

# The Monocacy

# MONOCLE

*Keeping an Eye on Local News*

A Biweekly Newspaper

December 9, 2016 • Volume XII, Number 17

## 2016 in the Monocle

By John Clayton



*Future ballet stars in the making? Enjoy more seasonal pictures in Family Album on page 2.*



*Michelle Moraa was interviewed on TV. Find out why in Tidbits on page 3.*



*Catherine Savage has some royal advice. See Local News on page 7.*



*This Santa recently made a lot of news. See more Santas on page 13.*

The stately little Town of Poolesville burst into the national news hole with the story of a modest private skating rink that caught the attention of county regulators. The David and Goliath story (as Susan Petro put it in her *Monocle* page-one story) set social media atwitter and went national for a short time. The Poolesville Commissioners, in their meetings, attended to issues of wells, sewers, and finances—oh, that Congress could be so focused. We got clobbered by snow again in a blizzard that went by many names, some printable. On a more national note, unlikely presidential candidate Donald Trump showed surprising strength in the Iowa caucuses.

Some snow melted in February, if not nearly enough, and the commissioners began looking into emulating Marc Kohn's skating rink (named Mel's Rink after his deceased daughter) as a public facility. The national media dropped the ice rink story, being focused on Chris Christie's absurd assertion that "Mr. Trump has the best chance to beat Hillary Clinton



*The year was 2016. For local dogs, January was tough; July was better.*



in the fall election." The Poolesville commissioners discussed the blizzard response with a consensus that the town and the citizens responded about as well as could be expected, although there were complaints about snow being plowed into driveways. People living outside of Poolesville realized that people inside of Poolesville don't know how good they have it.

Once again, the Poolesville High School Swim and Dive Teams—boys' and girls'—won state swim titles: five years in a row for the boys, and the third in five years for the girls. Coach Jonathan Leong modestly said, "We had a fantastic meet."

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## Great and Small Therapeutic Riding: Serving the Special Needs Community

By Katy Hansen and Julia Rich

Bucklodge Road in Boyds provides a peaceful drive at any time of the year. Long black-fenced driveways stretch back to quaint stone farmhouses with matching barns and green, sweeping pastures dotted with grazing equines. At the corner of Moore Road, it's difficult to miss the white PVC fencelike sign, sticking out rather unnaturally against the brush, emblazoned with black letters: Great and Small. Like the horse farms along Bucklodge, Great and Small has a long drive that weaves back onto the hundred-acre Rickman Farm Horse Park, a property donated by Bill Rickman, Sr. in 1996 to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) for use as a therapeutic riding facility. Like the horse farms that surround

it, Great and Small represents a place where people can appreciate nature's tranquility and find connection with their equine partners.

The benefit of connection with horses and nature is no different a need for the clients Great and Small serves as it is for those owners on private farms. Great and Small was founded by Sarah Phelps, a lawyer and lifelong horse lover, whose legal work with the Abuse and Neglect System in Washington, D.C. exposed her to children who had suffered severe trauma, and in whose lives she witnessed a "stark lack of beauty and gentleness." To help connect those children with a greater sense of nature and a world beyond their troubled circumstances, Phelps offered them riding lessons.



*The lessons to be learned are great and small.*

She began by renting out barn space at Avenel Stables in Potomac to teach

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# Family Album



Local girl scouts made tree decorations which they placed on the town's Christmas tree.



Decorating Zaglio's gingerbread cookies at the Old Town Hall and Bank Museum: Wade, Megan, and Noah Hungerford, Caroline Stowers, and Katie Ryan.



Young Sophie was thrilled to meet Santa Claus.

Tim Flynn served seasonal favorites of hot chocolate and cookies given out by Bassett's during the Holiday Lighting Festival.



Commissioners Val Dickerson and Jim Brown helped the scouts pull the lever to light the town Christmas tree.

Future Olympians in the making?



When UMCVFD's breakfast ended, Santa stopped by the Annual Odd Fellows' Holiday Luncheon for seniors.



Grace Sheppard read "The Night before Christmas" to area kids, a highlight every year.

## Tidbits

### Students Demonstrate for Love and Unity

Michelle Moraa, a student in the Poolesville High School Humanities program and who represents a minority, having been born in Kenya, was inspired to organize a demonstration promoting students of diversity. Joined by fellow student Marcia Sherman, the two felt a need to raise the profile of this diversity in Poolesville, an area they view as underrepresented by minorities.

The duo organized a student demonstration on November 18, encouraging students to leave school at noon and to walk together to Whalen Commons to promote their message of love, unity, and empowerment. Although the timing was the same as when a number of high school students walked out of class to protest the election of Donald Trump, the Poolesville students' stated purpose was more about inclusion and not specifically aimed at the president-elect.



*PHS students demonstrated to promote love and unity in a diverse community.*

Their objective was to merge the highly-diverse student body represented in its magnet programs with the community at large in a common cause. Moraa explained, "By exposing the general public with our concerns and experiences, we felt they might better see things from our point of view, and that would help spread our message of unity and love. Despite political differences, our message is that we love you and want to unite with you. Our high school and town should have more events like this other than Poolesville Day, even on weekends, where we could immerse ourselves, where the people from the high school who live out of town can feel welcome to come together with community."

The group of just over thirty students was joined by an almost equal number of adult and parent supporters. The diverse group included various minorities including persons of the LGBT community or the children of such individuals. The program offered comments and testimonials from the students and then joined together in song. The respectful and peaceful group returned to classes after the demonstration.

### Kinley Stokes Wins Fall Golf Championship

Kinley Stokes, daughter of Mike and Vicki Stokes of Poolesville and student at Poolesville Elementary School, won the U.S. Kids Golf Northern Virginia (NVA) fall tour championship. In the girls' 10-11 division, ten-year-old Stokes won the fall tour points standings, including three wins of the six fall events. Stokes posted wins at Poolesville Golf Course, Brambleton Golf Course, and Westpark Golf Club. At Westpark, Stokes shot a career low for nine holes of just plus-one over par 37 which included three birdies. Stokes, who is known for hitting long tee shots, can regularly drive the ball easily over two hundred yards. The longest drive of her career came this fall at Algonkian Golf Course on the 340-yard par-5 second hole. Stokes hit a 240-yard drive in the fairway and was left with just 100 yards for her second shot into the par-5 second hole. She followed up the monster tee shot with a hundred-yard pitching wedge close to the pin, leaving just five feet for eagle.



*PES student and golf champion, Kinley Stokes.*

Continued on page 9.

*Blessings from my Family to Yours this Holiday Season!*

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## Commentary

### Truth, Justice, and The American Way

By John Clayton

Superman knew what was important. It was not my intention to write anything provocative or grumpy in this holiday season, but the assault on the truth that has emerged from this incoming administration is extremely disturbing. I refuse to accept lying as discourse.

It became clear during the campaign that Trump would say anything for effect, with little concern for how extreme it might be, whom it may hurt, or whether he had any intention of carrying out a promise. He and his campaign have been quite blasé about this: It's just campaign talk; we're just firing up the crowds, etc., etc. Certainly many of us are grateful he is not carrying though on some of his boasts, promises, and outright threats, but the fact that this is, by definition, lying, and it is increasingly tolerated, is a serious concern. Repeatedly calling his opponent a crook, which she is not, and a liar—which she certainly was on occasion, but not nearly to the extent that he claimed—was shameful. A little of this might be political theater, or exaggeration, or hyperbole, or some other euphemism, but this, like his insistence on questioning Obama's birthplace, was lying. Eventually, on the birther issue, Trump as much as admitted that he had been lying all along. That should concern us going forward. Has anything changed? When your former campaign manager and still-loyalist says, "The problem is with the media. They took everything we said so literally," then you have but a passing relationship with the truth. There's a great line in the movie *Lawrence of Arabia* which is apropos. The cynical British diplomat Dryden says, "A man who tells lies, like me, merely hides the truth, but a man who tells half-lies, has forgotten where he's put it."

