

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

August 9, 2013

Volume X, Number 10



Father O'Reilly rides herd (in golf cart) over the 138th St. Mary's annual festival. More pictures are in the Family Album on page 2.



Study finds cell phones on water towers safe for man and vultures. See more on page 18.



Lisa Roberts and her pal Gracie have a special way to help wounded warriors. Read more on page 19.



Keith and Deb Williquette at a car show fundraiser for a scholarship fund in their son's memory. Read more in Tidbits on page 11.

Well #9 Flooded With Four Feet Of Water

By Rande Davis

When the systems alert came on in the middle of the night that Well Pump Station #9 wasn't working, town employees had a big surprise waiting to greet them at the site. Arriving at the well house on Budd Road at 1:00 a.m. on August 2, town employees Mike Hannon and Matt Warfield discovered that it was flooded with four feet of water. Pressure from the water made it difficult to open the front door, but as they finally got it to open, water gushed out in a torrent. For town employees, responding to water line breakages is not unusual, they even joke about the propensity for these events to occur in the middle of the

night; however, the flooding of a well house had not been seen before.

An investigation determined that a faulty coupling that held a six-inch main line together had broken, and as the flooding water rose in the well house, approximately \$90,000 of electronic equipment was completely destroyed. Subsequently, Wells #9 and #7 were taken offline and will not be brought back on until repairs and equipment replacements have been made. Town Manager Wade Yost reported to the commissioners that the faulty coupling was installed by a bonded contractor whose insurance will be covering the cost of the repairs.

Yost reported that the town still has adequate water supply, and there will be no noticeable impact on residents or businesses. He expects that full repairs will be completed by the middle of August.



A broken coupling flooded well house in Poolesville.

Where Science Meets Faith

By Dominique Agnew

In a parallel universe, maybe in two parallel universes, some beings are discussing the possibility of the existence of God. In yet another parallel universe, religious leaders have read the works of scientists and have found the nuggets of

these far-thinking religious leaders who loves science, faith, and reading and writing about them both. "I've always been fascinated by science," he says, "and getting a deeper understanding of creation around us."

truth they need. The scientists and religious leaders have come to the realization that maybe they are not alone—and maybe they should dispense with the notion of universe and start thinking about multiverses.

Rev. David Williams of Poolesville Presbyterian Church is one of

His latest work, *The Believer's Guide to the Multiverse*, discusses just such a convergence of science and faith. In some of his more recent reading about quantum physics, Rev. Williams was intrigued to learn that both subatomic physicists (those who look at subatomic particles) and astrophysicists (who observe the universe at large) find that what they're seeing makes more sense if



Rev. David Williams of Poolesville Presbyterian Church—and from out of this world?

-Continued on Page 17.

Family Album



The Boot Camp inflatable challenge proved to be the most popular new attraction at the PES Annual Carnival.



Dominique and Mark Agnew of Thistle Thickets Farm have got your goat—goat meat, that is—and some other goodies, too, like farm fresh eggs, greeting cards, and hand-crafted goat's milk soaps.



Kids love the ring toss game at St. Mary's annual festival.



At the PES Carnival, Bradley Williams has so many things to do and so little time in which to do them all.



PHS Poms at their annual car wash held at the dental offices of Pike and Valega.



Father O'Reilly (blue shirt, center) joins in with festival goers for the St. Mary's traditional family style dinner.



Peyton Rogers (red shirt) won the stuffed toy held by his dad, as the rest of the Rogers family congratulates him.

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Things to Do

August 9 to August 17
Montgomery County Agricultural Fair
 Rides, shows, food, crafts, vendors, animals, and more. Montgomery County Fairgrounds. Visit www.mcaf.com for schedule of events, hours, and fees.

August 9 to August 23
Poolesville High School Photographic Art Exhibit
 Work submitted and displayed through August by student members of PHS National Chapter of the Art Honor Society. Poolesville Library.

August 9
Summer Concert Series
 Featuring: Freddie Long Band
 Whalen Commons. 7:00 p.m.
Entertainment Night: Asian House of Poolesville
 Featuring: Second Time Around
 8:30 p.m.

August 10
Summer Writer's Workshop at Fox Haven
 This seminar experience explores the concept that "everyone has a story to tell." Presented by Susan Cohen, author of *The Geography of Childhood*, attendees will explore the connection of childhood places that impact life through shared readings of their original work. This workshop is for both novice and advanced writers. Cost: 30.00. For more information, visit foxhaven-learningcenter.org. 3630 Poffenberger Road, Jefferson, Maryland
Entertainment Night: Asian House of Poolesville
 Featuring: DJ Slim Pickins
 8:30 p.m.

Saturday Morning Yoga
 Gisèle Agnew, a certified yoga teacher from NYC, will be joining with Glad-I-Yoga to offer a free yoga detoxing class. Whether you have never done yoga before or are experienced and would like to deepen your practice, this class has been designed to remove the toxins from your Friday night and remove the stress your body has been holding all week. Bring your mat or a beach towel/blanket and wear comfortable clothes. Whalen Commons. 9:30 a.m.

August 11
John Poole House and Old Town Hall Bank Museum
 Civil War displays, local books, and

Trading Post 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

August 14
Fundraiser for Matt Williquette Scholarship Fund
 Donation of 10% of proceeds for the Scholarship Fund
 Asian House of Poolesville
 5:00 p.m. to close

August 16
Summer Concert Series
 Featuring: 40 Dollar Fine
 Whalen Commons. 7:00 p.m.
Entertainment Night at Asian House of Poolesville
 Featuring: Jay Summerour 8:30 p.m.

August 17
Summer Movie Night
 Featuring: *Beverly Hills Chihuahua 3*
 Whalen Commons. 8:30 p.m.
Entertainment Night at Asian House of Poolesville
 Featuring: DJ Slim Pickins 8:30 p.m.

August 18
John Poole House and Old Town Hall Bank Museum
 Civil War displays, local books, and Trading Post
 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
HMD Special Event: JPMS Phantom Players Present Education in the 1800s
 Middle school actors present the one-room school experience through short skits depicting classroom lessons of 1877. Fun for the whole family. Seneca Schoolhouse, 16800 River Road, Poolesville.
 Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Water Balloon Battle of the Churches
 Everyone invited to participate or watch. Participants need to bring their own balloons. Ice cream party to follow. Whalen Commons. 2:30 p.m.

