

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Monthly Newspaper

December 2025 • Volume XXI, Number 9



This woman just ended a nearly-three-year battle. Find out who and why on page 5.



A bomb! What? Where? Why? Check out local news on page 9.



She is the focus of a local mystery. Find how and where on page 10.



There is enchanting Christmas magic in our forests. Nothing haunted here! Find out where on page 21.





It's beginning to look like Christmas!

You know many of these people out and about celebrating Christmas early. Can you guess where they are? See the answers on page 13.



About our front page:

Norman Rockwell, so famous for his iconic *Saturday Evening Post* cover paintings, also did covers for *Boys' Life*. Additionally, he painted pictures for ads for Parker pen. This one was done in 1959 using the theme: "She set out to get him something he wanted... he set out to get her something different... they both succeeded!"

This year's front-page recreation was done by Andrea and Jim Sheehan. Andrea is a schoolteacher at PES, and the picture was taken by their son. They did a remarkable job!

The Sweet Lemon's Katie Horan was the *Monocle's* coordinator for the recreation. She did a masterful job as she has for the last three years.

Town Government

In November Meetings, Commissioners Establish Town Flag Committee and Hear Discussion about a Turf Field at PHS

By Link Hoewing

At their November 3 meeting, the Town of Poolesville commissioners unanimously approved the nominations of seven Poolesville residents to serve on a citizens' committee to develop a new design for the town's flag. Before discussing the idea, they heard from local citizen Will Milem who is running for Montgomery County Sheriff.

Milem has been a citizen of Poolesville for thirteen years. During that time, he has been involved in a number of community activities, including coaching sports teams with the PAA and UMAC leagues. In his career, he has been in the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office, advancing to Chief Assistant Sheriff.

Wilem said he is running for Sheriff in Montgomery County because "the sheriff's office is broken." Thirty deputies have left since the current chief, Maxwell Uy, took over. The deputy sheriffs in the office have unanimously approved a "no confidence vote" in Uy's leadership, and he believes there is "no vision" in the sheriff's office.

Wilem said he would have three priorities upon assuming office: First, helping address domestic violence which affects twelve million families nationwide; second, mental and behavioral health, which burdens not only society but the Montgomery County Police Department; finally, helping our youth cope with the stresses of life in a modern world.

The commissioners next heard from Assistant Town Manager Niles Anderegg about the new Flag Committee. The town had advertised for the new committee and had seven nominations for the commissioners to approve: Tom Kettler, Judy McKenney, Dorothy Ballmann, Sarah Lamanna, Valaree Dickerson, Annette Howard, and Erin Gang. He explained that the committee would do its work using a number of "sign elements" that are considered to be ideal for good flag design, including limited colors, not using phrases or words on the flag, and careful selection of meaningful symbols. The plan is to have the flag ready for unveiling by Poolesville Day 2026.

The commissioners unanimously approved the nominations to the committee.

In the Town Manager's report, Wade Yost remarked that Verizon had sent a letter to the town asking to renegotiate the lease agreement they have to place their wireless transponders on the water tower. The contract with the company still has several years remaining. He said the company alleged that it had another possible location for its transponders, but he is very doubtful that is the case. He recommended the commissioners decline the offer and wait until the current contract period lapses before revisiting the matter. They agreed with Yost's recommendation.

At their November 17 meeting, the commissioners held a public hearing regarding the proposal to install an artificial turf field at the high school stadium. Commission President Jim Brown said the board of education planned to hold a vote on the proposal at its upcoming November 20 meeting. He and the commissioners wanted to make sure the citizens of the Upcounty learned about the proposal and heard the arguments regarding its use on Montgomery County high school stadiums.

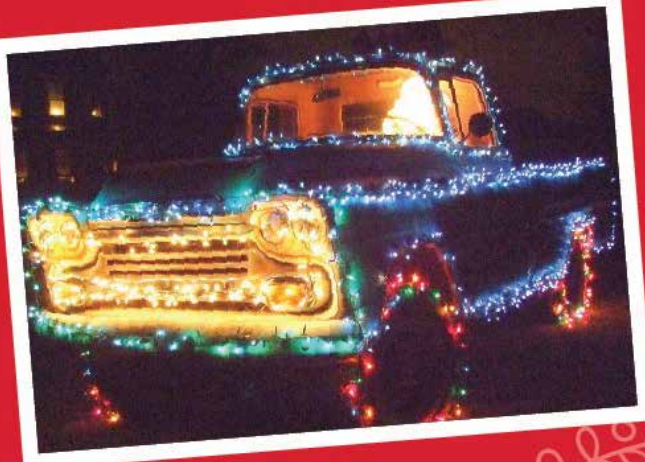
First to speak was Abby Mann, the Groundwater Coordinator for Montgomery Countryside Alliance. She said her organization understands the need for an upgraded stadium playing field. Mann said that while the need is important, the aquifer underlaying the town and the Upcounty is the only source of water for all Ag Reserve residents. She said the town has been fighting PFAS already in its well system and "multiple states have found PFAS in turf fields, even products that are said to be free" of the chemicals.

Mann further said that just because PFAS are not used in the manufacturing process does not mean that they are not created over time due to chemical changes and interactions. Turf fields also release microplastics that can get into wounds and be breathed in by kids. In her view, the total cost over time of turf fields is not lower than natural grass fields, and modern irrigation systems and new grass varieties are much improved from older applications.

She added that turf systems must be replaced every eight to ten years, and the turf weighs many tons. Unfortunately, they often go into landfills.

Continued on page 29.

Merry
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AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



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Rande(m) Thoughts

Introducing the Great Shopping Mall in the Ag!

By Rande Davis

Now that you have escaped Black Friday, uninjured and still not broke, there are many gift opportunities perfect for the season from retailers, crafters, artists—and for the foodies in your life, a good variety of restaurants—all right here in the wonderful Ag Reserve.

The best part is we don't have that crowded "mall" experience, the cold-hearted nature of online buying, or the hectic frenzy of the big box stores. What we have is so much better. Like the warmth exhibited in our cover photo, we have the smalltown at-Christmas-time experience.

On December 5, the annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony not only has all our retailers open into the evening, but the PACC sponsors space in the town hall for several crafters and other great gift sellers.

Let's take a walk around town so you can see for yourself:

Looking for something special or unique for your special or unique person? The first stop? *The Sweet Lemon*. Just step into the store and be dazzled by the sight. Katie has such a wide variety of unique and special gifts. If you are uncertain, she's ready to help you. Just tell her whom you have in mind, and she'll show you a bunch of great ideas.

Do you want to astound them with a gift for the home? *Sugar Pea Vintage* has an amazing array of mind-blowing ideas. From small gifts like gift cards, towels, to a life-sized horse sculpture. Visiting the store defines the difference between simple shopping and having an experience. The real Santa Claus will be on hand the weekend of December 6 and 7 and then again on December 19.

Also, in the theme of everything old is new again, our newest retailer *Main Steet Estate and ANC Jewelry*, located next to Ali's Cleaners, has an explosion of collectible and vintage items the moment you walk into the store. The amazing variety includes vintage toys, books, Christmas hosting essentials, barware, artwork, furniture, fine jewelry, lamps, antiques, crystal brass collectives, and so much more.

A store within a store, there is also *ANC Jewelry*, specializing in vintage jewelry gifts. They will have a giant snowman outside for the perfect

Christmas family picture and even a warm Christmas hearth display inside. If you haven't visited this new retailer yet, don't wait until after Christmas.

Another benefit of living in the affluent Ag Reserve is that even our local *Friendly Thrift Shop* sells donations of high quality. Don't be shy about shopping there. Remember, your donations are always welcome as a way of giving back to them as they give back to others through funds earned from their sales.

Perhaps you don't have the *Calleva Farm Store* or *Locals Restaurant* on your gift shopping radar, but you should. Calleva, open the night of the holiday lighting, has several gifts as well as the kind you want to give to the host of your holiday dinner or party. This is also true for *Locals Farm Market* just across the street.

Just a little out of town in Dickerson are the *Market at Deere Valley* and *RB Savage and Sons Farm Market*. Both are highly regarded for their local meats, and you will also love their unique gifts—perfect for those on your shopping list and for those hosting parties you will attend.

A couple of miles outside of town, you simply will not believe your eyes when you visit Calleva's fantastic *Christmas Farm Village and Trail*. Even if you do not purchase a ticket to the trail (see page 21 for our article on this whole experience), you can still visit their Christmas Village. It is a magical, festive destination that's free for everyone to enjoy! Inside, you'll find Santa riding in his sleigh. They have a Christmas market featuring ten unique vendors where you can shop for holiday treasures! You can also pick out the perfect Christmas tree with the help of their team and savor delicious food and drinks. The evening is set to cheerful Christmas music for everyone to enjoy. Gather around a massive bonfire to keep warm and soak in the holiday spirit—it's the perfect place to make lasting memories with family and friends!

Finally, in the category of specialized gifts, wine and liquor make terrific gifts. We have the *Moco Liquor store*, *Poolesville Village Beer and Wine*, and *Poolesville Beer and Wine* as well. Remember *Poolesville Hardware* and *All About Equestrian* have some great gifts and stocking stuffers, too. *Tractor Supply*, *Dollar General*, and *CVS*, while not a unique local shopping experience, have many gift ideas for pets or people.

During the holidays, dining out as a family or with friends is a wonderful tradition. We have it all! American cui-

Continued on right.

Kolm's Corner



Continued from left.

sine? *Bassett's*. Gourmet? *Locals Farm Market*. Upscale? *Crossvines*. Mexican? *Mexican Grill*. Asian? *House of Poolesville*. Everyone's favorite party time food? *Cugini's Pizza*, *Kristopher's*, or *Subway*. There is no need to cook for your party when you have so many options right here in town to cater your event.

Who needs a mall anyway? Not when you have the old-fashioned and wonderful shopping experience of Poolesville. Now, if we only get some snow, we will have the full Hallmark Christmas spirit right here in town.



The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

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Local News

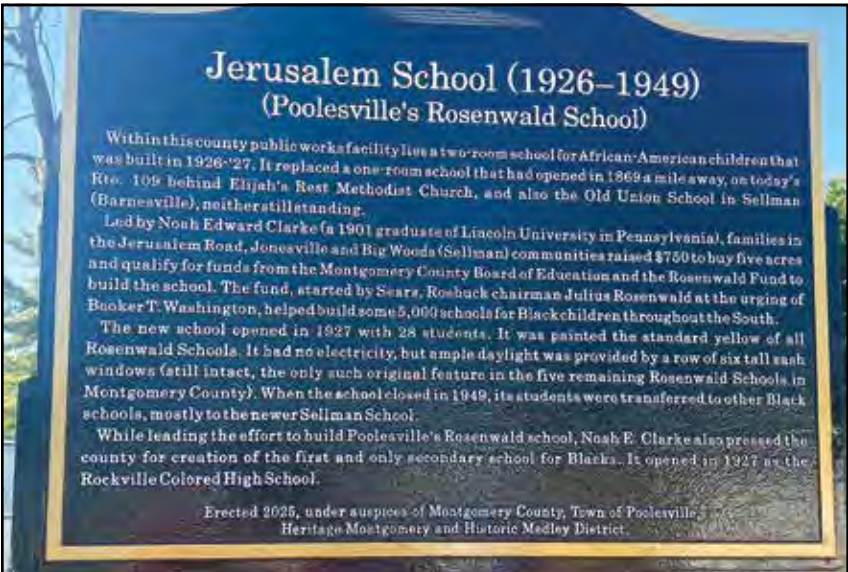
A Giant of Local History Remembered Through New Historic Sign

By Link Hoewing

The next time you go to or drive by the Beauty Spot on Jerusalem Road, take note of the long, single-story white building just inside the entrance. This structure is one of a few remaining Rosenwald school buildings in the county, and the only one retaining the large windows that were a defining architectural characteristic of Rosenwald schools when originally built. Rosenwald schools were built all over the south in the 1920s and 1930s so that Black children, who often had no school to attend or were prohibited from doing so, could get an education. The school in Jerusalem, built in 1925, was closed in 1949. Since that time, the state has added a garage on the side of the building and converted the interior to office space for the Department of Transportation maintenance depot.

