

# The Monocacy

# MONOCLE

*Keeping an Eye on Local News*

A Biweekly Newspaper

October 25, 2019 • Volume XV, Number 15



Pastor Tim Dowell took it on the chin for a good cause. See more pictures in Family Album on page 2.



Some of our history came from this archeological site. Dig for more on page 4.



A cemetery called Mother's Delight, seriously. Details in Foundations on page 12.



The last time Washington won a World Series, there was a hot time in the old town that night. Find out what happened on page 14.

## The First Lady of Poolesville Turns 100

By Rande Davis

On October 29, friends and family will celebrate the one hundredth birthday of Dorothy "Dots" Ann Jones Elgin (pronounced with a hard G). She was married to Charles William Elgin for fifty-six years. Since Mr. Elgin served the town of Poolesville on its planning commission for ten years and as its longest serving president of the town commission for seventeen years, Dots is rightfully considered by many as the unofficial first lady of Poolesville.

The Elgins were always considered a real team. When it came to public service, Charles had the higher profile, but he would have been the first to express the sentiment that Dots was the wind beneath his wings and a major contributing force of service to the community through her own merits.

The Elgins represent a generation that valued community service as highly as employment. It's not that Dots's work was less important than her civic contributions. She was, after all, a registered nurse prior to marriage,



Dots Elgin with bridge buddies, Helen Pumphrey, Jean Schultz, and Boo Painter.

and also spent seventeen years working as the secretary at Poolesville Elementary School. Before that she was a teller at the Poolesville National Bank, now a museum and cultural venue in the center of town.

Dots was eleven years old when the bank collapsed in 1930. She still remembers losing all of her \$32.40 savings which she had transferred from

a piggy bank. "People lost everything. They couldn't even afford a loaf of bread, but we helped each other out and eventually got by." Much of her time serving others goes back many years when she spent much time taking care of various elderly aunts and relatives, so that they were able to remain living in their homes. Even into

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## Ghost Stories of the Monocacy

By Jon Wolz

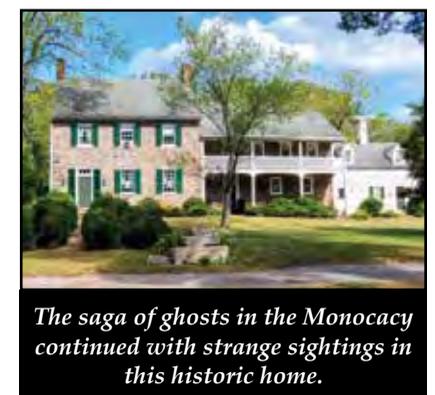
### The Rock Hall Ghost

Rock Hall was built in 1812 by Roger Johnson and is on the Montgomery-Frederick County line near Dickerson. Eventually, the Johnsons sold the property to the Belt family whose family members lived in the house for about a hundred years. Currently, the house is part of the Monocacy Natural Resource Management Area with Jon Mullen serving as curator for the house.

During the 1800s and well into the 1900s, because there were few hospitals, people died at home, and Rock Hall was no exception. Jon tells the story about one evening when he and his wife were having guests over for dinner. Jon was in the dining room with his sister when the door opened to the living room. No one was in the living room at the time. They both got up and went into the living room to

see what could have opened the door. Sitting in a wingback chair in the dimly-lit room with the only light coming from the windows was a small woman with a white shawl wrapped around her. Jon's sister ran from the room through the house to the kitchen. Jon was close behind her. When he got to the kitchen, his sister turned to him and yelled, "Who was that?" Jon said he didn't know. He went back to the living room to see if the person was still there, and she was not.

On another occasion, Jon and his wife had out-of-town guests visiting. It was beginning to be dusk outside, and the outside light coming in from the windows was waning in the living room where everyone was sitting. Suddenly, one by one, lamps began to turn on by themselves in the living room until all six were lit. The guests



The saga of ghosts in the Monocacy continued with strange sightings in this historic home.

asked if there was an electrical problem, and Jon replied, "No."

On yet another occasion, Jon had been watching television in the living room and had fallen asleep with the television on. The next morning, when he awakened, the television was off.

Continued on page 7.

# Family Album



Lovely evening by the campfire on October 12 with the Monocacy Elementary School PTA. Parents thanked David Roy Ritter, Julie Ritter, and Bretton Woods Golf Course for a fun night.



The Monocacy Elementary PTA sponsored a delicious Donut Day on October 14! Miss Alban enjoyed hers prior to opening the house for parents to visit the classrooms.



Performer Jazilyn Sligh was the winner of Frederick County's nonprofit The Chords of Courage STEP UP songwriting contest.



The trio of Torchlight's Jeff Feit, Todd Walker, and Natalie Dodson performed some original songs by Todd and amazing covers of the band America.



The duo of Retro T (Terry Scott) and Natalie Dodson performed at Torchlight Productions Recording Studio's fall concert on October 19.



PMUMC's Lord's Acre Festival cooking crew: Beth Parker, Tom King, Lizzie Vinson, Kevin Schramm, Betty King, Sandy Dowell, Terry Ferril, Linda Self, and Carolyn Repass.



Pilar and Mike Garrett had the sweetest duty of all.



Great fall day for PMUMC's Lord's Acre Festival.

## Town Government

### Town Hears Initial Report about Possible New Pickleball Courts

By Link Hoewing

In a departure from normal protocols, the Town of Poolesville commissioners heard a very preliminary report from the town engineer regarding the idea of establishing outdoor pickleball courts during their October 21 meeting. Town engineer John Strong said he had reviewed the idea of building three pickleball courts in a section of Elgin Park that is not well suited to other uses. He made it clear he was only asked to do a cost analysis and did not look at other options, such as repurposing existing tennis courts.

Strong said that if the total area for the courts exceeded five thousand square feet, the town would have to go through the county for a storm water management plan which could add to delays as well as costs. He estimated this could put costs well above \$100,000 for three courts. If, instead, the town built only two courts, the costs might be closer to \$75,000.

In the discussion regarding the proposed courts, Parks Board chair Doug McKenney explained that the board had not yet met to discuss the issue in any depth. He also acknowledged that while Elgin Park was considered as one of the possible locations for the courts, the board had not looked in any detail at other possible sites. Some sites, such as Dillingham Park, were likely not viable due to the fact that much of the ground is low and often soggy, and there are no nearby restroom facilities.

The large crowd in attendance at the meeting was very appreciative that the idea was getting attention. They see outdoor pickleball courts as an important addition to the ongoing programs of the Poolesville Area Senior Center and added that the sport is growing very rapidly. The commissioners were clearly in general agreement that the idea of adding pickleball courts to the towns park system makes sense, but they also said that the issue needed to be reviewed carefully by the Parks Board. The board will now review the idea thoroughly and report back to the commissioners when they have solid recommendations to make.

Earlier in the meeting, the commissioners engaged in a discussion regarding the future agenda and direction of the town government. Commissioner Kerri Cook said she has been hearing from a number of citizens that they would like to see a "road map" for the town's future. She also mentioned that it would be useful to look at ways to help people become more involved in town government activities by offering ways for them to "attend" meetings remotely, via streaming, for example.