August 19
Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting
 Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

August 23
Summer Concert Series
 Featuring: On Kilter Band
 Whalen Commons. 7:00 p.m.
Entertainment Night at Asian House of Poolesville
 Featuring: Dart Club
 8:30 p.m.



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Commentary

Finding the Middle

By John Clayton

I'm a big fan of the middle of the road when it comes to political matters, but increasingly it seems like the ends are moving away from each other, and the middle is getting a little murky. You can wear yourself out deciding who moved where, who moved first or why, so I won't bother with that.

The one place I think there should be more of a middle is healthcare, specifically, universal health insurance. That's what the whole issue is about. If you have health insurance, you have access to healthcare. If you don't have health insurance, you probably can't afford much healthcare, or you have to throw yourself on the mercy of the taxpayer when you need to go to the emergency room. There's a whole body of discussion on this, and the sides have switched around on the debate over the last couple of decades.

I will admit to some personal sensitivity to the issue here. At one time, being between careers, I had to get an individual policy. I learned that if you don't have perfect results on just about any test you can imagine, the health insurers don't want you. They didn't want me at all. It was a scary time, being without health insurance. It was a little awkward at the doctor's office, and worse, you get charged higher rates for most things. The next time you fill a prescription, observe the full, pre-insurance price. It's sobering. The insurance companies didn't want me—and I asked a lot of them—and my insurance agent did his best to help me, dedicating many hours of his expertise to no avail. What really annoyed me, when the Obamacare debates were going on, was that the insurance companies not only did not want to insure me, they also didn't want the government to insure me. They spent millions

of dollars to make sure that there was no government alternative that would take someone like me, even though they didn't want me themselves. Go figure.

So that's my beef. I think the middle position, the position everyone should be able to agree on, is that we should be trying to make it possible for every person, every child, every family, to have access to affordable health insurance. We're the richest and supposedly the most advanced country in the world. We should be able to make it possible for everyone to afford some level of health insurance policy so they can afford modern healthcare. It's not a giveaway—it takes some effort on everyone's part and most people are going to have to pay something. That should be the middle ground right there. The battles should be over how we do it, not whether it's a good idea.

That is not how it is playing out. The argument I hear over the Affordable Care Act, which we will call Obamacare because everyone does, is to kill it. Defeat it, vote it out, defund it, and eliminate it. I don't think there's much doubt that it's a messy, overcomplicated, and perhaps unwieldy program, with the devil running wild in the details, but I don't hear much talk about improving it and making it work. I don't hear, "This law is bad; here's a better way to bring insurance to people who don't have it already." What I hear is, "This law is bad, void it, and this is what we should do to make health insurance cheaper for those of us that already have it." Perhaps politicians on both sides are offering more substantive suggestions, but they're not having much effect on the mainstream discussion.

Both Republicans and Democrats, going back to the Nixon administration if not further, have alternatively believed that this was important to us as a country. My colleague Rande Davis reminded me that the Democrats rejected Nixon's plan. Of course, a plan similar in some respects

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Rande(m) Thoughts

Do Wah Diddy, Diddy, Dum Diddy Do

By Rande Davis

For the last couple of decades, this time of year has been the peak of the season for Redskins fans. It's training camp days—days of hype and hope. Hype about how much better the team will be, and hope that our long drought of playoff and Super Bowl appearances will be over. Year after year, I accepted every ounce of exaggerated commentary about the upcoming season, which in turn fed me hope that the Redskins would have a winning season. Let's face it, by the end of September, our season was essentially over. Those days are gone.

Now there truly is more hope than hype. After all, winning the division is a tangible marker of success, and there is every

reason to believe the team will be strengthened in a number of positions by returning players (and not just RGIII) who have healed from injuries.

With my son and his family being transferred from Ft. Campbell, Kentucky to Ft. Lee, Virginia, I have even more incentive to make the trek south to watch the 'Skins in training. I went once to Carlisle and twice to Ashburn. Watching the 'Skins practice in the mid-August heat always takes me back to the preseason, late summer football field of high school. Even though it was forty-eight years ago, I still recall perfectly the burning of sweat in my eyes from wearing the helmet and full gear, and the ache in my knees, lower back, and shins caused mostly from running multiple sets of wind sprints up the side of the hill next to the field. That hillside exercise was usually the last thing we did every

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Local News

Church Wars Update: Rumors Fly—Pastor Goes Missing

The recent declaration of a Waterballoon War between Poolesville Baptist and Poolesville Presbyterian Churches with the actual battle scheduled for Whalen Commons on August 18 has turned more ominous with the disappearance of the Presbyterian pastor, David Williams. Rumors as to his whereabouts are flying around the congregations, though no one seems seriously alarmed.

The Baptists deny any involvement in Pastor David's absence.

"Of course we aren't keeping him in the equipment closet of our gym," said Pastor Jace Broadhurst from his office at the Poolesville Baptist Church. "We have full confidence in our ability to succeed on the waterballoon field, no matter who the Presbyterians have on their side. Naturally, we're praying for Pastor David's speedy return."

The interview ended abruptly, as Pastor Jace gathered together a large water bottle, plate with sandwich and fresh fruit, and copy of *Presbyterian Today*. "Excuse me while I take these somewhere," he said.

There is an alternate theory gaining momentum that Pastor

David may have run away due to fear of the impending battle.

"Absolutely not," insisted Presbyterian spokesperson, Jerome Hobart. "Pastor David has every intention of demonstrating his courage in Christ against any number of Baptist balloons."

Asked about the rumor circulating through town that Pastor David is on a secret mission to East Europe in search of stealth waterballoon technology, Hobart replied, "The truth is that our pastor is on vacation with his family—and those reported sightings of him at BWI, boarding a plane to Slovakia are entirely unfounded."

Perhaps the most plausible theory is that the missing pastor is suffering a prolonged stomach ache and sugar rush, resulting from a two-way Children's Crusade conducted by both churches.

Baptists and Presbyterians admit sending teams of children—coincidentally, at the exact same time—to leave crayoned posters and a dozen pounds of candy scattered around the sanctuaries.