On Saturday, September 29, over a hundred people gathered to witness the unveiling of a commemorative sign to acknowledge the existence of this historically-important building and to celebrate the history and legacy of the Black community of Jerusalem which helped raise a substantial portion of the funds needed to purchase the land for the school and its construction. The sign is a joint project of the Town of Poolesville, Montgomery County Government, Heritage Montgomery, and the Historic Medley District.

Continued on page 22.



Nearly three years in the making, the Clarke dedication sign now stands.



Mark Clarke, great-grandson of Noah Clarke.



Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich with Tina Clarke.

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Senior News

Poolesville Seniors Present Virtual and In-Person Programs

Visit the Poolesville Seniors' website, poolesvilleseniors.org, to register for these and a wide variety of virtual and in-person events. Sign up at poolesvilleseniors.org/email-list to receive our weekly PS Postscript newsletter or call 301-875-7701. Most in-person events take place at *Poolesville Presbyterian Church's Speer Hall at 17800 Elgin Road (Rte. 109)*.

Registration is required, but all events are open to the entire community and free unless otherwise noted.

December 6

Continuing Hikes with Jon Wolz: Licking Creek

Join Jon Wolz on one of the 2025 Continuing Hikes from the C&O Canal Association. Licking Creek Aqueduct is the first of six single-arch aqueducts on the line of the canal and the longest of the canal's aqueducts. Attendees should dress for the weather, bring water and lunch or a snack, and be prepared to walk five-plus miles round trip. Hikes are rain or shine. Meet at 11:00 a.m. at the Mile Marker Lane Parking lot about a half mile from the Aqueduct. *Licking Creek Aqueduct, Big Pool, MD 21711*. 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Become a Chocolate Hero

Join Maureen Ivusic to explore the world of chocolate and superfoods. In this class, you'll become your own Chocolate Hero! Learn how cacao goes from pod to confection, a little history of the cacao bean and traditional uses, how chocolate acts as a vehicle for the best-ever superfoods, and get creative with a few tricks and ideas to make chocolate candies fun and affordable. In-class chocolate tasting, samples, and opportunity to purchase chocolate kits. \$15 fee at registration. *Speer Hall*. 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

December 9

Book Author Presentation: A Task Force Called Faith

Honoring the 75th anniversary of the legendary Battle of Chosin Reservoir, local author Steve Vogel will present the little-known story of the army soldiers who gave all during the Korean War's most consequential battles and then were denigrated for their sacrifice. Steve Vogel shares his culmination of twenty-five years of digging into the

story, first as a reporter for *The Washington Post* and now as a leading military historian. *Poolesville Presbyterian Sanctuary, 17800 Elgin Rd.* 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

December 10

Senior Planet: Redefining Aging in the Digital Age

Senior Planet is the flagship program of Older Adults Technology Services (OATS). This session will concentrate on user-friendly tools and resources and is designed to enable older adults to learn to utilize technologies to improve their daily lives. *Speer Hall*. 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Body Sculpting

Join Karen McPhatter for Body Sculpting Fitness class, a strength training workout designed to help individuals achieve their fitness goals by focusing on muscle toning and body shaping. The exercises are performed with light weights, resistance bands, or body weight. *Speer Hall*. 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

December 10

Let's Dance!

Class is for all levels, from seasoned dancers to beginners. Kathy Bassett will explore different styles like Latin, ballroom, ballet, jazz, and contemporary through repetitive choreography. Get ready to dance, burn calories, build strength, and laugh. *Speer Hall*. 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

December 11

Low Impact Aerobics

Join Cathy Mattax for a Low Impact Aerobics Session. It is a fun, throw-back workout, with music and moves you'll remember from back in the day. Suitable for all fitness levels. No squats, no lunges, no jumps, no Reebok step. Spandex, headbands, and leg warmers are optional. *Speer Hall*. 1:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.

December 12

Movie Night: Wake Up Dead Man: A Knives Out Mystery

Join us for the premiere of the next in the *Knives Out* Mystery series: *Wake Up Dead Man*. Detective Benoit Blanc travels to assist the monsignor of a small church in Upstate New York where a seemingly impossible murder has occurred. Blanc teams up with the local police chief to unravel the case. *Speer Hall*. 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

December 15

Trail Hike: Hoyles Mill Trail Part 1

Please join Karen Dansby and Gwen Haney for Part 1 of the Hoyles Mill Conservation Park Trail Hike. This

trail is a little over five miles with an elevation gain of 213 feet. It is a fairly flat, straight in and out hike. Plan to arrive 10 to 15 minutes earlier than our start time of 9:00 a.m. The rain date is December 22. *19620 White Ground Rd., Boyds, MD 20841*. 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

December 17

An Invitation to Dine Out for Single Seniors

Please join Claire and Gwen for a lowkey gathering for single senior men and women, looking for company while dining out. For our December get together, we will meet at Dutch's Daughter. Wear your party clothes or your best "ugly" holiday sweater! The atmosphere is office casual; prices are moderate to high, and the menu includes appetizers, lighter fare, vegetarian, meat, and seafood entrees, and desserts. *581 Himes Ave., Frederick, MD 21703*. 5:30 p.m.

December 19

Line Dancing with Ashley Kelch

Enjoy a free evening of line dancing with basic instruction that builds up to more complicated moves. Join the fun, work out, and meet new people. *Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church*. 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Continued on page 7.



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Continued from page 6.

Poolesville Seniors

Weekly and Monthly Events:

Monday

Ping Pong and Cornhole. *Speer Hall.*
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Pickleball Open Play. *Poolesville Baptist Church.* 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Monday and Friday

Walking Club. Meet at the flagpole in *Whalen Commons.* 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Seniors at the Barre. *Speer Hall.*
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday

Tai-Chi. *Speer Hall.* 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Bridge. *Speer Hall.* 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday

Walking Club. Meet at the flagpole in *Whalen Commons.* 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday

Body Sculpting. *Speer Hall.* 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Zumba Gold. *Speer Hall.* 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Knitting and Crochet Instruction and Support. *Speer Hall.* 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

First Wednesday

Birthday Club Card Craft. *Speer Hall.*
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Second and Fourth Wednesday

Chair One Fitness with Dierdre. *Speer Hall.* 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Thursday

Mahjong. *Speer Hall.* 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

First and Third Thursday

Chair One Fitness with Dierdre. *Speer Hall.* 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Third Friday

Movie Night. *Speer Hall.* 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Fourth Friday

Line Dancing. *Speer Hall.* 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

For more information or to register for any of the programs listed here, visit the Poolesville Seniors website: poolesvilleseniors.org and receive the link for virtual events or directions for in-person events. View recorded presentations on their YouTube channel. Contact 301-875-7701 or email info@poolesvilleseniors.org with questions.

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Local News

Royce Hanson Conservation Park At Broad Run

By Maureen O'Connell

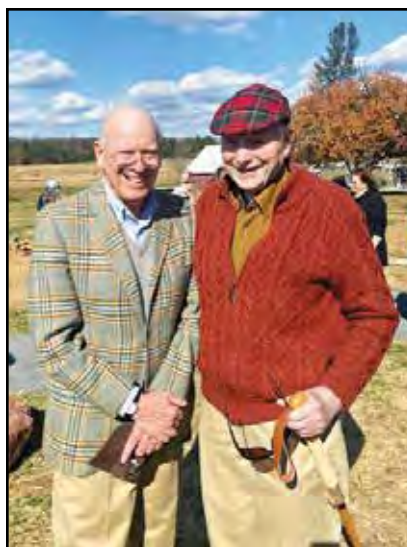
On Saturday, November 1, 2025, several hundred people gathered at 2180 Club Hollow Road in Poolesville to celebrate the official opening and dedication of the Royce Hanson Conservation Park at Broad Run.

The beautiful, sunny autumn weather was fitting for this celebratory occasion. The name of the park is a tribute to Royce Hanson, whose leadership and vision as Chairman of the Montgomery County Planning Board (1972-1981 and 2006-2010) was behind the creation of the nationally-recognized Agricultural Reserve and advancing smart growth policies that would protect farmland and open space. Royce knew and understood very firmly that once land is gone, it is gone forever. Land is finite and once developed, it is no longer in its natural state, and it can never be recovered, which can lead to permanent losses of habitat, resources, and natural features so important to man's appreciation of our environment. Through fostering a balance between development, preservation, and education, this will endure as a living legacy of Montgomery County for people living today and for those in future generations.

The park's mission will come alive through historic and archaeological research and interpretation, outdoor classrooms and educational opportunities, working with Poolesville High School Global Ecology Science Program students, and teacher training courses. This valuable property will showcase the history and landscape of the area and Montgomery County's story. The park's 475 acres are open to five miles of trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and nature observation. There are also picnic areas and fishing ponds. There is extensive interpretive signage which highlights the area's agricultural history, indigenous heritage, and Civil War activity. Over the next two years, the park's teams will plant 1,610 trees, 270 shrubs, including twenty native tree species and specimen shrubs. These trees will be sourced from Montgomery Parks tree nursery, Pope Farm, in Gaithersburg.

The original owner of the park's land was Thomas H. White (1831-1930). Farming was his life's work; over a third of Americans by the end of the nineteenth century worked in agriculture. Over time, White's 550-acre farm consisted of two large separate tracts. Farming in Montgomery County evolved through many stages, moving from grain and hay production to dairy farming, raising livestock, fruit-bearing trees, and cultivation of oak timber, which was a valuable resource suitable for railroad ties and lumber. After WWII, farming in Montgomery County started to decline while suburban development grew and threatened the rural landscape. Preservationists closely watched these changes and were

Continued on page 25.



Knight Kiplinger and Royce Hanson.



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Local News

Poolesville's Davis
Takes Command
At Ft. Lee

By Rande Davis

In a dual ceremony on November 24, Maj. Gen. Sean Paul Davis, a 1989 graduate of PHS, became the commanding general of the United States Army Combined Arms Support Command/ Sustainment Center of Excellence and Fort Lee in Virginia. In taking command of Ft. Lee, he replaced Lt. Gen. Michelle K. Donahue, who was also promoted to her new rank after the change of command ceremony. She will now serve as Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4, United States Army. In her new responsibilities, she will oversee the army's logistics policies and procedures and will be responsible for the army's supply, maintenance, transportation, and services. As the G-4, she develops, implements, and oversees army strategy, policy, plans, and programming for logistics and sustainment to enable total army readiness today and a force transformed for the future.

Davis holds a bachelor's degree from Virginia Military Academy, and multiple master's degrees from Webster University, the Command General Staff College, and the National War College. His operational experience includes two deployments to Kuwait, five to Iraq, and two to Afghanistan.