It was noted that the town still has on its books a Community and Economic Development Committee that once included nine members, including three from the community at large, three representatives from the business community, and three officials from the town government. In its early days, the committee did look at both economic development ideas and at ways to promote a stronger community. Ideas, including the creation of what is today the town's events coordinator, events on the commons especially the lighting ceremony, and proposals to improve the town's economic health such as repurposing the old golf club facility at the Poolesville Golf Course, all were considered or recommended

Continued on page 11.

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## Rande(m) Thoughts A Yankee Fan Rooting For the Nats

By Rande Davis

It was a close call, but in the end, when the Yankees didn't make it into the World Series, I dodged a bullet of social scorn and derision. How so? You see, I would have been compelled to wear my Yankees cap throughout the series, and that's when the good-natured ribbing and teasing would have begun.

First, though, I want to say that as a lifelong New York Yankee fan, I have been rooting for the Nationals since this summer, especially after going to a game with friends and buying my first ever Nats cap. Watching the joy and thrill of friends and family, seeing their happiness so long overdue and well deserved was contagious. I have been wearing the red and blue proudly for a few months now—rooting for them to win the National League title, go on to the World series, and win against everyone (except the Yankees).

Why not a full allegiance switch to the Nats and why would I continue to wear the navy-blue New York cap? When I tell you the full story, you will mutter to yourself, "You better wear that hat!" I appreciate that you are thinking "Never!" right now, but here goes.

I was a young man when my father died at only fifty-seven years of age. As his casket was being lowered into the ground, my still-relatively-young and grieving mother stepped forward with a handful of Yankee Stadium dirt and sprinkled it on top. That's why I will always wear my New York Yankees cap, and this is when you mutter to yourself, "You better wear that cap!"

Of course, my baseball loyalty springs from more than even that one episode. I was born in Binghamton, New York. In those days, the city had a AAA Yankee farm team called the Binghamton Triplets, honoring the triple cities region made up of Binghamton, Johnson City, and Endicott. When I was two years old, my next door neighbor was an up and coming Triplet pitcher by the name of Edward Ford, a name you might not recognize until I tell you that after making it into the big leagues, his naturally bleached-blond hair caused his teammates to nickname him Whitey.

My youthful heroes were names you may recognize, especially my number

one hero, Mickey Mantle. My enthusiasm was fanned by others, like Roger Maris and Yogi Berra. I once had the thrill of riding in a car with Moose Skowron. Oh, how fans loved to scream "Moooooseee!" as he came to bat, sounding to the uninitiated ear as if he was getting booed, when in reality this great first baseman was being adored. I remember the time in the car that the only thing this eleven-year-old could think to say was, "I have your baseball card." He laughed and was so very kind to this very nervous young boy asking so many questions. How amazed I was when I heard that he had inquired about my welfare from that driver many months later.

I remember attending seven Yankees games as a boy. I remember Mickey Mantle hitting a homerun in five of them. I remember the 1960 World Series when my father made a last-minute decision to go down to the home game, buying standing room only tickets, standing behind the last row in the mezzanine for the whole game and not once getting tired. I remember at that game accidentally running into my grandfather in the immense crowd not even knowing he had decided to go, too. You see, being a Yankee fan was a generational thing in the family as well.

I also remember departing the Yankees ballgames by exiting the stadium through the right field gate. In those days, as the New York City Police Department stood guard over the infield to protect it, fans could freely walk out on the outfield. I remember standing exactly where my hero, The Mick, had stood just minutes before, looking up into the awe-inspiring stands in the same way he must have, while I dreamed the dream that all American boys did in those days.

The one thing I don't remember was the time my mother, on the way out, just as we reached the right field dirt warning track, bent over and scooped up some Yankee Stadium soil and put it in her purse. She safeguarded that dirt, never thinking it would be only ten years later that she would have it in hand at Dad's burial.

As true baseball fans, we all know the game is so much more than just a game, so much more than wins and losses, batting averages, RBIs, ERAs, and statistics on the back of a baseball card. The game is something that strikes to the very heart of us. It's why all of us will root for our roots every time, even while, at the same time, we can be thrilled another great team is in the World Series. Go, Nats!

## Local News

### A Store for the History Books

By Maureen O'Connell

On Saturday, October 19, 2019, John Nissel, Deputy Director of Operations for Montgomery County Parks, welcomed many people sitting in several rows of chairs in front of a small wood-frame building. They were there for the celebration of the rehabilitation of the historic Seneca Store on Old River Road in Poolesville. Also on hand were Maryland State Senator Brian Feldman, Maryland House of Delegates member David Fraser-Hidalgo, and Montgomery County officials Natali Fani-González and Joey Lampl.

For many local residents who gathered there, it was Poole's General Store and it brought back many old, but not forgotten, vivid memories. It was a sad day on December 31, 2010 when Billie and Raymond Poole closed its door for the last time. They had operated it since 1965. For the local farmers, horse folk, and hikers, Poole's was a "Cheers Bar" kind of place where everyone knew your name. Its two long narrow aisles were packed to the ceiling with horse liniments, horse



John Nissel, David Fraser-Hidalgo,  
Natali Fani-González,  
Brian Feldman, and Joey Lampl.

fly spray, saddle pads, lead shanks, garden supplies, and tools of all types and all vintages. Billie was always up front at the old cash register. Her daughters were in the back and would make you a bologna or ham sandwich, pork barbecue on a roll, or a hot bowl of homemade chili. The food all came with a generous helping of local news

Continued on page 6.

## The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

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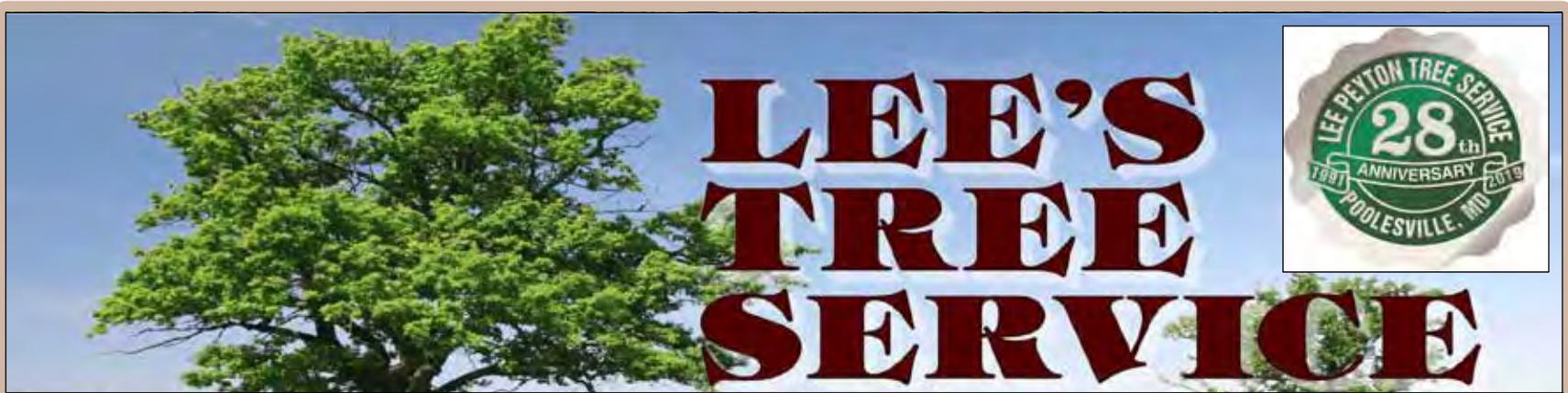
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Continued from page 4.

