

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

November 2, 2018 • Volume XIV, Number 17



Emily King, Becky Turnbull, and Linda Walker tended the carryout window at St. Mary's. See more in Family Album on page 2.



Gene Kingsbury shared some memories with friends. Find out who and why in Local News on page 5.



The White House Historical Association had a celebration for Poolesville's Abby Clouse-Radigan. Tidbits on page 7 has the details.



Ali Safavieh is celebrating something all too rare in Poolesville. Find out what in Focus on Business on page 10.

Legitimacy of New Multiuse Facility Recognized at Historic Debate Between County Executive Candidates

By Link Hoewing

At a historic debate where all the candidates for county executive appeared at Poolesville Town Hall, the three candidates acknowledged the legitimacy of the call for a new multiuse facility, including a modern high school.

Robin Ficker explicitly said a new high school must be built and would be a priority for him, while the other two candidates acknowledged that the multiuse facility has merit. Marc Elrich said, "You have made a very compelling case...I would support the idea." Nancy Floreen said, "I think it is a great idea," and in a nod to the arguments of the Fair Access for the Western County Coalition, added, "We are not making services available to the entire county."

This was the highlight of a debate that included a wide range of issues of interest to Upcounty residents.



Nancy Floreen, Robin Ficker, and Marc Elrich during the historic county executive debate held in Poolesville for the very first time.

The candidates were first asked by moderator Rande Davis, co-editor of the *Monocacy Monocle*, why they would be the best candidate for the county and, more specifically, for the Upcounty.

Robin Ficker pointed to his residency in Boyds in the Ag Reserve and the involvement of his family in farming (specifically his son) as one reason to consider him the best candidate to

represent the interests of Upcounty residents. He highlighted what he called the Takoma Park Trapezoid—an area of down county he said includes Bethesda, Silver Spring, and Takoma Park where the other two county executive candidates reside as do a majority of the county council—as evidence that the Upcounty has too long

Continued on page 21.

Commissioner Debate Marked by Civility

By Link Hoewing

Among the most important aspects of the October 25 debate at Poolesville Town Hall between the three candidates for two town commissioner spots was this: It was civil and even included several instances of humor. In this sense, it represented a significant departure from much of the "debate" often seen in many national and even state political races.

On most of the major questions asked of the three candidates, Jim Brown, Kerri Cook, and Danny Embrey, there were no significant policy differences. Instead, the most noticeable differences were in style and the leadership background the three candidates brought to the table.

Sitting Commission President Jim Brown emphasized his experience and his belief that the town has achieved significant successes during his tenure. Kerri Cook focused on her civic activism and involvement, and in her



Jim Brown, Kerri Cook, and Danny Embrey.

work as a leader with the PTSA. Danny Embrey highlighted his roots as a Poolesvillian who grew up in the town and returned, and his ability to work with people and gain their trust as he has done professionally in his financial services business.

The debate was moderated by Brian Hundertmark, representing the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce, which sponsored the event. He first asked all the candidates to make an opening statement.

Cook started with a quote, "Be the change you want to see in the world." She has "always been a joiner" and stepped up to lead the PTSA not too long after her family had moved to Poolesville. She joined a number of local groups, including Poolesville Green. She characterized her background of active involvement in a wide array of volunteer groups as giving her a broad sense of the issues and what needs improvement.

Continued on page 18.

Family Album



Christine Rai conducts the first annual HMD Ghost Tour of haunted sites in Poolesville.



A tour bus from the Franconia Museum in Virginia stopped at our Old Town Hall Bank Museum and at the home of Civil War colonel Elijah Viers White's home, Stoney Castle.



Bill Lynch, Chip Smallwood, and Peter Florczyk welcomed all the hungry guests at St. Mary's annual ham and turkey dinner.



Kathleen and Bernie Mihm along with Gail Lee were not frightened by the zombie (Alex Markoff).



PACC members were all smiles, even at the scary Markoff's Haunted Forest.



All great community dinners at St. Mary's begin with a great crew of cooks.



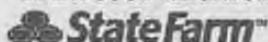
Friends gathered to share a meal at the St. Mary's dinner.



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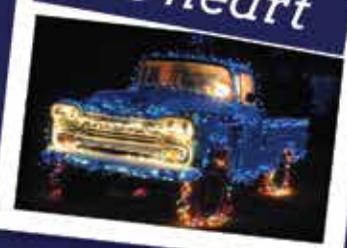
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Commentary

I Got Flashed in Boyds

By John Clayton

Right in the middle of Old Boyds—twice, in fact—it's true!

Boyds now has two brand-spanking-new sets of traffic signals, and they are right in the old section of Boyds—not that new section of Boyds that pretends to be Germantown. I might also add, not to be too competitive, that Boyds, the old section, now has two sets of traffic signals as compared to, let's see, how many in Poolesville? None, I believe. I further have it on good authority that they will soon be turned on to their full green, amber, red, and back-to-green glory, if they have not already been. It's easily the biggest thing to happen in Old Boyds since the last time the train jumped the tracks.

If that one burst of urbanity isn't enough, consider that Barnesville now has two sets of all-way stop signs on its main road. The signs are on the state-owned portion of Barnesville Road in the heart of downtown Barnesville and are, as reported in the *Monocle* a few months ago, an attempt to slow traffic. I have no proof that the signs have succeeded in slowing traffic but it would do well to remember that, in this modern age, there is no proof of anything, and anything could very well be true. The stop-sign poles have cool flashing lights atop them which I assume are to aid in visibility, and not just an aesthetic touch which someone added. Barnesville is home to many highly-artistic people who could have done such a thing, and while there is no proof, this could very well be true.

Did I mention that Poolesville only has one all-way stop sign on its main thoroughfare? Barnesville also has new sidewalks on the state-owned section, spanning the zone between the new stop sign installations. I realize this is pretty small beer compared to Poolesville, which has many fine sidewalks, but it shows there is something to be said for state-owned roadways. Is a road still rustic if it has sidewalks? I guess it could be.

As marvelous as these new additions are, they were not universally desired nor welcomed. In Barnesville, there were legitimate concerns that the stop signs wouldn't make any difference to

speeders, that they would cause long lines at peak traffic times, or that annoyed drivers would retaliate with loud takeoffs, or other outrages. Similarly, not everyone in Boyds wanted lights, and there was frustration over the state moving ahead without waiting for more input from the community. The march of modernity is fraught with discord. I heard many people say, to my shock and horror, that riots broke out in Barnesville over these stop signs. I have no actual proof of this, but you know how that works.

Another event of local interest is the upcoming election just a few days away. For once, we Montgomery County voters have a competitive race for county executive. To recap, Marc Elrich won a closely-competed primary for the Democratic nomination, and Nancy Floreen subsequently decided to run as an independent specifically to oppose him. Both of these candidates presently serve on the county council and are prevented from running for another term thanks to a recent term limit ballot initiative honchoed by local attorney, perennial candidate, and retired sports heckler Robin Ficker. The Republican nominee for county executive, who ran unopposed in the primary, is that same Robin Ficker. He is the only candidate that actually lives in the Upcounty, just south of Barnesville in what the postal service considers Boyds. The election could be exciting. Can Floreen pull enough voters off the straight Democratic ticket to craft an upset? Can Elrich hold on to the party faithful for a win? Will those two split the vote enough for Ficker to break the Democratic lock on the county executive's office? This is fun, and you can play, too. Early voting has started. It's time to jump in.