Reportedly, the teams discovered each other mid-mission. The resulting scene was tragically predictable: screams and giggles as the crusaders collided, and unforced marching through historic church tours, including exploring hidden rooms and passageways.

The candy-eating?, you ask. Alas, the candy-eating—and so close to dinnertime.

Might Pastor David, then, be a casualty of this latest church skirmish?

One person who wants to stop the flights of rumors and

waterballoons is Jay Berkland, founder of Poolesvillians Against Waterballooning (PAW), an entirely imagined group that has sprung up in reaction to this church war.

"Missing pastors, children's crusades—this whole thing has gone too far," insists Berkland, "but the worst is yet to come if the waterballoon fanatics have their way. A wet Whalen Commons? In summer? Isn't this why we have a community pool—to keep water and land segregated?"

Berkland says his group is prepared to defend the town's dry soil by showing up on August 18 armed with air-filled balloons, but he admits these probably won't make much of an impact, and in fact might just float over toward McDonald's.

"Our other plan is to arrive chanting, 'Make peace...or else,' with our own arsenal of white waterballoons. Those won't help the PAW mission to keep Poolesville dry," he admits, "but they will allow us to feel self-righteous and join in the fun."

Also planning to join in is

Memorial United Methodist Church (MUMC), following discovery of a banner draping their own building, which targeted their founder: "John Wesley's mother wears combat boots!"

So as more entities are drawn into the fray, many questions remain: Will Pastor David make it back from illness/Slovakia/vacation/running away/captivity in time for action? Just how many sides will there ultimately be in this battle? And will anyone really know who and what they're fighting for?

Perhaps these questions will be answered on August 18. Hopefully, the staggering reality of a battlefield drenched in water and strewn with broken balloons will help the combatants realize that divisiveness is not the answer.

Or maybe the ice cream party planned to follow will finally awaken everyone to the deliciousness of a unified (and cooler) community.

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The Pulse

These Willing Hands Need Help

By Ray Hoewing

A crisis is facing a thirty-seven-year-old community organization that is worried it may have to shut down its operations. Curtailment of the work of Hands of Love would be an inconvenience to a significant number of people in the Western Upcounty (and beyond) but a major blow to three facilities located in West Virginia that provide assistance every year to thousands of low-income people. The Directors of HofL are so concerned about the situation that they have decided to appeal to the public for assistance.

No, it's not the usual request for money—but, wait, we're ahead of ourselves.

HofL is the brainchild of Dr.

John G. Todd, longtime former resident of Poolesville whose background was an executive position in the federal public health service. Stimulated by his desire to help those in need and nourished by his firsthand acquaintance with the ravages of poverty, Dr. Todd—assisted by a handful of other interested individuals—created a 501(c)3 entity that has evolved into a service organization with impressive benefits, both to the local donors of a wide variety of useful items and the ultimate re-users of these items who reside in West Virginia.

HofL works this way: Residents and businesses, most of them in Montgomery and Frederick Counties, call HofL when it comes time to dispose of still-useful items, ranging from appliances to clothing, toys to furniture, hand tools to books. HofL volunteers collect the objects and provide a validated form that allows donors to claim a tax deduction. The donated items are stored temporarily in a facility near Poolesville until a sufficient quantity exists for load-

ing by HofL volunteers on a truck bound for West Virginia. Dale Nestor of Poolesville, a retired Poolesville High School teacher after twenty-five in the classroom, coordinates these activities.

What happens to the donated objects, once they are unloaded at one of the three facilities in West Virginia? The work of one of these centers—Hopes Mission Thrift Store in Phillipi—is broadly representative of all three. Its manager is Tammy Ryan. Situated in an area of the state where some people face serious issues in providing for their families' needs, Ms. Ryan says simply of her church-sponsored organization, "We give it all away." Those who can afford to make a modest donation for their "new" refrigerator or children's gloves or children's bicycle or whatever are of course encouraged to do so. The number of individuals who benefit annually from one or more donations from people two hundred miles away in Maryland is easily "over a thousand" according to Ms. Ryan. Perhaps the reader will better understand

how truly vital this resource can be to its beneficiaries by comparing the per capita income of Phillipi residents with residents of our own county, Montgomery—less than one fourth! And how important is the HofL's work to the Hopes Mission Thrift store? "It's very important to us," Ms. Ryan says. "Without their goods, we couldn't make it."

So what is the crisis facing Hands of Love—this long-established community service organization that does not have any paid staff; that is such a great convenience for Poolesville-area people and businesses who have useful objects they no longer want or need; that collects, stores, and transports twelve to fifteen truckloads of these objects to centers to be utilized by thousands of West Virginia's poorest? As noted above, it is not monetary (though the organization exists hand-to-mouth and is always looking for financial support), but it is a dire need for volunteers for the focal

-Continued on Page 15.

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Local News

Town Government Report

By Rande Davis

Town Has Lots for Sale

The town commissioners discussed the fate of five vacant parcels of land owned by the town and arrived at a consensus to use three for parkland and to offer the other two for sale.

The three lots that are suitable for parkland are on Budd Road and were the subject of a lawsuit against the town that resulted in a \$650,000 settlement. It was noted that residents living near the Budd Road locations voiced approval of the land being used for sports fields and/or other recreational use. Consequently, the town will seek a new site design for soccer/lacrosse and other similar uses which is appropriate since the property in question is naturally quite level. Town attorney Jay Gullo advised that the problems in the plot survey layout should be corrected in any new recreational plan which, if done, will serve both the short and the long term interests of the town.

The town was advised by Gullo that should the commissioners decide to sell the other two properties—one located at Westerly and West Willard Roads and the other on Whites Road—they must first make a determination that the plots are not needed for public use and that any real estate sale has to allow for a twenty-day period of time for residents opposing the sale to file an injunction if they so desire.

An appraisal of the properties was obtained, showing the Westerly property valued at \$130,000 and the Whites Road lot at \$135,000. Gullo advised that any real estate contract offered should be specifically prepared by the town. He also advised that the town should use a real estate agent to sell the properties. In that regard, Commission Presi-

dent Jim Brown offered to sell the property without commission other than the standard fees that go to his broker. In reflection, the commissioners considered Brown's offer but decided to also offer the opportunity to other agents who might be willing to agree to similar terms. The process for final selection of qualifying agents may possibly be by a lottery-style approach.

