of expert craftsmen is busy cutting, crafting, creating, painting, and getting each custom cabinet ready for installation in a client's home. Computer-generated blueprints hang throughout the workspaces to guide each expert craftsman through the precision building process.

Thomas has worked for Watkins Cabinet Company for forty-three years. On a recent tour of the facility, Thomas showed great pride in the workmanship that goes into the construction and finishing of each custom cabinet, including mitered corners and dovetailed drawers. "We build cabinets the way they used to be built," said Thomas, who refers to himself and his coworkers as craftsmen instead of builders, "because a lot of people can build stuff, but it takes a lot of skill and precise cuts to turn out the quality, finished products that we are known for."



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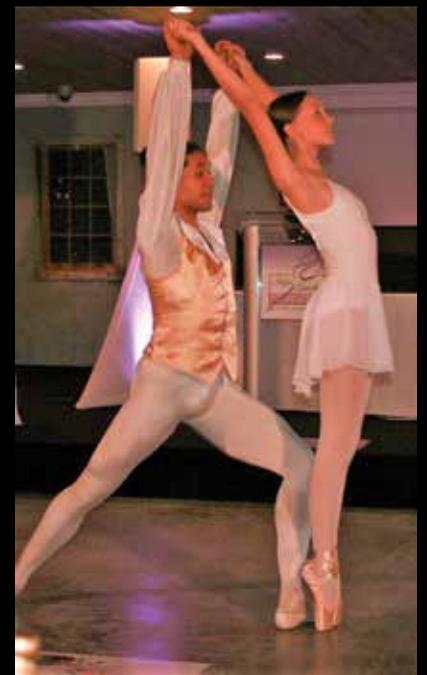
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The historic Aix-la-Chapelle plantation in Beallsville was the site for the Hope Garden Ballet Academy celebration.



The celebration was graced with a special performance.



Current HGBA students pitched in to help with the celebration of twenty years of beautiful dance.

Hope Garden
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Celebration



The entire Jones Family received a special award for their tireless support and contributions to Fran and Hope Garden Ballet. Fran, Claire Bear, Beth and Jeff Jones, and Gracie (Jones) Hedgpeth, along with "auctioneer" Jim Brown.



Laura Davis, Zak Etheridge, Andrea Medrano, and Skip and Faith Etheridge.



Ballerinas Cecilia Zeranski, Charlotte Vogel, and Elizabeth Vinokurov.



Special guests for the evening were these former students and their dates.



Sonnie and Dave Wilson with Sharon and Hap Bauer.



Dominique Agnew and Becky Ross of Violinsanity struck just the right chord to set the mood for the gathering of ballet patrons.



Yoshi and Fran Ichijo, HGBA artistic director and founder (far right), shared the joy of the celebration with friends.



Celebrating together are Robert Hanson, Laura Baxter, and Elizabeth Ohman. Later, everyone sang happy birthday to Elizabeth, too.

Continued from page 7.

Autumn Splendor

large decayed limbs, remove them now. They could damage you or your house if they come down in a winter storm. If they are large, hire a professional tree service. Many people are injured or killed tackling jobs that are too big for them.

4. Sorry to tell you to weed, but it will reduce the pesky weeds next spring.
5. Now is a good time to plant new shrubs and trees.
6. Want some free, best-ever mulch? Grind up the fallen leaves with your lawn mower and spread over your flower gardens. I do it every year.
7. Clean your garden tools and put them away in a shed for the winter. Quality tools are expensive and worth maintaining.
8. Plant containers are susceptible to winter freezing, especially those made of terra-cotta. Empty containers that aren't frost-proof and store in a protected area. Drain your garden hoses and store inside and don't forget to turn off the outside water tap.
9. Give all of your plants and trees a good drink. Their roots need plenty of moisture to make it through the upcoming months. We have had a lot of rain this summer, but the ground can quickly dry up.
10. Protect cold-sensitive plants. Some shrubs, roses, and perennials might succumb to the blast of cold, winter winds, especially if they are in an unprotected, open area of the garden. I have not done this much in the past, but this year I am going to heavily mulch my newly-planted *Agapanthus*. Place these frost barriers after the first freeze.

