

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

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Rob and Samantha Baker hosted an 80th birthday bash for her mom, Pat Ferris. There's more in Tidbits on page 6.



Cugini's owner Barbie Stull and her mother Cindy Fowler at the PACC breakfast. There are more pictures in the Family Album on page 2.



Milton Andrews, Steve Vogel, and Knight Kiplinger at the HMD annual meeting, which you can read about in the Pulse on page 8.



Why is Charlie Jamison smiling? Find out in Business Briefs on page 3.

Commissioners Prepare for Public Hearing on Proposed Zoning Changes

By Rande Davis

The Poolesville Planning Commission has forwarded its recommended changes in the town's zoning ordinance code to the town commissioners. Subsequently, the commissioners have scheduled a public hearing on the proposal for February 18 at the Poolesville Town Hall beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The proposal eliminates the current Commercial Business District and Commercial Zone and replaces them with a uniformed Commercial District centered around the current town hall. The

goal of the rezoning is to encourage commercial infill of vacant spaces and the redevelopment in the Commercial District that will eventually result in a true town center concept that will adhere to design standards set forth in the town's master plan. This town center concept seeks to serve as a social magnet for residents and visitors to walk, shop, dine, live, and interact in an environment of new and renovated buildings designed in an aesthetically-consistent manner.

Unlike a planned community or large-scale urban renewal project, Poolesville's commercial zone

will develop piece-meal over a long period of time. The commissioners envision the process like that of putting together a puzzle to form a unified picture. The new ordinance design standards and the Master Plan guidelines act to ensure a harmonious look for the town. This new village concept attempts to have design standards that reinforce the best visual and social characteristics of the community while encouraging growth and change. Specifically, new structures need to conform with the character and integrity of the

Continued on page 6.

Everyone's On Board

By Jeff Stuart

Last season, Kenny Kramek, in his first year as Poolesville's head basketball coach, was chosen Coach of the Year by the *Gazette*. He installed a new offense; the Falcons responded and finished with nineteen wins. Going into this season, Kramek had high expectations. "We expected to be very competitive," he said. "We had a very strong senior class coming back. We returned eight kids from last year's team." But there were important changes to be made. He moved senior guard Andy Baker to take over at point, replacing Kirby Carmack who had graduated. Senior forward Trevor Stottlemeyer would have to pick up some of the scoring provided last year by the graduated Colin Turner. With a number of players asked to assume new roles and execute some different plays, the coach admitted, "You never know until the season starts."

Reflecting on his team's progress and 7-2 record at practice a few days before the Northwood game on January 10, he said. "With the exception of one game, I have been very pleased with how we have played." That one game was an inexplicable loss to previously winless Walter Johnson on December 27 in a holiday tournament at Clarksburg. "We learned over the Christmas tournament that you can't take anybody lightly—but you know what? They played very well that game. We weren't mentally ready. We let them believe and they started executing—and, hey, you gotta show up every night.

"Our best game of the season would have to be the Blake game. They were 5-0 at the time. They were one of the surprise top teams in the county and to be able to go into their place and hold Demonte Ojinnaka, one of the county's leading scorers,

Continued on page 7.



PHS basketball players, Trevor Stottlemeyer and Andy Baker.

Family Album



At a recent meeting, Fr. Kevin P. O'Reilly, flanked here by King Lion Josh Maisel and Club Secretary Gary Burdette, was sworn in as a Monocacy Lion.



JPMS National Geo Bee Contest participants: Melanie Staszewski (second place), Lukas Lightcap, Clark Trone, Eamon Murphy, Samuel Allgood (first place), AJ Poore (third place), and Darrell Marshall.



Anne-Marie Thomas of AnyArt Studios LLC spoke at the PACC monthly breakfast networking event at Cugini's.



Teacher/owner Kisha Reid brought her students and parents from Discovery Early Learning Center to a party at Zaglio's Bakery.



Memorial United Methodist Church in Poolesville held the first of what will be regular, semi-monthly Community Dinners, serving over 140 meals.



Poolesville American Legion Post 247 February 6 meeting. Bill Lermont, John Robinson (with guest daughter Victoria), Steve Gibson, Pam Hernandez, Joe Hardwick, and Commander Bob Hernandez.

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Business Briefs

Poolesville Kids Earn Black Belt

Congratulations to Kicks Karate for celebrating its twentieth anniversary offering karate as a healthy and fun discipline for persons from three years old and up. The Poolesville location, one of the company's newest locations, also crossed an important milestone as well when it awarded its first two black belts to students, Daniel L. and Morgan B. (last names omitted by parental request).

Real Estate Mortgage Network (REMN) Changes Name

Jeff Stempler, member of the Board of Directors of the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce and the organization's membership chairman, announced at the recent PACC network breakfast that the company he works for has changed its name. Jeff said that the old company name, Real Estate Mortgage Network, is now HomeBridge Financial Services, Inc. Jeff, a senior licensed

mortgage advisor, has been recognized by the firm as one of its leading producers. "We believe it is a smart move, particularly for our retail mortgage segment, because it directly correlates to what we do for home buyers, homeowners, and housing industry professionals: We provide a bridge to fulfilling the American dream of home ownership," Peter Norden, CEO of HomeBridge, said.

The lender was founded in 1989 and has grown to nearly 1,300 associates, more than seventy retail branches from coast to coast, two separate wholesale operations, and a correspondent division that does more than \$550,000,000 in sales annually.

Jamison Joins Law Firm

The local law firm of Alegi Anderson, LLC announced that Charles ("Charlie") D. Jamison has become an associate with the firm. Charlie is the son of Robert and Susan Jamison of Poolesville. He graduated *cum laude* from Florida Coastal School of

Continued on page 7.

