



Caroline Taylor, Tiffany Ayers, and Steve Vogel on the town in Barnesville. More pictures in Family Album on page 5.



Gavin Prebilib (third place), Bubby Jones (first place) and Darrell Jones (second place) smoked the competition in the JPMS National Geographic Bee. The story is in School News on page 13.



Someone saw this dog, and he got home safely. Read about Scout in Tidbits on page 16.



There's more to some people than might meet the eye. Read about Mike Towles in Business Briefs on page 5.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

January 25, 2013

Volume IX, Number 19.

Fires Destroy Two Family Homes

By Rande Davis

Fire destroyed the home of two families in our area within the last two weeks.

The first fire devastated a home on Old Bucklodge Road in Boyds on January 11. It was the home of Carol Davis and her two adult children, Rachel



Carol Davis family home on Old Bucklodge Road in Boyds.

On a Journey

By Dominique Agnew

The world didn't end in 2012 as modern humans predicted—based on a calendar that a few Mayans were too lazy to finish—and we're still here. Regardless, as with all new years, people have made resolutions, and maybe most resolutions involved traveling to the Holy Land. No? After reading *Chasing the Divine in the Holy Land* by Rev. Ruth Everhart, former minister of Poolesville Presbyterian, you may want to change your resolution and add one that includes a trip to Israel and Palestine—or even Jordan, the Other Holy Land.

Although Ruth never

and Jake. The possible cause of the fire that broke out between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m. is thought to have emanated from the wood stove overheating the chimney.

Carol is a teacher and assistant director at the Elf (Early Learning Fun) Preschool in Boyds. She and her daughter have temporarily taken residence in a hotel and her son, Jake, who was in the process of moving to a new home in Salisbury, Maryland, is currently living with a friend. He also has the family's pets, two dogs and cat, with him.

Carol's husband Joel passed away unexpectedly two years ago and she recently placed the home in Boyds up for sale with plans to buy a new home in Pennsylvania. The Davis family is uncertain of their

lived in Poolesville, she was a definitive part of the community during her time as minister at Poolesville Presbyterian from January 2002 to June 2011. From her home in Sterling, Virginia, she commuted via White's Ferry on Sundays and Wednesdays.

"I got along really well with the church," she says. "It was a really fruitful time both for me and for the church." There was commitment to growth that was more than in the size of the congregation, but also in its spirituality, she says. "The church did some things we did not expect to do" such as buying the property next door and opening the Connection Café. When the opportunity to go on a trip to the Holy Land came up for Ruth in 2005, the



Mills residence on Mouth of Monocacy Road in Dickerson.

immediate future, but persons wishing to help them can send a gift card (Target, Wal-Mart, Kohl's, etc.) to the care of volunteer firefighter Alexa Nicole Brown at 17107 Titus Way, Poolesville, MD 20837.

The second fire, which

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Rev. Ruth Everhart

-Continued on Page 17.

Family Album



George Virkus of Bassett's Restaurant and Cathy Bupp, Town of Poolesville Recreation Director, with the Jason and Dawn Stanford family, one of the winning families in the town's Holiday Lighting Contest.



Poolesville Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski, Rev. Tom Purdy, Donna Purdy, and County Councilman Phil Andrews sampled the Kool Aid at the Barnesville Bipartisan Inaugural Ball.



County Executive Ike Leggett and former State Senator Jean Roesser at the Barnesville Bipartisan Inaugural Ball.



Smoke'n Mangoes rocked The House, a youth coffeeshouse and meeting place held at St. Peter's church.

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Letter to the Editor

To the Wonderful People in the Western Upcounty:

WUMCO had a very successful year in 2012 and begins the new year in remarkably good financial shape. For this happy state of events, we owe a debt of gratitude to our wonderful neighbors—for your incredible generosity.

Last year wound up on a high note. WUMCO and its “partners” provided Thanksgiving baskets to 134 families, Christmas baskets for 137 families, and toys/gift cards to 229 children. We do not yet have the data for the total number of families/individuals who benefited during 2012 in one way or the other from our numerous other services—emergency food, assistance to worthy folks lacking financial resources to cope with unpaid utility bills or critical medicines or overdue rent, etc.—but it probably approximated the sixty-plus individuals and 170 families that we served (exclusive of Thanksgiving and Christmas activities) in 2011.

Yet with all this activity and with the economy still stalled, we ended the year with our food shelves well stocked and our financial situation satisfactory. This, as many *Monocle* readers know from what they have read in the press, is quite a contrast to the near-crisis situations that faced many other organizations doing similar work in other parts of the region. WUMCO’s good fortune is owed to the extremely loyal and generous benefactors, including many individuals, businesses, and churches. We simply cannot say that too strongly or too often!

Among the organizations that year after year give us extraordinary support are Covanta, Boy Scout Troop 694 (annual food collection), our local postal carriers (annual food collection sponsored by their union), Calleva, Gen One (formerly Pepco), and Potomac Hunt Club. The level of support from several of our churches is also truly outstanding, with substantial financial donations and thousands of pounds of food collected.

I want to single out two persons for special mention, among the literally hundreds of folks who in one way or the other assisted WUMCO in 2012:

-*Valaree Dickerson* who did a marvelous job in managing all aspects of our Christmas Toy program—a truly daunting organizational task.

-*Melissa Bingham* who almost single-handedly organized a special drive to collect 2500 pounds of food in September as a part of the regional Service Day.

I would like to conclude with a very special belated expression of gratitude to *the Selbys—Roy and Betty Jean*—who over the years provided their store as the major collection point for community donations of food and provided thousands of dollars of in-kind donations, especially for our annual holiday programs.

I and our Board of Directors know how fortunate WUMCO is to benefit from such a caring and giving community. For 2013, you have our commitment to do the very best job we can to assist those worthy people among us who need a helping hand. Sincerely,
Jane Stearns, Executive Director, WUMCO Help



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Commentary

All in Good Fun

By John Clayton

Monday was a good day. It was Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and it was Inauguration Day. Unfortunately, it was also my busiest *Monocle* prepublication day which meant all the time I spent watching the inauguration ceremonies had that feeling of playing hooky. I love that feeling. I enjoyed watching the day's speeches, songs, and festivities—and for all the obvious and well-known reasons. Topping that off was that partisan glow of relief that one's candidate of choice is being sworn in, instead of the other one. I love that feeling, too.