Let Your Light So Shine

It's been two years in the making but the town finally obtained a proposed contract with Potomac Edison to ultimately replace all town streetlights with LED fixtures. The operational costs of streetlights currently are between \$3.00 and \$5.00 per light per month as compared to an LED agreement of \$1.04 per light per month. The LED lights can last up to fifteen years and the test LED lights the town placed in 2008 have continued without fail thus far.

The cost savings for the town will be substantial, but the process will be gradual, starting with just fifty replacement lights. Additionally, there will be initial extra startup costs for the conversion that will be absorbed over time resulting ultimately in substantial savings to the town over time.

You Can't Get There from Here

Actually, that's not true, and the town's new wayfinder signs, which are about to be placed throughout the town, will help everyone, especially visitors, find our public-use facilities and sites. The hunter-green signs, which stand up to thirty-six inches high, were designed by Text Designs and made by Dave Ashley Signs. They will replace many standard deteriorating black and white signs that mark sites like parks, schools, ball fields, etc. The new wayfinder signs will be placed on historically designed porcelain black poles, and will be strategically placed throughout town.

The cost of the new signage is covered by a \$50,000 grant from a Montgomery Heritage program that supports both this signage program and the new pedestrian crosswalks to be installed soon.

These uniform attractive signs are part of the Town's Master Plan Streetscape Program that has been gradually improving the landscape of the town. Other examples of streetscape improvements are the new sidewalks that extend through the whole town, Whalen Commons, and lamp-posts in the public parking lot of the park and Poolesville Town Hall. A more comprehensive presentation on the streetscape plan may be found in the Town's Master Plan available on the town website.

The Year End 2013 Budget Closes in the Black—Barely

It was closer than has been seen in many, many years, but the town closed its 2013 Fiscal Budget in the black by just over \$10,000.

The town budget has two parts: General Fund, and Water and Wastewater Fund. The FY 2013 General Operating Fund expenditures totaled \$1,868,988, which was higher than anticipated due to a \$77,364 grant to the Water and Sewer Fund.

The Water and Sewer Fund

operated with a deficit, partially due to heavy rains resulting in lower than expected purchase of water by residents and businesses.

The nearly \$500,000 in developer impact fees and prof- fers helped keep the cost of debt service to be a minimal draw on General Funds.

Revenue to the General Fund comes from various sources with forty-one percent coming from property taxes (something that stalled values can affect), income taxes (thirty-five percent), revenue sharing (eight percent), wireless antenna rentals (six percent), and reduced highway user funds at two percent.

The town's cash balance at the end of the year was \$2,501,541 in General Funds having \$798,239 held in an unrestricted funds account, and \$1,199,129 in accumulated Capital Improvements Projects (CIP). The Water Wastewater budget holds \$448,061 in unrestricted funds and \$55,000 in accumulated CIP accounts.

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Local News

Senator Ben Cardin at SMV

U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) toured Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard as the first stop in Montgomery County for his Made in Maryland tour of companies that are making innovative products and reinvesting in our communities to help grow Maryland's economy. Following the tour, Senator Cardin was joined by local businesses, including other Maryland wineries, and catering and tourism representatives to discuss how the federal government could best support regional businesses. "Small businesses like Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard are at the heart of Maryland's and the nation's economic recovery. My Made in Maryland tour is designed to highlight the diverse

products being produced in our great state. We're also celebrating the hardworking Marylanders who make these products, and the companies who are providing jobs in our local communities. America's manufacturing sector and our innovators have played a major role in reviving our economy and creating the strongest middle class in history. "There is so much commonsense federal legislation Congress can pass to help small businesses and the middle class. Immigration reform, tax reform, and a farm bill would all give small businesses the resources and certainty they need to grow. When companies like Sugarloaf Mountain succeed, so do local economies, the middle class, and the nation as a whole. I am committed to making sure they have the tools they need to do exactly that."



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Local News Time Travel on a Bike

By Rande Davis

There are easily a dozen different brochures available that present varying aspects of the history of the Agricultural Reserve and Western Montgomery County. Some cover societal and cultural history, while others cover natural history. One does both. Kathy Mihm, a geologist at S.S. Papadopoulos & Associates, Inc., has put together a Bicycle Touring Guide of the geological and cultural/societal history of the Upcounty region.

The entire bike route is about twenty-nine miles across gently rolling to sometimes hilly terrain. The route starts at Poolesville High School, and along the way there are twelve stops for the bike tourist to see and learn in more

detail about the history of not only surroundings the riders see but also the geological history of the land beneath their wheels. The route is shaped somewhat like a figure eight and has five history stops and seven geology stops.

Talk about history. This brochure doesn't fool around since it includes a brief history that starts some 550 to 700 million years ago at a time when Poolesville really deserved its name since it was covered by the Iaptus Ocean at that time. That is so long ago that over the next couple hundred million years, that ocean closed up and North America and Africa were neighbors (later on the Atlantic Ocean opened up and split apart the continents once again).

An example of a geology lesson is Stop #3 on Club Hollow Road. When the rider reaches the site, he or she reads: "Just below the big red horse barn on the north side of the road, there is a small bedrock exposure of the Manassas sand-

stone (Poolesville member), also informally called Seneca Sandstone. Note the pinkish to reddish color and massive blocky form, which makes it good building stone. If you are looking, you will see this same rock used for barn foundations, houses, and driveway decorations along the bike tour."

On the history tour side, a good example is Stop #4 which reads: "The private stone barn (located on the east side of Martinsburg Road, just north of the

power lines) in 1862 served as the headquarters for Confederate officers including General Robert E. Lee, Jubal A. Early, and Colonel John Mosby."

Of course, while it is designed as a bicycle tour, it can also be done via automobile. To access the entire brochure including map with site locations, visit historicmedley.org.

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Burglary: 19500 block of White Ground Road.

Theft of Vehicle: 20400 block of Darnestown Road.

Theft from Vehicle: 16900 block of Hillard Sreet.

Theft: 21300 block of Beallsville Road, 17700 block of Barnesville Road, 22800 block of Club Hollow Road.

