

Special Local Election

This issue features Town of Poolesville Commission candidates' responses to key questions, their statements of philosophies regarding their candidacies, and the pros and cons of a proposal to remove county council at-large seats.



These trekkers were going to walk for their good cause no matter what, come rain or shine, sleet or snow, flu or pandemic. Learn their story in Tidbits on page 8.



The saga of Poolesville's Norman family continues in Monocacy Roots on page 9.



Closeup view of the heron's dagger-like beak. See more on page 14.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

A Biweekly Newspaper

Keeping an Eye on Local News

October 23, 2020 • Volume XVI, Number 15

Town Candidates Answer Five Key Questions

By Rande Davis

The *Monocacy* provided five questions to the candidates for Town of Poolesville commissioner seats and asked each to answer within a specific space limitation. After each question, all the candidates' responses are preceded by their names. The order of answering was determined randomly.

What do you think is the single most crucial problem or concern the town has failed to tackle, and what would be your recommendation for resolution?

Jeff Eck: There are a few issues that we need to acknowledge and address head-on. I don't think the town failed, but the clarity of actions would go a long way towards keeping everyone informed.

First is a new high school, not a modernization of the existing structure: Poolesville deserves a brand-new high school. There are so many reasons

why a new school is needed, not just an updated school. As a commissioner, I pledge to support the existing efforts and keep pushing the Montgomery County Board of Education to build an all-new Poolesville High School.

Built in 1911, Poolesville High School's core was originally an elementary school. – Wikipedia

I'd like to recognize Kevin Schramm and Jerry Klobukowski for their tireless efforts towards a new high school for Poolesville. Their work has not gone unnoticed. Thank You, Mr. Schramm and Mr. Klobukowski.

Second is the issue of a twenty-four-hour gas station and mini-mart at the corner of Fisher and Wootton Avenues: Balancing the property owner's rights with the town's best interest is not always easy. That said, I am against a twenty-four-hour gas/mini-mart at that location. People move to Poolesville for many reasons, safer neighborhoods, excellent schools,

country living, quality of life, and the list goes on. A twenty-four-hour mini-mart is not one of the reasons.

People in small towns, much more than in cities, share a destiny. – Richard Russo, Novelist, Screenwriter, Teacher.

Jerry Klobukowski: Poolesville's viability depends on our ability to balance growth with sustainability and our revenue stream. Poolesville's unmatched quality of life depends upon two factors: 1. the ability of our sole-source aquifer and our wells to provide potable water to sustain homes and businesses within town boundaries. 2. Our revenue stream. Property and income taxes are our main revenue sources with development impact fees diminishing as large developments are completed. State Highway User Revenue (HUR) and County Tax Duplication (TD) are two other sources, and could contribute more, but the state and county laws

Continued on page 3.

Asking for Your Vote: Statements by Commissioner Candidates

By Rande Davis

We asked each candidate to make a statement regarding his candidacy for the Town of Poolesville Commission. Their submissions follow in alphabetical order:

Jeff Eck

I have lived in Poolesville for nearly thirty years with my wife and daughter. My daughter grew up through the Poolesville schools. We need to keep our schools the best academically and work with the Montgomery County Board of Education to build a new high school.

Poolesville residents deserve safe communities, fair access for everyone, carefully managed growth, and local shopping, services, and dining choices. All of this is possible, but it won't happen by itself. My plan as commissioner is to push in this direction. I

want us to continue to be proud to call Poolesville our home.

Every community needs leaders that are problem solvers. I think of myself as a problem solver. I hold a U.S. patent that required innovative thinking while working with a team of engineers to bring the idea to life. I will work with the other commissioners to devise creative solutions towards improving our already-delightful town.

My focus will be on representing the Poolesville community and pushing forward to keep Poolesville vibrant, thriving, and attractive to both residents and businesses alike. As a commissioner, I will bring a more representative form of leadership by listening and, perhaps more importantly, acknowledging our community's needs.

I have no personal agenda in the running for commissioner other than to push for common-sense improvements and keeping a rein on taxes.

I am currently an active twenty-five-year Montgomery County volunteer firefighter/EMT. My volunteer service illustrates my commitment to our community. Additionally, I am on the board of directors for the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department. I hold the role of treasurer on the board of directors for the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski

Poolesville is an exceptional gem in the county's Ag Reserve. Unlike other county communities, we can control our destiny through our Master Plan,

Continued on page 19.

Family Album

Freshman students at Poolesville High School held their own mock homecoming celebration including the traditional pre-dinner pictures.



POOLESVILLE  HIGH SCHOOL



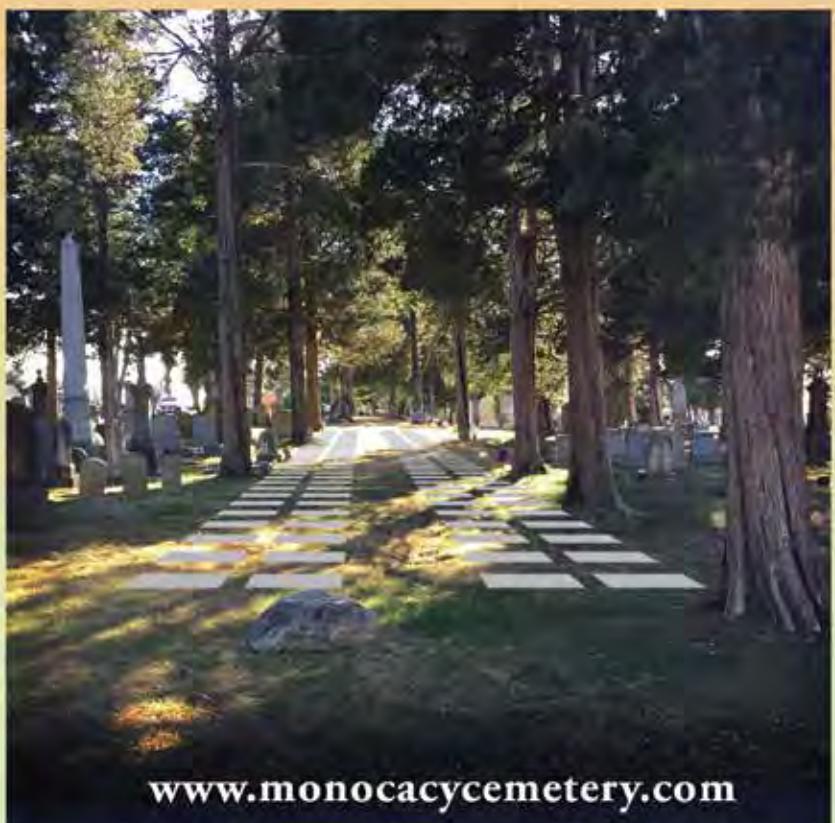
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Continued from page 1.

Town Candidates Answer Five Key Questions

need to be changed. Unless that happens in 2024, HUR funds will decrease to pre-2017 levels, and we will continue to receive only 44% of the \$543,143.00 in county TD money owed to us. As president of the county's Maryland Municipal League's (MML) Chapter and a member of MML's Legislative Committee, I am working with state and county municipal leaders to restore HUR and TD funding to 100%.

Martin Radigan: In the not-too-distant future, Poolesville housing will be built to capacity, and the town will need to generate revenue to compensate. It will be imperative to find ways to get people from down county to come to Poolesville to eat, recreate, gas-up, etc., and to spend their money here. Things like David and Sandy's new Locals market will be key to this. Poolesville will need to leverage its historical assets and proximity to the Agricultural Reserve, outdoor recreation, and agritourism.

Ed Reed: The single most important challenge for our town is to define the ongoing issue of what "smart growth" looks like. Given the sensitivity and importance of this issue, I do not see it as a failure but as an opportunity for continuous improvement. The 2012 Economic Development Opportunities for Poolesville report highlights several considerations impacting growth opportunities. In 2020, we still see challenges with smart, sustainable economic development. Moving forward, as we revise the 2011 Master Plan, we must ensure the process proactively casts a wider net for inclusion of all voices in our community. As a result, we can then engage in a meaningful discussion to address the controversial issues such as the recent 7-11 proposal and development considerations on the Willard property.

David Wilson: Poolesville must continue smart growth for both residents and businesses. I listen to what people are talking about, and it's interesting the wide variety of issues discussed in our town. I try to be careful not to hear the loudest voices as representative of the majority concern. That can be a difficult task. For example, a local grocery store is very important and is a major point of discussion among lots of people; however, for those who travel in from Germantown or Rockville on a daily basis from work, the issue rarely comes up. Bringing the right businesses to Poolesville is important. Businesses help sustain the economy and employ local residents. The small-town feel of Poolesville has a certain DNA as part of the Agricultural Reserve. It's a balance, a feel, a certain hand-in-glove relationship.

Within the next few years, what do you see as the top-priority issue facing the town, and what would be your recommendation?

Jeff Eck: Although not within the Poolesville boundaries, protecting the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve impacts Poolesville directly. I see more and more attempts to infringe upon the Ag Reserve in ways that are not agricultural.