I also had the pleasure of attending the Barnesville Bipartisan Inaugural Ball on the preceding Saturday evening. While we have lived in the greater Barnesville area since late 2000, this was my first Bipartisan Inaugural Ball. We were actually invited by a neighbor in 2001, only a week or so after we moved in, but for whatever reason, we weren't able to make it. Perhaps I wasn't sure which box my tux was in, I really don't remember; however, I was, and remain, extremely pleased to have been invited. It spoke well of the new community into which we had moved. After all, we had lived in Germantown for almost seventeen years and no one had ever invited us to an inaugural ball down there. Now, admittedly, I was new to the Upcounty and had heard stories about it, so I—at least briefly—thought that maybe they just needed a Democrat to keep it bipartisan, but that stray thought should not detract from the neighborliness of the offer.

I had a great time at this year's event. The crowd was a little smaller than usual, according to bipartisan committee member and Master of Ceremonies Frank Jamison, but I thought it was a pretty good-sized crowd. A number of local elected officials attended, including County Executive Ike Leggett and his wife, County Councilman Phil Andrews, and Poolesville Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski. Former state senator and Upcounty favorite Jean Roesser

was also in attendance.

The committee stresses the bipartisan nature of the event, and Mr. Jamison upheld this tradition with his remarks. It is also traditional for the official toast to the newly-elected president and vice president to be offered by a member of the loyal opposition. This honor was afforded to well-known local Republican Audrey Pritchard, who graciously read a toast written by Barnesville's Barbara Davidson, which more than lived up to the spirit of the occasion. Certainly the Democrats had better hope they win again in 2016 because this would be a tough act to follow.

It was a fine event, and cordiality abounded, but I want to accurately capture what I perceived to be the tone of the evening. It was good natured and in the spirit of fellowship, but I do not feel called upon to dredge up my inner Pollyanna and offer a nice sappy statement to the effect that we all sang Kumbaya to celebrate our differences, that somehow we rose totally above political partisanship for one evening. That's baloney, although I will grant you that this type of facile, feel-good sentiment—Gosh, why can't the whole world be like us!—is a great way to close out a column without having to think too hard. It's sometimes called "mailing it in." I try not to do it, but the opportunity is always there. It's easy to be maudlin, and it's just as easy to be cynical; finding that middle ground is tough.

I think the event, the organizers, and the partygoers deserve congratulations for their effort. It was a lot of fun, and it's great people can get together, but there are some seriously political people out here, as everywhere, and the resentments still simmer beneath the surface, even when we have our best clothes on.

We live in a hard ball world. We play on different teams, and we nod respectfully to each other when there's a break in the action, and maybe we shake hands when a particular contest ends, but it doesn't mean the fight is over. We don't agree. We love the same country, and

-Continued on Page 6.

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Rande(m) Thoughts

The Run Around Guy

By Rande Davis

One of our Tidbits stories in this issue was a bit more than I could digest all at once. I don't want to spoil it for you, but it's about a guy who ran a fifty-mile marathon. Actually, it's worse than that: He has run in seven of them. I say worse only because for a guy like me, simply running across the street is a worst-case scenario.

All this got me thinking: At what point in life does one discover that a twenty-five-mile marathon is just not enough—that doubling it is the way to go?

I could understand, I suppose, if he simply got lost during a marathon and just kept running until he found the finish line. That's how I drive a car, so I guess why not when you are running a race. It's hard for me

to grasp the idea that he did it on purpose. I mean, in his first race, did he look down at his watch with a hundred yards to go at the first twenty-five mile marker and say, "What the, heck, I got nothin' else to do, why stop now?"

Here's another zinger. In his last race, he was one of a thousand other runners. He was not alone; there are others like him. Can this be? The final straw came with a picture of him at the end of the race. Wearing his Poolesville hat and hugging his children, he still manages a bit of a smile. I won't describe what I would look like after running a race; it wouldn't be pretty. Nevertheless, he set a goal and achieved it. Way to go, man.

Thoughts of achievement and goal-setting are a sort of January thing, aren't they? It's the month to start over, to get it right. Each month brings its own special theme to bear. With the start of

- Continued on Page 15.

Business Briefs

This Purple Heart Veteran Has a Heart for The Community

By Rande Davis

You may not recognize Mike Towles from his picture on the front page side bar. This man, who was quick to serve his country, came aboard as the new manager at CVS and has been quick to respond to community requests from day one.

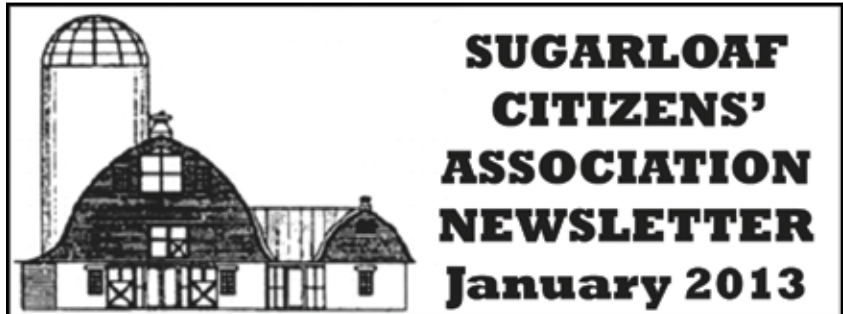
Prior to CVS, the Rockville resident served in the U. S. Army for six years (four years of active duty and two years in the Pennsylvania Guard). He was right out of high school when the terror attack of 9/11 hit. At the time, he was attending Mount St. Mary's University on a full ride military scholarship. The attack motivated him to leave college, and he joined up as an infantryman serving with the 29th Division. He has served three tours in Iraq. The veteran was awarded a purple heart from action in Iraq.

He found the army's management style to be very successful in building esprit de corps through motivational

team-building concepts which he believes can work well in the private sector. "I also think it helps that I am a hands-on kind of manager who is there helping in everything from unloading trucks to working the cash register when things back up a bit."

He began making changes based on customer requests right away and was quick to understand their concerns for more product line with the closing of Selby's Market. As an example, when Hostess closed, he requested a more upscale line and CVS responded with Pepperidge Farms products. With so many school kids, he expanded the selection of Kraft Lunchables and has plans to expand the pet supplies area.