Town of Poolesville

Town Government Report

By Rande Davis

Poolesville to Get New Website

At the February 3 town meeting, the Poolesville Commissioners voted to award a contract to upgrade the town's website to Civic Plus, a company which assists over 1,600 governments of varying sizes in the United States, Canada, and Australia. The contract with Civic Plus was for \$20,028 for website design and development with an annual management and maintenance fee of \$3,837.00 for three years.

The goal of the new website is to greatly expand communication with residents as well as to provide an attractive and user-friendly marketing tool that will facilitate administrative management of the government, foster town support for commercial and economic

growth, and advance promotional objectives of the town.

The sophisticated portals available by Civic Plus won't happen all at once. Commission President Jim Brown acknowledged that the town will have to grow in knowledge and use of the new website through a multi-tiered process of having more basic information available at first but eventually leading to the two-way communication possibilities the town seeks in the long run. Emergency information as well as day-to-day communication from the town to residents will be simplified and expanded. Ultimately, the town will be able to communicate to all residents through multiple venues including email, Facebook, text message, etc. The system will streamline billing, permitting, and licensing procedures. Town residents will be able to select the method in which they receive messages from the town based on their personal preferences.

Communication from residents, which could include

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Commentary

Connected

By John Clayton

Do you have your cellphone, or your smart phone, on your person at all times? Even if you don't routinely carry it around in your house (those holsters look a little silly on pajamas), do you absolutely have to have it with you when you go out? Do you feel underdressed and vulnerable without it?

One recent Sunday I drove to church without my cellphone. My wife went to a church in Bethesda that morning, and afterwards, I drove to Kentlands for an errand and wondered if she was hoping to meet me for lunch. We tend not to arrange such things in advance, but wait to see how our days go and agree on time and location on the fly, using our cellphones. It is such a simple thing to take for granted; however, in this case, I found myself cellphoneless. No emergencies occurred, nothing drastic resulted, it was just a minor inconvenience. Nevertheless, I tried to make contact the next best way—by finding a payphone.

Trying to find a payphone will make you wonder how that portion of the ninety-nine percent that do not have mobile phones manage to communicate when they are out and about. In the course of driving home, I decided to see if I could make a call on a payphone, partially just to see if I could, and still holding out some hope of a nice lunch. I drove through a number of gas stations and shopping centers, and didn't find any payphones. I also walked into a convenience store or two: no luck. What do people do? Ultimately, in my unscientific survey, I found three payphones, all operated by Verizon outside Giant Food stores. If Giant has made a point of this, they are due some credit, in my opinion. Verizon would be due some kind words as well, if the phones had worked. On all three, the coins just rattled into the coin return. I never got a dial tone or any response on any of them. I suppose I was at least lucky to get my quarters back. Perhaps no one

knows how to stuff a coin return shoot anymore.

I remain amused by how overwhelming the presence of cellphones is. When I eat lunch out during the week, alone, I always have a newspaper with me, generally a *Wall Street Journal*, in order to maintain a balanced ideological diet. This makes me very old school, as almost to a person the other solo diners are staring at smartphones, which is what I do when I don't have the *WSJ* with me. I am further amused that none of the science fiction or futuristic movies or books I am familiar with seem to have ever featured vast numbers of people walking down the street staring at or talking on telephones of some kind. I have never seen this, but if some time traveler ever beams down on a city street almost anywhere in what we laughingly call the civilized world, I think that is one of the first things he or she will remark. Again, I never saw this predicted, and it is one of the questions I ask science fiction aficionados: Who called this one? Yes, honorable mention goes to Dick Tracy and his two-way wrist radio, but with an asterisk—only the cops had them.

What really got me going on this theme of omnipresent technology was a series of articles on driverless cars and constant aerial surveillance. The former is well on the way, albeit with some pretty scary devils in the details, but the all-seeing eye in the sky is a lot closer. The eye may also be on the wall, or on the lamppost, or I shudder to think where, but it is all around. From what I gather, automobile driving technology may approach in a series of steps. We certainly have cameras and sensors to aid us now, and then there may be cars with drivers where the cars communicate with one another, taking over as necessary, and then I suppose we arrive at fully driverless cars, which, with any luck and some good health, I may welcome in my dotage some twenty or thirty years from now.

So what happens to the poor shmoo who doesn't have access to a fancy driverless car when everyone else has a driverless car?

Continued on page 10.

Rande(m) Thoughts

The Last One Standing

By Rande Davis

JLo is gone, and I will miss him. That's right, I will miss him—Jay Leno. I admit most of what I have seen of him lately is on clips the next day as staying up until 11:30 p.m. is not my thing anymore. The older I get, the earlier I go to bed. Then again, the older I get, the earlier I get up, as well, so it kind of balances out. It may be age, but for me, a sunrise is something even more beautiful than a sunset.

The thing I like best about Leno is the fact that he is old school and is still number one in the ratings. His style is positive and unifying. He is an equal opportunity entertainer and kidder. I appreciate how very funny Jon Stewart, Steve Colbert, SNL, and David Letterman can be, but as a Republican, it gets wearisome and boring with their proclivity to target Republicans far more than Democrats. I was

intrigued when Lorne Michaels, creator of Saturday Night Live, recently said, "Republicans are targeted more because they take jokes better than Democrats as Democrats tend to take the kidding too personally." Understand, I am intrigued but not so much by his opinion on which party members better accept being the target of critical humor, but by the fact that he even admits to the imbalance.