You don't have to do all these chores right away; you still have some time, depending on how the weather develops.

Before the cold days of November come, go out to the garden as the sun sets, read Keats's poem "To Autumn," and enjoy your own glowing autumn garden.

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Continued from page 4.

Loudoun County Plays the Long Game

usually perseveres, eventually." I think "prevails" would have been a better word choice, but I get the point.

What will be the will of Maryland voters in two, four, or ten years? What are we doing to shape that opinion? How do those who live in the Ag Reserve and those who treasure the Ag Reserve keep everyone else on board? The will of the people will indeed persevere, and it will almost certainly prevail, one way or the other, someday.

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Youth Sports

PHS Boys' Soccer Celebrates More Wins; Goal At Damascus Makes ESPN Highlight Reel

By Jeff Stuart

The turnaround in the fortunes of the Falcons' soccer team started last season with some hard-fought and long-awaited wins after some lean years. It has continued in 2018 as the team continues to improve and to play an entertaining style of soccer. They are having fun and enjoying their success.

"I'm very excited about our season so far," said boys' soccer coach Mike Wills with his team coming off back-to-back away wins over Blake on October 2 and rival Damascus on October 4. "The boys' hard work at practice is starting to show up in our games. We've hit the halfway point of our season, and our record is 3-4. We have let in less than half as many goals as last season and have scored twice as many as we did at this point last season. Our game against Blake on October 2 was very exciting. We scored our first goal off a corner by junior Josh Widenhofer. The ball was crossed and bounced around the goal mouth, and then our exchange student, Jonas Eriksen, a junior, scored his first goal of the season—and his first goal in America! That was very exciting for him and the team. Later in the game, off a corner, freshman Nico Carrillo took a shot that deflected off of a defender's head and into the goal to seal our 2-1 victory.

"Two nights later, we had a tremendous win over Damascus, a 1-0 shutout for freshman goalie, Jonah Valmonte, backed by stellar defense by senior captain Dominic Lanasa, senior Alex Firestine, Widenhofer, junior Zack Fedders, and sophomore Jason Daniels. Our goal came in the first five minutes of the game. Eric Jung took the ball down the right sideline, and then made a beautiful pass back to an open Fedders. Zack took a touch, and then connected on a beautiful shot from forty-five yards out to the top left corner of the goal—an amazing shot that made number three on ESPN Sports Center's Top 10 Plays of the Day. Senior captain Andrew Tarus had several goal-scoring attempts and kept the Damascus defense extremely busy the entire game. Sophomores, Eric Jung and Jay Doshi,



PHS varsity soccer seniors: Alex Firestine, Adiat Muyeen, Dominic Lanasa, Timmy Bentz, and Andrew Taurus.

and juniors Brad Blair, AJ Poore, and Jonas Eriksen, controlled the midfield most of the game with great passing and hustle, making it difficult for Damascus to build their attack. Two wins in three days: I can't say enough about the bond this team has formed. Our motto is: 'Team is better than Talent when Talent isn't a Team.' We know we will face teams that may be technically more talented than we are, but I know we won't find a team that plays with more passion and desire. I look forward to our upcoming games and the playoffs in a couple of weeks."

Continued on page 26.



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Center Stage

Beallsville's Sculptor: David Therriault And the Countryside Artisans of Maryland

By Andie Devynck

Local artist David Therriault, a sculptor, gardener, and owner of Alden Farms, is passionate about art in, around, from, and of the Agricultural Reserve. David's indoor and outdoor mixed-media works in stone and iron are well-placed about his farm's grounds as well as in the homes, gardens, and public and private spaces all along the East Coast from Washington, D.C. to New York to Nova Scotia. His art plays on themes of geometric figures: circles, squares, triangles, rectangles, and trapezoids.

