

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Monthly Newspaper

December 2024 • Volume XX, Number 10



Bassett's leads the way in decorating for the holidays! See more home decorations in Family Album on page 2.



American Revolution veterans buried at the Monocacy Cemetery were honored with a memorial plaque. See details in Local News on page 5.



Sweet Lemon's Katie Horan hosted Jim Cappuccilli and Chief Markoff, leaders of the local American Legion post in a knife-sharpening fundraiser to benefit the post. See Business Briefs on page 10.



Veterans Day this year was the most attended ever on Whalen Commons. Check out our pictures on page 20.









## Town Government

### Bupp and Hobbs Sworn in as Commissioners and Brown Elected President

By Rande Davis

The November 18 Town of Poolesville commissioners' meeting received a report from the Board of Elections on the results of the November 5 election for town commissioner. Tom Kettler and Chuck Stump presented the final results.

The official results for the three open positions for commissioner were as follows: Ed Reed (1,093 votes), Bryan Bupp (1,035 votes), Alan Hobbs (867 votes), and Jeff Eck (730 votes).

The town voter records show 4,933 registered voters with 1,377 total voters casting ballots in 2024. The participation rate was twenty-eight percent of all potential voters.



*Commission President Jim Brown (left) and Commissioners Sarah Paksima and Ed Reed (right) presented commemorative flags to Martin Radigan (middle) and Jeff Eck (second from left) upon their leaving the town commission.*



*Town Manager Wade Yost swore in the newly-elected commissioners, Ed Reed, Alan Hobbs, and Bryan Bupp.*

Commission President Jim Brown acknowledged the special service of Jeff Eck as commissioner for fighting for an adequate supply of COVID-19 testing kits, and his leadership in organizing the distribution process, making sure every resident in town received a supply of the kits. He also noted Eck's hard work in getting Automated External Defibrillators (AED), a medical device that analyzes the heart's rhythm and delivers an electrical shock to help restore a normal rhythm in someone experiencing cardiac arrest, placed in Stevens Park. Referring to Jeff as a pseudo "health commissioner," Brown added that "undoubtedly someday the device will be used in an emergency and a life will be saved thanks to Jeff's work."

Continued on page 18.



# MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS



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## Rande(m) Thoughts I'm Dreaming

By Rande Davis

I think snow is in the air! I will even go out on a limb and predict we will have a very white Christmas, something not experienced for a long time. Perhaps one of the readers can let us know just how long.

The December issue always triggers a reflection of the year just gone by. We have had a year of so much promise and accomplishment for Poolesville. Through the hard work of the town commissioners, the Fair Access Committee, and the vision of many private sector entrepreneurs, Poolesville, as a true destination town, is taking shape. This is extremely important if our economy is to remain vibrant enough to keep us healthy as we so assiduously pursue our small-town objectives.

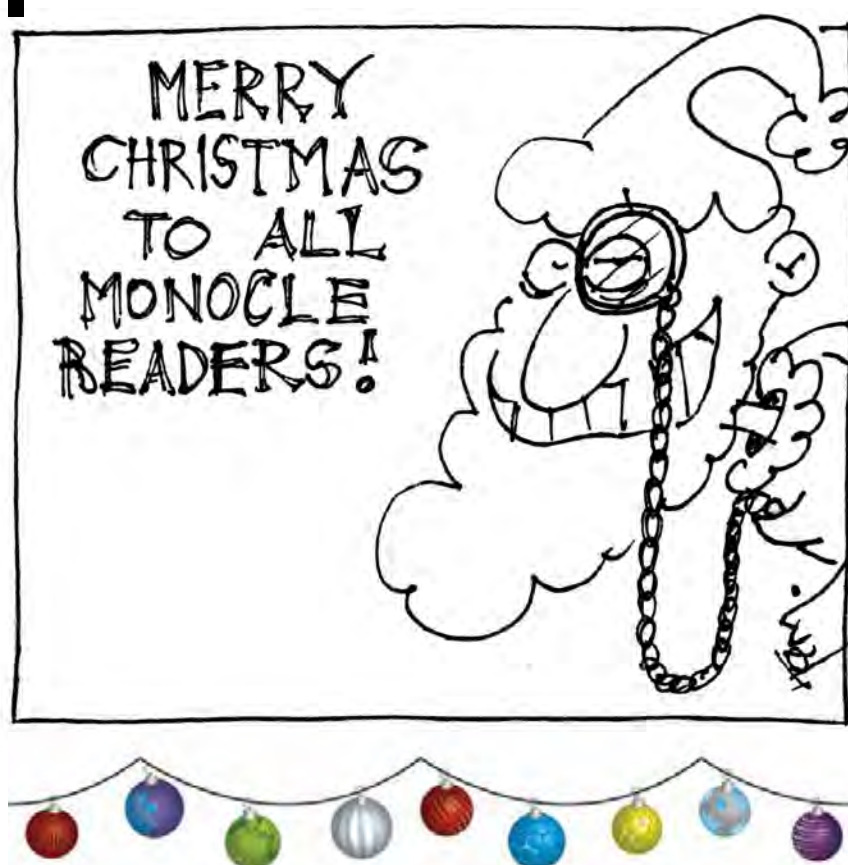
One thing I am particularly pleased with is the action taken by our county council regarding the Willard Property. We wrote a column on how difficult it was for the Willards to provide suitable housing for retirees as well as young people just getting started at a reasonable price since the impact fees were so high. The existing impact fees artificially increased the cost of new homes even before design and construction begin. As a reminder, the impact fees were equal to new homes twice as big as those planned. It not only made it difficult to keep the price as low as possible, but it also even jeopardized the concept of building these smaller homes entirely. Builders eschew small homes since they result in so much less profit in the same place. The county listened to the builder and to us, and were encouraged even by Nancy Floreen, an originator of the impact fee requirements, to lower the fee. The exact amount is not

quite settled but could be as much as fifty percent. Way to go, councilpersons! Democracy works so well when the elected listen to the voters. We also commend the commissioner for agreeing to loosen up the restrictions on the size of Willard homes to as much as two hundred more square feet. It's not much in the grand scheme of things, but it will make a remarkable difference in the number of homes offered with first floor bedrooms, a strict requirement for those looking for their last home.

The year has had its disappointments, too. That White's Ferry is not opened is historically and economically a sad tragedy. When I suggested the county should make one final cash offer to settle with the Virginia owner, it wasn't meant as an acknowledgement of failure; it was meant to force the issue. Either the Virginia side settles on a total cash price or we must throw in the towel. I am at a loss as to how anyone can pass up a \$1.25 million offer for a less secure idea of a gaining a cost-per-car deal. Give me that amount and a brother who is an expert in investment, and I bet I could make a lot more money in the coming years than getting fifty cents per car—especially since it has been closed so long. No one knows how much traffic patterns will change now, but I am quite sure it won't increase from its previous peaks.

A most humbling and startling end of the year came with this December issue. We have eleven Remembrances. Usually, our issue with the most deaths is January. It seems that many people find a way to hang in through the holidays, to finally let go as the new year begins. We pray for all those struggling with their health this holiday season, hoping they can overcome their ordeal in time to finally see a White Christmas—and many more years as well.

## Kolm's Corner



### The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

Published and Edited by  
John Clayton and Rande Davis

John Clayton  
Production  
Financial  
301.461.8840  
jclayton@monocacymonocle.com

Rande Davis  
Advertising  
Circulation  
301.509.9232  
rdavis@monocacymonocle.com

Dominique Agnew  
Copyediting  
dqagnew@gmail.com

editor@monocacymonocle.com  
advertising@monocacymonocle.com  
www.monocacymonocle.com

**Monocacy Press, LLC**  
John Clayton, President  
Rande Davis, Vice President  
P.O. Box 372  
Barnesville, MD 20838-0372  
301.461.8840

#### Contributing Writers

Link Hoewing  
linkhoe@aol.com

Maureen O'Connell  
mafoconnell@msn.com

Jeffrey S. Stuart  
sark10@juno.com

Jon Wolz  
wolzjon@hotmail.com

Joy Zucker-Tiemann

#### Contributing Photographer

Terri Pitts  
terri.pitts@gmail.com

#### Layout and Graphics

AnyArt Solutions LLC  
sales@AnyArtSolutions.com

#### Fun Facts Contributor

Laura Muncy  
laura@AnyArtSolutions.com

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#### Front Cover Rockwell Recreation

We want to thank Shannon and Justin Glazier and family with friends for producing a most remarkable recreation of Norman Rockwell's painting, *The Homecoming*. This painting reflects the heartfelt joy of someone coming home after a long absence so perfect for our holiday time.

We also want to thank Maggie Martin Photography for the photo.



Local News

Local American Revolutionary War  
Vets Honored at  
Monocacy Cemetery

By Rande Davis

On November 9, as part of the Daughters of the American Revolution's national initiative entitled America 250 Patriots Marker, honoring Patriots of the Revolutionary War, a memorial plaque and headstone were erected at Monocacy Cemetery to commemorate eight local revolution veterans interred there.