It's hard to explain to younger people how it used to be. Comedians like Bob Hope or entertainers like Frank Sinatra could be favorable toward a candidate without being negative to the other side. Hope was a Republican, but his humor seldom crossed over the line to ridicule those who might support Democrats. Sinatra started out supporting JFK but ended up being a big Reagan supporter. In both cases, though, he was for someone as opposed to being against someone. It may seem to be a subtle difference, but it is a critical difference. Today we seem to hear more from celebrities on how

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Daytripper

Shades of Gray

By Ingeborg Westfall

No, no, get that image out of your mind! I'm not talking about a book, although anything steamy may seem like a good idea this winter. No, I'm talking about something that's been niggling at my mind over the past few days.

It started on a trip to the National Museum of Women in the Arts in downtown D.C. I'm a museum junkie, so it's no surprise I love the place. It feels welcoming and friendly, and features artists, some of whom I didn't recognize, I'm embarrassed to say. Of course, it reminds me of prejudice and lack of opportunity (too often still, women aren't considered Serious Artists; consider the term: Chick Lit), so when I went to see their current exhibit "Workt by Hand": Hidden Labor and Historical Quilts, I was interested to see how this quintessentially Women's Work was presented.

Mind you, these are some of the finest quilts you'll ever see, breathtakingly colorful and beautiful. The fine stitching, the vibrant colors in quilts maybe as old as one hundred years that are worn and faded from constant use are still arrestingly lovely.

It comes as a surprise that there's a huge argument whether such quilts are art or (mere) craft. Note that there's an underlying association of art being made by men, whereas craft is the handiwork of women. The answer seems to be that once they're hung on walls, rather than spread on beds, quilts somehow become art.

Wait, isn't it also true that the functional can be beautiful, can be artistic, can in fact be art? I'm not about to try to define art, even if I knew enough to do so. All I'm saying is that very little in this world, at least to these eyes, seems to be truly black or white. The shades of gray are everywhere, informing us, encouraging us to try to see the whole range rather than just the extremes.

The other day I read an opinion piece about what the author, Stephen F. Dennstedt, called "black and white thinking." For Dennstedt, there is no critical thinking in our social media, nor is it present in our news reporting (just sound bites pretending to be in-depth reporting). And investigative reporting? Forget it; that died years ago, being replaced by opinion. Dennstedt adds, "Provocation and conflict seem to rule the day." Shallow thinking, if you can even call it thinking, leads us into the polarization we see in so much of life.

I thought he made a good point. It's true, life is simpler if it's clearly divided into extremes, but, to me, the gray area is where truth lives. Are invasive species all bad? How about a really difficult issue like immigration reform? Is it really necessary to build an actual barrier that blocks the seasonal migration of animals as well? How about architecture: Are buildings beautiful when it's known that all the glass in modern designs is deadly for millions of birds?

When did the gray area become something bad? Is it better to think of it as middle-of-the road? Or is that now perceived as wimpy? Think of how language itself divides us, as it's often used to affix labels that emphasize hard edges and, yes, extremes.

In any case, returning to consider the quilts on exhibit, my conclusion is that they're both art and craft. Make up your own mind and check them out at 1250 New York Avenue NW; phone number: 202-783-5000; website: www.nmwa.org. The exhibit runs through April 27, 2014.

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Tidbits

PHS Poms: Champs Two Years in a Row

In a rigorous, athletic demonstration of precision, discipline, and enthusiasm, the Poolesville High School eighteen-member pom squad won the Montgomery County Division II competition for the second year in a row. These dedicated athletes were supported enthusiastically by a large contingent of students and parents who cheered wildly as the team danced their six-and-a-half-minute routine of intricate complexity with meticulous timing.

Eighty Happy Returns

Family and friends of Pat Ferris celebrated her eightieth birthday at a party reception at the farm of Rob and Samantha Baker in Dickerson on February 1. Pat has been a volunteer extraordinaire throughout her life, especially as a Girl Scout leader for thirty-seven years, past secretary and current volunteer at St. Peter's Church, and as a softball coach to her daughter's fourth and fifth grade softball teams.

Memorial United Methodist Church Holds Community Dinner

MUMC on Elgin Road in Poolesville served over 140 taco dinners to area diners on Wednesday, February 5 as part of Memorial's new Feeding Ministry, headed up by Lori Kocur. The church will hold similar dinners on the first Wednesday every other month, alternating with St. Peter's Parish Episcopal Church, which has been holding semi-monthly Community Dinners for the past four years. There is no charge to attend either church's dinner. MUMC and St. Peter's will each host Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinners on Tuesday, March 4, and the Community Dinner schedule will resume at MUMC in April.

Fast Swimmers Set the Pace

PHS senior Xavier Laracuente took first place in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 21.92 at the MCPS Division I Championships, besting a school record set by 2007 *Washington Post* All-Met selection, Kirk Jackson. Dylan Taylor placed second in the one-meter dive while, for the girls, Dorit Song placed second in the 100-yard freestyle.

Home from Africa

Dr. Robin Mevissen, an optometrist with Poolesville Vision, joined nine other members of the Darnestown Presbyterian Church on a mission to Nanuki, Kenya, a small village about two and half hours from Nairobi. The two-week mission trip in January was in conjunction with



Poolesville's Dr. Robin Mevissen (wearing glasses) in Nanuki, Nairobi.

the work of Imara International, an organization dedicated to empowering women to become self-sufficient. The Darnestown team assisted eight single women, who recently gave birth, with care for them and their babies in a program designed to help the women maintain their parental role and avoid orphanages or foster care.

Continued from page 1.

Proposed Zoning Changes

surrounding area and embody the historical nature of the old central commercial district with construction that recalls Federalist, Georgian, Victorian, or Greek Revival periods of architecture.

The ordinance sets forth the specifics of construction, site usage, restrictions of materials, building size, facility usage, parking spaces, signage, etc.