He incorporates bells and wind chimes in some, whimsical iron gate and flower work in others. His stonework's bold and nuanced carvings stylistically remind the viewer at times of the millstones of yesteryear, vertical sundials, and traditional expressions of Native American desert landscapes, Japanese wood-block cuts, and ancient Chinese coins. One piece resembles an upscaled trailhead directional marker while others echo the angular patterns of Frank Lloyd Wright, Stickley, Mission, and Craftsman homes and furniture. Some are functional—outdoor tables and waterfall fountain—while others portray artistic imagery of animals and humans.

David says this of his work: "My sculptures are an abstract take on ancient symbols. My carving represents external influences that wear on the soul of an object but never take it all away. There is always something left holding on, persevering and resisting change. I do not collect stones from nature for those stones have avoided man's improvements for centuries. We would do well to just visit those stones and see them for what they are: the soul of the Earth, something that our manipulations cannot improve. Let them whisper; it's what they do."

"I find stones that have been stolen, asked to change, ripped, chopped, moved, and piled for consumption. I try to tell their stories which always end the same way: The sand turned to glass, the iron to liquid. All return to the rock they began with, and all form the silent whisper of a soul unchangeable. That said, really, I just like to bang on rocks, and it gives people something to say that I do for a living."

David is a member of a larger collection of artists, the Countryside Artisans of Maryland (CAM) whose motto is "Art Makes a Home." Beginning in late September and running through mid-November, CAM's work at the Sandy Spring Museum in Sandy Spring includes several of David's pieces. The collection is entitled *Home Before Sunset: Celebration of a Rural Community*.

CAM describes their theme through the lens of history: "In 1814, the Quakers built their meeting house in Sandy Spring village. A six-mile radius from the

Continued on page 21



Sculptor David Therriault.



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Remembrance

Ralph L. Fink

Ralph L. "Joe" Fink, 80, formerly of Boyds, died on October 5.

Born on January 16, 1938, he was the son of the late Talmage Matthew and Pearl Leola (Webster) Fink.

Joe loved collecting anything, especially locks and keys. For years, he picked up trash off the many roads he walked throughout the Boyds and Clarksburg areas only for the county trash people to complain. Joe loved to play checkers, and only a very few could beat him at the game. He also liked shooting dice with his friends and family and catching snakes. Joe was a unique and very colorful character.

The family would like to thank all his caregivers at the ARC of Baltimore, especially Ms. Donna, Will, and Alfred, who have cared for him the longest.

Surviving are three sisters, Sharon Diane True, Debbie and Pattie Poole; and one brother, John Kleep. Joe was preceded in death by five brothers, Paul, Talmadge, Harold, Otha, Lloyd, and Robert Fink; and two sisters, Shirley Wills Fink and Donna Smith. He leaves behind many nieces and nephews.

The family suggest, in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Epilepsy Foundation (epilepsy.com).



Ralph L. Fink



Continued from page 18.

Poolesville's Sculptor: David Therriault and the Countryside Artisans of Maryland

Sandy Spring Meeting House defined that rural community, as this was the farthest members of the Meeting could travel to and from the meeting house by horse or carriage in one day, arriving home before sunset. Today, we can travel far further than six miles in one day and still be home by sunset, but the foundation of a rural community still lies within that day trip up here in the Agricultural Reserve."

CAM also holds four yearly Countryside Artisans Tours. A free, self-guided experience, the art lover can visit eighteen different galleries, studios (including David's), breweries, and vineyards. There are over fifty visual, fiber, sculptural, and beverage artists whose artistry you admire and purchase, and with whom you can engage in conversation regarding their process, their livelihoods, and their love for the Ag Reserve. The remaining two tours take place on the weekends of November 30 to December 2 and December 7 to 9. If you plan on setting out on the journey, visit CountrysideArtisans.com to download artist information as well as a tour application and map for your smart phone. Watch for the yellow flags!



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Tribute

An Exit Interview With Town Commissioner Stump

By Rande Davis

Chuck Stump served the Town of Poolesville as a commissioner since 2010. We wanted to extend gratitude for that voluntary service and to obtain his perspective on town government and his advice going forward. We did this in an "exit interview" format.

a referendum. I saw that as another example of a semi-dysfunctional town government and a good example of poor transparency and communications from the commissioners to the citizens. I successfully ran for office in a contested election in 2010, primarily on transparency and communications.