Mike enjoys coming to work every day because "this is a great community and I really enjoy the give and take with the public." He looks forward to the continued input from the community, so that CVS can better meet the public's needs.



SUGARLOAF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER January 2013

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Visit our Web site: www.sugarloafcitizens.org

FARMING AT METRO'S EDGE and GLOBAL MISSION CHURCH ZONING APPEAL

The New Year is off to a busy start for the Sugarloaf Citizens Association. Happy New Year to all who are lucky enough to live in the Agricultural Reserve and to our many friends throughout the region.

Many SCA members attended the two-day "Farming at Metro's Edge" Conference on January 11-12 at the Universities at Shady Grove. The conference focused on the future of agriculture in Montgomery and Frederick Counties, and I believe it was a watershed event. It was attended by 250 people, and it is safe to say that virtually all came away with their heads and hearts filled with new information and understanding. The depth of the substantive discussions led by panels of farmers, non-farming professionals in the agriculture industry, land preservationists, environmentalists, and citizens' groups was impressive and inspiring. All had an abiding interest in the success of farming in the region and in learning from each other about the major problems, challenges, and opportunities that farmers in Montgomery and Frederick Counties face, and what can be done to help sustain agriculture here. The Conference was organized by Sugarloaf Regional Trails and SCA was a proud co-sponsor. A detailed Report will be forthcoming in a few weeks.

SCA and the Montgomery Countryside Alliance have appealed the Frederick County Planning Commission's decision to approve the application of the Global Mission Church of Greater Washington, DC to construct a megacomplex near Interstate 270 in southeastern Frederick County, with access from Old Hundred Road (MD 109), a rural rustic road in Montgomery County, and a large private bridge across Little Bennett Creek.


The appeal to the Frederick County Board of Zoning Appeals involves a new evidentiary hearing. **SCA, MCA and others will submit outlines of testimony on February 7 and the appeal will be heard on February 28.**

We would welcome help from any of you who are interested in being part of this effort. Please call at (301) 349-4889, or contact me at president@sugarloafcitizens.org.

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Daytripper

Alas, No Free Samples

By Ingeborg Westfall

Does the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in downtown D.C. sound like a fun place to visit? When family and visitors arrive, would it occur to you as a desirable destination, even for children? If you're like me, the answer is "Um, not so much; a root canal sounds like way more fun." Just think about it, it's the place where all our currency is printed. Well, so? Maybe it'll be boring, dark, old and musty.

Well, take it from me and think again. Much to my surprise, it's actually a fun place to visit. If you're like me, you've never given much thought to the printing of our currency and all that involves. You've seen clerks hold a fifty- or hundred-dollar bill up to the light but have never known exactly what they were looking at/for. Well, visit the bureau and you'll find out—and did you know? Our paper currency isn't paper at all; it's twenty-five percent linen and seventy-five percent cotton. That's why it comes through the washer looking pretty clean and relatively undamaged. In modern slang, nifty!

Originating in 1862 from legislation meant to raise funds for the Civil War, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing finally became officially recognized in congressional legislation in 1874; the first year there was an allocation of funds specifically for operating was in 1875. From almost the beginning, the bureau designed and printed a variety of products, now including Treasury securities, White House invitations, military commissions and award certificates, and other security documents for several government agencies; it's the largest producer of government security documents in the U.S.—it does not produce coins; that process belongs to the U.S. Mint—and in

2005, it ended 111 years of producing postage stamps, the U.S. Postal Service having decided to use private printers instead.

Naturally, the most interesting part of the information about the bureau is its efforts not just to print money, but to print money that can't be counterfeited. Obviously, it's an ongoing effort as printers in private hands become more and more sophisticated. The bureau's list of security features in the redesigned fifty-dollar bill that went into circulation on September 28, 2004 covers three pages. For instance, they suggest you hold the fifty-dollar bill (I should be so lucky) up to the light and "look for the security thread that is embedded in the paper and runs vertically up one side of the bill." If you look closely, the words "USA 50" and a small flag are visible along the thread from both sides of the bill. The security thread glows yellow when illuminated by ultraviolet light.

On August 29, 2012, the bureau marked its 150th anniversary. That's partly what brought it to my mind as a good place to visit. Plus, there are free forty-minute guided tours Mondays through Fridays. Our guide was very knowledgeable and made the time enjoyable. Visitors are not permitted to take photographs of anything during the tour (the gift shop is okay). The tour takes visitors on a high catwalk above the people working below, so you can see the huge printers and watch workers sampling random piles of bills. One worker pulled out a stack of bills, fanned them, and then held up a placard with the figure \$75,000 on it, and all of us gasped: All that money, so close and completely unreachable. Of course that was just the beginning, as we wistfully surveyed stacks and stacks more. When the tour ended, we visited the gift shop, where one could buy a two-dollar bill for seven dollars (of course, everyone knows you can just go to any bank and ask for two-dollar bills when you cash a check; most have them).. Plus shredded currency, properly laundered, was made into items for purchase. Visitors could also buy

uncirculated money by the sheet. I enjoyed the shop; my purchase was a miniature \$100,000-bill bookmark. I can dream, can't I? Purchases can also be made online.

Even the Feds have a sense of humor, it seems. The website for the bureau is www.moneyfactory.gov. The twenty-four-hour information line is 202-874-2330.

**"All in Good Fun"
Continued From Page 4.**

we like other people, and we definitely love a good party, but nobody's giving up nothing, as they say. So let's be civil, let's play by the rules, and let's come out of the clinches cleanly. At the bell, come out fighting.

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In the Garden

The State of the Garden

By Maureen O'Connell

This is the time of the year that State of the (fill in the blank) addresses are made. Politicians make promises of the good times to come in the New Year; they selectively remember the good events of the past year and forget the bad. Economists weigh in with their more realistic, or not, predictions of what are in store for the economic health of the nation and the world. Now, on a less controversial plane, I think that our gardens deserve a State of the Garden report. You are not burdened now with garden chores, so you have time to sit back and see how your garden fared this past year and where you want to take it in 2013.

A garden is a work in progress; it is not a one-time creation. Every garden, no matter its size, is the result of a slow evolution. It takes time to answer to the soil under our feet and the environment around us. We must learn to work with what we have and not with what we wish we had. We cannot banish all diseases, insects, high humidity and heat levels, and drought from our garden plots, and it is sometimes nearly impossible to change the appetites of the white-tailed Bambi and Thumper, Bambi's pink-nosed rabbit friend. What we can do is to learn to live with and manage these conditions. Whenever I visit gardens in England, I envy their weather conditions that favor the growing of beautiful and more disease- and pest-resistant plants, but Barnesville is not England, so I must work with the soil, climate, insects, and wildlife that I have here.