The change of command ceremony was officiated by Lt. Gen. David J. Francis, Commanding General, United States Army, Center for Initial Military Training.

Continued on page 23.



Major Gen. Sean Paul Davis with
Lt. Gen. Michelle K. Donahue.

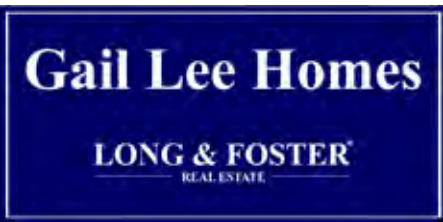


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joyous Holiday Season
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one for their loyalty and
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Gratefully,
Gail and Maureen

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Tidbits

Friendly Thrift Shop Mystery Solved

The Friendly Thrift Shop (FTS) often receives quality items. In the past year, they received a nurse's cape, probably from the 1950s or 1960s. This year, they got a wool cape that was personalized and in very good shape.

As the volunteers examined this item, it seemed too special to sell. They questioned whether there was a nurse's museum to which it could be donated. Google quickly provided a few answers.

Upon sending a message online to the Museum of Nursing History at LaSalle University, they received an immediate reply. The nurse in charge of receiving items asked a few key questions and said she could check the Mormon database for the nurse's name. Within a few minutes, they learned that she was from Dayton, Ohio, the name of the school she attended, and her work history that included serving as a navy nurse. This nurse worked at two area hospitals (Navy Med and Suburban). She died at her home in Silver Spring at 83. The nurse was Judith Mehlberth DuRell. The cape was from Christ Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The FTS agreed to donate this item to the Museum of Nursing History. The FTS values learning about the history of donated items and trying to find the right home for them.

Tons of Fun



These scouts collected over four tons of food for WUMCO during their annual Scouting for Food initiative.

This year's Scouting for Food collected a record 8,470 pounds of donations! It was literally tons of fun and good service. The scouts thank all who put food donations at their front doors for pickup.

Canal Towns Partnership Meets at Poolesville Town Hall

In 2011, several Canal Towns formed a new alliance to generate mutually beneficial economic activity in the towns. Each town sends representatives to monthly meetings to share information, offer advice and support to the National Park Service, and develop intertown projects. Throughout the years, they have: arranged for a free van shuttle service around a temporary towpath washout; established informational kiosks with guides to services at entrances to each town; published and distributed thousands of informational brochures to aid in planning trips along the C&O towpath; and lobbied for improvements and repairs along the trail and its access points.

The towns in Maryland are Cumberland, Hancock, Brunswick, Williamsport, Point of Rocks, and Poolesville. From West Virginia are Paw Paw, Shepherdstown, Harper's Ferry, and Bolivar.

Continued on page 14.



The Friendly Thrift Shop sleuths solved the mystery of this cape.



Please consider donating to, joining, and volunteering with Historic Medley District to help us continue our mission of maintaining the John Poole House, the Seneca Schoolhouse, and the Old Town Hall Bank Museum and Exhibit Hall. Help us keep our facilities open to the public on weekends, continuing our living history educational programs, lecture series, historic house tours, ghost tours, and other activities.



To join HMD and/or make a charitable donation:

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- Visit our website at: <https://www.historicmedley.org/how-to-help/>
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Center Stage

Hope Garden's A Winter's Eve
Awarded County Arts Grant

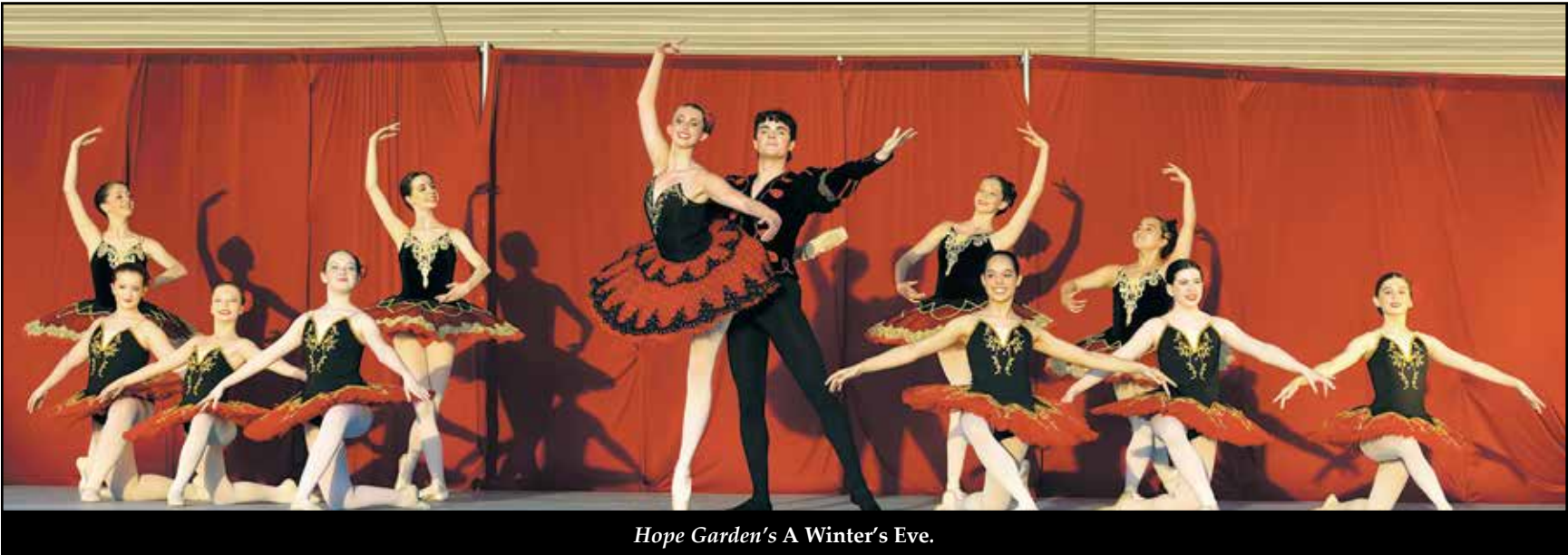
By Brian McNally

Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre (HGCBT) will usher in the season with its annual winter production, *A Winter's Eve*, on Saturday, December 6, at the Bender JCC of Greater Washington in Rockville. Families will have two chances to catch the show, with performances at 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

This year's production arrives with special recognition and support: HGCBT has again been awarded a grant sponsored by the Montgomery County Government and the Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County (AHCMC). For the third year in a row HGCBT has received more than \$10,000 from AHCMC for *A Winter's Eve*.

The grant reflects the theatre's commitment to presenting work that mirrors the rich cultural diversity of Montgomery County. Rather than focusing solely on traditional Western holiday fare, *A Winter's Eve* highlights winter and seasonal celebrations from around the world through original choreography and youth performance.

Continued on page 24.



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Business Briefs

Congrats to Fine Earth Landscape

Fine Earth Landscape, founded in 1977, was honored to receive a Grand Decade Award by the Landscape Contractors Association DC/MD/VA. The award is only given for landscapes that have been installed and maintained for at least ten years. Fine Earth designed and installed a swimming pool, spa, stone walls and terraces, fire pit, lighting, and planting in 2012 and 2014. They have collaborated with their clients to add new features ever since.



Fine Earth Landscape won a the highly-prestigious Grand Decade Award from the Landscape Contractors Association MD-DC-VA.



Jim Cappuccilli, Nick Markoff, and Katie Horan. American Legion Post 247 held a cutting-edge fundraiser for their group at Horan's Sweet Lemon Gift Shop.

Helping, Even in the Midst of the Rush

Even with a swirl of customers taking advantage of great gift ideas for the holidays, Katie Horan, the proprietor the Sweet Lemon gift shop, managed to still give the local American Legion Post 247 a chance to raise some important funds for its group. Veteran and past high school counselor at PHS,

Continued on page 38.



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Things to Do

December 5

Poolesville's 20th Annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony

Santa arrives at 6:30 p.m. Tree lighting at 6:45 p.m. Holiday performances, Holiday Express Train, ice skating rink, wagon rides by Calleva, decorate gingerbread cookies at Old Town Hall in center of town, and food trucks. Basket auction to benefit WUMCO. Holiday Outdoor Market sponsored by PACC. Gift shopping at area retailers and at Calleva Farm Store, with hot chocolate and popcorn, plus simple fun games for kids. Retailers and restaurants open for business. *Whalen Commons*. 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

December 5 to 7

Vintage Shop Crawl

Twelve region vintage shops join in offering a "shopping crawl" for the holidays. Shops are listed in the ad on page 29. Hours vary store by store.

December 5 to 7

Countryside Artisans 2025 Fall Tour

Visit the studio and meet the crafters and artisans while enjoying the fall

beauty of the Ag Reserve. Map available online. Studios open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

December 6

Breakfast with Santa

Come enjoy eggs, bacon, pancakes, sausage, juice, and coffee. Kids can visit with Santa Claus. The kids will love the toy train layout and *Santa Claus Is Coming to Town* video. Adults: \$13.00; 3 to 17: \$10.00; under 3: Free Photos with Santa: \$2.00. You may also use your camera. *Beallsville Firehall, 19801 Beallsville Rd, Beallsville*.

December 6 and .7

Santa Is Back at Sugar Pea Vintage

Shop for the holidays and have your children in a picture with Santa. Friendly pets welcome. Reserve a time by clicking the QR code on page 20. Walk-ins also welcome. Located directly across from Poolesville Hardware.

December 13

Holiday Luncheon for Seniors

Sponsored by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Lodge #97. RSVP at 301-639-3638 by December 8. *United Memorial Methodist Church, Poolesville*. 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

December 14

Vintage Shop Crawl

Twelve region vintage shops join in offering a "shopping crawl" for the holidays. Shops are listed in the ad on page 29. Hours vary store by store.

December 20

Santa Rides through Poolesville

Join the UMCVFD Facebook page to livestream his visit or visit the QR code in their ad on page 25. Listen for the music and bells as he comes by. Begins at 3:00 p.m.



Family Album

Guess the Location

- FA1: Cugini's
- FA2: Bassett's
- FA3: Dunkin' Donuts
- FA4: Cugini's
- FA5: Poolesville High School
- FA6: Markoff's Christmas Village

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Continued from page 10.

Tidbits



Calleva's Alex Markoff addressed the Canal Towns Partnership, greeting the group. To the left is chair Abbie Ricketts (Brunswick) and to the right is secretary Nicole Gray (Cumberland).

This past November, the group met at Poolesville Town Hall. Jon Wolz is the town's representative with this important economic initiative. Poolesville Town Commission President Jim Brown welcomed the group. Local guest speakers were Calleva's Alex Markoff and Black History spokesperson Tony Cohen.

KPC Buddhist Relief Fund for the Winter Season

Our friends and neighbors at Kunzang Palyul Choling, a Tibetan Buddhist Temple, sponsor the KPC Buddhist Relief Fund, a wonderful winter clothing drive. Their goal is to raise \$5,000 for two hundred winter clothing sets (hats, gloves, scarves, and sweat sets) for families and individuals in need. Any extra funds will be used for the emergent needs as the season progresses. They also have some capacity to store used/new items on site. Please email them at helptem@KPCbuddistrelief.com before dropping off any items.

Happy holidays from Calleva!

Wishing you an abundance of love & light this season.