I am very much in favor of non-polluting energy sources, especially solar, wind, thermal, hydro, etc.; however, a solar array in the Ag Reserve is not agricultural. I don't see exchanging food for solar arrays as a favorable trade. Since I agree that solar has great potential, I'd be most pleased to share my thoughts and ideas for alternative solar array locations.

Jerry Klobowski: The revision of our Comprehensive Plan, referred to as the Master Plan, will help define what our town or community will look like (i.e., population, recreation, development, etc.). It must balance growth with sustainable infrastructure and the fiscal ability to support it.

Martin Radigan: The immediate priority, which will affect many other priorities, will be rewriting the town master plan, which is required by the state to be done in the coming months. This master plan will dictate land use, development, zoning, pedestrian and cycling safety, and environmental issues, among others. It's crucial that the new master plan is written with significant resident input and the specificity needed to protect our small-town character.

Ed Reed: The top priority facing the town within the next few years is implementing a new Master Plan that continues to address water, waste water, and land use concerns while enhancing our small-town charm. Utilizing a process that builds meaningful relationships among residents, community leaders, and local businesses, we will create a foundation to collaborate on addressing known and unforeseen challenges that impact our community. As we grow together, we can generate innovative ideas, secure resources, and build efficiency systems. Our ability to build trusting, transparent, and engaging relationships

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Local News

Preserve Your Strong Voice in Our County's Future: Vote NO on Question D

By Bruce Adams
Former Montgomery County Councilmember

Is it a good idea to have members of the Montgomery County Council elected by individual districts? Absolutely. Is it a good idea to have all nine members of the Montgomery County Council elected by individual districts? Absolutely not.

When I chaired the Montgomery County Charter Review Commission in 1980, I wrote a dissenting opinion arguing that we should have a mix of individual district and at-large councilmembers. At the time, there were seven members of the county council. While five of the seven were required to live in separate districts, all seven were elected by the entire Montgomery County electorate. I cut my teeth in Montgomery County politics in the 1970s battling against the Democratic Party establishment's primary election slates in order to give individual reform candidates a chance to be elected. When I supported individual districts in 1980, it was not popular with all factions of the Democratic Party. I thought it was the right thing to do—still do.

The system I favored—with each voter in Montgomery County able to vote for five councilmembers, one in their district and four at-large—was finally adopted by the voters in 1986. This system means every voter has five councilmembers—a majority of the nine-member council—to hear their voices and represent their interests.

I had the privilege of serving on the Montgomery County Council for eight

years. Ike Leggett and I were the last two councilmembers elected to the final seven-member council as at-large members in 1986, and we were two of the first four members elected as at-large members to the first nine-member council in 1990.

I learned a lot about how to make the council work in the public interest and why it sometimes doesn't.

Question D would establish nine single-member districts, limiting each voter to vote for only one councilmember. This same structure was in place in Prince George's County years ago and led to parochialism and vote trading. As a result, Prince George's added at-large members to provide the valuable countywide perspective Question D seeks to eliminate.

Question D would eliminate the four at-large councilmembers. I can tell you from personal experience how important it is to have these at-large positions. The at-large members need to be responsive to the voters of the entire county. The loss of this valuable countywide perspective is the main reason I so strongly oppose Question D. Exclusive use of single member districts will allow narrow interests to paralyze the council's ability to act for the long-term interest of the county as a whole.

One of the joys of my service on the county council was the chance to get to know the residents of our entire county. The opportunity to experience the richness and beauty of our Agricultural Reserve and to get to know the community leaders in Barnesville, Boyds, and Poolesville made me a much better and much smarter member of the council. It would be tragic if voters threw away their opportunity to vote for and persuade four councilmembers who now need to court their vote and listen to their voices. Voting for five of nine councilmembers gives voters a much more

Continued on page 8.

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Local News

It's Time for the Upcounty to Have A Voice on the County Council

By Kimblyn Persaud
Chair, Nine Districts for MoCo

Upcounty, this is your opportunity to achieve fair representation on the Montgomery County Council.

Nine Districts for MoCo is a grassroots movement with volunteers of every political party who feel strongly that the time has come for Montgomery County to restructure the way the county council is elected. Our objective is to replace the at-large council seats, which have favored a small part of the down-county population, with nine district-specific council seats. This will create smaller, more-cohesive districts and will allow for a more responsive government and an avenue for your voice to be heard.

The Montgomery County Council is comprised of nine members. Five of them represent a district, and four of them are elected at-large. The at-large representatives currently represent 1.1 million residents, more constituents

than any Maryland Congressional district. As happened many times before, the 2018 elections for the county council resulted in seven members (seventy-eight percent of them) residing in the down-county crescent where only thirty percent of the residents live. Even worse, the 2018 elections gave us all four at-large members living south of Montrose Road. This current structure fails to provide geographical representation for residents in the northern and western parts of MoCo.

For one year, Nine Districts for MoCo worked hard and through a pandemic to get the required signatures for our referendum to appear on the upcoming ballot, and on August 3, 2020, we submitted over sixteen thousand signatures to the County Board of Elections. That proposal appears as Question D on your ballot.

The day after we submitted our signatures, the county council held an emergency session to counter our referendum. During that session, the county council suspended its own Rules of Procedure, rejected the recommendation of its own Charter Review Commission to keep the council's current structure, and prevented any public comment. The council voted 8-1 to approve Councilmember

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Letter to the Editor

Confronting Rumors: The Truth Be Told

By Rande Davis

The *Monocle* has never endorsed candidates in its nearly sixteen years of journalistic service to the community. We believe our mission is best realized by keeping our readers accurately informed. We trust them to use this information wisely without specific guidance from us.

With that need for accuracy in mind, we were disturbed when confronted by a reader sending a letter about rumors revolving around David Wilson, a candidate for town commissioner. Rumors unchecked are always an injustice. To redress this injustice, I am pleased to provide Mr. Wilson space in the *Monocle* to answer, once and for all (I hope), these charges against a very decent and honorable man.

Response from David Wilson:

The editor of the *Monocacy Monocle* received an anonymous letter requesting I address a concern circulating within the community about an incident that occurred during the time I was a substitute teacher. As I am running for public office, the voters and other residents deserve to hear the circumstances and explanation surrounding that concern. I'll state the questions as written in the letter, then respond with an answer and explanation.

Question 1: Is it true that disciplinary action was taken against Mr. Wilson for inappropriate contact with students over social media while he engaged as a substitute teacher at John Poole Middle School?

Answer: No. There was no disciplinary action taken against me, and there was no inappropriate contact with students over social media; however, there was inappropriate content associated with my profile, and students were exposed to the inappropriate content. Although these are the correct answers, it doesn't represent the full context and intent of the question. I'll explain the full perspective below.

Question 2: Is it true that he is no longer eligible to work as a substitute teacher with MCPS?

Answer: No. I maintain my eligibility to serve as a substitute teacher in the MCPS system.

Rumors do not tell the whole truth. Until now, I chose not to mention this situation in a public forum. To be honest, I was embarrassed and very

upset about the incident. My lack of technical knowledge of the social media platform somehow had a negative result, and I should have been more aware of possible situations such as this. It made students, teachers, and parents doubt my integrity which I have always taken pride in maintaining at the highest level.

As some of you are aware, I ran for Maryland State Senate. During the campaign, I used multiple social media platforms to disseminate messages about my campaign. Around November of 2018, my state senate campaign account on Instagram remained active, although I never used it much personally. As I recall, the settings for people to join and view were set to "open" to allow everyone to view my campaign messages. I was unaware this meant anyone could follow my profile without my knowledge or permission. I did not know the relationship between those associated with my profile and what others could see. I realized later my profile could be used as a conduit to others, like "friends of friends."

For this, I take full responsibility and apologize for my ignorance.

One morning, late in November, I received a call from the JPMS principal, someone I respect greatly. He informed me that a parent had brought something to his attention that we needed to discuss. Evidently, a student had seen something inappropriate associated with my profile. It was not something I had personally posted. I take what I post seriously since my wife and children can see what I post; however, since the inappropriate content was associated with my profile, and I was a substitute teacher, I felt responsible. As the principal, he is the primary person responsible for the students and held accountable by the parents. I fully supported his decision to act in a timely manner and to take the most cautious actions. The principal took the appropriate actions and requested I no longer schedule JPMS as a place to substitute teach. I never saw the content in question. I was embarrassed and immediately closed the account and deleted the profile, limiting the risk of additional incidents.

I eventually did some of my own research on how this could have happened, and I was shocked at the information I found.

Ninety-five million photos are shared every day on Instagram, and tens of thousands are deleted every day because they violate the appropriate content policy.

The minimum age requirement for certain social media is thirteen, and the

Continued on page 7.



Keeping Poolesville Moving and Moving Responsibly!

Moving to a new home means cleaning up and cleaning out. You can help our environment by following these tips!

