

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

November 16, 2018 • Volume XIV, Number 18



Local marines celebrated their 243rd birthday in town. Find out where in Family Album on page 2.



Marines, Butch Mezick and Jeff Cessna, oldest and youngest, got the first pieces of the U.S. Marine Corps birthday cake. See more in Family Album on page 2.



The Blue Hearth beat Black Friday! Read about them and their holiday weekends in Focus on Business on page 5.



Dr. Pike is smiling since all this candy goes to deserving military serving overseas—better than his patients. See Tidbits on page 6.

Brown and Cook Elected to Town Commission

By Rande Davis

Town of Commission president Jim Brown and PES PTA president Kerri Cook were elected in the November 7 election. Resident Danny Embrey had a strong showing but was unsuccessful in overcoming either of the two candidates. The final tally was Cook with 1,249 votes, Brown at 1,024, and Embrey at 1,014. Each voter could potentially vote for two of the candidates. With thirty-nine percent of registered Poolesville voters casting a ballot, all three candidates received more than fifty percent of all potential votes. There is no way to determine the number of “bullet” voters, those who chose to vote for only one candidate rather than exercising their right to select two.

The campaign kicked off right around Labor Day when Cook held an announcement event at Whalen Commons for supporters and well-wishers. This was Brown’s third successful campaign for commissioner



Re-elected town Commissioner Jim Brown with Commissioner-elect Kerri Cook.

while this was Embrey’s first foray into town politics.

Cook’s strong involvement in voluntary activities in the town, such as the PES PTA and Sustainable Poolesville, and endorsement by the

leadership of Protect Out Poolesville, provided a significant base of supporters. Brown’s extensive experience in town leadership governmentally and

Continued on page 21.

PASC: Dynamic Living for Area Seniors

By Rande Davis

Like a locomotive that starts off slow until reaching full speed ahead, the Poolesville Area Senior Center, in approaching its fifth anniversary this December, has become a vigorous and diverse service program for seniors living in the Upcounty.

Its origins began modestly through the vision of Rabbi David Shneyer at the Am Kolel Sanctuary in Beallsville, but its true potential began to unfold once it relocated to the Poolesville Baptist Church’s Family Life Center, was financially nurtured through support from the Town of Poolesville, and recently became an official 501(c) (3) entity. While not officially associated with the church, the partnership has provided a facility for PASC’s extensive programs that include arts and crafts, educational seminars, healthy living classes, loads of entertainment, game and movie nights, appropriate

sport and exercise classes like pickleball and Zumba gold, and amazing dinner theater, live concerts, and bus trips to the Kennedy Center, Strathmore, and other venues outside of the area.

As a community social club for persons aged fifty-five or older, PASC programs are almost always perfect for singles as well as couples. Most of the programs are free to the participants while other events like attending live theater and concerts do charge for the cost of the entrance and transportation, usually via chartered bus. Through the years, members have developed new and lasting friendships while also nurturing previous and longstanding ones.

Through the guidance of its board of directors, Carl Brill, Richard Norwood, Maria Briançon, Judy Ohr, Grace Routhier, Cora Coakley, Melissa Rose,



It was a fabulous (and educational) presentation by Mary Ann Jung portraying Rosie the Riveter at the latest PASC special event. Check them out for all that is coming!

Continued on page 13.

Family Album



It was a battle of the genders when the boys and girls of U10 soccer challenged each other in a day of competition. Who won? They both did!



Rosie the Riveter (a.k.a. Mary Ann Jung) welcomed FDR and wife Eleanor (Carl and Joy Brill) to her factory at a recent PASC special birthday event.



Barnesville School third, fifth, and sixth graders received a special behind-the-scenes tour of the U.S. Capitol, including a visit to the offices of the Speaker of the House, the Speaker's Balcony, and the House Floor.



Danny Glazier and Haley Adams (center) from Cugini's helped marines Julien Singh and Butch Zachrel in celebrating the 243rd anniversary of the U.S. Marine Corps.



The local marines and fellow military supports gathered at Cugini's to celebrate the 243rd birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps.



If you ever see a whole bunch of young girls racing around Whalen Commons, it will be a great help club at PES called Girls on the Run. They can climb rocks, too—and soon will be climbing mountains.

Local News

Adventist Medical Group to Close Office of Dr. Hector Asuncion after Forty-Five Years

By Link Hoewing

The medical office operated by Dr. Hector Asuncion will be closing on December 1 after forty-five years of service. When Dr. Asuncion first came to town, only three hundred people lived here. His first office was in a house near St. Peter's Church. He bought the house where his practice is currently located across from the high school in the 1980s.

As Dr. Asuncion explained, however, he may own the building but not the practice. Five years ago, he contracted with the Adventist Medical Group and George Washington University Hospital. This contract allows him to focus solely on seeing patients while the Adventist Medical Group takes care of all of the administrative work and insurance claims. He said the arrangement worked well until earlier this summer when Adventist asked him to cut back on his hours.

Dr. Asuncion said Adventist recently told him they were closing the practice altogether. He said that he is not retiring and does not want to stop providing care in Poolesville. "I love Poolesville," he said more than once in an interview, but he acknowledged that, under the contract, he has no say on whether or not the practice continues. He is forbidden from offering services in Poolesville, even in his own building.

Adventist Medical Group released a statement: It is "making the difficult decision to close its part-time location on West Willard Drive on December 1, due to our commitment to offer more services at larger primary care practices compared to one-physician locations." It should be noted that the office can only be characterized as "part-time" because Adventist forced Dr. Asuncion to cut back his hours earlier this summer.

Adventist continued: This office closure means it can "expand our care with more appointments during the week, additional support staff, increased physician coverage...and more access to other healthcare services such as imaging..." They added that they remain partners with Dr. Asuncion who also manages a practice out of a Germantown location. In a letter to its patients sent on October 19, Adventist said that they "will work to make your transition to our Germantown location as seamless as possible."

Dr. Asuncion said that he is worried about many of his patients at his Poolesville practice. Many are elderly and have difficulty getting around. He said that he was told the reason for the closure had to do with "cost."

Catherine Beliveau, the executive director of the local charitable and services organization Western Upper Montgomery County Help or WUMCO, sent a letter to the president of Adventist Health Care, Terry Forde, asking him to reconsider the decision to close the Poolesville office. As she stated in her letter, "We have no clinics of any kind in the Western County...many of our elderly clients in particular relied on Dr. Asuncion and his Poolesville office for checkups and consultation."

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- 🎁 Toy train layout will be in full operation



Commentary

It's Still Hard To Turn Left

By John Clayton

More information has been revealed on the flashing traffic lights in Boyds. I wondered in my last column if they would ever display a full red, green, etc. Then my wife told me that she had indeed seen the lights fully functional. I should note here that one does not stay happily married for thirty-seven years and counting by saying things like, "No, you're wrong; they're still flashing," so I bided my time and awaited more data.

Apparently, my failure to observe this phenomenon was because I generally pass through Boyds at around 9:05 a.m., and the lights are only in full operation during the morning rush hour. This was confirmed by my friend and fellow Monocacy Lion, Hammett Hough, who knows all things Boyds. He explained the morning rush hour strategy to me. I asked, "Why not the afternoon rush? Have they never attempted to turn left from Barnesville Road towards the lake during the afternoon rush hour?" The trickle of cars from commuters on Clopper Road who have rolled through the stop sign without actually stopping is relentless. Hough began to explain to me why the State of Maryland Department of Transportation doesn't want people to turn left there, but I soon inferred that he was laughing at me, so I won't include this testimony in print at this time.