Sponsoring the placement of the memorials and hosting the event were the DAR Goshen Mills Chapter from Gaithersburg, and the DAR Pleasant Plains of Damascus Chapter along with the Monocacy Cemetery.

The beautiful day had over 120 attendees, including six who were DAR members, and over eighty family members representing the eight veterans who are buried there. Groups and dignitaries attending were: Historic Medley District, Montgomery County History Society, County Historic Preservation offices represented by Brian Crane, Archeologist, Montgomery Planning, and Rebecca Bello. Also attending was County Councilperson Marilyn Balcombe, District 2.

The Maryland's America 250 commission was represented by Erin Bode. Members of the Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.) Hungerford Reserves Society, and the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), General Smallwood Chapter were in attendance.

Hosting the event were Terry Mark, Regent, Goshen Mills and Katherine Wells, Regent, Pleasant Plains of Damascus. The festivities were honored by the attendance of the Old-Line Fife and Drum and the leading of the Pledge of Allegiance by Kate Reinhart, C.A.R. State President.

Becky Kaiser, Chaplain of the Pleasant Plains of Damascus Chapter, led the Invocation, and Andrew Parsley of the Hungerford Reserves Society, C.A.R., played taps after the eight names were read. The unveiling of the plaque and the stone with the eight patriot names was done by Mary Pat Collins, Goshen Mills Chapter and Glenn Wallace, Monocacy Cemetery Board of Directors.

The Daughters of the American Revolution began planning for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the announcement of a new DAR America 250 Patriots Marker, honoring Patriots of the Revolutionary War.

The sponsors are grateful to all those who made donations to cover costs, especially Knight Kiplinger.



Glenn Wallace, Monocacy Cemetery Board of Directors, and Mary Pat Collins, Goshen Mills Chapter.

Continued on page 9.

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## Hey, Poolesville!

I'm thrilled to sponsor **A Winter's Eve**, the latest production from Poolesville's **Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre**, performed this Saturday, December 7, at the Bender JCC in Rockville at 2 and 6pm.

And **Congratulations** to HGCBT Artistic Director Claire Jones and the brilliant dancers and volunteers. Our community is very proud of your hard work and dazzling abilities!

For information and tickets go to **[www.HopeGardenCBT.org](http://www.HopeGardenCBT.org)**

Jim Brown  
301.221.1988  
[jjmbrown.sales@gmail.com](mailto:jjmbrown.sales@gmail.com)

UPPER MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
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## Toys for WUMCO

The Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Dept. is proud to be working with WUMCO to make sure that all of our local children have big smiles on Christmas morning. Please support Toys for WUMCO at these wonderful local locations.

**Last day is Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> in Whalen Commons**

### New & Unwrapped Toy Drop-Off Points

❖ AnyTime Fitness	❖ Our Lady of the Presentation
❖ Bassetts Restaurant	❖ Poolesville Elem School
❖ Calleva River Supply	❖ Poolesville Hardware
❖ Crossvines	❖ Poolesville High School
❖ Cuginis Restaurant	❖ JP Middle School
❖ Dickerson Market	❖ Poolesville Tire & Auto
❖ Dollar General	❖ Poolesville Town Hall
❖ Dr Pike and Dr Valega	❖ Poolesville Veterinary Clinic
❖ Dunkin Donuts	❖ Shear Elegance
❖ Healthy Hub	❖ Studio 109
❖ K2 Café	❖ Barnesville Hair Salon
❖ KPC Buddhist Temple	❖ Subway Sandwich Shop
❖ Locals	❖ Sweet Lemon
❖ M&T Bank	❖ Sweet Pea Vintage
❖ Maggie Nightingale Library	❖ Total Automotive & Diesel
❖ Mexican Restaurant	❖ UMCVFD - Station #14
❖ Monocacy School	

New, Unwrapped Toys



## Senior News

### Poolesville Seniors Presents Virtual and In-Person Programs

Visit the website for Poolesville Seniors, [poolesvilleseniors.org](http://poolesvilleseniors.org), or call 301-875-7701 to register for a wide variety of virtual and in-person events. All events are open to the entire community and free unless otherwise noted.

Most in-person events take place at Poolesville Presbyterian Church's Speer Hall at 17800 Elgin Road (Rte. 109). **Registration is required.**

In case of bad weather or unusual circumstances, consult [poolesvilleseniors.org](http://poolesvilleseniors.org). If you are already registered for an event, check your email for updates.

#### December 11

##### Darts Social

Join the fun with easy darts games that anyone can play! Registration is limited. *Speer Hall*. 2:15 p.m.

#### December 12

##### Trail Hike: Bucklodge Conservation Park Trailhead

Join Gwen Haney and Karen Dansby for the final hike of 2024. The 6.3-mile hike is packed dirt, minimal roots and rocks, and has about 500 feet of elevation gain. Approx. 2.75 hrs. In person at the *Bucklodge Conservation Park Trailhead on Slidell Road in Barnesville*. 9:30 a.m.

##### Medicare Advantage Plans Open Enrollment Informational Session

Join a representative from Montgomery County State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for a one-hour informational seminar on Medicare Advantage Plans Open Enrollment. In person at *Maggie Nightingale Library Conference Room*. 1:00 p.m.

#### December 13

##### Movie Night: *Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey*

In this musical yuletide fantasy, after a toymaker (Forest Whitaker) has his toys and designs stolen, he loses his confidence, family, and business until his estranged granddaughter (Madalen Mills) saves the day. *Speer Hall*. 7:00 p.m.

#### December 16

##### Hip-Hop Dance Class with Kim Harris

Get the party started! Learn one complete hip-hop dance each monthly

session. Spend twenty minutes learning the steps and then the dancing will begin! *Speer Hall*. 6:30 p.m.

#### December 16

##### PS! Book Club: *This Is the Story of a Happy Marriage*

This collection of essays by Ann Patchett covers many topics, including relationships with family and friends, the hard work and joy of writing, and the unexpected thrill of opening a bookstore. *Virtual*. 7:00 p.m.

#### December 19

##### Ag Reserve Properties

Join local historian Kenny Sholes for the next Historic Ag Reserve Properties presentation. *Virtual on Zoom*. 7:00 p.m.

##### Chair One Fitness with Deirdre

Join Deirdre, a certified Chair One Fitness instructor for a chair-based dance program that delivers a musically-driven 45-minute, interactive workout that uplifts people through dance and fitness movements. *Speer Hall*. 7:00 p.m.

#### December 20

##### Line Dancing w/Ashley Kelch

Enjoy a free evening of line dancing with basic instruction that builds up to more complicated moves. Join the fun, work out, and meet new people. *Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church*. 7:00 p.m.

#### January 4

##### Peabody Harmony Project

Enjoy an afternoon of music presented by exceptional young musicians from the award-winning performing arts school, Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University. *Poolesville Presbyterian Church Sanctuary*. 3:00 p.m.

#### Weekly Events

##### Monday, Wednesday, Friday

**Pickleball Open Play.** *Poolesville Baptist Church*. 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

##### Mondays

**Ping Pong Afternoon.** *Speer Hall*. 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Walking Club.** *Whalen Commons Flagpole*. 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

**Seniors at the Barre.** 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. *Speer Hall*.

##### Tuesdays

**Pickleball Practice/Drills.** *Poolesville Baptist Church*. 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**Tai-Chi** with Maureen Ivusic. *Speer Hall* and virtual. 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**Bridge.** Snacks provided. Registration required. *Speer Hall*. 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

#### Wednesdays

**Zumba Gold with Karen McPhatter.** *Speer Hall*. 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Trivia Game Night.** If you love Trivia, come join a team with Poolesville Seniors on the first Wednesday of the month. For more information, email [info@poolesvilleseniors.org](mailto:info@poolesvilleseniors.org). 7:00 p.m. *Virtual*.

#### Thursdays

**Pickleball Ladder Play.** *Poolesville Baptist Church*. 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**Mahjong with Joyce Kral.** Beginner and seasoned players are welcome. *Speer Hall*. 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Knitting/Crochet Instruction and Support.** *Poolesville Presbyterian Manse*. 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**Chair One Fitness with Dierdre.** First and third Thursdays. *Speer Hall*. 7:00 p.m.

#### Fridays

**Walking Club.** All levels are welcome. Register online or drop in. Meet at *Whalen Commons Flagpole*. 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Continued on page 9.




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Local News

Tragic House Fire

A fire broke out in a home at the corner of White's Ferry Road (107) and Route 28 in Boyds late Monday night. A woman, Helen White, was found dead following an inspection in the house.

First responders arrived shortly after midnight to a house with heavy smoke and fire conditions in an area between Route 28 and White's Ferry Road, according to Pete Piring, chief spokesperson for Montgomery County's fire and rescue service.

