



Read about two new Eagle Scouts, Christopher Martin and Connor Kirby, in Tidbits on page 8.



Read about these scouts in Tidbits on page 8: Bryce McKenney, Cole McKenney, Tucker Ross, Jackson Krasche, D'artagnan Martinez, John Robinson, Darby Johnson, Allan Beers, Ian Kenton. Adult Leaders not pictured: Doug McKenney, Bob Swanson, Amy Johnson



New rock band? Hardly. See School News on page 8.



Troop 4300 Brownies sang for the seniors, under the direction of troop leader Marilyn Manse (L). Also shown with the girls are four members of the Poolesville Library Advisory Committee.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

January 6, 2012

Volume VIII, Number 20.

Annual Pictorial Year In Review

By Rande Davis

As has been our tradition, the first issue of the New Year encapsulates the past year through a series of photo collages. While the restrictions of print media limit our ability to highlight all we would like, it is always intriguing in one sitting to visualize the passing of another year.

In a tight-knit community, our report on the news, people, places, and things of 2011 begins like it does in families, remembering those friends and relatives who have departed. We lost many who contributed a lifetime to making Poolesville what it is today and far too many who were just starting life's journey. Our Hail and Farewell feature seeks to give

Has it Really Been That Long?

Dr. Chet Anderson retired in December after forty-two years of practice in the Upcounty area. In making his announcement, he shared many of his most cherished memories to his clientele. This remarkable man had a deep love for his vocation and for this community in which he chose to live and work. In paying tribute to his professional and personal service, we share some of the high-points from over four decades of medical care to animals.

He graduated from the University of Georgia School of Veterinary Medicine in 1967, and his new bride, Paula, and he agreed he should accept a

them a grateful appreciation.

Another type of transition occurred: the coming and going of people. After forty-two years, Dr. Chet Anderson retired from his veterinary practice. Two pastors, Ruth Everhart and Ken Fell, moved on, but we welcomed pastors Pat Dols and David Williams. Principal Darlyne McEleney retired after eighteen years as principal of Poolesville Elementary School with Doug Robbins coming to town to take her place. Brice Halbhook and Bridget Burke stepped aside as chairs for Poolesville Day to be replaced

position with the Public Health Service at the NIH Animal Center Poolesville. They promptly bought a home in Beallsville. After two years with the PHS, he took his first job as a practitioner at the Southeast Animal Hospital in Washington. When he had the opportunity to take over the New Hampshire Avenue Animal Hospital in Takoma, they chose to avoid the long commute and moved into a high-rise apartment nearby. It only took a year before they followed their heart back to our area.

Setting up his practice in what is now the Friendly Thrift Shop on West Willard Road in Poolesville, he was pleased to accept an offer from the town at this convenient location with the bonus of especially good



by Cathy Bupp and Faith Etheridge. Link Hoewing resigned as commissioner to move far away to Beallsville, and Brice Halbhook, suddenly having too much time on his hands, was appointed in his stead. We believe his appointment, sans vote, may be a historic first.

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Dr. Chet Anderson at Peachtree Veterinary Clinic on his last day of practice after forty-two years with Christie Mullis who has assisted him for thirty-seven years.

rent.

In 1972, he opened a mixed-animal practice of both small animals and livestock. Since the population was only

-Continued on Page 17.

Family
Album



The Family Album is sponsored by
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The PAA wrestling program entered the Damascus Sports Association (DSA) MATBASH tournament on December 17. Taking second place on December 17 were (left to right): Luke Hanscom, Niko Sofelkanik, Mathew Conwers, Lee Dodds, Kevin Fultz, Trey Willis, Trevor Riggs. Not shown: Ethan Gaddis, Ashton Gaddis, Erik Eklof.



The Poolesville Girl Scouts collected toys and gifts to be given out through WUMCO Help! just before Christmas and also stuffed over 100 stockings with goodies for the Salvation Army. Jane Stearns, pictured (can you find her?) with the girls, thanked them for their important contribution.



Attending the recent PACC holiday party were Scott Hollander, Neal Brown, Malcolm Brown, and June Hollander.

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Remembrance

Betty Watkins: Gentle Servant To All

By Rande Davis

Friends and family joined daughters and sons-in-law, Joan and Bill Carroll and Jane and Bob Hottle to celebrate the life of Elizabeth J. Watkins on December 21 at the Poolesville Baptist Church. She passed away on December 15. Known by most as Betty, the more fortunate knew her as Mom, Aunt Betty, Miss Betty, Mrs. Titus, Mrs. Watkins, and most affectionately by her six grandchildren, thirteen great grandchildren, and six great, great grandchildren as Mema (pronounced meemaw). She was also the "second mom" to Bramwell Hightman, born deaf, who after losing his dad and mother, had Betty fill in as a parent to him as a young man. She eventually became a guiding force that encouraged him to go into ministry to the deaf.