No discussion of this election cycle would be complete without mentioning that incumbent governor and jovial Poolesville Day attendee Larry Hogan appears to be cruising to his second term as a Republican governor in our overwhelmingly Democratic state. Many people have asked me (that could be true) whether this portends a resurgence of the GOP here in Maryland. I have said (or would say if actually asked) that if more Republican candidates started behaving like Larry Hogan and less like Paul Ryan, they might win a lot of elections. I have no proof of this, but it could very well be true.

School News

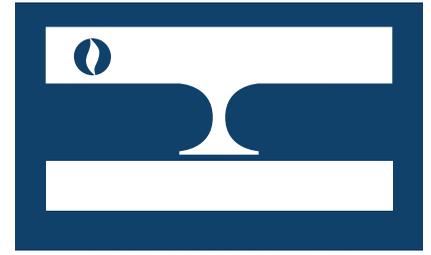
PHS Students Commended in The National Merit Scholarship Program

By Rande Davis

Forty-two PHS students have been named as being commended in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program. A letter of commendation was given at a ceremony at the school on October 16.

A spokesperson for the National Merit Scholarship Corporation noted that the "men and women being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding academic potential for success."

The PHS students are: Luckshika A. Arudchandran, Edward Bian, Kevin Chen, Peiqi Chen, Marilyn Cherfan, Vincent Chim, Daniel Fong, Bryan



NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Foo, Devin Hoover, Amand Hu, Varsha Iver, William Jameson, Alex Jin, Minjee Jung, Grace Kim, Dominic Lanasa, Miranda Liu, Zachary Luckabaugh, Justin Ma, Benjamin Molnar, Herschel Nambiar, Marshal Nambiar, Manni Pabba, Emily Pham, Rachel Robin, Varshini Selvadurai, Alessandra Sena, Ishana Shastri, Grace Tang, Nina Tang, Ashwini Thirukkonda, Cathryn Trelevin, Sourabh Vellalla, Justin Vidas, Angela Wang, Kaitlyn Yang, Ashley Yim, Melody Zhang, Michelle Zheng, Eric Zong, Samuel Zhou, and Amy Zhu.

Congratulations!

The Monocacy MONOCLE

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Do you have an interesting story to share?
Send it along to editor@monocacymonocle.com

Local News

2018 Royce Hanson Award

By Maureen O'Connell

On October 21, 2018, the Montgomery Countryside Alliance (MCA) presented the 2018 Royce Hanson Award at St. Mary's Pavilion in Barnesville. This annual award is named for its first recipient, Dr. Royce Hanson, the Architect of the Agricultural Reserve during his tenure as Chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board, part of the National-Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCP&PC). The Agricultural Reserve (Ag Reserve) is a 93,000-acre, designated land-use zone in Montgomery County created in 1980 to preserve farmland and rural space in the northwestern part of the county. The Ag Reserve has been



Royce Hanson addressed the audience at the 2018 Royce Hanson Award gathering.

Continued on page 12.



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Ag News

A True Family Farm

By Lisa Warffeli

Robert Lewis's grandparents, Lottie and Guy, started out in the early 1900s with some hay, cattle, and apples. Lottie brought apples to sell at the Bethesda Women's Farm Market while Guy sold produce from the back of a wagon in Dickerson. In the 1930s, he started selling peaches, and the wagon turned into a lean-to shed. That shed

became a cinderblock building and, in 2002, Lewis Orchards opened the building you see today at the corner of Route 28 and Peach Tree Road in Dickerson. The story of Lewis Orchards is a touching story of a love for farming and the challenges that come with it.

In 1957, Guy died leaving Lottie to raise six children along with running the family farm and selling produce. The youngest child, MJ, helped his mother run the farm and business. MJ also worked as a school bus driver to

Continued on page 13.



View of Lewis Orchards from the rear of the pavilion.

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Poolesville is talking...

"Poolesville needs Kerri Cook! Her only agenda is to continue doing good things for our town!"

-Suzanne McIntyre

"Kerri is a fellow up-county organizer and good friend. She listens and wants to hear different viewpoints. She is a "do-er"! She discusses ideas, finds solutions, and makes things happen. You can tell how much she loves the town by her actions and I'm excited to give her my vote!"

-Rebecca Munster

"Kerri has a proven track record of volunteering in the Poolesville community. She has already proven herself as a hard-working PTA leader and has earned my support." **-Bernie Mihm**

"As a Poolesville business owner, I was excited to hear Kerri was running for town commissioner! Kerri has the people skills, the experience, and the drive to support and promote new businesses in our town."

-Michelle Hopkin



"Kerri Cook has earned my trust and respect. She's a proven leader who listens, effectively leverages her abilities to build relationships and ultimately achieves results." **-Ed Reed**

"Kerri is passionate about bringing a new PHS and community center to our town. I'm proud to serve with her on the Fair Access committee." **-Kevin Schramm**

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Tidbits

First Lady of Poolesville Celebrates Her 99th Birthday

Dots Elgin, wife of the late long-time Poolesville "mayor" Charles Elgin and family namesake of Elgin Road, celebrated her ninety-ninth birthday at her residence at Buckingham's Choice in Adamstown on October 29. Dots's lifetime devotion to Poolesville is highlighted through her extraordinary decades of volunteer work at St. Peter's Church, other women's groups, various bridge clubs, and many more organizations in the community. Upon a visit on her big day, we were pleased to see her still actively crocheting afghans for her many great-grandchildren.



Dots Elgin, still smiling and crocheting on her 99th birthday.

As we visited her, the phone rang constantly from well-wishers and on the table near her was a pile of recently-opened birthday cards. Still having her strong sense of humor, we shared stories of family, church, and community news. Of all of her contributions, none was more acclaimed than her beloved pies which she baked weekly for sale at the church and her holiday sand tart cookies. Close by was the recent issue of the *Monocle*; a large magnifying glass attached to her chair helps her with reading. She remains positive by staying active with her crafts, an occasional bridge game, and visits from family and friends.

We are not absolutely sure, but we think a secret to her longevity is having lived in a home with three full sets of stairs for many decades and her always walking quickly "with a purpose" her whole life. The way she could buzz around the tables at a rummage sale was amazing. Congrats, Dots, and next year we promise the front page!

Poolesville's Abby Clouse-Radigan Authors Book for the White House Historical Association



Abby Clouse-Radigan addressed attendees at the Decatur House for the launching of her new book.

Continued on page 20.

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Things To Do

Poolesville Area Senior Center

All events at the *Family Life Center at 17750 West Willard Road.*

Pickleball: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Zumba Gold: Wednesday in gym at 1:00 p.m.

Mahjong: Thursday in Room 129: 10:00 a.m.

Special November Events

The Blue Hearth Market weekends are open all weekends in November.

November 2

UMCVFD Auxiliary Bingo Night

Featuring cash and gift cards as well as door prize drawings. Refreshments available for purchase. \$20. UMCVFD, 19801 Beallsville Road, Beallsville. Doors Open: 5:30 p.m.; games begin: 7:00 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Game

Football. Manchester Valley. 6:30 p.m.