**A Store for the History Books**

and all the local gossip. If you carefully trod up the narrow, rickety steps to the attic, you would see hams hanging from the rafters, curing. Outside in the cinder block building on the edge of the driveway, the Poole girls would load up bags of horse feed and wood shavings into the back of your pickup truck. In the spring, you could buy flowers, vegetables, and herbs for your garden in the rear parking lot. You had to be careful backing out of the narrow parking area as to not hit one of the many chickens pecking in the dirt for food. The year might have been 1980, 2000, or 2010, but Poole's was still a "general store" from long time ago, and this is why everyone loved the Poole family and their little, old-fashioned store.

This beautiful fall Saturday ushered in a new era for the store with new players. The Montgomery County Parks Department purchased the property and buildings in 1972, and the Poole family continued to manage the general store and horse feed business. After the general store closed, Billie and Raymond Poole's daughter Jo Ann Clements still ran the feed business for Farm and Home Service out of the cinder block outbuilding.

A little over a year ago, the Parks Department began the rehabilitation project. In this phase, the workers discovered buried remnants of the old Seneca Mill that existed on the site 275 years ago. Over two thousand artifacts were on display on Saturday. The store building was constructed in 1901 by Frederick Allnut, and he ran it as a general store until 1965. Beside the store was his newly-acquired home, the circa 1855 Darby House. Over time, the store operated as a post office and gas station. Although it was twenty-six miles from D.C., it was a known destination—a day in the country.

A tenant for the new store building has not yet been selected. The family home will be rehabilitated and leased to a tenant next year. Many people are hoping that the new tenant will operate it in a manner reminiscent of its past. May the Poole's Store live on; it is a part of the area's history that deserves to be remembered and preserved.

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**Remember the Lorax**

By Maureen O’Connell

Last July, I wrote an article in the *Monocacy Monocle* entitled “A Trillion Trees.” It related the findings of a Swiss journal about the importance of trees to the protection and survival

of our planet and its environment. The article’s last sentence read: “You can’t plant a trillion trees in Monocacy Country, but you can plant one.” Thanks to Poolesville Green and Calleva, area children are doing just that—planting trees.

On Saturday, October 5, Poolesville Green and Calleva hosted—at the Calleva Farm Store in Poolesville—a

**Continued on page 16.**



*Children added two more trees to the historic John Poole House Arboretum.*

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**Ghost Stories of the Monocacy**

He tried to turn it on and it would not turn on. He saw the television had been unplugged. He asked his wife if she had unplugged the television, and she replied that she had not. After that event, Jon thought that enough was enough and decided to talk to the ghost. One day, sitting in the living room by himself, Jon spoke aloud for the ghost to hear, saying that he and his wife were taking care of the house, fixing it up, and “you will be pleased when we are finished.” After that talk, there were no more unusual occurrences noticed by him or his wife in the house.

**Ghostly Treasure along the C&O Canal**

There was once a man by the name of Shirley Jackson who volunteered at Harper’s Ferry as a guide, claiming that his father was a valet of Gen. George McClellan. He used to tell a story about treasure at Noland’s Ferry or the Monocacy Aqueduct along the C&O Canal. The way to find the treasure, he would say, was to follow the ghost of the person hiding it. The ghost was either a robber who operated at Noland’s Ferry or one of Confederate Col. John Mosby’s men sharing in the loot of the robbery of a payroll train. The ghost is seen

on moonless nights crossing the Monocacy Aqueduct carrying a lighted lantern. If you want to find the treasure, just follow this ghost, if you dare! Mr. Jackson died in 1950.

**Haunted House Bend**

The stretch of the C&O Canal across from Harrison Island in the Potomac River was once one of the best locations to tie up canal boats overnight before the Battle of Balls Bluff during the Civil War. That battle occurred on October 21, 1861 on the Virginia side of the Potomac River above Harrison Island. Canallers came to fear tying up along that stretch after the battle because it was so close to Balls Bluff and the Civil War cemetery located there. Many soldiers who died during the battle are buried at that cemetery. The ghosts of unknown soldiers rest there in unmarked graves and rise up after dark floating through the air from Virginia, across Harrison Island, across the Potomac, and come to earth at the “Haunted House Bend.” Once there, they scared mules, untied boat lines, and cast canal boats adrift. Some boat captains swore such things happened to them and their boat crews. The mules would not eat their grain because they were scared. If you want to have a ghostly experience, camp at the Turtle Run Hiker-Biker Campsite located near milepost 34 which is across from Harrison Island.



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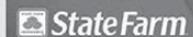
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## Tidbits

### New Flag Football League in Poolesville

Sunday afternoons in the fall mean one thing for many Poolesville residents: football—but it was not just the NFL that captivated the town in 2019. This year, our town enjoyed the inaugural season of the Poolesville Athletic Association's (PAA) flag football league. Every Sunday from early September through mid-October, residents could hear parents and kids cheering for touchdowns and praising the gourmet muffins sold in the league's snack tent.

Although this was Poolesville flag football's first season, the league is already one of the largest youth sports in town, with 125 players on fourteen teams across four age divisions (K-8, boys and girls). With the help of USA Football, league organizers Bob and Marcie Blackstone held a kickoff night in early September, followed by a six-game season as part of the NFL flag program. Each youth team represented an NFL team, and players wore high-quality, reversible jerseys provided by the NFL. All practices and games were held at Halmos Park on



The new PAA flag football league is off to a robust start.

Sunday afternoons, keeping the league informal and accessible.

The low-key atmosphere did not stop Poolesville's youth from giving their best on the field. As the season progressed, coaches were universally impressed by the progress their players made and the enjoyment they got from playing America's game.

The new league even caught the attention of Poolesville High School which will honor the flag football players at halftime of its football game on October 18. PHS football seniors Sam Allgood and Jalen Inman were among the PHS and JPMS students who served as referees for the new league. Meanwhile, parents served as volunteers to coach and staff the snack tent.

All in all, Poolesville Flag Football, proved the power of mobilizing a small-town community in support of our young athletes.

Registration for next fall's season will open in May at [www.paafalcons.com](http://www.paafalcons.com).