Of more interest, I'm sure, would be the recent elections. Statewide, the big news was that Gov. Larry Hogan won quite handily in our extremely Democratic state. I am curious about how he fared in our local precincts, but that information, according to the Montgomery County Board of Elections, won't be available for another couple of weeks or so while the state collects and validates results from all the individual counties. While Hogan won with 56% of the vote statewide, he did not fare as well in the counties surrounding Washington, D.C. Montgomery County went solidly for Ben Jealous, 54% to 45%. Prince George's outdid that, with Jealous

winning 71% to 28%, and in Baltimore City, Jealous won 63% versus 32% for Hogan. I don't think our second-term Poolesville Day-attending governor is too worried about those urban outliers, a trend that mirrors our national blue-red divide. He pretty much waltzed everywhere else and clearly carried many Democratic Party voters.

The Montgomery County Council results looked to my amateur's eye like voters pretty much went for the party line. This was most evident on the four at-large seats where the four winners and the four losers were all clustered around similar vote counts, with the Democratic candidates pulling about 75% and the Republicans about 23%. In other words, there didn't seem to be significant differentiation among the candidates other than by party, although I did note that the one incumbent pulled the fewest votes among the four winners. Once again, the primaries were the main event for the county council, while the governor defied that and proved that the individual candidate can still make a significant difference.

The county executive race also, with no disrespect intended for the winner, seemed to suggest that straight ticket voting made a difference. I got the impression from the people I talked to that this might be a close race, what with Nancy Floreen running a fear-based campaign (I got a lot of mail to support that statement) with some expressing the thought that perhaps Marc Elrich and she would split the Democratic vote and open the door for Robin Ficker. Clearly none of this happened as Elrich got 64% of the vote and neither of his opponents got out of the teens.

The question remains: What will this portend for the Upcounty and the Agricultural Reserve? Elrich is regarded by many out here as a friend and a supporter, he has been a regular attendee at events in our area, and he is knowledgeable about our concerns. Hopefully, at least one of the four at-large councilmembers will pick up this banner and make themselves as well-known and trusted as Elrich. Maybe one of them will determine this is potentially a career-enhancing thing to do. It worked for Elrich.

On that note, I hope everyone has a safe and happy Thanksgiving Day. Thanks for reading and supporting the *Monocle*.

Rande(m) Thoughts

Grateful Hearts Make Great-full Smiles

By Rande Davis

With a little over one week until Thanksgiving Day, my thoughts naturally turn toward my annual list of things to be grateful for with hungry anticipation for the feast to come.

In a world of immense turmoil, I am reassured, knowing that my family and true friends are sources of comfort and strength.

Living in our area is, indeed, somewhat like living in a social cocoon separate from the harsh world beyond. That being said, here is my list of gratitude for Thanksgiving 2018.

Despite life's challenges and the perpetual need for God's grace, the family is essentially strong and remains hopeful. I also love that some of my grandchildren are still young enough to believe in Santa. Simply sharing the love amongst us is most important, of course, but reliving the childhood mystery of an airborne philanthropist surrounded by elves and flawed reindeer is so much fun. Besides, where else would we ever get to use the word jolly?

Despite regaining a bit of the weight lost in 2017, my health is generally good. Although, at over seventy, I admire the Dutchman who recently petitioned his courts to allow him to change his certified age from sixty-nine to forty-nine. He is even willing to give up his pension rights earned to be declared younger. He argues that if he feels younger, then why not make it official.

When it comes to this year's election, I am glad that despite being razor-close for the second spot on the commission, Danny Embrey didn't call for a recount. Ten votes shy out of a thousand is not as bad as what occurred many years ago. I can't recall the year off the top of my head now, but a grand lady of Poolesville, Virginia Hersperger, once told me of a time she failed to vote only to have her candidate-of-choice lose by one vote.

I am grateful for a town government and private sector that have learned how to meet the needs of its youth unlike in decades past. It used to be that our youth lamented "being lost in the boonies" with nothing to do. I can recall being involved in two attempts to bring an organized youth center to town forty years ago. One was something called a Community Life Center to be built near the high school, with a pool and everything. As an idea

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Published and Edited by
John Clayton and Rande Davis

John Clayton
Production
Financial
301.349.0071
jclayton@monocacymonocle.com

Rande Davis
Advertising
Circulation
301.509.9232
rdavis@monocacymonocle.com

Dominique Agnew
Copyediting
dqagnew@gmail.com

editor@monocacymonocle.com
advertising@monocacymonocle.com
www.monocacymonocle.com

Monocacy Press, LLC
John Clayton, President
Rande Davis, Vice President
P.O. Box 372
Barnesville, MD 20838-0372
301.349.0071

Contributing Writers

Dominique Agnew
dqagnew@gmail.com
Kerri Cook
Kerrimcook@yahoo.com
Andie Devynck
andie@frederickhealingarts.com
Link Hoewing
linkhoe@aol.com
Maureen O'Connell
mafoconnell@msn.com
Susan Petro
bsusan424@gmail.com
Jeffrey S. Stuart
sark10@juno.com
Jack Toomey
jackt21262@aol.com
Lisa Warfeli
lisamarie1048@gmail.com
Jon Wolz
wolzjon@hotmail.com

Contributing Photographer

Terri Pitts
terri.pitts@gmail.com

Layout and Graphics

AnyArt Solutions LLC
sales@AnyArtSolutions.com

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Focus on Business

The Blue Hearth Celebrates Its Fifth Anniversary

By Maureen O'Connell

One of the most popular retailers in Poolesville, The Blue Hearth, celebrated its fifth anniversary this past September, and, starting this past October, responded to consumer demand by opening the shop every weekend. This will continue in November and through the holiday season. Owner Karen Wilson started as an interior designer and wanted to expand her business profile, but she first had to locate an ideal town for her new venture. After visiting many small towns, she fell in love with Poolesville. She was taken by its small-town feel and its links to history. She found the perfect fit in the Dr. Thomas Poole House.

Karen, with the help of her teenage twin boys, now in their twenties, set about making the historical Federal-style mansion a perfect setting for the wide-ranging creative interior décor and handcrafted, refurbished furniture and display items.

One of the most asked questions is about the origin of the name. This home of many fireplaces has one in the kitchen that is of a beautiful blue hue; hence, the name. Karen recalls, with her signature and nearly perpetual smile, that her introduction to the area's Facebook contributors was from someone who was not happy about the name as the fireplace in the kitchen is not a true hearth; however, Karen and her dozen or more artistic contributors are highly regarded for their creativity, and making her fireplace a hearth in spirit seemed to be most appropriate in describing the ambience of the store, if not, a precise description.

Firms that succeed in creating a strong mission and company culture as their guideposts for growth will most often find success. As their motto states: "We at the Blue Hearth believe wholeheartedly that the sum of our parts is what sets us apart from other vintage stores. We've assembled the most creative group of

Continued on page 19.

Thank you to our wonderful community, and especially my amazing wife Gabi and hard-working sons Tucker and Christian, for your support on election day.

Every vote truly counted.

I'm looking forward to serving the best small town in America for the next four years!