He said neighbors told firefighters they believed someone was inside the home.

Once the fire was extinguished, a woman's body was located on the second floor.

Firefighters managed to rescue a dog, despite challenges from "excessive storage clutter in the house," Piring said.



House fire in Boyds (Dawsonville) home at intersection of Routes 28 and 107.

From Our Family to Yours...

Happy Holidays!

Wishing you Many Blessings in 2025! Gail and Maureen



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[editor@monocacymonocle.com](mailto:editor@monocacymonocle.com)



Local News

Town of Poolesville Receives Prestigious Sustainable Maryland Certified Award at Maryland Municipal League Conference

The Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland announced that the Town of Poolesville was one of seventeen Maryland municipalities honored at the Sustainable Maryland Awards Ceremony at the Maryland Municipal League’s annual Fall Conference last month. The town was certified at the Bronze Level.

To achieve certification, municipalities are required to form a Green Team comprised of local residents, community leaders, municipal staff and officials; complete a variety of sustainability-related actions worth a total of at least 150 points for Bronze Level certification, or 400 points for Silver Level certification; and submit the appropriate documentation as evidence that the Sustainable Maryland Certified requirements have been satisfied.

“The Town of Poolesville Commissioners, our residents, and our surrounding community are incredibly proud of our citizen-driven Sustainable Poolesville committee,” said Commission President Jim Brown. “The recognition they have received from Sustainable Maryland for their hard work and positive environmental initiatives in our region is fully justified, respected, and appreciated. We commend Sustainable Maryland for its leadership and guidance, and we look forward to our continued partnership and mutual successes.”

“The seventeen towns achieving certification this year represent the leading edge of Maryland’s sustainability initiatives at the local level,” said Mike Hunninghake, Director of the Sustainable Maryland program. “Their efforts, and those of many towns and cities across the state, collectively move the needle in the right direction as we grapple with making communities climate-resilient, healthy, and economically viable places to live for current and future generations. Sustainable Maryland is proud to support their vital work, which serves as a beacon of inspiration for other communities.”



Representatives of the seventeen municipalities with their Sustainable Maryland Certified awards at the Maryland Municipal League conference.

Sustainable Maryland is an initiative of the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland that is designed to support Maryland’s 157 municipalities as they look for cost-effective and strategic ways to protect their natural assets and revitalize their communities. Using best practices in resource areas like water, energy, planning, health, food, and economy, a municipality can earn points toward sustainability certification. Sustainable Maryland offers a customizable menu of concrete actions, allowing communities to select initiatives that best fit their specific needs. This free and voluntary program, with the support of the Maryland Municipal League, the State of Maryland, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, helps communities choose a direction for their greening efforts; complete their chosen actions with help from program tools, trainings, expert guidance, and other resources; and be recognized statewide for their accomplishments.



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Continued from page 5.

### Local American Revolutionary War Vets Honored at Monocacy Cemetery

The eight patriots:

James Allnutt [1751-1838]

Lawrence Allnutt [1749-1825]

Rev. Townsend Dade, Jr. [1742-1822]

Robert Doyne Dawson [1758-1824]

William Mathias Hempstone [1760-1828]

Edward Jones [1737-1790]

Nathan Tolbert Talbott [1763-1839]

Robert Willson, Jr. [1718-1794]

Sadly, Charles J. Riley, Jr., a drummer with Old Line Drum and Fife suffered a heart attack and passed away. Chuck enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1973 during the Vietnam War. While stationed in Yokosuka, Japan, he met and married Kiyomi Tanaka, his devoted wife of forty-seven years. Their daughter Tanya Frances (Riley) Swart was born in 1978 in Yokosuka. He will be buried at Arlington Cemetery at a later date.

Continued from page 6.

### Senior News

**Seniors at the Barre.** All levels welcome. Register online for each session. *Speer Hall*. 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

For more information or to register for any of the programs listed here visit the Poolesville Seniors website: [poolesvilleseniors.org](http://poolesvilleseniors.org).

In case of bad weather or unusual circumstances, consult [poolesville-seniors.org](http://poolesville-seniors.org). If you are already registered for an event, check your email for updates.

### Of Poetry and Prose

#### Winter Dawn

The trees are still; the bare cold  
branches lie  
Against a waiting sky.  
Light everywhere, but ghostly light  
that seems  
The cast-off robe of dreams;  
And everywhere a hush that seems  
to hark  
At the doorway of the dark.  
O fields, white-sheeted, desolate  
and dumb,—  
If you knew what's to come!

— Amos Russel Wells

discoverpoetry.org

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2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 & 2023.



## Business Briefs

### Fine Earth Named Outstanding Leader

Bernie Mihm of Fine Earth Landscaping was presented the LCA Landscape Outstanding Leader Award for 2024. With almost fifty years of experience, Bernie was given the award for inspiring countless professionals and for mentoring future leaders in the industry. He has set a gold standard in landscape excellence.

### Watkins Cabinet Hosts PACC Event

Barnesville's Watkins Cabinet Company hosted a breakfast networking event November 7. These events help area businesses bond together with a theme and goal of businesses helping businesses.



*Kevin McHale, previous recipient, Ron Rubin current LCA president with 2024 awardee, Bernie Mihm of Poolesville.*



*The staff of Watkins Cabinets, a family-owned business in Barnesville, welcomes members of PACC to the PACC's monthly network breakfast.*

The firm began in a small building near their home in Germantown. It was in 1952, with his young wife and three small children, that Wilbur Watkins set out to build the biggest and best custom cabinet business in Montgomery County. Since then, Watkins Cabinet Co., Inc. has installed thousands of beautiful kitchens, vanities, bookcases, and bars, not only in Montgomery County, but in the entire Washington, D.C.-metropolitan area.

Today, this local, family-owned business continues to create custom cabinetry for every room of the home. They believe in old-fashioned values, keeping quality at the heart of the process and product. From designs that make the best use of your space, through professional installation, to service afterwards, Watkins Cabinet Company manufactures customer happiness.

The beautiful showroom displays examples of their custom work and they welcome you to stop by when you have interest in a custom kitchen, bath, office, or bar.

### Poolesville Hardware Honors Tractor Supply for Tenth Anniversary

John Speelman, along with his store manager, Jennifer Ansara, surprised Ralph Gorden, manager of Tractor Supply, with a celebratory tenth anniversary cake in recognizing the milestone. Tractor Supply opened on November 14, 2014, filling the space left by the closure of Selby's Market. Poolesville Hardware, which is celebrating its thirty-eighth anniversary of doing business, is the oldest retail store in Poolesville. Professional Dry



*Ali, owner of Professional Dry Cleaners, celebrated the shop's twenty-seventh anniversary this past October.*

Continued on page 11.

# Happy holidays from Calleva!

Wishing you an abundance of love & light this season.

*Come celebrate with us!*



- **December 6 at Calleva Farm Store**

*Gift shopping, hot cocoa, popcorn & a simple holiday project for the kids*

- **November 30, December 1, 6, 7, 8 at Calleva Farm**

*The Markoff Family presents **Christmas at Calleva Farm**, a magical storybook trail and holiday market*



calleva.org



www.christmasatcallevafarm.com



Continued from page 10.  
Business Briefs



John Speelman and Jennifer Ansara of Poolesville Hardware presented Ralph Gorden of Tractor Supply on the occasion of Tractor Supply's tenth anniversary in Poolesville.

Cleaners, which is considered the second oldest shop in town, celebrated its twenty-seventh anniversary this past October.

Readers' Choice Awards for 2024

Seven Poolesville businesses won Montgomery Reader's Choice Awards for 2024: Cugini's Restaurant for Best Pizza, Best Bar Food, Best Wings, and Best Kid-Friendly Restaurant; White's Ferry Store and Grille for Best Sandwiches and Best Burger; Crossvines for Best Restaurant; Locals Farm Market for Best New Restaurant; House of Poolesville for best Chinese Food; Mexican Grill for best Mexican Food; and Sweet Lemon for Best New Boutique.

First Ever PACC Bake Contest

The Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce (PACC) wants to thank everyone who baked for its first annual Fall Harvest Baking Competition held on November 21. The chamber was pleased to have had ten entries, and all were delicious and deserving of the win. The judges, Tom Kettler, Commissioner Reed, Hillary Schwab, and Tara Scholz, had a hard decision in picking the winners, and the junior judges (Jasmine Kuhlman and Pyper Swanstrom) helped with a younger take on the desserts.

First place was awarded to Sineenech Suwannasaeng with Apple Bomb; second place went to Colleen Jay with her Cinnamon Brown Sugar Cake; and third place went to Wicha Soonturnpipit with a Winter Apple Cake. PACC was grateful also for all our bakers and everyone who donated boxed cake mixes and icing to create party cake kits for WUMCO. Keep a lookout for next year's competition!