### PHS Soccer Hosted Its First Annual Junior Falcon Training Day

The Poolesville High School boys' and girls' soccer teams held a training/mentoring session with Poolesville area youth soccer teams at the practice field. "We call it Junior Falcon Training Day," said boys' soccer coach Mike Wills. "It was a great community outreach for our soccer program." The PHS boys' and girls' soccer players ran drills with the younger kids. There were thirty-two girls and twenty-four boys. "I think that getting to play with the high school kids is a great opportunity for my daughter," said parent Jenny Oristain. "She is in kindergarten, and she is just loving playing with the other kids and learning the skills and the system. She even played another team on the varsity field at halftime."

"It's fantastic for the girls," said Sebastian Engel, the father of Skylar Engel. "She is in first grade. The girls really love it. We have been out here once before on a game night for a



Mentoring the up-and-coming soccer stars.

scrimmage at halftime, and they loved that as well. It is absolutely great the way the high school teams have welcomed us."

"It was a lot of fun," said senior boys' captain A. J. Poore. "They were pretty wild and all, but it was nice to be able to teach them a little bit about soccer."

"We continue to look for opportunities for joint team events," said girls' coach Rod Nubgaard. "Our goal is to build a strong community-oriented program here at PHS. We hope to see people come out to support our teams."

### Now the Latest Moos

In our last issue, we reported on an achievement by Dickerson's Catherine Savage. While we reported some background information on this story, we

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Continued from page 8.

Tidbits

missed the "meat" of the story about this up and coming Jersey cow breeder, so here is the real scoop.

The National Youth Achievement Contest recognizes Jersey cow youth breeders from across the country for their leadership, activities, and participation in Jersey functions, as well as their success in breeding and managing their own Jersey cattle. This past March, fifteen applications from determined and dedicated youth from ten different states arrived in the office of the American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA). Each application was evaluated and ranked by a committee of judges to determine this year's top ten individuals. Catherine won the national championship.

The awards will be presented to the deserving on November 9, 2019 at the annual Junior Banquet. Cash awards of \$4,500 will be divided among the recipients and presented at the banquet. Congratulations to Catherine.

New Picnic Tables for the Old Canal

Volunteers from the C&O Canal Association put together and installed three new picnic tables at the Monocacy Aqueduct. There were several steps



New picnic tables for visitors to the C&O Canal.

involved in making these tables, including ordering boards and metal frames, cutting the boards to size, priming the boards and then painting them brown, drilling holes in the boards, loading the boards and frames at the Great Falls maintenance shed onto a Park Service truck, driving to the Monocacy Aqueduct, and assembling the tables. The effort took several days and several volunteers. These tables replace those that washed away in the 2018 floods.

John Poole Middle School Annual Military Appreciation Drive

This year, John Poole Middle School will be sending donations to a team serving in the navy on an aircraft carrier.

Continued on page 20.



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## Things To Do

### Poolesville Area Senior Center

All events at 17750 W. Willard Road, Poolesville

**Pickleball:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 8:30 a.m.

**Zumba Gold:** Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.

**Mahjong:** Thursdays, Room 129, 10:00 a.m.

**Chair/Slow Flow Yoga:** Mondays, 11:00 am in the café

**The Blue Hearth is open every weekend.**

### Halloween Parties in Poolesville

**October 31:** Cugini's

**November 1:** Bassett's

**November 2:** House of Poolesville

### October 26

#### Annual WUMCO Walk and Oktoberfest

Featuring costume parade and contests for kids (1:00 p.m.) and dogs (1:30 p.m.), scarecrow making, pumpkin painting, games, moon bounce, and rock wall (wrist band \$5.00). Winners of Walk Team contest at 2:30 p.m. Beer tent featuring three breweries. *Whalen Commons*. Noon to 6:00 p.m.

### Open Mike and Potluck

The Hyattstown Mill Arts Project presents an open mike night for local artists. Come hear and be heard! Poets, storytellers, singers, musicians, and listeners—all are welcome. *The historic Hyattstown Mill, 14920 Hyattstown Mill Rd., Hyattstown*. Signup and start of potluck: 7:00 p.m.; open mike: 7:30 p.m.

### October 27

#### Community Trunk or Treat

Bring your kids to a safe and fun indoor, Halloween event. Kids in costume, candy, and refreshments. *Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church*. 5:00 p.m.

### 90th Annual St. Mary's Ham and Turkey Dinner

Mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, green beans, sauerkraut, and rolls. Crafts, baked goods, pumpkins, country store Christmas shop. \$16 for adults and carry outs. Dining room guests 10 and under eat for free. *St. Mary's Pavilion*. Noon to 6:30 p.m.

### Carroll Manor Fire Department: Sportsman Bonanza

Chance to win 11 guns and cash. \$40.00, includes meal, beer, and one guest.

2795 Adamstown St., Adamstown. Info at [www.carrollmanorfirecompany.com](http://www.carrollmanorfirecompany.com), click on Sportsman Bonanza, can pay online. Doors open 4:00 p.m., buffet dinner: 5:15 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### October 31

#### Annual Lions Halloween Party

Bring your kids, grandkids, and the neighbors' 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*. 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

### November 1

#### UMCVFD Auxiliary Bingo

Featuring cash and gift cards as well as door prize drawings. Enjoy an evening of relaxing fun while helping to support your local fire department. Bring a friend! Refreshments available for purchase. *UMCVFD Firehouse, 19801 Beallsville Rd.* \$20. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; games start at 7:00 p.m.

### November 2

#### Carroll Manor Firemen's Christmas Craft Show

Holiday crafts; local craft vendors. Refreshments and light breakfast and lunch, fresh hot apple dumplings. Pre-order food available for pick up. [www.carrollmanorfirecompany.com](http://www.carrollmanorfirecompany.com). 2795 Adams St., Adamstown. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### Nightingale Library Event: Science Club

Have fun while learning about science. *Poolesville Elementary School*. 2:30 p.m.

### November 4

#### Poolesville Commission Meeting

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

### November 7

#### Nightingale Library Event: Family Storytime

Encourage children to develop a lifelong love of reading and learning. Preschool and kindergarten, babies and toddlers. *Nightingale Library*. 10:30 a.m.

### November 13

#### PASC Special Event: 5th Quarterly Social

All are welcome to this free event celebrating seniors with birthdays in October, November and December. Light refreshments. Join us for a memorable afternoon with the unique musical stylings of the Jamison Doto Duo. 17550 W. Willard Road. 1:30 p.m.

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Continued from page 3.

**Town Hears Initial Report about Possible New Pickleball Courts**

by the CEDC. It also conducted surveys and at least one “Charette” which is a focused discussion about the future of the town led by a facilitator. In the latter case, a report was issued that contributed to new master plans for the town that have helped shape the town’s evolution.

Commissioners Cook and Radigan said it might be worth considering a “reboot” of the CEDC in some form. After further review, it was decided that the commissioners would meet on November 16 to have a discussion regarding the town’s future, possibly including the notion of reviving the CEDC in some form.

In other business, Commission President Jerry Klobukowski announced that as of that evening’s meeting, thirty-three candidates had applied for the position of town manager. Twenty hailed from Maryland, but none lived in Poolesville. The deadline for applications remains October 28.