The phenomenon of fake news is what we used to call disinformation when it came from the Soviet Union. Now it comes from many sources, including a still-adversarial Russia, and it is aided and abetted by those that

pass it on, refer to it, and help give it credence. I think we all should be bothered that our president-elect has—and not just on the birther issue—traded in fake news and conspiracy theories. His National Security Adviser designate has done the same, with totally fictitious and scurrilous rumors about Hillary Clinton and the president, which I will not dignify here. Perhaps they will change their behavior. I'm willing to go day-forward on all of this and let bygones be bygones (he won; he belongs to all of us now), but I need some evidence that this administration will stop trading in the basest of lies in order to motivate its base and justify its actions like some tin pot dictatorship.

One step towards embracing the truth will be a healthier relationship with the press. The strength of a free press is that reporters challenge elected officials to validate the truth. It is a necessarily adversarial relationship. One-way communications via Twitter, or telephone interviews with network pundits who are already in the bag for you, for policy or for ratings, is not the exercise of a free press.

I have gathered that many who voted for Trump are alarmed that others might hold them accountable for Trump's words and deeds. I understand some of the motivations for voting for Trump, perhaps while holding one's nose, because in the aggregate he stood for a conservative agenda against the policies of that other party and its flawed leader. To be more specific, I doubt that most Trump voters realistically want to see a great big beautiful wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, or Muslims banned, or all illegal immigrants arrested, or all global warming agreements discarded, or a total retreat from universal healthcare, or the alt-right agenda adopted. I hope Trump voters will help hold him accountable to tell the truth and govern accordingly.

In closing, and with a nod to what I believe is the American Way: God bless President-elect Donald J. Trump, and give him the wisdom he will need to safely guide us in a troubled world. Peace on Earth and good will to all people.

**Thank you to all who read the *Monocacy Monocle*, and to all who help to make it possible.**

## Rande(m) Thoughts

### Glad it's Over!

Phew! I am so glad that 2016 is over.

When one is blessed with great family and friends and good health, the end of each year always has a nostalgic feel, and from that emotional starburst comes a sense of hope for the New Year. As an individual, when it comes to the things that really matter, 2016 was a wonderful year, but the social acidity within our politics and culture has reached a point that it might be difficult to understand how we can ever get a sense of unity again.

We look forward to a whole new year of bringing the life of our community—your life—into print. Doing so has its ups and downs, but in the end we are grateful to do so. I was thinking about next year and publishing the *Monocle* and trying to think what to say to end this year when I ran across a ditty in the December 1937 Poolesville High School *Echo*. I wish the article had attributed its writer.

#### What a Life

Getting out this paper is no picnic.  
If we print jokes, people will say we are silly;

If we don't, they say we are too serious.  
If we clip things from other magazines, we are too lazy to write them ourselves;

If we don't, we are too fond of our own stuff.

If we don't print contributions, we don't appreciate genius;

If we do print them, the paper is filled with junk.

If we make a change in the other person's write-up, we are too critical;

If we don't, we are asleep.

Now, like as not, someone will say,  
We swiped this from some other paper!  
WE DID!

I did, too. Thank you, *Echo*.

The year at Poolesville High School ended with the Student Council entering its second year; the fall play was *Trouble in Paradise*; a teacher got a surprise shower by the "Senior Home Arts Girls"; the editorial ruminated about the never-ending process of Christmas shopping, the merging of the Future Farmers of American Father and Son banquet with its annual Mother and Son banquet, and the students taking a class trip to see Shirley Temple in the movie *Heidi*; and the boys' and girls' basketball upcoming schedules were published.

The humor was ripe for today:

**Continued on page 17.**

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## Letters to the Editor

### Wishing for Green Spaces

It is with great sadness and concern that I watch the sale and development of yet another farm in Poolesville. When I first moved to this beautiful area from Northern Virginia, I was instantly charmed by its rural nature—I loved that there was even a field across from the local high school!—however, in the few short years that I’ve been here, many spaces that were once green or yellow have since made way for buildings and parking lots. It is a gloomy trend to which I had sincerely hoped Poolesville was immune. Even with incredible candles like our National Park Service, the Adirondack Park, and smaller reserves like Huntley Meadows in Alexandria and our own Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve, protecting, preserving, and honoring nature and the land is still a losing battle. Places like Poolesville that pride themselves on their rural charm are being mined for expansion; even now, “rustic” Poolesville is losing yet another field to make room for homes. Pretty soon, Poolesville will be pastoral only in memorial fantasy.

I understand that the Earth will outlast us all, and that long after humans have vanished, she will recover and replenish herself. I also understand that people need places to live and other people need to make money. These are inescapable realities; moreover, I truly appreciate that the owners of land are free to do with it what they wish, but I am desperately dismayed by the loss of green space that we will never be able to get back. Reasonable growth is a phrase that is tossed around a lot in situations like these, but I think—and probably am in the minority—that “reasonable” should not come at the cost of nature and the lovely ambiance that Poolesville boasted.

Cory Ahearn

Note: The Town Master Plan of 2011 (required by the State of Maryland every ten years) calls for a population of 6,500 for the Town of Poolesville, up from approximately 5,400, and allows building within specific areas of Poolesville. The growth that has happened is a result of that plan.

Continued on page 24.

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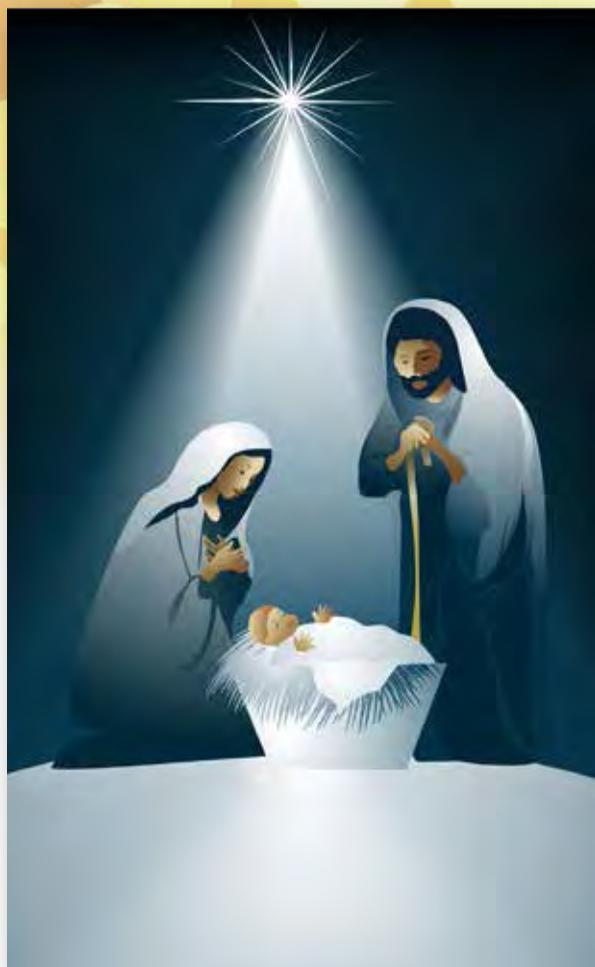
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## Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Schedule

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 music begins at 3:30 pm  
 4 pm

*Carols and Special Music*  
 10:30 pm

*Eucharistic Celebration*  
*of the Nativity of our Lord*  
 11 pm

Sunday, DECEMBER 25TH

*Carols and Celebration*  
*of the Nativity of our Lord*  
 10 am

SUNDAY, January, 1st

*Morning Prayer*  
 8 am

*Lessons and Carols*  
 10:30 am

## Things To Do

### December 9

#### Poolesville Area

#### Senior Center Events

17750 West Willard Road.

*Tai chi.* 10:30 a.m.

*Zumba Gold.* 1:00 p.m.

*Christmas Craft Day.* 1:00 p.m. in café.

### December 9, 10, and 11

#### Countryside Artisans

#### Annual Holiday Tour

Give the wonderful gift of art this Christmas. Visit twelve artisans and crafter studios representing over forty artists and an award-winning vineyard for a self-guided tour. Official brochure and maps can be found at [www.countrysideartisans.com](http://www.countrysideartisans.com). Friday and Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday: noon to 5:00 p.m.