Jasmine Kuhlman, Julie Kuhlman, Kelly Swanstrom, and Pyper Swanstrom.



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## Garden

### See You in 2025!


By Maureen O’Connell

Best holiday wishes to all my readers from Lab Sous Gardeners Winston and Spencer and your Garden Writer Maureen. May we all look forward to new plants, shrubs, and trees for our garden in 2025. I am sure that it will bring many success stories, some failures, and more challenges.

Onward and upward in the Garden of 2025!



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Center Stage

Hope Garden Children’s Ballet Theatre Presents:  
A Winter’s Eve

By Rande Davis

The holiday season will sparkle with magic as Hope Garden Children’s Ballet Theatre (HGCBT) debuts its much-anticipated production, *A Winter’s Eve*. This captivating show will have two performances on December 7 at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. in the Kreeger Auditorium at the Bender JCC, 6125 Montrose Road, in Rockville.

This two-act production showcases the remarkable talents of young dancers trained at Poolesville’s Essence Studios and celebrates the beauty of global cultures through the art of dance. Act I, inspired by Raymond Briggs’s *The Snowman*, follows a young girl and her snowman as they journey through vibrant winter celebrations, including African Kwanzaa, Indian Diwali, and a jazzy American Christmas party. This imaginative retelling blends storytelling with cultural artistry, featuring choreography by regional experts and stunning costumes that bring these traditions to life.

Act II transitions into the timeless magic of *The Nutcracker*, where the audience is transported to the “Land of the Sweets.” This act highlights the extraordinary talents of the dancers of Essence Studios, including Gabriella Stradley as Chocolate Soloist, Elizabeth Tchorni as Coffee Soloist, Alarica DeLongchamp and Kendall Zimmerman as Flower Queens, Sava Brizhik as our brave Cavalier, Leah Santizo as Clara, and Kate Borman as the Sugar Plum Fairy. All the performers bring grace and passion to their roles, capturing the enchanting spirit of Tchaikovsky’s classic.

Artistic Director Claire Jones describes the production as “a celebration of the holiday season and the diversity of our community, brought together by the universal language of dance.” *A Winter’s Eve* promises to entertain, educate, and inspire audiences of all ages.

With support from the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, HGCBT has created a family-friendly production that honors cultural traditions



Hope Garden Children’s Ballet Theatre will present  
*A Winter’s Eve* for the 2024 holidays.

while spreading holiday cheer. Don’t miss this unique opportunity to experience the joy and magic of the season.

For tickets, visit HGCBT’s website at [hopegardencbt.org](http://hopegardencbt.org).



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## Meet Your Vet

### Military Service Can be the Ticket To Success for Troubled Youth

By Rande Davis

This past November, on Veterans Day, we commemorated those who have enlisted into the military in the time-honored appeal of service to our nation. President John F. Kennedy eloquently sounded the clarion call, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." Ever since President Nixon ended the draft, ours has been an all-voluntary military. Every single soldier, marine, sailor, airman, or coastie does not have to be there. Knowing that all who share a foxhole are there by their own choosing is both comforting and emboldening to those who serve. They like it that way.

What is not often remembered is that while so many serve in our military, the military, likewise, often serves countless youth by giving them a much-needed positive direction and essential purpose at a fragile time in their lives. Many of them, lost in their youth, sometimes misguided, often confused and listless, desperately unsure of themselves or their future, turn to the armed forces to "be all they can be." For former Poolesville High School counselor Jim Cappuccilli, helping such students was the best part of his veteran's story.

Jim spent thirty-eight years helping these aimless students at a critical juncture in their lives. Their tenuous future was at a crossroad of promise or despair. He understood them best because he had once been one himself.

As a youth in New Jersey, he got caught up in the vagaries of youth. Studies were not taken seriously. He graduated with a 1.9 grade point average and was 191 in a class of 274. In his own words, he was the typical knucklehead. His buddy was just like him, and when that friend suggested they join the marines and move to California, Jim jumped at the chance for the more glamorous life of southern California, where they heard college was free, and the life in the sun and fun was bountiful.

They joined the U.S. Marines, signing on with a two-year commitment of active duty and two-year inactive reserve component at the end. He was selected to be a machine gunner, and since this was the time of Vietnam, his future was risky to say the least. He was briefly assigned to a marine battalion serving with the navy where time hardly moved and getting ready for inspection seemed like an endless road to nowhere.

Just after as he was assigned to Vietnam duty, President Nixon launched his Vietnamization program, a policy aimed at ending U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War by gradually withdrawing American troops while simultaneously training and equipping South Vietnamese forces to take on the primary combat role against North Vietnam. As a result, fate smiled upon him, and he never shipped out to Nam but was sent to Okinawa, Japan where he spent fifteen months. Just out of high school, what impressed him the most was that Japan did not have a drinking age. It was clearly a better place to be for a leatherneck grunt trained for machine gun duty.

After his active-duty time, the two buddies decided to apply to Orange County Community College. As a non-resident student under twenty-one years of age, he missed the free tuition rate by just three weeks. Since he was a vet, however, admissions were able to make the exception, and he started his college years far more mature than when he had been right out of high school. When the time came to move on to Long Beach State University, he began to access the GI Bill, getting enough money to live on if one shopped at thrift stores and ate cheap. He found the more classes he took, the more money he could make, and he began to accelerate his studies as much to live on as to learn. Upon enrollment, his quandary was the selection of his major. He simply never gave it much thought. His adviser suggested a psychology major only because he already had several classes under his belt. At first, he was uncertain. At that age, he knew he "didn't want to work with crazy people," and working with drug addicts looked like a good way to burn out quickly. He told his advisor that what he really wanted to do was work with youth. That's when the adviser suggested being a high school counselor. At that very moment, his life and future became clear, like a lifting fog in late morning, with the sun shining behind it.

After volunteering at a youth center and then accepting a paid position there, he was accepted at Long Beach University graduate school and finished with a master's degree—not bad for that directionless kid from just a few years prior.

After nineteen years in gang-infested Los Angeles and a desire to move east to be closer to his New Jersey family, the twists and turns of life found him

coming to Poolesville for an interview. He arrived in town not wanting to ask directions to the high school because where he had just come from, he could get shot for just asking.

His special gift to his students came from his military career. After a life's career of helping over an estimated two thousand students, his greatest sense of accomplishment came from helping the kids who were just like he had once been. The "brainiacs coming from solid families and were highly disciplined didn't need me that much," he said.

He retired in 2017, knowing this was his time to finally move on. Of the many stories he could share, two seem the best to illustrate his creativity and determination.

Understanding that admission officials can get up to twenty-five thousand letters of recommendations a year, he knew he had to break through the normal "blah blah" of the standard recommendation. He wrote to the director of Georgetown University about a truly remarkable student. His letter of recommendation started out comparing him to taking a Ferrari out for a test ride. "Open the door and smell that real leather interior, this isn't a GM or Detroit car, this is high-style Italian. Don't even turn on the radio, just run it through the gear box." It didn't work so well for Georgetown, but the student ended up getting a full ride to Georgia Tech.

The heart of his work is better illustrated by one of his more troubled youths. While his style could be unorthodox, it could be highly effective. The youth lived with his aunt as his mother was in jail and his father was long gone. He motivated the kid with this advice: "All you must do is graduate from high school, have no kids out of marriage, and don't end up in prison. All the brothers will make you look good because they have felony arrests, they all have two, three, or four kids out of wedlock, and you will become a chick magnet." He gave this advice at an open house meeting with the student and his aunt. The aunt looked at her nephew and said, "Why do you think I don't date? Everyone is in prison, and I don't date felons." Well, he then went on to graduate from cosmetology school and came back to see Jim, saying, "Oh my God, Mr. Cappuccilli, you were so right!"

The real secret of success for the father of one son and two girls is his perpetual positive spirit and enthusiasm. Jim truly enjoys life, and when you are around him, you can't help but love life, too.



Jim Cappuccilli

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Focus on Business

Sugar Pea Vintage: Perfect for Poolesville  
As a Destination Town

By Rande Davis

Like so many of our entrepreneurs in Poolesville, Kelly Swanstrom has come to town to follow a dream. While she had built a twenty-year career in the corporate world, deep down she has always desired to open her own specialty vintage store filled with amazing and unique decorative ideas for the home and business. Her shop, Sugar Pea Vintage, is the fulfillment of those dreams. One visit to the store, and we think you will agree, she may have even outdone herself.

This is an all-hands-on-deck family business—starting with the name of the store itself. It comes from a loving nickname she and her husband, Bill, gave their daughter, Pyper. Don't be surprised if, when shopping there, the young Sugar Pea herself greets you and serves your needs in a most professional way!

For the person looking for awe and inspiration for decorating one's home or business, Sugar Pea Vintage is delightfully jam-packed with marvelous ideas. Some are large, like a full-sized horse for the equestrian trying to make a very bold statement, and some are very simple, like remarkable Christmas decorations.