Past Crime

August 11, 1956 Seven county boys were arrested for arson after a county-wide spree of house fires. Police said that at least four unoccupied houses were set afire, and that dynamite blasts were exploded near others. The boys gave no specific reason for their actions except for saying that they "were looking for something to do."

August 13, 1956 Two Frederick County men and a Damascus teenager were arrested and charged with breaking into over forty cars that had been parked in the area of the Dickerson Quarry. Police said that the men had committed the crimes over a two-year period and had made off with at least \$3000 in property. They were caught when a witness recorded a license plate number to police.

August 14, 1956 A thirty-eight-year-old National Institutes of Health nurse was killed by a Baltimore and Ohio passenger train at the Randolph Road crossing. The engineer said that he spotted the woman standing on the tracks but was not able to stop the train in time.

August 17, 1956 Montgomery County Police chased a car for more than a mile at speeds topping 70 mph before the car crashed into a tree on Wilson

Lane in Bethesda. Police had received a complaint about the reckless operation of the car, and when two officers spotted it, the car took off with its lights off. The driver, a twenty-year-old Bethesda man, ran into a wooded area after the crash but returned when an ambulance arrived. He suffered a severe cut to the head. The passenger, a fifteen-year-old, was not injured.

August 21, 1955 A ten-year-old Randolph Hills boy died after a bicycle accident near his home.

He had been riding with a group of friends when he crashed into a parked car. When he returned home, he did not tell his parents for fear of having his bike taken away from him. During the night the boy began having severe abdominal pains, and he was taken to the hospital where it was discovered that he had a ruptured spleen and other internal injuries. The boy died during surgery.

Youth Sports

Poolesville Piranhas News Splash!

What's red, blue, and dangerously fierce in the water? The answer is simple: the Poolesville Piranhas!

Throughout the months of June and July, the Western County Outdoor Pool hummed with the electric energy and the abundant team spirit of the Poolesville Piranhas Swim Team. Comprised of 136 swimmers, ages five to eighteen, who range from beginners to seasoned veterans, the team participates in the Montgomery County Swim League (MCSL).

Head Coach Staci Armezani and assistant coaches, Mary Gillespie, Chuck Miller, and Michael Kasner, led the high-energy Piranhas through the 2013 summer season with an overall re-

cord of two wins and three losses, and a hard fought third-place finish at their division's meet.

To celebrate their hard work, achievements, and team spirit, the Piranhas and their families wrapped up the season with an ice cream social and awards ceremony at Stevens Park on Monday, July 22. The coaches presented trophies to the top-scoring and most-improved swimmers, and participation medals to all other team members. Madison Cecco and Emily Murphy, the team's two graduating seniors, were also recognized for their many years of dedication and achievement.

The Poolesville Piranhas are especially grateful for their generous local sponsors who helped

-Continued on Page 11.

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2013 Poolesville Piranhas Swim Club

Tidbits

Poolesville Scouts Reach Summit of Mt. Baldy

Fourteen teenage boy scouts from Troop 496 of Poolesville and their advisors went on a life-changing summer trek through the Sangre de Cristo Mountains at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. Philmont covers 214 square miles of vast wilderness with trails that climb from 6,500 feet to over 12,000 feet. During the trek, the scouts hiked eighty-five miles in ten days.

The scouts and their advisors carried everything they needed to survive during the trek on their backs while hiking from camp to camp. They participated in backcountry programs along the way, including rock climbing, shooting sports, and horseback riding. Along the trek, the scouts endured tough challenges including backpacking in bear and mountain lion territory, steep climbs, and often-inclement weather—including a fifteen-hour rainstorm. One of the highlights of the trek, captured in the accompanying photo, was when the Scouts reached the summit of Baldy Mountain, elevation 12,441

feet.

Scouting in the Blue Ridge Mountains

Poolesville's Boy Scout Troop 496 has already had a busy summer with community service activities and outdoor adventures. The troop's annual summer camp event took place from July 6 through the 13 in the Blue Ridge Mountains at the Boy Scouts National Capital Area Council's Camp Marriott at Goshen Scout Reservation in Goshen, Virginia. Seventeen boys and seven adult leaders spent a week camping while advancing their knowledge in areas such as leadership and citizenship, and participating in a variety of outdoor activities from outdoor skills development to aquatics activities.

For some, this was their first extended camping experience, and a challenging one at that. Despite heavy rains that fell daily, the scouts were able to complete a significant portion of the requirements needed to take them to the next rank and beyond. The boys earned over sixty-five merit badges of which they are justifiably proud. In addition, for the second year in a row, Troop 496 won the Scoutcraft Award for demonstrat-



Troop 496 scouts at Camp Goshen, Virginia: Tyler Austin, Liam Speck-McMorris, Matthew Grubb, d'Artagnan Martinez, Michael Ballew, Derrick Larson, Aidan Auel, Colin Thomas, Christopher Falcone, Jackson Krasche, William Ennis, Tommy Behrens, Thomas Kaminski, Jimmy Kavanagh, Christopher Mantz, Marshall Hegarty, Tim Kasner. Adult Leaders (not pictured): Jim Falcone, Acting Scoutmaster, Bob Swanson, Committee Chair, Rick Ennis, Paul Mantz, Ricky Ballew, Ed Kavanagh, and John Hegarty.

ing the greatest level of skill in essential outdoor knowledge of all the troops present. On one occasion, the troop was also the recipient of the daily award for the overall best campsite.

New Look for Old Friends

The Historic Medley District, Inc. (HMD) and WUMCO Help, Inc. have recently upgraded their websites with many expanded and new features, including photo albums and newsletter postings. To stay abreast of both groups and particularly the latest HMD special events at the Old Town Hall Bank Museum, be sure to visit the sites.

A Young Life's Passion Becomes a Scholarship

Matt Williquette, was a young man who had a passion for working on automobiles. This former Poolesville resident who attended Poolesville Elementary School and John Poole Middle school was rebuilding an automobile when he passed away in a car accident in 2011. This past weekend, friends held a fundraiser to benefit a scholarship fund in his name at Montgomery College's Homer S. Gudelsky Institute for Technical Education Automotive Training. Work on the car was continued by his parents Keith and Deb as well as some friends, and now the car has been given to

Montgomery College for completion. On August 14, Asian House of Poolesville hosts another fundraiser for the fund by donating ten percent of proceeds from 5:00 p.m. to close. Those wishing to make a donation to the fund may contact Nicole Onley at 301-502-9772.