### December 10

#### Ornament-Making for Kids

Come join Ms Jessica as she shows kids how to create these cute little ornaments. Parents welcome to join the fun and create a glass ornament of their own. All supplies included, as well as light snacks and beverages. No registration needed, just walk in and stay as long as you want. \$20/person. *The Blue Hearth.* 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### December 14

#### Wreath-Making Workshop

Deck the halls, and anywhere else you'd like to bring some holiday cheer, with a beautiful custom wreath. Once again, Stephanie Egly from Stephanie's Secret Garden Flower Shop will teach how to create a custom wreath using real greenery. All materials are included; however, bring your own holiday mementos to adorn your wreath. Register on Facebook. Cost: \$90. *The Blue Hearth.* 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

### Christmas Gift Wrapping Fundraiser

To benefit Upper Montgomery County Relay for Life at *Bassett's Restaurant*. Dine in and have your gifts wrapped as you dine. Santa Claus will be a special guest that evening and available for photos. 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### December 17

#### Holiday Centerpiece Class

Learn how to create your own holiday centerpiece from the talented Stephanie Egly of Stephanie's Secret Garden Flower Shop. For this workshop, you'll need to bring your own vessel (no more than four to six inches in diameter) or you may purchase a preselected vessel at the Blue Hearth the night of the workshop. All flowers and greenery, as well as wine and light hors d'oeuvres, are included. Cost: \$90. *The Blue Hearth.* 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

#### A Christmas Carol

Poolesville's Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre's production of the Charles Dickens's classic, under the artistic direction of founder Fran Ichijo and set to the lush music of Claude Debussy, never fails to please. *F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, Rockville.* 1:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

#### St. Mary's and Monocacy Lions Blood Drive

Give the gift of life this holiday season. *St. Mary's Pavilion.* 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### December 18

#### Live Christmas Nativity

A cast of youths and adults will stage the traditional nativity scene on the front lawn of *Poolesville's Memorial United Methodist Church*. This special walk-through exhibit includes live animals and is sure to delight youngsters and adults alike. Visit this wonderful scene of Christ's birth and then enjoy the fellowship inside wherein the church will graciously provide free refreshments. 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



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## Local News

### Alternate Maryland Dairy Princess Shares Holiday Message, Recipe

Catherine Savage, the alternate Maryland Dairy Princess wants to share an important message for the holidays for Monocle readers. She wants you to remember this season that dairy farmers rise early in the mornings to feed cows and milk them to get you that cool, refreshing glass of milk or mug of hot chocolate to set out for Santa Claus or to enjoy on a holiday morning with your family. "You should know the milk you purchased traveled from the cow to the store shelf within just a few days and is full of nine essential nutrients to keep you healthy the rest of the cold winter," she said.

Catherine was crowned alternate Maryland Dairy Princess in July, and since then, she has been busy promoting milk and dairy products and sharing information on the dairy industry at events around the state. She has presented ribbons to exhibitors showing cattle at several county fairs, set up educational activities at events and festivals, visited schools and school lunch sites, played games with children at stores, and participated in parades as a dairy princess.

Catherine lives on a dairy farm in Dickerson where her family milks about one hundred Holsteins, Jerseys, and Ayrshires. Currently a senior at Poolesville High School, she hopes to attend a four-year college and to major in dairy science. Below are two recipes she offers for your family to enjoy during the holidays, knowing that Santa Claus would love some southern cornbread for a change.

#### Hot Chocolate

- 2 cups cold MILK
- 2 tablespoons cocoa powder
- 6 tablespoons sugar

Additional toppings, as desired (marshmallows, dusting of cocoa powder, whipped cream, chocolate shavings, crushed candy canes, etc.)

Put milk in a saucepan and begin heating. Dissolve cocoa by stirring in small amount of hot water. Add to milk, sprinkle in sugar. Continue heating to taste and pour in one large or two smaller mugs. Add toppings as desired.

#### Southern Baked Corn Bread

- 1 can corn
- 2 cups MILK
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 5 tablespoons sugar
- 2 eggs, beaten
- small lump of BUTTER
- pinch salt

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Scald milk and add to beaten eggs, flour, and sugar. Add other ingredients, stir together. Pour into and bake in buttered baking dish no deeper than 3 inches for about 35 minutes. This recipe can also be made in a microwave oven, heating for about 11 minutes, stirring once or twice.



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## Ag News

### The Harvest with Jamison Ag & Turf, Inc

By Susan Petro

Residents of the Agricultural Reserve reap the benefits of being surrounded by beautiful vistas, pastures, and scenic fields, much of which is farmed by descendants of some of the community's earliest families. The Jamison family members, including Charles "Jamie" Jamison, his wife, Kathy, and their three sons, Joseph, Patrick, and Michael, have been involved in farming their entire lives. Today, the family owns and operates Jamison Ag & Turf, Inc., a farming operation that grows and harvests thousands of acres of nearby fields of corn, wheat, soybean, sod, and other crops—some on their own land, and others on leased fields all around the Poolesville area.

Jamison Ag & Turf, Inc. has deep roots in Poolesville and the surrounding Agricultural Reserve. The patriarch of the family, Charles "Jamie" Jamison, began his own farming operations after he returned from serving during the Vietnam War. Around that time, the Russian Wheat Deal caused grain prices to rise, and Jamie felt it was a good time to set up his own farm. He leased property and equipment from his father and began his own operations in 1970.

Jamie's father, Charles, grew up on his ancestral farm cleared during the Colonial Era near the base of Sugarloaf Mountain. Around 1950, he moved to Poolesville where he purchased a farm. There he mostly raised livestock and got involved with real estate as he helped others to buy and sell farms. Charles then sold livestock to the farmers. The current Jamison Real Estate offices were once known as Jamison Real Estate and Livestock. By the time Jamie began farming, the elder Jamison had mostly gotten out of farming to focus more on the real estate business.

"My mother and father raised us by means of farming," said the youngest son, Michael, who adds that he and his brothers learned many ins and outs of the business from their parents. Now grown, the sons have joined the operations. Each offers his own sets of expertise. Joseph, the eldest brother, manages the day-to-day operations and input purchases. The middle brother, Patrick, is the turf expert and field agronomist. Michael manages the grain marketing and precision agriculture technologies.

Precision agriculture employs computer software programs and GPS technologies to focus smaller areas of land to produce greater yields and inputs using fewer resources. Farmers, like the Jamison family, have had to adopt smarter and more modern techniques to remain profitable when crop prices have remained stagnant for decades. Michael recently found a receipt in his father's desk dating back to 1976 when corn was trading at \$3.26 a bushel. When he checked that day's prices on the Chicago Board of Trade, the price was actually five cents lower. Producing greater yields with fewer resources helps to keep farming viable in today's market. Many farmers have had to continually expand the numbers of acres they farm just to make ends meet.

Newer farming methods also help keep the surrounding environment healthier and keep more nutrients in the soil. The Jamisons were one of the first area farmers to plant cover crops and employ no-till farming practices. "Basically, what that means is you do not go in and disrupt the soil," said Michael, describing one benefit of not tilling the fields after each harvest. "There are carbon emissions associated with that, and there are sediment issues running off into the Chesapeake Bay." Michael adds that it can take up to one hundred years to create an inch of topsoil, and just two or three inches of rain in a heavy downpour to wash it all away. By planting cover crops like wheat over the winter, nutrients are held in place, and runoff is minimized.

Farming today is not just a one-season activity, but a year-round process of rotating crops, monitoring the soil, analyzing the yield data from each crop, tracking prices on the Chicago Board of Trade, determining when to store crops, when to sell, and how much seed to order for the following season. Today's modern farmers compete in a global economy; they don't just pay attention to what other area farmers are growing, they also monitor the planting cycles and crop production in other countries like Brazil and Argentina.

Additionally, equipment maintenance and bookkeeping are year-round activities. "My mother does all the books," said Michael, "she's the one who holds all the glue together."

The Jamison family strives to be the best stewards to all the land they farm throughout the year, including both their own acreage and the fields that they lease. To help keep the local waterways healthier and free from silt and runoff



Jamie and Patrick Jamison paused during a heavy schedule of harvesting.

of excess nutrients, they take steps to mow the ditches and reseed any areas that become washed out after heavy downpours. They also maintain the perimeters around each field and remove fallen trees.