Gardening involves adding and taking away, selecting plants that are right for their place, and coping with a realistic appreciation of the level of attention that we can spare for it. It all comes down to balance. We should

weigh the odds between what we want to achieve and what is physically and monetarily possible. The process of gardening also involves a great deal of observation: Where does the sun hit various parts of the garden and at what time of day? Whenever I think about this, it reminds me of the wonderful series of paintings that Claude Monet made in 1892 and 1893 of the gothic-style Rouen Cathedral in northwestern France. In more than thirty paintings, Monet captured the façade of the cathedral at different times of the day and year. He wanted to show the changes in its appearance under different light conditions. I try to do the same thing in my mind when I take my daily walk with Sam and Tom through my gardens. The gardens and their flowers and shrubs never look the same. A rose can change color depending upon the presence of sun on its petals and leaves. Where are the cold, winter winds the most biting? How does the movement of the sun around buildings and trees affect the plants beneath them? Where are the deer more likely to cross the yard and stop for a flower snack? I even consider the pathways of my two sous-gardeners, Sam and Tom, on their daily gallop around the yard. Where are their favorite places to dig holes, very deep ones?

Many people view winter as a barren season in the garden; I like to think of it as its time of slumber. It is also an ideal time to assess the status of your gardens and create new plans, without the distraction of a kaleidoscope of vibrant colors and shapes of flowering plants, shrubs and trees. The winter garden is full of skeletons, and we can superimpose upon it all our plans for grandiose and colorful new plants for the coming season. This is also a good time to notice which plants and shrubs should be divided, removed, or moved to a new location. Over time, as surrounding trees grow taller and fuller, the amount of sunlight that a plant receives can be diminished. Move it back to the sunlight. Has a plant, shrub, or tree grown too big for its location? I

see this often, especially where trees have been planted too near a house. Have you grown to dislike a plant? Rip it out. I have come to that realization with my Knock-Out roses. When they first came on the market, I could not say enough good things about them. Now, I find their many floppy blossoms unattractive and messy looking, especially if you do not deadhead them often. They have become ubiquitous; they are planted at gas stations, strip malls, and median strips. I would rather have one beautiful hybrid tea or David Austin rose than ten Knock-Outs. This year my garden will be thirty-three years old; the longevity of some of my plants amazes me. My hybrid tea rose Mr. Lincoln will be twenty-five this year. Like his namesake, he is tall and lanky, and he does not flower often, but when he does, he is still the best of red roses. I planted four dwarf butterfly bushes 'Blue Chip' four years ago. They are supposed to grow a mere two feet tall and two feet wide. Well, I think they got their genes mixed up, because they

are all now about six feet tall and four feet wide. They were also supposed to be a low flowering hedge at the feet of my dahlias, which are planted behind them. Dahlias need a good amount of direct sunlight to flower and develop strong stems. Mr. Butterfly bush is hogging all the sun, so the dahlia ladies must be moved to another location. Several of my older David Austin roses are showing their age. They also do not receive enough sunlight due to the towering white pine trees behind them. They are too old to successively relocate, so I will have to remove them.

I could continue to tell you about the many more changes I must do in the garden this year, but the list is too long. As I said in the beginning of this article, gardens live in a state of evolution. Just as gardeners must change with the times, so must gardens.

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Local News

Local Farm Wins State Conservation Award

Congratulations to Lori Larson, owner of the Wyndham Oaks Farm on Bucklodge Road in Boyds. The farm was recently the recipient of the Farm Stewardship Certification and Assessment Program recognition award by the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts. The MASCD has established the award to acknowledge those farmers who are good stewards of their natural resources and to encourage and reward farmers to use more conservation best management practices (BMP) on the land.

The project has established

the Agricultural Conservation Stewardship Certification Standard, which measures compliance with state requirements for the farm's nutrient management plan plus a level of conservation BMPs that prevent any significant sources of pollution from leaving the

farm.

Wyndham Oaks, an equestrian farm of sixty-five horses, is part of the two-thousand-acre land preserve established by Mike Reuben and is a member of Equestrian Partners in Conservation (E.P.I.C.). In becoming the first to win the

award in Montgomery County, Larson stated, "We just wanted to do the right thing, which is most important, but to get this recognition is appreciated." She recognized the hard work of farm manager Melissa Friel in working with Jack Price of Habitat Enhancer.



Farm Manager Melissa Friel (left) with owner of Wyndham Oaks Farm, Lori Larson.



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Things to Do

January 26

PHS Home Varsity Wrestling
Bethesda-Chevy Chase. 2:30 p.m.

January 28

PHS Home Varsity Basketball Double Header

Wheaton. Girls: 3:30 p.m.; Boys: 5:15 p.m.

Poolesville Relay for Life 2013

Team Captains' Organizational Meeting
Committee members will be available starting at 6:30 p.m. to assist with registering new teams. Poolesville Presbyterian Church. 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

January 29

PHS Home Varsity Wrestling
Rockville. 6:00 p.m.

January 30

Meeting Place for Free Internet Usage Assistance

Stop by for a cup of coffee and a chat, to check your email, or to work on a project. Hosted by Berry Thompson. Poolesville Presbyterian Church. 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
PHS Girls' Varsity Basketball
Northwood. 7:00 p.m.

February 1

PHS Boys' Varsity Basketball

Rockville. 7:00 p.m.

February 2

PHS Swim and Diving Team
MLK Aquatic Center. Diving: 7:30 a.m. Swim: 9:00 a.m.

February 4

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

Poolesville Relay for Life 2013

Team Captains' Organizational Meeting
Committee members will be available starting at 6:30 p.m. to assist with registering new teams. Poolesville Presbyterian Church. 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

February 5

Kickoff Meeting and Dinner for New Community Event

Planning session for a May 5 and 6 special event entitled PES Community Service Project. The project is being planned to bring hundreds of concerned parents and residents together to volunteer to help spruce up the school. Individuals wanting to help organize this event are invited to attend. Poolesville Elementary School. 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Maryland Zoo Night Shift

When the sun sets, Night Shift animals come on duty! Learn about special senses that allow these animals to navigate

in the dark. Test your own nocturnal sensory skills and meet zoo animals. Poolesville Library. 4:00 p.m.