"Poolesville Piranhas" Continued From Page 10.

make the season possible, including: Harris Teeter in Darnestown, Bassett's Restaurant, Subway, Kristopher's Pizza, and Liberty Gas in Poolesville.

An army of parent volunteers organize and run the Poolesville Piranhas, and several deserve special note, including: Laura and Michael Manack, the A-team representatives; Twyla Insalaco and Patti Gehteng, the B-team representatives; and Julie and Mark Miller, the team manager and treasurer.

It was another great season, and the coaches and swimmers appreciate all who contributed to another exciting and rewarding summer swim season.



Troop 496 scouts on top of Baldy Mountain, New Mexico: Luke Terrell, Cole McKenney, Michael Morgan, Jason Kuldell, Dakota Grimsby, Austin Nichols, Bryce McKenney, Ian Kenten, Geoffrey Behrend, Calvin Kinzie, Michael Haller, Alex Hayden, Tucker Ross, and Riley Elerick.

Adult Crew Advisors (not pictured): Doug McKenney, Scoutmaster; Kurt Behrend, Assistant Scoutmaster; Tim Weigner, Assistant Scoutmaster; Joe Haller, Roger Hayden, Phillip Kuldell, and Randy Kuldell.

Business Briefs

Your Heart Is Where Your Home Is

In the first week of June, Fran Ichijo, owner and artistic director of Hope Garden Children's Ballet was asked to be the Executive Director of the Kirov Ballet Academy in downtown Washington, D.C. As tempting as it was, she turned it down simply because of love of Hope Garden and the families and students here. "While this would have been a great opportunity for me, I cannot just abandon my students and my academy here in Poolesville that I have struggled to build; however, I was honored to have been asked, and have agreed to be supportive of the KBA and help in ways that I can." As it turns out, a good friend of Fran, Mme Adrienne Dellas, was appointed to the position of Artistic Director at Kirov.

Ballroom Dancing Comes to Poolesville

In other Hope Garden news: The inaugural ballroom dance class will begin Monday, September 3. Classes for teens and adults will be held on Mondays from 7:45 to 8:30 p.m. by Jessica Lindenfesler, certified in ballroom instruction. The first class is free.

Another New Boutique to Open in Poolesville

Lisa Roberts, who, with her daughter Sarah, has been hand-crafting jewelry for over six years, will be opening up a retail location in August. She will occupy the Carriage House near the corner of West Willard and Fisher Avenue.

The boutique will specialize in hand-crafted, fashion, and semi-precious jewelry as well as fashion accessories, home décor items, and other unique gift items. She will offer new and vintage items. For several years, Lisa has worked in direct sales as a consultant for Mary Kay and Beijo Handbags; many will recall her booths on Poolesville Day and at other events. Little Luxuries by Lulu will be open most weekends and other hours by appointment with one weekend a month featuring a variety of special trunk show sales.

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Musings from Mama Boe

Fledging

By Pam Boe

I exited the car dressed in a scrambled-egg-covered sweat suit, beat-up and mismatched crocs, my husband's coat, and bed head. My eleven-year-old Varmint got out from the seat behind me, grabbed her 400-pound backpack, her lunchbox and bag of valentines, and shut the door.

We stood there, gazing at one another in the soft early morning light of the middle school parking lot, wishing we didn't have to part.

Okay, that last part was pure fiction. I didn't want us to part. I knew she was most likely wondering how she could get out of embracing me in front of God and everyone. She was also probably wondering if a one-armed hug would be able to, one, suffice Mama's embracing requirements, and, two, avoid getting scrambled egg on her excruciatingly-carefully-picked out ensemble.

The unhappy truth is that Varmint is beginning to fledge, and I am the reluctant mama—and by reluctant, I mean that I'm the one who is on her knees tearfully weeping—Begging—her not to grow up and leave us. Unfortunately, that tack doesn't really work so well, and it's embarrassing because, with the current state of my old knees, I need no small amount of help to get up off the floor—but it's time.

My husband encourages me to relax and allow her to bloom. He reminds me that this is what we have been working towards. This is exactly what she is supposed to be doing: testing the water with her own bare little toes. He doesn't really encourage me with those specific words, but when he says in exasperation, "Will you Back Off?" I know that that is exactly what he means.

So she stood facing me in the parking lot, and I saw my two-year-old little Varmint, binky in mouth, raising her hands and

whining for "Uppies, Mommy!" I saw the three-year-old Varmint begging me to go with her. I saw the six-year-old crying that she doesn't want to get on the bus—but the eleven-year-old with eyes already focused on the school behind me confidently said, "Well, I've got to go, Mom."

I resigned myself that the kindest, most selfless thing for me to do was to allow her her freedom, and not force an embarrassing Mommy hug on her in front of her peers. "Have a great day, Love!" I blurted, as cheerfully as I could muster, and turned to get back in the car. My heart was breaking—ridiculous, I know—but it was breaking a small little break, one of a thousand that are coming in the next few puberty-drenched years of Varmint and my relationship.

Then the unthinkable happened. She grabbed my elbow and yanked me around before I could sit. "Mom," she laughed at me, "aren't you going to kiss me goodbye?" Then she enfolded me in her strong arms.

"Honey, I'm dirty with breakfast all over me!" I argued into her neck, trying to hide my extreme pleasure.

"Aw, it'll wash," she chuckled as she kissed my cheek and turned to stride confidently towards her day.

Me? I stood there blinking back tears—not of sorrow, of pride.

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.

Kentucky Bred: A beautiful short story about "Scooter", a Kentucky colt raised, trained, and loved by 12-year old Connie Daniels. Connie has to part with him when he is only four years old. Scooter then goes on a cross-country venture and lives a very thrilling and rewarding life.