Although the fall crops have all been harvested for this season, their work is not yet done. After running from sunup to sundown for the past two months straight, the Jamisons, their four fulltime employees, and a handful of seasonal help can now look forward to a shorter days and more time with family. Now is the time to sit back and analyze the year's crop data, prepare for tax season, and order seeds for the spring planting season. "During harvest time, you do as much as you can today, and then again tomorrow, and the day after until the harvest is done," said Michael. There's still lots of work to be done, but now they have some breathing room. "If it doesn't get done today, we can knock off at 5:00 p.m. and come back tomorrow."

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Continued from page 3.

**Tidbits**

Stokes also had a major achievement in 2016 by qualifying for the U.S. Kids Golf World Championship in Pinehurst, North Carolina. This three-day, fifty-four-hole event was played at Seven Lakes Country Club for the Girls 10 division and had a field of over one hundred players from all over the world. Stokes posted a career low for eighteen holes in the final round of the event with a score of 84. Stokes has already qualified for the upcoming World Championship that will be played in August 2017 at Pinehurst.

**A Warning on Interaction with the Poolesville Bear**

The Poolesville Bear, despite having its own Facebook page, hasn't made an appearance for a while, but with hibernation season approaching, the wisdom of the *Old Farmers' Almanac* about what to do should one encounter a bear might prove to be useful. They advise that hikers and other outdoorsmen should wear noisy little bells on their clothing to warn the bears of their presence. They further advise that individuals carry pepper spray with them in case of an encounter with a bear.

The *Almanac* also recommends watching out for fresh signs of bear activity. To maximize their own safety, those outdoors should recognize the difference between black bear and grizzly bear droppings. Black bear feces is smaller and can contain a lot of berry seeds and squirrel fur. The grizzly bear droppings have little bells in it and smell of pepper spray.

**Lions Deliver Thanksgiving Food Baskets**

The Monocacy Lions again distributed Thanksgiving baskets to families in our area identified by WUMCO Help as persons in need of support during this holiday season. The Lions have been doing this for a very long time and will be not only gather food baskets for Christmas but will be gathering and distributing gifts as well. More information can be found on the Facebook page of the Monocacy Lions.



*The Monocacy Lions and the JPMS Leo Club filled Thanksgiving baskets for WUMCO Help and distributed them to families in our area.*

**WUMCO Talks to the Lions**

Ray Hoewing, a member of the board of directors of WUMCO Help, the local assistance organization, addressed the Monocacy Lions at a recent dinner meeting to describe WUMCO's support and membership drive.



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The organization receives contributions from many local churches and organizations, but annual donations have gone flat for the last few years and have failed to keep pace with expenditures. This has necessitated drawing down of financial reserves, which is diminishing those reserves.



*Ray Hoewing described WUMCO Help's fundraising campaign to the Monocacy Lions.*

Hoewing outlined the many ways that WUMCO assists the needy, which is a good deal more than just food, including housing and utilities assistance, medical support and transportation, and helping to keep automobiles running for those who cannot afford repairs. It was an illuminating presentation.

The Lions, many of whom participate in distributing food baskets to WUMCO families at Thanksgiving and Christmas, have seen the poverty in our area firsthand, and the breadth of WUMCO's mission.

Hoewing described the new membership program which allows individuals to give at various levels with one-time or recurring donations, ranging from "The Feeder" at \$40 per year, to the "Jane Stearns Circle" for a minimum gift of \$50 per month. Details are available at [www.WUMCOHELP.org](http://www.WUMCOHELP.org).

Following the presentation, Howeing was presented with a \$1,000 donation from the Monocacy Lions.

Continued from page 1.

### 2016 in the Monocle

In March, with hints of spring in the air, Maureen O'Connell reminded us to start pruning and planning for the change of seasons. The commissioners debated road safety, and PHS students reminded us that we are not mere suburbanites with "Ride Your Tractor to School Day."

In April, a flotilla of Republican candidates arrived for a Town Hall Forum, heavily attended and hosted by our own Rural Women's Republican Club and other related organizations. The commissioners discussed the feasibility of taking over county and state roads within the town, released a budget for FY 2017, discussed charging stations for electric cars, and that ice rink (which would require significant county funding). Hundreds of bicyclists passed through on their way to Gettysburg, as so many others have throughout history.

In May, the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association held its annual meeting with a keynote address from the chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board, Casey Anderson, who, among other remarks, cited what may be a motto for the Agricultural Reserve, "We don't want to be Fairfax." The Historic Medley District presented its first-ever Whisper Awards to recognize people who have helped preserve local history in different ways. The Poolesville commissioners received few comments on their proposed budget, but had lively discussions on snow plowed into driveways, dog park improvements, crosswalks, and control of state roads. The *Monocle* scooped all the other local newspapers when it reported a proposal for ninety-five homes on the Willard property west of the Poolesville Town Hall.

In June, many citizens turned out to contest the planned development on the Willard property, citing many concerns, although the plan is in a very early stage of the approval process. It was also announced that the Dog Park would open in July, and sure enough, it did, and about a dozen local dogs brought their owners to the festivities. The commissioners voted to move ahead on taking over Routes 107 and 109 from the state, beginning a planning and approval process. As the dog days of July continued, the UMAC 11U baseball team won its third straight Cal Ripken State Title, having won as nine- then ten-year-olds the two previous years, respectively. Clara Jackson won the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association's Creative Essay Contest with her essay on creating an environmentally-sensitive hops farm to serve the craft beer industry.

In August, the electric car charging stations opened next to Whalen Commons and in the parking of Poolesville Hardware, an idea initially proposed by Poolesville Green and championed (and researched) by two PHS students, Brianna Roche and Lauren Lightcap; Poolesville is a "charging station desert" no more. The commissioners dealt with the repercussions of canceling the Fourth of July fireworks show south of town due to concerns about the weather, and the state sent the town a check for partial reimbursement for snow removal, including blocking driveways, since the event was classified a state emergency.

In September—what else?—Poolesville Day went off as expected and then some. Local dentists and all-around good citizens, Drs. Tim Pike and Margaret Valega, were the 2016 Grand Marshals. Later in the month, three out-of-town thieves were arrested by county police after fleeing a robbery at the CVS. Citizens of dubious moral fiber are once again reminded that committing overt crimes in a town with only two viable, and long, exit routes (three if you want to use White's Ferry) is probably not a good idea. The commissioners reiterated the county's willingness to spend \$140,000 to build a skating rink, but the overall monies needed to move ahead were still short.

In October, in a meeting at the Poolesville Baptist Church, the Willard property known as Willshire continued to spur lively discussions on its appropriateness with the Master Plan, the density and style of the homes, whether its driveways would be plowed with snow, and other issues. The fundamental perceived nature of Poolesville as a "small rural town" versus becoming "another Clarksburg," as Caroline Taylor of the Montgomery Countryside Alliance (MCA) phrased it, was a major topic. An intoxicated driver was pulled out of the Potomac River by White's Ferry employee Joshua Webster, highlighting the many services provided by this unique facility. A movement to rename the local county pool after the late Sara Auer continued to advance. The commissioners continued to push for a skating rink, and elections for three commissioner posts approached.

In November, a month many anticipated with excitement and dread, new commissioner Marvin Radigan and incumbents Jerry Klobukowski and Valaree Dickerson were sworn in after winning the election. Former

commissioner Brice Halbrook was commended for his many contributions to the town. Jay and Anne Cinque won the 2016 Royce Hanson Award from the MCA, and in national news, presidential hopeful Donald J. Trump continued to confound the experts by winning the electoral vote and taking a big—nay! an amazing—step, to becoming the forty-fifth President of the United States. As a result, some were quoted as saying, "DJ Trump is in the house" as if he were a, ahem, disc jockey. Who knew his middle initial would be, conveniently, J?

As November ended and we moved into Thanksgiving and the holidays, the Upcounty got another topic to discuss with a proposal for a new sports and recreation center by Hughes and Budd Roads. The Historic Medley District testified in front of the commissioners to request funding to repair the Old Town Hall and Bank Museum, which is starting to fall down and needs attention, as so many things do.

We at the *Monocle* hope you have had a good year, and we wish you the best for 2017. Thanks once again to our readers and for our advertisers, we couldn't have one without the other. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year.