February 6

Everhart Book Reading and Signing

Rev. Ruth Everhart will be at the Connection Café to promote her book, *Chasing the Divine in the Holy Land*, with readings, book signings, and talks about her pilgrimage. Poolesville Presbyterian. 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Place for Free Internet Usage Assistance

Stop by for a cup of coffee and a chat, to check your email, or to work on a project. Hosted by Berry Thompson. Poolesville Presbyterian Church. 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

February 9 and 10

For the Love of Reading

This local authors' Writer's Symposium is open to the public for free. Meet over a dozen local authors and learn about their books and their journeys to becoming authors. Special Guest Speaker: Melissa Foster, publishing consultant. Old Town Hall
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Now We're Cooking

Bananes Flambées

Surprise

By Dominique Agnew

Maybe this isn't the case in other households across the country, but in ours, here's what happens: We buy the bananas, they're not yet too ripe, some of them get eaten, but then others get too ripe, and nobody wants to eat them anymore. "Waste not, want not" is one of my mottos, for sure, but I can always console myself that the chickens enjoy bananas in all their states of maturity (maturity of the bananas—chickens have very small brains, and they're always running around like immature idiots or like chickens with their heads cut off [alright, mostly the males whom we have not named—the females, of course, are more intelligent and merit being named]). Now, we know that some people consider the Ripe Banana to be perfect. I agree. The Ripe Banana is perfect—perfect for Bananes Flambées!

This quick little treat is easy to make, and everyone especially enjoys the Flambé part. Really, who doesn't like to see Food on Fire?

-Continued on Page 14.

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Local News

Citizen Police Academy

By Jack Toomey

The Montgomery County Police Department is currently accepting applications for future sessions of the Citizen Academy. The program is free, but participants must be eighteen years of age or older and either live or work in Montgomery County.

Participants who are selected for the program are required to attend fourteen of the eighteen classes to be eligible for graduation. Some of the topics covered include: firearm safety, Maryland traffic law, investigating major crimes, drug identification, scams and fraud, prostitution, forensics/crime lab, physical/sexual child abuse, a canine demonstration, DUI/underage drinking, and the procedures of the Emergency Response Team. Academy members



A Citizen Police Academy class in session.

also have the option of touring the Montgomery County Detention Center and participating in a ride-along with a police officer.

The first Citizen Academy was held in January of 1994. It was developed as an extension of the department's community policing efforts. Community members who went through the program came out with a greater awareness of the functions of the police department, the various roles of police officers, and a better understanding of why and how officers do their jobs.

Each year, two sessions (spring and fall) of the Citizen Academy are held at the Public

Safety Training Academy located at 9710 Great Seneca Highway in Rockville. Classes are offered on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. for eighteen consecutive weeks.

The 2013 spring session of the Citizen Academy is scheduled to begin in March. Applications from those wishing to enroll in the spring session must be received by mid-February. Once the spring session is full, all other applications will be held for consideration of potential enrollment in future

Citizen Academy classes. The 2013 fall session of the Citizen Academy begins in September.

Those interested in this opportunity may visit: <http://www.mymcpnews.com/resources/how-to/join-citizen-academy/>

A graduation ceremony for this past year's fall session, Session 43, of the Citizen Academy will be held at the Public Safety Training Academy on Tuesday, February 5, at 7:00 p.m.

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Youth Sports

The Fearless Falcons: Calm, Calm Collected and Winning

By Jeff Stuart and Rande Davis

Going into the January 22 important rematch with Watkins Mill, the Falcon boys' basketball team, under new coach Kenny Kramek, entered the second half of their season at 10-2. The question was: Could they beat them again as they did, 62-61, in double overtime in their first encounter earlier in the year. The answer came back even better with the Falcons winning 68-60. Previously, the coach considered their first game the Falcons' best effort of the season. In that harrowing initial encounter, the Falcons were down by two late in

the game. Senior Andy Baker got fouled and made two free throws, and then Collin Turner stole the ball and got fouled on the layup. He made one on his free throws. The Falcons were up by one with eight seconds left. Watkins Mill dribbled down and took a tough shot from the corner and missed. They got the ball back and called time out, but a last tough shot clanged off the rim. The fearless Falcons had won.

The success of the team came early this year after defeating host Clarksburg and Northwest (6-3) at the Clarksburg High School Holiday Shootout on December 27 and 28. After that successful quick start to the season, Senior Andy Baker noted the difference under Coach Kramek. "There have been a lot of adjustments. We are running a different offense, but he has definitely gotten the best out of us. We are playing real well right now."

Speaking about the Northwest game, he added, "We weren't really expected to win that game," said Baker. "They

came in there with a lot of confidence. We just kept hanging in there, giving ourselves a chance to win at the end. They made more mistakes than we did at the end, and we were able to get the win." Coach Kramek gives a lot of credit to the team's defense for their strong showing.

"While this is my first year coaching at the varsity level, this team is not new to me," said Kramek. "I actually coached a majority of these players in their sixth grade Rising Star team, and I was their JV coach two years ago when most of these players were freshmen, so I know the players very well and they know me very well...I knew exactly what type of players I was getting and they knew what to expect from me. What continues to impress me with this team though is how high their collective basketball IQ is. Very rarely do they make mental mistakes. In many of our games so far, the score has been within a possession or two going into the fourth quarter. The

players continue to thrive in close games and have really dominated the fourth quarter, especially the final four minutes of the game. The players stay calm, cool, and collected in the most intense moments, and I believe that has been key to our season's success.

The game against Northwest was another of their best overall. Kramek noted, "We executed our offense to near perfection and got contributions from a ton of players. We had five different players score in double digits. Northwest is extremely quick at the guards and has a dominant big man. The kids really played like a team. No one cares who is scoring the points as long as at the end of the game we come out on top."

Thinking about individual performances, Kramek noted Collin Turner, twenty-seven points (23 in the second half, 11/11 from the free throw line) in the Damascus game; Andy Baker, twenty-one points on the road at Watkins

-Continued on Page 18.

Remembrance

Elmer S. Bell

Elmer Stanley Bell passed away on Tuesday, January 9, 2013 near his family in Poolesville.