The many names and titles for Betty represent the various relationships she nurtured throughout her ninety-three years. This remarkable little lady, born nine months before the end of World War I, began life in Riner, Virginia. At the age of twelve, she had to drop out of eighth grade to help raise her siblings upon the death of her mother.

She came to the Poolesville

area at sixteen where her life's purpose of caring and nurturing all who came in contact with her grew out of simple ways and roles. For twelve years, she ran the Poolesville High School cafeteria where she was remembered for her perpetual smile and her quiet expression of support for the students. As a mother figure to many, it is not surprising that her loving sustenance often came from her talents as a cook and baker. Decades after her time at the school, her potato soup, mac and cheese, tuna fish sandwiches, and other simple home-style cooking were so fondly recalled.

Her first husband James T. Titus died in 1967, and it was during her nineteen years of running Titus's Tasty Cupboard (now Bassett's Restaurant) that her culinary expertise flowered and grew in reputation. Her pies (arguments still develop over lemon chocolate meringue versus cherry or pecan) were not only highly touted by locals, but even people like President Jimmy Carter, late Senator Wayne Morse, and the then Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed the greatness of her talent in baking pies. It is after selling the diner when many others came to know her while working at the First National Bank and at a local dry cleaner.

Betty married Wilfred Watkins in 1972. He had three grown children with spouses that she readily adopted as her own, as he did her children, Joan and Jane. Even though Mr. Watkins died thirty-five years ago, the extended family has remained close with the Titus side even to this day,

due to Betty.

She attended Memorial United Methodist Church until the opening of Poolesville Baptist Church when she returned to her religious roots.

Celebrated as a woman of great faith, it was her activities at her churches, hospice, and many other caring and giving groups for which she was best known.

A patriotic American (she kept a United States flag on her kitchen window and the phone number of the White House near the phone), she was also remembered as a person of comfort, humor, and one who loved to travel, especially to visit relatives but also more exotic places like Australia, New Zealand, the Holy Land, and Hawaii, just to mention a few.

Her feistiness and strong sense of humor (her witticisms are referred to as "Memaisms" by the family) were remembered through stories told by family and friends. One such story told how her love of driving and devotion to Chevrolet



Elizabeth "Betty" J. Watkins

automobiles was exemplified by her begrudgingly giving up her floor-rusted 1956 green Chevy Nova for a Mercury. Just this past November, only weeks before entering the hospital, the feisty little lady was caught washing a kitchen window while standing on a ladder. When admonished

-Continued on Page 6.

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- Bob & Mariela (Poolesville Resident)



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Commentary

One Curious Year Leads to Another

By John Clayton

The *Monocle* opened last year with a Christmas Miracle when the Poole Store didn't close—or at least not at the time. I'm not sure we have any miracles to lead off with this year, but we'll do our best with what we have. Here is a review of our major Upcounty issues we covered in 2011, and some thoughts on 2012.

Flaps Down

Early in the year, the county planning board, county council, and various local advocacy groups sparred over Boyds resident Robert Gillespie's efforts to maintain an airstrip on his property on which he would have been content to take off and land his small plane no more than a few times per week. Eventually, the issue was resolved when the Montgomery County Council changed the zoning rules to prohibit recreational airstrips. I thought this issue encapsulated one of the core issues for those who choose to live out here surrounded by all this open land. Many may establish residency to pursue activities that are impossible in more crowded areas. Others move out to treasure the peace and quiet, and the beautiful open vistas. All are exercising the right to enjoy their own property in their own way. How do we resolve such rights when interests collide? There were compelling reasons presented by opponents of airstrips, but there's no getting around the fact that a property owner had some of his freedom to use his land taken away. Will such issues always come down to who has more clout with the council?

What's a Manure Spreader?

As more development resembling suburban subdivisions emerges in the Agricultural Reserve, it will butt up against

the sounds and smells of agriculture, the sustenance of which is the driving imperative of Rural Density Transfer Zoning, that is, the Ag Reserve. This point was made more eloquently by Caroline Taylor and Dolores Milmo during the past year's annual meeting of the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association. Their comments were in the context of the planned Barnesville Oaks development (which is not in Barnesville, by the way) and problems which had occurred elsewhere in the Ag Reserve. Suburban-style developments began to limit agricultural activities in proximity. I do not remember the details; perhaps a farmer manured his fields during someone's neighborhood spring festival. If more suburban development, à la Barnesville Oaks, continues, is there a tipping point where the remaining agricultural sites get restrained?

