

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

January 16, 2015 • Volume XI, Number 20



Alf Andreassen is one of the many volunteers who make the St. Peter's community dinners successful. More pictures are in the Family Album on page 2.



Saint Peter's has a new priest. Learn all about her on page 11.



Is this the date marker of slaves' quarters? Find out in Monocacy Foundations on page 12.



Poolesville's Erin Green makes a well-guarded shot from the side. Check out Youth Sports on page 13 for more.

Rev. McDonald, Former Poolesville Pastor Passes Away

Rev. Lewis Newton McDonald, age 77, died at home in Aberdeen, Maryland on Thursday, December 11, 2014 from cancer.

Born March 30, 1937 in Waco, Texas, Lewis graduated from Baylor University in 1960 and Southwest Seminary in 1963. On August 16, 1958, he married Patsy Lee Akridge whom he met at Baylor. Following seminary, Lewis began a career in preaching that spanned over fifty years which included pastoring South Avenue Baptist (Texas), Oak Grove Baptist Church, Poolesville Memorial United Methodist, Chestertown Church of the Nazarene, and Great Hope Bible Church. He served at MUMC for twelve years, from 1990 to 2002. The large community center attached to the church was dedicated in his name upon its completion.

During Lewis's ministry, he achieved many distinctions, including: Trustee of Southwest Seminary, president of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, Who's Who in America, Personalities in America, Notable Americans, International Platform Association, and International Men of Achievement.

Spreading the gospel was an emphasis of his ministry. Lewis

considered, as some of the highlights of his life: being Senior Pastor during the implementation of "The Living Christmas Tree" at Oak Grove; ordaining seven full time ministers; baptizing his three sons; and publishing his book, Pieces, a collection of his sermons on the Prodigal Son. Congregants noted that he often gave sermons with no notes, and was especially pleased to provide a number of sermons just on the Prodigal Son.

Lewis will be remembered for his quick wit, storytelling, and gift of preaching. Congregant Greg Shores, who was especially close to McDonald, shared how the pastor was "right there by my guernsey when I went in for open heart surgery." Shores noted McDonald's natural ability to give a sermon that "made you feel he was talking just to you. During my surgery, he sure knew how to ease my mind." He will also be remembered for his passion for sports: cheering for the Cowboys and Orioles or pitching for the church softball team. Lewis was a dedicated husband and father. One of his favorite sayings was: "Love is a four letter word spelled T-I-M-E." Lewis lovingly lived out that saying



Rev. Lewis McDonald

throughout his life and ministry with his final baptism being that of his grandson.

Lewis is survived by his wife of fifty-six years, Patsy Lee; his three sons, Steven, David, and John Mark; three daughters-in-law, Janet, Alana, and Beth; three grandsons, Kevin, Jonah, and Dylan; granddaughter, Chrissy and husband Greg; great-granddaughters Julua and Reba; and sister-in-law and husband, Carolyn and Danny Powell.

Fond memories and tributes may be sent to the family at 3940 Grimm Rd., Jarrettsville, MD 21084. Those who desire may make a donation to Great Hope Bible Church, 1128 Chrome Hill Rd., Jarrettsville, MD 21084.

Foundations Of a Legacy

By Dominique Agnew

Many residents in and around Poolesville know Kevin Dorsey, his family, or have benefitted from his volunteer endeavors. He has coached baseball and wrestling for all ages, from the elementary-school-aged to, now, acting as head coach for varsity wrestling at Poolesville High School. He has also volunteered countless hours designing and renovating the high school baseball field, softball field, and the new stadium entrance.



The Dorsey Family: Sammi Jo, Dawn, Jessi, Kevin, and Cody.

Continued on page 7.

Family Album

St. Peter's alternates with Memorial United Methodist Church in hosting a monthly community dinner. This one was at St. Peter's.



Frank Cairns accepts the certificate from Jennifer Singh for best townhome light display in the 2014 Holiday Lighting Contest.




The Rolls and Baker families broke bread together at the community dinner.



Karen Wilson of the Blue Hearth accepts the award in the Holiday Lighting contest as best in the commercial category.



The Oberman family from Brightwell Crossing won for Best Traditional in the 2014 Holiday Lighting Contest.



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Town of Poolesville Town Commissioners: Holiday Lights and Town Finances

By Link Hoewing

In its first meeting of 2015, the town commission presented awards to local citizens and businesses whose holiday lights were judged to be exceptional. In addition, the town's auditor presented her findings to the commissioners regarding the finances of the Poolesville government as reported at the end of the last fiscal year.

At the January 5, meeting, Jennifer Singh, a member of the town's Community and Economic Development Committee, presented awards for holiday lights in four categories: Townhouses, Traditional, Contemporary, and Business. The winners in each of the categories received a certificate from the town and gift cards provided by a variety of local businesses.

In the Townhouse category, the winners were Sandy Prather of 17614 Kohlhoss Road, and Frank and Terry Cairns of 17433 Hughes Road. In the Traditional category, the winners were Steve and Kim Ketchum of 19944 Spurrier Avenue, and James and Margaret Oberman of 19900 Briarley Hall Drive. In the Contemporary category, Cary Brown and Christine Nelka of 19724 Selby Avenue, and Zlatan and Anne Slavoff of 16903 Hoskinson Road were the winners. Finally, in the Business category, the Blue Hearth won the award.

The town commissioners also heard from their auditor who presented her findings regarding the town's finances as reported for the most recent fiscal year. The town manages its budget in a fiscal year starting on July 1 each year, so the most recent, complete fiscal year ended June 30, 2014.

The auditor, Wanda Lynn, representing the accounting firm of Rager, Lehman, and Houck, noted that while an audit does assess the accuracy of the town's financial reporting, it does not purport to analyze whether or not the internal controls and management systems used by the town in managing its programs are effective. An audit assesses whether


the numbers reported in the financial statements are accurate and meet accounting standards. That said, the audit concluded that the town's financial statements "present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position" of the town and its operations.

While the town's annual budget (i.e., the amount of money expended each year for investments and operations) amounts to about \$2 million, the net position of the town (i.e., the town's total assets such as buildings, equipment, and funding from taxes and grants minus its liabilities such as loans) is over \$35 million. Ninety-five percent of that amount is capital assets such as trucks and equipment used to provide services to town residents. Only five percent is in the form of revenue that can be used to pay for current operations.

Aside from providing an assessment of the accuracy of the finances reported by the town and the manner in which it accounts for its operations, the auditor also remarked that the town continues to subsidize water and sewer operations from its general revenues. Water and sewer operations are often called "enterprise programs" that are typically funded by the fees paid by citizens when they use the services. In this case, town residents pay for water and sewer services via their water bills based on usage. The audit concluded that subsidies from the rest of the budget or general revenues continue to support the use of water and sewer services, although progress has been made in reducing the subsidies.

Although the audit covered only operations for the past fiscal year ending on June 30, the auditor pointed out that revenues at that point were higher than anticipated; \$120,000 more in revenue had been received by the end of the 2014 fiscal year than had been projected, most of which was due to higher income tax payments. The town also received more funds in rural road support from the state than had been anticipated.

Overall, the audit paints a picture of a town that is in good financial condition. The auditor added that the town continues to preserve a fund of over \$800,000 to be used in the case of emergencies, and its debt levels are low and funded at very low rates of interest.



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Commentary

Again

By John Clayton

Years ago, I drove a taxicab for a while between semesters of college, and one day I was hauling a few business people from NIH in Bethesda to National Airport. During the small talk, one made a comment about the scenery or the weather, or perhaps about cluelessness, and it led one of the men to an anecdote. He had been an army officer and had been riding through the countryside somewhere in Europe through an area of rolling countryside on a glorious day, and one of his party commented on the beauty of the day and their surroundings. The senior officer in the group, possibly a general, snorted and said, "Good artillery country." In a better telling of this tale, you would also find it a laugh-worthy example of someone unable to see past the end of his nose, or past his own perspective, to appreciate a broader truth. I often drive along Maryland Route 109 between Barnesville and Poolesville (yes, through Beallsville) and I am almost always struck by the beauty of the open farmland. I realize that other people probably drive through and think, "What a great place for a highway."

Some years ago, there was a fear that a bridge would be built across the Potomac River into the Agricultural Reserve and that roads would be built through this area with no respect for Rural Density Transfer Zoning whatsoever. Proponents of such a bridge and road project even had a catchy name for it: The Techway. It would have connected all those high-tech businesses in Virginia with all those smart employees here in Maryland. It would also have provided better access to Dulles Airport from Maryland, and with enough new roads such as the Inter-County Connector (ICC), it would be easy to reach Baltimore Washington International Airport and the Port of Baltimore from Northern Virginia. Much, but not all, of the pressure for this transportation system came from Virginia, but, in point of fact, the wakeup from this scary bedtime story occurred when a Virginia congressman got upbraided by his own constituents whose homes were threatened. As time went on, I was assured by several prominent elected officials, "Relax. There's no money for this type of thing." That may be, but two things worry me: A lack of money never stopped anything that powerful lobbies and sympathetic governments

wanted to do, and there are those who never stopped working to make this happen.