The proposed ordinance also makes recommendations to change certain Rural Density Transition zones of less than twenty-five acres into new transition zones that allows reasonable development on two acres or more. These properties are on land now referred to as Transition 2+ Acre Zone or PTR-2+.

Another section of the Planning Commission's report addresses a five-acre property next to the town hall that has been zoned half commercial and half residential. While consideration had been made to unify the property as commercial, the Planning Commission did not recommend that change in its report to the commissioners.

The report from the Planning Commission to the Town Commissioners emphasized the importance of the full awareness and participation of all stakeholders in the process and recommended that property owners of lots directly impacted and residents of Poolesville, in general, become involved. The new ordinance showing changes and the new zoning map are available in their entirety on the town website.

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Local News

County Council Moves Closer To a Decision on Ten Mile Creek

By John Clayton

A Montgomery County Council joint committee completed its last work session on the Ten Mile Creek development issue with the recommendation of an amendment to the 1994 Clarksburg Master Plan that will significantly limit Clarksburg-area development. That recommendation will go to the full council for consideration on February 25. The working group is comprised of the Planning Housing and Economic Development and Transportation Committee, chaired by Nancy Floreen, and the Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee, chaired by Roger Berliner. Council President and District 2 (Western Upcounty) Councilman Craig Rice, who represents



The much-discussed Ten Mile Creek

Clarksburg, attended the hearing, even though he is not a member of either committee, and spoke in favor of a balanced approach for development in the Clarksburg area.

The debate and the final decision revolved primarily around the percentage of surface that could be covered by impervious substances, or paving. The committees voted to cap the level of impervious surfaces at fifteen percent at two development sites, and at six percent on a more environmentally-sensitive site. The six percent decision directly affects the plans of Pulte Homes, which was otherwise ready to

begin development under a previous agreement based on the 1994 plan. The decision sharply curtails the number of units allowed in the Pulte Homes development area.

The council and those who testified at the over-two-hour hearing continued, as in previous hearings, to debate the number of units that can be constructed, development density, and the impact of various levels of imperviousness on runoff into the creek. The council has had to deal with the fact that environmental studies indicate that virtually any additional development will affect water quality in the watershed, which feeds Little Seneca Lake, an emergency water source for the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. However, the county has already entered into development agreements that critics say did not adequately protect the environment, leading to the hearings and reconsideration of planned growth. By limiting development previously agreed to, the county is at risk for litigation.

Local elected officials have weighed in on the issue as well. Rice was recently contacted by District of Columbia Council Chairman Phil Mendelson, who wrote and asked that the county establish a new land use plan for Ten Mile Creek, and supported "a new study of the long-term reliability and protection needs for Little Seneca [Lake] Reservoir and its entire watershed" which includes Ten Mile Creek. Mendelson referenced the District's reliance on Little Seneca Reservoir in times of drought.

Montgomery County Executive Isiah "Ike" Leggett recently announced that the county would "forgo any development on 128-acre County/Clarkwood site," and would not build a proposed addition to the county correctional facility in Clarksburg. The decision affects over 400 areas in the Ten Mile Creek watershed.

The decision of the work session committees was a compromise, with councilmembers divided on the levels of imperviousness.

Continued from page 3.

Business Briefs

Law and was recently admitted to the Maryland Bar. Charlie is a published author and worked for a number of reputable firms in Jacksonville, Florida before returning to Maryland in 2013. Charlie's practice includes litigation, family law, and real estate matters. He is excited to work with and serve our local community.

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Everyone's On Board

to six points and come out with a one-point victory was very impressive. It was a tight game the whole way. The biggest lead was maybe four points.

"We have had a lot of people give us good performances. Trevor has consistently, day in and day out, given us fifteen to twenty-five points." Stottlemeyer scored a season-high thirty-one points at Northwood. Craig Morton, senior guard, scored twenty points against Damascus. Anthony Papagjika, senior guard, scored twenty-five points against Seneca Valley.

New players have either come back or taken on new roles in the team this year. Hunter Pearre is back on the team after taking off one year to take care of his baseball scholarship. Andrew Wang has moved up from JV. All-County football lineman, Jon Bateky, has made the transition to basketball, and Steven Morningstar has stepped up. "It's been a different guy it seems like, every game," adds Coach Kramek, "and that's been a key for us."

"My best game was probably against Damascus, twenty-two points and thirteen rebounds," said Trevor Stottlemeyer. "As a team our best game was against Blake. A lot of people thought we were going to lose that game, but Craig shut down their best player... We have a lot of experience this year—a lot of leadership."

Trevor draws a lot of fouls and leads the team in free throws made as well as in points per game. He is tentatively looking to continue his education and basketball career at Randolph Macon College next year.

"This year we are much more mature than we were last year," said Andy Baker. "Last year, we had two seniors and one other guy that we really trusted with the ball. This year we have a lot of guys we trust with the ball—trust to score. We have all played with each other for so long, this group of seniors, we know what we like to do, and we trust each other. We have definitely adjusted to Coach Kramek's style of play; it is different than Coach Lang's. He knows us very well. He knows the strengths of all our games, and we trust him to put us in a position to win." Andy's best game this year? "I am going to have to go with the game against Blake because there was a lot of pressure that whole game. They played us tough defensively, and I had to handle the pressure and get the ball up court, and get the offense started."

An easy win at Northwood and an overtime win at home against Quince Orchard followed these early January interviews. On January 23, the Falcons beat Wheaton, 63-61, to remain unbeaten in division play. Papagjika hit two free throws with eight seconds left to give PHS an important win. Anthony, who opened the game hitting two of his five three-pointers, had a season-high thirty points. They were all needed on a night with Andy, Trevor, and Craig in early foul trouble. Consecutive road losses to seventh-ranked Blair (14-2) and Whitman (12-5) followed, but PHS bounced back with wins over Churchill at home and at Damascus, clinching the division with an 8-0 mark. They are 12-4 overall with six games left to play. The Falcons play at Rockville (8-2 in the division) on February 18. Their final home game is on February 21 against Wootton. Fittingly, they finish up the season at Walter Johnson with a chance for some payback for that early season upset.