I'm Breaking Up!

Cellular telephone transmission towers were also in the news, as we try to balance protecting the viewscape with our inalienable and precious right to make illegal telephone calls while motoring on rustic roads. I am sympathetic, as I live on a hill with rather spotty cellular coverage; and since my Verizon-maintained land lines tend to go out whenever it rains (it's not just me—ask anyone in Dickerson), I probably shouldn't be overly flip-pant about the value of dependable cellular service. I am grateful to those whose pristine nighttime views have been sullied by those infernal blinking lights that grace cellular towers. I'm sure our turn is coming.

Not Flushed with Success

The desire of the Global Mission Church, an English/Korean Southern Baptist congregation, to build new facilities on land which straddles the Frederick and Montgomery County lines, stayed in the news throughout the year. Local advocacy groups contested

-Continued on Page 15.

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Keeping An Eye On Local News

Published and Edited by John Clayton and Rande Davis

John Clayton
Production
Financial
301-349-0071

jclayton@monocacymonocle.com

Rande Davis
Advertising
Circulation
301-349-0070

rdavis@monocacymonocle.com

Dominique Agnew
Copyediting
dqagnew@gmail.com

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

Monocacy Press, LLC
John Clayton, President
Rande Davis, Vice President
P.O. Box 372
Barnesville, MD 20838-0372
301-349-0071
FAX 301-349-5646

Contributing Writers

Dominique Agnew
dqagnew@gmail.com
Kristen Milton
kmilton1998@yahoo.com
Maureen O'Connell
mafoconnell@msn.com
Heidi Rosvold-Brenholtz
hrosvold@me.com
Jeffrey S. Stuart
sark10@juno.com
Jack Toomey
jackt21262@aol.com

Contributing Photographers

Tom Amiot
jcphotoclub@aol.com
Hilary Schwab
hilary@hschwabphotography.com

Graphics

Karie Legambi
WhipSmart Graphics
Karie@WhipSmartGraphics.com

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Rande(m) Thoughts

By Rande Davis

Predictions or Resolutions – What's Your Pleasure

I am not sure which is a better bet for the first of the year, making resolutions or predictions. Since I have been lousy at resolutions, I thought, Why not try predictions?

So, in the mode of Johnny Carson, I don my turban, cape, and rose-colored glasses, proclaim myself Grand Rande (my mother, having a sense of humor, gave me the name, but she meant for it to be pronounced Rand, as in McNally) and herein, stick my neck way out there with my top ten local predictions for 2012.

Warning: My crystal ball, lying dormant in the attic since my youth, did not work. It appears to have been infiltrated by dust, which looks a lot like snow when shaken (someone should market

this thing, it's really cool), so I had to rely on my Magic 8-Ball.

Top 10 Local Predictions

#10: Inflow and infiltration will be discussed at a town meeting.

#9: Jerry Klobukowski will announce he was in the navy.

#8: Jim Brown will produce a 47,000-word newsletter.

#7: Eddie Kuhlman will walk out of a town meeting calling his fellow commissioners nothing but a bunch of "irresponsible and reckless throne-seekers who have probably broken a state law."

#6: Ray Hoewing will not be climbing any ladders.

#5: The CDC will announce a new festival for the town called The Festival Festival with the theme, "It's party time – leave the kids at home."

#4: Police will be called to Barnesville to quell a major disturbance at a rowdy town meeting.

#3: Wade Yost will admit to chest and bicep implants.

#2. Doug Bell will finally

-Continued on Page 18.

Remembrance

Bill Griffith: A Man of Faith, Charity, and Humor

By Rande Davis

William B. Griffith of Beallsville, a ninth generation Marylander, died on December 18 at the age of ninety-three.

In keeping with his wishes not to disrupt the Christmas celebrations, a memorial service was held at St. Peter's Episcopal Church on January 3. He was interred at the Monocacy Cemetery in a private ceremony earlier that day.

Bill was remembered as a man of great faith and a charitable heart. His wonderful sense of humor was also recalled by family and friends.

Bill married his departed wife, Barbara, in 1947 and together they raised their daughter Mary Pat Wilson and his stepson, Russell "Bo" Shetterly. Additionally, he is survived by Russell's wife, Ann

Shetterly; grandchildren, Barbara Mowery, Krista Parrott, Michael Shetterly, Joan Loquist, Katherine Longbrake, and Laura Cooper; nineteen great-grandchildren; and a beloved friend and neighbor, Doris Lewis.