November 3

Library Event:

Coding Robots Petting Zoo

Children and their adults can explore basic coding skills with Ozobots

(ages 6-10) and Code-a-pillars (ages 2-5) in this hands-on tech petting zoo. No registration necessary. 2:00 p.m. *Maggie Nightingale Library.*

November 7

PASC Special Event

First Community Celebration of Birthdays of persons born in October, November, or December. Free entertainment and treats. Featuring History Alive! a one-person show by award-winning Mary Ann Jung telling the story of Rosie the Riveter and woman laborers during World War II. *Family Life Center, 17750 W. Willard Road.* 1:30 p.m.

November 15

Library Event: Family Storytime

A 25-30-minute program designed to delight children of all ages. Filled with diverse stories and activities that promote and develop language skills and imagination. This program encourages children to develop a lifelong love of reading and learning and introduces them to the culture of reading. *Maggie Nightingale Library.* 10:30 a.m.

November 11

Veterans Day Observance

Hosted by Poolesville's Daniel-Jeffers Post 247 American Legion. *Whalen Commons Memorial Monument.* 11:00 a.m.

November 14

Poolesville Planning Commission

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

November 15

Library Event: Family Storytime

A 25-30-minute program designed to delight children of all ages. Filled with diverse stories and activities that promote and develop language skills and imagination. This program encourages children to develop a lifelong love of reading and learning and introduces them to the culture of reading. 10:30 a.m.

November 16 and 17

St. Peter's Annual Christmas Sale

Featuring thousands of Christmas items, both new and old, including: ornaments, decorations, jewelry, linens, stuffies, lights, handcrafted items, and much more. Fresh pecans for baking will be offered for sale. Donations accepted from November 12 to 15. Friday: noon to 6:00 p.m.; Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Continued on page 11.

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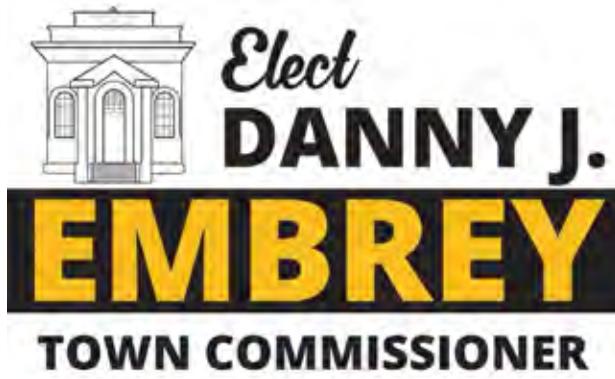


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Garden

An Uninvited Pest

By Maureen O'Connell

While recently driving around our Monocacy area, I noticed an unusually large number of damaged and dead trees. There are many causes for the death of trees: environmental conditions, pests, and diseases. On closer inspection, I saw that many of them were ash trees. They are one of the first deciduous trees to lose their leaves in the fall, so their dead, barren tree limbs were more visible. The culprit is the emerald ash borer (EAB), a half-inch green buprestid or jewel beetle native to northeastern Asia that exclusively feeds on ash species. This insect of glossy iridescent colors destroys the tree's ability to store water and nutrients, killing the tree from the top down. It is known as the ash tree death curve. Evidence of the presence of the EAB include: dying branches at the top of the tree, vertical bark splitting, new branches sprouting from the base of the tree, D-shaped exit holes, and increased woodpecker damage. Unfortunately, infestation usually goes undetected until these symptoms appear. The ash tree is long-lived; many last for 150 to 175 years. It can take six months to three years for a tree under attack to die. This tree is one of the most common and important landscape trees used in Maryland and across the country. It is used for flooring, cabinets, and the baseball bat.

The EAB most likely arrived in the United States hidden in packing materials. It was first found to be attacking and killing ash trees in Michigan in 2002. It appeared in Prince George's County, Maryland in 2003. By 2015, it had spread to most suburban Maryland forests and landscaped areas. As of last year, this invasive beetle killed over seventy million trees across the



A little beetle can do great damage to ash trees.

eastern United States and Canada. All 8.7 billion U.S. ash trees will be eventually attacked over the next twenty years. Any untreated tree will die.

The EAB scourge is not the first (and probably not the last) instance of devastating diseases attacking trees in the United States. In the early 1990s, a pathogenic fungus caused chestnut blight in the American chestnut tree, resulting in a rapid, widespread die-off of the once-plentiful tree. In 1868 or 1869, the gypsy moth was accidentally introduced in Massachusetts and, by 1902, it had spread to many areas of the eastern U.S. It is considered America's most devastating forest pests. In the early twentieth century, the forests in the U.S. were under attack from a fungus originating in Asia which resulted in Dutch Elm Disease. It has destroyed the majority of American elm trees. Scientists continually try to breed disease-resistant clones, but it is a slow and arduous task. Introducing non-native species, or you may call it forest globalization, comes with a price. Non-natives have been separated from their natural enemies (i.e., insects

Continued on page 22.

IT TAKES TEAMWORK TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY STRONGER!



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Sen. Brian Feldman
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Delegate Nominee Lily Qi
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Focus on Business

Professional Cleaners Celebrates 35 Years of Serving Poolesville

By Rande Davis

When you enter the door to Professional Cleaners, you are guaranteed three things: a robust smile, a personal greeting by name, and service marked by attention to detail—professional to be sure.

This past month, owner Ali Safavieh celebrated his twentieth year in Poolesville which followed the fifteen years open by the previous owner who, at that time, specialized in home pickup and delivery. In a town of remarkable turnover of businesses, his is an unusual success story.

As we interviewed Ali, he showed me an anniversary cake (see picture on the front page) baked by a loyal customer who told him, "You are a blessing to the town, and I am proud of you."

Ali first came to America from Iran in 1990. Prior to taking ownership of the cleaners in 1998, he was a car salesman and a chef in many restaurants. I have had the fortune of tasting his barbecued chicken kabobs, and I can personally attest to his culinary talents.

His attachment to his hundreds of customers over the years starts with an uncanny ability to remember each by their name. He cannot explain how he is able to do it, he just can. He once had a customer who had moved away for many years, and, upon his return, was shocked to find Ali still remembered him.

His recordkeeping and attention to detail can be illustrated in two stories. The first is a woman who could not find her dress and decided she must have inadvertently forgotten to pick it up from him two years prior. When she went to the store to find out if he still had it, he went through his hand-posted records, found that she had already picked it up, and told her she had it. Although skeptical, she left and was amazed a short time later when she found the dress in her attic under some things. She called to tell him he was right after all.

Another is of a man who, although now living to Boyds, returns to Poolesville for only two reasons: Professional Cleaners and Dr. Tim Pike. He drops off and

picks up fifty to one hundred shirts every few months, insisting on starch so heavy it "should resemble cardboard." Ali fulfilled his wishes, so he continues to come back even though it is out of his way.

Attachments start early. Recently, a customer came in with clothes, preparing to head off to college. Ali smiled, recalled his name, and asked the customer if he remembered his first visit to the cleaners. The customer was uncertain but acknowledged the long association. Ali smiled, and from a nearby basket grabbed a lollipop, handed to it to him, and told him, "On your first visit here, I gave one of these to you. I remember your mom so earnestly telling you to thank Mr. Ali. Shyly, you looked at the ground, not at me, and said 'Thank you.'"

The youthful Ali practiced a love of climbing mountains and lifelong love of soccer (he nearly made an Iranian national team) and has been able to keep in shape from those early habits. Mount Damavand, known as the "roof of Iran", peaks at more than eighteen thousand feet. He has climbed it four times, ascending about every two years in his younger days.