Born on March 16, 1925 in Los Angeles, California, he was the father of local singer and acoustic guitarist Doug Bell. Elmer's wife, Elaine, passed away in July of 2011.

Known by his middle name, Stan, he served as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1944 to 1945. He graduated with a bachelor's degree from Chapman University in Orange, California and was an accountant by profession. He worked for various firms in the Los Angeles area, the U.S. Government in Washington, D.C., and for the town of Bethany Beach, Delaware. He was an active leader in the

Boy Scouts of America and the Lions Club. He had a passion for deep-sea fishing, model airplanes, baseball, gardening, and, not surprisingly, singing in his church choir.

Marjorie (Bitsy) Marvin Brown



The mother of Poolesville Town Commission President Jim Brown passed away on January 12. She was seventy-seven years old and was

married to her late husband, William E. Brown for fifty-six years. Bitsy was blessed with a large and devoted family including her two other sons, Timothy of Los Angeles, California and Matthew Brown of New Market, Maryland. A vibrant woman, Bitsy was a member of the Red Hat Society, a social organization that celebrates a zest for life in its passion for fun, friendship, freedom, fulfillment, and fitness. Friends of Jim can certainly see his mother in him not only in appearance, but also in their shared attitude of living. Tim Brown wrote this haiku in remembrance of his mother.

Light as summer air
Taking flight to find her love
Laughter sounds so sweet.
The family is very appreciative of the care provided to her by the nurses and techs at 2C Hospice/Oncology Unit at Frederick Memorial Hospital who helped her through her

ordeal with cancer. Through their care and Bitsy's courage, the family offered, "Mom passed with the same dignity and love in which she led her life." A memorial service was held at Calvary Methodist Church in Mt. Airy on January 19, and she was interred at the National Memorial Park in Falls Church, Virginia. It is requested that memorial donations be made to Frederick Memorial Hospital or the Calvary Methodist Church.



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School News

JPMS Theater Group Grows in Members and Community Service

The John Poole Middle School Thespian Society recently held its second induction ceremony to welcome seventeen new members and two honorary members, bringing this vibrant group to a total of thirty-seven members. The group is part of the International Junior Thespian Society that honors work in the theater, classroom achievement, and community involvement. Director Dorald (Dee) Turner and officers, Courtney Borque, Mackenzie Gross, Josephine Caruso-Dipaolo, and Paris Copeland, conducted the ceremony. "It was nice to reflect back on this year's service projects to our community, including collecting over 250 pounds of food, Christmas gifts for children, and performing at the annual WUMCO Fall Festival. As a thespian group, we feel it is important to give back to our community because they

come out and support us at our shows," said Dorald Turner. The motto of the group is: Performing our best both on stage and off.

Katherine Cedillos Awarded Full Scholarship to Lafayette College

Among the twenty-three MCPS students who have been named recipients of four-year, full-tuition college scholarships from the Posse Foundation is PHS senior Katherine Cedillos who will be attending Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania.

The Posse Program identifies public high school students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential that may have been overlooked by traditional college selection processes. Forty-four colleges and universities each offer full-tuition scholarships to students throughout the country and create multicultural teams—called Posses—on each campus. These student teams receive professional guidance before and throughout college and provide support to one another.

National Geographic's Geography Bee Winners Are

The JPMS Social Studies Department congratulates fifteen students who won their class round of the National Geographic Society's Geography Bee before winter break.

The school's champion was Bubby Jones who won a \$25 Amazon gift card and a medal from the National Geographic Society and now qualifies to move forward toward a state competition next spring.

The second place winner was Darrell Marshall who was awarded a \$15.00 iTunes gift card. Third place went to Gavin Prebilib who got a \$10.00 Barnes and Noble gift card.

The winners in the classroom competitions were: sixth grade: Lukas Lightcap, Dan-

iel Geehreng, Ethan Richardson, Vincent Chim, and Bubby Jones; seventh grade: Gavin Prebilib, Bridgette Hammett, Clara Jackson, Darrell Marshall, and Melanie Staszewski; eighth grade: David Esser, James Donovan, Daris Sharifi, Cole Carmack, and Keegan Hemmingway. Special thanks go to the PTSA for providing the finalists with gift cards, and to Ms. McIntyre for providing all of the contestants with giant Hershey bars.



The newest members of the John Poole Middle School Thespian Honor Society.

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**“Bananes Flambées Surprise”
Continued From Page 9.**

Oh, the title includes a Surprise. Here’s how it went:

Moi (talking to my mother who helped with comparison testing): I don’t really think the bacon added anything to it, do you?
My Mother (with French accent): Non, not really.

Professional Taste Tester One: Yes, it did.

Moi: Oh? What did it add?

PTT One: Bacon!

Indeed.

Another conversation ensued:

Moi: Did you like les bananes flambées better with or without bacon?

PTT Two: With bacon.

Moi: Really, why?

PTT Two: ‘Cause bacon tastes good.

Indeed.

Ingredients (based on one regular-sized banana):

1 ripe banana (can be very ripe, even)

2 T. butter

1 tsp. sugar

Cinnamon

1 tsp. fresh lime juice

1 slice cooked bacon (optional)

2 T. Real Rum

Match

Cut banana in half crosswise, then lengthwise. Melt butter in pan over low or medium low heat. If you cooked bacon in pan, use some of the bacon grease with the butter. Sauté banana pieces gently in melted butter, turning as needed until golden brown. Sprinkle sugar, cinnamon, and lime on banana pieces. Transfer banana pieces and sauce to serving dish. Top with crumbled bacon. Pour rum over. Light rum on fire with match. Something pathetic like seventy-proof will not work. Listen to everyone ooh and ah. Bananes Flambées can actually make an elegant—and exciting—dessert with those cute little baby bananas. Who doesn’t like to see Baby Food on Fire?



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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Theft: 19500 block Fisher Avenue.

Disorderly conduct complaints: 19600 block Fisher Avenue, 19600 block Wootton Avenue, 17800 block Doctor Walling Road, 17600 block Kohlhoss Road, 16600 block W. Willard Avenue.

Past Crime

January 30, 1919 Sheriff Aud received word that four young men, who were wanted for breaking into the store of William Darby at Beallsville and the B&O station at Bucklodge, had been arrested at Thomasville, North Carolina. Robert Murphy, Ralph Welsh, Charles Creeley, and Leon Lentz were being held at that town, and Aud was making preparations to bring them back to Rockville.