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Tidbits

Largest Poolesville Attendance at Veterans Day Observation Ever

With over one hundred persons in attendance, the largest crowd ever, the Daniel-Jeffers American Legion Post 247 hosted an observance of gratitude to all who have served our nation in the military. Troops from Poolesville's boy and cub scouts lined up in formation and assisted in placing the memorial wreath and in leading the pledge of allegiance. As this was the hundredth anniversary of the original armistice of World War I, Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski read "In Flanders Field," the poem by John McCrae, in reflection of the war to end all wars. The post also made a donation of \$1,000 to the Coach Kevin Dorsey Fund which has been established to assist the family as the coach battles ALS. Coach Dorsey was thanked for his military service and his contributions to the community of helping hundreds of young boys in wrestling and baseball.

Winners of the American Legion's raffle (tickets sold on Poolesville Day) were: Miguel Lopez (\$50.00 Bassett's), Jeff Cessna (\$25.00 Oriental Gourmet), Grace Routhier (\$25.00 House of Poolesville), and Yin Zhang (2010 U.S. Mint coin collection).

Congrats to PHS Girls' Volleyball Team



The 2018 PHS girls' volleyball team was the last one standing in school sports.

The girls' volleyball team was the last team standing for Poolesville athletics this fall.

After a first round sweep of Walkersville, the third-seeded Falcons lost to second-seeded Williamsport on November 5, 3-0.

The boys' soccer team lost a 3-2 first round heartbreaker in overtime to Damascus; the girls' soccer team, after a first round bye, lost, 4-1, to Walkersville; and the field hockey team, after a first round bye, lost to Linganore, 1-0.

Celebrating Thirty Years of Service—and Candy, Too

When Drs. D. Timothy Pike and Margaret Valega first opened their dentistry practice in Poolesville in October 1988, they started from scratch. Poolesville only had two neighborhood developments at the time, and there was another part-time dentist in town, Dr. James Buchanan, brother of the more famous political commentator, Pat.

Both Drs. Pike and Valega enrolled at Georgetown University School of Dentistry where they met in their first year. Margaret told the *Monocle*, "Freshman year, we were friends, sophomore year we started dating, we got engaged in our junior year, and we got married during spring break of our senior year." They married at the Dahlgren Chapel on the Georgetown University campus in 1986, the same year that they each received their Doctorates of Dental Surgery.

After graduating, the couple moved to New York where Dr. Pike began a two-year advanced general practice residency while Dr. Valega worked at various dental practices until they moved to Poolesville to live and work. They have also been homeowners in Poolesville where they raised their three boys: Ryan, Alexander, and Connor. Connor is now in medical school at their alma mater.

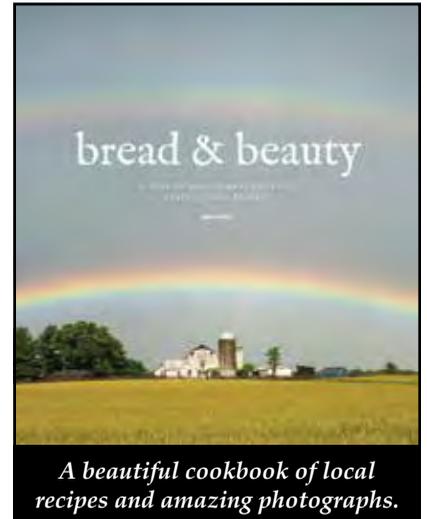
Tim and the entire family have been contributing volunteers within the community. The couple were officially recognized when selected as grand marshals for Poolesville Day. Every year, they support Operation Gratitude in a buyback of Halloween candy from local recipients to send the candy to troops serving overseas. This year they bought back 255 pounds of candy.

A Cookbook for the Ag Reserve

Congratulations to local writer, Claudia Kousoulas, and producer, Ellen Letourneau, for creating the beautiful publication, *Bread and Beauty*, that is so much more than a cookbook. Its recipes, profiles, essays, and photographs trace the Reserve's history, but also the contemporary challenges faced by family farms trying to establish a new generation, new farmers seeking land and markets, and the shared community efforts required to preserve this special place. The magnificent photography is by George Letourneau and Martin Radigan.

"We knew there were great stories out here," said Letourneau, "and that we'd have no shortage of material."

Kousoulas agreed, pointing out that there's also no shortage of Reserve food on the table. "People might be surprised how much food is grown in the Reserve, almost an entire menu."



A beautiful cookbook of local recipes and amazing photographs.

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Ag News

Horses, Friends, and Good Times

By Lisa Warffeli

At seventeen, Leonard Proctor hopped on his bike after school and rode to Potomac. Leonard began helping his uncle work with the horses at a farm, and soon Leonard became a fixture of the Potomac Hunt (“the Hunt”). Vickie Weller Crawford began riding at seven years old, joined the Hunt in 1960, and now is one of four Masters of the Hunt. As I sat with these two legends, their love of horses, land, friends, and good times was palpable. Both of them light up when explaining the Hunt to me. It is not just a sport, but a blend of tradition with land preservation and love of horses and hounds.



Vickie, left, with friends at a show.

Fox hunting can be controversial. Some view it as cruel because they believe the foxes are hunted down and killed. Others believe it is exclusive and only those with large bank accounts can play. I held some of these preconceived notions, then I started meeting some of those involved with the Hunt, and I set about learning more about the sport.

The hunt season is in the winter; this time of year enables the hounds to pick up the scent of the foxes. Pre-season starts in late August to early September when the new kids get introduced. New kids include the year-old pups learning from the older hounds how to track the fox. They also include young horses learning to be around the hounds, the sounds, and just all the stimuli that could possibly spook a young horse. The new kids definitely include new riders to the sport who need to learn the different horn sounds and etiquette of the sport. You must use your inside voice when on the ride.

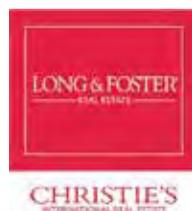
So do they kill the foxes? No. Foxes are smart creatures and very crafty. They tease the hounds and know clever tricks to throw the hounds off their scent.

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J Clayton Homes

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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.

November 16 and 17

Annual Christmas Attic Sale at St. Peter's Church

Thousands of items, both old and new: Ornaments, decorations, jewelry, linens, stuffies, artificial greens, lights, handcrafted items, and more. Baked goods and pecans for sale. Friday: noon to 6:00 p.m.; Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

November 16, 17, and 18

The Blue Hearth Special Market Weekend

The holidays are a special time; get your home ready and plan ahead. We can help make your holiday décor unique and your gift giving extra special this year. 19964 Fisher Avenue. Friday and Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Sunday: noon to 5:00 p.m.

November 18

Annual WUMCO Walkathon and Oktoberfest (Rescheduled from October 27 date)

This fundraiser to benefit WUMCO includes 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. *Whalen Commons*. Noon to 6:00 p.m.

November 24

Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre Presents *A Christmas Carol*

A ballet adaptation of the story written by Charles Dickens. This annual performance of *A Christmas Carol* is a great way to start your holiday season! Visit Hope Garden Ballet online for ticket information. *F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 11 Maryland Avenue, Rockville*. 1:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m.

November 19

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

November 20

PASC Special Event: Pizza and Movie Night

Featuring *Goodbye Christopher Robin*. *Family Living Center, 17750 West Willard Road*. 6:00 p.m.

November 23, 24, and 25

The Blue Hearth Special Market Weekend

The holidays are a special time; get your home ready and plan ahead. We can help make your holiday décor unique and your gift giving extra special this year. 19964 Fisher Avenue. Friday and Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Sunday: noon to 5:00 p.m.

November 27

PASC Special Event: Craft Day

Featuring recycled icicles. *Family Life Center*. 2:00 p.m.