Ali says his success starts with his loyalty to those who are loyal to him, his customers. Ali boasts pictures of his beautiful grandchildren in the shop, and since his daughter married a Greek, he is known affectionately as Papou to them. If he is not in the shop, he looks forward to his time with them.

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Continued from page 8.

Things To Do

November 18

The Annual Oktoberfest and WUMCO Walk

Rescheduled from being rained out in October. Fundraiser to benefit WUMCO. Includes kids' games and

activities, costume parades, pet costume contest, basket auction, Calleva rock wall, DJ, Barley & Hops Beer Garden, and German food! \$5.00 wristband for kids' special activities. *Whalen Commons*. Noon to 6:00 p.m.

November 19

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

Would you like to announce a meeting, club, or upcoming event in **Things To Do**?

Then let us know! Send it along to editor@monocacymonocle.com

Fun Fact...

Did you know that historic White's Ferry is the last of one hundred ferries that used to operate on the Potomac River. The ferry can hold a maximum of twenty-four cars in a single trip and takes under two minutes to load, five minutes to cross, and another two minutes to unload, depending on traffic and the height of the river.

Maryland rock band Clutch has a song entitled "White's Ferry," written about the sights frontman Neil Fallon saw on a drive around some country roads in Maryland and Virginia that took him over the Potomac on the ferry.

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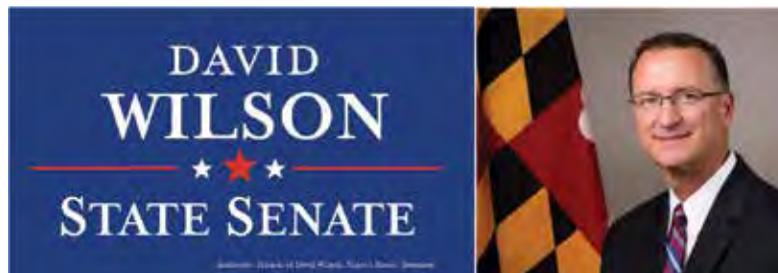
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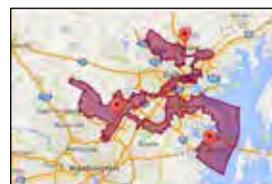


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"Protecting our Ag Reserve is one of my top priorities."

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Authority: Friends of David Wilson, Sharon Bauer, Treasurer

Continued from page 5.

2018 Royce Hanson Award

described as the “most famous, most studied, and most emulated” program in the United States. This year’s recipient is not an individual or a specific family; it is several people: the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee.

Gene Kingsbury, co-president of MCA, welcomed everyone. He reminisced about his fond memories of the area and his love for the days making hay with his father on the family farm, “The area has changed a lot, but a lot has not,” because of the protective measures of the Ag Reserve. He remembers traveling the many rustic roads through the largely farming community of Barnesville, Dickerson, and Poolesville. His memories are vividly alive in his head, and he emphasized that we all need to be vigilant and protect this treasured land, so that the Ag Reserve does not become a “memory.” During the presentation, music was provided by Peace Run.

What is the Rustic Roads Program? In 1989, the Montgomery County Council established a task force to study the roads of the Ag Reserve. They recommended the creation of the Rustic Roads Program in 1990, and its legislation became effective in May 1993. Its purpose is “to preserve as rustic roads those historic and scenic roadways that reflect the agricultural character and rural origins of the county.”

Today, this collection of roads serves as the arteries into the Ag Reserve with its many still-operating farms. Visitors can safely share the narrow, historic lanes with slow-moving farm equipment and the occasional horse as they enjoy the area’s pick-your-own farms and wineries. They can hike and bike Sugarloaf Mountain and the many picturesque roads throughout the Reserve. It is true that this area is surrounded by many large roadways, such as Route 28 and Interstate 270. They may get you to the perimeters of the Ag Reserve, but it is the rustic roads that transport you to its heart and soul: our beloved farmland and open spaces.

The Rustic Roads Advisory Committee is comprised of seven citizen members and representatives of the county executive’s office. They are appointed by the county executive for two-year terms. They advise the Montgomery County executive, county council, and planning board on matters affecting the roads in the Ag Reserve. There are currently ninety-seven roads in the program.

The current citizen members with their respective fields of expertise are: chair, Bob Tworowski; civic representatives, Todd Greenstone and Jane Thompson; farmers, Lonnie Luther and Laura Van Etten; rural preservationist, Dan Seamans; and engineer, Sarah Navid. Leslie Saville is a non-voting member of the M-NCP&PC. Attending the presentation was Maryland State Senator Brian Feldman. He presented to the committee a Maryland General Assembly Award for their tireless work to preserve an important piece of Montgomery County’s rural history.

Caroline Taylor, executive director of MCA, awarded each member a certificate of appreciation for their countless hours of work for the committee. While driving through the Ag Reserve, you can see many examples of their work: annual farm-to-table dinners; share-the-road signs; gravel road maintenance; safety signs at road intersections where unique conditions exist; and new sidewalks in Barnesville. The designated rustic roads can be identified by new brown street name signs with a special logo.

Closing remarks were offered by Royce Hanson, MCA Advisory Chair. During his time with the Montgomery County Planning Board, he faced many issues involving the viability, the health, and the very existence of the Ag Reserve. Hot issues are debated and presumably decided, only to rise again another day. No one forgets and gives up a battle critical to his agenda. The issue of a bridge crossing from Loudon County, Virginia to areas within the Ag Reserve is a prime example as it rears its ugly head again. Royce said that it is extremely important that citizens be vigilant and not let down their guard. What is at stake is the protection of the county’s “green lungs,” the quality of the Chesapeake Bay, water and air quality, and the preservation of a “pleasant place to live” for all people. He reminded us to be constantly aware of the fact that the Ag Reserve that we so treasure will not be killed in one fell swoop. You might even not notice what is happening. “Actions will be taken that start to whittle away around the edges, until the whole is whittled away...We must all be on our guard and elect government officials who understand the importance of the Agricultural Reserve to Montgomery County and the whole country.”

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By authority: Citizens for Brian Feldman, Elaine Garson, Treasurer

Continued from page 6.

A True Family Farm

help with expenses. His sons, Jay and Robert, became the third generation to join the family business. In the 1970s, Jay convinced his family to add vegetables to their produce sales, and Lewis Orchards became more than just an orchard.

In 1988, the peaches froze on the trees. MJ headed up to Pennsylvania to buy peaches, so he would have them for his customers. He didn't make it back home. MJ was killed in an automobile accident. His sons then became responsible for Lewis Orchards. In 1993, Jay decided to leave the business, and Robert, along with his wife Linda, continued to run the store. Soon a fourth generation of Lewises joined Robert and Linda. Their son Marshall, at a young age, disregarded any non-compete clause and hauled his wagon in front of the store, loaded it with produce, and began selling feet away from the official Lewis Store. This Lewis Orchards Outlet became popular, and the young Marshall Lewis told his parents, "I'll put you out of business." Sadly, in 2000, Marshall died, his promise unfulfilled. Marshall's brother, Daniel, now works alongside his parents, continuing the family tradition.

What would Robert and Linda tell someone wanting to start farming? "Farming is challenging," Robert said. "You hope Mother Nature treats you right." He points out that last year they had their biggest pumpkin crop ever, only to follow this year with a poor harvest. Linda added, "You have to want to do it to deal with the challenges, and it may take ten years before you find out if you can." They both emphasize, with smiles, that they do not get summer vacation.