Bill was born in Beallsville in 1918 and lived there for two years before moving with his family to Silver Spring where his dad had a coal and feed service. He eventually became the Silver Spring postmaster. Bill was the fourth born into the five-sibling family. His dad owned three farms in the area: one in Beallsville where Bill resided until his passing, the Oak Ridge Farm in Dickerson, and another on Peach Tree Road. The two older sisters were Margaret Livingston, Mabel Littlepage, and an older brother, Perry. His younger sister was Mary Ann Kephart.

The lessons he learned early in life helped solidify his personal passion for community service. As a young boy growing up in Silver Spring, he rose early to milk the cow and deliver the local news-

paper. He structured his route so he would end at school. On days when the paper was unusually heavy, his customers might catch him delivering on horseback with the papers tucked into a saddlebag.

He attended Montgomery Blair High School, Greenbrier Military Academy, and the Maryland University where he studied agriculture. While at Maryland, he joined the ROTC and was selected to join the air force. He was stationed in England and told the



Bill Griffith

-Continued on Page 16.

FROM AUTHOR MARY ANN POWELL

Shells of My Heart: An exciting, can't-put-it-down adult drama about a young couple, Nancy and Frank Miller, living and working in New York City. The couple is very happy despite her mother, Grace, who sometimes tries her best to control them. This is an interesting, exciting story, and holds lots of surprises.

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Local News

Police Resolve Barricade Incident

By Jack Toomey

On the evening of Saturday, December 17, a large contingent of Montgomery County Police Officers responded to the Poolesville area. Police spokesperson Angela Cruz said that at about 8:00 p.m., someone called 911 to report a domestic disturbance at a home in the 19000 block of Wasche Road. When officers arrived, they were told that a woman was armed with a gun and was making unspecified threats. The officers requested that the Emergency Response Team respond, and when they did, a command post was established at the Poolesville High School.

Eventually, contact was made with the woman, and several

“Betty Watkins” Continued From Page 3.

ished as to the danger and asked what she would do if the ladder tipped, even at ninety-three, she had a simple answer: “Why, I would just jump clear.” A child of the Depression, she became the ultimate recycler.



The police resolved a barricade concern peacefully.

hours later, she agreed to surrender her weapon. At 1:10 a.m. on December 18, officers had cleared the scene. The woman was taken to a local hospital for evaluation, and no criminal charges were


Famous for her handwritten notes on used scraps of paper, one time she left a note on the white paper covering to a wire coat hanger.

Above all else, it was her modeling of her deep and abiding faith that empowered her special gift of comfort to all around her. With a police escort worthy of a very high public official leading the way, and with bagpipes mournfully playing, she was laid to rest at Monocacy Cemetery. Once again, Poolesville has lost a grand lady and, for many, she will be recalled as she was remembered: the Princess of

Poolesville.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Betty’s name to the Poolesville Baptist Church, 17550 West Willard Road, Poolesville; or the Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church, P. O. Box 358, Poolesville; or Hospice Caring, 518 South Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877.

Note: The Monocle had the privilege of interviewing Betty for an April 28, 2006 article on her life in her own words, and that tribute has been reposted on our website: www.monocleonline.com.



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Things to Do

January 6
PHS Girls' Basketball Home Game
Northwood, 7:00 p.m.

January 7
Cugini's Entertainment Night
Featuring: Jay Summerour and Eric Selby
8:00 p.m.

January 9
Poolesville Town Meeting
Annual State of the Town Report
Department presentations on 2011 actions and plans for 2012
Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

January 10
PHS Boys' Basketball Home Game
Rockville, 7:00 p.m.

January 11
PHS Wrestling Home Match
Bethesda-Chevy Chase
6:00 p.m.

January 12
Library Twos Storytime
Poolesville Library
Stories, fingerplays, and music
10:30 a.m.

January 13
PHS Girls' Basketball Home Game
Einstein, 7:00 p.m.

January 14
Cugini's Entertainment Night
Featuring: Felix Soho
9:00 p.m.

January 16
Poolesville Planning Commission
Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

January 20
PHS Girls' and Boys' Basketball Home Game
Damascus
Boys - 5:15 p.m., Girls - 7:00 p.m.

Cugini's Entertainment Night
Featuring: Jay Summerour and Eric Selby
8:00 p.m.

January 21
PHS Wrestling Home Match
Richard Montgomery and Walter Johnson
1:00 p.m.

Cugini's Entertainment Night
Featuring: V6, 9:00 p.m.