November 30, December 1 and 2

The Blue Hearth Special Market Weekend

The holidays are a special time; get your home ready and plan ahead. We can help make your holiday décor unique and your gift giving extra special this year. 19964 Fisher Avenue. Friday and Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Sunday: noon to 5:00 p.m.

Countryside Artisans Annual Holiday Tour

Give the wonderful gift of art this Christmas. Visit twelve artisans and crafter studios representing over forty artists and an award-winning vineyard for a self-guided tour. Official brochure and maps at www.countrysideartisans.com. Friday and Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday: noon to 5:00 p.m.

December 1

IOOF Christmas Dinner

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Poolesville Lodge 97's annual Christmas dinner for seniors on December 2. If you have plans to attend, please RSVP by November 24 to Richard Norwood at 301-943-6845 or Spencer Schmidt at 301-349-2057. *Memorial United Methodist Church*. 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

December 5

MUMC Community Dinner

Memorial United Methodist Church's next community dinner will offer baked ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, applesauce, and lots of homemade desserts. 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

December 6

PHS Varsity Home Game

Girls' basketball. Northwood. 7:15 p.m.

December 7

Annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony

Whalen Commons turns into a virtual winter wonderland. Join in the family fun: Santa Claus arrives at 6:30 p.m., ride the holiday kiddie train, see ice sculpting, festive music, refreshments available, gingerbread decorating at the Old Town Hall and Bank Museum, and enjoy the Victorian Strolling Caroler Group. Bring new unwrapped toy for WUMCO. Park lights lit at 7:00 p.m.

PACC First Friday Holiday Night

Many shops and businesses will be open, including Crafts-A-Plenty, Historic Medley's Old Town Hall Bank Museum with gingerbread decorating for the kids, the Blue Hearth, and more along the way. Ride the Poolesville Polar Express sponsored by Calleva from Whalen Commons to the old center of town. Visit the Old Town Hall for gingerbread decorating and the New Town Hall for the JPMS Christmas tree, musicians, and singers.

December 8

UMCVFD Santa Breakfast

All you can eat: Juice, pancakes, sausage, bacon, eggs, coffee, and fruit salad. Bring kids early to have time to see the model train layout and to

Continued on page 10.

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On behalf of the entire Monocacy Monocle ownership and staff, we want to thank our wonderful readers for their support this past year and would especially like to give our thanks to all those who advertised with us in 2018. Without them, we could not publish the paper, and we trust our readers share our appreciation, too.

Local News

UPN Forum on "Handling the Witness of Drug Abuse in Teens Other than Your Own"

By Rande Davis

The Upcounty Prevention Network (UPN), a local citizen-driven organization dedicated to proactively mitigating youth misuse of legal and illegal drugs, alcohol, and other risky behavior, held its most recent educational forum on November 13 at John Poole Middle School. The theme of the discussion was entitled: "They Are All Our Children: All Kids Matter in Our Community." It was primarily focused on what adults do when witnessing a youth exhibiting risky and/or ill-advised behavior relating to drug use, but the child is not their own. The questions considered: Do we report it to the parents, the police, the school, or look away entirely? How do we understand threatening behavior even when it may not be flagrant or held in extreme secrecy?

Moderating was Link Hoewing, a former PTSA leader, town commissioner, and current reporter for the Monocacy Monocle. The panelists were Poolesville resident Michael Kresslein, a parent who lost his son Zack ten months ago to drug abuse; Dr. Teresa Kurtz, child and adolescent psychiatrist; Regina Morales, manager of Montgomery County Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Services; and Edward Reed, school counselor and leadership development specialist.

The evening offered a wide-ranging consideration of topics, including: warning signs of drug abuse; the devastating impact of modern technology, particularly smart phone influence on youth social development; and who to turn to for help when witnessing risky behavior (reporting to the parent, the school, counselors, police, etc.).

Mr. Kresslein offered the dilemma of the ability to keep synthetic opioid misuse secret, noting that the drug is untraceable in the body (even Children's Hospital was unable to test for it, dogs cannot smell it), and it is easily purchased through the untraceable dark web with untraceable bitcoins. He noted that the



Link Hoewing (left) moderated a panel on opioid abuse sponsored by the Upcounty Prevention Network. Members of the panel were Michael Kresslein, Dr. Teresa Kurtz, Regina Morales, and Edward Reed.

abuse is always shared by "partners in crime" and that the parents do not all cooperate with each other when confronting the problem. He was encouraged by the forum and his desire to participate so that at least something positive might come from his personal loss.

Dr. Kurtz focused on the development of the brain and noted that today's youth face an unprecedented threat from stress, isolation, and depression often associated with overuse of technology, particularly smart phones. She offered how the youthful, developing brain function is radically different than in adults which so often leads to confrontation and withdrawal from family. She acknowledged the important role of adults in being consistent in their authority and in presenting a positive role model in their personal behavior. A key is to maintain a parental role rather than becoming a "friend."

Continued on page 21.

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Poolesville Holiday Lighting & First Friday Festivities
Dec. 7th, 2018

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- #3 **Uptown** for stores and restaurants plus FREE PACC sponsored GINGERBREAD COOKIE DECORATING at the Old Town Hall/Poolesville Museum

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School News

Bian Takes Gold For USA in International Competition

By Rande Davis

Vincent Bian, a PHS senior in the Science, Math, and Computer Science House, just returned from the 12th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) at which he won a gold medal for Team USA. On top of that, he also received the highest score in the theory competition.

This year's IOAA was held in Beijing, China for ten days, and over two hundred students from thirty-nine countries participated. The competition consisted of three rounds (theory competition, data analysis, and star observation) with a total of over ten hours of testing. Team USA won two gold, one silver, and one bronze medals in total.



Vincent Bian, gold medal winner.

Continued from page 8. Things to Do

watch the movie *Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town*. Contributions to Toys for Tots welcome. Cost: Twelve and over: \$8.00; 3-11: \$6.00; and under 3 is free. UMCVFD Fire Hall in Beallsville. 8:00 a.m. to noon.

December 9 HMD's Member Appreciation Event

The Historic Medley District invites members and people interested in becoming members to join them for cheese, wine, and music from a local a cappella group. Visit HistoricMedley.org for more information.

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School News

BOE President States Reserved Consideration For Multipurpose High School Concept

By Rande Davis

On October 29, Michael A. Durso, the president of the Board of Education of Montgomery County Public Schools, responded to a letter from Jim Brown on behalf of the town commissioners seeking BOE support for a multiuse facility in Poolesville. The proposed facility would serve as a dual center for high school education and extended non-educational needs for the town.

Mr. Durso stated that he and the BOE “share your view of the importance of these services in the Poolesville area and your enthusiasm for your community.” He acknowledged that the facility would require continued discussion with other county agencies as many of the suggested extended services would be under their jurisdiction. He also welcomed continued discussion with representatives of the town about the BOE’s role in the envisioned project.

In noting previous dialogue between the BOE and the town along with other county agencies on the multiuse facility, he observed, “At the same time, we will proceed to plan capital facility improvements at Poolesville High School that are needed to benefit the infrastructure and programmatic needs of the school. We will pursue avenues to identify projects and funding that may be feasible within the budget and planning processes that we follow as a county agency. We believe it will be important to advance both of these conceptual approaches simultaneously, so that multiple options are available for consideration as we move forward.”

As the county BOE prepares for its future educational needs in the coming decades and as there is a growing online, non-classroom practice of study that potentially could reduce the need for brick and mortar facilities, the new high school/community center for Poolesville stands to become an important laboratory of experimentation in preparing for that future.