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- Breaking down cardboard boxes and recycling them produces 50% less sulfur dioxide than new box production, reduces environmental impact and saves landfill space!
- Start early with this one when decluttering: Sell, gift or donate lightly-used items.
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Senior News

Poolesville Seniors Sponsor Virtual Programs for Mind, Body, and Spirit

Are you ready for new activities that stretch your mind, renew your body, and lift your spirit? Then visit the website for Poolesville Seniors, poolesvilleseniors.org, to register for a wide variety of ZOOM virtual events which are open to the entire community.

Mondays

Tai Chi

With Maureen Ivisic. 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesdays

Zumba Gold

With Karen McPhatter. 1:00 p.m.

Saturdays

Senior Weight Training

Zack Etheridge demonstrates how to use weights or household items. 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

October 30

Movement and Breath

With Kathy Jankowski. October's final lesson in movement and breath exercises.

History of Monocacy Cemetery

Join Glenn Wallace, historian for the Monocacy Cemetery, as he shares the history of the cemetery and its connection to the people of Poolesville. 7:00 p.m.

November 5

Life in Front of the Camera

Join I. J. Hudson as he discusses what he's learned from his thirty-two years of experience as a television reporter.

November 6

An Evening with a Poet and a Painter

Poolesville poet Bernard Jankowski and Frederick painter Calvin Ramsburg have collaborated on three books over the past fourteen years. Their latest book, *Shadows of the Monocacy*, captures the spirit of living in and exploring our region. 7:00 p.m.

November 11

Virtual Social

Hal and His Pals present music of the fifties, sixties, and seventies. The last time Hal and His Pals entertained in Poolesville, they had their audience dancing in the aisles! 1:30 p.m.

December 5

Quarry Walk

Led by Jon Wolz. More information about this event will follow later.

Did you miss one of the Poolesville Seniors programs? Many of their recent offerings were recorded and are now available with a link from their website: poolesvilleseniors.org.

To register for the programs mentioned here and to receive the Zoom link for each, visit their website: poolesvilleseniors.org. If the registration information for the program you're interested in isn't available now, check back closer to the date of the program. To be added to their mailing list or for questions, email: info@poolesvilleseniors.org. To receive a hard copy of their monthly newsletter, call 301-875-7701.

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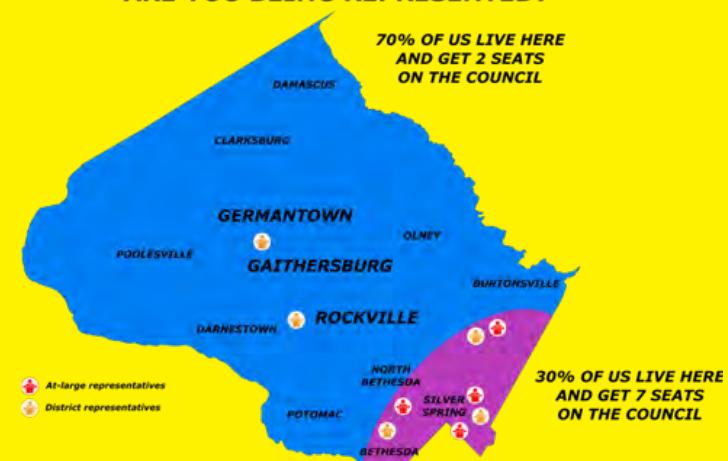
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YES for Question D!

NO on Question C!

ARE YOU BEING REPRESENTED?



Change this Map: Have Your Voice Heard on the Montgomery County Council!

Today seven of nine Council members live near the beltway even though 70% of the population lives north of Montrose Road. Let's eliminate at-large representation and give everyone an equal voice in Montgomery County.

 www.ninedistrictsformoco.org

 [ninedistrictsformoco](#)

Continued from page 5.

**Confronting Rumors:
The Truth Be Told**

age verification requirement is easily bypassed for anyone younger who wishes to establish an account.

I learned that even though you set your notification for people to request permission to follow you, people can still follow you without your consent.

I learned how quickly a group of followers can exponentially increase the potential volume of content to which viewers are exposed.

I learned how important it is to closely scrutinize "friends of friends."

I realized how important it is to know the technology of the specific social media platform (e.g., how the privacy settings work, how content is shared, who can see what, when, and how).

The rumors my friends have brought to my attention are horribly distorted, as rumors tend to be, and quite frankly, break my heart. I have tremendous respect for the students, teachers, and parents in my community. Those who know me personally have provided encouragement and support and know I would never do anything to harm any student in any way. I know trust is hard to come by and even more difficult to get back when lost. I hope my explanation provides some context to the incident and some level of understanding.

Special Note from Rande Davis:

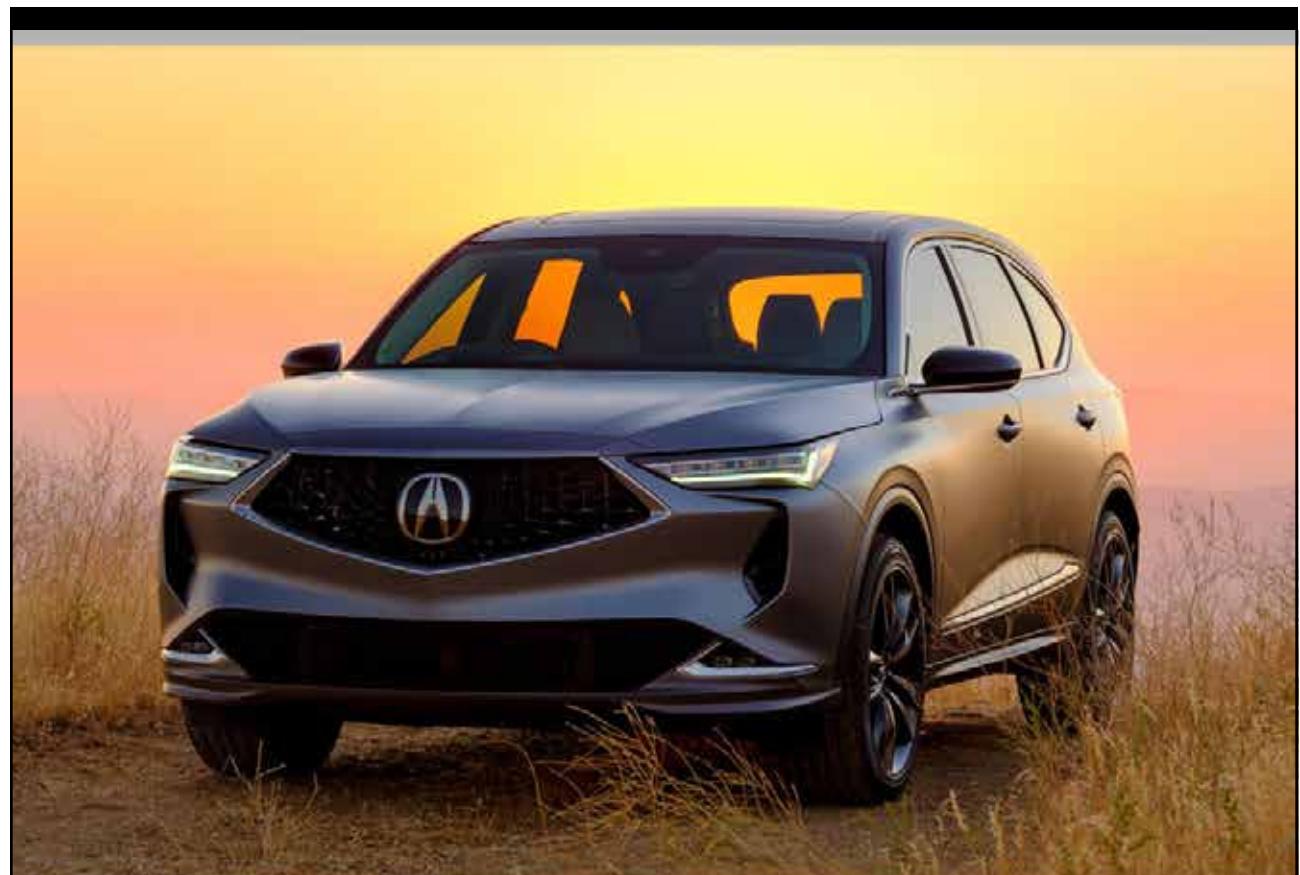
There is a story of a most unusual penance St. Philip Neri assigned to a woman for her sin of spreading gossip.

The sixteenth century saint instructed her to take a feather pillow to the top of the church belltower, rip it open, and scatter the feathers to the four winds. Then St. Philip Neri gave her a second and more-difficult task. He told her to come down from the belltower and collect all the feathers that had been dispersed throughout the town. The poor woman, of course, couldn't do it—and that was the point Philip Neri was trying to make.

Do you have any interesting local history or fun facts to share with our readers?

The *Monocle* welcomes your contribution.

Send to editor@monocacymonocle.com



Stay informed about the highly anticipated
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Tidbits

Alzheimer's Walk in Poolesville

A local family and members of Poolesville Baptist Church joined on October 11 for a Walk to End Alzheimer's in honor of former long-term Poolesville Baptist member, Beverly Horsley. Beverly lived with her husband, Pete, and daughters Jennifer and Clair in Poolesville from 1977 through 1989, before moving to Buckeystown. Beverly and Pete continued attending and serving Poolesville Baptist faithfully until her death from a brain tumor, dementia, and Alzheimer's last year.