Kelly has that special spirit found in those doing what they love. Her friendliness is as natural as it is contagious. She loves listening to her customers speak of their decorating goals to gain insight on how she can help them best. In fact, along with owning the retail store, she also consults in home interior decorating.

A graduate of the University of Maryland, she jumped into a career in securities regulation with FINRA, finding not only the perfect match for her career goals, but meeting her husband Bill to boot.

The crew at Sugar Pea includes her able team member, Erin Oberholzer, and on occasion, help even comes from her other children, Billy and Jordan. Their time is limited, though, as son Billy is in the army now, and daughter Jordan is a very busy EMT. How wonderful and comforting to have your children choosing careers of such important service.

Continued on page 29



Sugar Pea Vintage's Erin Oberholzer and owner Kelly Swanstrom.

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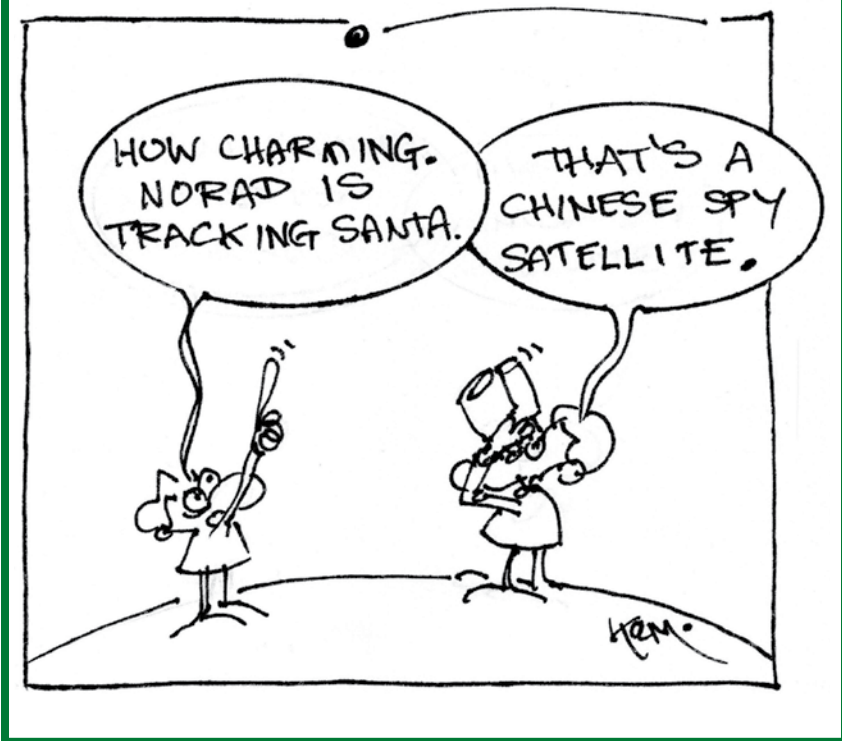
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Continued from page 3.

### Bupp and Hobbs Sworn in as Commissioners and Brown Elected President

Brown also gave retiring commissioner Martin Radigan praise for his dedication and excellent work on the Willard and CVS development initiatives and as being responsible for making both much-improved from the initial proposals. He praised Radigan's leadership in his role in finalizing the town's Comprehensive Master Plan, a document greater than three hundred pages, setting forth the town's future. In a special remark, Brown thanked Radigan for his leadership in creating the position of assistant town manager, helping to guide the town through the turmoil of replacing the town manager, and most especially for his work in helping the town build a new benefit package for town employees—a plan that helped end the revolving door of employees lost to other jurisdictions.

Brown also commended the two-term commissioner for helping to build trust and credibility in the commissioners during difficult times.

Brown gave his appreciation for Martin Radigan, acknowledging their past grievances with differing opinions. When Radigan first came on as a commissioner, the town was divided, facing problems regarding leadership at both the commissioner level and within the town administration. He gave credit to Radigan for helping to smooth out the turmoil, building the credibility of the commission, and in improving trust within the community which brought peace during the process. "Fruits of your labor will be seen in the developments and the calmness pushed for a great revised benefit package that mitigated the loss of employees leaving for other opportunities.

"We went through some wars together, and we emerged out of those as friends for the betterment of Poolesville. Look where we are now and look at what we have accomplished together. That will be your legacy."

In his heartfelt farewell statement, Martin Radigan thanked his colleagues and residents with his sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve the community which he described as "an honor of a lifetime, something he could not have done without so much of your support, trust, and encouragement." From the very beginning, he had as his priority to "show up for everything, and to listen and learn," remarking that no one helped him more during his initial transition to

the position than Wade Yost. To all the commissioners he worked with, past and present, he said, "I learned so much from all of you, especially during the tough times of town leadership crisis." He was most thankful for the accomplishments in so many initiatives like in pedestrian safety, allowing responsible chicken-keeping, a revised and improved Willard property plan, the work of the Fair Access Committee, streetscape, the decision to hire an assistant town manager, improvement in water and sewers, support for Poolesville Pride, revising town staff benefit packages, and the hard work of writing the new town comprehensive master plan.

"In stepping down, I will always remain committed to the values and goals of the town, confident that what we built will continue to strengthen and to serve the community for years to come. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the community with the trust placed by the community on me."

He closed with special thanks to town manager Wade Yost, assistant town manager Niles Anderegg, and the amazing town staff. "The commissioner's job is as easy or as hard as town staff makes it. If everything works well, you are a great commissioner and if not, you suck. Thanks for making me not suck," he stated with a smile. He closed with very heartfelt gratitude to his wife and daughter for their support and understanding when he had to spend so many hours away from them.

Jeff Eck thanked all for the support he was given. "The best advice given at first was: Always to take care of the town staff, always be willing to take the blame when things went wrong, and always give credit to the staff when it went well."

Both Bupp and Hobbs expressed gratitude to the voters for their support and expressed how much they desired to serve the community.

The next order of business was to elect the new official roles for each commissioner. Jim Brown was elected as president. Ed Reed as vice president and assigned to the Fair Access Committee and Sustainable Poolesville. Sarah Paksima was assigned to the Fair Access Committee. Bryan Bupp was assigned as liaison to the Planning Commission. Alan Hobbs was assigned as liaison to the Parks Board.

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## Power Line Project is a Bad Idea



A proposed high-energy power line extending 70 miles from the Baltimore area to Adamstown would threaten an estimated 4,000 acres of farmland, forests and wildlife habitats. It would also require permanent easements on dozens of farms and private properties to site hundreds of 140-foot-tall transmission towers.


Power lines are, of course, a necessary fixture of modern life. When they are justified, we support them and live with the eyesore. But the necessity of this one has been widely questioned. It will mainly provide power to the burgeoning data center industry in Virginia, and not Maryland homes and businesses. Plus, Marylanders will help foot the estimated \$424 million cost.

Among those opposed to the project are the Baltimore, Carroll and Frederick County governments, the Maryland Farm Bureau, Preservation Maryland, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and a host of regional environmental groups. Maryland Gov. Wes Moore said in late November that adjustments to the proposal were needed. But he has not opposed it.

We oppose the project and urge you to learn more online and at StopMPRP.com. MPRP stands for Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project.

There are larger issues at play, too. Maryland lacks a coherent long-term energy strategy that takes the environment, the well-being of residents, and climate change into consideration—even as demand for energy is expected to rise sharply over the next decade.

*We invite you to read about this issue on our website. You can let us know your thoughts there or by email at [info@sugarloafcitizens.org](mailto:info@sugarloafcitizens.org). Consider becoming an SCA member and supporter. For more information, visit: [info@sugarloafcitizens.org](mailto:info@sugarloafcitizens.org)*



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## Tidbits

### HMD Hosts Event on the Life of Noah Clarke



*Knight Kiplinger and Tina Clarke, at the HMD presentation on the life of Noah Clarke.*

On November 14, Knight Kiplinger, the board chair for the Historic Medley District, Inc., moderated a presentation on the remarkable life and legacy of Noah Clarke, the Father of Secondary Education for African Americans in Montgomery County. Tina Clarke, the granddaughter of the great Noah Clarke (1878-1958) of the Jerusalem Community in Poolesville shared many personal stories of his life. Ms. Clarke has also had a distinguished career in education, civil rights, and civic leadership in our county for decades.

Among many highlights of Mr. Clarke's life and contribution to our local history and culture are:

As a recognized gifted child, he began studying at Lincoln University with only an elementary school level of education yet graduated in 1901. He was a legendary schoolteacher and music instructor.

He led a campaign in 1925 and 1926 to build a new elementary in Poolesville for local Black children. Known as a Rosenwald School on Jerusalem Road, the building is still inside today's Poolesville Beauty Spot.

He also led a successful effort in the same time frame to open the first junior/senior high school for Black teens in Montgomery County, the Rockville Colored High School (1927), which was succeeded in 1935 by Lincoln High School and then in 1950 by George Washington Carver High School.