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**Christmas Services**

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Christmas Bell Concert  
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Christmas Cantata “Come Let Us Adore”  
Sunday, Dec. 18 at 10:45 am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
Saturday, Dec. 24 at 7:00 pm

Christmas Morning Service  
Sunday, Dec. 25 at 10:45 am

barnesvillebaptist.org  
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**WUMCO Fundraiser Continues!**

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**Make online donations!**

Visit our website [wumcohelp.org](http://wumcohelp.org). Click either **Donate Now** or **Become A Member Today** and follow prompts. You can also download a mail-in form from the site.

**Questions?**

Call Catherine at 301-972-8481 or Ray at 301-461-9399.

[wumcohelp.org](http://wumcohelp.org)



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# Name That Santa

See Legend on page 15 for the answers!

# Celebrate Advent, Christmas & Welcome the New Year

**Mass with Anointing of the Sick**  
Sunday, December 11 at 9:30 am

**Sacrament of Confession**  
Wednesday, December 14 at 4:00 & 7:30 pm

**St. Mary's & Monocacy Lions Blood Drive**  
Give the Gift of Life this Holiday Season  
Saturday, December 17, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
St. Mary's Pavilion

## Holiday Mass Schedule

**Christmas Eve:** 4:30 pm (*Children's Pageant*) / 7:30 pm / 10:30 pm (*choral prelude at 10 pm*)

**Christmas Day:** 9 am / 11 am

**New Year's Eve:** 5:00 pm

**New Year's Day:** 8, 9:30 & 11 am

# St Mary's Catholic Church

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On facebook at Saint Mary's Parish and Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima

Rev. Kevin O'Reilly, Pastor

David Cahoon, Deacon

Daily Mass: Monday - Friday 9:00 am followed by the Rosary

Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm

Sunday Masses 8, 9:30 & 11 am

Confession: Saturday at 4:15 pm



## Youth Sports

### Poolesville Winter Sports Preview

By Jeff Stuart

The winter sports season is upon us, and here is a peek at what to expect.

#### Girls' Basketball

The girls' basketball team won twenty games last season, so they are excited but cautious about this year.

"We lost a lot of seniors," said 6'-3" junior center Erin Green, "but we've got some underclassmen that have really been able to step up like freshman Makayla Lemarr at forward. Expectations are always higher. You always want to do better than the year before, so our goal is to try to go farther this

year. This summer, I played on an AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) team. I traveled up and down the East Coast and during the trials...

I am looking forward to the Gaithersburg game because that will be one of our toughest games. I am also looking forward to the Damascus game because I know a lot of the girls on that team because I played AAU with them."

The Falcons play Damascus away on January 10 and at home on January 31.

"We have a lot of new people," said junior guard Kelliann Lee. "We are not as big as last year. We still have Erin and Julia, but Erin Sparrow graduated. She was an important player. We will have to work harder to get the ball inside. I want to beat Damascus... Hopefully, we will at least break even in the regular season and go at least into the second or third round of the playoffs."

"We have a great group of girls," said junior forward Julia Hobbs. "We have pulled a lot of girls up from JV...I really looking forward to playing with the lineup that we have...Last year we had a really tough game against Quince Orchard. We pulled away in the second half, so I am looking forward to that game as well." Quince Orchard plays at PHS on January 12.

"This year we have a fundamentally-sound team," said junior guard Madeleine Thompson. "We have good shooters and good guards. I think we will be a really good team. I think the Clarksburg game will definitely be a lot of fun. I have some friends there. They are a rival. This summer I played on an AAU team, and I travelled to Las Vegas, Atlanta, and West Virginia. I have gotten better. As a team I think we can run the floor well and get a lot of fast breaks this year."



PHS girls' basketball: Madeline Thompson, Julia Hobbs, Erin Green, Kelliann Lee, and Kenydi Cross

"I hope we can go through the playoffs and win the whole thing," said senior guard Kenydi Cross. "I think the Damascus games are going to be very interesting. Last year we didn't do so well against Paint Branch, so I am

Continued on page 19.

NTS1: **Samantha Virkus**, CVS

NTS2: **Honey Hymes**, Barnesville Post Office

NTS3: **Kristin Alban**, MES Principal

NTS4: **Shari Moten**, MES School Administrative Secretary

NTS5: **Lori Kocur**, JPMS Financial Assistant

NTS6: **Michelle Vennis**, Dickerson Market

NTS7: **Darlene Umberger**, Administrative Secretary

NTS8: **Teri Gregg**, PHS School Secretary

NTS9: **Julien Singh**, Crossroads Talent Solutions, LLC

NTS10: **Jeff Walsh**, Scout leader

NTS11: **John Gloss**, MCP officer

NTS12: **Bill Lermond**, Dickerson beef farmer

NTS13: **Paul Harney**, Balloons for All Occasions

NTS14: **Monica Molina**, PACC Treasurer, Magica Realty

NTS15: **Ross Koeser**, Poolesville resident, *an original publisher of a Poolesville newspaper*

NTS16: **Senait Semere**, Poolesville Gas Station

Legend for answers for Name That Santa

The Santa on page 1 is Martin Radigan, Poolesville Town Commissioner!



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# CHRISTMAS TREE SALES

### TREE LOT HOURS:

Friday, Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup> :	4pm to 8pm	Friday, Dec 9 <sup>th</sup> :	4pm to 8pm
Saturday, Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup> :	10am to 8pm	Saturday, Dec 10 <sup>th</sup> :	10am to 8pm
Sunday, Dec 4 <sup>th</sup> :	10am to 8pm	Sunday, Dec 11 <sup>th</sup> :	10am to 8pm

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## Let's Spend this Season of Hope and Light Together...

### All are Welcome!

**Live Nativity** celebrating the birth of Jesus and the love He brings into the world!  
Refreshments will be served inside. **Sunday, December 18, 6-8 pm**

**Christmas Eve Services Saturday, December 24**  
**4 pm** - Family Worship    **8 pm** - Traditional Worship

**Christmas Day Service Sunday, December 25**  
**10:30 am** - Lessons and Carols

#### **Regular Sunday Worship Schedule** (except for Christmas Day)

8:15 am - First Service

1<sup>st</sup> Sundays: Worship through Prayer

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays: Praise and Prayer

3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays: Worship through Healing

9:15 am - Sunday School

10:30 am - Second Service

**Memorial United Methodist Church**

17821 Elgin Road, Poolesville 301-349-2010 [www.pmumc.org](http://www.pmumc.org)

## Musings by Mama Boe

### Teen Years Enigma

By Pamela Boe

I knew the teen years of my children's development would be complicated and, at times, scary, but I truly wasn't prepared for the amount of head-scratching I've been doing lately. The deeper we travel into the dark recesses of puberty, the more my husband and mother and I spend on Google trying to figure out just what the dingdang kids are doing. We simply don't understand them.

And I'm not just talking about the ever evolving "Hip" lingo that is texting: SMH (Shaking My Head), IDK (I Don't Know), TTYL (Talk To You Later), and DYWTGGT (Do You Want To Go Get Tacos?). I'm also referring to weird fads. Take the latest craze that is The Mannequin Challenge. I know, I know, it sounds like a bad B movie from the 60s, but it is actually the newest popular boredom breaker the kids have going. There is a song called "Black Beatles", which has what has to be THE MOST ANNOYING and repetitive rap chorus EVER, that the kids play while videoing groups of them posing absolutely still.

Why, you ask? I. Don't. Know. I don't understand the humor. I don't understand the art. I don't understand how the song relates to the positioning. Frankly the whole thing creeps me out. And because of social media, these weird fads zip from one end of the nation to the other within hours. Teenagers are behaving like mannequins with annoying music the world over. Oh Joy.

And they get weirder and weirder. A couple of years ago it was Gangnam Style dancing, and there was the whip and nae-nae, and the Dab. Who THINKS of these things?? I wouldn't be surprised if all of these things were being created by Bill and Ted during an excellent adventure. "Hey Bill, dude, let's see if they'll all start dancing like they're on a horse!" "Nah, man, they'd never fall for it!" Two days later "This is Casey Kasem, with the number one dance craze, Gangnam Style!"