The group, "Team Beverly" for Alzheimer's Association purposes, included Pete Horsley, daughters Jennifer Suhr and Clair Horsley, grandchildren Justine and Xavier Willard, Poolesville Baptist pastor Joel Gilbert and his wife, Danielle, and long-time friend, Buddy Glazier. Under Clair's leadership, the family had starting walking in the annual Alzheimer's walks last year in Frederick, but when the large-scale walks were prevented by the coronavirus this year, they opted for a small family-and-friends walk in Poolesville. The Poolesville walk went from Poolesville Baptist Church on West Willard Road to Whalen Commons and back to the church Sunday afternoon after morning church services. Donations to support the Alzheimer's Association and its work to end Alzheimer's may be made in Beverly's honor (Team Beverly) at www.alz.org. Click on "Get Involved" then "Make a Donation" then "Make a Tribute Donation" then "Donate to a Walker" and enter "Team Beverly" in the Team Name field.

Poolesville's First Female Eagle Scout

One of the first ever female Eagle Scout projects was completed by Poolesville's Lauren Doring whose Eagle Scout Service project was to make and install sixteen trail signs to help visitors to the Kunzang Palyul Choling Temple Peace Park on River Road, outside of Poolesville.

Lauren Doring, a Life Scout in Troop 3017 in Frederick, had a goal of being in the Inaugural Class of Female Eagle Scouts. Lauren is a freshman at Poolesville High School and in the Global Ecology Studies Program. Lauren joined Scouts BSA Troop 3017 on February 1, 2019 when girls were first given the opportunity to join and pursue the rank of Eagle Scout. She had her Life Board of Review on March 30, 2020, virtually.



Continued from page 4.

It's Time for the Upcounty to Have a Voice on the County Council

Evan Glass's competing referendum, Question C, on your ballot. Our supporters and opponents alike consider Question C to be a spoiler referendum, because if both C and D pass, they may both fail.

Your sample ballot says that Question D reduces from five to one the number of councilmembers each voter can vote for. That comment was placed on your ballot by the county council, and it is misleading. Until now, everyone has voted for four at-large members and one district representative, but thirty years of voting results have proven that only a small group of voters actually elects all of those at-large representatives, and it's evident by the decisions made about your public services, transportation, housing, development, and taxes. The Red Line and Purple Line metro stops are all down county, and the county council approved an underground trail for Bethesda's residents at a cost of \$54 million. In contrast, Upcounty residents know that the Mid-County Connector is on permanent hold, the back roads are poorly maintained, and bus service from Damascus to Shady Grove is unreliable.

Do you deserve the kind of representation that residents in Bethesda, Silver Spring, and Takoma Park have? Do you want a more responsive elected official? Do you want a representative that you could actually run into at the grocery store? If the answer is yes, then use your ballot to reclaim your voice!

Vote AGAINST Question C. Vote FOR Question D.

Continued from page 4.

Preserve Your Strong Voice in Our County's Future: Vote NO on Question D

powerful voice in deciding the future of our county than voting for one of nine councilmembers.

To preserve your strong voice in our county's future, vote NO on Question D.

Bruce Adams served as chair of the Montgomery County Charter Review Commission from 1979 to 1982. He served as an at-large member of the Montgomery County Council from 1986 to 1994, including a term as council president in 1992. Adams was the county's director of community partnerships from 2007 to 2018.

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Monocacy Roots

Circles, Roots, and Connections

By Gail Norman

A continuing Poolesville story, "The Normans and the Hempstone House Part I" from the October 9 issue of the Monocacy Monocle can be viewed online.

Thanks to Mrs. Selby, we had found the Poolesville house we wanted and were told that we would be the first non-Hempstones to have ever lived there. Filled with anticipation, we finally moved in on a truly dark and dreary Halloween night in 1971 complete with a huge owl just missing the windshield as it flew across the road in front of us.

We had been told that Bob Hempstone had never been able to marry the woman he'd loved, and he had lived lonely and alone in his childhood home for his entire life—and that was easy to tell. It was dark, dank, and musty. The wind blowing down the chimneys and around the eaves howled like something crying, and the floors and doors creaked. It was Halloween creepy, especially for the kids, but strangely inviting at the same time. There would be work to do and an adventure to be had making this sad old house into a home, but we were ready for the task.

No one ever mentioned that it might also be haunted.

From the very first, peculiar things kept occurring. One that we all experienced was a huge crashing and banging in the kitchen, causing us to jump out of bed in the middle of the night and run down both the front and back stairs. There was a metal table in the kitchen that had come with the house, and it had sounded as if something had turned it over, breaking everything on it. By the time we arrived on the scene, it was quiet and nothing was disturbed as we stood staring at each other in disbelief from both kitchen doorways.

Our next-door neighbor Raymond (Buck) Beall later told us he had been working out on the state roads one snowy night in February 1970 when he had become inexplicably worried about Bob, so he had begun a long icy drive home to check on him. He had found Bob on the kitchen floor where it appeared that he had fallen onto that same metal table, hitting his head, turning it over with everything on it broken and scattered everywhere. He later died at the hospital. Raymond thought maybe that was what we had somehow heard. I have never found another or a better explanation.

Another unusual thing that we all frequently heard was something that sounded like kittens or puppies running up and down the back-kitchen stairs. We were told that Bob had kept cats for company, and we found more than one long-dead and mummified at various places in the house.

Also, there were large antique hanging light fixtures that would spontaneously start swinging and then just stop. Then there was the reoccurring vision of a woman with long dark hair often seen standing in an upstairs window, and a bathroom door that would lock from the inside, requiring someone to go up on the roof and in through a window to unlock it. We once had a guest who was a Maryland State Trooper who had gone upstairs to use that bathroom and came down agitated and angry. Whatever occurred, he did not say, but he accused us of playing a trick on him and left immediately, slamming the front door behind him.

One night, my husband and I were awakened to the sound of a grown man's heavy footsteps walking through the hall past our bedroom and down the steps. John jumped up, grabbed a baseball bat from the closet thinking someone had broken into the house, and we both cautiously stepped out into the dark hall. The footsteps continued down the stairs then into the basement where they just stopped. Again, there was no one there. There were other unexplained events too numerous to tell here. Those stories would fill a book. My children had friends who would not even spend the night, but we never felt unsafe. We just knew that we were never alone.

Then one late spring day, there was a knock on the door. When I opened it, there were three people standing there, a woman and two men. The woman introduced herself as Elle Hempstone Bowman, another as her brother Ambassador Smith Hempstone, and a priest who I think was also a Hempstone. Elle said that she was working on a Hempstone family history, was in the area researching Hempstone cousins, and hoped to visit this historical family house. We had a long enjoyable afternoon visit, and I described some of those unexplainable incidents to them. I seem to remember that the priest said he was somehow associated with events that the Exorcist book was based on and asked if I would be willing to have an exorcism done on the house. I graciously declined.



This Hempstone home should be on the next Poolesville Ghost Tour by the Historic Medley District.

The great irony of this story is that when my daughter Valaree discovered what turned out to be her family's Poolesville roots, she found that those roots also made them cousins to Bob Hempstone. It seems that Hempstones were still living in the house after all, and Elle had spent that afternoon with cousins and none of us had even known it.

Years past and we moved, but on the day that we closed the doors for good, I sensed a negativity so strong it actually frightened me. It was as if the house or something in it was in a rage because we were leaving. I felt that it could actually cause some sort of physical damage to the house and maybe even harm me if I went back in. I now wonder if it could have been a spirit upset that it would once again be there alone. We had always made it welcome.

I hope that whoever or whatever it was that we shared that remarkable house with has left and is finally at peace.

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Continued from page 3.

Town Candidates Answer Five Key Questions

will drive how we address issues around smart growth, community engagement, and civic participation.

David Wilson: The new Poolesville High School and Community Center must remain a top priority. This will require a constant, professional relationship with county and state leaders. Until recently, Poolesville commissioners have had a good working relationship with our county and state partners, but that relationship is at risk. The new high school and community center must be a priority, but mending and improving the town's relationship with county and state leaders will need to be managed simultaneously to ensure that goal is a success.

Explain any specific skills you have through your employment that may benefit the town if you are on the commission.

Jeff Eck: I hold a U.S. patent that required innovative thinking while working with a team of engineers to bring the idea to life. I will work with the other commissioners to devise creative solutions towards improving our already-delightful town.

While working in Europe, I dealt with persons of diverse backgrounds towards arriving at solutions to common issues. This experience directly translates into my ability to understand problems, negotiate, and compromise using a fact-based approach.