Pulse

Historic Medley Recaps Year; Votes in New BOD Members

On February 9, members of the Historic Medley District, Inc. (HMD) braved the cold weather and a few snow flurries to attend the HMD annual meeting held at the Old Town Hall Bank Museum and Exhibit Hall.

to approve the new members of the Board of Directors: Dr. Chet Anderson, Emily Ware, Steve Vogel, Melissa Lankler, and John Pentecost.

O'Connell reviewed some highlights of accomplishments in 2013. The John Poole House received a fresh coat of paint inside, received a new sink and toilet in its bathroom (donated by R.N. Brown), the gift shop was rejuvenated with improved displays and souvenirs through help from Laurie Soherr, and



HMD members at the recent annual meeting. Willis Van de Vanter, Jean Findley, Missy Lankler, and Glenn Tallia.

In welcoming the attendees, HMD president Maureen O'Connell reviewed the harrowing passage of the organization through difficult financial times in the past years to reach its current sound and stable footing, eager to advance its mission in the coming years. In particular, she recognized the generosity of the Kiplinger Foundation for its financial support for the Seneca Schoolhouse and the Old Town Hall Bank Museum and acknowledged that without its support, the organization would not have persevered.

Chairman of the Board of Directors Knight Kiplinger reminded attendees of the importance of revering our history and spoke about the many buildings in the area that have been lost since his youth. He thanked current board members for their dedication and closed with words of encouragement for the importance and future of HMD.

The attending members of Historic Medley District, Inc. voted

the back room was set up with a new exhibit dedicated to the Seneca Schoolhouse. The grounds received a great deal of improvement thanks to the town commissioners and employee volunteers who cleared up the parking lot area. The herb garden was cleared and prepped for the spring, and thanks to two Eagle Scout projects, a pergola was built by Matt Tallia and a Civil War fence constructed by Brian Habib. Volunteers from two private organizations also came by to help with yard care and painting the inside.

The Old Town Hall Bank Museum and Exhibit Center opens to the public at least one day for most weekends from May to the end of October with help from adult and student volunteers, and the Civil War display expanded through additional local period artifacts from Jim Poole.

The Bank Museum, as a public venue, hosted various events

Continued on page 17.

New Equine Book by Mary Ann Powell Coming In Early March 2014

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Pour House Trivia presents: Trivia at Cugini's.
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Games Start: 7:00 p.m.

February 14 – Valentine's Day Specials
Give what everyone loves the best: Pizza! Not just any pizza but Cugini's heart-shaped pizza.
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February 28: Join us for the Full Tilt Brewing night at the bar.

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Assaults: 17500 block of W. Willard Road, 19600 block of Fisher Avenue.

Vehicle Theft: 19900 block of Fisher Avenue.

Theft: 19100 block of Dowden Circle.

Past Crime

January 31, 1962 Two Pennsylvania couples were seriously injured on Route 240 when their car skidded into the path of a salt truck at Pooks Hill Road. Montgomery Police said that the couple was on the way to Florida when the driver was temporarily blinded by the sun and struck the salt truck. Another car then slid into the first car.

January 31, 1962 Two county police officers on patrol found the back door open at the Murphy's Department Store on Rockville Pike. When they investigated, they found two eighteen-year-olds hiding inside and a considerable amount of property piled near the door. Later investigation revealed that the two boys were responsible for a host of other commercial burglaries.

February 4, 1962 A thirteen-year-old Gaithersburg boy was critically injured when his sled struck a parked car. The boy was descending a steep hill when his sled hit the back of the car. He was taken to

the hospital with a collapsed lung and other injuries.

February 4, 1962 A Rockville gas station attendant was seriously injured when he was pinned between two cars at Beall's Esso Station on Horners Lane. Police said that the man was filling the tank of an automobile when another car entered the station and struck the rear of the first car pinning the attendant between the cars. The employee was taken to Suburban Hospital with broken legs and other internal injuries.

February 12, 1962 County police were investigating the murder-suicide of a Kensington man and woman. The woman, who may have had a relationship with the man, was shot to death while she was kneeling in the snow on Connecticut Avenue putting chains on her car during a snowstorm. The man drove up and shot the woman in the head. Afterwards, two county police officers spotted the man's car traveling on East West Highway. One of the officers knew the man, and after stopping the car, he tried to talk to him. While the officer was approaching the car, the man shot himself in the head.

February 12, 1962 Two con men were arrested for one of the oldest scams known in police work. The men were going door-to-door selling tickets to the Policeman's Ball. After obtaining a significant amount of money, the men were stopped by police officers in the Rockville area. The police department announced that they do not hold such a dance and that no one should give money to anyone coming to their door.

Continued from page 4.

Connected

I suppose it's bad enough today when you don't have a cellphone and none of the hard-to-find payphones even work, but how do the down-and-out get around when you simply have to possess that high tech device to be individually mobile? I keep thinking about the now-ancient Woody Allen movie *Sleeper* (yes, I know

you remember the Orgasmatron) where Woody's character is trying to function in the futuristic, automated society of 2173. He comes upon a dusty Volkswagen Beetle in a cave, which of course starts right up in one of the great spontaneous theater applause moments of all time, and is able to putter along into his adventure. How would that work in a future of driverless cars? Would it be remotely possible to make it to a lunch appointment?