And if that isn't baffling enough to us, teens these days are now engaging in challenges that they create and share on YouTube, some of which have me worried about the future of our species. Don't get me wrong, some are quite clever, like the whisper challenge, where one person puts on earphones and tries to figure out what the other people around are saying. And the tasting challenges where people are blindfolded and have to guess what they are being served to eat. But some are a little more on the edgy side, like the cinnamon challenge, where someone tries to eat an entire spoonful of cinnamon without aspirating it. And there is the pizza challenge, where the toppings are picked by drawing, and they could be anything in the fridgepickles, mayonnaise, marmalade. Why? Why would anyone want to do this, let alone the notion of it travel across the nation in a skinny minute? Have we not instilled a modicum of common sense into our beloved children?

Look, I was a child of the 70s, and 80s. We did weird things, sure, but at least they made SENSE. Except

Continued on page 25.

Continued from page 4.

Glad it's Over!

The surgeon, architect, and politician were arguing over which profession was the oldest.

Said the surgeon: "Eve was made from Adam's rib, surely that took surgery."

"Ah," said the architect, "yes, but before that, order had to be made out of chaos, an architect's job."

"Okay," said the politician, "but somebody had to create the chaos first."

Hope springs eternal as they wished their readers, as I do now,

"A Merry Christmas and many more  
And a Happier New Year than ever before!"

The December 1937 *Echo* was previously called the *Reflector*. The staff were all freshmen or sophomores. They are listed as:

Editor-in-Chief—Myrna Jones, Assistants—Kitty Shears, June Roberson, Douglas Dayoff, Billy Day, Clyde Foster, and Fergus Murtaugh. Advertising Manager: Bob Jacques, Circulation manager James Guthrie, and faculty advisor Miss Lauterbach.

Other contributors to the issue: James Shannon, Charlotte White, Ruby Cregger, Gene Day, and fern Cregger.

## UMCVFD's Breakfast with Santa...



Santa not only came to Poolesville on December 2, but he got up early just to be with everyone at the UMCVFD breakfast.



These wonderful ladies from the UMCVFD Auxiliary served with great cheer and smiles.



Betty Jean Selby and Doris Glass of the UMCVFD Ladies' Auxiliary received a helping hand help from the Horan children.



Cliff Williams watched over these wide-eyed model train fans at the annual UMCVFD fire hall breakfast.

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MHIC # 51620

MHBR No. 7182

Continued from page 15.

### Poolesville Winter Sports Preview

looking forward to playing them—a little payback." Paint Branch is at Poolesville on December 21.

"I am looking for all my seniors, Kenydi, Samme Mullikin, and Hailey Khalil, to step up and be contributors and leaders on and off the court," said Coach Jamie Jamison. "They are great all-around athletes who will help us greatly in up-tempo games—and for Lee and Green to have a huge impact in scoring, rebounding, and defense, Green with great inside presence and Lee with great outside presence.

"Julia Hobbs is a strong inside presence and great rebounder, and Madeline gives us a strong outside presence. Both are very hardworking and coachable. Haley Harkins will be great in up-tempo games, and Brooke Hamm will help us in the post.

Alli Haddaway and Sarah Mullikin are versatile sophomore guards who will provide us with a spark, and Makayla Lemarr and Mary Hobbs are very athletic freshmen.

"I have high expectations and want to improve upon our season last year by developing our young talent and taking advantage of the experience of our upper classmen. We will play a more up-tempo game this year. I am very excited to get this team out on the court." The first game is at home against Springbrook on December 6.

### Swimming

"We are looking at a very large team this year," said Coach Jonathan Leong. "So far we have perhaps over one hundred students. Because of that, we might have to turn away some kids and have cuts. We are returning many of our swimmers and divers from last year. Our goal, of course, includes another set of state championships, but we know nothing is given, and we have to earn any accolade we desire."

Returners include state medalist Conner Dunathan, Justin Kim, Kevin Song, Benjamin Kaplan, David Umanski, Jisu Kim, Fanny Wu, Katarina Lechner, Arona Baigal, Theresa Nardone, and Julia Wang. Upcoming freshmen are Moshelle

Borijigin, Helena Narisu, Kenny Song, and Minsu Kim.

The boys are in search of their sixth straight state title, and the girls are looking to repeat and capture their fourth in six years.

### Wrestling

"Coach Mark Agnew is no longer coaching with us," said Coach Tim Tao who will continue to share coaching duties with Kevin Dorsey. "I'm very excited for the season. We have a lot of young talent on the team. We lost some key seniors, but we have some key incoming freshmen. We look to be able to fill a full team this year. Having no holes in the lineup is always a great start. We have some regional qualifiers returning in the lower weights with Alex Carbonell, Chris Danna, and Brian Truppo leading the way. We have some guys stepping up that did well at the JV [county championship] last year and will fill in nicely, so I'm looking forward to watching them progress. We have two incoming freshmen that had good success at the state level in the Beltway Junior League: Colin Savage and Xavier Kresslein. They should both be starting on varsity and do well for us. All in all, I'm excited about the team we potentially have and am looking forward to a good year."

### Boys' Basketball

"The boys' basketball team will be an experienced team," said Coach Kenny Kramek. "We have eight players returning led by three-year varsity players Stephen Lang, Jake Drissel, and David Esser. Seniors, Cole Carmack, Daniel Cho, Praneeth Thota, Tucker Ross, and Eshwar Kollipara, round out the senior class which will provide a deep backcourt. Juniors, Jack Tyler, Travis Zinn, and Robert Siegrist, moving up from the JV will provide the Falcons with strength inside.

"The Falcons face a difficult schedule playing fourteen games against 4A competition but are up to the task. The Falcons will be competitive by dictating tempo and running a disciplined-style, open-post motion offense predicated on strong ball movement and all five players on the floor being able to score."

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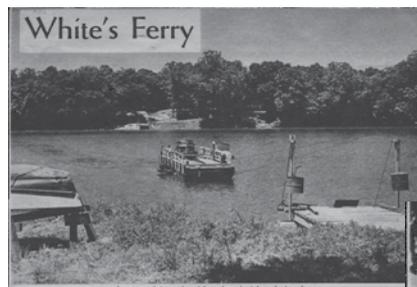
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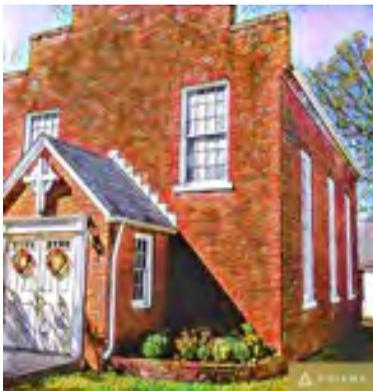
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## Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

### Present Crime

**Assault:** 19600 block of Wootton Avenue, 19600 block of Fisher Avenue.

**Theft from vehicle:** 19700 block of Fisher Avenue.

**Theft of vehicle:** 16600 block of W. Willard Avenue.

### Past Crime

**December 7, 1910** The ancient form of punishment, used only in Delaware at that time, was to be brought back to Montgomery County. Judge Reading of the Police Court said that anyone appearing before him and being convicted of wife beating would suffer a number of lashes in public. Officials expected the whipping post to be used when Franklin Matthews appeared for trial; however, his wife left the courtroom and refused to testify.

Reading said, "Maryland law gives me the authority to use the whipping post, and I am determined to take advantage of that fact." Sheriff Viett said that he was ready to assist the judge in carrying out any penalties, saying, "We have no use for any man who strikes his wife." There was a wide expanse of lawn in front of the courthouse, and Judge Reading said that any future lashings would be open to the public.

**December 12, 1910** Harry Bradley, one of the most prominent citizens of Rockville, was mowed down by an electric trolley car while crossing the street and was initially thought to be dead. He was placed on another car and was taken to the hospital in Washington. Rumors had spread that Mr. Bradley had died, but later, word reached Rockville that he was in serious condition and was expected to recover.

**December 17, 1910** After alluding capture for several days, John Davis, a young man of the Germantown district, was arrested by deputy Lloyd Whipp. Davis had gotten drunk on the farm of Harry Boland and first

quarreled with Amelia Snyder and eventually knocked her down. When Lutie Ashby tried to intervene, he knocked her down also. Pal Wade made an effort to protect each woman, but, for his troubles, he found himself with a black eye and a swollen face. Deputy Whipp was called to the farm, but Davis choked him and then made his escape into the woods. Davis was taken to the Rockville jail where he would await trial.