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January 20
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January 21
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Tidbits

JPMS Student Makes Olympic Development Program

Congratulations to Christian Andrade, a sixth grader and honor student at John Poole Middle School. The student/scholar is a goalie with Seneca Soccer Association's United 99 soccer team and recently was selected by the National-Capital Soccer League (NCSL) Division 1 for Maryland's Olympic Development team. Last October, honored breast cancer survivors/victims and their families during Breast Cancer Awareness Month by sporting a pick goalie Breast Cancer jersey.

Brownies Sing for Seniors

Brownie Troop 4300 came to the Poolesville Library on Tuesday, December 4, seasonally attired for a heart-warming event for area seniors—a holiday songfest with snacks and good cheer. Troop Leader Marilyn Manse worked with the Poolesville Library Advisory Committee, four of whose members were in attendance, to organize the event. Several seniors were in attendance, carols and holiday songs sung, cookies and cider consumed, and everyone enjoyed the fellowship.

Troop 496 Awards Eagle Scout Rank

In an impressive Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony on December 18, Scouts Connor Kirby and Christopher Martin were recognized for their hard work and dedication in achieving scouting's highest achievement. Both young men thanked their parents and scout leaders for their help and

inspiration, and their fellow scouts for assistance and encouragement with the Eagle Scout projects and throughout their scouting years. Martin's project at Halmos Park removed and replaced dead tress, spruced up the landscape, and also provided tree identification. Kirby built a memorial to local students who have died from car accidents at Dr. Dillingham Park. Both thanked their commercial supporters for their help in the Eagle projects: Bernie Mihm of Fine Earth Landscape Company (Martin) and T. W. Perry (Kirby).

Kirby and Martin became the fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth scouts from Troop 496 to attain Eagle Scout status.

Congratulations to Falcon Star

The Maryland Coaches' Association named Amy Defnet to the All-Star HM Field Hockey team

Scouts Renovate American Legion Memorial Site

The fifty-nine-year-old Daniel Jeffers Post 247 of Poolesville acquired a two-acre parcel of land on Slidell Road in the 1950s. In 1981, a stone monument was erected to honor all military veterans who had served their country. Persons unknown had unlawfully removed a fence on the property, and the monument was left unprotected, subsequently becoming overgrown and left in disrepair. Recently, the post and the scouts of Troop 496 banded together in a service project to restore the memorial site.

With material and funds supplied by the post and the labor provided by the scouts, the memorial has been restored. Additionally, the scouts have earned themselves use of the two acres as a camping site.

School News

PHS Students Win Ultimate Computer Challenge

By Rande Davis

A team of seniors from PHS won the high school first place in an international competition in digital forensics and placed thirty-sixth overall. With 1,147 approved competitors from over fifty countries, this cutting-edge challenge is a most remarkable achievement by John Zhu, Kevin and Eric Harrison, Brendan Rowan, and their teacher-sponsor Mark Estep.

Digital forensics involves recovery and investigation of material found in digital devices often used in computer crime. There is more to it, but suffice to say, I am just glad the winning team is on our side.

Sponsoring the competition is the Department of Defense Cyber Crime Center (DC3) that sets standards for digital evidence processing, analysis, and diagnostics for any DoD investigation that requires computer forensic support to detect, enhance, or recover digital media, including audio and video. Hence the name of the competition is the 2011 DC3 Challenge. The young men worked for ten and a half months on the contest, resulting in submitting their solutions to twenty-three problem sets. The

judges considered the students' responses in answering requested items in the exercise worksheets, the quality of their reasoning in answering open-ended questions, documentation of methodology (including their step-by-step details of their process), and providing information about tools used for each exercise solution. The contest allowed students to utilize the internet, open-source programs, and commercially-available tools. The Poolesville High School students created their own custom tool for one problem set using Java to search multiple text files to search for a specific word in another language. The unified team had to incorporate critical thinking, troubleshooting, and problem-solving skills in order to compete.

The students will present their project at the national DC3 conference in Atlanta later this month. They received plane fare and lodging for their travel to Georgia and a Dell Streak 7 tablet and \$250.00 Best Buy gift card.



Jack Zhu (son of Wenjun Zhu and Jingli Zhang), Kevin and Eric Harrison (sons of John and Linda Harrison), Brendan Rowan (son of Mark and Suzanne Rowan) and their sponsor, Mark Estep.

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Poolesville Athletics - 2011



Top News Events 2011



Resigned



Flash Flood



Fire



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Moved



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Appointed



Closed then opened



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“Curious Year” Continued
From Page 4.

the church plans in both counties, but after first rejecting the church’s plans, a decision by the Frederick County Circuit Court gave the project new life. Much of the battle now is over water and sewer issues, as is so often the case, and the issue is crawling through the courts. This will be back, in one form or another.