The Last One Standing

much they dislike someone rather than how much they like another. Bill Maher is a good example. His approach to humor is cutting, insulting, and hurtful. With him you are either an insider or an outsider, and if an outsider, there is no limit to the severity of his attack.

So I will miss Jay Leno. He goes out on top because he knew how to balance his humor, and no matter what your politics, you could watch his show without feeling like an outsider. You felt

like a member of the family. That is what Americanism is all about. Diversity is wonderful and should be celebrated and appreciated, but right now, unity in America is something I think we need more than ever, and being able to truly share a joke together is something that is matched only by being able to share tears together in a bonding sense of brotherhood.

Thanks, Jay. When it came to standup comedy, you knew how to do it. Let's hope you are not the last one standing.

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February 14: Valentine's Day

Special Dinner for two with wine.

February 14 & 15: DJ Slim Pickins - 8:30 p.m.

February 19: Maryland Special Olympics Benefit

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February 21: Kenny Ray Horton - 8:30 p.m.

February 22: Karaoke!

February 28: Mindy Miller, Chris Compton,
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Happy Valentine's Day

Appetizers:

Calamari

Tender calamari deep-fried to a golden brown, served with marinara sauce

Steak Flatbread

Flatbread topped with grilled mushrooms, grilled onions and blue cheese crumbles

Entrées:

(Valentine's Day entrées include a complimentary Sweetheart Cocktail)

Crab Cake Platter

Two colossal lump crab cakes mixed with Chef's seafood seasonings, lightly broiled and served with rice pilaf and the vegetable of the day

Hawaiian Rib-Eye Steak

Hand-cut rib-eye steak, marinated for twenty-four hours in a teriyaki pineapple marinade, char grilled and topped with grilled pineapple rings; with a baked potato and the vegetable of the day

Seared Scallops

Seared jumbo scallops topped with a white wine-lemon butter sauce, with the vegetable of the day and a crisp house salad

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President's Day

February 17

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Things To Do

February 14

Celebrate Valentine's Day locally at Bassett's, AHOP, or Cugini's with specials for the day.

PHS Home Varsity Sports

Boys' basketball versus Seneca Valley. 5:15 p.m.

Girls' basketball versus Seneca Valley. 7:00 p.m.

AHOP Entertainment Night

DJ Slim Pickins. 8:30 p.m.

February 15

AHOP Entertainment Night

DJ Slim Pickins. 8:30 p.m.

February 18

Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:00 p.m.

February 19

The Gathering Place Senior Organization Special Event

Mexican Train Dominoes with Jackie Adema. Room 128, Poolesville Baptist Church. 1:00 p.m.

Café Connection

Stop by for a cup of coffee and a chat, to check your email, work on a project, or to have computer questions answered. Free. 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Special Benefit for Maryland

Special Olympics

10% of Food and Beverage sales all day at Asian House of Poolesville

February 20

The Gathering Place Senior Organization Special Event

For the ladies: make a scarf with Judy Murgia, all materials provided free. Room 128, Poolesville Baptist Church. 1:00 p.m.

For the men: learn to play Bocce. In the gym at Poolesville Baptist Church. 1:00 p.m.

February 21

PHS Home Varsity Sports

Girls' basketball versus Wootton. 5:15 p.m.

Boys' basketball versus Wootton. 7:00 p.m.

AHOP Entertainment Night

Kenny Ray Horton. 8:30 p.m.

February 22

Poolesville Relay for Life Basket & Cash Bingo

Three Specials/Raffle/Door Prizes, food for purchase. Tickets \$20/20 games. Doors open 5:00 p.m. Games 7:00 p.m. St. Mary's Pavilion, Barnesville.

February 23

A Tribute to Our African-American Heritage

This special exhibit, sponsored by the HMD, Inc. and in support of the Sugarland Ethno Historical Project, Inc., features costumed living history interpreters sharing the lives of Poolesvillians from the past. Meet Nettie Branison Johnson (performed by Phymeon Lyles), a midwife who also labored with local funeral homes dressing and preparing the Sugarland deceased for wakes and funerals. There will also be a heartwarming slide show of family life in the Sugarland Community with artifacts highlighting our area's African-American historical contributions. Old Town Hall Bank Museum and Exhibit Center. Noon to 4:00 p.m.

February 26

The Gathering Place Senior Organization Special Event

Come hear about toxins and chemicals in products and learn how to become an Ingredient Detective with Louann Brooks with Ava Anderson Products. Room 128, Poolesville Baptist Church. 1:00 pm.

Café Connection

Stop by for a cup of coffee and a chat, to check your email, work on a project, or to have computer questions answered. Free. 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

February 27

Pre-School Storytime

Poolesville Library. Stories, music, fingerplay. 10:30 a.m.

The Gathering Place Senior Organization Special Event

Free Clinique facial demonstration with Melissa Cissel, Malissa Clements, and Kim Sain. Poolesville Baptist Church, 1:00 p.m. in the café.

February 28

AHOP Entertainment Night

Featuring Mindy Miller, Chris Compton, and Dan Bourdeaux. 8:30 p.m.

Cugini's Entertainment Night

Full Tilt Brewing Night at the bar. **St. Peter's Used Book & Media Sale** Come and shop from a wide selection of used books, CDs, records, DVDs, software, and video games. Donations welcome February 22 to February 26. Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Garden

Winter Blooms

By Maureen O'Connell

February can be a bleak month in the garden. It slowly, reluctantly creeps towards spring, while it still tenaciously clings to threats of snow, ice, and wintery mix. It is telling that for Punxsutawney Phil's prognostications since 1887, he has selected February 2 as the official day to poke his head out of his hibernation hole to tease us about the remaining length of winter. For those of you who dislike winter, winter-blooming shrubs might add a bright spot to your horizon.