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Cancer and Your Animal Friends: Effective Ways to Treat It

By Peter H. Eeg BSc, DVM, CVLF

Cancer is one of the most common causes of mortality in companion animals. Statistically it occurs in one out of two pets over the age of 10 years. Many new and inventive treatments have been developed or are on the horizon to help our friends live with cancer. Still the most effective initial therapy for treatment is surgery. It can often provide an immediate cure or remove pain and discomfort allowing for our companion friends to have an improved quality of life. Surgery in most cases has a very limited and temporary side effect issue for the patient and their owners.

Laser surgery using an advanced CO2 surgical laser in cancer surgery have become an effective alternative to standard scalpel techniques. The CO2 surgical laser allows for more defined resection of the cancer. It has been shown to provide almost a 50 percent improvement in the control of local disease compared to scalpel resection methods (reference available). The amount of blood loss during the surgery can be reduced by as much as 85%. A surgical CO2 laser uses intense collimated focused beams of light particles to vaporize the surrounding tissue and allow for exacting dissection of the cancer. In some cases the CO2 surgical laser can be used to vaporize the cancerous mass completely, leaving the surrounding normal tissue unaffected. When the tissue is sent to a pathologist for examination, the laser produces a definitive edge to the tissue. This gives the pathologist a specific marker to determine if the cancer has spread beyond the tissue removed.

Multiple studies in animals and human trials have proven that the use of a CO2 surgical lasers can enhance the quality of life, control the disease and provide an extended cancer controlled or free period for your pet.

Cancer can develop in any area of the body. Specific tissues have specific types of cancers that can occur. Here are key things to do and consider when discussing the potential of cancer with your veterinarian:

- Brush or massage your pet at least once a week. Note any changes in skin conformation or thickness.
- Lift your pets' gums at least once a month. (Daily teeth brushing is recommended) Observe the color (light pink is optimal) and note any thickened or bulging areas of the gum
- Watch your pet go to the bathroom at least once a week. Check for any signs of blood or changes in color or consistency. Note if there is any straining or extended effort to void.
- Check your pets' ears and eyes weekly. Look for any thickening of the tissue or changes to the normal color of the earflap or iris.
- Note any change in appetite (increase or decrease) over a 2-5 day period of time.
- Note any change in water intake (increase or decrease) over a 2-5 day period of time.
- Bring any concerns you may have to your veterinarian for discussion and examination.
- Consider having your senior and geriatric friends seen at least twice a year.
- Consider letting your veterinarian take a radiograph (x-ray) of the chest and abdomen of your furry friend annually after the age of 10 years.
- Consider having a baseline blood panel taken at the age of 10 years to determine normal values or changes.



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

practice. I guess Coach Cominsky just wanted to imprint on our young minds one last dose of agony to hold onto before heading to the cold showers. I can hear him thinking, “Good to give them something to think about overnight. If they come back for more, they’re the ones I want on my team.”

I stopped by that old practice field a few years ago, and, not surprisingly, that hill was not as high nor as steep as my mind recalled. I thought about running up it one more time, but wisely reconsidered. Not the best thing for an overweight old man approaching sixty to do.

My high school team had our victories and a number of my teammates went on to play in college. My football experience ended right there and then. I was an offensive lineman whose primary job was to get in someone else’s way—bumper cars, without the cars. Except for the quarterback and his mother, be-

ing a guard is not a position that draws much attention unless you happen to get injured. I guess that is why I have more memories about practice than playing. Some big guy knocking your rear end to the ground is something you want to forget. On the other hand, all the guys singing Manfred Mann’s “There she goes just a-walkin’ down the street” in the locker room after practice or a game (only when we won) is a memory I cherish. For some of the other players, throwing, catching, or running for a touchdown will be forever a highlight of their high school years. For me, my highlight reel is simply holding my ground long enough get the play off or give a runner an opening.

My memories are not glamorous. Sweating, with a dry tacky mouth, and at times even gasping for breath were my primary experiences. Yet somehow, my overwhelming memory of it is: “How could something so painful have been so much fun?” Yet, it was and more than that—it was

exhilarating! You pushed your body to its limit and worked with others as hard as you could to seek a goal. You learned early in life that being part of something beyond yourself, even if it were just a game, had meaning and purpose and the harder and more difficult it was to participate, the more rewarding. It was then that I first learned the phrase, “When the going gets tough, the tough get going.” There was victory simply in learning that lesson.

On the other hand, knowing

the Redskins are finally real again and that victories should not be in short supply, sure can make a guy happy. Makes me wanna smile and sing as loud as I can, “Doo wah diddy, diddy, dum diddy do.”

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"Hands of Love"

Continued From Page 6.

task that faces Dale Nestor as coordinator virtually every third or fourth Friday afternoon—loading the truck at the barn that serves as the organization's warehouse.

In the past year or so, it has become harder and harder to recruit the necessary crew for the truck loading (eight to ten people working for a normal period of two hours or slightly longer), mainly because of health issues faced by some of the "regulars."

We're talking about grunt labor, folks. Anyone of any age or gender (the crew for the last load leaving the barn consisted of both men and women ranging in age from twenty-something to three octogenarians) can and will be used, and a volunteer does not have to possess the strength of a body builder. Nine out of ten of the items we load on average weigh less than thirty

pounds.

Please, if you might be able to help—even if only on occasion—pick up the telephone and call Dale Nestor at 301-349-5450. It would be unfortunate for those of us in Maryland who have benefited from the work of HofL and a truly serious blow to the Appalachian recipients of the items that are collected in this region if this service is disrupted or canceled.



Hands of Love volunteers Rudy Gole, Dale Nestor (in back of truck), and Dr. John Todd.

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**“Rev. David Williams Book”
Continued From Page 1.**

there are multiple universes. One of the things that really struck Rev. Williams as odd was that atheists used the idea of a multiverse to argue against God. Rev. Williams felt quite the opposite. The multiverse is “more amenable to God and what we’re looking like—our universe as God’s self-expression,” he says. “There’s no need that those can’t work together.” Rev. Williams found that others were thinking the same things. Philosophers were coming to the same conclusions that this view of the universe—multiple ones—works with faith. “Science starts seeming more like theology and philosophy,” he adds.