It is no surprise they do not have a summer vacation when they work nonstop through spring, summer, and fall. The Lewises start seeds in mid-March. By the end of April, the seeds have grown into plants, and the plants are put in the ground. "Every two weeks, we put plants in. We now have six different plantings of tomatoes," Robert said. He explained that the staggered plantings help ensure Lewis Orchards can spread out their tomatoes, so customers have a longer time in the summer to enjoy them.

The Lewises also do not hold their produce over from a previous year as do grocery chains. Have you ever wondered why that Honeycrisp apple doesn't taste as good in March as it did in the fall? That is because grocery chains place fall fruit in cold storage so they can sell the fruit throughout the year; the Lewises do not. Their fruit and vegetables are sold when they are ready on the farm. Sometimes, it is difficult to get customers to understand that strawberries are just not there in August. You may notice that Lewis Orchards is not open year-round, but from mid-June until the day before Thanksgiving. This is to ensure their customers get their fruit and vegetables during their real growing seasons, not the artificial ones of the big chain stores. "We open when we have the produce ready."

"You ain't going to get it more local," Robert emphasized. In the growing trend to buy locally, Lewis Orchard stands out. With their focus on providing their produce when it is ripe, they help us all to focus on the "buy seasonally" movement that has been developing. Linda and I chatted about we believe how our ancestors lived into their nineties because they ate what they grew. They ate peaches in August when they fattened on the branches, garden peas when they plumped on vines in late June, and tomatoes when they didn't have thick skins and no flavor. Eating locally and seasonally can be a challenge when you want strawberries in December, but remember they never taste as good as they do when you take them home from the Lewises' during their real season.



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Youth Sports

Despite the Rain, PHS Girls' Soccer Battles to 3A/2A Division Lead

By Jeff Stuart

On October 1, including pre-season games, the Poolesville girls' soccer team had a record of 3-2 against very strong teams. They were looking at a number of rescheduled games. The girls won twelve games last year and advanced to the region final. At press time, the team's overall record was 8-5-1.

"We haven't played too many games because of all the rain," said junior goalkeeper and captain Rachel Tievy, "but in the games we have played, we have worked really hard together. In our two hardest games of the season against 4A teams Quince Orchard and Wootton, we worked really close together and I think we will have a really strong season...Our other senior captain, Saran Kaur, has been phenomenal in the back. She gets to every ball and gets the long balls up to Heather and Rachel, and they do the rest."

"This year we have a really close group," said senior outside striker Ashwini Thirukkonda. "We have lots of talent on the team, lots of young talent. We've been working really hard even though we haven't been able to practice very much. We've been stuck inside doing whatever we can to keep our touches on the ball and to keep our momentum going for the rest of the season."

"This is my first year on varsity," said sophomore outside back Mackenzie Keese. "It is much faster. You really have to be in shape. It is much more about possession and less long balls. Everyone tries their hardest on the field to get that win."

On October 3, the Falcons beat Blake, 4-1. Keese scored the first goal. Right before halftime, Poolesville scored goals from sophomore Abby Gordon and senior captain Sarah Mullikin. At the start of the second half, junior Rachel Onderko scored to put the Falcons in control. It was a satisfying win because a

Continued on page 16



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by R. Adam DeBaugh, Assistant Executive Director

WUMCO Goes Mexican—Mexican Grill, That Is!

On Wednesday, November 14, all who dine at the Mexican Grill in Poolesville will also be contributing to helping those in need. The Mexican Grill will give 10% of their income that day—dine in or carry out, lunch or dinner—to WUMCO Help. Please join WUMCO at the Mexican Grill on November 14th.

The WUMCO Walk and OktoberFest Is Still Coming – SUNDAY, November 18

WUMCO Help's Walk and OktoberFest has been postponed to Sunday, Nov. 18, 12 to 5 pm, due to severe weather. Walk in the WUMCO Walk, starting on Whalen Commons at noon. Follow this link to download and print a registration form for the walk or come early (11:30 am on 11/18) to register: <http://www.wumcohelp.org/WUMCOWalkandOktoberfest2018.html>. Walk for WUMCO, then stay and enjoy a day full of family fun, including costume contests for kids and dogs, crafts and games for kids, food and craft vendors, and a beer and wine tent featuring Oktoberfest beers, hard cider, mead, and wine. Come enjoy this great community event! We need volunteers for the day, too.

Scouting for Food—November 10

Poolesville's wonderful Scouts will be distributing reminders on Nov. 7 (they are not giving out bags this year) and collecting your food donations to WUMCO on Saturday, Nov. 10. Please have your bags or boxes of food on your front porch or at your door by 9 am on the 10th! Last year, the Scouts collected 6,560 pounds of food. Let's see if we can top that and bring in four tons of food this year!

WUMCO Thanksgiving Baskets

Collection of food for Thanksgiving baskets has started, and we can accept turkeys now. Distribution of baskets will begin Mon., Nov. 19, and we need all donations by Nov. 16.

Visit our webpage and follow us on Facebook and Twitter:

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Questions?

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Continued from page 14.

Despite the Rain, PHS Girls' Soccer Battles to 3A/2A Division Lead

3-1 loss to Blake cost them a share of the division title last year. On October 6, the Falcons tied Damascus. Strong wins against Seneca Valley, Gaithersburg, and Paint Branch solidified PHS's record.



PHS girls' soccer players: Izzy Heemsker, Ali Markoff, Hannah Helfert, Sarah Mullikin, Saran Kaur, and Rachel Tievy.

"We have a more experienced team with six seniors, eleven juniors, and three sophomores," said Rod Nubgaard, in his third year with Poolesville. "The varsity is looking to build on last year's success. The past eight weeks we have been busy training hard and getting through the many rainouts we had. As a result, the schedule became compressed which adds to the pressure; however, the girls have been resilient, keeping up their level of effort and dedication during practice. Our level of play has been continuously improving.

"The PHS girls' soccer philosophy continues to be team oriented. We have needed the entire roster of twenty to lead to be successful. We have had eight different goal scorers to date on this team supported by a strong midfield and defensive corps. The team is led by three very active and dedicated captains, Rachel Tievy, Sarah Mullikin, and senior Saran Kaur, who keep the energy and resolve of this team going on and off the field.

"I am looking forward to another solid season with a couple of surprise wins and hoping for continued strong community support.

"An important item that should not be lost is the partnership of Coach Rod and Coach Wills, boys' varsity soccer coach, and their efforts to build a single soccer program over the past two seasons. This involved the development of the first PHS Soccer Handbook, a joint senior day event, a soccer program preseason cookout, maintaining the practice field and game field each week from August until the end of the season. We have invited local youth teams to join us at team practices and varsity home games. We have more events planned in upcoming seasons as we continue to grow the program. Our goal is to build a strong, community-oriented program."

Other seniors are Izzy Heemsker, Hannah Helfert, and Ali Markoff. Other juniors are Julianna Hitchcock, Yasmeen Elkoshairi, Heather Robinson, Tess Insalaco, Sabrina Edwards, Lauren Penn, Jessica Volkle, Sami Kellogg, and Lindsey Lightcap. Melany Martinez is a sophomore.

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Continued from page 1.