Three recent occurrences concern me. The first, and I was tipped off to this by Eric Cronquist of the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association, was from the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, in the guise of a web presentation dated November 6, 2014, that begins with "What if We Could Get Northern Virginia Unstuck" and moves to "Missing Links Priorities," which opens a map that shows two crossings, one at Point of Rocks and one Northern Potomac crossing around Great Seneca, as an extension of Virginia Route 28. All roads from there lead to the ICC, of course, and woe betides farms, fields, streams, and small towns that lie in the way. You can appreciate this better at www.unstucktraffic.com.

The second wakeup was a recent opinion piece in the *Washington Post* ("Expand the ICC," by Alan E. Pisarski and Peter Samuel) that clearly lays out the case that expanding the ICC not only makes perfect sense for all the transportation benefits that would accrue, but that expansion means crossing the Potomac from Virginia and building a road to hook up with the ICC. As they write, "A westward expansion of the ICC in Gaithersburg to a Potomac River crossing just upstream of the McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area would be a simple-to-engineer fifteen-mile link." They then go on to exult over the tonnage of traffic this would move (true, no doubt) but never really follow up on just where that easy-to-engineer road would go. A tenet of their article is that such projects, with tolls, are "self-financing," but don't take my word for it, the article is easy to find. Enjoy.

Strike three for me is that our new governor, Larry Hogan, is on record as preferring roads over rail, and there is great concern that he will cancel proposed rail projects such as the Purple Line in favor of road building. While he is also on record as favoring less spending and wants to cut tolls not raise them, this still gives one pause if one is worried about the future of mass transportation versus more new roads through undeveloped areas. Today, I also see from various sources that the new Maryland Transportation Secretary, Peter Rahn, was introduced by the governor as "the best highway builder in the entire country." Now this is a legitimate and impressive compliment, and I do not mean to suggest otherwise. Rahn has a significant

Continued on page 5.

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Op-Ed

Growing Problem With Growing Population Of Vultures

By Robin Carroll Winstead

I have lived and raised my children in the wonderful town of Poolesville for the last thirty years. There is a growing environmental problem relating to the vulture population. I am an animal lover and enjoy wildlife and the outdoors, but never thought I would be living where the vulture population has grown to such numbers as to become a problem. (Editor's Note: A recent count of roosting vultures in the center of town numbered greater than 200.)

The numbers are growing and are going to continue to do so. They first arrived in the town in large

numbers around five years ago. Coincidentally, in my research, this was the same time that Leesburg rid itself of large numbers of the vulture population by working as a community and in conjunction with the United States Department of Agriculture and Wildlife, and the town police. By using nonthreatening devices such as both loud sounds and lights (lasers, pyrotechnics, and other dispersal devices) the flocks in that area departed.

While vultures have a critical positive impact on the environment as scavengers and sanitarians, they also create havoc in a community with their destruction of property, trees, odor, urine high in acid; they create a serious health hazard.

Although vultures are a protected species by Federal Law, the Town of Poolesville needs to work to create a living environment safe for everyone (as other jurisdictions nearby have done). I am hoping, in raising this issue, to start a dialogue to solve this growing environmental problem.

Pulse

Poolesville Green Sustains

By Heidi Rosvold-Brenholtz

Are you on the sustainability spectrum?

It's a question Poolesville Green, Poolesville's homegrown organization that puts sustainability and conservation into action, wants each of us to answer honestly.

"Poolesville Green's focus is to educate our community about sustainable living practices," says Joyce Breiner, executive director and co-founder of Poolesville Green. "Once we get people on the spectrum, whether it's beginning to compost in their back yards, using LEDs, or other home-based sustainability practices, they tend to start doing more. Our goal is to get people on the spectrum," she says.

Maybe it's your first ride in—or first sighting of—an electric car at the Poolesville Day Parade that calls your attention to how just how visible Poolesville Green and its sustainability message for our community have become. Once the lone electric car in the parade, the Breiner family's electric car is now joined by nearly a dozen automobiles silently making their way down Fisher Avenue behind the more muscled historic cars revving their gas engines.

Poolesville Green's message is about more than the importance of protecting the environment, according to Breiner. "The phrase, 'environmental protection,' is too small a focus," she says. "Sustainability implies taking care of the Earth now for future generations."

Poolesville Green cosponsors the Poolesville Community Garden with the Poolesville Presbyterian Church. An area for reflection and meditation is an added feature to the garden plot offerings. A satellite of Poolesville Green was recently established at Poolesville High School (PHS). Future work for both groups includes participating in the Potomac Watershed Clean Up, and an Adopt-A-Road opportunity. PHS Poolesville Green will adopt Willard Road, where PHS is located, to keep free of trash and debris.

Recently, Poolesville Green, with Physicians for Social Responsibility, hosted a screening of the 2009 film, Coal Country, at the home of local resident and Poolesville Green volunteer, Hisaho Blair. The film chronicles the relationship between the coal industry—specifically the companies involved in mountaintop removal strip mining—and the residents and workers in Appalachia affected by it. About twenty residents attended the screening, enjoyed refreshments, and discussed the film after the showing.

Mark Prebilic, a Poolesville Green volunteer who attending the screening, commented, "I thought the screening

Continued on page 9.



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Continued from page 4.

Again

track record in improving safety, building roads efficiently, and managing contractors effectively. Who wouldn't want someone like that? It's just the convergence of events that has me a little concerned. The overarching message from those of a mind to build bridges and ICC extensions appears to be, "The time for this has arrived," and a government in Maryland that is starting to think more like the one in Virginia is something worth keeping an eye on, as we like to say.

Things To Do

January 16

PHS Home Varsity Games

Girls' basketball. Northwood. 5:15 p.m.

Boys' basketball. Northwood. 7:00 p.m.

Dorsey Family Fundraising Meeting

Open to anyone interested in organizing a fundraiser for the Dorsey family, or who just wants to help. *Poolesville Town Hall*. 7:00 p.m.

January 19

St. Peter's Mother's Day Out

Child care and play. Free for parents who stay at home, work from home, or work part-time. Six months to five years old. 9:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

January 20

PHS Home Varsity Game

Girls' basketball. Quince Orchard. 7:00 p.m.

January 21

PASC Special Event

Poolesville Area Senior Center. **Zumba Gold**. 17750 West Willard Road. Gym. 1:00 p.m.

Connection Café Computer Assistance

Stop by for a cup of coffee and a chat, to check your email, or work on a project. Free. *Poolesville Presbyterian Church*. 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

January 22

Poolesville Library Pre-school Storytime

Listen to stories, sing songs, and learn rhymes. Registration not required. 10:30 a.m.

PASC Special Event

The Joys of Bird Watching and Photography: The first part of this seminar provides tips on outdoor photography, and the second part is the birds and best locations for bird watching in Maryland. Seminar by Susan Petro and Jane Harris at 17750 West Willard Road. 1:00 p.m. Free.

PASC Evening Event

Tai Chi. 17750 West Willard Road. Room K2. 6:30 p.m.

January 23

PHS Home Varsity Game

Girls' basketball. Wheaton. 7:00 p.m.

Charity Poker Night

Proceeds to benefit WUMCO. Texas Hold 'Em. \$20. *St. Peter's Church*. 7:00 p.m.

Non-Narrative Documentary Filmmaking with Glen Pearcy

The Hyattstown Mill Arts Project presents an evening of viewing film shorts and a discussion about non-narrative filmmaking with Academy Award nominee and Barnesville resident, Glen Pearcy. *Barnesville Town Hall*. 7:30 p.m.

The Civil War after Dark

National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. The museum will offer a special nighttime tour through its galleries. Visitors will follow the lantern of their guide through the darkened exhibits of the museum, meeting living history interpreters who will recount stories from the Civil War after dark.

This special program will allow visitors to experience the Civil War as it happened at night. Attendees will pass through the picket lines to visit the soldiers' bivouac, experiencing cooking, music, and other diversions around the campfire. Visitors will hear about rare instances of fighting in the dark and learn what battlefields were like at night. In a time before electric lights, the tour will explain the difficulties of life after sunset and the importance of the night sky during the Civil War.

After the program, visitors will be invited to partake of coffee and refreshments and to chat with museum staff and volunteers.

Tours begin at 5:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. \$15 per person; limited to 25 people per tour. Please call early as these tours will certainly sell out. Space is limited. Call 301-695-1864.