Jerry Klobukowski: Twenty-two years of naval service taught me the meaning of commitment, to be fair and principled, to respect every person, the ability to work with a diverse multi-talented group of individuals to achieve a common goal, and to rapidly adapt to changing situations. I have written Navy Integrated Logistics Support and Maintenance Plans, prepared budget documents, and portions of navy contracts. I worked with our cluster school principals and PTAs to prepare countless testimonies which I gave before the county's board of education and council advocating for a new PHS and supporting our cluster's schools. I prepared numerous proclamations to honor teachers who were retiring from our Poolesville schools, and proclamations recognizing citizens who contributed to the wellbeing of our community. To recognize the achievements of approximately thirty-five Boy and Girl Scouts, I created Certificates of Distinction for each one and spoke at their ceremonies. As part of the Sustainable Poolesville Committee, I prepared documentation which contributed to Poolesville receiving two Sustainable Maryland Awards; one such document is the town's Water Conservation Plan. I also contributed portions of the town's Comprehensive/Master Plan and Fair Access White Paper.

Martin Radigan: I have a job as a fundraiser for small nonprofits—museums and animal rescue groups—as well as owning my own photography business. In both of these jobs, I work with people and solve problems, which is really so much of running a town, but in my opinion, there's no substitute for the experience of being a sitting commissioner.

Ed Reed: Following a lifetime of service to families, nonprofit organizations, and the school system, I am answering the call to lead. Throughout my life work, I have built a reputation of being a leader who cares about people regardless of their backgrounds. For the past twenty-three years, I have served as an educational leader with MCPS in the roles of assistant principal and school counselor. I have served on various system-wide committees, trained and coached several secondary school administrators, and served as the 2016-2017 President of the Maryland School Counselor Association. My leadership experience and skills in bringing people together to create solutions to difficult problems, building consensus, and navigating challenging situations would benefit our community. Some of my greatest strengths are creating an atmosphere where people feel safe to honestly share their perspectives, facilitating conversations, and amplifying voices as a diplomatic advocate.

David Wilson: Having leadership skills may sound cliché, but the truth is the military builds character and it builds leaders. I've learned by doing, and sometimes that meant learning from my mistakes. I've learned to question authority to get the best results but to do so with respect. As a formal Inspector General, I've learned to carefully listen to people, to assess their circumstances, and to focus on correcting systemic problems. As a program manager, I know how to manage contracts to ensure the best work is being completed on time and on schedule. As a plans and operations officer, I understand the importance of short, near, and long-term planning. I've learned to see operations from multiple perspectives and to ask the tough questions. As a safety officer, I've learned to protect our most precious resources by assessing and mitigating risk.

Poolesville is a great place to live. What are your thoughts on making it even better?

Jeff Eck

- I'd like to see Montgomery County increase its investment in Poolesville.
- Increased MCPD presence in Poolesville.
- Construct an all-weather bubble over the Sarah E. Auer outdoor pool. Fair access is fair access, which includes the aquatic centers.
- I'd like to investigate the possibility of a bike-share program, such as the Capital Bikeshare, and potentially locate the bike rack near the electric vehicle charging stations along Whalen Commons.
- As a commissioner, I will keep a tight rein on taxes.

Jerry Klobukowski: Poolesville is a fantastic place to live because of the quality of life created by the deep sense of community people have toward one another and the work of our town staff in well-maintaining our infrastructure (i.e., parks, streets, and water and sewer systems). We benefit from being a diverse community. Can we and should we become more diverse and inclusive? Of course, and I will continue to work with you to advance improvements.

Martin Radigan: There is always room to improve, and Poolesville is no exception. If there was one thing I could point to that would improve the town, it would be the streetscape that was written with input from residents and the planning commission. This would improve walkability, cycle-ability, pedestrian safety, and help to beautify our downtown. The other obvious thing is Fair Access. During my tenure, we voted unanimously to create and fund the Fair Access Committee. We've made great progress towards a new high school, but there is more to be done.

Ed Reed: Poolesville is a great place to live and raise our children. My family values the friendliness we experienced with each visit to town, the community events, and open space. Each of us play a role in making our town better. Whether it is keeping each other informed on new projects or endeavors taking place in town or coaching a team or serving on a town committee, or simply a friendly hello, we all can add value to our town. This past summer, I created "Community Conversations," a virtual platform for community members to connect in a safe place to listen and learn from one another weekly. We discuss a wide range of topics, build relationships, and connect when it is just nice to talk to friendly people. Another issue dear to my heart is providing opportunities to engage, equip, and empower our youth. I will create programs to give our youth meaningful experiences. For example, creating a youth advisory board where we can listen to their voices and implement activities they value.

David Wilson: Poolesville IS a great place to live! Making it better will require building on the successes of the past, while creating a balance of new, sustainable growth. There's never going to be a time where everyone is happy about everything, but good leaders communicate with people and build relationships that foster understanding. These things are critical for success, especially in a town we call home.

What are your ideas as to how the town could help improve the economy and commercial status of our businesses and employers?

Jeff Eck: Expand the "Shop Local" awareness campaign. The Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce has done an excellent job of promoting our local businesses. Poolesville can help promote local businesses even beyond our town.

Establish a local office to assist businesses applying for state/federal grants/stimulus during this pandemic state of emergency.

Please VOTE!

General election – Poolesville High School

Local election – Poolesville Town Hall

Jerry Klobukowski: Businesses coming to Poolesville must understand the community and area in which they are locating. I also believe that niche-type businesses (e.g., bakery like the Carriage House Candy and Bake Shop in Walkersville off Route 26, butcher like Hemp's Meats in Jefferson, bicycle shop like what Bob's was, etc.), with help, could develop a following beyond Western Montgomery County. We need to embrace our location in the county's Agricultural Reserve and agritourism and turn Poolesville into a destination. We must harness the abilities of the multitude of multitalented people we have to do it, and I'm willing to work with them to accomplish this.

Martin Radigan: Poolesville needs to utilize things like its history and proximity to the C&O Canal and Sugarloaf Mountain. Our current board has

Continued from page 10.

Town Candidates Answer Five Key Questions

invested in the Historic Medley District, which has in turn ramped up (pre-COVID) historic events, such as sold-out ghost tours, lectures, scavenger hunts, etc., and many people coming to these events are from down county or other places outside of Poolesville. I personally volunteered for one of the ghost tours last year and met a family who came from down county and asked me where in town they could eat (they ended up at Bassett's). The more people we can attract from outside Poolesville to recreate here, the better for our local businesses. In addition, we have restarted our Economic Development Committee to help businesses.

Ed Reed: It's time to revitalize our economic development plan and work closely with the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce. Poolesville has great potential along with unique historic sites and agritourism opportunities that should be promoted into neighboring jurisdictions. Locally, we should continue the work on the streetscape project, find ways to create a Poolesville brand, expand our farmers' market, and look for new ideas to fill vacancies in our downtown business district. Furthermore, the town should explore creating a position dedicated to economic development for Poolesville.

David Wilson: Among other things, businesses are destroyed by over-regulation and being overtaxed. It's a rare case to find someone who is the best at everything. Good leaders know their strengths, embrace their weaknesses, and always look for people who are smarter than they are. Poolesville has an active Chamber of Commerce that has been a wealth of knowledge for business owners. This type of camaraderie is important as we help each other succeed in business. Each of our successful businesses has a story to tell. As a town commissioner, I'll listen to their stories and work to duplicate their success.

Do you have a garden-related topic you would like to read about?

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Fun Facts...

Halloween!

Halloween in 2020 will have the first full moon since 2001—watch out for werewolves!



The first jack-o'-lanterns were carved out of turnips, potatoes, and beets. The practice of carving vegetables is believed to have originated in the nineteenth century. They were hung by a home's front door to ward off evil spirits.

Trick-or-treating has existed since the Medieval Period. Back then, it was known as "guising" in Ireland. Young people dressed up in costumes and asked for food or money in exchange for songs, poems, or other "tricks."

Shoppers will spend \$86.27 on average celebrating Halloween.

The most popular children's costume is princess, with 7.9% of children going as a prince for Halloween. Following princess in popularity is superhero, with 6% of children choosing to go as their favorite superhero. Of the adults who dress up, 8.9% choose a witch costume.

The most jack-o'-lanterns ever lit at once were 30,581.

More than twice as much candy is sold for Halloween as Valentine's Day. Skittles are the top Halloween candy, followed by Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, M&Ms, Snickers, and Starburst.

17% of people dress up their dog for Halloween. What do those dogs dress as? Pumpkin (9.3%), hot dog (7.2%), and superhero (7.2%).

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Monocacy Nature and Wildlife

The Magnificent Great Blue Heron

By Susan Petro

My first sighting of a great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*) happened soon after we made Poolesville our new home many decades ago. A glimpse out the front door revealed a magnificent and tall prehistoric-looking blue-gray bird standing in our yard. "This surely must be an escapee from a local zoo or a distant creature that flew off course," I thought. "There is no way this creature actually lives nearby."

Not long after that encounter with the ginormous creature, I saw another one quietly fishing along the shoreline of a neighborhood pond. I soon discovered that this tallest bird of the heron family is not only native to Montgomery County, it's a fairly common sight in our local storm-water management ponds, creeks, and shallow waterways.

While other types of herons and egrets migrate south in the fall, the great blue heron (GBH) can be found in the area year-round. They are solitary birds except during breeding season when they gather in large rookeries to build their nests with sticks high in the tops of trees.