Commissioner Debate Marked by Civility

Brown said that when he first became a commissioner, the town was in a time of transition: There was a “muckraking newspaper” that portrayed the town badly, a recession was on the way, and the town had aging infrastructure; the commission was not working well together. He said he has focused on teamwork and cooperation, and his leadership has helped the town make dramatic improvements. He is all about “engagement not enagement,” as he put it, and he believes his leadership can continue to improve the town.

Embrey focused on his roots as a child who grew up in Poolesville and attended kindergarten through his senior year in the local schools. He and his wife chose Poolesville to raise their kids based on his experience growing up in the town. He is focused on the education system, wanting to ensure that his kids get the “same quality of education I got.”

On the first question concerning whether they could support a new bridge across the Potomac, all three adamantly said, “No.” Brown noted that he has developed “great relationships” with leaders in the county that can help to ensure that no effort is made to build a new bridge, especially one that would directly affect the Ag Reserve. Embrey said such a bridge would be the “beginning of the end” of the Ag Reserve. He is confident he can connect with people and develop relationships to ensure no bridge project ever gains momentum. Cook said, as did the other two candidates, that she is in favor of upgrading the American Legion Bridge. Her strong community activist roots will help her in creating support to stop any efforts to build a new bridge.

Hundertmark next asked if there are “any aspects of the current master plan that need to be changed or updated.”

Embrey said that he thinks the plan is “fine” as it is; the plan’s target population of 6,500 is the right goal and can be supported by the town’s water system.

Cook said she thinks it is “time to take another look at the plan.” In a previous master plan, an economic development group was to have been formed. She thinks it is important to focus on business development and strengthening the business community in town.

Brown pointed out that, as president of the commission, he had helped to shape the current master plan. He lauded the vision and detail of the master plan, saying few other jurisdictions have such a well thought-out plan.

A key question, given the strong interest shown by citizens when the so-called Willshire development proposal was pending, concerns the town’s overlay regulations. These regulations allow developers to propose increases in density on a property in exchange for negotiated improvements that would benefit the broader public. Each candidate was asked whether they supported the regulations.

Cook supports it but thinks that each proposal needs to be carefully reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Strong community support “must come first” in any decision concerning a proposed overlay development project, she said. She views the strong public reaction to the Willshire proposal as a “success” because citizens became active on the issue and made their views known.

Brown said the overlay regulations are an “important tool” for the town; when properly used, it gives the town a way to “dictate a development proposal that makes sense for us.”

Embrey said the tool is important and gives the town a say in how development proposals are designed. He believes a “dense plan” for the Willard property would be a “violation of what we see as Poolesville’s character.” As a result, some sort of “density cap” should be considered as an amendment to the overlay regulations.

The candidates were asked what they would do differently to push for a new high school.

Cook is encouraged by “our new idea of co-location.” She believes that strong relationships with leaders in the county and state will be critical, as well as strong marketing. She believes her activist roots and ability to work with volunteers to get things done will help.

Brown said that “we have had a great group pushing for years, but we got checked off the list for modernization” despite those efforts. He examined the situation and decided that a new approach built around new ideas was needed. He started the Fair Access Coalition to lead this effort based, in part, around an awareness that not only our school but services for our area have long been ignored. No matter what happens in the election, he will remain engaged and wants the other two candidates to be part of the effort.

Embrey said the new co-location approach means that not just the school budget but other budget resources can now be part of the solution. He pointed once again to his ability to connect with people and to earn trust as keys to obtaining essential non-BOE funding.

A key question at the debate concerned Poolesville’s role in the Ag Reserve and how the candidates see it.

Embrey said that town leaders have to “honor the Ag Reserve and protect it the best we can.” He is interested in working with businesses who can leverage the Ag Reserve’s beauty and openness. He cited Calleva as one of the best examples of this sort of leveraging.

Cook said the Ag Reserve is “one of our greatest assets.” She believes that there is more the town can do to “partner with players in the Ag Reserve.”

Brown said that the Ag Reserve is “paramount to the people in Poolesville.” He pointed to an economic study done when he was vice president of the commission that identified businesses that could uniquely build on the Ag Reserve’s strengths. The idea of a grape-crushing facility came out of that study and is something he has pushed for since then. He also pointed out that Poolesville has adopted policies to prohibit annexation of land outside of town under his leadership.

Each candidate was allowed time for closing remarks.

Cook asked voters to “go with your gut and your heart.” She again stressed her “community builder” roots and her involvement in a wide array of local groups, including the PTSA and Poolesville Green. She wished all of her opponents well and exclaimed: “May the best woman win!”

Brown cataloged the numerous accomplishments he claims are part of his tenure: the building of the solar array and a number of green projects in town, being a leader in getting the Poolesville Area Senior Center off the ground, his role in seeking out and negotiating with the owners of Tractor Supply Corporation and the recently-announced grocery market, and the growth of many town programs—including the kids’ summer camp that now attracts 180 kids annually—as reasons to vote for him. He concluded, “I’m our town’s biggest cheerleader...and ready to lead again.”

Embrey pointed again to his lifelong attachment to Poolesville and love of the town. He constantly promotes Poolesville in his job, and he touted his professional background in emphasizing his “ability to make things happen.” He said the “town’s success is reliant on the school’s success,” and the Fair Access Project would be his key focus. “I don’t do anything less than 110 percent,” he said in his closing argument.



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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Assault: 18700 block of Barnesville Road.

Burglary: 15700 block of Seneca Road.

Theft: 18800 block of Darnestown Road, 19800 block of Beallsville Road, 15900 block of Seneca Road, 15700 block of River Road.

Past Crime: 1943

Webster Parker of Boyds reported that two rings had been stolen from his house, and he suspected Woodrow Taylor. Officers went to Taylor's house and encountered a man sitting in the kitchen. He identified himself as "Jones" and produced a draft card. When one of the officers went over to a lamp to better read the card, the man fled out the back door. Police fired several shots but apparently missed. The next day, two other officers were searching for Taylor and spotted him in the woods. Again, he ran, but, this time, a police bullet felled him, and he was taken to the hospital where a burglary warrant was served.

Montgomery Police arrested a Rockville woman and charged her with seriously maiming her sixteen-year-old son. Police were tipped off that abuse was going on in the house and, upon arrival, found six children who were not attending school. The sixteen-year-old son had Lysol burns all over his body and was in great pain. The woman told police that the boy had been misbehaving. The other children were taken from the home.

Montgomery Police were called to the old Capital Transit barn at Chevy Chase Lake. The barn had been

converted to a horse riding stable since the discontinuation of the trolley line. They were greeted by a representative from the SPCA who had determined that the horses had not had water or food for over a week. An officer went to the Chevy Chase Fire Department and persuaded them to come with a fire engine which then pumped a large amount of water into the troughs. In the meantime, police were trying to find the owner of the property. The horses were of racing caliber.

A twenty-seven-year-old woman serving in the Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES) stumbled into the Bethesda Police Station in a disheveled condition. Detective Volten came to her aid and found that her eyes were blackened, her clothing was nearly torn off her body, and that her clothing was covered in mud and leaves. The WAVES woman, stationed at the Bethesda Naval Hospital, reported that she had accepted a ride with a man with whom she was familiar. The man drove her to a secluded spot and tried to rape her. An investigation revealed that the crime occurred on federal property, so the case was turned over to the federal authorities.