The idea of multiple universes is by no means a new concept. Plato reflected deeply into the possibilities of upper and lower parallel universes. In *The Narnia Chronicles*, author C.S. Lewis’s characters enter a magical universe full of mythical creatures

just by passing through a wardrobe—a universe in which God is a great lion. *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Lord of the Rings Trilogy*, and others are all deeply entrenched in the concept of multiple universes.

In writing his book, Rev. Williams wanted to explain this science in a manner accessible to the lay person. “The goal of *The Believer’s Guide to the Multiverse* was to write something that reflected what the university philosophers and scientists were thinking but in a way that everyone in my congregation would have access to it.” He incorporates themes of theology, what popular theologians were saying. He tried to present this as a unified whole. “There might be other stories God is telling” in creating other universes, he says. The theology allows us to look at creation differently—and look at each other differently. We are “more gracious and tolerant of others as we express our God-given freedom.”

Writing, in general, is not a

new occupation for Rev. Williams. He can’t remember when he didn’t write. “I’ve been writing as long as I can remember,” he explains. “I was writing silly little stories to myself when I was a kid.” Most of his stories have the element of faith in them—justice and mercy. “If you think a lot about faith,” he says, “it’s a natural tendency in the story.” He also finds the task as the best approach to solving a problem or to facing a challenge. “I think by writing,” he says. “I also blog with a fair amount of frequency.”

Rev. Williams has written stories in many different genres, including stories for children. They have all been self-published so he can share them with friends and family. Some of his writings he has sent to agents, only to receive the usual thanks-but-no-thanks letters. He never took the time to send to other agents and publishers because he would be busy on his next story. For the first time, though, Rev. Williams has gotten beyond that initial letter, and *The*

**“Middle of the Road”
Continued From Page 4.**

and known as HillaryCare was shot down by Republicans. A common theme that has gone in and out of favor is personal accountability. People should pay for health insurance and have some responsibility for how much they want to spend on care beyond that. It’s not a limitless resource; it’s not a giveaway, but we have to make it accessible to more people.

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Local News

Town Passes Cellular Radio Frequency Assessment

After public comments made earlier this year about concern over the radiation levels emitting from the cellular equipment on the town water tower, the commissioners approved an independent hazard assessment study to be performed. The town contracted with Radiofrequency Safety International Corporation (RSI) of Kiwona, Kansas for the assessment to determine ambient levels of electromagnetic energy (EME) in the area of concern. The study was also made to detect and document whether EME fields are above FCC standards for human exposure to radio frequency (RF) emissions.

RSI is an independent safety inspection firm that specializes in radio frequency safety issues and is approved by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Federal Commu-

nications Commission (FCC). In addition, the assessment was conducted in order to detect and document whether EME fields present at the site are above FCC standards for human exposure to radio frequency (RF) emissions. The conclusion of the study, which in its entirety is available on the town website, states: "At the time of the assessment, RF emission readings in all assessed areas were well below the FCC Uncontrolled/General Population and the FCC Controlled/Occupational limits for human exposure to radio frequency energy per 47 CFR §1.1301 through §1.1319. The highest reading recorded at the site was 0.2% of the General Population Limit."



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Local News

Warrior Canine Connection: Taking Care of Vets, One Dog at A Time

By Rande Davis

I have often joked that when I return home, even after a short time away, my dog Daisy greets me like a returning war hero. Now, after learning about Warrior Canine Connection (WCC), I have come to realize that the relationship between dogs and military vets is no joke.

The program actually helps physically- or psychologically-wounded warriors in two ways because the dogs are trained by wounded vets to help other vets with disabilities.

Rick Yount, the founder of WCC and a licensed social worker, began to appreciate the calming value of a dog for a person under stress nearly twenty years ago when he had to transport a young boy from his biological mother to foster care. It was by happenstance that Rick had brought his own dog Gabe to work that day, and during this most traumatic event, the pet seemed to instinctively know how to soothe the devastated child. Eventually, Gabe became a certified therapy dog and, according to Rick, Gabe "continued to work his magic on a daily basis."

In July 2008, Rick created the first warrior dog-training program to provide a safe, effective, non-pharmaceutical intervention to help treat the symptoms of post-traumatic stress (PTS) and traumatic brain injury (TBI). The program evolved into a highly-respected intervention. To date, hundreds of service members and veterans suffering from symptoms of combat stress have participated.

In 2009, Rick was asked to establish the warrior dog-training program at Walter Reed Army

Medical Center's Warrior Transition Brigade in Washington, D.C. In October of 2010, he and the program were invited to be part of the Post-Traumatic Syndrome Disorder (PTSD) and TBI research, treatment, and education mission at the new National Intrepid Center of Excellence in Bethesda, Maryland—located at what is now the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

In 2011, Warrior Canine Connection was founded to expand the availability of this therapeutic service dog-training program to Department of Defense and Veterans Administration medical treatment facilities throughout the country, and to conduct research to establish this model as an evidence-based therapy for PTS and TBI.

As the program began to grow, individuals began supporting the program in various ways. For Poolesville's Lisa Roberts, her heart melted when she visited the organization's website and viewed a webcam of potential dogs being raised for the program. While watching the live screenings, she admits to becoming enthralled with Grace, one of the young puppies. When Lisa learned that one way to help the program is to be a foster-parent for a puppy until it can be transferred to a vet for further training and use, she couldn't resist.

At the time, her husband William had recently been diagnosed with cancer, and bringing Grace into the home "seemed to be just what the doctor ordered." The Robertses' primary role as foster parents is simply to help train the dog in effective socialization. Grace wears her own dark blue vest in public, identifying her as a Warrior Canine Connection dog in-training and the Roberts take her everywhere to expand her awareness and confidence in various settings.

Eventually, Grace will be turned over to a veteran to be trained to do things like open doors and refrigerators, turn lights on and off, and other simple daily tasks. For the training vet, knowing that he or she is helping another vet is especially

rewarding and purposeful, and for the trainer and user alike, the bonding with the dog is a rewarding experience in its own right.

The Roberts will have the dog for about six months before turning Grace back to WCC. Naturally, we wondered how the Roberts will be able to separate themselves from Grace when the time comes, but for Lisa, the purpose and role of being foster parents and knowing that Grace will be going to someone who needs her more will ease the transition.

For readers wanting more information about Warrior Canine Connection, please visit warrior-canineconnection.com.



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