February 1, 1911 Some consternation was caused by the decision of the State of Maryland to send President Taft free license tags for his four cars. A few residents complained that the president should have to pay for his tags like all other people (in those days, an automobile had to have Maryland tags to drive in Maryland even if the owner lived in D.C.).

February 2, 1903 Detective Howlett and Deputy Sheriff Meade returned to Washington after spending several days in Montgomery County trying to

track down a suspicious Italian who may have been connected with the murder of Mrs. Kate Jordan at Anacostia. The trail was lost at Boyds after the officers had been in the saddle for over forty-eight hours. The man had avoided the small villages, preferring to stay at farmhouses and barns. Meade reported that those who had seen the man described a deep cut on his forehead as if he had been struck with an ax.

February 6, 1898 Sheriff Thompson was notified that the Coe brothers, Collie and Lee, were in custody in Chenango County, New York. The two had been indicted by the grand jury at Rockville for entering the Travilah Baptist Church, cursing, fighting with the preacher, and generally disturbing a church service. Arrangements were being made to bring the Coes back to Montgomery County.

February 7, 1901 Two chicken thieves who were wanted in Montgomery County were arrested by a watchman in Washington. Deputy Sheriff Selby went to the city and brought Walter Owens and William Magruder back to Rockville where they were placed in the county jail.

"Rande(m) Thoughts" Continued From Page 4.

a new year, it's like looking at a sunrise, a new day, a new time. It's not as motivating as spring with the winter behind you and with the hope of warmer weather and the summer ahead. In January, you still have more winter left than less. It's mostly cold, often cloudy with a drizzling rain, not the most motivating atmosphere. January has one thing better to offer than any other month: time—more time left in the year

than in any other month. When there is time, there is hope. So here's to marathoners and double marathoners everywhere and here's to the rest of us with goals yet to be reached, knowing that even in dark, cold January there is hope. After all, even for these achievers, there had to have been one day when they bent over, tied their running shoes for the first time, looked up, and said, "I can do this." January is the month of lost hope found. Happy New Year.



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Tidbits

Poolesville Man Completes Seventh Ultra 50-mile marathon

For Poolesville's John Kipfer, one standard marathon is not enough. He prefers to run a fifty miler, and last November, he completed his seventh race. The race is Washington County's JFK 50 Mile Memorial Ultra Marathon that started in 1963 as part of President Kennedy's push to get America in shape. It originally began as a competition for the military, but today, while still giving honor to the military, most of the participants are civilians. The concept came from President Teddy Roosevelt's mandate that military officers had to be able to travel by foot fifty miles in twenty hours in order to maintain their commission.

John's not military but works for Verizon Federal as a Senior Account Manager for the

Department of Defense. The forty-four-year-old lives in Tama I with his wife Lorna and their two children Johnathan and Hannah.

The 2012 race was actually the eighth in which he participated, but in 2011 he had to drop out at the twenty-three-mile marker due to an ACL issue. The problem cut back his training for 2012 where he not only finished but was only 1:34 slower than his best time. He told the *Monocle*, "Barring no additional injuries, I expect a PR (personal record) in 2013." Let's hope RGIII does as well.

Agnew Makes Dean's List

Earlier this month, Wagner College released its academic honor lists for the Fall 2012 semester. Chantal Agnew (PHS



Ultra-marathoner John Kipfer with his two children, Johnathan and Hannah, after his last race in November.

class of 2011) made the Dean's List, which requires a minimum 3.70 GPA for the semester. Wagner College, founded in 1883, is a *U.S. News & World Report* Top 26 regional university located on New York City's Staten Island.

Winners of 2012 Town Holiday Lighting Contest

For each category except for business, there are two winners in the town's holiday lighting contest with one winner from each the northern and southern side of Fisher Avenue.

Townhomes: Jeff and Candi Fisher; Gary Moyer; contemporary: Brendan McMinn and Camille Majchrzak; Anthony and Judy Murgia; traditional: Jason and Dawn Stanford; Richard and Cathy Wyne. Business: Drs. Pike and Valega.

A Rare Happy Ending

Pet lovers hate to see and hear about lost pets, as it seems they are found and returned to their homes way too infrequently. Recently, Roger and Heidi Brenholtz of Beallsville experienced that sad, empty feeling when their Rottweiler, Scout, scampered away in the woods near the

NIH Animal Center.

The Brenholtzes and their three sons posted signs, searched the area, and Roger, who is King Lion of the Monocacy Lions, sent out an email notice to the membership asking all Lions to help spread out the net.

We were all pleased to hear the next update, that they had "received a call from Lisa Roberts of Westerly Road saying that she spotted Scout. Heidi stopped on

her way to work and Scout ran down Lisa's lane—healthy as ever!"

Roger's closing statement said it best: "Again, thank you ever so much for your help and support. We love our community."

Editor's note: Do you have a Tidbit for the Monocle? Send it to editor@monocacymonocle.com.

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**"Ruth Everhart"
Continued From Page 1.**

congregation supported her enthusiastically. "When God opens a door," she adds, "you should not say no."

Filmmaker Brian Ide put together an ecumenical group of clergy (different denominations of Christians) to the Holy Land as part of his documentary, *The Pilgrimage Project* (at the moment, an unfinished project). These clergy members, all strangers to each other, "were plunked down in Israel" for a two-week pilgrimage. Ruth, as was her wont, took extensive notes. There was much about the experience for journal-keeping.

On the one hand is the sensory difference of being in the desert, heat, and aridity, as well as the difference in the geography. Also striking is the pervasive presence of the military in Israel, the number of arms. "You don't see a teenager or above without a gun," she explains. Like the U.S. and Switzerland, Israel's government provides for an armed militia. Like the Swiss, there is a mandatory military training. Those in Israel

who were serving wore uniforms, she says. After their service, they simply carried guns around. "It was shocking to an American," she adds, "but not menacing."

Visiting the area where Jesus lived had a great impact on Ruth's ministry in many ways. When she returned home from her pilgrimage, Ruth immediately applied what she had learned to her sermons. "I was really working with the material in the pulpit," she says. The gospel of John became more relevant to her after she went swimming in the Sea of Galilee, and "the significance of water hits you in a new way," she says of the arid region. "Water is such a primal experience. We're used to turning on a tap and drinking water. To say 'I am the Living Water' gives a punch, for me personally. Hopefully, in my sermon, I could convey that to others."