Our gardens are a collection of plants: Trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, and grasses. Each has its own time on the stage, which usually runs from spring to fall. Trees can be stately, perennials can be a kaleidoscope of colors, annuals can offer nonstop bloom times, and grasses can be stylish. Shrubs have a mixed reputation; some spring-flowering ones can be breathtakingly beautiful, but many can be a bit dull. They can be small-flowered with a rangy, woody habit, but, while they may lack a certain wow factor, they can add seasonal interest and act as anchor plants in a garden. This is especially important in the winter months when nothing much visibly happens, and the perennials are in a deep sleep.

There are hundreds of shrubs on the market, but let's now look at one that is often overlooked but has often intrigued me: *Hamamelis*, commonly called witch hazel. This is a genus of flowering plants in the family Hamamelidaceae (H.), with three species in North America (*H. ovalis*, *H. virginiana*, and *H. vernalis*) and one each in Japan (*H. japonica*) and China (*H. mollis*).

The name witch hazel has an interesting etymology. The name witch has its origins in Middle English wiche, from the Old English wice, meaning "pliant" or "bendable." Witch hazel was used in England as a synonym for Wych Elm. Hazel refers to the

similarity of the leaves to hazel leaves. *Hamamelis* means "together in fruit," referring to the fact that its flowers and fruit exist on the same tree at the same time, which is unique among North American trees.

Throughout the ages, witch hazel has had many uses, outside of its use as an ornamental in the garden. Its medicinal use is widely known. The bark, leaves, and twigs have a high level of tannins, which make it very useful as an astringent to treat many skin conditions. Thomas Harriot (1560-1621) was an English astronomer and mathematician. He traveled to America in the 1585 expedition to Roanoke Island, where he reported seeing witch hazel limbs being used by Native Americans to make bows. Its magical properties were legend in England and America. Witch hazel branches have been used as divining rods which would supposedly bend downward when water, gold, or some other valuable is nearby.

Can a witch hazel fit into your garden plan? Many gardeners don't know about these plants, think that they are too large and unruly for an average-sized garden, or believe that they have a short season of interest. The last comment might be true if they bloomed in mid-summer in the high season of many other flowering plants, but we are talking about delicately-scented, spidery flowers that appear just about the time that Phil makes his winter appearance. At that time, witch hazel is the only flowering kid on the block. There are several varieties on the market. The American species *H. virginiana* is Maryland's only fall-blooming native plant. It grows wild in woods and stream sides in the eastern United States. In our area, it has been documented growing in Rock Creek Park, Little Bennett Regional Park, and Sugarloaf Mountain. Most of the witch hazels grown for nurseries are *H. x intermedia* hybrids, crosses between the Japanese witch hazel (*H. japonica*) and the Chinese witch hazel (*H. mollis*). Within this category, good choices are 'Jelena,'

Continued on page 16.

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Continued from page 15.

Winter Blooms

'Ruby Glo,' 'Diane,' and 'Rubin.' In recommending varieties, I am not speaking from experience—I have no witch hazels in my gardens—but if I were to choose just one witch hazel to grow as a specimen (which I shall do this spring), I would select 'Arnold Promise,' with its light, bright flowers. (This plant is often misspelled as 'Arnold's Promise.') It was developed through careful hybridization tests and trials at Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. Several plants grew from the arboretum's study hybrid seeds, but the most spectacular, with profuse, fragrant, clear yellow flowers, was 'Arnold Promise.' As Donald Wyman, a horticulturist at Arnold Arboretum, said, "'Arnold Promise' is special." Its promise is the promise of spring.

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Remembrance

Rebecca "Becky" Dytman

Rebecca "Becky" Dytman passed away unexpectedly on February 5, 2014. Born and raised in Upstate New York, Becky graduated from Colonie Central High School, Albany, New York and the State University of New York at Albany (SUNYA) with a B.S. in Mathematics and Computer Science in 1978. Later, she received an M.S. in Computer Science from George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

Upon graduating from SUNYA, she accepted a position with General Electric Aerospace in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Becky briefly worked at LANDSAT in Lanham, Maryland before settling in Northern Virginia. She

enjoyed playing volleyball in the Fairfax County adult volleyball league.

Becky moved to Poolesville in 1991 where she worked on projects in the early days of the internet for General Electric Information Services (GEIS) in Rockville and IBM in Falls Church, Virginia. She worked at Manugistics in Rockville and later joined Nova Research in Bethesda, developing questionnaire survey software for the web and early handheld devices. Becky was currently employed by Lockheed Martin in Gaithersburg.

She participated on several of the beginning years of the Poolesville Day Committee and was one of the first hundred members to join Healthworks, where she enjoyed friendships, workouts, and yoga. Becky was a member of the Derwood Maryland Association for Family and Community Education (MDAFCE) which

originated from the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service. Since childhood, Becky had always wanted to learn to play the piano. She began taking lessons after age fifty and became quite good at playing for her own enjoyment. She had a lovely singing voice that few had the fortune to hear. Becky enjoyed hiking and biking with friends in our beautiful surroundings and could be found rollerblading around the neighborhoods. When weather prevented outdoor activities, she enjoyed listening to music, reading, crafting, sewing, crocheting, and baking.

Survived by her mother, Helen Parslow, Clifton Park, New York; sister, Cathy Bertrand and her family, Clifton Park, New York; two brothers, Steven Dytman and his family, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and David Dytman and his family, Simpsonville, South Carolina; and father, Arman Dytman, Colonie, New York.



Rebecca "Becky" Dytman

A private service was held on February 12, 2014 at Memory Gardens, Colonie, New York.