He served on the citizens' committee that advised the county board of education on the integration of Montgomery County schools in 1955 and 1956. Mr. Clarke's remarkable life will be profiled in the February 2025 issue of the *Monocacy Monocle*.

### A Telltale Sign of the Times

When Jon and Patty Wolz were walking near Lock 23 of the C&O Canal in November, Patty spotted the initials ALV carved on the wall. Jon then soon discovered they were for none other than Alfred Lee Violette who was the last lock tender at Lock 23. Today, that lock is known as Violette's Lock.



*Initials carved into the wall of Alfred Lee Violette who was the last lock tender at Lock 23.*

### Past High School Basketball Players Come Back Home to Coach Youth

The basketball community is elated that prior Poolesville High School basketball players are coming back to town and offering their time, knowledge, and

teaching to the youth of our basketball community. Joining the PAA coaching/teaching staff are:

Kelsey Lewis—Varsity high school coach

Makenzie "Cookie" Magaha—JV high school coach

Erin Sparrow and Kelliann Lee (both from Coach Swick's legendary state champion team)—coaching third grade PAA girls' team

Ella Franklin—assistant coaching with fifth grade PAA girls' team.

It says so much that these young athletes have the love of the sport and want to see our basketball community thrive. Teaching the youth is such an amazing public service.

### Fire Destroys Home on Peach Tree Road

On November 11, an overnight fire on Peach Tree Road destroyed a large family home, despite tanker trucks full of water brought in to fight the blaze. The occupants, three adults and three children, made it to safety from the fast-moving fire. The large house was already being consumed by flames when first responders arrived around 2:30 a.m.

Because the rural area has no fire hydrants, tanker trucks full of water were brought in and pumped out through what's known as a "tower." "We call it water supply task force, which eventually would be six water tankers," said Montgomery County Fire Department Spokesman Pete Piringer. These are trucks that carry

**Continued on page 23.**



*Home on Peach Tree Road destroyed by fire on November 11.*



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Continued from page 22.

### Tidbits

about three thousand gallons of water at each Montgomery County Fire Department. The fire department estimates that between sixty and seventy thousand gallons of water were used to extinguish the fire.

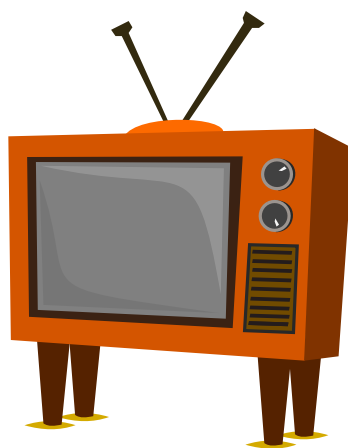
### WUMCO Thanksgiving!

WUMCO Help coordinated with twenty-three local organizations to serve 160 families with a Thanksgiving meal. WUMCO's director, Katie Longbrake observed, "The generosity of the community never fails. Thank you to all who helped shop, pack meals, and delivered the turkey dinners."

### Poolesville's Own Is the Producer for Major Xmas Special

Joy Allison Zucker-Tiemann, from right here in Poolesville, is the producer for a very special TV holiday program. Few TV programs come along and can honestly be called "fun for the whole family" these days. If you want to enjoy an hour that will inspire and uplift you this holiday season, you will mark your calendar for Sunday, December 29 following the NFL game on CBS to watch the Musial Awards.

The Musial Awards isn't just the most inspiring awards program today, it is the kind of show that sparks the best kinds of conversations and leaves you feeling good about all that you've seen. Whether you love sports or not, the Musial Awards spotlight the great acts of sportsmanship in the last year, from all over the world, from little league to the pros. Special guests include Extraordinary Character Awards winner Larry Fitzgerald, Lifetime Achievement Award winner Bob Costas, and a special appearance by "Mr. Saturday Night," comedian Billy Crystal!





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## Youth Sports

### Falcon Football Closes with a Win At Watkins Mill

By Jeff Stuart

On Friday, November 1, the Poolesville High School football team finally got a win. For the second straight year, the Falcons defeated Watkins Mill in the final game of the regular season, but this time the game was at Watkins Mill and not in front of the home fans. The game was scoreless at the end of the first quarter. With ten minutes to go in the second quarter, senior Jack Stokes kicked a twenty-three-yard field goal, and he added a sixteen-yard field goal with under a minute to go until the half. PHS led, 6-0. With eight minutes to go in the third quarter, Stokes kicked a thirty-seven-yard field goal, extending the Falcons lead to 9-0. Watkins Mill scored with about four minutes left in the fourth quarter, cutting the Falcons lead to 9-7. With three minutes left to play, Poolesville junior running back Jerome Wotorson took a handoff and broke free on the left sideline, racing sixty-six yards for a touchdown. Poolesville won, 16-7.

"It was a tough year for the Falcons," said coach Brian Tupa. "Unlike last year, injuries doomed this team. We opted out of the playoffs with only fourteen healthy and eligible kids available after the Watkins Mill Game. I was really proud of the way we played in the last game. We were missing eight starters who played both ways, and other kids with little football experience jumped in and played a great game. We got some big plays from Wotorson in the running game, and I think Jack Stokes played really well, kicking three field goals and playing defensive back for us when we ran out of players."

We graduate sixteen seniors from this year's team and will need many sophomores to step up next year for a successful season. The JV finished the season as well with a win against Watkins Mill."

Winning the last game in a season of hard knocks was satisfying, but the seniors on the team have seen better days, having been part of the 7-3 team of the 2022 season. They have much to be proud of.

"It has been a rough season so far," said senior Kage Tupa, running back and outside linebacker, before the final game against Watkins Mill, "but I am having a great time going out there for practices and games with my classmates. I have been playing with them since we were freshmen. We have been dealing with a lot of injuries. We have seen a lot of improvement. If you look at our first game—it was a rough one, no doubt about it. Our senior quarterback, Russell Kimball, has had a tough year stats-wise so far, but he has improved, and that is what we are looking for. If you can go out there the next day after a game and say 'I got better,' that is a good day. My favorite moment was getting called up to varsity as a sophomore. I got to play linebacker. We were 6-0 at that point. It was a great feeling to be on that winning team. A lot of my friends on that team have graduated. It was great to play with them and to be part of something great. That was a great team. It was awesome. Racer Anderson right here has been one of our strong players. He is a great tackler. Junior Dylan Hopkins has been great for us on defense and at running back. Senior Hayden Myers, at 250 pounds, has been a great defensive lineman. Senior Johnny Smith has come out; he is getting better. Just like Russell: He was a baseball player, never played football before, but he is getting better every day at practice—and he is getting experience. Leo Szego and Andrew Frazer came out last year, senior Jacob Smith, too. They were baseball players. They never played football, but they really improved. Leo was a captain. We might be 0-7 right now, but that record does not reflect the team that we have here. We still go out there. We put the pads on. We have a town that rallies behind us. They still come out to all our games and support us. Win or lose, they cheer us on. We are having problems scoring points, but they pack the stands on Friday night. They still support us. It is an awesome feeling to have that kind of support behind us."



*The 2024 Falcons football team: front: Jack Stokes, De'Shawn Stanton, Racer Anderson, Julian Kang, Cory Gatons, Carter Rice, Russell Kimball, Aiden Kang, and Kage Tupa; rear: Hayden Meyers, Nick Feys, Kojo Ankrah, Nate Gilli, Johnny Smith, Noah Taborga, and Jacob Smith.*

"We have a very young team," said senior captain Jack Stokes, a place kicker, punter, and free safety. "There is still a lot of improvement to be made. School always comes first. You've got to be on time. You've got to practice. We have had a lot of injured players. We have struggled through it. There is a lot we can do better. We just have to stay focused. I don't really have a favorite moment. It is just every game when I run out there with my teammates, and walking out there for the coin toss as a captain and representing my guys, my family, and my town. It is an honor to do that. Shout out to senior Nick Feys, a guard, center, and defensive tackle. He is a very strong player. Unfortunately, he got hurt, but he is

**Continued on page 29.**



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## Youth Sports

### Falcon Cross Country Boys Second in States, Girls Sixth

By Jeff Stuart

On Saturday, November 9 at Hereford High School, the PHS boys finished second in the forty-ninth running of the MPSSAA Cross Country State Championships. The girls finished sixth.

Senior Connor Kohne finished sixth for the boys. Junior Garrett Simons was ninth. Sophomore Ethan Dimmerling was eighteenth. Sophomore Keaton Trouteaud was thirty-sixth, running a season's best on a tough course with an infamous dip. Senior Miles Kreske finished thirty-ninth. Poolesville finished with a score of ninety-six points just behind first place Centennial's seventy. Junior Alex Daniels was forty-second and junior Jack Partain was forty-ninth, also setting a season record for him.