House of Poolesville



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November 21



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Sunday, Dec 2 nd :	10am to 8pm	Saturday, Dec 8 th :	10am to 8pm
		Sunday, Dec 9 th :	10am to 8pm
		Friday, Dec 14 th :	4pm to 8pm
		Saturday, Dec 15 th :	10am to 8pm
		Sunday, Dec 16 th :	10am to 8pm

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Youth Sports

Satsangi, Girls Finish First in Region, Boys Finish Fifth

By Jeff Stuart

"Do you have any idea how good a team you really are?" Poolesville cross country coach Prasad Gerard asked, addressing his team at practice on Halloween afternoon, the day before the 2A West Region competition, "both on the boys' and girls' side." With some new faces moving into lead roles, the runners had a solid season.

"It's been a good hardworking team that improved as the season went along," said Gerard later. "A lot of them tightened up their times. I think sometimes it has been like herding cats, trying to get them to realize that they are as good as they are and to get them ready for the races, but I think we are ready for the championship season that started last week with the county meet. At the DCXC we had some really good times. Junior Sam Bodmer and senior Anthony Meza really dropped their times at that race...On the girls' side, Mikayla Durr, Nandini Satsangi, and Emily Li posted some good times. Those girls are running strong. Nandini ran a great race at the Frank Keyser Invitational on October 13 at Boonsboro. She finished first and set a PR in the three mile."



2018 PHS Cross Country

"The boys have a really tight pack," said assistant coach Ann Satsangi. "It was just a fifty-nine-second difference from the first runner to the fifth runner at the county meet, and that is really tight and really an accomplishment."

Bodmer finished in 17:05, Meza, and seniors, Joshua Tiren and Patrick Rodriquez, were the two, three, and four runners. Number five was Christopher Stallard who finished in 18:04. The boys finished seventh in the county on October 22 at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg. Bodmer, Tiren, Rodriquez, and Stallard ran personal best times at the county meet despite heavy rain. Senior Jairo Huaylinos and freshman Daniel Ponciano also set PRs. The girls placed eighth. At the Keyser Invitational, Meza, Rodriquez, Ponciano, and Huaylinos set PRs in the three-mile. Meza set a season record at the DCXC at Kenilworth Park on September 29.

"It's been a good season for me," said Bodmer. "It's been a breakthrough for me this year. I was on varsity last year, but I wasn't on the top, and I got myself to the top this year. The highlight for me this year was the first time I ever finished first at Einstein on September 27, and we won as a team, 20-38."

"We have had some pretty good runners join us this year," said Meza. "Although we did lose some pretty strong runners like Ryan Lockett, our team has been able to do well...One of my personal highlights would have to be Poolesville Day. It is not an official race, but I was able to run with Sam, and we tied for first."

"We have a good, fast-paced group with Anthony, Sam, and about four others," said Tiren. "They have really helped me push forward. We had some lower points in our season, but we brought it back, especially at the [county meet]. I think we are a stronger team than we were last year."

Continued on page 19.

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Daily Mass 9:00 am, Rosary follows

Thanksgiving Mass - Nov. 22 at 10am

**December 2 - Advent Crafts for Children,
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Post 247 Commander John Robinson spoke about the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day, the precursor of today's Veterans Day.



Local scouts and cubs joined in honoring our military vets.



Members of the Daniel-Jeffers American Legion Post 247 prior to the start of ceremonies in Whalen Commons.

Veterans Day

To all who served and continue to serve: We thank you!



These girls from a Philadelphia traveling soccer team took some time off to join in the Poolesville Veterans Day observation.



Over 100 people joined in the Veterans Day ceremony on November 11. There were nearly 40 scouts in attendance.

Continued from page 1.

PASC: Dynamic Living for Area Seniors

and Tookie Gentlecore, and the leadership of its director, Renata Ann Funk, PASC continues to bring new and exciting events into the lives of its members. A newly-adopted community birthday celebration event is a perfect example of the group's ability to blend fun, education, friendships, and community spirit all into one event.

Held on November 7, the PASC invited persons having birthdays in October, November, or December to a special celebration for them that included not only an amazing array of baked sweet treats but featured a thoroughly entertaining one-woman show by award-winning actress and Smithsonian scholar Mary Ann Jung. Jung, under the theme of History Alive!, portrays ten different historical great women like Clara Barton, Amelia Earhart, and Sally Ride, just to name a few. She did just a moment of Julia Child, and her accent was so spot on that, with eyes closed, you had to believe Julia was actually in the room. For this birthday event, Jung portrayed Rosie the Riveter, the iconic symbol of female strength and determination. A specialty of her shows is audience involvement. She brought up WUMCO's Adam DeBaugh to portray 1940s actor Walter Pidgeon, Carl and Joy Brill to portray FDR and Eleanor. As an aside, Adam proved to be a masterful improvisationist, while Mrs. Brill did a great job with

the former first lady's shaky, high-pitched voice. A special guest was the mother of Carl Brill, who at ninety-eight, while not exactly a riveter, nevertheless was employed by the government and contributed to the war effort. Any group wanting to contact Ms. Jung can do so at HistoryAliveShows.com or 410-647-8699.

Great things like PASC don't happen accidentally or without great community support. As the group moves away from financial support supplied from the town government to becoming independent, community donations become essential. PASC currently has two major fundraising events per year: a bulk mail fundraiser in the fall (stay tuned for the postcard in your mailbox soon!) and the annual dinner and dance in February (fourth annual one coming up, Winter Wonderland Ball and Banquet, on February 9, 2019).

Poolesville has become a community offering many sporting teams, scouting, and religious groups for youth. PASC has emerged as a strong force in improving the lives of area seniors, and, when the new community center/high school is built, it can be expected to continue to grow in both program offerings and size. A simple way to keep in touch with the group and its many programs is by liking them on Facebook, watching for their events in the Monocle, especially in our Things to Do column, and, should you want to help out, volunteering your time as a board member or program helper. Of course, donations are extremely important, so consider making a donation when they release their fundraising drive soon and/or attending the February dance.

Continued from page 4.

Grateful Hearts Make Great-full Smiles

deemed too costly, it died a quick death. The other was an appeal to St. Peter's to host a community youth program. Unfortunately, the only building outside of the sanctuary was an old World War II army "temporary" building that had been used as a mess hall. The town then tried something in the building where Glad-I-Yoga is located, but it drifted away real soon when the youth didn't show up. Today, from the public and private sector, we have PBA, PAA, Calleva Outdoors, summer camp at Bretton Woods, and every kind of sports program outside of school available ranging beyond baseball, football, and basketball to include a skateboard park, wrestling, an incredible scouting program, robust town-sponsored summer camp, and even a group at PES called Girls on the Run. The list goes on.

I am grateful for a town government that also discovered a way to help our seniors, many who live alone, with a robust social and educational program run by the dedicated volunteers of the Poolesville Area Senior Center (PASC). (Be sure to read our front-page article about them). PASC's growth in the last five years has been remarkable and,

without the town seeding the money to give it birth, it would not have succeeded. Of course, unless the residents today find ways to help support it financially, it could be a challenge to keep it going.

I am grateful for the Historic Medley District, Inc. for taking on the guardianship of the John Poole House, the Old Town Hall Bank Museum, and the Seneca Schoolhouse. Without them, these iconic structures would have long ago been destroyed as so many other structures have been. They, too, require, a concerned community making donations to help them survive.

I am grateful for so many people of good will in a small town who I know will now step up to the plate in helping the young, the old, and the historic this year with their time and money.