What were the highlights of your time and contributions?

I am very proud of the new town website as well as our use of social media (Twitter, FaceBook) and YouTube to expand access to town information/documentation and to better communicate with the town residents. Over the past eight years,



Andrea and Chuck Stump. When one person serves, so does the other.

Why did you decide to run in the first place?

In 2008, the town was still coming out of the Saudi annexation timeframe. There was still animosity and division among the commissioners. It was a very ugly time in Poolesville. About that time, a sitting commissioner had to resign due to family problems, and a special election was being held. Initially, it looked like a commissioner who was just voted out of office in the last election was going to run unopposed for the vacant seat in the special election. That served as the catalyst for me to run the first time. As it turned out, Jim Brown and I were the two candidates in that special election, and Jim won. I made a campaign promise that, if I were to lose, I would apply for a seat on the planning commission—and that is how I became a member of the planning commission in 2008.

When the next election came around in 2010, there was an uproar over a large set of town charter changes being proposed. The citizens pushed back on these proposed changes and got most of them added to the ballot as

the commissioners have significantly improved town infrastructure including, but not limited to, water and sewer improvements. We have also worked to reduce the town's debts and ensure that Poolesville remains in a very healthy financial situation. Also, the overall business development and marketing strategy championed by Jim Brown and me have paved the way for Dollar General, Tractor Supply, Dunkin' Donuts, the new market, and many other businesses that call Poolesville home and provide significant benefits to our residents. Lastly, I am also happy that we have finally taken over the county roads within town limits.

What things disappointed you the most?

My biggest regret is that we have not been able to complete the process of taking over Fisher Avenue from Wootton Avenue to Route 109. There are significant safety issues that can be solved if the town can gain control over that stretch of road.

Continued on page 24



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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Assault: 19600 block of Fisher Avenue.

Vandalism: 17400 block of Hughes Road, 17300 block of Chiswell Road.

Theft: 19200 block of Munger Farm Road.

Past Crime: 1942

Montgomery officer John A. Smith was driving his son to school on Forest Glen Road when he struck a child that was walking on the roadway. Smith immediately stopped and placed the child in the backseat and rushed him to the Washington Sanitarium where the child was pronounced dead. A technical charge of homicide was placed against Smith, but the grand jury later did not indict.

The FBI requested the assistance of the police while they searched the homes of several aliens in the county. They seized a shortwave radio set, a shotgun, camera, and binoculars. No one was arrested. The law at that time required aliens to turn over such items to the FBI.

Two men from Kentucky were arrested by county police after several complaints from businessowners. The men were going door to door asking for donations for the "Defense for America" fund. They carried with them a letter purportedly signed by important government officials, including Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, the wife of the president.

Two prisoners escaped from the Montgomery County jail, and a dramatic manhunt followed. It was reported that one man, who was being held on a rape charge, was cutting another man's hair in a cell. An assistant warden happened by and entered the cell. One of the men struck the warden over the head with a sock filled with bars of soap, rendering the warden unconscious. Both then fled with the warden's keys and were able to make it out the front door and were chased through the streets of Rockville. Later that night, the men were traced to a house in northwest Washington which was surrounded, and eventually the wanted men gave up.

The big football game between Bethesda-Chevy Chase High and Montgomery Blair was in doubt after principals from each school met to

discuss the vandalism and fighting that had occurred throughout the week. Blair's building was vandalized, presumably by B-CC students; in retaliation, Blair students left class and formed a caravan and drove to B-CC where they confronted students on the lawn of the school. Police were called,

and all of the Blair students were rounded up and escorted back to Silver Spring where they were turned over to the principal.

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

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Continued from page 5.

Town Commissioners Consider Issues Surrounding the Deployment of Advanced Broadband Wireless Technology

for local governments to ensure that their costs are covered and that small cell companies bear their fair share of local tax burdens.

In discussing the issue, commissioners acknowledged that they do not want to stand in the way of a new and important technology that would benefit the community, but they also want to ensure that any deployment is done carefully and with appreciation for the character of local neighborhoods.