January 24

Legomania is back with Daniel!

Create structures using Legos, K'nex, and other building materials. *Poolesville Library*. Registration not required. 2:00 p.m.

PHS Home Varsity Game

Wrestling. Seneca Valley. 2:30 p.m.

Relay for Life 2015 Kickoff Celebration

For people new to PRFL or past participants of all ages looking to participate in the #1 non-for-profit fundraiser in the world. Fundraising money to find a cure for cancer. Enjoy food donated by Mamma Lucia's and other options prepared by the committee, while learning about what's new for the 2015 Relay season. *Poolesville Presbyterian Church*. 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Unified Jazz Ensemble

Singer/songwriter Victoria Vox, widely renowned for her work on the ukulele, joins the Unified Jazz Ensemble for an evening of jazz standards and original compositions. The Unified Jazz Ensemble, based in Annapolis,

Maryland, is dedicated to bringing the best of jazz to audiences of all ages. \$22. *Black Rock Center for the Arts*. 8:00 p.m.

January 26

PHS Home Varsity Game

Boys' basketball. Blair. 7:00 p.m.

Poolesville Library Adult Book Discussion Group

Enjoy and discuss *Blackout* by Connie Willis. Copies will be available at the Circulation Desk. 7:00 p.m.

January 27

PHS Home Varsity Game

Wrestling. Wheaton. 6:00 p.m.

January 28

PASC

Game Day. 17750 West Willard Road. Cafeteria. 1:00 p.m.

January 29

PASC Special Event

Computer Seminar (digital photographs, storage, organization, backup, and basic editing), 17750 West Willard Road. Cafeteria. 1:00 p.m.

PHS Home Varsity Game

Boys' basketball. Whitman. 7:00 p.m.

January 30

PHS Home Varsity Game

Girls' basketball. Churchill. 7:00 p.m.

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Poolesville

Continued from page 1.

Foundations of a Legacy

He selflessly gave his time and talent to the youths of Poolesville High School but also to UMAC, renovating those baseball fields for all our young players at Taylor Field. Presently, a resident of Boyds, Kevin graduated from Seneca Valley High School in 1985, served his country in the U.S. Army, in 1988, he married Dawn, and together, they have three children, Sammi Jo, Cody, and Jessi, all well-known to Poolesville and the Upcounty community. In 2000, Kevin donated his kidney to his mother-in-law. This past fall, Kevin was inducted into the Poolesville High School Athletic Hall of Fame. "Through his influence, Kevin has taught hundreds of young men and women to do their very best and to never give up, while inspiring them all to pursue greatness in their life endeavors," wrote Ed Ross, athletic director of PHS for the induction ceremony. Without thought for himself, without seeking notoriety or pecuniary benefit, Kevin has given countless hours, energy, talent, love, and support to the youths of the greater Poolesville area.

Now his community has a chance to give something back to him. In August 2014, Kevin was diagnosed and confirmed as suffering from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. From the ALSA.org website: "The ability of the brain to initiate and control muscle movement is lost. With voluntary muscle action progressively affected, patients in the later stages of the disease may become totally paralyzed... The progressive degeneration of the motor neurons in ALS eventually leads to death."

The incredible Poolesville community has already begun to show Kevin, Dawn, and their family how much they are loved and supported. First and foremost, a Patty Pollatos Fund (PPF) has been established for Kevin and his family (www.ppfinc.org/recipients-page/kevin-dorsey). The Patty Pollatos Fund was established in the early nineties in memory of Patty Pollatos, a resident of Frederick County who died of cancer in 1992. Devastated financially by the medical and living costs associated with being terminally ill, she feared she would lose her house. Her sister, Debbie Williams, organized a fundraiser that raised the funds needed for Patty to keep her

home. Following Patty's death, Debbie felt called by God to continue the fundraising efforts for others in similar situations. From the PPF, Inc. website: "Our organization is one hundred percent volunteer. No money given to the PPF, Inc. for any charity or group will be earmarked for salaries." The beauty of the fund is that those who donate to any PPF recipient (see the Recipients' Page on the website) is giving to a bona fide charitable organization; PPF, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit. The Dorsey family (and other recipients) then submits to PPF their qualifying bills, medical bills, mortgages, car payments, the like, and PPF pays the bills for them. The Dorseys do not receive "income" and are not taxed on the donations. "They feel like there is a lot less weight on their shoulders," says Lori Gruber, a good friend of Dawn who is coordinating the PPF on behalf of the Dorsey family. "They can enjoy their time together."

Dawn Dorsey learned about PPF by accident when she was trying to seek benefits from the Veterans Administration (VA). After days of repeated attempts, she could not get a hold of a live person at the VA. Finally, she called an old friend from high school, Kim Smith, whom she knew worked for a nonprofit and had contacts to help people find these difficult connections. Smith was able to refer Dawn to a VA employee in Hagerstown—who walked Dawn through the myriad paperwork the VA requires (he sent her three forms a day so she wouldn't be overwhelmed)—and it just so happened that Smith volunteers for PPF.

Apart from the financial support the PPF fund will provide to the family as the ALS progresses, Dawn says, "One thing really makes a difference, the opportunity to put messages to us." Some of the messages are from people that Kevin had coached, others are from people he had touched in some other way, and some are from strangers. A soldier wrote, "You need to know that people are pulling for you—no white flags." Another message was from a wrestling fan who didn't know the Dorseys but loved wrestling and wanted to support him. "Things like that make it a little bit easier," she says. "I check my phone throughout the day just so I can read them, and, Kevin, he sits down and he reads them every couple of days. They're fantastic."

"The community has reached out to us, and we appreciate it," Dawn spoke for the whole family. "We don't know how to do this alone, and we know we don't have to do this alone."


Some special things have already begun to happen with the inception of Kevin's page on PPF, Inc. A community member, who wishes to remain anonymous, doesn't know the Dorseys but learned about all they have done for the community and has pledged to match dollar for dollar any donations made to the family up to \$10,000.

Many friends and acquaintances want to help, and Lori Gruber says that information will be posted about fundraisers on the PPF website, via FaceBook, and through the *Monocacy Monocle*. This Friday,

January 16, there will be a meeting of volunteers at the Poolesville Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. to organize a calendar of events, to create subgroups of volunteers to focus on various fundraisers, and to be sure there are no overlaps or duplications in events. The meeting is open to anyone who wants to help.

Dawn says that her family is humbled by the outpouring of support from the community. The family gives a "big, huge thank you," she says. "Poolesville's let us know they love us. We feel it...We feel what they're sending out."

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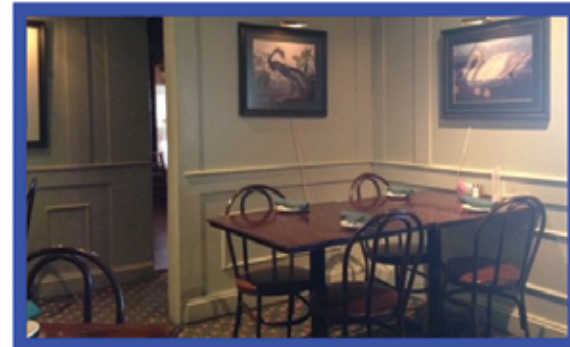
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Continued from page 5.

Poolesville Green Sustains

was a great educational event. I learned a lot about how the coal industry works in today's world and the major effect these practices have on the people living in close proximity."

"It's heartbreaking to see the detrimental effects coal has on our environment, our communities, and lives," says Anne Marie Caruso DiPaolo, who also attended the screening. "Since there is no such thing as clean coal, it's important to explore other environmentally-friendly resources for energy."

Another example of Poolesville Green's education efforts is its free "What's it All About?" series. Past events have offered actionable details on designing landscapes for energy efficiency, and "greening" at home—with examples of green products. Another event offered information on lighting and the best products for personal lighting needs. Poolesville Green also has hosted more than one event featuring representatives from the Montgomery County Council, and the Poolesville Town Commissioners.

The latest presentation in the series, "What's it All About? The Water Quality Protection Charge," is scheduled for Saturday, January 24, at 7:00 p.m., at the Poolesville Town Hall.



Tim Whitehouse introduces a film at one of Poolesville Green's recent programs.

Poolesville Green is hosting the event with the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection. Details on how to reduce fees through sustainable landscaping, among other related topics, will be discussed.

Poolesville Green continues to grow and examine new opportunities to teach our community how to live sustainably. Volunteers are welcome (and needed) from Poolesville and surrounding communities to help the organization grow and to put ideas into action. For more information about volunteering, email Joyce Breiner at PoolesvilleGreen@gmail.com.

Poolesville Green president and co-founder, Tim Whitehouse, facilitates a group discussion following screening of "Coal Country."