Come celebrate with us!



calleva.org

- **December 5th at Calleva Farm Store**
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Happy Holidays!


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1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

Name That Santa

See the legend for answers on page 34.



9



10



11



12



13



14



15



16

Youth Sports

Poolesville Cross Country Teams
Place Third in the State

By Jeff Stuart

Both the boys’ and girls’ Poolesville High School cross country teams finished third in the state championships on November 8 at Hereford High School. The previous week the girls finished first in the 2A West Region Championship at River Hill High School, and the boys finished second.

At the states, the boys finished behind River Hill and Hereford with 134 points. Junior Ethan Dimmerling was the boys’ top finisher at sixteenth place. Senior Nathan Fielder was twenty-first, senior Alex Daniels was twenty-ninth, senior Keaton Trouteaud was thirty-first, senior Daniel Ketema thirty-seventh, sophomore Henry Partain forty-sixth.

The girls finished third behind Hereford and North Hartford with a team score of 129. Senior Anna McCrae was the top finisher at sixteenth place. Senior Ruby Mercer was twentieth, junior Bhavya Chidambaranathan twenty-third, senior Claire Main thirty-second, freshman Aisling Moroney thirty-eighth, sophomore Charlotte Hofmann fiftieth, and freshman Reyna Kapoor was fifty-fourth.

“The team is running really well,” said coach Prasad Gerard just before the region championship. “We have had some great races recently. The boys’ team is running strong. They are really tightly packed. There is about a forty-five-second difference between the first and the fifth runner which is great. Ethan led the boys’ team at MCPS Championships at Borher Park in Gaithersburg. He didn’t feel like he did because he set a PR there last year, but he actually ran faster than he did last year, which was good. Nathan is really moving up. He and Alex are really tightening our top five.

“On the girls’ side they have really tightened up their pack. Bhavya has really moved up. She has closed the time distance between her and Anna. Claire ran a really good race at the county. Reyna and Charlotte also ran good races, so did junior Erica Millin.



The 2025 PHS Cross Country team.

“The Frank Keyser Invitational meet at Boonsboro on October 4 gave us a pretty good indication of where we were moving into the county and region because we competed against some runners and teams that we knew we would be facing in the region and state. We got to see how we lined up. That was a flatter course. The region at River Hill is a pretty flat course. The state meet at Hereford is a hilly course.”

“I finished twenty-first in the county,” said Ethan. “I ran a really good race at 16:43 and I felt great. I was relaxed. I kept up a good pace. I could look around and see other runners and take a deep breath every once in a while. I knew if I ran any harder I would not have a big finishing kick. As a team, our season has been really good. We placed second at the Brunswick Zumbach Invitational on September 6. That got us off to a quick start. We got second at the Georgetown Meet on September 19. At the Manhattan University meet on October 11, 2025 at Van Cortlandt Park in New York, we were coming off a practice where we ran,

Continued on page 36.



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2020



2021



2023



2022



2024





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188 Members and Growing

Revised 11/12/2025 v2

Youth Sports

Sherwood, Damascus Games Highlight Falcon Field Hockey Season

By Jeff Stuart

Games against Sherwood, winners of the East Division, and Damascus, winners of the North Division, highlighted the Poolesville field hockey season.

"We lost a lot of seniors last year," said senior captain and center back, Hadley Miller at practice on October 16, "a lot of experienced players, so it has been a bit of a struggle this season. Our underclassmen have had to step up. They have had to learn basic skills and more complicated plays as well as where to be and where other players will be on the field—they have been great—and they have moved around, having to play different positions a lot. They have had to learn on the job. Our returning players have led the way. The team has come together and grown so much from the beginning. I think we played well in a lot of games. Some of our best games are ones that we lost. We played incredibly well against a very strong Damascus team. We scored against them for the first time in a while. That goal was scored by freshman forward Izzy Smalley. That was an exciting moment for her and a lot of us.



Genevieve Hix, Anshika Konatham, Ashley Walton, and Hadley Miller.

"We beat Sherwood at home, 3-2. That was a competitive game. We played to the best of our abilities, and we were able to pull out a win. I think they might have been the stronger team. They are a 4A school, but we kept up our intensity the whole way, both on offense and on defense, and we have lost a couple of heartbreak double overtime games.

"I want to give a shoutout to sophomore Charley Straniero at midfield and to sophomore goalie Laney Franklin—she is really good at making saves and directing the defense—and to senior Ashley Walton and Genevieve Hix on defense along with sophomore Mackenzie Kavanaugh. Genevieve played really well at Kennedy. We won 5-1."

"We are a relatively young team," said sophomore captain Haley Sherrill who plays defense, "but we have improved so much since the beginning of the season. The Damascus game was a tough loss, but the 4-1 score doesn't indicate how well we played.

"My shoutout goes to Charley. She plays forward and together with me. She is so strong in her stick skills. Another to Laney, our goalie, she holds our team together. She tells us where to go on defense. One more to sophomore forward Saya Howell, unfortunately, her season was cut short due to two concussions, but she scored four goals this season."

Anshika Konatham at forward is a senior. Juniors are Ava Shelburne, midfield, Lana Jelenka, forward, and Harshitha Poldus and Gwen Slotta on defense.

Regan Trainor, midfield, Victoria McGuire, Saya Howell, and Addison Rhode at forward are sophomores.

Brooke Hamm is the head coach, Debi Haba is the JV Coach, and Nan Gough is a volunteer coach.

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The Spirit of Christmas Comes
Alive in Our Forest

By Rande Davis

When the Markoff family launched their newest outdoor entertainment venture, “Markoff’s Christmas Farm and Christmas Trail” last year, it snuck up on us. They were open before we even learned about it. We had no chance to review it in time for the December issue.

When it comes to outdoor family entertainment, we have come to expect only the very best, high-quality programs and events from the Markoff family. After all, both their famed Haunted Forest and Calleva Outdoor programs have been tested over time to meet this high standard. The Haunted Forest has been ranked nationally as one of the best, floating between first and fourth in the country, depending on which rating system is used.

We were invited to a sneak preview of the Christmas Trail. Naturally, we looked forward to going backstage, getting the rundown on all the prep before they opened, and then visiting the farm for the full experience on November 30. Simply put and without exaggeration, the trail far exceeded our already high expectations.

Just as soon as the Haunted Forest shut down, the Christmas Trail setup began. Nick (Chief) and Mary Markoff gave my wife, Laura, and me an up-close tour of the trail and festival village that was still bundled up from when it closed last year. It was difficult to imagine that they could possibly get up and running in just a few weeks. Even the Christmas caboose, which is part of their *Polar Express* display, was jammed with stuff and being used as a storage area.

This whole venture is not so much an enterprise as it is a family affair. The couple has ten children and eighteen grandchildren. Tragically, in October of 2023, their beloved grandson, Sotir Markoff (Sotir means savior), the son of Matt and Kolette Markoff, died in a car accident in Frederick. For the closeknit family, the Christmas Farm project became ultra-motivating when it was determined

that it would be a fundamental component of a foundation established in honor of Sotir. Of course, the standard Markoff modus operandi of using imagination to its fullest in creating something new and fun is a hallmark of the family.

While the family is large, it is not its numbers as much its tight bond that marks this family. The seed for a Christmas event on the farm began to take root. Learning all this, I slowly began to understand how getting it done with so little time became clear. When the Markoffs have something important to do, they have a phrase they use that tips us off to their secret: “All hands on deck.” This is not surprising since Chief graduated from Annapolis, flew fighter jets off the decks of aircraft carriers, sometimes in storms, and even was a running back for Roger Staubach’s famed navy football team. The phrase was used often during our pre-opening tour to explain how accomplishment would be achieved—one big job becomes twenty small ones, results being achieved sooner than expected. Again, beating expectations is also a theme with this group.

Using the traditional appeals of the Christmas season and playing off some of the most popular holiday movies, their dream became focused, along with their obvious talent for creating “a trail of adventure in the woods,” one idea climbed upon another.

While the centerpiece is the Christmas Trail, it’s the Christmas on the Farm Village that will have appeal for everyone. First, anyone can come to the village since there is no entry fee. Yes, there are things to spend your money on, like early-season shopping at their ten craft vendors and food delights (they offer the real Dutch treat, stroopwafels, and if you go home without eating one of the homemade cinnamon donuts, you have made a big mistake). They are selling beautiful Christmas trees and help to load it onto your car. Sure, you can go to Home Depot, but you will lose out on the festive experience of warmth, food, and music shared with other joyful revelers.

Buy the tree, then sit by the huge roaring bonfire on logs, drinking hot chocolates and listening to the music. Not quite like sitting in a darkened room with only the Christmas tree lights for visibility, but close. There is so much for the kids to do there at no cost. Visit Santa Claus while he sits in his actual sleigh (much bigger than I imagined as a kid) and see the life-size reindeer lift off into the night sky, one after another. Nick and Mary will be found on the porch of their fairy

Continued on page 24.



Continued from page 5.

A Giant of Local History Remembered Through New Historic Sign

The community of Jerusalem near Poolesville was given the name by Robert Williams in 1874 when he founded the Jerusalem Baptist Church in his one-room log cabin. After building the house, he opened it to others in the area and held religious gatherings. The church has served the community since that time, though its first building has since burned down and been replaced. It was the first Baptist congregation in the Upcounty, and over time, the Jerusalem community, populated by former enslaved Blacks after emancipation, grew and thrived.

While the exact date of the county's acquisition of the school building (which became part of the DOT depot) is not clear, it appears it was in use as a county maintenance depot since at least the 1990s. Much of the old school's rear wall has been removed to add garages, and its flooring has been taken out as well. Even so, all of the other outside walls remain, wainscoting along many of the inside walls is still intact, six of the original eight-foot-high windows designed to let in light and the original chimney and roofing are still in place. The original privy for the school is still on the site, too.

Knight Kiplinger, the honorary chair of the board for the Historic Medley District started the proceedings by saying, "We have much to be thankful for as we unveil this new sign commemorating this Rosenwald School and the Jerusalem Community who led the effort to build it." Kiplinger pointed out that it was the fall of 1925, and Mary E. Thomas, a local teacher, told community members about a new program to help build schools for Black children, the Rosenwald Fund. Noah Clarke, whose trade as an insurance salesman led him to know many in the community, was a man of numerous talents, including musician, church leader, and community leader. He took on the challenge of chairing the fundraising effort to come up with the money needed to match the funds provided by the Rosenwald Fund and Montgomery County to build the Jerusalem Rosenwald School, the first dedicated school building for Blacks in our area. Kiplinger added that the school was open from 1926 to 1949, and the names of those who attended it reads like a who's who of the Jerusalem community, including Barnes, Honemond, Owens, Lyles, Johnson, and Robinson. Clarke went on to push for the establishment of secondary schools and is known as the "father of secondary education for Blacks in Montgomery County."

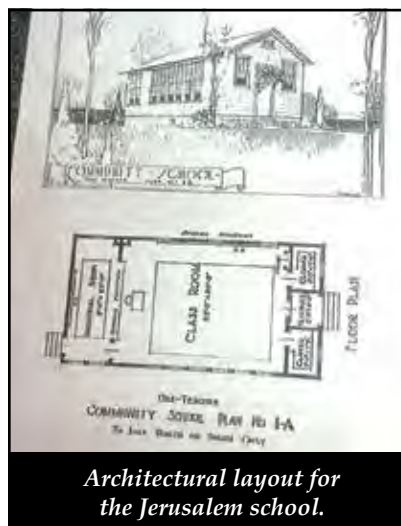
Kiplinger introduced Tina Clarke, Noah Clarke's granddaughter, and noted her long career as a historian as well as an activist pressing for equality by, among other actions, picketing the then Glen Echo Amusement Park which refused to allow Blacks to enter. She was inducted into Montgomery County's Human Rights Hall of Fame in 2006.