I am grateful for the advertisers in the Monocle. Without them and their love of Poolesville and the wider community, and without their understanding of the important role our journal plays in chronicling our shared life in the Upcounty, the *Monocle* would not be here for our loyal readers. Finally, we also are so grateful to our devoted readers whose appreciation for the efforts of our talented staff of writers and design/layout people makes our efforts so worthwhile. May the blessings of a grateful heart fill you with joy.



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Continued from page 6.

Tidbits

The three-hundred-page book has more than 120 recipes that are inspired by this local bounty as well as by historic foodways and recipes. Its recipes are arranged seasonally, to guarantee you can eat the best food all year long. For more details and the book's availability, visit breadandbeauty.org.

Say What? Are You Sure That's Right?

On October 20, Shirley Wolz was awarded first place at the University of Maryland Baltimore County's 21st

Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium in the Chemical and Biological Sciences. There were three hundred students in the competition from universities and colleges from Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Virginia. Shirley tested various denitrification agents in a closed freshwater system to remove nitrogenous waste in recirculating aquaculture systems. She found that activated carbon and aluminosilicate removed nitrates from the solution tested. We are so glad the judges, at least, understood this. We are so impressed even though we have no idea what it all means. Congratulations, Shirley!

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Remembrances

James R. "Jimmy" Morningstar

James R. "Jimmy" Morningstar, 88, of Boonsboro, formerly of Bethesda and Poolesville, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on October 29, 2018. He was the loving husband of Barbara.

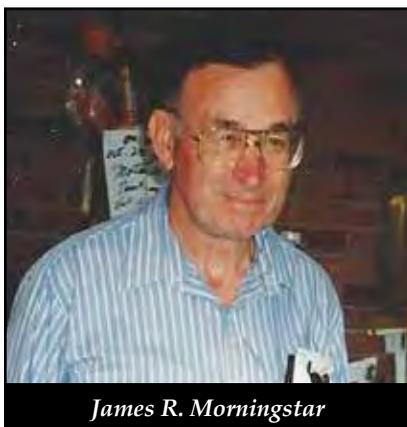
Born on November 18, 1929, in Barnesville, he was the son of the late Hazel and Claudia (Jamison) Morningstar.

Jimmy served in the United States Army from 1955 to 1957.

Surviving besides his wife Barbara is one daughter, Patti Littleton and husband Bear; two sisters, Edith Blackburn and May Spong; two sons Jimmy never had, Dwayne Henson and Jay Turner; and Patti's brother and sister-in-law, Greg and Denise Littleton.

A special thanks to Jimmy's caregivers, Nicole and Keisha, for the wonderful and loving care they gave to him.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of Washington County or the Boonsboro Ambulance and Rescue Service.



James R. Morningstar

William S. Morrow, Jr.

William S. Morrow, Jr., 66, of Poolesville, passed away November 5, 2018. William was the loving husband to Laura Amy Morrow.

Born on May 11, 1952, in Washington, D.C., he was the son of the late William S. Morrow and Doris Cleveland.

An attorney who received his JD from Georgetown University Law School, William was admitted to practice at the U.S. Supreme Court and served as executive director of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission. An active member of the American Bar Association, William was named a fellow of the ABA's Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice. A devoted husband and father, William enjoyed camping with his family, running, golfing (poorly), and spending time with his grandchildren. He was an avid reader, and solved any newspaper puzzle he saw.

Along with his wife, he is survived by his two daughters, Adrienne Morrow of Poolesville and Margaret Morrow Swensen (Eric) of Charlottesville, Virginia; one son, William Morrow III (Melissa Sander) of Damascus; one brother, Warren Morrow of Brownsville, Maryland; five grandchildren, Kathryn Morrow, Quinn Morrow, Stella Swensen, Kyle Johnson, and Caroline Johnson.

William is preceded in death by one brother, Darrell Morrow.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, November 9, at Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church, 17821 Elgin Rd., Poolesville.



William S. Morrow, Jr.

Ronald Lynn Breland

Ronald Lynn Breland, 70, of Barnesville, died on November 7. Born on October 24, 1948 in Keyser, West Virginia, he was the son of Rosalee Breland-Hessler and the late Nelson Lynnwood Breland, Sr. Ronald was the loving husband to Juanita Wheatley Breland.

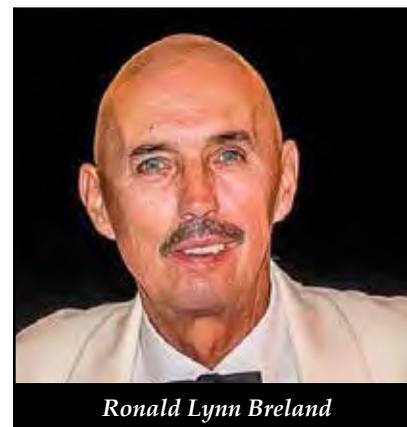
He grew up in Martinsburg, West Virginia and graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Maryland. Prior to university, he served in the United States Army with distinction and was honorably discharged with the rank of Specialist Second Class.

In his professional life, Mr. Breland was a mechanical engineer, business owner, and entrepreneur. For more than twenty years, he was the owner and CEO of Selbre Associates, a reputable government contract management firm. Later, he became a business consultant and served on the board of directors for several technology companies. His professional success afforded him the time to enjoy traveling, tending his farm and its many rescue animals, riding his motorcycle, baseball, and spending time with his family and friends. He was also an active participant in his community and was a longstanding member of the Potomac Hunt Club and the Sugarloaf Riding Club.

Along with his wife and mother, he is survived by one daughter, Morgan Wheatley Schmidt; two sisters, Noreen Harvey (John) and June M. Davis; and two brothers, Nelson Lynwood Breland, Jr. (Pilar) and Darren D. Breland (Lynda). He was preceded in death by his brother, Stephen D. Breland.

A memorial service is to be held the morning of Saturday, November 17 at ten o'clock at Comus Sky Farm, Barnesville.

Memorial donations may be made to Days End Farm Horse Rescue in Woodbine, Maryland.



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Continued from page 7.

Horses, Friends, and Good Times

Typically, the foxes “go to ground” which means they run into holes or other spots where the hounds can’t get to them. Vickie emphasized, “The fun is in the chase. We don’t want to kill them.” On the rare occasions when the hounds actually catch a fox, it is because the fox is old or sick.

What many don’t know is that members of the Hunt are conservationists. They want to preserve the Ag Reserve in Montgomery County because, without the open land, there can be no hunt. Vickie cried as she watched trees being torn down to put up a housing development. It had been land over which the Hunt had ridden for years. Likely more foxes died from the destruction of those woods than were ever killed in the Hunt. As she put it, “We are all stewards of the land and need to protect the Ag Reserve.”

The Hunt also emphasizes the care of both horses and hounds. The Hunt employs Brian Kiely as a Huntsman to take care of the hounds. The kennels are regularly inspected, and he coordinates the drafting and exchanging of hounds to keep the breeding lines strong. When a hound begins to show signs of slowing down, it is given up for adoption to enjoy retirement. The Hunt also employs Catherine Hanagan who serves as a Whip; her job is to exercise the horses and ensure proper vet care. The Hunt also has plenty of volunteer Whips who help to maintain healthy horses.

Leonard spent many years exercising the horses for the Hunt. He tells me he learned a lot from his uncle, but he also learned a great deal from watching riders interact with their horses. He attended horse shows with his uncle and watched rider and horse, what worked and what didn’t. He says the best feeling in the world was having a “good horse under me.” He said it took him about ten to fifteen minutes to determine what the horse would do and corrected problem behavior. Leonard stopped riding with the Hunt a couple of years ago at the age of eighty-six. What would he say about his decades in the saddle? “I had a great time.”