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In the Pulpit

Rev. Ann McKinnon Ritonia Begins At St Peter's

By John Clayton

When the Rev. Tom Purdy left St Peter's Episcopal Church in Poolersville in April 2013, parishioners wondered how long it would be before a new permanent rector was in place. The Episcopal Diocese of Washington requires churches to follow a well-defined search process, and after much concerted effort, the church formed a search committee, and about eighteen months later (average time for a church in this diocese), made the call to the Rev. Ann McKinnon Ritonia of Church of the Good Shepherd in Orange, Connecticut. Rev. Ritonia led her first services on Sunday, January 11, to an expectant and grateful congregation.

Rev. Ritonia is originally from Norwood, Massachusetts and received a BA in Music Education and Performance in Euphonium from the New England Conservatory of Music. She also holds a MA in Gerontology from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri.

Rev. Ritonia went into the United States Marine Corps immediately following college. She began with the Marine Band but said she "wanted a larger world view" and entered Marine Corps officer training. She was an honors graduate of USMC Boot Camp Parris Island, South Carolina, and, in addition to graduating from Officer Candidate School and Officer Basic School, she also graduated from the Administrative Officer Course and Legal Officer Course. She served seventeen years in the USMC and Reserves, and was at one time commanding officer of a Support Engineering Squadron in a Marine Air Wing Support Services Squadron. More recently, she studied Clinical Pastoral Education at the West Haven Connecticut Veterans Health Administration.

After the USMC, she studied for the ministry at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia, and Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., where she received the degree of Master of Divinity, Cum Laude. She was ordained as a priest in December 2008. During her travels with the corps and with the church, she has sung with professional choirs in Oklahoma and Virginia, been a guest conductor for the Loudoun Symphony Orchestra, taught junior and senior high school band and choral music in the Diocese of Oklahoma City Schools, and has been a music minister and teacher.

Prior to her four years as rector at Church of the Good Shepherd, she also served as assistant rector at Christ Episcopal Church in Winchester, Virginia, and interim assistant to the rector for Youth and Family Ministries at St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Reston. She was pastoral associate for Music and Family Ministries at St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church in Leesburg and pastoral associate for pastoral care at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Sterling. She has done mission work in South Africa, Belize, and the Dominican Republic and served as chairperson for the Liturgy and Music Commission for the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. Ann has also been active in Community affairs serving as chair of the Orange Interfaith clergy fellowship, chaplain of the Orange Volunteer Fire Association, and as chaplain to the Town of Orange Emergency Management Advisory Committee.

Rev. Ritonia has been married to husband Mike for twenty-eight years, and they are the proud parents of four children, Elizabeth, Emily, John, Matthew, and their three dogs Memphis, Isabel, and Lucy. Mike works for a software development firm in Virginia. Rev. Ann, as she prefers to be called, enjoys cooking for crowds, singing, reading, playing the cello, swimming, kayaking, travel, and spending time with her family. In her short time here, she has found Poolersville to be "friendly," and she "likes being here very much." She looks forward to serving the community as a rector and as a resident.

Police Blotter

By Jack Toomey

Current Crime

Assault: 19600 and 19700 blocks of Fisher Avenue.

Burglary: 17200 block of Spates Hill Road.

Theft from vehicle: 19300 block of Hoskinson Avenue, 22500 block of Club Hollow Road, 17200 block of Spates Hill Road.

Past Crime

January 2, 1939 Both the Maryland State Police and the county police reported an unusually quiet New Year's Eve. Both agencies reported that they had made no arrests and an inspection of the county jail revealed no inmates.

January 10, 1939 Police were investigating the death of twenty-one-year-old Mrs. Olive Frances Duvall. She was described as the "pretty raven-haired wife of farmer Herbert Duvall." The body of Mrs. Duvall was found on the family farm on Mount Lebanon Road between Etchison and Damascus. Police said that they were told that Mrs. Duvall was in the backyard when a shotgun blast was heard. When Mr. Duvall went to the backyard, he found his wife dead.

January 13, 1938 Montgomery County Police officers were investigating the break-in of the Kenwood Country Club Golf shop. Among the items taken were a gross of golf balls, three rain jackets, and the assistant pro's shoes. It was the second time in two weeks that the shop had been broken into.

January 24, 1938 Thirteen Rockville volunteer firemen were injured when their fire engine overturned near Neelsville. They had been responding to a two-car collision near Boyds where people were reported to be injured. Police said that the fire engine skidded on an icy roadway on the Frederick Road and overturned. In the meantime, a rescue truck reached the accident in Boyds only to be ordered to respond to Neelsville to transport the injured firemen to hospitals. Excited relatives crammed into various automobiles and went to the crash site. Police said that, at one time, there were one thousand bystanders at the scene.

January 25, 1937 County police were trying to learn the identity of a middle-aged white man who was killed by a train at Means Station near Gaithersburg. Police said that the man stepped off of a train and tried to cross the tracks only to be run down by a train passing in the opposite direction. In his pockets they found a union card in the name of Cassidy, but it was dated 1931. Police sent his fingerprints to the FBI.

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Monocacy Foundations

Mount Carmel

By Susan Petro

Every home tells a story, and the walls of the Mount Carmel Estate, located in Dickerson, hold over 250 years' worth of history, including evidence of minié-ball strikes that hit both the exterior and interior walls of the stone structure during Civil War skirmishes. The home, said to be one of the oldest in Montgomery County, had its first foundations laid in 1760 during the Colonial Era.

Mount Carmel's story begins when Thomas Veatch, a prominent landowner and a Justice of the Second Court, built a one-and-a-half-story stone house on a piece of farmland in a western section of Montgomery County which was originally part of Frederick County. The scenic acreage has woods, rolling pastures, and farmland to the south, and the Little Monocacy River meandering through it. The original stone structure now serves as the west wing of a much larger home.

As the Veatch family grew, so did the home. A one-story stone addition was built to serve as either slave quarters, a smokehouse, or a dairy.

This type of home, with a series of additions, called dependencies, was known as a telescope plan.

During that same time period, a separate one-and-a-half-story stone house was built on the property, near the main home. Stone and brick chimneys flanked both sides of this smaller house. An inscription on the chimney dates the structure to 1833. This home was originally built to house multiple slave families. Records indicate that in 1860, nine slaves were living and working at Mount Carmel.

The Trundles' youngest daughter, Mary, married Richard Gott. The couple lived on the farm and raised seven children there. In the mid 1800s, the Gotts built a gristmill close to the house to grind grain into flour. During that time period, changing agricultural trends meant more farmers were switching from growing tobacco to growing grain. The gristmill remained in operation until 1910.

Four daughters of Richard and Mary Gott married Confederate soldiers and were heavy Confederate sympathizers. Mount Carmel was the site of numerous skirmishes and searches when Union troops came looking for Confederate troops and supplies. A mini-ball lodged in an outer wall and signs of additional mortar damage to an inner wall in the kitchen



This local historic home was the site of a skirmish during the Civil War.

In the early 1800s, a larger two-story red Seneca sandstone house was added close to the original stone structures. This part of the home was built by John L Trundle, the husband of Veatch's youngest daughter, Mary. Trundle and Mary Veatch married in 1799. Trundle was a member of the Levy Court and also served as a County Commissioner from 1833 to 1836.

A frame section was added around 1833 that connected the existing stone structures to make one large home. A front porch was also added.

area of the original home bear witness to the early struggles between Union and Confederate troops. Stonewall Jackson visited Mount Carmel in 1862.

The Gotts' daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, was married to Col. Elijah White, a Confederate soldier, who was responsible for numerous raids in and around Poolesville. In July of 1864, Sarah and a group of other women who supported the Confederate cause, crossed the Potomac from Virginia into

Continued on page 15.

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Youth Sports

Changing of and From the Guard

By Jeff Stuart

Much has changed with the Poolesville High School girls' basketball team this season. Though still very much a presence on the sidelines, Fred Swick, the winningest boys' and girls' basketball coach in Poolesville history, has handed over the coaching reins to Jamie Jamison who played for Swick as Jamie Morningstar from 2001 to 2005. Swick left coaching to become athletic director in 2006 for PHS and returned to the sidelines in 2010. Jamison was an Honorable Mention All-Met in 2005. Both were inducted into the PHS Hall of Fame in 2012.

On the court, too, there are changes. A few of the players talked about them at practice following the opening game against B-CC. "Last year we were predominantly a guard-oriented team," said senior guard and captain Anna Murgia, currently on the injured list with a torn meniscus. "This year we are more oriented to the four and five positions, the front court. We have bigger players. Our team has a lot of depth. We are always going to have a good lineup, no matter who goes into play."

Junior center Erin Sparrow echoed Murgia. "This year we have a new team dynamic oriented more on our forwards," she said. "Our first game against B-CC was a little rough. We didn't come out as strong as we should have. We just have to keep working hard in practice...We can only go up from where we started."