Tina Clarke said she had spent her formative years in Jerusalem. She elaborated on her grandfather Noah Clarke's background, describing how he loved being outdoors, hunting and collecting insects. His talents as a musician were formidable, and he could play the mandolin, violin, organ, and guitar among other instruments. He was the first Jerusalem resident to graduate from college and entered Lincoln College where he successfully took courses as complex as physics and Greek even though he had only completed seventh grade. His work to improve education for Black children started in 1925 when he chaired the fundraising work for the Jerusalem Rosenwald School. The following year, he initiated a campaign to create the first high school for Blacks in the county, in Rockville. He led the effort for a larger, better high school in 1934, called Lincoln High School, which was replaced by the George Washington Carver High School in 1950. From 1954 to 1956, Clarke was one of nineteen county citizens on an advisory committee to recommend to the school board a course of action for integration of the county public schools over a two-year period. She said, "My grandfather just would not take 'no' for an answer, and he had the ability to work with people and get them to agree."

County Executive Marc Elrich spoke next. He is a former schoolteacher, and he expressed his pleasure in seeing a significant part of Montgomery County's past recognized. When he was young, he lived in Washington, D.C. At the time, he did not appreciate what was occurring in the city as many people had left for the suburbs, including Montgomery County. He said there is little doubt that the fact that there were covenants and requirements prohibiting the sale of homes to Blacks at the time in Montgomery County played a significant part in the exodus. He reminded us that remembering history accurately is an important part of coming together as a society. "We have to find a path forward, and it must be based on honesty and understanding," he said. Perhaps partly in jest, Elrich suggested that there might be a way to renovate and rebuild the old school for some public purpose. Many in the audience clearly sympathized with that sentiment.



The Clarke family.



Architectural layout for the Jerusalem school.



HMD president Maureen O'Connell, chairman Knight Kiplinger, and Barnesville's Cherie Price at the event, sponsored by the Historic Medley District, LLC.

Link Hoewing, representing the Town of Poolesville, helped initiate the three-years-long effort to get the sign constructed and placed. He said that despite the ongoing discrimination against Blacks after the Civil War, seven Black communities were established in the Upcounty either just before the Civil War or just after it. The community of Jerusalem was established in 1874, and the first church was built by a community carpenter, George Dorsey. "Dorseys still live in this area," he said. "I moved here from Chicago when I was going into eleventh grade, and Cornell Dorsey was in school with me at PHS." The most remarkable part of the story about Rosenwald schools is that, despite centuries of slavery and not being able to learn, Black communities, like Jerusalem, and citizens, like Noah Clarke, understood deeply how important education is, and they helped build schools for their children. Hoewing thanked the Town of Poolesville and Historic Medley District as well as the staff at the DOT facility and Ruben Rosario, the Upcounty Services Center Director, for all of their support in the effort.

Those attending the event were also able to tour the building and see some of the remaining features of what once was a Rosenwald school. Many in the crowd commented that they had never known that such a piece of history existed on the DOT property. They said they learned so much about the history of the area from listening to the comments and reading the new sign.



The event drew a large group of family, friends, and historians.

Visit the *Monocle* online at www.monocacymonocle.com

Continued from page 9.

Poolesville’s Davis Takes Command at Ft. Lee

Donahue’s promotion was officiated by Gen. Martin Dempsey, a retired four-star general who is the former eighteenth Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the thirty-seventh Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

The event was held at the recently-opened U.S. Army Ordnance Museum that, while part of the post, can be accessed by the public without having to enter the fort. The ceremony participants and attendees were surrounded dramatically by flags from all fifty states, as well as the museum’s collection which contains not only many historic artifacts of American tank fleets, but also the best from Russian, German, British, and French tank fleets as well.

Some of the key pieces in the tank display at the Ordnance Museum are the Renault, Grant, Sherman, and Leopard tanks. While not having been part of military action, also on display was Lu Lu Bell, the famous tank commanded by Humphrey Bogart in his 1943 film, *Sahara*.

While the formality of the event was impressive with all its military traditions, pomp, and circumstance, there was room for humor. On display at this museum of ordnance in sight of each speaker, was an apparent “bomb” which included a bold, red, and dramatic countdown clock, causing each speaker to joke about their obvious time restrictions and the need to stay focused. For those not familiar with military life, one of its most robust traditions of military personnel is having a strong sense of humor. Tense situations are often breeding grounds for humor. Needless to say, each speaker was able to stay within his or her time limits. Perhaps civilian speakers could benefit from such a display.

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Dawn

An angel, robed in spotless white,
Bent down and kissed the
sleeping Night.

Night woke to blush; the sprite
was gone.
Men saw the blush and called
it Dawn.

-Laurence Dunbar

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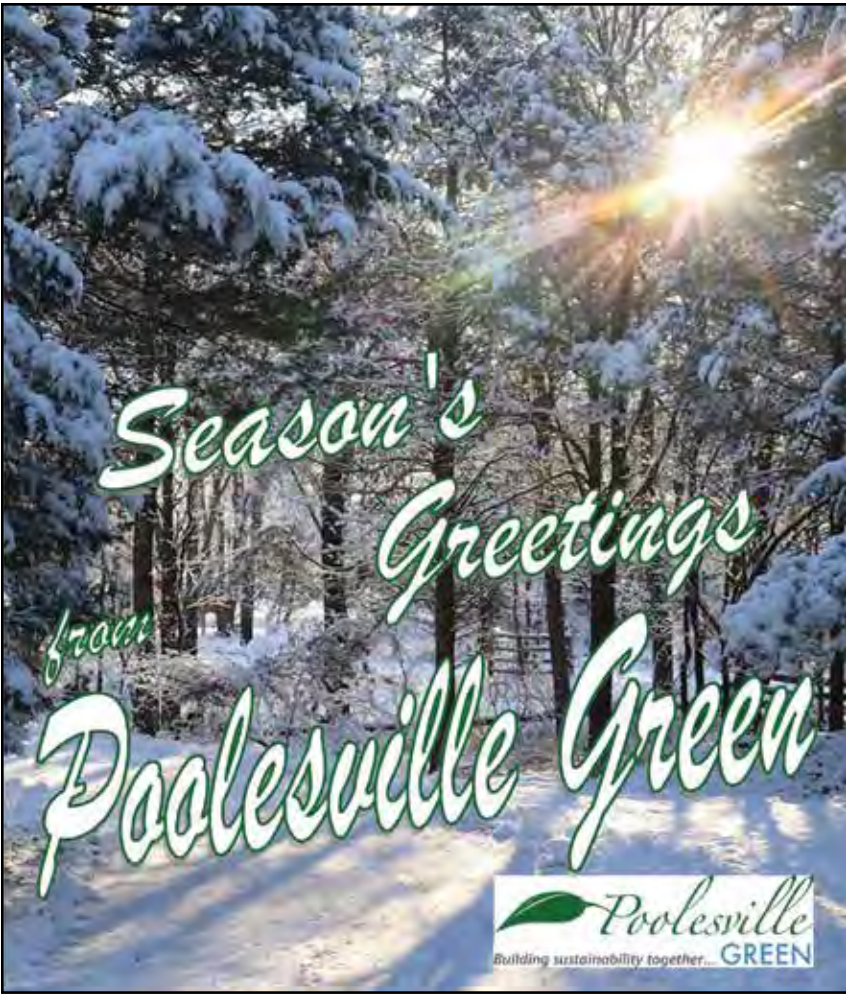
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Continued from page 11.

Hope Garden's A Winter's Eve Awarded County Arts Grant

The show stitches together classical ballet with culturally-informed movement and music, giving student dancers the chance to explore styles that honor their origins and the meaning behind each tradition. In the first act, audience members are treated to dances inspired by Kwanzaa, Israeli folk traditions, Diwali, and Día de los Reyes as celebrated in Bolivian communities. The second act has excerpts from the classic Christmas ballet, *The Nutcracker*.

HGCBT President Brad Gularson noted that the funding affirms HGCBT Artistic Director Claire Jones's vision from the very beginning. "*A Winter's Eve* celebrates the many cultures that make up Montgomery County," Gularson said. "From that first year, the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County recognized the vision's value and has continued to invest in our dancers and our community."

A Winter's Eve will be performed at the Bender JCC, 6125 Montrose Road in Rockville. Tickets are available online, and community members are encouraged to purchase early to secure their preferred performance time.

Continued from page 21.

The Spirit of Christmas Comes Alive in Our Forest

tale cabin reading The Markoff Christmas Story to the kids who are sitting on logs by a fire. Two very special activities that are free for kids are the Elf's Workshop, where they can make paper snowflakes, or a place to write a letter to Santa with his special red direct-to-Santa mailbox. There are also games to play like a ring toss (try to loop it over the antlers of a reindeer) or an air rifle target game.

Finally, we come to the trail itself. One person may have described the experience best when saying it's Disney-worthy. There is a Dickens Christmas Carol village with old Ebenezer inside to greet you. A full-sized Polar Express train engine, with steam and whistles blowing, managed by a conductor who greets you as you step into the caboose, that displays a quaint snow-covered village in a miniature display. The trees in this forest come alive with delightfully lit up dioramas showing animals and toys in displays carved right into the trunk of the trees. Then there is the enthralling Night Before Christmas house. Upon exiting you walk up a narrow dark path, opening wide at the end to see an inspiring live nativity in a moon-like lighting. Led to the manger by a shepherd still dazed from seeing the glorious star, you come upon the live manger scene with Joseph and Mary cozied up by a fire to keep warm, holding their baby Jesus.

I regret it wasn't possible this year to experience this with my younger granddaughters but can't wait for next year. Some things are always much better to share with kids. Even without a child with you, there are many benches on the trail where you can rest for a while and just listen to the young kids expressing their delight and awe in this wonderful feast for their eyes and spirit.



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Continued from page 8.

Royce Hanson Conservation Park at Broad Run

alarmed. These growing concerns eventually led to the creation of the Agricultural Reserve in 1980; Royce Hanson was its leader and protector. Caroline Taylor, Executive Director of the Montgomery Countryside Alliance, presented this year's Annual Royce Hanson Award to Montgomery Parks.

Royce Hanson spoke at the ceremony of his many memories of the county and its many journeys to where we are today. He eloquently and emotionally implored everyone to be constantly aware of our environment and to protect it.

As we enter December, a holiday season of giving, let us all offer our sincere thanks to Royce Hanson and the Montgomery County Parks Department for this gift of this splendid park to us all.



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Youth Sports

Falcon Football

Putting Hard Knocks in the Rearview Mirror

By Jeff Stuart

It didn't happen overnight, but the Poolesville High School varsity football team made some positive steps in the right direction this season. The Falcons' first win did not come until the fourth game of the season at Centennial on September 27, thanks in part to three touchdown runs by senior Jerome Wotorson. Poolesville won, 21-8. They won three of their last four games.