A Dollar Here; A Dollar

There As passersby pass by the heart of Beallsville and drive through the intersection of Maryland Routes 28 and 109, perhaps they wonder, while observing the Darby store on one corner, “Didn’t that building move?” Yes, it moved twenty-seven feet, as reported in the *Monocle* in June. The county Parks Service bought it for \$670,000 with funds from the Legacy Open Space program, and moved it for \$320,000. A number of people have pointed out to me that this was a curious expenditure in such a time of need. Yes, certainly, if we had just let the

thing fall down and generally left that corner trashed, and spent the money on other county needs, the county budget gap would be \$778 million, instead of \$779 million. We need 778 more of those, and quickly. Keep those ideas coming.

Not LMAO at the RAOI

Speaking of Beallsville, the Beallsville Post Office ran into the United States Postal Service’s Retail Access Optimization Initiative—and lost. Tuscarora is on the list as well. More will follow. The money hole the USPS is trying to fill is deeper than the Montgomery County hole, by far. I have no idea how many Darby Store moves and Beallsville Post Office closings combined it would take to balance that book.

New Faces in New Places

Political boundaries have changed in our area, which means the *Monocle* readership will be a little less homogenous than before, among other things (lest I have alarmed our Poolesville readers inadvertently, rest assured that Boyds has not annexed The Woods of Tama). This only refers

to congressional and county council districts. The latter carved up the massive old District 2 that now encompasses the entire western and northern upper county, dividing those areas among three new districts, two of which are around here. Locally, south of Route 28, Poolesville, West Dickerson, and South Beallsville will be part of the new District 1, joining up with Potomac, Bethesda, and Chevy Chase. That will be fun. Previously, Poolesville *et al* shared a councilmember with kindred Upcounty folks in Olney and Brookville. No more of that, Poolesville.

You’re in with the upper crust, and it’s not too soon to start learning which one is the oyster fork (it’s the only one found to the right of the plate, by the way). Meanwhile, north of Route 28, North Beallsville, East Dickerson, Barnesville, and Boyds will remain with our good friends in Germantown, Damascus, and Clarksburg to form the new District 2, which will retain a solid Upcounty flair. The addition of another council race to the *Monocle’s* Election Special Edition is a new burden, but since none of this matters until 2014, we have a little time to gird ourselves.

There are many opinions as to whether Ag Reserve interests will be better served by virtue of being represented by three councilmembers each representing a portion of that large area, rather than by one member representing all of it. I won’t pretend to know the answer, at least not yet.

On congressional redistricting, we should all know by now that all of our *Monocle* readers are in the new District 6, which runs

from Western Maryland down into Western Montgomery County, veering east along the way to pull in Frederick City. If you think that would look strange and illogical on a map, you would be right, but rest assured it may not even be the strangest district in Maryland. Our own State Senator Rob Garagiola, or perhaps ex-councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg, is poised for a battle royale with incumbent Roscoe Bartlett of Buckeystown, who is practically a next door neighbor. This will occur in the next election in November, and it should be fun.

Maryland Has a Plan

The plan is called PlanMaryland, and if you need a septic system, or want to develop some land, you will know more about it soon. There are many ramifications to the plan, but in a nutshell, a lot more state-level approval is going to be needed on heretofore local land use decisions. I think we all will learn more about it during 2012.

Happy New Year from the *Monocle*. We can only produce this newspaper with the support of our readers and our advertisers, and for that we are very grateful. A special New Year’s thanks also goes out to our hard-working writers and photographers, our copyeditor (who actually knows which one is the oyster fork), our long-suffering graphics and layout person who has to wait for the rest of us to get our act together each issue, and the fine folks at FNP Printing who put the ink on the newsprint. May peace and prosperity find all of you this year.

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“Bill Griffith” Continued
From Page 5.

Monocle in a previous interview that he fondly recalled visiting other Poolesville residents there such as Edmond Brown and Charles Tipton. “When Tip came by, we took a B-17 on slow-time engine check over the English countryside. When we returned, I took a picture of him in the pilot seat, which he made into a poster and displayed for many years.”

In his career in Montgomery County’s zoning and regulation department, he rose from being an inspector to the position as chief of the division. He spent twenty years with the county and seven years in consulting before finally retiring in 1996.

It was for his contributions made during long, voluntary hours through the decades that the residents of the Upcounty are most indebted to him. Before the Upcounty had the volunteer fire company, residents were left largely on their own when a fire broke out or a medical emergency came up. In

those days, fire departments came from far away, and the only ambulance service was using the hearse from Hilton’s Funeral Home.