On the girls' side, senior Roma Diak finished eighteenth. Senior Zia Elam was thirty-eighth. Sophomore Bhavya Chidambaranathan was fortieth. Sophomore Erica J. Millin was fifty-first. Freshman Leela Desai was fifty-eighth.

The girls finished with 178 points. The leader was Centennial, which finished with three finishers in the top ten and thirty-eight points. Junior Anna R. McCrae was sixty-first, and junior Ruby Mercer was seventy-third.

"We are a pretty young team with a couple of experienced upper classmen on both the boys' and the girls' sides," said cross country coach Prasad Gerard, just before the re-gion meet, "but we are progressing and doing well. They did well at the counties. I don't think all of them have run their best races yet, but some of them have run some really good races. Roma has been running really well. I think she is going to have a breakout race, and the same thing with Connor on the boys' side. I expect him to have a breakout race as well. Senior Zia Elam had been working hard this season. On the boys' side, sophomore Ethan Dimmerling has done well. I think the Great American XC Festival at WakeMed Soccer Park in North Carolina on October 5 was a good meet for us as a team. We were in the Blue Invitational Division."

"The girls team won first place in the second division in Montgomery County," said as-sistant coach Peter Diak.

"My personal highlight of the season has been the race at the Great American XC Festi-val in North Carolina," said Roma Diak. "It was a really fun course, really good condi-tions. It was a great experience for the whole team. We enjoyed the trip. I didn't set a personal best there, but I came close to my personal best. Our girls' team is very strong, so is the boys' team. We have a lot of runners that work very well together to bring us up in the points. Our morale is very high. Everyone is having a good time. My shoutouts go to Zia. She has put in the work and is doing a good job, and to Ruby, and sophomores, Erica Millen and Layla Swyndle. They work very well together. They fin-ish close to each other in races. For the boys, Connor, Ethan, and junior Garrett Simons had really good performances at the county meet. They helped the team out."

Roma finished second in the Brunswick Zumbach Invitational on September 7, thir-teenth at the county championship, and fourth at the 2A West Region Cham-pionship at Utica District Park in Frederick, Maryland on October 31. She set a personal best in the first tri-meet of the season against Einstein and Clarksburg at Clarksburg on September 17.



Rear: Adrian Karapan, Anatol Schwartz, Miles Kreske, Paul Tang, Connor Kohne, Anil Gosh, Jonah Kim, Nathaniel Kim, and Ian Arthur Gray; front: Roma Diak, McKenna Trainor, and Jocelyn Gu.



Continued on page 37.











# Name That Santa

See the legend for answers on page 36.



# In Your Own Backyard

## An 1862 Christmas Story: At the White's Ford Blockhouse

By Jon Wolz

Colonel James Swain formed the Eleventh New York Cavalry of New York in 1861. He renamed the regiment: Scott's Nine Hundred Volunteer Cavalry Regiment. Scott was Thomas Alexander Scott, a businessman, railroad executive, and industrialist who financed the organization and supplying of the regiment. He was also the Assistant Secretary of War and a friend of Colonel Swain. A regiment cavalry consisted of ten companies or troops of eighty-nine men each, including the company's officers, which, with the ten field and staff officers and non-commissioned staff, made a total of nine hundred men to a regiment.

Troop F of Scott's nine hundred was assigned to the fort above White's Ford in November 1862. The high bluff gave the men a wide and beautiful view of the valley in Virginia. The Potomac River flowed slowly beneath the fort where it bubbled so loudly over the stones that it deceived the men's ears at night. Troop F lived here for two months or more, patrolling between the various fords and going into Virginia, sometimes as far as Leesburg. There was a blockhouse for their home, sheltered beneath a nearby bluff, a cookhouse, and rudimentary stables.

Occasionally, they supplemented their army fare from well-stocked farms of Montgomery and Frederick Counties. Sometimes they were invited to do this, and sometimes they did this without being invited. As far as possible, they discriminated between Unionist and non-Unionist farmers. When they were short of food, sometimes because the C&O Canal was frozen, they resorted to what is known by soldiers as private foraging and in civilian life as petty larceny. The troop knew that a delicate case of sheep or chicken stealing required boldness, deftness, and fertility of resources. To this end, the men in the troop from New York City had no superiors.

Their plans were laid out with deliberation, after careful reconnoitering, and were usually successful. To be an accomplished thief, when thieving was a necessity and to escape detection, was to be the right man in the right place. Troop F had a small coterie of these useful men who saved the troop from going supperless to bed on many nights.

Christmas was approaching with cold and frost but no good cheer. No box from home for the men and no sandwiches from the War Department. Troop F's Sgt. Henry Calvert was to go to Washington on Christmas Eve to spend the next day with some friends and to make up the troop's payroll at Camp Relief (Meridian Hill Park today). When Sergeant Calvert was about to leave camp, a soldier Tom Smith blurted out, "You'll have a fine time tomorrow, but what are we poor devils to do here, without a morsel of anything but hardtack and coffee, and the cold freezing into our bones?" Hearing this, the sergeant replied, "Send Welch here."

Sergeant Calvert, turning to Welch, said, "See here, Welch, Tom Smith says that you are all going to starve tomorrow. I don't believe a word of it. I know what you will do, but remember, if I catch you stealing from a Union farmer, I'll have you punished for sure." Welch replied, "No Union farmer is going to suffer. The plans are all laid to rob a secessionist in good shape. Last night, we loosened a plank in the back of his barn, got in, and inspected the inside with a dark lantern. We know where everything is that we want. The most difficult thing we've got to do is to keep farmer Jones's nose from smelling his own pets when they are cooking in the pot, but we'll fool him about that too."

Sergeant Calvert and the troop did not like farmer Jones. A few mornings before Calvert departed for Camp Relief, on opening the door of the blockhouse, at the first sign of dawn, the sergeant found a half-clad young Black woman standing there, shivering and distressed. She told him that she belonged to farmer Jones's sister, and that farmer Jones was to flog her that day. She asked the sergeant if he'd save her. The sergeant made out a pass, and she was put



Photo by Craig Swain.



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-TUE		
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		6pm	.....Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
12/25.....	WED.....	10am	.....Christmas Day Mass
12/26-28	THU-SAT	10am	.....Daily Mass
12/28.....	SAT.....	4pm	.....Confessions
		530pm	.....Sunday Vigil
12/29.....	SUN.....	8am	.....Sunday Mass
		1045am	.....Sunday Mass
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12/7.....	SAT...	....9am-7pm	....Christmas Tree Sales
		2pm-5pm	....Christmas Festival
12/8.....	SUN...	....9am-1pm	....Christmas Tree Sales



Continued on page 38.



Continued from page 16.

**Sugar Pea Vintage: Perfect for Poolesville as a Destination Town**

Of course, there is a real talent evident in every room of the store, in finding so many unusual and unique home décor offerings. Discovering them fills up her time when the shop, open Friday through Sunday, is closed. During that time, she is scouring online, going to estate sales and auctions, and working with American and international vendors.

While her website is a wonder all by itself, we highly recommend visiting the shop in person—it’s like the difference between going to church in person versus online. For the joy of the experience, be sure to stop in before Christmas. Forget the standard bland gift ideas, go for the gold at Sugar Pea Vintage.

Continued from page 24.

**Falcon Football Closes with a Win at Watkins Mill**

still out here every day supporting us; and to senior captain Racer Anderson, one of my good teammates. He is a cornerback and a wide receiver. He has got heart. Loves the game. Loves to play. He comes out and works hard for the team.”

“It has been great getting out on the field with people I enjoy being around,” said senior Racer Anderson, a cornerback and wide receiver. “Putting up a fight, winning or losing with those people has been great. I have seen this team come together. From the first game until now, we have improved and fixed many of the mistakes that we were making. I play wherever Coach Tupa tells me to play. I like being versatile and that he has confidence that wherever I am asked to play I can get the job done. My shoutouts go to junior offensive and defensive lineman Behr Schickler, and to senior wide receiver and safety Dashawn Stanton. He is a really good player. My personal highlight was a long catch in our second game against Walkersville.”

Other seniors are: Dashawn Stanton, Julian Kang, Cory Gatons, Carter Rice, Aiden Kang, Kojo Ankrah, Nate Gilli, Johnny Smith, and Noah Taborga.

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A winter festival with ice skating, Santa Claus, reading of The Night Before Christmas, music, church choirs, and much more. *Whalen Commons*. 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Gingerbread House Display and Competition

Please join Shine On Together for their second annual gingerbread house display and competition. All gingerbread houses entered will be displayed at the Poolesville Tree Lighting Ceremony. Winners will be announced at the Tree Lighting Ceremony and will receive a prize!

Library Special Event: Family Storytime

Music, crafts, and more. Free. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 10:30 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.