Donations may be made to organizations supporting the C&O Canal, the Appalachian Trail, the Maryland Association for Family and Community Education, or of one's choice.

Continued from page 3.

Town Government Report

complaints, requests for service, or general comments, will be able to be tracked and monitored by town management to help maintain timely and effective response to the needs of the public. The website could ultimately include the capacity to allow video feed capabilities, setting the stage for possible viewing of town meetings in live stream or in an archived manner.

Commissioner Chuck Stump spearheaded the new website project that included filtering thirty Request for Proposal applications. Through a detailed process of elimination involving personal interviews with applicants, verifying references, both those supplied by the applicant and by also calling other Civic Plus customers directly such as Frederick County and Frederick City, he made his final recommendation to the commissioners.

The vote was four to one, with Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski voting against. Regarding his negative vote, Klobukowski said, "I will admit it has a lot of nifty features, but I voted against it because of its cost, the fact that they

only provide the software and our staff will still be responsible for generating the website's content and plugging in things. I also I did not like taking the money from the unrestricted reserve funds as this just as easily could have been a FY2015 budget item."

Full Schedule of Town Festivals for 2014

Town recreational director Cathy Bupp and the chair of the Community Economic Development Committee Marci Calantonio presented the accomplishments of the committee in 2013 with a request for an increase in their upcoming budget to \$21,000. While the calendar of events was full of programs sponsored by the town or shared with the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce (Business Fair, First Friday with Holiday Lighting Festival), the weather in 2013 was uncooperative. The CEDC plans to move one of the Fridays on the Common events to the fall.

Appointment Made

Terry Pierce was approved by the commissioners to fill a volunteer vacancy on the town Parks Board.

Continued from page 8.

Historic Medley Recaps Year

including the second annual Ag Reserve Photo Contest which resulted once again in a beautiful calendar thanks to Charles Jamison Real Estate. The venue also hosted other special events including a presentation of the Monocacy Cemetery Project, Tribute to Our Military, and Holiday Gingerbread decorating. As part of Black History Month, "A Tribute to Our African American Heritage" will once again be offered in partnership with the Sugarloaf Ethno-History project on February 23. There will be continued special events or special historical tours each month in 2014.

At the Seneca Schoolhouse, O'Connell reported that the parking lot was cleared and made ready to accept school buses, a new gate and security system installed, and classroom attendance was once again very strong. The John Poole Middle School drama club students (in period clothing and using a script written by the students) opened the schoolhouse to the general public three times in the summer and once in the fall.

The membership renewal campaign is underway with an outreach to gain new members scheduled for this March. In April, HMD will launch a Capital Improvement Campaign with special attention to the need to replace the aging roof at the John Poole House, and repair and renovate the exterior and interior Old Town Hall Bank Museum.

Editor's Note: The Monocle welcomes reports from local civic organizations for our Pulse section, subject to editorial approval.

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Helping Your Pet When You Think They Are In Pain

Peter H. Eeg DVM
 Poolesville Veterinary Clinic

There is no question one of the worst feelings as a pet owner is to see your best friend in pain. There are many causes of pain in animals. Many are exactly the same as befall humans. Modern Western and Complementary Eastern Medicine can be extremely helpful in removing or effectively controlling the cause or condition of pain in your pet.

Pets have pain initiation, reception, transmission and realization that is almost neuro-physiologically identical to people. Many people believe, incorrectly, that animals have a higher threshold to pain that people do. What is true is that pets behaviorally show pain differently than people do. This comes from thousands of years of developmental behavior to avoid showing their competition or predators weakness. Animals also are not anticipators of pain. Humans know that they have injured a body part and consider their actions accordingly. Animals consider the use first, and then modify the action as pain occurs. Cats seem especially efficient at hiding pain or avoiding our observation of their pain. Dogs on the contrary often seek out their human friends and keep closer contact with them when in some discomfort.

Common causes of pain include but are not limited to; Physical injury to bones or joints, physical injury to soft tissue, long term motion problems due to breed specifics that causes joint deterioration or muscle damage, metabolic changes to internal organs, infection, allergic reaction, autoimmune conditions and reactions to chemicals.

If you think your pet is in pain, the first thing to do is call your veterinarian for advice. DO NOT ASK DR. GOOGLE (unless that is your veterinarian's name). The Internet is filled with opinions and only sparsely populated by facts. Figuring out what is what can be very time consuming and non-productive for you and your pet. If the pain occurs after your veterinarian's regular office hours, call the emergency center your veterinarian has recommended. These medical professionals can at least help you determine if the pain needs immediate attention or can wait for you to see your regular veterinarian.

Funds are sometimes limited for owners; pet owners for their pets in pain sometimes initially attempt home treatment. There is nothing wrong with trying to help reduce discomfort for the first 24 to 48 hours as long as no emergency exists.

Here are some simple Do's.

DO: reduce your pet's activity, DO: confine your pet to a safe area, DO: limit access to stairs, DO: keep your children away from your injured pet. DO: apply cold compress to the injured area several times a day for the first 48 hours. DO: see your veterinarian if the pain does not resolve in 48 hours or gets worse sooner.

Here are some simple Don'ts:

DON'T: Hesitate to call your veterinarian right away, DON'T: give your pet any of YOUR MEDICINE, DON'T: use over the counter human pain relievers and naturopathic (the effective dose can often be toxic to your pet). DON'T use aspirin unless permitted by your veterinarian (the effective dose can cause stomach ulcers in as little as 72 hours), DON'T ask your neighbor for advice (unless they are a veterinarian), DON'T believe the internet or Dr. GOOGLE.

Following these Dos and Don'ts can help you keep your best furry friend comfortable and give you time to get an appointment with your veterinarian without increasing the possibility for complications.

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