Bill’s interest in firefighting came from ten years as a volunteer with the Silver Spring Fire Department. After the war and as a member of the Monocacy Lions Club, he was joined by other Lions in determining the need for a more local fire department. The need was there, but the cost of land was a big hurdle. Once the families of Howard Griffith, T. Lloyd Grubb, and Carlton Van Emon offered to donate land in Beallsville, the biggest hurdle was overcome.

A committee on which Bill served was formed, and they got the State of Maryland to authorize a bond issue funded through a new property tax of ten cents on \$100 assessment. With a \$30,000 loan secured and the land donated, the building of the fire hall began and was completed in just two years. Astoundingly quick by today’s standards but not surprising for firefighters—they were used to

working in a hurry.

Since Bill had such extensive experience in volunteer firefighting, he was made its first fire chief, a position he held just for one year since he wasn’t one to prefer such mundane tasks “as checking pumps and hoses.” With the building erected and sirens placed in Poolesville, Dawsonville, Beallsville, Dickerson, and Barnesville, fire fighting services came to the area.

In the early 1950s, when Bill was building his current home, just down from the corner of Routes 107 and 28, a worker fell off the scaffold into the exposed basement of the home. It was at that point he determined that they must have their ambulance service. Bill and Bill Roberts converted an old hearse by painting it red, putting a beacon on the roof, and putting in a shortwave radio that connected them to the police and Frederick Hospital.

Bill continued as a member of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department as an active volunteer until 1999 when his fifty-seven years of active participation came to an end. His fire/rescue

volunteer work wasn’t his only contribution. His work with the Monocacy Lions Club (serving as King Lion one term) and work with his church are among many other things with which he has been involved. As a Sunday school teacher, he worked with young people whom he cared for so greatly and with an affection that was mutual.

His memorial service closed with the singing of one of his favorite hymns, “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God.” In recalling the many types of saints among us, the hymn ends with the words, “and I mean to be one, too.” Bill Griffith can rest in peace knowing he became one, too.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Peter’s Church, P.O. Box 387, Poolesville, Maryland 20837 or the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department, 19801 Beallsville Road, Beallsville, Maryland 20839.

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"Dr. Chet Anderson"
Continued From Page 1.

one thousand residents, pet care opportunities were minimal. At first, business was slow and, with Paula working at the clinic, they worried as there were days when the telephone never rang.

His saving grace came from two major clients. The first was the Spring Valley Hereford Farm with a nationally-recognized herd of three hundred purebred cows. The farmer eventually sold him property across from Lewis Orchards where his present practice has been located for the past thirty-three years.

The second major client was the Al-Marah Arabian Horse Farm, on Peachtree Road, which kept two hundred to three hundred horses at any given time. This was somewhat new to him, and he expressed to the owner that he had "a heck of a lot to learn about horses." She looked at him and said, "Fine, we'll teach you"—and they did.

In short order, he became a seasoned equine veterinarian. He

remembers one foaling season in the mid-1970s when more than ninety foals were born on that farm. Although neither of these clients operated past the 1970s, they helped shape his career, and he remains eternally grateful to them.

His childhood dreams were realized in his practice having farm animals the majority of the business. He experienced long days and handled emergencies often all through the night, pulling calves, repairing wounded horses, deworming and vaccinating both. While squeezing in some time for small animal care, his schedule was truly 24/7, and he loved it, although he does regret time away from home with Paula and their two young daughters.

In 1976, the practice grew and he added his first associate and also built new facilities. Then, in January 1979, he officially opened Peachtree Veterinary Clinic. Although the dairy and cow work was diminishing, the small animal practice increased, resulting in expansion in the 1980s to six vets, three large animal vehicles,

and lots of equine and pet care clients. In 1992, a major change occurred. He sold the equine practice to a neighboring veterinarian, and Peachtree became a traditional small animal practice.

Dr. Chet especially offers praise and appreciation for Dr. Susan Moxley, who joined Peachtree in 1990 and stayed for sixteen years. Dr. Moxley was instrumental in developing the practice with her excellent veterinary skills, her keen business sense, and willingness to work hard. Dr. Anderson is forever indebted to her for those good years.

He reflects on other good fortune that came his way. "We've also been fortunate to attract some incredible people to handle the jobs 'in the trenches' - our vital front desk folks, our compassionate and knowledgeable technicians, and our wonderful kennel people. Many have stayed with the practice for years and have been extremely influential in its success. There are numerous people whom I'd like to recognize, but if I mentioned even a few, I would miss so many others. Suffice it to say, I've been lucky to work with these talented and dedicated people."