The commissioners also heard a report from town engineer John Strong recommending that a number of bonds that have been secured by Kettler-Forlines in support of its construction of the Brightwell Crossing housing development be either reduced or eliminated altogether. In effect, bonds are insurance policies paid for by the developer to ensure that all required public improvements—roads, sewer faculties, and the like—are completed in a timely manner and in compliance with requirements. If they are not, the bonds can be used by the town government to pay for the needed improvements. In the case of Kettler-Forlines, Strong made it clear that a series of projects such as final road paving, sewer connections, and grading had been either completed as required or were at a stage where lower bond levels were appropriate. The commissioners approved all of the bond changes recommended by Strong.

Finally, Klobukowski pointed out that budget season is approaching. The town traditionally asks all of its boards and committees to submit budget recommendations that can be considered as the FY 2021 budget is being formulated. He announced that all boards and committees should get their budget recommendations in by January of next year so that they can be included in budget deliberations.

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## Foundations

### Mother's Delight

By Kenny Sholes

If you've never taken an afternoon to explore the grounds at Monocacy Cemetery, this fall would be a great time to do so. Despite growing up in Poolesville, it wasn't until about a year ago that I ventured inside the gates. The cemetery is the final resting place for veterans of virtually every conflict the United States has fought since the Revolutionary War, noteworthy former citizens of the Ag Reserve, and a large number of family members tied to the historic homes we pass each day.

In two different sections of the cemetery, you will find slabs noting that the tombstones in these sections were "moved from the graveyard at Mother's Delight." The tombstones—predominantly bearing the names of Allnutt, Darby, and Dawson family members—span a timeframe of 1797 to 1880—but what and where is the graveyard at "Mother's Delight"? With a little bit of research and some help from Glenn Wallace, the Monocacy Cemetery historian who has done incredible work cataloging the lives of almost everyone buried at Monocacy, I was able to locate the now-abandoned cemetery in Boyds.

The Allnutt and Dawson families have significant roots in the Ag Reserve stretching back to the late 1700s. A number of historic homes in the area have links to members of these families. For example, the next time you are enjoying a glass of wine at Rocklands, take a look at the side of the home above the bay windows and you will see "B. Allnutt" chiseled into the Seneca sandstone wall.

It turns out that the Mother's Delight cemetery was developed in the last few years of the eighteenth century on farmland owned by James Macall Dawson, Sr., who lived from 1775 to 1867. In survey records, the land was referred to as Mother's Delight, hence the name of the cemetery. Following James's death in 1867, his son Americus inherited the land before passing it on to a nephew who owned the property until 1924. In the late 1920s, after the land was sold out of the Dawson and Allnutt families, a decision was made to move almost all of the tombstones and about half of the bodies from the graveyard to Monocacy

Cemetery (how it was decided which bodies were moved and which were left remains a mystery).

Today, the Mother's Delight cemetery sits in a patch of woods near Schaeffer Road. Largely untouched for the last ninety years, nature has overtaken the grounds of what I assume was once a well-manicured cemetery. Interestingly, two gravestones do remain at the site. These two stones, belonging to John Dawson and his son Erasmus, were left at the site for reasons unknown. The men died ten days apart in December of 1855. Additionally, while the tombstones are no longer present, we believe the remains of many members of these families are still located at the site. Notably, the remains of two Revolutionary War veterans, James and Lawrence Allnutt, are believed to still be present at the location.



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**October 26th**  
**Noon-6**  
**Whalen Commons**  
**Poolesville**

**Walk for WUMCO with team competitions, Costume Contests for Kids and dogs, Scarecrow Making, Pumpkin Painting, Games, Moon Bounce, Rock Wall, & MORE!**

**\*\*\* 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**

**2:30 Walk Team Contest winners announced**

Refreshment Tent Vendors





Dots at three years old.



Dots Elgin with friends at one of the now-famous annual rummage sales.



The first colored picture of Dots as a young woman.

# Happy 100th Birthday, Dots!



Dots, with husband Charles Elgin, lived in this home on Elgin Road for sixty-nine years.



The Elgins were married for fifty-six years.



High school friends and self-named Prisses.



Dots as a registered nurse in 1941.



Many of Dots's closest buddies lunching at Bassett's Resturant: Back row: Helen Pumphrey, Jean Schultz, Mary Ann Kephart, Bonnie Anthony, Lib Tolbert. Front row: Dots, Susie Benedict, Judy Gallagher, and Betty Bassett.

## Local History

### Poolesville Celebrates World Series Victory

By Jack Toomey

Since baseball returned to Washington in 2005, millions of fans have passed through the gates of RFK Stadium and Nationals Park. Thousands more watch games on television. No season generated more excitement than the 2019 season when the Nats won the wild-card game, the five-game series against the Los Angeles Dodgers, and they won the National League pennant by sweeping the St. Louis Cardinals.

As most know, a Washington baseball team had not been to the World Series since 1933. Baseball fever built during the last weeks of the regular season and during that first playoff series. Sellout crowds packed Nationals Stadium during all of the home playoff games. After beating the vaunted Cardinals four games to zero, fans flocked to the streets in D.C. and celebrated.

In 1924, things were different. The Senators won the American League pennant and played the New York Giants in the World Series. Games

were not yet broadcast on the radio, so fans that needed updates flocked to the nearest telegraph office or to the offices of the three major newspapers in the city. Employees would post the scores on giant scoreboards erected at street level.

The deciding game, a 4-3 victory over New York at Griffith Stadium, was won by the Senators in the twelfth inning. Fans poured onto the field and lifted their heroes onto their shoulders and then streamed out into the streets of the city. Cars were rocked, firecrackers were set off, and general mayhem reigned.

In sleepy Poolesville, then a town of about 150 people, fans managed to follow the games by reading newspapers and listening to news reports on the radio. How the final score of the deciding game was learned is anyone's guess, but three young men decided to have their own celebration. Earl Carter, Carelton Gloyd, and Marion Selby all piled into a car and began driving around town shouting, banging on the sides of their machine, and throwing firecrackers into the street. It so happened that Montgomery County Police Chief William Aud lived in Poolesville at the time. Alerted to the disturbance, Aud took to his own car

Continued on page 15.

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## Nature and Wildlife

### The Many Faces of the Little Green Heron

By Susan Petro

Green herons are the much smaller cousins of the better-known great blue herons. The great blue herons have long narrow necks and equally tall legs, standing a towering 3½ feet to 4½ feet tall; whereas, the much smaller green herons are short, compact birds that are closer in size to a crow, about sixteen to eighteen inches in length.

Both species of heron can often be found along the shorelines of our local ponds, estuaries, creeks, and other sources of shallow water. The smaller green herons are often easy to miss as they use a version of stealth technology to hunt and fish for prey, perching motionless on a floating log or debris in shallow waterways to wait for prey to swim by.