"We had a rough start to our season," said Wotorson, "but everyone came to practice and worked hard. We finally got a win against Centennial. In the first quarter of that game, everybody was a little nervous. In the second quarter, we put points on the board. With about eight minutes left in the half, I scored a running touchdown from about eight yards out, and I scored another on about a five-yard run with about four minutes left in the half. I scored a third touchdown in the second half. My shoutouts go to senior captains Justin Pawlowski, Sam Lewis, and Ethan Schlosburg. They are our leaders and really help the team."



Front: Jose Benitez, Jackson Hickman, Brady Lau, Ethan Schosburg, Alex Rich, and Jerome Wotorson, **Rear:** Juan Nador, Will Loftus, Dylan Hopkins, Justin Pawlowski, Sam Lewis, and Behr Schickler.

"We came out hot when we were on defense against Centennial," said senior fullback Schlosburg after that first win. "We really punched them in the mouth. We just locked them down defensively in the first quarter. Then we pounded the ball with a running offense. I feel like I had a pretty good running game. It felt good to get that first win. I didn't score any touchdowns, but I had some good runs."

"I want to turn this program around. I want to leave a legacy here at Poolesville for the next players. I give a shoutout to Jerome. He is a good running back, and I want to give a shoutout to the entire defense. Since the beginning of the season, they have been playing tough, and to junior Chris Daza on the offensive and defensive line. Now we have a reliable center that can snap the ball, get it to the quarterback, and do long snaps as well."

"The team played outstanding on defense against Northwood," said coach Brian Tupa, "and pitched the shutout. Junior Ethan Cho had a shutout-saving tackle in the fourth quarter that was huge. Showed great hustle to track the

Continued on page 37.



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Christmas Eve Vigil Mass - 6pm

December 25:

Christmas Day Mass 10 am

December 26 to 27:

Daily Mass - 10:00am

December 27:

Confessions 4pm; Sun. Vigil Mass 5:30 pm

December 28:

Sunday Mass 8am and 10:45am

December 29 - January 1

Daily Mass/Solemnity 10 am

Continued from page 3.

In November Meetings, Commissioners Establish Town Flag Committee and Hear Discussion about a Turf Field at PHS

Finally, she said turf fields get much hotter than natural grass fields and while Montgomery County has policies to keep kids safe during excessive hot spells, this would likely mean less playing time than proponents of the technology suggest. She said her review suggests that injury rates remain higher for turf than for natural grass.

Keir Soderburg, a town resident and consultant with S. S. Papadopoulos & Associates, which assists the town in its monitoring and care of the aquifer and water system, said that Well 2 is directly influenced by storm water runoff and surface water. It is located near the stadium field. While testing can be done for some PFAS, there are literally so many that not all possible PFAS can be detected. He did say that many “precursor compounds,” or those that exist in a manufactured product that could chemically react to form PFAS, can be identified through testing.

Jeff Sullivan, MCPS Director of Athletics, said the school system supports artificial turf for PHS and other high schools. Because of their ability to withstand heavy use, even in bad weather, turf fields become a “hub for the community” with all kinds of people and groups playing on them. He said that “this is not a turf or grass” debate. MCPS still uses grass on many playing fields and for practice fields. There are conditions where turf makes sense, particularly on stadium fields where heavy and repeated use is common for sports like football; over the last nearly two decades “all of our modernizations or new builds” have included turf fields for stadiums.

He remarked that grass fields require constant watering during dry periods and after heavy use and must be “rested” for a few days after a long game. “Prime time” for these fields is during the summer months when school is out and growth stops as early as October.

Greg Kellner, Facilities Team Leader for MCPS, said that the \$3.5 million installation cost for turf at PHS is because it is a new project. Replacements for fields usually are much less costly, in the \$1 million-plus range. There is a recycling center for turf fields in Dalton, Georgia and that all new turf fields have “zero crumb rubber” padding, using coconut husks and fibers instead.

He added that modern turf fields require far less maintenance than older technology, around \$12,000 a year on average. Grass fields are much more expensive to maintain. New fields include catchment systems so that water does not filter down into the subsoil but flows into pipes and is taken to the treatment plant. He concluded by saying, “We do not want to allow materials that are dangerous” for our kids.

Mann said in response that PFAS do not just come from the rubber crumble but also the backing for the turf and the bladder. She said injury rates on turf are also higher than for natural grass.

Sullivan responded that the technology has improved and cited a study done by the Office of Legislative Oversight for the County Council that suggested injury rates for turf versus natural grass are now comparable.

Commissioner Ed Reed said in response to the testimony, “My daughter gave a thumbs up for turf,” citing that too many high school fields with grass are not available, too many practices are missed, and there is an increased need to travel far away to other areas for practices.

Commissioner Bryan Bupp, a retired turf manager, said that with natural grass “you have to increase chemical use for fertilizer and pesticides” which can be harmful.

Commissioner Sarah Paksima said, “This is a difficult, complex decision. It was important to hear about potential impacts on our environment.” She said that with natural grass, there is the use of pesticides and fertilizers and runoff. With turf, there is the possible existence of PFAS but at the same time far less water usage. There would remain far more natural grass fields at the high school than turf since it will only be installed at the stadium. “What is really swaying me,” she said, “is the number of hours—four times as much—turf fields can be used versus natural grass.”

Mann replied that while Dalton is the recycling center for turf, “PFAS are a serious problem in that area.” Natural grass care and maintenance technology have advanced too, and the town should work with the county to “come up with our own advanced natural grass system.”

After listening to the testimony, the commissioners voted unanimously to send a letter of support for the high school turf field to the Board of Education.

Since the meeting, the Board voted 6-2 to tentatively approve the project, but a final vote will not take place for a few more months.

In his Town Manager’s report, Wade Yost announced that after getting approval for the federal grant to begin the Streetscape project, initial survey work has begun. Next month, the town should receive an initial engineering survey from the contractor. They have already determined that the roundabout proposed for the east end of Fisher Avenue is appropriate and workable.

Of Poetry and Prose

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**Fragment 3: Come, come thou bleak
December wind**

Come, come thou bleak
December wind,

And blow the dry leaves from the tree!

Flash, like a Love-thought,
thro’ me, Death

And take a Life that wearies me.

—Samuel Taylor Coleridge

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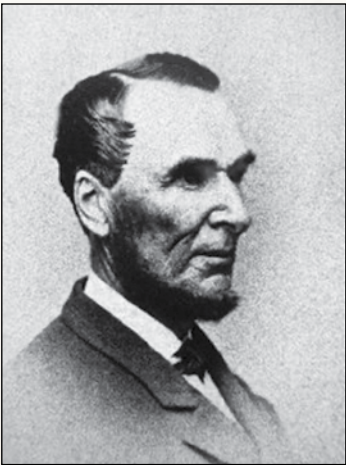
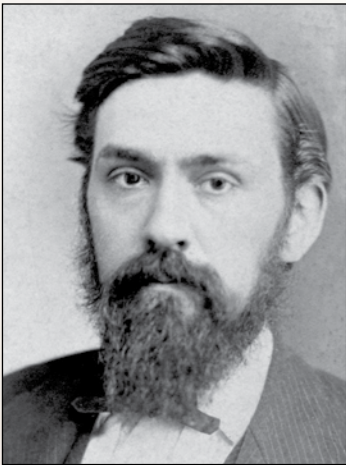


Jim Poole's Tidbits of Poolesville History

While we don't have a picture of John Poole, Jr., we do have this one of his wife near the end of her life. Perhaps his face can be glimpsed in the faces of his children. It's amazing how much Frederick Sprigg Poole looks like Abe Lincoln. The name Sprigg is Priscilla's maiden name.

Left:
Mrs. Priscilla Woodward Sprigg Poole
The wife of John Poole Jr., Married 1799.
1780-1866

Below, Left to Right:
John Sprigg Poole, 1801-1849
William Dennis Poole, 1804-1869
Frederick Sprigg Poole, 1809-1888
Sarah Poole Jones, 1812-1905



Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!!

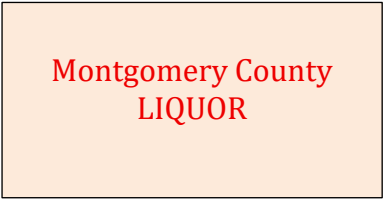
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Encountering Cold Weather in an EV

By Richard Strock

After almost seven years of EV ownership, this past February, while returning home from San Diego, we experienced our first encounter with brutally cold temperatures (2° F.), combined with snowfall and gusty winds. Driving a gasoline-powered vehicle in these conditions can be problematic, but driving an EV presents some unique challenges. Unlike a gallon of gasoline that burns hot regardless of the ambient temperature, EV batteries don't deliver energy as efficiently in cold weather.

The item most impacted by the winter conditions we encountered was vehicle range—how far one can drive before needing to recharge the battery. Everything in an EV is dependent on the energy stored in the battery. This article discusses some of the features designed into the vehicle to help manage that energy, and some techniques one can employ to extend the EV's range. Some of these features and techniques were employed during the trip; others were not, either because they had been forgotten or were not readily available.

Some of the approaches that helped included: use of in-vehicle energy displays, speed and management of energy-consuming features, advantages of battery and cabin preconditioning, available charging options.

Energy Displays

Many EVs offer real-time energy displays that show instantaneous energy consumption, projected range, and battery state-of-charge (SOC) upon reaching your destination or charging station. Some even provide real-time suggestions for extending the battery range. For example, when navigating to a destination, a warning will be displayed if the available energy is insufficient to reach your destination. If navigating to a charging station, it will recalculate and navigate to a closer station, assuming one is available. These estimates of available range are quite accurate, taking into consideration factors such as terrain, wind direction and velocity, current speed, tire pressure, and auxiliary energy consumption such as cabin heating, power steering, and entertainment systems.

Management of Speed and Energy Consuming Features

High-speed driving, above 70 mph, is an important factor in the rate of energy consumption, if not the most important. If in danger of not making your destination or charging station, slow down! Monitor your state-of-charge estimate for your destination and lower your speed until you see the arrival state-of-charge value stabilize or creep up. If necessary, turn off the cabin heat, running lights, and entertainment system—anything that consumes electricity. This is especially important if your EV employs resistance heat, but less so if it uses a heat pump.

Battery and Cabin Preconditioning

To reduce charging time at DC fast chargers, some EVs will precondition the high-voltage battery while navigating to the charging station. This is especially effective during cold weather. A cold battery cannot accept the high current that a DC fast charger can deliver, resulting in longer charge times. Check your owner's manual to see if your EV has this feature.

Preconditioning of the high-voltage battery and cabin before departing on a trip, long or short, is an effective way to reduce energy consumption. This is particularly effective if plugged into a charger, as the energy used for preconditioning is typically drawn from the charger instead of the high-voltage battery. The EV typically doesn't need to be actively charging, just plugged in.

Preconditioning of the battery is even effective when a charge cable isn't connected. Batteries have a specific temperature at which they deliver energy most efficiently. If you precondition before you depart, the energy consumed during the initial portion of the drive will be delivered more efficiently, resulting in less wasted energy.

Charging Options

Preconditioning while on an extended trip can be problematic. I frequently forget to employ it in the rush to depart in the morning. Some EV apps allow you to schedule it ahead of time. I find that I'm more likely to remember it if we stay at overnight accommodations that offer EV charging. Many major hotel chains, including Hilton, Marriott, Hyatt, Best Western, and Holiday Inn, along with numerous smaller chains and independents, are offering EV charging at a growing number of locations, either Level 2 (overnight) chargers or co-located with DC fast chargers.