"We lost some players last year," said senior forward and captain Anna DeSoto. "So far we are kind of like rebuilding and working on fundamentals. but we have a really good group of girls and we're going to work well together. We were a little nervous in our opener against B-CC. Communication is so important. We need to work as a team and keep in mind where we are supposed to be." She is looking forward to the Damascus game. The Hornets have won the region final the last two years. The Falcons host Damascus on February 3.

Poolesville is off to a 6-3 start. In the second game of the season, the Falcons won at Gaithersburg, 57-44. Junior forward Karyn Comfort, leading the team in free throws, had fourteen points. Sparrow, who leads the team in free throw percentage, had

eleven. It was the third straight victory over the traditionally-strong Trojans.

Sparrow scored thirteen at Watkins Mill in a game she had predicted would be tough. The Wolverines, led by senior guards Danielle Durjan and Dominique Walker, two of the county's top players, led by only a point at half time, but they outscored PHS, 17-5, in the third quarter en route to a, 56-35, win.

The defense has started to assert itself. The Falcons trailed at division rival Rockville, 18-15, at the half, but a three by freshman guard Kelliann Lee on the opening possession of the second half tied the score. PHS scored fourteen points in the third quarter, but it was the defense that shined, holding the Rams to a single point in the third period, winning 47-29. Junior guard Casey Harkins, who leads the team with ten three-pointers, had fifteen points against Rockville, including three three-pointers, and 6'2" freshman Erin Green scored fourteen. The very next game, Poolesville returned home and held Seneca Valley scoreless in the first period, winning 51-19.



PHS girls' basketball players
Erin Sparrow, Anna DeSoto,
and Anna Murgia.

At home versus Blake, Green, second on the team in points per game with a 9.5 point average, scored eighteen. Junior forward Kirsten Darraugh, second on the team in field goal percentage, had eight points, making all four of her free throws. Junior forward Isabelle Durkin also had eight points.

In the Northwest Holiday Tournament on December 29, the Falcons defeated Clarksburg, 54-45. Harkins led the scoring with sixteen points.

Freshman point guard Kenydi Cross weighing in at 5'2", handled the ball well and delivered some crisp passes to teammates. She had six points. Durkin has a season high ten points. The next day, PHS completed a successful Christmas break by defeating Northwood, 57-38. Harkins moved into the team lead in points per game, with twenty-two points to raise her average to 10.6. Green had twelve points.

On January 8 at Damascus, outstanding rebounding helped the Falcons take a five-point first-quarter lead. They led by one at the half, but Damascus eventually overcame the Falcons, 41-35.

There has been significant rule change this year that permits players to enter the lane on the foul shot's release, instead of its contact with the rim or backboard. This leads to less waiting and more boxing out.

Tidbits

Not Too Good to be True

Someone reading this article—or someone a reader knows who might qualify—could join the approximately twenty Poolesville-area homeowners who have had a "makeover" of their homes during the past two decades. Yes, Rebuilding Together (formerly Christmas in April) will take on its annual project on Saturday, April 25.

Now is the time when income-qualified homeowners are invited to apply for absolutely free repairs and upgrading of a home that has issues affecting safety, health, and quality of life, but the deadline for applications, January 31, is fast approaching.

The rehab will be performed by local volunteers and is sponsored and partially-financed by Helping Hands Poolesville, Inc., a local Christian service nonprofit entity.

Applications are simple to complete and the income limit that must be met is surprisingly high. For questions, further information, or application forms, contact Ray Hoewing (of Helping Hands Poolesville) at 301-461-9399 or the county offices of Rebuilding Together at 301-947-9400.

Congratulations to PHS Athletic All-Gazette Selections

In girls' volleyball, the *Gazette* Newspapers named senior setter Allyson Convers as Montgomery County Player of the Year. Allyson ended her career at Poolesville with a total of 418 assists, 101 digs, 39 blocks, 91 kills, and 67 aces. Sophomore opposite hitter/middle blocker Caroline Leng was a first team pick.

From the PHS football team, quarterback Steven Morningstar, offensive lineman Kyle Wilkins, defensive lineman Jon Bateky, and defensive back Sean Parker were first team picks to the All-County 3A/2A squad as voted by MCPS coaches.

Offensive lineman Brandon Bush received honorable mention.

The Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department Says Thank You

UMCVFD expresses its sincerest thank you to all those who donated toys for the 2014 U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. UMCVFD also thanks the Poolesville area shops and other organizations that were kind enough to place Toys for Tots box within their establishments: **Asian House of Poolesville, Cugini's, Dickerson Market, Harris Teeter, Poolesville Athletic Club, Hearthside Home and Garden, M&T Bank, Mooney's, Poolesville Barber, Poolesville Hardware, Poolesville Beer and Wine, Poolesville Town Hall, Shear Elegance, Total Automotive & Diesel, Tractor Supply, and Zaglio's Bakery.** Success is, as always, a team effort. Support from the local businesses and the generosity of our residents combined to make the 2014 Toys for Tots program successful.

While UMCVFD's primary responsibility is to respond to and remediate emergencies, it also gives aid to the general community in programs like Toys for Tots. When WUMCO's toy drive chairperson Val Dickerson made a request for more toys, UMCVFD responded quickly. UMCVFD feels especially gratified in knowing that the toys collected brightened the smiles of local children on Christmas morning. Chief White remarked, "The career and volunteer members of UMCVFD have been providing service to the community for fifty-plus years. We are continually grateful for their generous support."

Keep Your Mailbox Clear of Snow

The Post Office wants to remind *Monocle* readers that keeping their street-side mailboxes clear of snow will help mail delivery to be smooth and efficient. With residents' help, heavier snowfalls will not add to the challenge of getting the mail to everyone on time.

Musings from Mama Boe

First-World Problems

By Pamela Boe

He'd left his shoes in his basketball bag last night, and didn't have anything but his basketball shoes at Dad's house, in Darnestown. Now he had to be driven all the way back to my house before going to John Poole Middle School this morning. His father was NOT pleased, and getting barked at first thing in the morning is an unpleasant way to start a day. So the boy arriving at my kitchen door at seven o'clock to quickly grab his shoes was already showing the strain of the day.

Just last night, he was frustrated that he hadn't enough time, after finishing homework and basketball practice, to work on his drawing project. He loves to sketch, and sometimes when he starts an idea, it fully consumes him. Plaguing him every minute of the day, the idea of it fully invades his attention in school, his thoughts during any social interaction, and any family conversation. It sounds impossible, but his hyper-focus can drive him to total distraction. So when he didn't have time last night to devote to his drawing project, he was beyond frustrated.

And the day before, when he wanted to get his new Christmas Wubble Bubble Ball inflated, we couldn't find the right valve. My Captain has every tool, every gizmo, and every doo-hicky, gadget that you could possibly need for such an occasion (in metric and standard,) in his workshop, but he was at the firehouse for the next 24 hours. Waiting to get your Wubble Bubble Ball inflated is a near impossible task when you are eleven years old, and have been waiting for that toy for months and months. Critter would have to be super-human to withstand that delay.

And the night before, the day before, last night, (wait, what?) he couldn't sleep. He'd gotten to snooze late that morning because it was a "snow day", and wasn't remotely tired by bedtime. He laid in the soft warmth of his bed in the dark, tossed, turned, got up for a glass of water, tossed some more, turned some more, came

into the family room to complain, was sent back to his bed with the admonition that he "sure as heck couldn't sleep standing up, in the middle of the family room, with his eyes wide open," and so returned to his bedroom, to lay awake for an hour more, staring up at the glow-in-the-dark stars on his ceiling. Insomnia stinks at any age.

So you can see that Critter has been having a rough week, and is in a foul mood in general because of everything above. I, being the font of patience and wisdom that I am, had enough of his self-pitying snarkiness, and decided it was time for a little sage, compassionate, motherly perspective.

"You need to shut your pie-hole, son. Stop complaining."

"But my life STINKS, Mom."

"Really? Did you get to eat today? Do you have shoes and a shirt on your back? Did you get an education today? Do you have a roof over your head, and a bed of your own? Do you have adults who love, and take care of you? Do you live in fear of enslavement? Can you even assume, with relative certainty, that you will be alive tomorrow?" I challenged.

"I know, I know! Geez, Mom. We are so lucky. Blah, blah, blah." He rolled his eyes, feeling completely misunderstood. "Just because there are other people in this world who have less than I do, doesn't mean I don't have problems, too."

I blew an impatient breath. "Son, there are problems, and then there are inconveniences. YOU have inconveniences. If the worst thing that happened to you today was that you had your lunch money stolen from the bully at school, or that your sports bottle leaked in your gym bag, you are the luckiest son-of-a-gun in the world."