After considering a range of options, the commissioners settled on a three-part strategy: First, they will write to their members of Congress, urging them to stop the FCC's action (the FCC has not yet published its new rules and once it does so, they must sit for ninety days before they can be implemented); second, the commissioners asked town staff to look at other towns and model legislation to see what kinds of policies make sense in dealing with these new systems; and third, the commissioners tasked the planning commission to look in more detail at the issue, particularly how the new technology works and how deployment might proceed; they expect the commission to give them a better understanding of what to expect once companies begin to get serious about deployment, which is likely to be some years off.

The commissioners next considered a budget amendment to fully fund the construction of Well 11, a new well house and pump. The well, which is located south of town near Westerly, has been under development since around 2000. It is a high-yielding well that would add greatly to the town's water supply. The town tried to bid out work to build a pump house and the pumping system for Well 11 months ago but received no bids; it recently tried again and received a bid that came in at nearly a million dollars.

Changing strategies, the town decided to be its own "prime contractor" and manage the subcontracts for plumbing, electrical work, and construction in an attempt to cut costs. Bids came in at around \$660,000 but added to the nearly \$100,000 that has already been spent on developing the well; the total exceeds the amount in the budget line item that is needed to complete the well. The commissioners voted unanimously to approve an additional \$185,000 (including contingencies) to complete the project.

During the town manager's report, questions came up regarding the status of two projects that have been of great interest to residents: the construction of a new grocery market and the Dunkin' Donuts store. Details concerning the delays of the two projects are on the front page of this issue of the *Monocacy Monocle*.

Continued from page 22.

An Exit Interview with Town Commissioner Stump

My biggest disappointment is the ugliness, fear, and misunderstandings that surrounded the proposed Wilshire development last year.

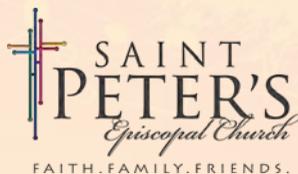
What are the things most misunderstood by the public toward commissioner(s)?

Probably the single largest misconception that I have had to educate people on is that water is not a limiting factor on growth in town. The limiting factor is sewer capacity. Coming in a close second and highly-related is that the town government has very limited abilities to restrict/prevent growth. If the resources are available (water, sewer, etc.), if the land is available, and if zoning allows the use, then we as a government cannot arbitrarily prevent people from using their property. The key here is to control growth and direct it in a way that benefits the residents and businesses in town.

Advice to the town going forward?

Complete the takeover of Fisher Avenue and implement many of the changes in the newly-adopted master plan as quickly as possible. This includes replacing the current "passing" lanes with a safer center-turn lane and installing new crosswalks and signage. Recognize that this will not come for free and that the town needs to make an investment very soon.

I want to thank my wife Andrea for putting up with the long hours, stress, and occasional aggravation that comes with being a commissioner and her amazing patience for me answering people's questions and talking to concerned citizens when we are out for a nice dinner. Thanks, honey, and I love you!



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Continued from page 1.

Ghosts of the Canal

the towpath. Dirt was also thrown along the Potomac River side of the towpath when the river was a good distance from the canal. I see Seneca red sandstones that were laid by canal workers at locks, culverts, and aqueducts. At one culvert, there is "1832" carved in a ring stone. I see chisel marks in the stones made by Seneca Quarry workers. Stones at locks and the old iron fence at the Monocacy Aqueduct show impressions caused by the ropes on the canal boats being pulled through. Workers died creating the canal and are buried in unmarked graves in the woods. Sometimes when I leave the towpath, I come across a small pile of stones or a ground impression the size of a grave. I wonder if these are graves of canal workers. Two different times, I have come across skeletal remains in streams flowing from culverts. Each time, I cautiously approached the remains and wondered if I should call 911 as ribs came closer into view. Both times, I saw that they were deer skeletons.