Staying at accommodations that offer or are close to EV charging facilities can be very convenient. Locating them can be a little challenging but is getting easier as the proliferation of EVs increases. The PlugShare phone app provides details on virtually all public chargers in North America. If one frequently uses Tesla's Supercharger network, the Superchargers app provides details about that network. Both apps allow users to post feedback about their charging experiences and can help one choose a charger that fits their needs.

Hotel chains are increasingly mentioning EV charging availability in their list of amenities. If you use apps such as Expedia, Kayak, or Choice, you may find EV Charging listed. Also, if you enter "EV charging..." followed by a location into Google Maps, it will provide the charging station location, details, user reviews, and more.

Many EV companies advise against charging higher than eighty percent, then letting the battery sit overnight at a high SOC. One approach we use when staying at a hotel with charging facilities is to charge to eighty percent in the evening, then top off to ninety-five percent the next morning while loading the car and having breakfast. There are several different charging protocols in use across North America, and you may need to carry an adapter to take advantage of all available charging options.

We use the Tesla Supercharger network almost exclusively when we travel. We find them reliable and conveniently located throughout the U.S. While planning a recent trip to Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, however, we discovered there was only one Supercharger station on the whole of Cape Breton Island, and nowhere near where we were staying. We purchased a CCS-to-NACS adapter to take with us. To make sure it worked, and that I knew how to use it, I tested it at the DC fast chargers located at Total Automotive & Diesel Services in Poolesville prior to our trip. We also had to load a couple charging apps on my phone, but the adapter worked flawlessly, and we had no issues charging while there.

Numerous manufacturers are converting their EVs from CCS and CHAdeMO to Tesla's NACS and have entered into an agreement with Tesla to use the Supercharger network. For information about eligible EV models and requirements visit Tesla's website.

Driving an EV in the winter brings with it some special challenges, but the good news is that it's getting easier and easier to deal with these challenges as more and more EVs—and more and more EV chargers—are on American roads.





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Remembrance

Lorraine Rebecca Bell

Lorraine Rebecca Bell, 92, entered eternal rest on October 20, 2025. She was born on August 23, 1933, in Montgomery County to the late Grant Ulysses Bell and Ida Mae Bell. Lorraine was one of nine children and spent most of her life in Dickerson, in the home built by her parents. She was a cherished sister, aunt, and friend to many.

Lorraine graduated from Lincoln High School in Rockville and went on to work for the Montgomery County Public School system as a cafeteria worker. Lorraine's dedication and reliability were evident in the way she always arrived early and was ready to begin her day before her shift even started. She remained faithfully committed to her career until her retirement in July 2002.

Lorraine, lovingly known as "Money" by her nieces and nephews, never married nor had children of her own, yet she played a significant role in raising and nurturing many children throughout her life, who loved her like a mother or grandmother.

After the loss of the family home due to a fire, Lorraine and her niece, Diane, eventually moved to Falling Waters, West Virginia, where she spent the last eight years of her life closely surrounded by family. During this time, she was cared for and lovingly supported by her great-nephew, Tony Boyd, his wife Jessica, and their children, Elaina and Isaac, who always made sure Lorraine remained a central part of their family.

From an early age, Lorraine professed her faith in Jesus Christ and joined Warren United Methodist Church at the age of seventeen. When the church became the Warren Historic Site, she continued serving as an active member of the governing committee. After the merger that formed Mt. Zion-Warren United Methodist Church, she remained a faithful member and served her church and community with unwavering dedication.

Lorraine was involved in many areas of church life. She served as president of the Usher Board, participated in the Crusaders for Christ, helped in the cooking committee, and supported the Community Steward Program and cemetery upkeep. In every role, she showed her heart of serving others and her love of God and family.

She was well known for her cooking and baking. Everyone knew that if Lorraine was in the kitchen, you were in for something good. Food wasn't just a meal to her; it was a way of showing love and bringing people together. She loved good food and loved hearing about it just as much as she loved making it.

One of her cherished traditions was calling family and friends on their birthdays and singing "Happy Birthday" in the most joyful and spirited way. Friends and family looked forward to Lorraine's birthday calls; all were quite disappointed when she decided to retire this tradition.

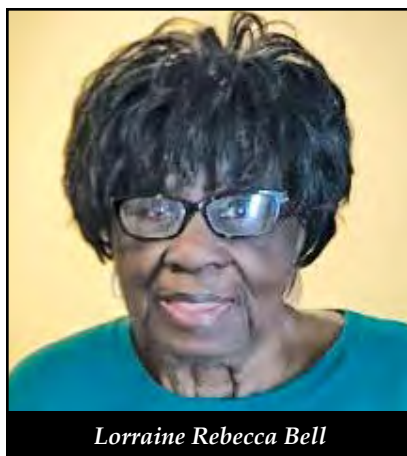
Lorraine was deeply devoted to her family and loved having them around her. She was known for her daily phone calls just to check in and to make sure everyone was doing well. Keeping connected to them brought her happiness and comfort. Being surrounded by loved ones was one of her greatest joys in life, except between 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. when *The Young and Restless* and *The Bold and Beautiful* were on TV, and all understood not to disturb her then.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers Earl "Brother" Bell and Grant Bell, Jr.; sisters Myra Mack and Elanore Triplette, and her faithful lifelong companion and partner in crime and sister, Pauline Belle; and niece, Gloria Onley.

She is survived by sisters, Elsie Thomas and Sadie Thomas; brother, Lewis Bell (Vern Davis); sister-in-law, Marcella Bell; niece and lifelong companion, Diane Boyd; along with a host of other nieces, nephews, grandnieces/nephews, and extended family who loved her deeply.

Lorraine's life was one of humble service, faithfulness, and unwavering love. She leaves behind a legacy that will live through the many lives she touched.

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou in the joy of thy lord." Matthew: 25:23.



Lorraine Rebecca Bell

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Remembrance

Kathleen M. Robertazza

Kathleen M. Robertazza, 100, of Saddle Brook, New Jersey, formally of Rutherford, New Jersey, and most recently residing with her daughter in Poolesville, passed away on November 20, 2025.

Born on March 30, 1925, in Swindon, England, Kathleen was the daughter of Reginald and Edith O’Keeffe (deceased) and sister of Donovan Patrick (deceased). Kathleen was preceded in death by her beloved husband of fifty-nine years, Dominick T., and son, Colin.

During WWII, she served as a member of England’s “Land Army,” ensuring farm products for the war effort. Near the end of the war, she met and married Dominick, a U.S. GI stationed in England. Kathleen came to the U.S. as a war-bride in 1945.

She started her career in Rutherford with Becton Dickinson; after moving to Saddle Brook, she was employed by the Saddle Brook Board of Education at Long Memorial Elementary School. For many years, she was actively involved with Girl Scouts. She was a loving mother to her children and grandchildren and was an active participant in all their children’s activities.

Along with her green thumb, Kathleen was known for her knitting, crocheting, sewing and crafts. In addition to her achievements, “Grammy” will be remembered for her brownies and homemade pies.

She is survived by her son David (Joyce) Robertazza and two daughters, Kathy (Gerry) Jansson and Cindy (Don) Tassitano; grandchildren, Shawn Robertazza (deceased), Diane (Rick) DaSilva, Sarah (Matthew) Jansson-Adamko, Erik Jansson, Colin (Hannah) Jansson-Glaven, Andrew Tassitano, Jeffrey Tassitano, and Teresa Tassitano; and great-grandchildren, Sofia, Alex, and Hayden.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the National Breast Cancer Foundation or the Dementia Society of America.



Kathleen M. Robertazza

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Remembrances

Dolores Meritt Flynn

Dolores Meritt Flynn, 93, of Poolesville, passed away on November 15, 2025.

She was the loving wife of Daniel J. Flynn, Jr. and was a "Good Navy Wife."

Born on July 1, 1932, in Rochester, New York, she was the daughter of the late Edwin James and Florence Agnes (Devine) Meritt.

Dolores is remembered for her love of her family and of her church, and very appreciative of the care and support over the years from her neighbors and friends. Dolores was grateful for the support of her son Timothy, by the staff and members of St Mary's Church, and the Knights of Columbus. Dolores was happiest when puttering around the house and tending to her flower gardens. Dolores always enjoyed family birthdays and holiday celebrations and was always ready for a "Pic-a-Day." NanaD smiled the brightest when enjoying the interactions she had with her grandchildren, her great-grandchildren, and the children next door, and then recounting those activities to her family.

Surviving are her children, Martha Robertson (Scott), Daniel Flynn (Lisa Fronczek), Andrew Flynn (Sandra), and Timothy Flynn; two grandchildren, Colleen Kase (Jeff) and James Robertson (Emily); and five great-grandchildren, Henry, Oliver, and Julia Kase, and Noah and Logan Robertson.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Ladies of St Mary's Sodality, St Mary's Catholic Church, 18230 Barnesville Rd., Barnesville, MD 20838.



Dolores Meritt Flynn

Ralph Hitchens

Ralph McDowell Hitchens passed away Monday, October 27, 2025, at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Bethesda.

He was born in Chicago on October 31, 1945. He was known for his gentle spirit, his compassion for others, and his unwavering commitment to serving his community. He will be remembered as a loving husband, a devoted family man, and a loyal friend.

He was a dedicated member of Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church, where he served in many roles, including Lay Leader, Adult Sunday School participant, Men's Group member, Bible study member, and on the Staff Parish Relations Committee. Ralph's generosity extended well beyond the church. He was actively involved with WUMCO Help (Western Upper Montgomery County Help), serving as a board member and as a vital part of the organization's transportation program—driving many hundreds of miles every year to help those in need. He also volunteered with the Frederick Rescue Mission, Helping Hands, Hands of Love, and was an organ donor. He was always eager to lend his time to serve others. Outside of his volunteer work, Ralph found joy in many community activities.

He was a member of the Upper Montgomery County Masters Swim Team, where he swam in Lane 2 and entertained teammates with his humorous monthly newsletters. He treasured the friendships he made with the team. His love of swimming included spending lots of time at the local pool with his daughters.

Ralph was also an avid reader and active member of his local book club, as well as a supporter of the Maggie Nightingale Library, where he served on the Poolesville Library Advisory Committee.

Ralph attended Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois, earning a bachelor's of science in political science, and later, completed a master's in military intelligence from Defense Intelligence College. He served in the U.S. Air Force for twenty years, during which he did a tour of duty in Vietnam, then continued as a pilot at Andrews Air Force Base, followed by Ramstein Air Base in Germany, eventually attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel. After leaving the air force, Ralph took a position at the U.S. Department of Energy where he specialized in intelligence with regard to the country's energy. Ralph was respected by his colleagues at the Defense Intelligence College, where he was known for his diligence, insight, and the deep conversations he shared with those around him. After he retired from the government, he worked for Computer Sciences Corporation.

Ralph is survived by his wife of fifty-one years, Janet; children, Emily and Elizabeth; sister, Susan; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by two brothers, Joseph and Philip.

Ralph lived his life with deep meaning and purpose, always finding joy in being there for everyone.