The plumage of a great blue consists of a combination of light and dark bluish-gray, white, and black feathers. A plume of black feathers adorns the head, and additional gray plumes adorn their chests. During breeding season, the GBH has quite the shaggy appearance with long plumes of additional gray feathers covering the back and chest. Their large dagger-like beak is orange-yellow in color.



The great blue heron strolling along a shallow shoreline.



A great blue heron with outstretched wings.

The GBH stands between three-and-a-half and four-and-a-half feet tall. Much of its height is due to long skinny legs and a long S-shaped neck. The wingspan can stretch to six-and-a-half feet wide. Despite its impressive size, the average GBH only weighs between five and six pounds due to its hollow bones. They fly twenty to thirty miles per hour, making for an impressive sight as they glide graciously past. By comparison, our national bird, the bald eagle, usually stands between two-and-a-half to three feet tall, with a wingspan of over six feet. Bald eagles weigh six to fourteen pounds.

Continued on page 22.

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Business Briefs

Kettler Forlines Homes Receives the National EPA Indoor airPLUS Leader Award

By Rande Davis

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced this week that the third-generation Maryland builder, Kettler Forlines Homes, has earned the 2020 Indoor airPLUS Leader Award, one of only ten builders nationwide to receive the honor.

"This year, with COVID-19 a major concern, Americans across the country have been reminded about the importance of the indoor air quality in their homes. These ten Indoor airPLUS Leader Award Winners are at the national forefront of building and verifying homes that provide unparalleled indoor air quality, energy efficiency, comfort, durability, and peace of mind," said David Rowson, Director of EPA's Indoor Environmental Environments Division.

The EPA cited the builder's long-term commitment to building healthier homes. "Kettler Forlines Homes has championed the health benefits of Indoor airPLUS homes for over ten years. Kettler Forlines understands the importance of how to message improved indoor air quality to their consumers and uses the Indoor airPLUS checklist to walk consumers through benefits not easily visible in the home."

The Indoor airPLUS Program was developed to meet the growing consumer preference for homes with improved indoor air quality.

"With indoor air frequently two to five times more polluted than what we breathe outdoors, we have committed to adhering to the program's requirements in one hundred percent of our homes," explained Tom Kettler, president of the company that has been building homes in the region for more than forty years.

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In Your Own Backyard

The Mystery of the Old Stone Walls

By Jon Wolz

Have you ever noticed the red sandstone walls that are along Martinsburg and Wasche Roads? When I drive by them, I admire their construction and wonder who built them. The walls were constructed using a "dry stone" method. This method used stones without any means to bind them together. Stones in these walls are interlocked as are puzzle pieces. Montgomery County does not know who built the walls.



Just who really built this stone wall on Martinsburg Road?

Did German prisoners of war build these walls during World War II? Probably not because the walls appear to be older than the 1940s, and farmers of the area had been farming the land since the late 1700s and early 1800s. Did farmers themselves build them? Maybe, but if they did, they probably had a lot of help. Did slaves help build these walls? Back in the early 1800s, the property owners in this area did own slaves; however, they did not own very many. These walls took a lot of labor and effort to build. Slaves were used to farm the land and possibly could not be used during the growing season to help build the walls. They could have worked on the walls in the winter. In order to farm the land, the rocks had to be removed from the fields after the fields were cleared of trees. From looking at the stone walls, there must have been a ready supply of rocks removed from the nearby fields. The stones made for a durable and lasting enclosure that could have kept livestock or separated property boundaries.

In researching the history of the walls and the early nineteenth history of the area, I found that there is oral history that stone masons and laborers from the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Canal built the stone walls as well as the exceptionally large red sandstone bank barn that is on Martinsburg Road. I found in a document about the Trundle Farm from the National Capital Park and Planning

Continued on page 18.

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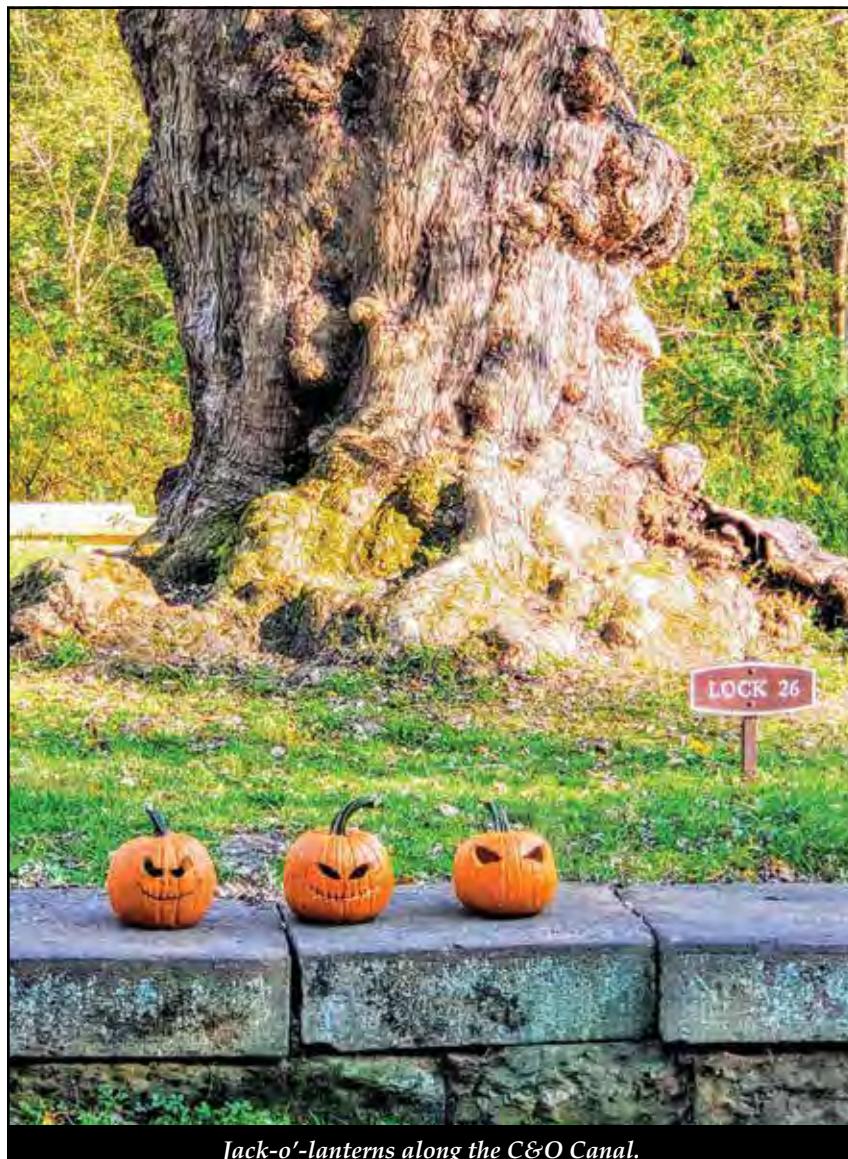
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Continued from page 17.

The Mystery of the Old Stone Walls

Commission dated June 1978, where it mentions the bank barn was constructed "possibly by stone masons employed by the C&O Canal." There was a shortage of stone masons in the United States, so the Canal Company recruited them from England. Laborers were also in short supply, so they were recruited from Ireland. There are no stone walls along Martinsburg Road by the bank barn, so possibly all of the field stones in the immediate area were used to build the barn, leaving no rocks for a wall. The bank barn was already built when Martinsburg Road was laid out in 1879.



Jack-o'-lanterns along the C&O Canal.

The Trundle and Shreve families were the primary property owners in this area along the C&O Canal. The Trundle homestead had a log cabin built by Otho Trundle prior to his death in 1821. In 1832, there was a cholera epidemic in the United States, and it reached canal workers during August that summer. Over the next few summers, cholera would return to the canal under construction, and canal workers fled the work sites. When they left, work stopped on the canal. When the stone masons and canal workers were not working on canal construction, they had idle time. Possibly they offered their services to the local property owners near Lock 26 in exchange for food, lodging, and possibly wages. The local farmers did not have experience in building stone walls or stone bank barns.

As with the stone walls, the barn was built on the Trundle farm using the dry stone method. The C&O Canal began construction in 1828, and by 1831, construction had reached the lands once owned by the Trundle family. Lock 26 was next to the Trundle farm and was completed in 1832. The lock area included a lockhouse that had a red sandstone foundation and was one and a half stories high made of wood. There was a stone bypass flume that allowed water from above the lock to flow around the lock to the lower level of the canal. Near the

lock, there was a stone waste weir that allowed the lock keeper to drain off excess canal water. There is also a stone "dock" near the lock. The C&O Canal Company and David Trundle entered into an agreement where the company would allow the Trundle family to operate a ferry across the canal. The Trundle family complained that the canal construction would interfere with their family's farming operations between Maryland and Virginia. Farmers and other travelers crossed the Potomac River at nearby White's Ford before the canal construction. I saw the contract between the C&O Canal Company and David Trundle on a visit I made earlier this year to the National Archives. This agreement was signed May 28, 1830. A little farther upstream from the stone dock is a culvert that is twelve feet wide and high. This is Culvert #65 and Trundle Run flows through it beneath the canal. This culvert has a stone at the inflow side of it with "1832" carved in it. In order to see the "1832" stone, you need to step in the stream.