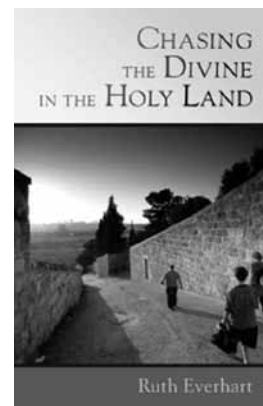
Her congregation had taken notice of the difference, as well, saying she needed to expand who was hearing the message. As it was, Ruth had already been writing for over a decade and has a couple of unpublished novel manuscripts, so

with this trip, she turned her attention to non-fiction and eventually found a publisher. "I felt that God put that in front of me."

To some extent, Ruth needed to go on that trip to rejuvenate her own spiritual life. "Many faith questions are, in a sense, unanswerable. Why do religious people kill each other? Life is busy, church is busy. You can do your job without addressing these questions." Ruth, however, felt she needed to answer them, but admits she can't necessarily answer them now, "but I feel more comfortable with them. The book is full circle in a way, and I came out with new questions rather than answers. Can I keep the pilgrim heart open? Can I keep moving forward closer to Jesus when that seems difficult? What does it mean to have a pilgrim heart? Change was in me.

"I spent my whole life getting educated. I know a whole lot about this place," she reveals, but the extreme sensory experience did not involve her head in the intellectual sense.

The pilgrimage ended up energizing her, personally and spiritu-



ally. Presently, Ruth is involved in part-time ministry at Western Presbyterian in the Foggy Bottom area, home

to Miriam's Kitchen. "I really love doing part-time ministry. Full-time exhausts me. Part-time allows me to do these other writing projects that I feel called to do."

She is co-authoring a new book with a long-time friend with whom she was the victim of a break-in, how the crime affected their lives, and how their faith tradition responded to the incident.

Ruth will be promoting *Chasing the Divine in the Holy Land*, doing a book reading and signing, and talking about the pilgrimage at the Connection Café at Poolesville Presbyterian on February 6 at 7:00 p.m.

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**"Youth Sports" Continued
From Page 11.**

Mill in a double overtime victory; and Kirby Carmack is extremely consistent game in and game out at point guard. "He is the engine and on-floor leader that runs the team," Kramek says. "He is, without a doubt, one of the smartest athletes I've ever seen, and Trevor Stottlemeyer has been fantastic as our inside presence. He has controlled the boards in almost every game and that has been key for us as we play four guards most of the time."

The *Monocle* wanted to know more about Kramek's approach. "I teach a hardworking, patient, disciplined style where the whole is more important than the individual parts. As a player at

Poolesville, I was never blessed with a ton of basketball talent, but I made sure I worked harder and smarter than my opponents. That has transferred over into my coaching style. Our goal every game is to get to the fourth quarter with a chance to win. At that point, it's up to the players to execute what they've been taught, and so far, they have done that to perfection."

This former Falcon got into coaching upon graduating from Poolesville. Then-Falcon basketball coach, Larry Hurd, gave him the opportunity to help coach the varsity team during summer league and team camps. Then Coach Lang asked Kramek to be JV coach at Poolesville in 2009. "I coached the JV team for two years

but then had the opportunity to coach the JV team at Clarksburg," Kramek adds. When Coach Lang decided to step down, he saw his chance to coach in the "greatest community in the county,"

**"Fires Destroy Homes"
Continued From Page 1.**

broke out in the early morning hours of January 19, ravaged the home of Jo and Keith Mills of Mouth of Monocacy Road in Dickerson. The couple was awakened by smoke but was unsuccessful in an attempt to extinguish the fire.

When the Upper Montgomery Volunteer Fire Department arrived around 3:00 a.m., the two-story, framed structure was ablaze on both floors. Two fire-fighters were injured during the fire and taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. Both are expected to fully recover. The cause of the fire is suspected of emanating from a wood stove in the home. Jo Mills, who owned Jo's Frame Shop in Poolesville for many years, and her husband

applied for the job, and got hired. "It's exactly the job I wanted most."

Keith escaped personal injury. Unfortunately, while a dog and one cat were able to escape, their second cat succumbed to smoke inhalation. The fire completely gutted the structure and the household items inside. Mrs. Mills was appreciative that while she has lost nearly everything, she was able to at least recover her father's ashes.

Neighbor and friend Beth Poss is coordinating a drive to assist the couple with their immediate replacement needs and has asked anyone who wishes to help, especially with retailer gift cards, should email her at posseth@gmail.com.

Tidbits of the Past

By Jack Toomey

January 5, 1925 The first wild turkey to be killed in many years was taken by a young man named Burroughs who was hunting near Seneca. The big bird weighed twenty-seven pounds.

January 8, 1926 Miss Norine Dahn, of Boyds, was scheduled to appear on radio station WCAP. She was to present her musical composition, "Pama," which had never before been played over the radio.

January 9, 1927 Miss Betty Brewer and Miss Mary Claggett returned to Poolesville from Charles Town, West Virginia. They had been visiting friends. Reginald Darby was elected as president of the Barnesville Community League.

January 13, 1926 School Superintendent Edwin Broome announced that out of the 8000 children attending school in Montgomery County, 1130 had perfect attendance in December.

January 18, 1924 E. Lee LeCompte, state game warden, gave a talk at the Poolesville Hall. He explained that arrangements had been made to supply Montgomery County with between 300 and 800 rabbits that will be imported from Missouri. He also said that 200 Hungarian quail will be released into the wild.

January 23, 1929 Gaithersburg High School defeated Poolesville, 14-11, in a Montgomery County School League game. Poolesville led, 10-7, at the half but only scored four points in the second half. In the girls' game, Gaithersburg won, 23-21.

January 25, 1924 E. K. Ruble of Poolesville was appointed as a forest ranger.

January 29, 1927 The second round of the checker competition between Poolesville and Dickerson was scheduled to be held at Poolesville. Poolesville was ahead, 36-28, and a large crowd was expected to attend the match.

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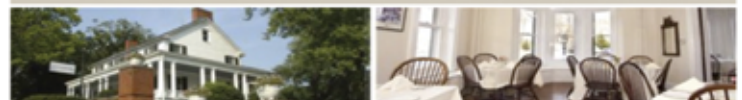
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