"You say that now, Mom, but yesterday you were crying because you'd broken your favorite coffee mug, and before that you were complaining that your kitchen is too small," he retorted.

I snapped my mouth shut, and paused.

Obviously, Critter learned his pessimism from my own careless, ungrateful rants. Turns out we both could use a lesson in the difference between First-World, and Third-World Problems.

Looks like Mama needs to shut her pie-hole!

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Garden

The Garden: A Muse

By Maureen O'Connell

As we begin our journey into a new year, many thoughts and resolutions enter our minds, and hopefully, they endure past the last champagne toast at midnight. While walking in my garden the other day, I carefully looked at it—or, I should say, its skeletons. What shall I do with it this year? Last year was one of the worst that I have seen in years. I have new plans, but I shall save them for another column. Sometimes I think that I will cut back and not plant as many flowers or not dig more flower beds, but then I remember the garden's glory days and how I would miss my morning and evening walks in the garden. My garden is my refuge.

With this thought in mind, let me tell you about a book I received this Christmas from my daughter entitled *The Writer's Garden*, by Jackie Bennett. This book delves into the lives of twenty leading authors, playwrights, and poets to uncover the roles that gardens played in their work, lives, solace, and inspiration. It is more than a coffee table book and would appeal to many readers.

Would we have had the pleasure of reading Jane Austen's (1775-1817) *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Emma* if she had not seen a walk, an ornamental lake, the winding shrubberies, and the walled garden at her brother's home at Godmersham Park, Kent?

Rupert Brooke, the English poet who became a symbol in England of the tragic loss of talented youth during World War I, found solace at the Old Vicarage at Grantchester. He loved the wilderness of the old gardens where cow parsley and wildflowers flourished, and the swans nested year after year on a little island in the mill stream not far from the stand of horse chestnut trees. He remembered all these in his poems.

"Tremendous things are in store for you. Many wonderful surprises await you," says Willy Wonka in Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Dahl (1916-1990), the prolific British novelist, poet, and screenwriter, who is best known for his children's books, lived and gardened at Gipsy House in Buckinghamshire. His garden was a place of happiness for him and his children, and it was the inspiration for many of his books. He studied his fruit orchard, observing the critters that crawled onto the fruit. He came

up with the idea of making a child the same size as the worms and caterpillars; the result was *James and the Giant Peach*. In this same orchard lived a Big Friendly Giant who would go on to appear in Danny, *The Champion of the World*.

Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936) lived and gardened at Bateman, a Jacobean house in the Dudwell Valley in East Sussex. In his books, *Puck of Pook's Hill* and *Rewards and Fairies*, he speaks lovingly of the landscape of the surrounding area, with its oaks, chestnuts, streams, valleys, mills, forges, and farms.

I was especially interested in reading about the gardens of the four following writers, as I had visited them when I was in England several years ago.

Winston Churchill (1874-1965) was a writer, historian, artist, statesman, and Britain's most famous prime minister. It is said that he was probably never happier than when working outdoors in his gardens at his home, Chartwell, in Kent. He and his family lived there from 1922 to 1965. During that time, he rebuilt the walls in the kitchen garden, constructed brick garden walkways, established and cared for orchards, rose and dahlia gardens, and ponds for his golden orfe. Churchill suffered from depression, and his daily visits to his gardens allowed him to escape, however briefly, from the burdens of his life and the world. Chartwell existed before Churchill, but as you walk through the gardens, you easily see that the world he created there is distinctly evocative of his own vision.

Peter Rabbit, *Mr. Jeremy Fisher*, *Tom Kitten*, *Jemima Puddle-Duck*, and *Mr. McGregor* all lived and gardened with Beatrix Potter (1866-1943) at Hill Top Farm in the southern part of the Lake District. Hill Top provided Potter with her own space, and it housed her solace and her inspiration. Her garden was a true cottage garden where flowers and perennial vegetables were left to jostle for space. If you visit the garden today, the plants you see growing everywhere are the ones that we know she grew, and Mr. McGregor's vegetable garden is entered through the same green-painted gate. Miss Potter loved the natural world, and she allowed it to flourish, balanced between order and chaos. Weeds were most certainly allowed, and the grass patches were not always neatly trimmed. The world of nature at Hilltop inspired her extraordinary imagination and restored her spirits, year after year.

John Ruskin (1819-1900) was the leading English art critic of the Victorian era. He was also an author,

a poet, and a prominent social thinker and philanthropist. He lived at Brantwood on the eastern shore of Coniston Water in the Lake District. His multiple gardens there provided him with an outdoor laboratory for his intensive studies of man and nature. He was truly a man ahead of his time with his concern for working with the environment in harmony with nature.

Another writer who drew inspiration from the river and mountain landscape of the Lake District was William Wordsworth

(1770-1850). As a young man, he developed a love of nature, and this is reflected in many of his poems. In 1799, he and his sister Dorothy settled at Dove Cottage in Grasmere, where he wrote some of his best poetry, among them the one for which he is most widely known, "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud." I remember vividly looking out a window of a bedroom on the second floor of the cottage and seeing the same swath of wild daffodils that inspired this poem.

Continued from page 12.

Mount Carmel

Maryland to gather boots and supplies for the Confederate troops. They hid the supplies under the hoops of their skirts and proceeded back to the river crossing. When the river proved impossible to cross because of the return of Union guards, the women returned to Dickerson where they hid the supplies in the walls. Sarah and the girls were arrested and transported to a prison in Washington, D.C. where they were threatened with hanging.

Due to a lack of evidence, the girls were paroled after three weeks. They returned to Dickerson to pick up the supplies they had stashed, and, once again, hid the items under their skirts. They carefully lowered themselves and their hidden bounty onto a skiff and proceeded to cross the river at Edwards Ferry. When Colonel White's troops heard of the girls' safe crossing, the soldiers returned to pick up the supplies.

After the end of the Civil War, more peaceful times returned to Mount Carmel. Eventually, the Gott

descendants moved away from the farm, and the property changed hands a number of times.

Today, the exterior of the home looks much the same as it did in the 1800s, but many improvements have been added over time to both the interior and exterior to make the house comfortable and livable for a modern family.

The first floor of the original 1760s house, which now serves as the west wing of the main house, features thick stone walls, an original built-in sink, and a large fireplace that was once used for cooking. A new, modern kitchen has since been added. Above the first floor kitchen is a loft which also includes a fireplace and dormer windows on each side. The main house features a grand living room, dining room, sunroom, numerous bedrooms and baths, and a series of staircases.


The former slave house has been updated and serves as a separate guesthouse.

This historic property is ready for its next chapter in life as a home, a farm, or pastureland. Mount Carmel, located at 21515 Dickerson Road, is currently up for sale.



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Remembrances

Nancy Walker Martin

Nancy Walker Martin of Poolesville passed away on November 29 after a two-year battle with cancer. Nancy was the daughter of Lyda Walker and the late Thomas Walker. She is survived by her husband of twenty-seven years, James Martin, Jr., and sons, Blaine Martin and James "Rudy" Martin, III; also surviving her are her three sisters, Linda Beach, Christine Miller, and Patricia Snoots. Nancy was born on May 9, 1961 in Silver Spring, Maryland and attended Montgomery Blair High School and the University of Maryland. She was a woman of great faith, and the Poolesville community and all who knew her will be diminished by her passing. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Children's Inn at NIH, 7 West Drive, Bethesda, Maryland 20814.



Nancy Walker Martin

Hilda Alberta Ramey

Hilda Ramey, 65, of Adamstown, passed away peacefully on Christmas Day at Frederick Memorial Hospital.

Born July 5, 1949 in Leesburg, Virginia, she was the daughter of the late Charles and Florence Ramey. She graduated from Poolesville High School in 1967 and moved to Frederick in 1968. She worked as a photo processor at Kodak in Rockville for twenty years, and later at Citizens Care and Rehabilitation Center in Frederick, until illness forced her retirement earlier this year. She enjoyed her family, and shopping in malls and on QVC, and she loved to dance. She thought the world of her children and grandson, who loved her dearly.

Hilda is survived by her devoted daughter, Tracey Robinson; two brothers, Leonard Ramey and Howard Ramey and his wife Cheryl; her grandson, Mitch Robinson Jr., whom she adored; her significant other, Tazewell Mills; her beloved Pomeranian, Buddy; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and other relatives. She was preceded in death by a son, Trenton Ramey.

Thomas Cummings Brown

Thomas Brown of Jefferson, Maryland, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 30. He was born on July 7, 1919 in Poolesville and was the son of the late J. Herbert and Elizabeth Oxley Brown.