All of these canal stone structures have something in common. They were all constructed using the dry stone method. The bank barn was constructed in the style of English stone bank barns. The floor joists are logs and the interior roof framing is hand-hewn timbers that were finished using an adze. Possibly the carpenters that built the lockhouse nearby helped with the carpentry work in the barn. The wood and logs probably came from trees that began growing in the 1700s. The stone walls on Martinsburg and Wasche Roads are similar to the construction style of stone walls in England.

Today, the stone walls are maintained by the Montgomery County Government. They currently own the land where the stone walls are located. There are metal signs that stand in several spots along the walls that say, "HISTORIC STONE FENCE—ACT OF VANDALISM WILL BE PROSECUTED—PROPERTY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

The bank barn is privately owned and on a barn door there is a plaque that says, "HISTORIC SITE **** MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER PLAN FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION." If you know a more definitive history of the stone walls or the bank barn, please let me know.

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Continued from page 1.

Asking for Your Vote: Statements by Commissioner Candidates

up for revision in 2021. It will shape our town's future. Our uniqueness in the Washington-metro area makes us special, and we should not lose sight of that. We have controlled growth while maintaining an excellent quality of life with the resources we have. We need to continue to do so, not allow growth to control us. Developers' (residential or commercial) proposals need to recognize our Town's uniqueness, held to high standard, and complement, not detract from our Town. It is essential they help attract people to visit and live here.

I have been and continue to be one hundred percent committed to improving our town, and my work ethic proves it. Watching my parents start and successfully run a small business in a small town until they retired taught me the meaning of "quality, value, and service" to which I subscribe. They and the navy taught me to always strive to be better, that education, initiative, and perseverance are the keys to success, along with Honor, Courage, and Commitment. Never accept mediocrity in yourself or others.

With respect to infrastructure, we need to continue to maintain our sustainable water supply for current/future residents, reduce inflow/infiltration into our sewer system, and with having taken over the central portion of Fisher Avenue, embark upon our Streetscape program. Our new crosswalk signals are a start.

I have been and will always be responsive to questions/concerns directed to me and will ensure the town government does the same.

On PHS's proposed modernization, we need to convince MCPS that we only seek equity and deserve what other newly-built high schools have—competitive size gym, wellness center, etc.—not settle for second best. I will continue to strongly advocate for our cluster students for the same courses/programs, equipment, and facilities other county schools have.

I want to preserve our community as a place where people become neighbors/friends for life, unafraid to raise their children, have a greater sense of community, and continue Poolesville's reputation as a community with a big heart.

Martin Radigan

My name is Martin Radigan, and I'm running for town commissioner. For those who don't know me, I'd like to tell you a little about myself: I'm a sitting commissioner (finishing up my first term). I've lived in Poolesville with my wife, Abby, and daughter, Maisie, for six years. I'm on the board of the Montgomery Countryside Alliance, an organization focused on protecting the Agricultural Reserve. Abby is on the board for Heritage Montgomery as well as the board for our local Historic Medley District. We both feel that serving the community is important.

In the last four years, my fellow commissioners and I have accomplished a great deal. Our work includes the following: establishing and funding the Fair Access Committee, improving pedestrian safety, creating a streetscape plan that will make our downtown pedestrian safe and beautiful. We have improved our parks by including pickle ball courts, we have restarted the economic development committee, partnered with Canal Towns to help drive business to Poolesville, upgraded water and sewer, recruited and hired a new town manager, installed new EV chargers using grant money, and much more. In the next four years, if re-elected, I plan to help with the important rewrite of the town master plan (required by the state), which will shape the growth and trajectory of Poolesville for years to come. I also plan to continue my support of Fair Access, implement the streetscape, improve access to government services and transparency (including live streaming meetings), improve walkability and cycle-ability, assist our businesses in recovery from the impacts of COVID-19, and much more.

Going forward, Poolesville will need to leverage its historical assets and proximity to the Agricultural Reserve, outdoor recreation, and agritourism in order to

support local businesses and increase revenues. My experience and dedication will help lead Poolesville forward.

Ed Reed

Driven by my core values—faith, family, saving lives, strengthening communities, and developing leaders—it is time for me to step up to build bridges between neighbors, represent voices of all generations, and work with our local businesses. Understanding the needs of our growing community to have access to information, resources, and strong advocacy, I am here to serve as one of your town commissioners.

Following a lifetime of service to families, nonprofit organizations, and the school system, I am answering the call to lead. Throughout my life work, I have built a reputation of being a leader who cares about people regardless of their backgrounds. My experience working in leadership roles in the business, education, and nonprofit communities has allowed me to gain valuable insight on bringing people together to work through differences, develop solutions to challenging problems, and create strategies that benefit those impacted by my decisions.

It is important to me to ensure the voices of those impacted by decisions made at the table are included from the beginning of the conceptual phase to the implementation phase. I am running with a focus on youth, families, and seniors being part of the development of creative ideas and new opportunities to come together to strengthen our community. I am running to support local and small businesses to increase their economic prosperity as gems in our town. I have the temperament, strength, and compassion to serve as a leader for both people and businesses.

In conversation with numerous people on community issues, we all asked the same question: When would I rise to meet the call as town commissioner? I listened to their concerns and hopes for Poolesville's future. I am grateful for the support of my wife and children, neighbors and friends, committee colleagues, and so many Poolesvillians I've recently met.

I am honored to earn your vote to become your next town commissioner. I will remain committed to accessibility, transparency, strengthening relationships within and outside of Poolesville, and advocating for resources and policies which benefit the people of Poolesville and surrounding communities.

David Wilson

My name is David Wilson, your traditional candidate for Poolesville Town Commissioner. My wife and I came to Poolesville for the same reason you've always lived here. Poolesville, and the residents who live and work here, represent a timeless set of traditions.

As part of this town over the past four and a half years, I've noticed how we look out for the well-being of our neighbors, we honor our more senior residents, we fight for quality schools and community services, and our churches serve those in need.

This doesn't mean everyone agrees with everyone else all the time. That's certainly not the case, but, for the most part, you notice a mutual respect and compassion for each other.

I grew up in North Central West Virginia and served twenty-three years on active duty as a medical service corps officer in the United States Army. During my career, I've worked in logistics, intelligence, medical research, and as an Inspector General. I served in a combat zone during Operation Desert Storm as well as Operation Iraqi Freedom, retiring at Fort Detrick in 2010. I'm an active member of the Poolesville American Legion.

The most frequent question I get is about town growth. People want to know if I consider myself an "anti-growth" candidate or a "pro-growth" candidate. To

Continued on page 21



Jeff Eck



Jerry Klobukowski



Martin Radigan



Ed Reed



David Wilson

Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Assault: 17500 block of W. Willard Avenue.

Identity Theft: 17400 block of Collier Way.

Past Crimes: 1910 to 1915

Sheriff Howard, who had had enough of the complaints about District of Columbia motorists who ventured into Montgomery County for high-speed driving, decided to crack down on traffic violators. He formed a group of deputies and ordered them to meet on the courthouse steps one Saturday morning. He told his men that the easiest way to stop the reckless driving was to determine if the D.C. speed demons had correct driving credentials. In those days, the law demanded that a motorist have a driver's license and a license tag for every state that he entered. Most of the D.C. people did not bother with that provision and used the wide-open dirt roads of the county for their driving. Howard stationed his men just inside the Maryland line, and they picked off District drivers one at a time when they entered the county on roads such as Conduit Road, MacArthur Boulevard, and Connecticut Avenue. About ten arrests were made before a prominent citizen of the city arrived and protested vigorously, stating he did not even know he was in Maryland. In one spectacular move, a high-speed racing machine approached Deputy Brooks who was stationed near the Chevy Chase Club. Brooks tried to wave him down, but the driver made a U-turn between two trees, drove up on the sidewalk, and made his escape back into Washington.

Judge Redding announced that he was fed up with the number of wife beaters that had appeared in his court. He ordered the sheriff to erect the whipping post that had been in storage and return it to the front lawn of the courthouse. Redding said that he was also upset with the women who filed charges against their husbands but ended up not appearing in court. He said that, in the future, the wives who failed to appear would be sentenced to jail along with their husbands.

Mr. W. C. Dove was returning from Washington after chauffeuring a

wedding party from Rockville to the city when he came upon a serious wreck four miles south of Rockville on the Pike. Dove found that Montgomery Harris, age 35, was lying dead in a field, apparently having been thrown from the auto. Another man, Dr. Robert Warfield of Rockville, was alive but in serious condition. Dove placed Warfield in his machine and made a quick and high-speed trip to the hospital in Washington where Warfield was said to be in critical condition. Sheriff Peyton Whalen had been scheduled to make an investigation in the morning.