**December 25, 1910** Two fatal shootings caused great concern in the county. In the first, Leonard Thomas murdered Isaac Copeland in a house in Laytonsville. Christmas festivities were under way with singing and drinking. Thomas and Copeland had previously been on bad terms, but it was thought that the trouble was over. Thomas entered the house, drew a revolver, and shot Copeland in the head. The next morning, a farmer was walking through his property when he found the dead body of Thomas lying in a field. A coroner's inquest ruled it a case of murder-suicide.

In addition, there was a fatal shooting at Scotland. Daisy Crockett, age 15, was in a room with Isaac Dove when Dove began handling a shotgun. The gun went off, and Miss Crockett was fatally wounded. It was thought that it was a case of an accidental death, but Sheriff Viett placed Dove in the Rockville jail until morning.

**December 26, 1910** Sheriff Viett announced that he would wait until the Darnestown Road became passable before he tried to make the trip to Poolesville. Heavy snowdrifts blocked the road between the Berryville Road and Dawsonville. For several years in a row, townsfolk were alarmed by a man, dressed in red, who roamed the town on Christmas Eve bellowing songs and banging on the doors of homes. The townsfolk requested an investigation.

Several items were obtained from the archives of the Washington Post.

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## Garden

### Prepare the Garden for Its Long Winter's Nap

By Maureen O'Connell

My 'Camelot White' foxglove is still bravely blooming, but I know that the bitter winds and cold of winter are not too far away—so take advantage of warm weather now and get your garden ready for bed. Your work now will help protect it from winter damage, and it will make spring cleanup easier.

**In the vegetable garden,** pull up and discard old vines and vegetable plants. Insect pests who fed on these plants during the spring and summer can deposit eggs on them now. Many will survive the winter and hatch in the spring to start the damaging cycle all over again. If you see no evidence of disease or eggs, you may work the plants back into the soil, adding good organic matter. Top off the soil with well-rotted manure, compost, or ground-up tree leaves. Your soil will be refreshed and ready in the spring for planting.

**Annual flowers.** They have lived their lifespan, so dig them up and discard or compost them.

**Perennials.** After the first hard freeze, most perennials die back, but I don't come in now and mow everything to the ground. I first check all the plants for damage or disease and remove and discard the affected plants or stems. As with vegetables, disease spores can survive the winter conditions and infect the plant again next spring. Some plants, such as Oriental poppies and irises, develop a cluster of green leaves in the fall. Leave them intact as they add a spot of color to the gradually-diminishing landscape color. I do remove the older, brown stems that remain from the spent flowers. Gardens have many lives. They are beautiful in full bloom in spring and summer, but their winter garb can be equally interesting. Dark stems rising out of a gone-to-bed garden add architectural interest, topped with spiky, dried coneflower seed pods, fluffy heads of Joe Pye Weed, and the tall, airy stems of the Russian Sage plant, *Perovskia*. Mature seed heads of many summer- and fall-blooming plants provide a

valuable and natural food source for birds throughout the winter. Small seed-eating birds, like goldfinches and chickadees, feed straight from the plant, especially if it provides an easy perch. Sunflowers, asters, coreopsis, coneflowers, Black-Eyed Susans, salvias, phlox, goldenrod, thistles, and ironweed are good examples of these types of plants. Larger songbirds, cardinals and sparrows, tend to feed on the ground. They scratch and peck under flowers that have burst seed pods. Some plants that fit this bill are: sages, evening primrose, grasses, and mallows. Winter is for the birds in more ways than one.

**Weeds.** Now is a good time to get rid of them. Pull them up and discard. Considering that weeds that are spread by seed produce thousands of seeds each year, their control can quickly get away from you.

**Trees.** Remember last year's February blizzard and the tremendous damage to trees? It was worse for trees that were already diseased and weakened. Check your trees now. If they are large and need pruning, hire a professional, as this can be dangerous work.

**Clean garden tools.** Good tools are expensive. Clean them now and put them away for the winter and they will be ready to use in the spring.

**Bring in** to a protected area, terra cotta and porcelain planters. Changing temperatures can cause cracks in water-logged pots.

**Remove** and drain garden hoses from outdoor spigots.

**Leaves** are a valuable natural resource and they are a free gift from Mother Nature and trees. Don't regard them as a nuisance. Rake them up and let them decompose, or chop them up with a mower. You cannot buy a better mulch for your garden beds; it improves the soil's ability to absorb moisture. It also increases soil fertility by creating a population of active microbes, the favorite food of earthworms, which convert the leaves into nutrient-rich castings that are distributed throughout the soil. Every year at this time, I spread it over all of my garden beds. It is garden gold.

Do a little extra work now and you will be rewarded in the spring with a better garden, invigorated from its long winter's nap.



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## Remembrances

### Clark E. Brown

Clark E. Brown, 58, of Barnesville, died suddenly at his home on November 18, 2016.

Born on November 5, 1958, in Washington, D.C., he was the son of the late Richard P. and Irma L. (Hubble) Brown.

Clark was a kindhearted and giving member of the community who had a lifelong passion for local history, Chesapeake culture, natural resources, and agriculture.

At a young age, he was an active member of the Montgomery County 4-H Beef Club and spent many hours helping on his sister's dairy farm in Union Bridge. Later, he worked with his father providing commodity hauling services for local farmers and traveled around the East Coast setting up box stalls for equestrian events. After graduation from Poolesville High School, Clark worked as the manager of Historic White's Ferry where his passion for the Potomac River grew stronger. His romantic view of its mystique was clearly evident during his featured interview for the documentary "Potomac Reflections" in the early 1980s. Throughout his life, Clark had a deep love for the waters of the Potomac and spent many hours perched behind drift wood with family and friends, holding vigilant watch over custom cork waterfowl decoys, awaiting what he called the "controlled accident" that was a green head mallard's hasty decent and subsequent landing.

Along his journey, Clark learned the trade of collision repair and worked over twenty years in the industry, spending over eighteen years with Criswell Chevrolet in Gaithersburg. Although Clark enjoyed the bodywork world, his passion for local agriculture and natural resources always seemed to beckon him. He took a job with Willard Agri-Services of Frederick where he worked in the fertilizer plant and also worked part-time for William Willard Farms during harvests.

During this time, Clark also organized, developed, and managed a group of local conservationists for the purpose of privately purchasing and preserving a four-hundred-acre island in the Potomac River he had always loved. He spent countless hours on habitat restoration and improvement projects on the island and loved nothing more than sharing that space with his family and friends.

His love for family was unmatched, as seen when he later took time to help with his son's company, Patriot Land & Wildlife, which no doubt grew from his own passion for the value of natural resources that he had instilled in his children. Clark also worked part-time at the Tractor Supply Company where he developed a newfound respect for retail trade.

He became so passionate about retail and memories of his mother's antique business that he, along with his wife of thirty-four years, Bonnie, rented the historic building next to their home of thirty-plus years and opened Mrs. Brown's Attic, a unique selection of old, new, and unusual finds from the area. Together over the last year, they worked side by side, sharing their love with others. His infectious smile and diligent work could be seen right up to his final day by all who passed the Barnesville square.

Clark's amazing heart-and-service-before-self mentality will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure to meet him.

He is survived by his wife Bonnie; three children, Joseph and wife Brittany, Casey and husband Paul, Megan and husband Sean; two sisters, Nona Schwartzbeck and husband Joe, Nina Burdette and husband Jimmy; one brother, Hatton Brown; and one grandson, Bryton Brown.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Clark's honor to Operation Second Chance, 20251 Century Blvd., Suite 130, Germantown, MD 20874. [www.operationsecondchance.org](http://www.operationsecondchance.org).



Clark E. Brown

### Reeva Jones

Reeva Alexander Jones of Buckingham's Choice, Adamstown, passed away on November 27, 2016.

Mrs. Jones was born on October 9, 1918 in Frederick. She was the daughter of John Alexander and Mae Hawker Alexander. She was preceded in death by her husband Charles Robert Jones in 1995 and by her four siblings: Meredith, Leon, Iona (Wiggins), and Ross.