Montgomery County and D.C. Police took turns chasing a twenty-two-year-old Lorton escapee all over the county and D.C. in a chase that lasted over four hours. While trying to overtake the escapee's car on East West Highway, county police fired five shots at the escapee's car without success. The chase finally ended when his car ran out of gas in the District.

Material in this column was obtained from the archives of the Washington Post.

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Continued from page 7.

Tidbits

The White House Historical Association sponsored a reception for author Dr. Abby Clouse-Radigan upon its release of their new book entitled the *Official Residences around the World*.

The celebratory occasion was on October 23 at the Decatur House on Lafayette Square in Washington, D.C.

The book tells the story of homes around the world that have been used as official state houses by various nations. Of course, our White House and the Decatur House, the original home of the War of 1812 hero, Commodore Stephen Decatur, are two examples of such residences.

Clouse-Radigan told the *Monocle*, "I worked on it for a little bit over a year. What I found especially fascinating was the way that the history of each residence, almost without fail, told the story of their host respective nation (who occupied them, who occupied the land, how they were built, how they were destroyed and rebuilt, named and renamed, claimed and reclaimed). Their decades-long (sometimes centuries) use also often tells the tale of societal shifts, cultural contact, changing beliefs, and the maintenance of traditions. The history of each building is, in the end, often a story about the nation."

The publication, an over-sized book with intriguing history and grand pictures, is now available on Amazon or through the White House Historical Association's website: shop.whitehousehistory.org/bookstore/official-residences-around-the-world. Abby would be most pleased to personally autograph your copy.

PHS Students Plant Garden at Campbell Park



Cleanup crew at Campbell Park.

Micheal Beautz and Daniel Geehreg led a group of PHS students and boy scouts in the preparation and planting of the first garden at Poolesville's Campbell Park. They spread and rototilled a dump truck load of organic compost into the planting beds on a recent Saturday and planted almost a hundred perennials on a subsequent Saturday. The boys will be planting a pollinator garden full of bee- and butterfly-friendly plants. All plants and materials were donated by Fine Earth Landscape.

Hogan Initiates a New Safe Schools Maryland Tip Line

An anonymous reporting system to be used to report threats to the safety and/or well-being of students has recently been established.

Students, parents, faculty, staff, and members of communities throughout Maryland may use this anonymous app- and web-based reporting system to share their concerns, such as: Mental health crises, bullying, school and community violence, drug activity, abuse, harassment, and other issues affecting our Maryland students.

The Safe Schools Maryland Tip Line is a tool for proactively addressing harmful situations and helping students who need it. By using a variety of communication modes to support the reporting and routing of tips, the Safe Schools Maryland Tip Line empowers the citizens of Maryland to create a culture of preparedness, prevention, and school safety for our students.

Telephone Number: 1-833-MD-B-SAFE/1-833-632-7233

Website: www.safeschoolsmd.org

PHS Graduate Starts First Year of Med School

First year medical school student, Thomas Wolz, received his white coat from the Georgia Campus-Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine on October 19. Thomas will now begin meeting patients and will introduce himself as a "student doctor" to patients.



Thomas Wolz after his "white coat" ceremony at med school. With him are mother Patricia, sister Sara, and father Jon.

SADD Taking New Action

Students Against Dangerous Decisions (SADD) is working with the high school's administration to have presentations warning against the dangers of vaping and juuling. The special programs will be presented as part of the regular health classes at PHS in February or March this school year. Two students, Ethan Rolls and Andrew Sojka, met recently with Principal Deena Levine as representatives of SADD and discussed how they could get a wider audience for these presentations. The principal suggested that SADD could get the speakers into the health classes at the school so that there would be a definite audience (as opposed to students optionally walking into the auditorium during lunch to watch the event). Plans are now underway for the events.



Ethan Rolls and Andrew Sojka, representatives of SADD.

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MASTERCARD VISA

Continued from page 1.

Legitimacy of New Multiuse Facility Recognized at Historic Debate Between County Executive Candidates

been ignored. He also said that his championing of property tax limits and term limits, both of which were approved by a large majority of Montgomery County residents, is evidence that he is the only candidate interested in change.

Marc Elrich said he has a long history as a civic advocate. He believes in zoning and managing development so that it is supported by adequate schools and transportation, not the other way around. He wants to do all planning so that the “community as a whole” benefits. In terms of the Upcounty, he has “long been an advocate for the Ag Reserve.” He wants it to be viable and pointed to his long support for the proposed “Grape Crush” facility which would be located where the old clubhouse at the Poolesville Golf Course now stands.

Nancy Floreen said she has a record as an “iron-willed, no-nonsense leader,” quoting a recent *Washington Post* editorial. She pointed to her long involvement in county planning, especially on the county’s planning board where she was involved in decisions about the Ag Reserve, as evidence of her knowledge about the Upcounty and about the needs of the area. She also said that she has brokered agreements—such as on school funding when she was president of the county council—that helped moved school modernization forward.

The next question asked the candidates to specifically state what they think about the proposed multiuse facility for the Upcounty. In addition to saying that a “compelling case” had been made for the facility, Marc Elrich said that the proposal has to be included in Superintendent Jack Smith’s budget and, if it is, he would “do what I can to support it.” He pointed out that Poolesville High School had been on the modernization list before and had been “pushed back.” He said that the county had “prioritized other areas” and that a better process is needed to ensure equity.

In addition to saying the idea is a great one, Nancy Floreen focused on the upcoming Kirwan Commission report, which could throw a big “monkey wrench” into school construction funding procedures, and urged that everyone pay attention to the report which is expected to be released in December. Some believe the state-commissioned report, which looks at school programming and funding issues, could punish Montgomery County.

Robin Ficker responded that “he is the guy who went before Superintendent Smith and said there should be a new PHS built.” He added, “We need to make up for money that has been spent down county” for schools. He pointed to new developments that have been approved down county that will require more school facilities, putting pressure on other school projects. As a result, the new county executive will have a major role in helping Poolesville get a new school.

One of the ideas that has been discussed in the context of the multiuse facility for the Poolesville area is the idea of instituting an Agricultural Sciences curriculum that could fit in with the new facilities and be a boon to the Ag Reserve. The candidates were asked if they supported such an idea.

Floreen said that it is a “great idea.” She said we need to be thinking about “different career paths for our kids” and about “innovation in how we think about and help kids in their future.” She also said that private-sector partnerships, as has been suggested for the multiuse facility and in support of a new Agricultural Sciences program, would be important.

Ficker repeated that he represents change. He reminded the audience that he is always on a tractor and knows the Ag Reserve. He is for the idea but suggested that such proposals to support the Ag Reserve “only come up at election time.”

Elrich said that he is impressed with Superintendent Smith and considers him to be innovative and responsive. As a teacher, Elrich has always looked at Poolesville High School as the “hub” of the Ag Reserve. He supports the Agricultural Sciences curriculum idea and added that he has long seen enhancing the viability of farming in the Ag Reserve—for example through allowing wineries and breweries as adjuncts to farming operations—as key to its preservation.

When asked, “What equity means to you with regard to Montgomery County,” all three candidates agreed that it is a legitimate issue, that all areas in the county are not being served as equitably as possible. Specifically, Ficker said he would “make the Upcounty a priority” if he were elected. Elrich pointed to longer police response times in the Upcounty and said a police substation as proposed in the multiuse facility is a “good idea.” Floreen said she is committed to “working with you on services for Poolesville.”