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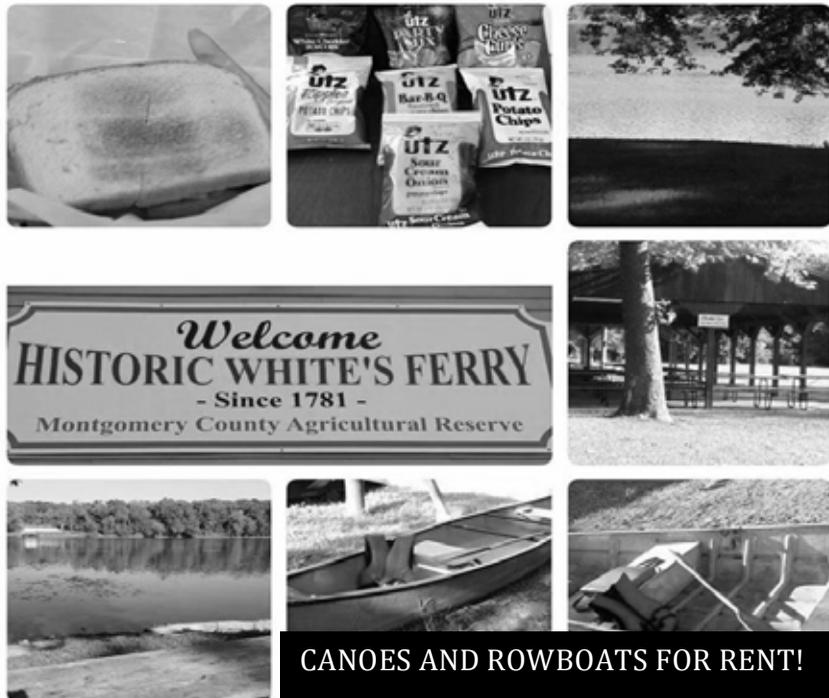
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Continued from page 5.

The Blue Hearth Celebrates Its Fifth Anniversary

repurposers, artisans, crafts people, and home furnishing reinventors out there, and we have provided them with a historic beauty as the setting in which to share their talents." Presently, the shop is home to twelve vendors. Unlike other vintage retailers, where everything can seem jumbled together in a dusty, attic-like venue, every room, ever corner seems to be something that would be in the most highly-regarded homestyle living magazine

Blue's strength to bring consumers to Poolesville sets it apart from most local retailers. The shop is a draw of consumers from throughout the region and beyond. The day we were there talking with them about their holiday plans, two women came in and were overjoyed to be offered wine and refreshments. They had come all the way from Laytonsville to Poolesville just to shop at the Blue Hearth. It was late morning, and, out of curiosity, I asked if they planned to eat in town as well, and they said they were planning to do so and asked for recommendations, something easy for us to do. Local restaurants owe Karen a great deal for the shoppers she brings to town.

As customers enter from the rear parking lot, a wonderland of creativity guides them through the courtyard where even an old stove can become an outstanding plant holder. On nice days, it is in this garden-like setting that musical performers entertain the shoppers.

At Blue, shoppers can find everything and anything from antique tablecloths and napkins, hand-stitched baby clothes, old and new pottery and china, cannonball bed frames, whimsically hand-painted furniture, and baskets in all shapes and colors.

Karen and her team have put their heart and soul into the Blue Hearth, and Karen's support of and involvement in the community are witness to that commitment. She is a strong supporter of WUMCO, the Poolesville Chamber of Commerce, the Historic Medley District, Inc., and so many the great causes and groups.

As Thanksgiving approaches and with the Christmas season right behind, the Blue Hearth is an absolutely must experience for local consumers wanting the best and most unique décor for their home. No matter how often you go, you always discover something new and exciting.

Continued from page 12.

Satsangi, Girls Finish First in Region, Boys Finish Fifth

"My best race of the season was at the Keyser Invitational," said Nandini. "It was a three mile. It was a lot of fun. A lot of people have moved up since the beginning of the season. Although we lost a lot of seniors last year, I think we are stronger. Macy Palmer has really impressed me. She is a senior, and it is her first year on varsity. In her freshman year she was nowhere near varsity level. She is super dedicated. She is really amazing, and now she has finally made varsity, and I am really proud of her."

Nandini finished first in the region at Liberty High School, running her best time of the season and finishing nearly a minute ahead of junior Alexis Whitehorn-Coriz of Damascus who finished second. The girls' team finished first with sixty-seven points to seventy-six for runner-up Oakdale.

The boys finished fifth in the region with 123 points.

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Robbery: 14600 block of Seneca Road.

Burglary: 18300 block of Beallsville Road, 21800 block of Peach Tree Road, 19200 block of Wasche Road, 24800 block of White's Ferry Road.

Drug Arrest: Parking lot of Poolesville High School.

Past Crime: 1944

The county commissioners voted to not exclude county police officers from the draft. At the time of the vote, the police department had sixty members, but thirty were already in the military, and emergency police officers had been hired to take their place. Since all captains and most lieutenants were over the age of thirty-eight, they were not eligible for the draft. Civic leaders pointed out that soon men would be called into military service more rapidly and that the standards of the department would be lowered.

The county commissioners voted to remove fifteen callboxes from various locations around the county. Since

many residents did not have telephone service during the 1940s, these boxes were placed at public locations so residents could call the police when needed. Chief Carlin pointed out that since most police cruisers had two-way radios installed, the removal of the callboxes would save \$1,500 a year.

In other news that day Earnest Moxley of Damascus was appointed dog catcher with a salary of \$150 a month.

A two-day trial at Silver Spring Court ended with the jury finding in favor of Walton Kennedy, a Silver Spring carpenter. Kennedy had sued Detective Frank Lane for false arrest. The foreman of the jury announced that they had awarded damages in the amount of one cent. Hearing that, Detective Lane walked across the well of the court and handed Kennedy a penny. The civil case had arisen from a hit and run wreck that had claimed one life.

Chief Leslie Carlin made a complaint with the Montgomery County Farm Bureau concerning the allocation of German prisoners of war. Carlin owned three farms and had requested three men a week to work on his farms. On some days, no POWs showed up, yet Carlin had proof that POWs were working at other farms. During those

times, German POWs were held at a camp on Snouffer School Road and at Fort Meade and were trucked each morning to various farms.

A spectacular chase netted police a notorious criminal named Elmer Dorsey, a.k.a. "Peanuts" and "Shadow." Dorsey was the driver of a car with six occupants that eluded a police stake-out in Rock Creek Park. Dorsey took off with six Metropolitan police cars after him. He entered Montgomery County where county police joined the chase. Dorsey stopped in Glenmont long enough to rob two women who were in their front yards talking. He then sped back down Georgia Avenue and, with the Montgomery County Police in pursuit, jumped a curb at Georgia and Alaska Avenues and crashed into a pole. Dorsey was then arrested while several others in the car escaped. Three of the culprits were arrested at Connecticut Avenue and East-West Highway in Bethesda. All of the occupants were eventually rounded up and confessed to a robbery in Baltimore and several others in D.C. and Montgomery County.

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



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Continued from page 1.

Brown and Cook Elected to Town Commission

in youth sports proved to be a two-way sword, in that, while that experience brought with it a large group of supporters, it also provided opponents of any number of his decisions and positions taken over the many years of service. Embrey highlighted his lifetime residency in Poolesville as a strength and his volunteerism in coaching youth sports.