One day in October 2017, I was walking up the towpath from Edwards Ferry (Lock 25) towards White's Ferry on a cloudy late afternoon with my dog Violet; the brisk breeze caused leaves to fall. As we walked under the canopy of trees, the towpath became eerily darker. We stopped near milepost 34 to take a water break and to listen to the nearby sounds in the woods. I noticed a very large island across from where we rested. I could hear what sounded like screams of crying babies being tortured in the woods. I wondered what I was hearing. I thought they could be foxes or raccoons. Violet began whimpering, and she abruptly stood up, pulling on her leash which told me she was ready to move along. We proceeded quickly up the towpath to White's Ferry and left the unnerving sounds of the dark woods behind.

I learned that that stretch of the canal passes Harrison Island which is next to where the Battle of Ball's Bluff was fought in Virginia on October 21, 1861. Retreating Union soldiers scaled down the eighty-foot cliff known as Ball's Bluff. Confederate soldiers fired down on the retreating soldiers, killing many. Soldiers who made it to the river attempted to board one of the four rowboats to cross to Harrison Island, or they attempted to swim across the Potomac to the island. Soldiers, weighed down by their wet uniforms, drowned attempting to swim. Those that stripped and were not shot made it to the island. The Confederates had two cannons that fired upon the fleeing soldiers. Four overloaded boats swamped, sinking and drowning many soldiers. Soldiers who made it to the island received medical attention from William Henry Harrison, a Leesburg, Virginia lawyer at the farmhouse he owned. There were 223 Union soldiers killed and 36 Confederate soldiers killed. Over one hundred Union soldiers drowned. For several days after the battle, dead Union soldiers were found along the banks of the Potomac River—even as far as Washington, D.C. The Ball's Bluff National Cemetery holds fifty-four graves of Union dead, of which fifty-three are unknown and James Allen of the 15th Massachusetts Infantry.

After the battle, this stretch of the canal was known as Haunted House Bend. It was believed that Haunted House Bend was haunted by spirits of dead Union soldiers. Every boat captain and crew thought this stretch was haunted. The mules would move quickly along the towpath in this area, and boat captains made sure to get beyond the Bend before nightfall. I do know mules are very

intelligent, quick learners and are aware of changes in their environment. It seems to me that the sounds and smell of battle gunfire, the sight and sounds of troops along the towpath during and after the battle, including the smell of death as well as disturbing the landscape was noticed by the canal mules. No wonder mules hurried along this stretch of the canal. The mules were used to the quiet monotony of the canal. Maybe from the reaction of the mules, the boatmen and crew reacted by thinking this area was indeed haunted. Did Violet sense the spirits of the dead Union soldiers, or did we in fact hear animal sounds on that late afternoon on October 21, 2017. Violet and I hope to make another visit to Haunted House Bend on October 21, 2018.

Continued from page 6.

Tidbits

night. We don't know the categories, but we are told the winners were: Jim Snider, Jane Thompson, Jade Butler, Steve Vogel, and David Wagner.



The chili cooks in Barnesville are Jim Snider, Jane Thompson, Jade Butler, Steve Vogel, and David Wagner.

JPMS Holiday Gifts for Troops

John Poole Middle School students kicked off their annual military holiday drive on October 17. The school will be sending items one of our eighth grader's fathers (and his unit) stationed in Afghanistan.

While gifts are gathered from the school students and faculty, the general public is also invited to provide gifts. Funds are also being raised to cover the cost of mailing the holiday gifts to Afghanistan. Poolesville's American Legion is planning to donate money for postage as well as the PTA. Others wanting to help with this expense may email Lori_L_Kocur@mcpsmd.org or mail or drop off a check (payable to JPMS) at the school; cash is also acceptable.

Annual Ride Bike/Walk Day

The annual National Ride/Walk Day was held on October 10. With a tip of the hat to a more healthy lifestyle, this event encourages students to bike or walk to school.

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Continued from page 16.

PHS Boys' Soccer Celebrates More Wins; Goal at Damascus Makes ESPN Highlight Reel

The Falcons lost to Damascus, 5-1, last season. The improvement is evident. "We are having tremendous growth," said Lanasa, a defender. "Everyone is very excited about what is going on. We are working hard in practice doing everything we can to improve. We are seeing that effort translate into good

results in games. We had a great win against Watkins Mill. We came back from three goals behind to win it. We lost badly to them last year, 6-3. We are playing better against pretty much every team we play...The feeling of winning after losing so much is incredible."