On the important question of whether a new bridge is needed to ease traffic congestion and, if so, where, all three candidates said they would oppose a bridge that would connect to and take traffic through the Ag Reserve. Elrich said modifications to the American Legion Bridge might be possible, but that if a

new bridge is needed, it should be located near the existing bridge. When asked specifically whether a bridge should ever go through the Ag Reserve, he said, “Heck no.” Ficker said he lived in the county when it had a population of only 400,000 people, and traffic was growing then. He can’t understand why the American Legion Bridge has not been widened before now. He was also adamant in opposing a bridge through the Ag Reserve. Floreen said she opposed a “second crossing.” When asked directly, she said “no” to the idea of building a bridge through the Ag Reserve.

School financing and the issue of the “lock box,” an initiative on the ballot this November that would require funds from gambling to be committed exclusively to use in education, were also discussed. Both Ficker and Floreen focused on the upcoming Kirwan Report and the damage it could cause to county school financing. Ficker stressed that he would personally push for Poolesville’s modernization in the school budget. Floreen focused on the need for innovation in how we look at modernizing schools and said she was “optimistic” we can get a new school in Poolesville. All three candidates said they support the “lock box” initiative.

The question of economic growth in Montgomery County and why the county loses investment and jobs to areas like Northern Virginia were the subject of debate as well. Elrich said, in part, the answer is that Northern Virginia is closer to the heart of Washington, D.C., but he believes Montgomery County has a “horrible reputation and excessive rules,” and he will tackle that issue to attract businesses. Ficker blamed anemic growth on major tax increases over the years that, he said, the two other candidates, both county council members, have supported. He noted his efforts to get a ballot initiative in place to control taxes and said he would focus on reducing taxes. Floreen said the “real issue is who can be a promoter of the county” and added that she had supported the creation of the county’s Economic Development Commission which has had some success in attracting new businesses and investment.

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Continued from page 9.

An Uninvited Pest

and pathogens) leading to ecological disequilibrium, meaning they have no predators in their new environment and can rapidly multiply.

How does EAB spread? The most common way is through people moving infested materials, such as firewood, logs, branches, nursery stock, wood chips, or other ash wood to new locations. It also spreads through natural beetle flight.

What can be done to prevent or treat this tree disease? If you are a homeowner, check your property to see if you have any ash trees. If you are not sure what they look like, do some research so you can accurately identify them. If you do have ash trees and they look healthy, you still might want to call a tree expert. Mature ash trees are expensive to replace and advance treatment is the best way to protect them and prevent infection. If your trees show early stage EAB symptoms, the surrounding soil can be treated

with insecticides to stop further damage. If your trees have several dead limbs or the entire tree is dead, call a tree service to remove the tree. I have several ash trees along my fence line near the woods and the creek. I did not notice the damage until it was too late. They were all removed last week. While talking with Seneca State Park Ranger Dave Powell this summer, he commented that this year was one of the worst years for EAB damage to park ash trees. How do you dispose of a dead ash tree? If you have

a certified tree service company cut it down, they can safely dispose of the wood or they could turn it into mulch. It is also safe to burn the wood in your fireplace. Just keep it as close as possible to its original location.

The loss of American ash trees has extensive consequences: It is costing money to the economy, reducing storm water filtration, eroding stream banks, and it seriously impacts the life of every insect and animal that depends upon the ash tree to be its host.

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Celebrating 30 Years of Service

Thanksgiving and Pets

By Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF

Ah, Thanksgiving... a joyous holiday when friends and family join us for a day of football, lounging, and all-day tryptophan turkey tasting. The smell of cinnamon, nutmeg, pumpkin pie, and turkey all baking in the oven slowly filter through the house, driving you—and your dog—slowly mad.

To avoid a visit to the animal ER, here are a few tips on how to pet-proof this holiday:

First word of advice? Keep your dog out of the kitchen...or better yet, crate him. Accidental counter-surfing can result in severe poisoning to your pet.

Next, make sure your guests know the house rules: Don't feed your pets. Your friends and family may not be aware of the common kitchen foods that are quite poisonous to pets. Politely inform all your guests to keep their food out of reach and to never feed your pet without your permission (particularly if your pet has food allergies).

Last? Dump the trash. Somehow, your dog will find a way to get into it, and the leftover corn-on-the-cob, yummy string that goes around the turkey legs, turkey skin, bones, moldy food, and fatty grizzle all pose a threat to your pet. Potential problems from "garbage gut" include gastroenteritis (e.g., vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain), pancreatitis (severe inflammation of the pancreas), a gastrointestinal obstruction, or even tremors or seizures.

What tops the list for the most dangerous Thanksgiving foods that are poisonous to your dog?

Grapes, raisins, and currants. Currants and raisins are commonly found in stuffing, baked goods, and as snacks. When ingested, these fruit from the *Vitis* genus can result in severe acute kidney failure. Signs of poisoning often don't show up for days, until kidney failure has already taken place.

Onions, leeks, chives, and garlic. When ingested, these common kitchen foods from the *Allium* genus can result in oxidative damage to the red blood cells, making these cells more likely to rupture (e.g., hemolyze). Cats are especially sensitive and can develop a severe anemia (low red blood cell count) from even small amounts. Thankfully, this is typically seen more with chronic ingestion (e.g., when they are eating it for days), but, to be safe, keep these out of reach.

Xylitol. If you have any calorie-counting chefs in the kitchen, you may want to verify if they've used any xylitol in the baked goods. Xylitol, a natural sugar-free sweetener, is a sugar substitute used in a ton of products nowadays: gums, mints, mouthwashes, nasal sprays, chewable vitamins, baked goods, chocolate, etc. When ingested by dogs, it can result in a massive insulin spike, causing a life-threatening hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) and even liver failure with higher doses.

Fatty table scraps. Fatty table scraps like gravy, turkey skin, etc. are potentially dangerous to your dog, as they can result in severe pancreatitis. Even a piece of bacon can trigger pancreatitis in dogs, so, when in doubt, don't feed it to your dog or cat!

Bones and turkey legs. Huge no-no. While you may think you're giving your dog a treat, you're actually putting him at risk for a possible foreign body obstruction. The bones can also get stuck in the stomach or intestines, potentially resulting in a perforation (or rupture) of the intestines.

Unbaked bread dough. About to throw some fresh bread in the oven? Make sure your dog doesn't eat the unbaked dough first. When this occurs, your dog's stomach acts as an artificial oven, making the yeast rise and release carbon dioxide, causing a distended abdomen and potential life-threatening gastric dilatation-volvulus (GDV). Next, the yeast and sugar in the unbaked dough metabolize into alcohol, resulting in secondary alcohol poisoning in your dog.

Alcohol. As mentioned above, we can see alcohol poisoning from weird sources (e.g., unbaked bread dough, rum-soaked fruitcake, etc.). Likewise, dogs can be poisoned by ingesting alcohol drinks, so keep the mixed drinks and beer away from your dog. Accidental ingestion can cause severe coma, slowed respiration, and a life-threatening low blood sugar in your dog.

If you think your dog or cat ingested something poisonous, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center right away. When it comes to any poisoning situation, the sooner you diagnose it, the easier it is to potentially treat, the less invasive it is to your pet, and the less expensive it is for you. Now, that's something for which to be grateful.

If you have any questions or concerns, you should always visit or call your veterinarian. He/she is your best resource to ensure the health and well-being of your pets.



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