There is one individual who he feels personifies what Peachtree is all about. In 1974, when he was the only clinician, still working in the church in Poolesville, he hired a person to help with the kennel and technician duties. That summer, the young lady arrived, just a couple of years out of high school and looking for a job. Truthfully, she fit the very description of a "hippie" which was so popular in that era. She seemed easy going and compassionate, so he hired her.

Today, more than thirty-seven years later, Christie Mullis is still with him (and remains a bit of a hippie). She has devoted much of her life to this practice, physically and emotionally. In the large animal years, Christie accompanied him on numerous calls, day and night, summer and winter. It made no difference what she was doing or had planned, she was always available.

He recalls the literally thou-

sands of times, on Christmas Day, on Super Bowl Sunday, and in the middle of the night when Christie always picked up the phone with a cheery attitude. Early on, they performed many surgeries and were the only people in the building, except for the animal's owners.

After much agonizing in recent years, he decided it was time to retire from active practice. "It is time for the younger veterinarians to take over, with their up-to-date knowledge and understanding of the wonderful diagnostic equipment and newer drugs available."

This past December 31, 2011 became his last day in practice. As he looks back on those forty-two years, he is proud to say that there are at least twenty-eight veterinarians from around the country who, as kids or college students, rode on farm calls or worked in the clinic with him. They eventually applied to veterinary college and were accepted, and "it makes me feel good! Who knows, maybe one day, one of my granddaughters might make this list."

To all clients, neighbors, and friends, Dr. Anderson had something he wanted to say: "I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who have helped make my career so fulfilling. Whether or not you have used our services at Peachtree, I greatly appreciate that you have been—and continue to be—our neighbors in this beautiful Upcounty community. Everywhere around us, we see friendly, caring people. We have cherished our forty years here and look forward to many more to come."

We can add that the whole community wishes him well and looks forward to his continued participation in the community in his new role in retirement.

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“Year in Review” Continued
 From Page 1.

Establishments of long standing got in the news. It was sad to see the closing of Elijah Methodist Church after 140 years of spiritual vitality, but Charity Hall in Dickerson got a grant to help restore its historical significance. The Darby general store in Beallsville had a dramatic move of twenty-seven feet in preparing for its full renovation, and the Beallsville Post Office was closed.

The controversies in town were mostly familiar in 2011 like the adoption of a new master plan, problems of inflow and infiltration, but emotions and resident reactions increased with concern about an airstrip on Peachtree Road, the delayed scheduling of a new high school, and repair to its existing facility.

Crime in Poolesville remained relatively mild, although we experienced a rash of late summer burglaries, but at least there was an arrest made and things have quieted down.

The schools once again shined with the fiftieth anniversary of Poolesville Elementary School, high state and national rankings for PHS, and many individual successes in academics and in sports.

We welcomed new businesses and owners in town at Village Beer and Wine, Kicks Karate, and Children's Towne Academy, and also welcomed new neighbors at Stoney Springs and Brightwell Crossing. We took a breath of thanks that the foreclosures sweeping the nation have remained limited here and appreciated home values holding steady.

We cheered as our civic groups remained strong and growing with a highlight being a nearly fifty percent increase in membership in the PACC.

We celebrated in many town festivals with the queen of events, Poolesville Day, having a rare wet day. Still, it produced a large crowd with a number of new things, notably, a parade fly over by the Dragon Flight Pilots Club and the use of a restored

horse-drawn school bus to honor Poolesville Elementary School's fiftieth anniversary.

During the summer, the Famers' Market, music concerts, and movies continued to bring life to the town park at Whalen Commons. New this year was the Spring Fest—certainly the beginning of a new tradition. The Passport to Poolesville, which showcased town businesses, enjoyed much-improved public participation, and the fall festival to benefit WUMCO resulted in nearly doubling the amount of funds raised. The town's special events ended with the annual Holiday Lighting Festival, which drew the largest crowd ever: nearly five hundred people.

The review of 2011 ends where most conversations begin, with the weather—and, boy, we certainly set many records in 2011: a colder and snowier winter, a hotter summer, hurricanes, a once-in-a-hundred-years flash flood thanks to Tropical Storm Lee, a visit by a tornado, and even a snowstorm in October.

Let's not forget, one other thing: an earthquake! The visual of 2011 follows with our gratitude to all who have contributed simply through living here and allowing the *Monocle* to chronicle their lives.

“Rande(m) Thoughts” Continued From Page 4.

#1: WUMCO's Jane Stearns will be spotted being forcibly removed from a poker game in Vegas by eight burly security guards. Her infraction? Packing a pistol in her purse.

Oh, and one more bonus prediction: I will hear “Hey, Davis, better go back to New Year's resolutions” more often than “Happy New Year!”

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