Green herons can be found in Poolesville area ponds and streams or along the C&O Canal where they like to camouflage themselves amongst the brush and undergrowth that line the shore. The smallest and most compact of the herons, the richly-colored green herons sport iridescent blue/green feathers on their backs, and brick red feathers on the chest. When the green herons extend their necks, long white and brown stripes emerge in the front.

These entertaining little birds can often be heard making a quack-type sound as they hop from branch to branch while searching for new fishing spots. The favorite meal for green herons is fish, but they also eat frogs, amphibians, eels, and even small snakes. Like other herons, they use their lightning-quick reflexes and sharp bills to snatch unsuspecting prey out of the water. The bill sometimes serves as a spear.

Green herons are most often seen during the spring and winter months in the Agricultural Reserve. By late summer, they head towards warmer environments in Florida, Mexico, and the Caribbean.



*Occasionally, the green heron will raise its feathered cap to sport a crested mohawk. Most often, the green heron's neck is pulled close to its body, giving it this compact, stocky appearance.*



*When the heron extends its long, reddish-brown neck, it takes on a whole new appearance. The long neck makes it easier to reach for prey that the heron then rotates to swallow.*



*Most often, green herons appear compact and stocky, with their necks drawn into their bodies. Their favorite fishing spots are along shallow shorelines where they frequently crouch motionless while scanning the water for nearby prey.*

Continued from page 14.

#### Poolesville Celebrates World Series Victory

and tracked down the celebrators and arrested them. He took them to Rockville and charged them with disturbing the peace.

On October 14, 1924, all three appeared in Rockville Police Court. Judge Riggs found them guilty but suspended any sentence. He declared, "At least you had not gone half as crazy as the people in Washington."

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Continued from page 7.

#### Remember the Lorax

viewing of the movie, *The Lorax*. This ecological fable is a children's book, but there is an important message in its words for those of all ages. It was written in 1972 by Theodore Seuss Geisel, or, as all children know him, Dr. Seuss. It is said that the inspiration of the book was the observation of the danger that corporate greed poses to nature and a real-life tree in his home town of La Jolla, California. The fable chronicles the plight of the environment in Kenya. Through personification, Dr. Seuss created characters for industry (Once-ler), the environment (the Truffula trees), and activism (the Lorax). If we don't take care of our planet and allow polluting industry and corporate greed to continue unchecked, we will end up destroying the only home we have. The Lorax "speaks for the trees." The alarming message of this prescient book is even more relevant today than it was in 1972.

Poolesville Green was cofounded in 2010 by Joyce Breiner, Tim Whitehouse, and Lee Erickson with a mission to promote the appreciation, conservation, and sustainable use of natural resources in Poolesville and surrounding communities. Today, it is enriched by a staff of volunteers, a board of directors, and a board of advisories from throughout Montgomery County. This past year, they have worked with area children to plant more than three hundred native trees.

Over forty people attended the viewing of *The Lorax* at the Calleva store. The story might have been new to the younger children, but I am sure the older ones and their parents were well acquainted with this fable. After the movie, there was a discussion of trees and their importance to the environment, and everyone was given a small red cedar to plant at their home. As an end to the day, everyone crossed Fisher Avenue to the John Poole House Arboretum where they planted two red cedar trees. When the arboretum was started in 1976, the garden included two cedar trees, *Juniperus virginiana*; the trees are still thriving today.

An interesting footnote to this story is the choice of the newly-planted young trees. They are in the same family as the Monterey Cypress, the inspiration for the Truffula trees in *The Lorax*.

Fables hold much truth. Remember the Lorax.

# Remembrance

## Jane A. Dassen

Jane Augusta Leaman Norris Dassen left this life to enter her eternal rest on Sunday, October 20, 2019. The firstborn of John and Idella Leaman, she attended Germantown Elementary School and Gaithersburg High School. Her marriage to Kirk Norris produced four children: Kirk, Tina, David, and Margaret Ann. Some years after being divorced from Kirk, she married Henri Dassen.



Jane A. Dassen

Jane was blessed with many talents. She was a musician, a baker, a cake decorator, and a seamstress. She did oil painting, hooked rugs, crocheted prayer shawls, and created various styles of hats for cancer patients as well as hats for her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-nieces, and great-nephews. She provided the music for Boyds Presbyterian Church (organ, piano, and choir director) for some fifty-eight years.

Jane was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Henri, her daughter Margaret Ann, and her grandson Joshua. She is survived by her two sons, Kirk and David, her daughter Tina, and their families, including numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her six siblings: Margaret, John, Bill, Dan, Trish, and Denise.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard Drive, Suite 100, Rockville, MD 20850 (montgomeryhospice.org) or to your favorite charity.



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### PHS Boys' Soccer Sticks Together And Builds for the Future

By Jeff Stuart

"This has been a challenging year for the boys," said boys' soccer coach Mike Wills, "but they have made the best of it as they always do. I'm so proud of their ability to stick together and work their hardest to make the best out of a situation where many would pack it up and call it a season. We know our regular season schedule is challenging in Montgomery County, playing very talented teams. This only prepares us better for the playoffs, and we keep that in the back of our mind as we haven't seen but one win and one tie this season. Not winning can bring a set of challenges to any team, so to see these boys lose heartbreaking close games and still stay positive makes me very proud. I'm also proud of their sportsmanship, behavior, and work they do off the field. Our team is always a strong fundraising team. We set great examples for the younger teams that come to watch us, and we took a day off of practice to invite our town's younger teams to come and train with the boys' and girls' teams. Seeing the boys and girls run drills and interact with the young teams made my day, seeing them give back to the community and thoroughly enjoying themselves."



Falcons: Christian Kim, Cole Roy, Josh Widenhofer, A.J. Poore, Zack Fedders, Colin Staszewski, and Brad Blair.

"The season so far has not gone as well as we would like," said senior captain A. J. Poore, "but we are starting to play well. We definitely have improved a lot. I think our best performance was definitely against Springbrook. We won that game, 2-1, and we showed a lot of heart. Josh and junior Michael Berko scored the goals for us. For the rest of the season, I am looking forward to keeping the brotherhood going and working hard and finishing the season strong. I want to give a shout out to Brad Blair. He works as hard as he can every game, and he never stops running, and our freshman Josh has played really well."

"This season has been a little bit rough," said senior captain Zack Fedders. "We expected a little bit more. I also think the Springbrook game and Watkins Mill game were strong games for us. They were two close games. One we won, and one we lost. I personally think the Rockville game was a good game for us. We lost 2-1 in overtime. I did not play against Rockville because I was out because of a red card. Even though our team didn't have a center back, we took a very good team to overtime. Josh, the freshman scored the goal for us. I would like to give a shout out to Jack Forcey, a freshman. He started out on JV and got called up recently. He is a great player. He shows heart and wants to run more. I think

Continued on page 22.



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## Youth Sports

### Dramatic Kickoff Return at South Carroll Highlights Falcons' Football Season

By Jeff Stuart

On October 4, at South Carroll High School, the Poolesville football team won the toss and returned the opening kickoff ninety-four yards for a touchdown.