Tom was well-known throughout Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia as an independent truck driver, livestock dealer, and horseman. He will be remembered fondly by all, especially his "tea time" buddies in Jefferson. An avid Baltimore Orioles fan, he also enjoyed attending horse-pulling contests, especially those at the Great Frederick Fair. In later years, he often referred to himself as a "tired" farmer (not retired). He was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Point of Rocks.

He is survived by his wife of sixty-nine years, Inez Anderson Brown; sons James and Robert (wife Jennifer) Brown of Jefferson; granddaughter



Thomas Cummings Brown

Katherine Brown of San Diego, grandson Daniel (wife Annisa) Brown of Philadelphia; brother Edwin Brown (wife Winsome) of Dickerson; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister Erwin Staggs. The family wishes to express their thanks to the staffs of Tranquillity at Fredericktowne Assisted Living and Carroll Hospice for their help and support. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in memory of Tom to St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Point of Rocks.

Michael Evans

Michael Vincent Evans, 35, of Poolesville, passed away unexpectedly on January 4, 2015. Pastor Ken Fitzwater presided at the funeral at Hilton Funeral Home on January 9.

A graduate of Poolesville High School, Michael was noted for his abiding love of the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing. The love of the outdoors is a multi-generational passion within the family, something that was passed from Michael's father, Butch Evans, to Michael, and from Michael to his young son, Ryan.

As a Christmas gift to his father, Michael had expressed, in a framed letter, his gratitude to his dad for passing on a love of hunting to him.

The letter, shared at the funeral, said, in part: "Thanks, Dad, for passing on the hunting tradition that is such a part of me. I find it hard to imagine that without your guidance and patience that I might not have become a hunter. You kindled and fanned my longing for the outdoors. When you carried me on your shoulders when I was too tired to continue, you sealed my fate. Because of you, Dad, I am a hunter."

Similarly, a note written by Michael's young son, Ryan, which was read at the funeral, also expressed the young boy's appreciation to his dad for sharing time with him in the outdoors and stated how much he would miss the time with his dad fishing, hunting ground hogs, building Legos, and using his four-wheeler. At the bottom of the note, Ryan drew a large heart.

Michael is survived by his parents, Ray (Butch) and Bobbie Evans (Bobbie is Poolesville's town clerk), of Poolesville; his son, Ryan Evans; mother of Ryan, Elizabeth Brown; sister and brother-in-law, Kristy and Christopher West; nieces, Makaela and Katelynn West; nephew, Charles West; aunts and uncles, Sarah and Henry Brabham, Linda and Butch Fitzwater, and Jack Cubitt; as well as many cousins. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations made to DBSA, Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, at dbsalliance.org in Michael's name.



Michael Vincent Evans

Blanche E. Cooke

Blanche E. Cooke, 84, of Dickerson, died on January 9, 2015. She was the wife of the late Lloyd G. Cooke. Born on November 19, 1930, she was the daughter of the late William C. and Cecilia (Simms) Richmond. Surviving is one son, Lloyd K. Cooke (Margaret) of Tennessee; one daughter, Barbara J. O'Hare of Hyattsville; two sisters, Dorothy Maurey and Elaine Dawson; four grandchildren, Butch, Teresa, Heather, and Michael; and several great grandchildren. Blanche will be missed by her longtime friends Bill and Mary Ellen Burdette. She was preceded in death by one daughter, Kathleen A. Cooke. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation.

Flags were lowered January 5, 2015

In memory of Sgt. Maj. Wardell Turner, of Nanticoke, Maryland, who died in November 2014, in Kabul, Afghanistan.



Richard Keeney

By Jack Toomey

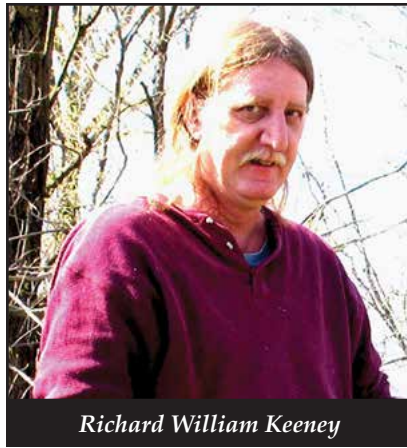
Richard William Keeney, 59, of Tuscarora, died on November 23 after a short illness.

Affectionately known as the Birdhouse Man, Rick lived in the white house at the intersection of Routes 28 and 85 in Tuscarora. For years, he devoted his life to working with wood and especially to building birdhouses. Rick operated on a system of honesty and kept a box out front where customers could leave their money.

When interviewed several years ago, he said that, to his knowledge, money had never been stolen. He had customers from all over the country who would sometimes visit and make purchases.

Mr. Keeney was a student of American history and politics. He also enjoyed writing poetry. Earlier in his life, he worked in retail and in the restaurant business. He was a graduate of Thomas Johnson High School and a member of the Forest Grove Baptist Church at Tuscarora. Mr. Keeney is survived by three sisters and a brother.

His funeral and burial were at the Resthaven Memorial Gardens in Frederick.



Richard William Keeney

The Birdhouse Man

By Jack Toomey

This article originally ran in our May 18, 2007 issue.

There are birdhouses on poles, some on pitchforks, birdhouses on shovels, some on barn doors, others on old gates, a few on chairs, and others waiting to be mounted. By now you might have guessed that this is a description of the residence of the man whom many people call the Birdhouse Man.

Rick Keeney has lived in the small white house at the intersection of Routes 28 and 85, just into Frederick County, for over ten years. The house, believed to date from the late 1800s, was once a tavern, a store, and, until the mid-1970s, a gas station. Keeney grew up in Frederick and has worked in retail and the restaurant business. About ten years ago, he decided to build a birdhouse for himself and then built another, and another, and now there are at least five hundred of them for sale in his yard. Keeney told a visitor, "It is a gift from God that I can do this. I have always had a yearning to work with my hands." Keeney uses barn wood for his projects and scours the countryside for barns being torn down. He also has a friend in Loudoun County who alerts him whenever a barn is about to be demolished. Keeney also hauls off fencing, barn doors, tools, and almost anything that people are willing to give away. Some are used to mount birdhouses while others are for sale. He even has Abe Lincoln's chair for sale. Keeney explained that he found a gigantic white chair somewhere and a young girl, visiting the backyard with her parents, sat in it and exclaimed, "I feel like Lincoln." The front of the house has only the smaller boxes that are designed for finches, wrens, and blue jays. The backyard is a maze of larger products too numerous to describe. Prices range from ten dollars for a simple box to over forty dollars for the larger more ornate birdhouses that would typically be mounted on a farm artifact. Keeney can build a simple birdhouse in a half an hour where a more complicated structure might take a few hours.

Rick sleeps during the day because of a night-time job and doesn't get to meet many of his customers. He maintains an honesty box out front where customers simply select an item, deposit money, and go on their way without disturbing him.

The customers that he has met come from a wide spectrum of the community. There is a lady who regularly comes from Alexandria, someone who lives in California who always comes when she is in town, and tourists from France, Germany, and Great Britain who have dropped in and made purchases. Once, a famous artist from Moscow stopped by and shopped. One of his birdhouses, mounted on a log, was



once shown at the Corcoran Gallery of Art. Keeney said, half-jokingly, "I was hoping to get rich and retire (doing this), but I'll do it as long as I can." When he mentioned that he has shipped some of his birdhouses to Europe, a visitor asked why he hadn't gotten into the internet retail business. Keeney explained that he isn't computer literate, but if he met the right person he would consider selling his products online. Now that word of mouth has increased his fame, Keeney sometimes travels to craft shows, flea markets, and even state fairs to sell his birdhouses.

Many readers have probably passed Keeney's house and have seen the birdhouses out front and made it a point to stop one day. Now that the warmer months are here, try exploring the backyard; it is filled with Rick's creations, and all are for sale at very reasonable prices.

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Tips to Keep Your Pets Safe during Cold weather

Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF, FASLMS

Winter wellness: Has your pet had his/her preventive care exam (wellness exam) yet? Cold weather may worsen some medical conditions such as arthritis. Your pet should be examined by a veterinarian at least once a year, and it's as good a time as any to get him/her checked out to make sure (s)he is ready and as healthy as possible for cold weather.

Know the limits: Just like people, pets' cold tolerance can vary from pet to pet based on their coat, body fat stores, activity level, and health. Be aware of your pet's tolerance for cold weather, and adjust accordingly. You will probably need to shorten your dog's walks in very cold weather to protect you both from weather-associated health risks. Arthritic and elderly pets may have more difficulty walking on snow and ice and may be more prone to slipping and falling. Long-haired or thick-coated dogs tend to be more cold-tolerant, but are still at risk in cold weather. Short-haired pets feel the cold faster because they have less protection, and short-legged pets may become cold faster because their bellies and bodies are more likely to come into contact with snow-covered ground. Pets with diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease, or hormonal imbalances (such as Cushing's disease) may have a harder time regulating their body temperature, and may be more susceptible to problems from temperature extremes. The same goes for very young and very old pets. If you need help determining your pet's temperature limits, consult your veterinarian.