James Devine, of near Germantown, reported that, during the night, someone entered his cabin and was rooting around for valuables when he (Devine) pulled out his pistol and fired all six rounds at the suspect. Sheriff Viett, whose posse had not found anyone in the woods, made an inspection of the hospitals in Washington and found that Raymond Jenkins, a man of ill repute, was lying in the Freedmans Hospital suffering from bullet wounds to his posterior. Viett made an inquiry, and Jenkins eventually confessed to having broken into Devine's home.

Mrs. Garrett, a wealthy woman living near Glen Echo near the river, made a desperate phone call to Sheriff Howard, reporting that her servant woman, Louise Dorsey, had been shot and killed the night before. Sheriff Howard drove as fast as he could to Glen Echo, knowing that Mrs. Garrett was the wife of the former mayor of the town. Howard picked up one of his deputies, Walter Shaw, and several other citizens. When they arrived at the murder scene, Mrs. Garrett told them that she had witnessed the slaying and recognized the assailant as Charles Gibbs. Gibbs had been dismissed from employment on the Garrett estate weeks before for making threats to Miss Dorsey. Howard ordered his men to spread out, and they searched the woods between the estate and the river and found Gibbs hiding in the woods. Gibbs was holding a shotgun and threatened to kill the members of the posse. While Howard negotiated with the suspect, Deputy Shaw snuck up behind Gibbs and knocked him unconscious with the stock of his own shotgun.

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

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**Local town elections at
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Remembrances

Richard Denton Ernst

Richard 'Dick' Denton Ernst, 71, passed away on October 6, 2020 at the Boyds Presbyterian Church. Dick was a native of Maryland and a resident of Germantown. He is survived by his loving wife of fifty-two years, Juanita May Ernst; children, Tanya Christensen and husband Jon, Lynnel Ernst, and Tammy Ernst; sister, Kathy Swedland, and brothers, Butch Ernst and Roger Ernst; grandchildren, Calvin, Larissa, Jon, Jenna, and Jacob; and great-grandchildren, Michael, Violet, and Jaxton. Dick is preceded in death by his father, George, mother, Erma, and stepfather, Pete; and brothers, Chuckie, Dot, Jack, and Tommy.

Dick worked in the construction industry as a foreman, punch out technician, and general handyman. He was skilled at carpentry, drywall, and plumbing. He could fix just about anything. His efforts to restore the various properties of the Boyds Presbyterian Church kept him busy in his retired years.

Dick had many hobbies, including visiting and researching lighthouses across America, bible study, crossword puzzles, flea market sales, NASCAR, and reading. He was happy to root for and watch the Washington Nationals win the baseball world series. For twenty-one years, he led the team that prepared and ran an annual charity Halloween Haunted House at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in West Virginia. All proceeds were donated to Santa's Workshop as well as other local services. He worked for months prior to the event scheming up and constructing the next big scary thing.

Dick was a member of the Boyds Presbyterian Church for forty-seven years and served on the board of trustees for many of them. He was instrumental in the efforts to repair the stained-glass windows and the installation of air conditioning. His recent accomplishment was the renovation of the church manse.

A celebration of Dick's life will be presented by his family and the church at a date yet to be determined. Details will be published on the Boyds Presbyterian Church website or facebook page.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Dick's name to the Boyds Presbyterian Church, 19901 White Ground Rd., Boyds, MD 20841, with specific direction that they be designated for building maintenance and repairs.

John Joseph Konkus

John Joseph Konkus, 82, of Poolesville, passed away on October 7, 2020. Born August 17, 1938 in Yonkers, New York, he was the son of John Konkus and Claire Dumich. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He is survived by his wife, Jacqueline Konkus, a son John Austin Konkus, daughter-in-law Lathika Thomas, grandson Luke Konkus, daughter Jennifer Wells, and son-in-law Bradley Wells.

There will be a private memorial service for the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard Drive, Suite 100, Rockville, Maryland 20850.



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Asking for Your Vote: Statements by Commissioner Candidates

be honest, I don't fall into either of those camps. I understand the importance of smart growth that supports a continuation of the town's Master Plan as well as the desire to maintain the small-town charm.

I'm excited at the thought to have an opportunity to serve as part of a team focused on keeping Poolesville a great place to call home. I want to give a shout out to all the town staff, who work tirelessly to provide quality service to the residents. We thank you and want to do everything we can to make sure you can live and thrive here in the town where you serve.

I appreciate your vote and your confidence! David Wilson for Town Commissioner.



Richard Denton Ernst

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Continued from page 14.

The Magnificent Great Blue Heron

The GBH's long legs allow it to wade belly deep in shallow waters to seek prey. They often stand motionless in the water or at the water's edge looking for prey. Although the GBH moves slowly while hunting, it strikes lightning fast once its prey is within reach. It uses its long neck and dagger-like bill to strike and disable the prey which consists of fish, amphibians, snakes, and even small mammals. Once the heron has captured its intended meal, it disables it and swallows the captured prey whole.

Although mostly a silent creature, the GBH makes a deep-throttled "quack" when vocalizing. I often discover the presence of a GBH when I accidentally walk too close, and the heron voices its displeasure as it flies off to a new location. Often, though, the GBH is so entranced by its fishing and hunting activities that it will ignore humans walking past or sitting quietly nearby.

Since my first great blue heron sighting many years ago, I've spotted many dozens more, in our local ponds, along the C&O Canal, in meadows and fields, or flying overhead. Each sighting is awe-inspiring and furthers my desire to see our local waterways and land remain clean and pristine, a healthy habitat for both humans and the wildlife which inhabit these treasured lands. As long as we



The great blue heron in flight.

all do our part to preserve our environment, we'll continue to enjoy great blue heron sightings, as well as the many other creatures of the Agricultural Reserve.

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Celebrating 31 Years of Service

COVID-19: This Thing Is Far from Over

Adapted by Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF

Here are the Facts from your Veterinarian. (Because if you don't believe your veterinarian, who're you gonna believe?)

Your veterinary team is provided consistently updated information from several expert sources.

- Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medicine
- Center for Disease Control
- American Veterinary Medical Association
- Maryland Veterinary Medical Association
- Various Universities and Government Scientific Agencies

Your veterinarians are also tasked as part of their oath with protecting the welfare of animals and humans. We study long and hard to understand infection, disease, immunity, and herd health (humans are technically just a big herd).

You have recently seen increasing information about the potential for herd immunity to suppress the COVID-19 virus from infecting more individuals. Here is the hard truth:

- No programs are designed to reduce the total infection of a population.
- "Blunting the Curve" serves to spread the total infection over a longer period, allowing the health services to function at an optimum level without being overwhelmed by sick or dying individuals. The same number of individuals will likely be infected only over a longer period.
- Vaccinations are the only way to reduce infection potential to a population in the short term.
- Distancing and protective equipment improve the population potential to stay infection-free until a vaccine can be developed and shared with the population.
- Vaccinations for COVID-19 are still 3-12 months away (even approved, no vaccine is 100% protective due to a host of reasons). Even when they are rolled out, the population of individuals that will initially receive a vaccine will be small. The vaccine will likely be provided to essential workers and the highest risk groups first. Vaccinating all individuals that want a vaccine can take up to one year. Not everyone will want a vaccine.
- Herd immunity does occur, but many non-science outlets have misinformed our population. Herd immunity only begins to take effect when 70% (not 10% as reported) of a population has been exposed, produced antibodies, overcome the infection, or died from the virus. We are nowhere close to that level.

For example, when 70 individuals in a group of 100 have already died or recovered from an infection, the remaining 30 have a much bigger buffer, so the infection cannot as easily jump from individual to individual, thus herd immunity.

What comes next is likely a spike in the infection rate. This is based on expert scientific information from the above-mentioned scientific expert sites, the spike could be as much as 80%. Why is this possible?

- No herd immunity has or likely will have a chance to take place.
- Local, state, and federal attempts to slow the infection have not been uniform.
- Wintertime typically causes individuals in a population to move closer together, thus enhancing the potential for easier spread of disease.
- Relaxation of protections against the virus for individuals in the population have been premature.
- The virus is constantly mutating, and the flu virus will complicate and potentially enhance individuals in a population being overwhelmed by the coronavirus.
- Individuals in the population have become fatigued by the length of the pandemic and are increasingly lax in distancing and maintaining small groups (we do after all like to congregate like herds do).

What can we do?

- The easiest and simplest protection is a mask. Just wear the Mask. You look good in a mask. You have a right not to wear a mask but wear it for your pets anyway.
- Maintain the groups you have been interacting with and resist the desire to move to bigger or unknown groups, especially during the holidays.
- If you feel sick, stay home, stay away from others and your pets.
- Get tested and follow your medical professional's recommendations.
- The smartest people "in the room" are working on a group of vaccines that target the coronavirus. Realize you will likely not be the first to get a vaccine, so hang in there, your turn will come.
- Understand that COVID-19 will be in our future for a long time to come, so listen to the experts and prepare to embrace "The New Normal".
- No matter what you feel, we are in this together. We will get through this together.
- Be nice to your veterinarians and their staff. We care about you and, more importantly, your furry friends.



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