"I caught the ball," said junior wide receiver and defensive back Desmond Brown. "I was patient with it. I saw all my teammates get on their blocks. They were very good blocks. I saw a hole open. I just took off and kept running. That was pretty much it. I couldn't have done it without my teammates."

"Just the way the rest of the guys opened up the middle of the field," said assistant coach Michael Smith at practice on October 8, "if you watched it on tape, it was just like the Red Sea was opening. The blocking scheme was great."

A few moments later, Poolesville intercepted the Cavaliers on their first play from scrimmage and took over at the South Carroll thirty-yard line. Poolesville junior quarterback Aaron Brown, Desmond's brother, then scored on a twenty-six-yard run. That closed out the scoring, and PHS shut down SC the rest of the way, posting a 14-0 win. Another interception right before halftime halted the most promising Cavalier drive of the game.

"It was a good game," said Aaron. "We started fast and, as the game went on, we just wore them down. It has been tough not having our head coach here to coach us because the whole system is different. He ruptured his achilles during the Century game. He had surgery, but our assistant coaches have been helping us out. One of our better games was against Blake. It was really close. We played well as a team. Logan Marsh has really stepped up as a receiver and helped us a lot. I am really looking forward to the Walter Johnson game because they are 5-1, and I like competition."

Assistant coach Brian Tupa filled in for head coach Tony Nazarro for the games against Rockville, Seneca Valley, South Carroll, and Magruder.

"The win over South Carroll was a very good team win," said senior running back and linebacker Sam Allgood. "We had a really good defensive performance. Desmond had that great special teams play, and he had a good defensive game as well. Obviously, the seniors have not had the senior year we have been looking forward to. We've had some losses, but the chemistry has always been good. We have a close senior class. We opened up with a strong performance against Blake. We really competed in that game. That is one game I look back on. Looking at newcomers, Sampson Yeager, our freshman kicker, has done really well on special teams...and Zach Onderko has played well for us."

"It was important for us to win the SC game to stay in the playoff race," said senior running back and linebacker Zach Onderko. "It was nice to get that first win. Returning the opening kickoff got us started pretty quickly. I think the Blake game was up there with our best efforts of the season. We were down two points. We were right there. If we could have punched one more touchdown in us would have won that one."

"It definitely helped that we scored early against Carroll," said senior running back Colin Hemmingway. "That really got us going. We got some momentum. We needed that. There are times that in games we have come out flat and didn't have any energy, but I think we started out pretty well in our first game against Blake. We held with them. A lot of the newer players were not used to the speed of the varsity game. We kind of got tired in the second half. That hurt us. We made mistakes. Overall it was a good effort."

"It's not going the way we had planned," said Coach Smith about the season so far, "but the kids keep working hard...I agree with the captains that the Blake game was good for us because they came out and just fought the whole way. They laid everything on the line, and the game was closer than the score indicated. They have competed hard in every game. We just don't have the numbers."

In a close 12-7 loss to Magruder on homecoming night, the Falcons had opportunities before a large and enthusiastic crowd.

Marsh picked off a second quarter pass at the PHS twenty-five and ran it back to the Colonels' forty-eight. Brown completed a forty-two-yard pass to Logan Marsh, and a one-handed catch by Onderko for a gain gave PHS a first down at the twenty-three. The Falcons' Justin Sheehi recovered a fumble at the Magruder thirty-nine later in the quarter, and Onderko picked off a pass and returned it to the Colonels' thirteen, but the Colonels picked off an Aaron Brown pass in the end zone with 4:09 left in the half.



Falcon captains: Zach Onderko, Aaron Brown, Sam Allgood, and Colin Hemmingway.

Magruder scored on a twenty-six-yard pass just thirty-four seconds into the contest. A Magruder punt early in the second half rolled all the way to the Falcons' one-yard line and was downed. PHS struggled with poor field position. Finally, Aaron hit a seven-yard touchdown pass to Desmond with just eleven seconds left in the game.

Other seniors are Pranay Kamineny, Aidan Ryan, Jalen Inman, Jacob Zeranski, Jacob Kasten, Zach Goldstein, and Adam Olcott.

Other juniors are Conor Douglas, Vladimir Velasquez, Trevor Riggs, Carl Stahlberg, Aden Godsey, Justin Sheehi, Max Knight, Alex Barney, Junior Ventura, and Shreedatta Indur.

Jalen Riggs is a sophomore.

Other assistant coaches are Skip Etheridge, Zach Etheridge, Jon Murray, and Patrick Weld.

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## Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

### Present Crimes

**Burglary:** 19700, 19900 blocks of Fisher Avenue.

**Identity Theft:** 19700 block of Selby Avenue, unit block of Hackett Court.

**Theft/Swindle:** 19500 block of Lewis Orchard Lane.

### Past Crime: 1966

A police K-9 dog named Rocky led police to three suspects who had just robbed the Park Silver Hotel in Silver Spring. Rocky and his handler Fred Helton had been patrolling nearby, and Rocky followed the scent of the robbers across the D.C. line to a parked car. Inside the car, police found the three suspects, a gun, and cash. All three waived extradition on the spot and were returned to Montgomery County.

A forty-six-year-old farm worker was killed when the tractor he was operating overturned on Edwards Ferry Road near Poolesville. Police said that Clifton Walker was operating the tractor when it overturned while he was entering the roadway.

Police were overwhelmed with telephone calls after they released a composite drawing of a man who they believed murdered nine-year-old Steven Johnston. Stevie had left his house the day before to look for turtles in Little Falls Creek. When he did not

return, a full-scale search began with firemen, police, and volunteers. A fireman eventually found Johnston's body in the woods near the creek. After fifty-three years, the case is not officially closed; however, police believe that they know who killed the boy. Unfortunately, the evidence in the case has been lost.

Several dozen women received phone calls from a man who claimed that he had abducted their daughters and was holding them at an undisclosed location. All of the calls were made during school hours, causing mothers to flock to the schools or call. In the end, no one had been abducted, and the man was never identified. (Note: My mother received such a call, and she walked a block to the elementary school where my sister was sitting in her classroom).

The county police announced that a slew of burglaries in upper class neighborhoods were likely the work of the K&A gang from Philadelphia. These burglars took only the finest valuables from homes, including silverware, furs, and expensive jewelry. The case broke open when officers responded to a burglary-in-progress call in Bethesda and apprehended a forty-eight-year-old Philadelphia man inside the house. K&A stood for Kensington and Allegheny which was a notorious intersection in Philadelphia that crooks frequented.

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

Continued from page 9.

### Tidbits

The donation drive will run from October 21 through November 22. Suggested donations include non-perishable snacks/cookies, holiday decorations, magazines, personal

hygiene items, or monetary donations. Monetary donations will be applied towards the cost of postage. Last year, the cost of postage was more than \$1,000. Donations can be dropped off at or mailed to John Poole Middle School, 17014 Tom Fox Avenue, Poolesville, MD 20837.

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Continued from page 1.

**The First Lady of Poolesville Turns 100**

her nineties, she was still a key “chauffeur” and “gofer” for many of her friends who no longer could easily get around in the community.