Stay inside: Cats and dogs should be kept inside during cold weather. It's a common belief that dogs and cats are more resistant than people to cold weather because of their fur, but it's untrue. Like people, cats and dogs are susceptible to frostbite and hypothermia and should be kept inside. Longer-haired and thick-coated dog breeds, such as huskies and other dogs bred for colder climates, are more tolerant of cold weather; but no pet should be left outside for long periods of time in below-freezing weather.

Make some noise: A warm vehicle engine can be an appealing heat source for outdoor and feral cats, but it's deadly. Check underneath your car, bang on the hood, and honk the horn before starting the engine to encourage feline hitchhikers to abandon their roost under the hood.

Check the paws: Check your dog's paws frequently for signs of cold-weather injury or damage, such as cracked paw pads or bleeding. During a walk, a sudden lameness may be due to an injury or may be due to ice accumulation between his/her toes. You may be able to reduce the chance of ice ball accumulation by clipping the hair between your dog's toes.

Wipe down: During walks, your dog's feet, legs, and belly may pick up deicers, antifreeze, or other chemicals that could be toxic. When you get back inside, wipe down (or wash) your pet's feet, legs, and belly to remove these chemicals and reduce the risk that your dog will be poisoned after (s)he licks them off of his/her feet or fur. Consider using pet-safe deicers on your property to protect your pets and the others in your neighborhood.

Stay home: Hot cars are a known threat to pets, but cold cars also pose significant risk to your pet's health. You're already familiar with how a car can rapidly cool down in cold weather; it becomes like a refrigerator, and can rapidly chill your pet. Pets that are young, old, ill, or thin are particularly susceptible to cold environments and should never be left in cold cars. Limit car travel to only that which is necessary, and don't leave your pet unattended in the vehicle.

Prevent poisoning: Clean up any antifreeze spills quickly, as even small amounts of antifreeze can be deadly. Make sure your pets don't have access to medication bottles, household chemicals, potentially toxic foods such as onions, xylitol (a sugar substitute), and chocolate.



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Starting At:
\$67⁹⁵
185/65R14

Everyday Low Price
Other tires, sizes and prices available



GOODYEAR

Goodyear Integrity®

Starting At:
70⁵⁵
205/65R15

Everyday Low Price
Other tires, sizes and prices available



DUNLOP

Dunlop Rover H/T™

Starting At:
167⁶⁰
P265/70R16

Sale Price



GOODYEAR

Goodyear Assurance®
Comfortred® Touring

Starting At:
\$95⁹⁵
195/65R15

Everyday Low Price
Other tires, sizes and prices available

MAIL-IN REBATES¹ UP TO

\$160

Goodyear® Visa® Prepaid Card by Mail-In Rebate with the purchase of a set of four select Goodyear or Dunlop® tires on the Goodyear Credit Card between October 1 and December 31, 2014.

1. Mail-In Rebate paid in the form of a Goodyear Visa Prepaid Card. Get up to an \$80 Rebate on a qualifying purchase or double your Rebate up to \$160 when the purchase is made on the Goodyear Credit Card. Subject to credit approval. Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery. See Store Associate for complete details and rebate form. Additional terms and conditions apply.

NO INTEREST IF PAID IN FULL WITHIN 6 MONTHS*

on purchases of \$250 or more made from 10/01/14 – 12/31/14. Interest will be charged to your account from the purchase date if the purchase balance is not paid in full within 6 months or if you make a late payment. Minimum payments required. See this ad for details.

Oil Change

\$5⁰⁰ OFF Regular Price

CONVENTIONAL OR SYNTHETIC BLEND OIL
Or \$10 for a full Synthetic Oil that includes a FREE 4-tire rotation.

Offer expires 12/31/2014. Must present coupon to get this offer. Most vehicles. No other discounts apply. Will be deducted from participating retailer's price at the time of purchase. Up to 5 quarts of conventional oil for standard oil change. Premium oil change savings off regular price and includes up to 5 quarts of synthetic blend or full synthetic oil plus a four-tire rotation. Canister/cartridge filter and diesel oil extra. Fluid/filter disposal charges may apply. Additional charge for shop supplies, up to 7% or \$25 maximum, may be added. Redeem at POOLESVILLE TIRE & AUTO only. See store for complete details. Special state exceptions: FL – Waste oil/filter fee may apply; CA – \$2.50 fluid/filter disposal fee applies but no additional charge for shop supplies applies; WA – no fluid disposal charges apply; NY – no fluid disposal or additional charge for shop supplies applies. Cash value 1/50¢.

Car Care Package

39⁹⁵ Coupon Price

- Lube, oil change and new filter
- Four-tire rotation
- Check and top off all fluids under the hood
- Complete visual inspection
- Inspect battery
- Check tires for wear and adjust air pressure
- Examine all belts and hoses for cracks and proper tension

Must present coupon to get this offer. Most vehicles. No other discounts apply. Additional charge for shop supplies, up to 7% or \$25 maximum, may be added. Redeem at POOLESVILLE TIRE & AUTO only. See store for complete details. Special state exceptions: CA and NY – no additional charge for shop supplies applies. Cash value 1/50¢. Offer ends 12/31/2014.

COME VISIT US AT THIS LOCATION:

POOLESVILLE TIRE & AUTO

19920 FISHER AVE
POOLESVILLE, MD 20837
301-349-3880
WWW.POOLESVILLETIRE.COM

◆ With credit approval for qualifying purchases made on the Goodyear Credit Card at participating stores. APR for purchases: variable 28.9953431500 non-variable 26.99– 28.99(see your card agreement for which rate applies); minimum interest charge up to \$2.99. See card agreement for details. Offer valid for consumer accounts in good standing. Offer is subject to change without notice. See Store Associate for details. May not be combined with any other credit promotion offer.

2. Additional Terms and Conditions: Get up to an \$80 Rebate on a qualifying purchase of a set of four select Goodyear or Dunlop tires or double your rebate up to \$160 when the purchase is made on the Goodyear Credit Card. Subject to credit approval. Mail-In Rebate paid in the form of a Goodyear Visa Prepaid Card. Goodyear is not affiliated with Visa. Mail-In Rebate offers available only at authorized participating Goodyear Retailers. Offers valid only for U.S. residents with mailing addresses in the U.S. or U.S. territories. Mail-In Rebate offers valid only on purchases between 10/01/14 – 12/31/14. One Goodyear Visa Prepaid Card per qualifying purchase. Prepaid Cards are issued by Citibank, N.A. pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. and managed by Citi Prepaid Services. Prepaid Cards will not have cash access and can be used everywhere Visa debit cards are accepted. Base portion of rebate offered by Goodyear and doubled portion of rebate offered by Citibank, N.A. Rebate form must be postmarked no later than 01/31/15. Allow 6 to 8 weeks for Prepaid Card delivery. Get a \$40 Prepaid Card (\$80 if purchase is made on the Goodyear Credit Card) when you purchase a set of four of the following tires: Assurance Fuel Max, Assurance Fuel Max, Ultra Grip Winter, Wrangler DuraTrac, Wrangler SR-A, Grandtrek SJ5, Graspic DS-3, Rover H/T, Winter Maxx. Get a \$60 Prepaid Card (\$120 if purchase is made on the Goodyear Credit Card) when you purchase a set of four of the following tires: Assurance TripleTred All-Season, Assurance TripleTred All-Season, Eagle F1 Asymmetric All-Season, Eagle Sport All-Season, Eagle Ultra Grip GW-3, Eagle Ultra Grip GW-3 ROF, Ultra Grip 8 Performance, Ultra Grip Ice WRT, Ultra Grip SUV ROF, Ultra Grip + SUV 4x4, Wrangler MT/R with Kevlar®, DSX DSST, SP Winter Sport 3D, SP Winter Sport 3D ROF, SP Winter Sport 4D, SP Winter Sport 4D ROF. Get an \$80 Prepaid Card (\$160 if purchase is made on the Goodyear Credit Card) when you purchase a set of four of the following tires: Assurance Comfortred Touring, Ultra Grip Ice, Wrangler All-Terrain Adventure with Kevlar®. Additional terms and conditions apply. Ask participating Retailer for complete details and rebate form. **FREE MOUNTING - FREE ROTATION** every 6,000 miles, with tire purchase. See Retailer for complete details. **RAIN CHECK** - If we sell out of your size we will issue you a rain check, assuring future delivery at the advertised price. ©2014 The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. All rights reserved.

WE ARE A FULL SERVICE BODY SHOP