During the commission forum, there were no significant areas of contention on the issues between the candidates. Each candidate provided his/her reaction to the election:

Jim Brown:

I'd like to congratulate Keri Cook on her election to serve as a town commissioner, and I look forward to working with her. The town will unquestionably be well served by her leadership. I'd also like to thank Danny Embrey for his enthusiastic and pro-Poolesville campaign. While he ended up just ten votes shy of a win, the fact that all candidates garnered over one thousand votes showed we have an engaged and involved community. Finally, I'd like to thank all of the people who decided to step up and vote for me. You proved to everyone that your collective voice, not just the loudest voices, still matter in this town. Every vote counted this year, and I appreciate your support. I also pledge to continue to listen to all of our residents and businesses in order to make the best possible decisions on our behalf.

Now it's time for the commissioners to roll up our collective sleeves. The normal challenges are out there: creating our town budget, making sure our town employees are valued and compensated fairly, working to establish the best possible relationships with our stakeholders, including our local elected officials, in order to help our town accomplish our goals. Our nascent Fair Access committee will need to gain a long-term focus in order to achieve our goal of a new Poolesville High School and multiuse facility. Getting the SHA to agree to a Fisher Avenue takeover by the town will require gritty determination and guile by the commissioners. The road takeover initiative is critical, in my opinion, for Poolesville to thrive as a safe and vibrant community. The Planning Commission, then the town commissioners, will likely face another development proposal for the Willard property next to Town Hall. Let's get to work!

Kerri Cook:

On Election Day, Poolesville came out to vote! In fact, last Tuesday's commissioners' race saw the highest voter turnout ever. Considering voters contended with a cold, rainy day and long lines at the polls on the way to work, this is an excellent sign that our town is both invested in the future and ready for a fresh perspective.

I am invested, too. I knocked on many doors during this election, talked with neighbors, and engaged in myriad conversations about our little neck of the woods. My goal as commissioner is to continue to hear your thoughts about what is needed here. What should be better? What should we never change? What new ideas and innovative solutions can you share with your elected officials to better us all? We want a new high school. We hope for economic growth in our town while keeping it small and unique. We want more connectivity, services, and transparency. It really does take a village, and I am honored that you chose me to help lead that village. I'm looking forward to working with the board of commissioners, county and state leaders, town staff, and all of you to set goals and achieve them.

I thank my family for joining me on this journey, as well as the world's best campaign manager, and a growing list of amazing supporters, neighbors, and friends. It's exciting to think about and plan for the future of this beautiful place. Let's get started!

Danny Embrey:

So close but so far. It was a great race, and I congratulate and applaud Commissioner Kerri Cook and Commissioner Jim Brown. I look forward to working with both of you in one capacity or another to ensure Poolesville remains, well, Poolesville. Thank you to those of you who cast a vote my way... and thank you to everyone for their support over these past few months, near and far, old and new—and, most importantly, to my beautiful wife, Adrienne Embrey, you were incredible. No doubt in my mind that the weight of my votes was because of your tireless efforts and support every step of the way. I love you. Until next time, Poolesville!

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Continued from page 9.

UPN Forum on "Handling the Witness of Drug Abuse in Teens Other than Your Own"

Morales offered an optimistic view noting that "treatment works, early intervention works, and that success is possible." She talked about the need to help teens tap into a positive passion. It is not helpful to be in denial, and it is important to support the child by going to the school counselors. Do not just accept the behavior as teens being teens. She underlined the seriousness of the issue by noting that suicide rates have doubled in just the last three years. She always talked about how to teach youth ways to remove themselves from risky situations.

Reed talked about when to approach the parent of the suspected child and when not to; how to get the child over the fear of talking; and the impact on peers and from peer pressure on their behavior. He offered the acronym, ACT: "Acknowledge" the bad behavior, take steps to "Care," and to seek help and to "Tell" the people who can help with your concerns. Above all else, Mr. Reed pressed the absolute need to exhibit love toward the child and to assure him or her of your support which is best demonstrated through listening. Listening is also the best way to find out what is really happening.

For persons wanting to know more specifically how to handle the witnessing of risky behavior by teens other than your own, the forum can be seen in its entirety on the Town of Poolesville Facebook Page.

UPN continues its work to find ways to help our youth and welcomes concerned citizens' involvement at their meetings. They can easily be contacted by visiting them and "liking" them on Facebook.

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Continued from page 3.

Adventist Medical Group to Close Office of Dr. Hector Asuncion after Forty-Five Years

She also pointed out that Poolesville is more than fourteen miles from the nearest doctors' offices, and the town has almost no transportation alternatives other than cars. If patients are too old or infirm to drive, getting even to Germantown can be very difficult for many clients.

She also said that because of the unique situation of those who live in Poolesville and the Upcounty, it is very different from other parts of the county. The difference between the Upcounty and "these other locations is that, in all

likelihood, they are in areas close to nearby doctors and medical facilities..." If one doctor's office closes, patients will "not have to go much out of their way to get to another doctor... That is not true in Poolesville and the western county."

The Town of Poolesville also wrote to Forde and asked him to come to a town meeting to talk about the closure decision and to allow the commissioners and the public to "share our concerns in person and let you know how much Dr. Asuncion and the medical facility mean to the town." Because of the distances involved and the lack of alternatives, the town added, "having a doctor close by can be more just a convenience."

Adventist had not, by publishing time, made any response to the letters from WUMCO and the Town of Poolesville.

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“Dr. Google” Does Not Know Your Pet

If Your Furry Friend Is Not Feeling Well, See Your Veterinarian

By Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF

With the explosion of instant internet availability, “Dr. Google” has given pet owners access to a litany of home remedies—some of which make veterinarians shake their head, others which make them shudder. The problem with good old “Dr. Google” is that owners get advice without the benefit of a physical exam. It’s not all bad information, but some problems with using unsourced information begin when pet owners believe they are treating constipation when their pets really have diarrhea, or when an animal has a topical parasite, like scabies or fleas, and the owner is giving an antihistamine for the itching. Home remedies will not be effective in these situations, and could even hurt your pet.

An important fact to consider is that individual animals may have disease processes that make otherwise benign medications harmful. If your arthritic canine friend has poor kidney function and you give him one of your pain relievers for chronic pain, you risk causing his kidneys to fail, as well as small hemorrhages in the stomach and intestines. Aspirin is not kind to the cartilage in the older animals’ joints either. Cartilage provides a cushiony surface on the ends of bones, so it is pretty important to preserve it for as long as possible. Newer medications have emerged in the last couple of decades for both pets and people because they are safer.

Some easily obtained over-the-counter (OTC) drugs are listed online to treat diarrhea. Unfortunately, “Dr. Google” has not examined your pet to discover the underlying cause of the diarrhea, so while these doses might be okay, they will not help a dog with a foreign body, ulcerative gastritis, intestinal parasites, bacterial infections, or viruses, like parvovirus. Even though you can find drug dosages posted all over the internet, it is unethical and illegal for these sites to provide dosage amounts for an animal that has not been evaluated by a veterinarian. “Dr. Google” also does not list the contraindications for a certain dose that a veterinarian would know. “Dr. Google” does not identify alternative therapies or medications that may be more effective.

All in all, a combination of treatments involving natural healing, homeopathy, and modern medicine can many times be effective, so contact your veterinarian for a professional recommendation, with correct dosages for your pet and your pet’s condition.



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