She grew up on a farm in Dickerson, and while today it is considered very close to Poolesville, back in the 1930s, she would have been thought of as an out-of-towner. She remembers going to the Dickerson School by stick buggy (open-topped horse buggy) and that the school had a stable nearby where the horses could be kept. Dots graduated from Poolesville High School in 1937, part of a class of eighteen. She can recall when a heavy snowstorm hit the area, she had to stay in town at Dr. Elijah White’s house, which is the farm home situated in the middle of Elizabeth’s Delight. Through the deep snow, she would ride her horse to the bus stop. Before hopping on the bus, she would “rein up” the horse and send him back riderless to the farm.

As you can imagine, much of their social entertainment as high school students came from their own creativity. She and her girlfriends banded together in a small club they called the Prisses. Asked why the name, she said it was like the way we use word “bad” for “good” today. “We were far from prissy.” Much of their free time included board games, cards, house parties, and roller skating, often down the middle of White’s Ferry Road reaching the best speeds on the slope just after the entrance to where the county pool is today. One of the most popular things to do was going to the silent movies in Hempstone Hall, which today is Poolesville Hardware. Dances were a very big thing back then, especially since dance instructors were usually PHS senior boys.

One of her most significant contributions to the area is that which she made as being perhaps one of our greatest historians. She is the co-author of *The History of Poolesville*, the definitive publication that profiles almost every home in Poolesville, currently existing or long gone. She also has maintained, for over fifty years, an extensive series of scrapbooks of news clippings of articles, post cards, invitations, and event programs telling, page by page, the history of the town. If a news story was in print and about the community, then it is in one of her many scrapbooks. It is through these home archives that the news about the people and events of Poolesville, Barnesville, Dickerson, Boyds, and the surrounding area were kept. She also has special scrapbooks just for the churches, the fire department, and for civic clubs.

In 2016, she was one of the first recipients of Historic Medley District’s Whisper Award, which recognizes those who have made major contributions to safeguarding the history of the region.

For many, many years, Dots was chairperson for the St. Peter’s Community Bazaar committee, which had raised thousands of dollars over the years in support of church projects. In the earlier days, she and other women would meet weekly to knit and crochet arts and crafts for its annual bazaar. For those living in the area for many years, most have at least one Christmas tree ornament on their tree made by one of these ladies.

Church has always been central to life in Poolesville. She was baptized, confirmed, and married at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church. Unlike the customary Thanksgiving family dinners of today, a community Thanksgiving dinner at St. Peter’s was normal. Many people did not cook Thanksgiving dinner at home. “We would all pitch in and cook the dinner for all to share at St. Peter’s, although it was for the whole community not just the congregants.”

While she gave up chairing the big bazaar decades ago, she continued to devote many hours to the now-famous semi-annual rummage sales. She was an active member of the Women of St. Peter’s. She was, for many years, active with the Ladies’ Auxiliary of the UMCVFD, and also participated in the area’s Homemakers’ Club. The Homemakers brought together women from the community to share their interest in baking, crafts, and things relating to the home. They had lecturers on food topics and demonstrations in cooking and baking.

Dots’s volunteerism included working as the bookkeeper for the Monocacy Cemetery and, through that experience, honed her interest in genealogy. She has traced not only the intricacies of her family tree but also has done so for many people in and outside the area.

Of all the service work she has done for many decades, it may be her contribution as a baker that is the favorite of most people who know her. At one time during a holiday season, she supervised thirteen teams of assistants, who baked an estimated thirteen thousand sand tarts.

After Charles died, she renewed her interest in bridge and became well regarded for her no-nonsense winning ways in the card game.

As she sits quietly in her living room at Buckingham’s Choice, she still diligently crochets five-inch squares via an oversized magnifying glass mounted

to a floor stand. She professes no special reason for her long life, other than to say, “I just keep going.” After watching her over many years of friendship, I think I have found some clues. Dots never lets “the grass grow under her feet.” She has been perpetually in motion, a woman with a project or cause motivating her, and noted for her quick-step walk. She always walked, as my mother used to say, “with a purpose.” The three flights of stairs in her home of over sixty-nine years sure beat any modern day stair-stepping machine.

Dots Elgin, at one hundred, is celebrated as one of the grand dames of Poolesville, joining the likes of Helen Pumphrey, Mary Chiswell, Betty Watkins, Boo Painter, and Virginia Hersperger, just a few among many, revered by their peers as leaders in the community.

Happy Birthday, Dots, and may you still have many more days to “just keep going.”

## A Monocacy Moment



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Continued from page 18.

**PHS Boys' Soccer Sticks Together and Builds for the Future**

he is the future of this team. I love playing next to him. I love him as player and as a person."

"I think that our team comes out very strong every game," said senior captain Brad Blair, a center midfielder. "I think the difference is how long we stay strong. Our consistency has been a little off, but I think we all play with heart. I think our

best game of the year was against Watkins Mill. We lost that game, 1-0, but they are a really good team, and we put up a really good battle, and they only scored off a penalty."

Other seniors are Cole Roy, Josh Widenhofer, Colin Staszewski, Andrew Adams, and Christian Kim. Juniors are Eric Jung, Jay Doshi, Jason Daniels, Noah Masri, Arjun Rakheja, Felipe Beltran, and Ronoy Sarkar. Nico Carrillo, Mounir Abouraya, and Jonah Valmonte are sophomores. The JV coach is Luke Fedders.

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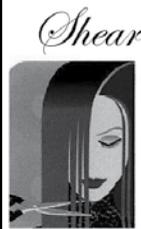
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## Celebrating 30 Years of Service

### New Research Suggests an End to Severe Cat Allergies May Be in Sight

By Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF

Many pet owners have both dogs and cats. More humans than we think have some level of allergy to their feline friends. Cat allergies are the most common animal-allergies in humans, affecting roughly 1 in every 5 adults worldwide.

People that have mild allergies to cats but live with them consistently build up a resistance to their cats, but studies show that it does not help them when they visit other cats; therefore, many people with cats do not think they are allergic to cats. Allergies to cats can be a nuisance for humans, rarely causing severe life-threatening events, but cat allergies can be a serious event for the feline. This common human allergy can keep animal lovers from adopting cats, having some cat owners' re-home their cat or keep their cat in a confined area of the house reducing the bond they can form with their feline friend.

Researchers at Purina have recently made a breakthrough in how we manage human allergies to cats. They have discovered that the major allergen that affects those allergic to cats is Fel d1 which is found in the saliva of cats. This allergen is spread to the fur and the surface cells of the skin. These then float into the air or get on human's hands and transferred to the face.

Purina researchers have discovered that they can neutralize Fel d1 in the hair and dander by adding an egg product containing anti-Fel D1 antibodies into a cat's diet. This has shown a significant decrease in Fel d1 to the environment. The early evidence is promising for control of cat allergies without any physiology changes to the cats. This could be a transformative way to help people manage their cat allergies, allowing owners to spend more quality time with their cats and potential new cat owners to take the plunge to feline servitude.



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