Ralph McDowell Hitchens

Mary Lucile Puckett Moyer

Former Poolesville Commissioner

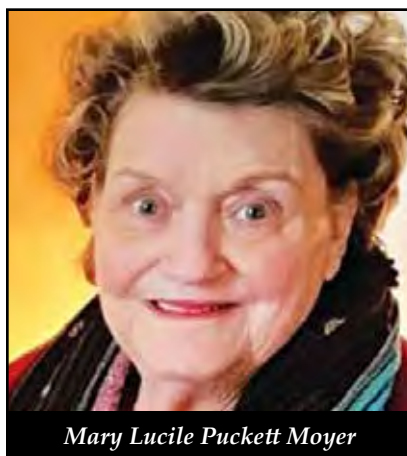
Mary Lucile Puckett Moyer, 80, passed away peacefully at her daughter's home in Gaithersburg on November 21, 2025. She was predeceased by her parents, Mary Jane Gott Puckett and Paul Brooks Puckett, Sr.

Mary Lu was valedictorian of her high school class, a member of Pi Beta Phi at Oklahoma University, and graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in micro-biology. She worked for thirty-five years as a Laboratory Technician for the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C. and served as a town commissioner of Poolesville for eight years where she played a large role in updating the town's infrastructure.

Mary Lu is remembered for her humor, sense of justice, storytelling, volunteerism, and bridge-playing prowess.

Mary Lu is survived by her Aunt Carolyn DuPont of Richmond, Virginia; siblings, Jane (Ray) Vanderhook of Shepherdstown, West Virginia, Brooks (Meribeth) Puckett of Purcellville, Virginia, and Nancy (Stan) Puckett-Dunn of Travelers Rest, South Carolina; children, Andrew Scott Moyer (Elissa Barnes), Amanda Kathleen Moyer Gabriel (Mark Gabriel), Jennifer Lynn Moyer (Peter Swindler), and Lindsey DeWeese Moyer (Chad Crowder); and four grandchildren, Grady, Coralynn "Cora," Vaughn, and Isabella "Izzy" who lovingly knew her as "Yoyo."

Services will be held at Hilton Funeral Home on December 13, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Her final resting place will be in Monocacy Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to a veteran cause or your local soup kitchen.



Mary Lucile Puckett Moyer

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Continued from page 17.

Poolesville Cross Country Teams Place Third in the State

like, thirty thousand steps. Running bleachers is hard. Then we went out and had a phenomenal meet. I set a PR in the 2.5 mile. We all medaled. Thirteen of our guys on JV and varsity ran in that race, and we all had fast times. In addition to the trip to Manhattan, we went to the Oatlands Plantation in Virginia, and we are going to the Nike Cross Nationals Southeast Region Championships in North Carolina after the states. That should be a fun meet.

“I would like to give a shoutout to senior Garrett Simons. He set PRs at the Keyser and Manhattan Meets. He has been dealing with injuries all season. I also want to give shoutouts to Nathan and Alex, who round out our top five, for sticking with us and making sure we finished with the highest score that we can.”

“We are working on getting our top group closer packed,” said Anna. “Our spread is about 1:40 right now. That is a big improvement from the beginning of the season. My best meet was the county championship where I ran a sub-twenty minutes in the 5K for the first time. I ran the course in 19:54. That was also the best meet for us as a team as well because all of our top seven runners set PRs.

“Shout out to Reyna. She is doing so well. She set a PR at the county, running a 22:12 in the JV meet, and she finished first at the Keyser JV which for a freshman is pretty impressive, and to Garrett on the boys’ side.”

“We have had a lot of really good PRs,” said Bhavya. “I, myself, beat my previous PR by over a minute at the Frank Keyser meet. That was a great meet for all of us. We have a lot of fast freshmen this year, which is great. My shout-outs go to Charlotte and Ruby—and to Anna. She is the fastest on the team right now. She and Claire are the leaders of the team—and to Reyna and Erica—and to Aisling, a freshman, who set a PR in the county.”

“We had a lot of people return from the team last year,” said Ruby, “and I think we are really close. We have been really competitive this season. The trip to New York was awesome. We ran the race and then we got to explore the city. I want to give a shoutout to Anna for breaking twenty minutes in the 5K and setting a PR at the county meet, and to Reyna and Aisling, our freshmen, and to Charlotte for breaking twenty-two minutes at the county.”

Monocacy Sights

Early autumn on the Canal

by Jon Wolz

A Monocacy Moment
Lost in Time

A Time of Mud Streets and Gutters

Can you spot the person sitting on the porch? Most likely the Frederick Poole House where Sugar Pea Vintage is now.

Continued from page 28.

Falcon Football Putting Hard Knocks in the Rearview Mirror

receiver downfield and tackle him inside the ten. We really shut down their run game which forced them to pass, and the linebackers and defensive backs came up big with four interceptions by Will Loftus, Ethan Schlosburg, Sam Lewis, and Aaron Canales.

“Offensively, we moved the ball pretty well from the twenty to twenty, but we struggled in the red zone. We just need to clean some things up and execute, and we will put more points on the board. Bryan Smith and Sam Lewis had a couple big catches for us, and Jerome Wotorson ran the ball great again. Overall, we played a complete game and finished out strong.”

“We were really confident going into the Northwood game,” said senior tight end and linebacker Justin Pawlowski. “We had some problems on offense. There are a lot of things to improve on, but defensively we shut them down. We played really well. That was the start of our winning streak. It was really nice to get some wins.

“Senior night was really big for me because it is the first time we have won on senior night since I have been here. That was a really good moment for us to take away with us from this year. I want to give a shoutout to junior quarterback Cam Lasheski. He just recently got a chance to play when junior Tom Blackstone got hurt. That is a really tricky position, and he showed poise and a lot of growth. Another goes to junior tight end Brian Smith, one of our top receivers. Just throw the ball at him. He will catch it every single time.”

“The biggest thing about the Northwood game was that we put up a zero defensively,” said senior wide receiver and defensive back Sam Lewis. “That was huge for us. We were really proud of that. My shoutouts go to junior cornerback Ben Schneider, he has played pretty well this year; and to some younger guys. Graeme Swensen is a sophomore nose tackle who has really stepped up for us the last couple of weeks, and a couple of JV guys came up and helped us out on special teams.”

“We sort of found our offense against Northwood,” said Schlosburg, feeling better about the season after a few more wins. “We put up fourteen points. That was the start of our winning streak. Now we know what we can do. Einstein is a pretty good team, but we came out hot. We were up, 44-22, at the half. Then we

slowed down a little bit. The last two years we lost a lot and sort of got down on ourselves, but now we are winning. We have a good group of young guys coming up. We have JV guys moving up to varsity and having an impact. They are playing well. I feel like we are providing the leadership for these guys. They know what winning feels like. They can take the positives from this year and do better next year and the year after.”

“In the Einstein game, sophomores, Darren Booth, Sam Bouisseau, and Max Mabiala, all stepped in on special teams and did a nice job,” said Tupa. “At Watkins Mill, Lewis had two touchdowns rushing on misdirection plays. Bryan Smith had a big touchdown catch to end the first half and give us a 22-6 lead. Wotorson had another big night with a rushing touchdown and two two-point conversions. Tom Blackstone had his best game at quarterback. Unfortunately, he suffered a knee injury at the end of the game and was done for the season. Defensively, we played really well, pitching a shutout. Watkins Mill’s only score came on a kickoff return in the second quarter.”

Other seniors are Jose Benitez, Juan Nador, Dylan Hopkins, Alex Rich, Josh Desmond, Jackson Hickman, Brady Lau, Ozan Tuzmen, and Behr Schickler. Other juniors are Elijah Brewster, Tom Blackstone, Reid Kimball, Grady Yontef, Chase Nessul, Connor Jacobs, Timi Adeoye, Luke Smuiky, and Brady Rook. Sophomores are Tobi Abbasi, Ryan Duncan, and Logan Krasnoff. Freshmen are Aiden Ryals, Sean Henze, and Carter Micioni.



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Ice

When Winter scourged the meadow
and the hill

And in the withered leafage worked
his will,

The water shrank, and shuddered, and
stood still,—

Then built himself a magic house
of glass,

lrised with memories of flowers
and grass,

Wherein to sit and watch the
fury pass.

—Sir Charles George Douglas Roberts

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Continued from page 12.

Business Briefs

Jim Cappuccilli happens to have honed the skill of sharpening knives. Along with his compatriot, Nick "Chief" Markoff, the duo spent a Sunday afternoon sharpening the knives of area folks.

And the Lifetime Achievement Award Goes to...

Tom Kettler, Kettler Forlines Homes, recently was honored to receive the 2025 Milton E. Kettler Lifetime Achievement Award by the Maryland Building Industry Association.

The award has been given out annually since 1983 "in recognition of a lifetime of unselfish participation, contributions, and service that includes business, trade organizations, the building and housing industry, and the community." The award is given in tribute to Tom's uncle, Milton Kettler, who passed away in 1982. He, along with Tom's father, Clarence, and brother Charles, owned Kettler Brothers, who planned and built Montgomery Village and many other

communities dating back to 1952. For those who don't know, Tom's civic contribution seems nearly endless. His volunteer spirit is evident as the current president of the PACC, Board of Directors of the Historic Medley District, LLC, member of the Poolesville Day committee, and he has often been part of Helping Hands, and Rebuilding Together. He has been president and on the board of Heritage Montgomery. Where there is a need, Tom is often nearby. Way to go, pal!

This Is Why Churches Have Name Tags!

The *Monocle* was pleased to cover the reopening of Healthy Hub in its new location behind Anytime Fitness in our November issue. Everything went great, massive balloons, large supporting crowd, and a picture of the ribbon-cutting ceremony perfect, even having the sliced ribbon floating away precisely at the moment of the scissor cut. Only I had the owner's name wrong! When the store first opened five years ago near Poolesville Hardware, I interviewed the owner's mother, Laura McLure! That's the name that

stuck in my dense head these many years later, and while she still is the loving mother to the real owner, she certainly is not the owner. The owner? Kailee Perno, of course! That's why churches use nametags.

Smiles All Around

This year, Drs. Pike and Valega collected 170 pounds of Halloween candy from customers which they sent to deployed troops. The customers had fewer cavities and brighter smiles, and the troops had—well, bigger smiles, at least.



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Ho, Ho—Uh Oh! Holiday Season with Your Pets Peter H. Eeg, DVM

'Tis the season for many humans to celebrate the holidays together. During these times filled with family, friends, and new objects, your family pets can feel anything but the Holiday Spirit. You may love your friends and relatives (Uncle Hank who accidentally bangs the dog on the head with his cane or your niece Sally who really wants to hug your cat Fluffy [who doesn't want hugs!]); however, your pets may not be as fond of your friends and relatives.

Remember, your furry friends like to have consistent routines. When your friends and relatives descend on your home, any chance of routine can vanish. We also tend to hide new humans in different rooms when they visit. Suddenly, your children are in the basement, and Grandma and Grandpa are in their rooms. Your pets have to navigate the new world order. Sometimes, this can cause behavioral issues with your pets.

We often ask our four-footed family members to change their sleeping patterns and locations during the holidays. This does not always work for your pet. They can get as grumpy as you do when they must listen to War Movie blaring on the TV until 4:00 a.m.

All family members and friends love to bring gifts and special treats. These are strange new objects that your pets need to investigate, open, and often ingest while our attention is diverted as everyone is watching Rudolph fight the Abominable Snowman on television.

We know that you want to include your furry friends in the Holiday Fun, but sometimes it is better to let them have their own space where routine, quiet, and calm are the gifts you give them.

Nobody will be happy when Fluffy bites Sally's hand. The family is disappointed as Uncle Hank goes crashing to the ground because your dog has grabbed his cane and run out the door with it in his mouth.

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