"This season has been wonderful so far," said Tarus, a striker. "We had that great win against Watkins Mill. Doshi scored the winning goal for us with just thirty-nine seconds left. It was just our first win of the season, but hopefully

there will be more. This is my second year at Poolesville, and I have seen tremendous growth as a team. I feel very confident in the team and the way Coach Wills has coached us."

In the first game following the win over Watkins Mill, they nearly repeated that comeback magic, rallying for two late goals before losing to Seneca Valley, 3-2, at home on September 22. At the time, Tarus was looking forward to the back-to-back games against Blake and Damascus, hoping to pick up the team's

second and third wins. They did.

Other seniors are Timmy Bentz, a midfielder and defender, and Adiat Muyeen, a defender.

Other juniors are Colin Staszewski, Keegan Morrison, Christian Kim, Joe Esser, Jason Sladic, Shawn Bolten, Brad Blair, Frankie Willard, and Cameron Carney. Coaches are Luke Fedders and Karl Mihm. The Falcons closed out the regular season with an away game against Paint Branch on October 18.

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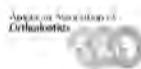
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Celebrating 30 Years of Service

The Halloween Ghouls for Pets Take the Form of Unattended Candy!

By Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF

It's a trick-or-treating tradition: Dump the night's candy haul onto the living room floor to pick out the gems, or do some horse trading with siblings or friends.

The excitement—and sugar rush—may leave humans unaware that all that candy might just be a lethal grab away for their hovering pet dogs and cats. Generally, pet owners likely know what their animals should and shouldn't eat, but they may not know why. Our four-legged family members can't metabolize candy like humans.

Chocolate, for instance, contains caffeine and a compound called theobromine, which can be toxic in certain doses to both dogs and cats. Cats can't taste sweet so aren't necessarily as drawn to chocolate as dogs. Theobromine is more concentrated in darker chocolates, so that type is particularly perilous, while white chocolate has none.

Symptoms of chocolate upset include digestive upset (vomiting, diarrhea), restlessness, hyperactivity, and trembling.

Then there's xylitol, a sugar substitute found in some sugarless gums and candies. It can cause hypoglycemia, seizures, and even liver failure in dogs. Symptoms of xylitol poisoning can include vomiting, weakness, lack of coordination, unconsciousness, and coma leading to death.

It is important to keep Halloween candy secured in a location out of the animal's reach. Containers with a secure lid are only safe if they are out of reach. Dogs especially love to open the unopenable. Secure lids will also prevent any possible encounters and reduce the smell. Many animals are attracted to the novel scent of the candy.

Beyond candy, one other major threat to animals is the ingestion of glow sticks. Cats especially love to chew on these objects. The chemicals in these toys can cause severe drooling, mouth irritation, and can be quite painful to your pets.

Some traditional high-sugar candies popular at Halloween may not necessarily be life threatening but can still cause digestive upset in dogs if consumed in large amounts.

What's inside all those wrappers isn't the only potential problem. Wrappers themselves can be problematic for pets. Dogs that find candy lying around the house often consume the wrappers along with the candy, which can cause bowel irritation and potentially blockages.

If you suspect your dog or cat may have snuck into some candy and is having digestive upset, first seek supervision from your veterinarian or an emergency veterinary facility. The ASPCA animal poison hotline (888-426-4435) is also a great place for help if it gets to be later in the evening. Do not give any of the human over-the-counter GI medications unless directed by a veterinarian.

Some seasonal superfoods that dogs and cats can enjoy while the humans live it up on Halloween include pumpkin. The rinds make for a great source of soluble fiber to support proper digestion. Apples are an excellent source of phytonutrients that support the overall health of pets. Lentils are also a great source of dietary fiber for a healthy digestive system, providing folate and magnesium as well to support heart health. Most pet bakeries and pet stores stock up on safe seasonal and Halloween-themed treats. So make sure you have safe alternatives for your costume wearing furry friends on All Hallows' Eve.



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