Mrs. Jones was a lifelong member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Frederick and was employed at the Lord Baltimore Hotel and as an assistant to a cardiologist in Washington, D.C. During the early stages of the Pentagon, Reeva was hired by the MIT Operations Evaluations Group, the only non-military group in the Pentagon at that time. She was a member of Holly Hills Country Club for twenty-three years and enjoyed reciprocating invitations to ladies' golf association tournaments with her many friend at clubs in the metro area. She was active in the Rural Women's Republican Club for over forty years. Reeva was also a long-term member of the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association and the Dickerson Community Association.

Reeva and Bob enjoyed their Dickerson residence for over forty years and their 339-acre farm on Big North Mountain in Gerrardstown, West Virginia.

Cherishing her memory are daughters, Joan Temple Jones, and Jan Alexandra Jones Angel and son-in-law James Burman Angel. She is survived by numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends, who were very dear to her.



Reeva Alexander Jones

### Meghan Faith Massey

Meghan F. Massey, 32, of Poolesville, died suddenly on November 27, 2016.

Born on October 10, 1984, she was the daughter of Francis Massey and Barbara Faith.

Surviving besides her parents is her sister, Jennifer, her brother, Jason, both of Poolesville, and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Meghan graduated from Poolesville High School and Hood College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology.

A Mass celebrating Meghan's life will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 7, 2017, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 18230 Barnesville Road, Barnesville, MD. Inurnment will follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Mary of Nazareth School, WUMCO, or the Montgomery County Humane Society.



Meghan Massey

### Ethics Commission Vacancy

The Town of Poolesville currently has a voluntary position open on the Ethics Commission, which consists of three registered voters of the Town who do not hold any other office in the Town government for the five-year term of office. The Commission investigates complaints and/or potential violations and works closely with the Town Attorney to make determinations.

If you are interested in this position or have an inquiry for the Ethics Commission, please send emails to [townhall@poolesvillemd.gov](mailto:townhall@poolesvillemd.gov).

Continued from page 5.

### Wishing for Green Spaces

#### Open Letter to Planning Commissioners

You see residents fill up the meeting room when you have a Willshire Development Plan on your agenda. Those residents would much rather be home, but, instead, they spend hours—some standing for lack of seating—waiting for discussion on the Willshire Plan.

They are there because of their concern for this town. They don't want development where everything is overcrowded. They moved here partly to be in a small-town atmosphere knowing that, being surrounded by the Agriculture Reserve, we won't be the next Clarksburg or Urbana. They don't mind having to drive many miles to work or for shopping in order for Poolesville to be their home.

We want to keep the small-town feeling and getting to know each other. The Planning Commission has created a Master Plan, and its vision statement stresses that we desire a "small town" environment as the town motto states: "Small Town Charm."

This development plan does not belong in the heart of the town, along our main street, adjacent to Whalen Commons. The whole plan needs to be rejected. Let them build elsewhere, not in the heart of our town.

#### Rudy Gole

*This is in response to the Rande(m) Thoughts column of November 18.*

This was an election where normal issues, such as the best way to grow the economy or what a prudent foreign policy might be, took a back seat to questions of character about the candidates. President-Elect Trump's statements and actions provided ample evidence of his character. He claimed that federal judge Gonzalo Curiel could not fairly adjudicate the case against Trump University because of his Mexican heritage. Despite DNA evidence exonerating the Central Park Five after those men wrongly spent years in prison, Donald Trump continues to maintain that the men are guilty. Donald Trump was a leading proponent of

birtherism, continuing to promote that lie years after it was debunked. These are just a few examples of the racism that our president-elect has propagated, and doesn't even touch on the other "-ists" and "-isms" mentioned in the column such as anti-Semitism, misogyny, Islamophobia, homophobia, or xenophobia. Reasonable people can disagree about the effectiveness of supply side economics or about how much our government should spend on entitlements, but the "-ists" and "-isms" are morally wrong, and there can be little doubt that Donald Trump ran on a platform that, in the kindest interpretation, played upon and stoked them.

For many of us, this election became a binary choice, and the only option was to try to pick the lesser of two evils. Hilary Clinton was far from the ideal candidate, with an ample number of things to dislike, but, as a nation, we decided that racism was the lesser evil, we decided that all the other "-ists" and "-isms" were lesser evils.

What so many of us who did not vote for Donald Trump now struggle with is the question of how it can be that so many of our friends, neighbors, and family members, people whom we know to be good, decent, thoughtful, and intelligent, could have made a choice that tacitly endorses all the "-ists" and "-isms"? A vote for Donald Trump seems to say that these things that we know to be morally wrong are acceptable.

So here is an attempt at opening an honest discussion. The question is offered sincerely: How can it be that choosing the man who blatantly reveled in all those "-ists" and "-isms" was not an endorsement of them? We ask this question not with anger, but with a broken heart.

#### Dave Wiley

Editor's Note: If one does not accept the accuracy of your analysis, there does not appear to be much room for further discussion. The "she says, he says" part was called the campaign. The point of my column was: "How do we move forward without calling each other names?"

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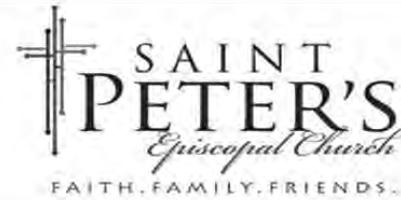


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Continued from page 1.

**Great and Small Therapeutic Riding**

small groups of children on the weekends to ride. After four years, Phelps moved her lessons to Just a Dream Farm out River Road. In 2004, Great and Small finally found its permanent home in Boyds after receiving the M-NCPPC's approval to move onto the Rickman Farm Horse Park.

What began in 1998 as a two-horse program that assisted emotionally-traumatized children is now a thriving equine-assisted activities and therapies (EAAT) program that provides over fifty weekly lessons and therapy sessions to children and adults of all ages affected by physical, developmental, emotional, and learning disabilities. Many participants have autism spectrum disorders, but other student diagnoses include cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, or other genetic disorders. Through a supportive and therapeutic engagement with horses, the goal of each riding session is to strengthen and empower the riders to assist them in developing their full potential.

This year, Great and Small will have conducted over 1,800 EAAT sessions, for which every participant has received an automatic scholarship of at least \$70 per lesson. The program's herd has grown to nine horses and ponies which have been donated or free-leased and which have found a quiet retirement home where they are loved by their riders and volunteers. Great and Small runs on a small group of staff members and relies heavily on its volunteers for its daily operations. Great and Small volunteers come from all walks of life, from teens to retirees, united by their love of horses and by their desire to serve their community. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, donations, volunteers, and new participants are always welcome.

Continued from page 17.

**Teen Years Enigma**

for polyester knit suits. Those never made sense. And hair moussed so high and wide, prom photographers had to invest in entirely new lenses. That didn't make much sense either. Platform shoes. Those weren't terribly wise on so many levels. Satin shorts on men. Those probably had our parents scratching their heads quite a bit.

Come to think of it, maybe our kids aren't so weird after all. Yeah, we speak a different language than they do, but at least they don't wear satin. All we can do is what our parents did, which near as I can tell was sigh, roll their eyes, pray for patience, and check to make sure the health insurance is paid up.

Or, we COULD try to beat them at their own game, and video ourselves posing absolutely still while playing a song that drives the kids crazy maybe something like Purple People Eater. Who's with me?

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# The hefty price of holiday pet hazards

Average veterinary costs for common holiday-related injuries\*

Make your holidays fun and festive by keeping these threats away from pets.

Holiday Item	Injury Type	Average Veterinary Cost
Chocolate	Toxicity	\$382
Nutmeg/rhubarb/nuts	Ingestion	\$527
Raisins	Toxicity	\$649
Onions/garlic	Toxicity	\$161
Yeast dough	Ingestion	\$272
Alcohol	Toxicity	\$525
Lights	Electrical shock	\$607
Ornaments	Lacerations	\$329
Candles	Burns	\$173
Tinsel	Foreign body ingestion	\$760
Ribbon	Intestinal foreign ingestion	\$1,740
Lilies, Holly berries, Rosemary, Mistletoe	Plant poisoning	\$527

**67%** Percentage of pet owners who buy Christmas gifts for their dogs

\*Source: National Animal Poison Center (NAPC) 2014

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