Library Info Table: The Aging and Disability Resource Unit

Stop at the ADRU table to learn about the variety of resources available to Montgomery County older adults, people with disabilities, and/or caregivers. Free. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

December 7

UMCVFD’s Santa Breakfast

All you can eat: Pancakes, sausage, bacon eggs, juice, fruit, cereal, and coffee. Bring a new toy for WUMCO and view the station’s model railroad. Adults: \$13; ages 3-17: \$10; under 3: free. Photos with Santa \$2. *Firehouse in Beallsville*. 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Library Info Table: The Basics

A representative from the Montgomery County Collaboration Council will have information about “The Basics,” a community initiative to improve the cognitive and social-emotional development of children ages 0-5. Free. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Playdate at the Library!

Drop in, meet your neighbors, and enjoy free playtime with puppets, puzzles, and games for the very youngest. Every Saturday morning. Ages 0-5. Free. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Library Special Event: English Conversation Club

Join us to practice English conversation in a friendly, informal setting. Every

first and third Saturday. Free. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Santa Is Coming

Please join us for a Santa photo opportunity where you can get great photos with your family. Your four-legged companions are also welcome. *Sweet Pea Vintage*. 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

December 7

A Winter’s Eve

Hope Garden Children’s Ballet Theatre, of Essence Studios, will present the original ballet, *A Winter’s Eve*, which combines *The Snowman* and *The Nutcracker* in a Riverworks Art Center production. Tickets are available at HopeGardenCBT.org. *Kreeger Auditorium at Bender JCC, Rockville*. 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

December 10

Library Special Event: Club de Conversación en Español/ Spanish Conversation Club

Obtenga confianza para hablar español en un ambiente entretenido, acogedor y relajado. Gain confidence in speaking Spanish in a fun, friendly, and relaxed setting. Free. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Library Special Event: Pajama Story Time

Stories and activities that develop language skills and imagination. Free. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 6:30 p.m. to 7:10 p.m.

December 11

Library Special Event: Homework Help

Teen volunteers will be available to help elementary students with homework and informal academic support. Ages 4-11. Free. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

December 12

Library Special Event: Medicare Advantage Plans Information Session

The State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) will present a seminar about Medicare Advantage Plans. This program is in association with Poolesville Seniors. Free. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Santa Is Coming

Please join us for a Santa photo opportunity where you can get great photos with your family. Your four-legged companions are also welcome. *Sweet Pea Vintage*. 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

December 14

Playdate at the Library!

Drop in, meet your neighbors, and

enjoy free play time with puppets, puzzles, and games for the very youngest. Every Saturday morning. Ages 0-5. Free. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Library Special Event: Science Saturday

Join us for Amazing Polymers by Science Connections. Space is limited, registration required. Ages 6-10. Free. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

December 18

Library Special Event: Homework Help

Teen volunteers will be available to help elementary students with homework and informal academic support. Final Homework Help session of the year. Ages 4-11. Free. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

December 19

Santa Is Coming

Please join us for a Santa photo opportunity where you can get great photos with your family. Your four-legged companions are also welcome. *Sweet Pea Vintage*. 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

December 20

Library Special Event: Family Story Time

Music, crafts, and more. Free. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 10:30 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.

Library Info Table: The Aging and Disability Resource Unit

Stop at the ADRU table to learn about the variety of resources available to Montgomery County older adults, people with disabilities, and/or caregivers. Free. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

December 21

Playdate at the Library!

Drop in, meet your neighbors, and enjoy free play time with puppets, puzzles, and games for the very youngest. Every Saturday morning. Ages 0-5. Free. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Santa Ride through Poolesville!

One child will win a chance to ride with Santa Claus on a UMCVFD firetruck. Tickets sold at the Santa Breakfast on December 7. 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Continued on page 31.

CHRISTMAS EVE

at

Poolesville Presbyterian Church

*Candlelight Service*

7:00 pm

17800 Elgin Road

Poolesville

poolpres.com

All are welcome!



Continued from page 30.

Things to Do

Library Special Event: English Conversation Club

Join us to practice English conversation in a friendly, informal setting. Every first and third Saturday. Free. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

December 28

Playdate at the Library!

Drop in, meet your neighbors, and enjoy free play time with puppets, puzzles, and games for the very youngest. Every Saturday morning. Ages 0-5. Free. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Of Poetry and Prose

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

Jack Frost's Apology

To strip you of your foliage  
My spirit sorely grieves;

Nor will I in the work engage  
Unless you grant your leaves.

— John B. Tabb

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*Christmas*  
**At St. Peter's Episcopal Church**  
**All Are Welcome!**

**LESSONS AND CAROLS**  
December 15 | 6:30pm

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**  
December 24  
Before the Family Service

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
Family Service | 5:00pm

**CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**  
**11:00PM**  
Carol singing begins  
at 10:30pm



*Academic struggles and behavior problems are **rarely** because a child is stupid, bad, or lazy ...*



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# Celebrate Christmas & Welcome the New Year

**Christmas Eve:**  
4:00 pm / 10:00 pm

**Christmas Day:**  
10:00 am

**New Year's Eve: 4:00 pm**

**New Year's Day: 10:00 am**  
Holyday of Obligation

## St Mary's Catholic Church

Barnesville, MD 20838

18230 Barnesville Road 301- 972-8660

[www.stmaryonline.com](http://www.stmaryonline.com)

On Facebook at Saint Mary's Parish and  
Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima  
Rev. Kevin O'Reilly, Pastor  
David Cahoon, Deacon





Remembrances

James Edwin Baur

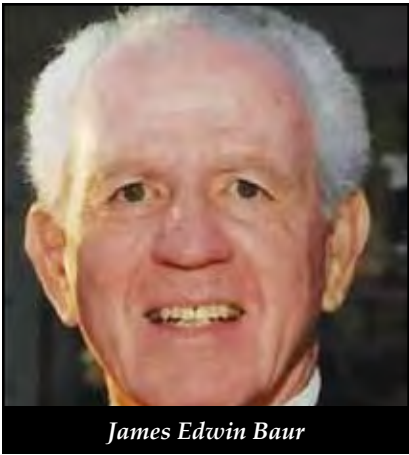
James ("Jim") Edwin Baur, 92, of Poolesville passed away on November 24, 2024. Born on December 18, 1931 in Washington, D.C., he will be remembered as a man of strong faith as well as a devoted and loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Jim attended Calvin Coolidge High School in Washington, D.C., and then served in the U.S. Army for four years. Upon completing his service, he took a job as a lineman with C&P Telephone Company. This began a career with the company that spanned nearly forty years, and it was there that he met the love of his life, Alice, to whom he was married for fifty-six years.

After his retirement, Jim remained an active member in his church and cherished spending time with his family. He also played competitive softball well into his seventies and developed lasting friendships with many of his teammates.

Jim was preceded in death by his father George, mother Elizabeth, brothers, George, Frank, Jack, and Robert ("Bob"), and sisters, Elizabeth and Mary.

Jim is survived by his beloved wife, Alice; four children, Linda Bochenski (Danny), Joe Baur (Shain), Karen Wathen, and Laura Baur; six grandchildren, Eric, Collin, Devin, Kira, Corinne, and Ean; and one great-grandchild, Theo.



James Edwin Baur

Michael Patrick Martin

Michael Patrick Martin, 66, of Poolesville, passed away on October 30, 2024. Born in Quincy, Massachusetts, he was the son of the late Edward and Marguerite (Pothier) Martin.

A graduate of American University, he had thirty years of experience as a political operative and a communications specialist. He worked for the American Postal Workers Union and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, and he coordinated campaigns for Democratic candidates across the country.

A thoughtful man with a quick wit, Mike was devoted to family and friends. He said he always "loved a good fight" and championed causes that advanced social and environmental justice. He enjoyed whitewater canoeing, history, jazz and blues, and his Boston sports teams.

Beloved husband of Daryl Martin, he is survived by his sisters, Marilu Swett Spector (Carl) of Boston, Massachusetts and Jane Doncaster (James) of Knoxville, Tennessee; and his sister-in-law, Margaret Rueter of Cambridge, Massachusetts. He is also survived by many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

He is predeceased by his sister, Susan Martin Hayes, and brother-in-law, Patrick Hayes, of Quincy, Massachusetts; and his brother, Thomas E. Martin of Lyman, Maine.

Funeral services were held privately in Poolesville for the family and friends.

Donations in Mike's name may be made to American Whitewater at [www.americanwhitewater.org](http://www.americanwhitewater.org).



Michael Patrick Martin

Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre,  
Essence Studios and Riverworks Art Center present

**A "The Snowman"**  
**Winter's**  
**"The Nutcracker" Eve**

**December 16, 2pm and 6pm**  
**Kreeger Auditorium at the Bender JCC, Rockville, MD**

**Featuring: Traditional & Contemporary Ballet •**  
**African/Modern • Traditional Israeli • Traditional Indian**

**[www.HopeGardenCBT.org](http://www.HopeGardenCBT.org)      Tickets \$27**

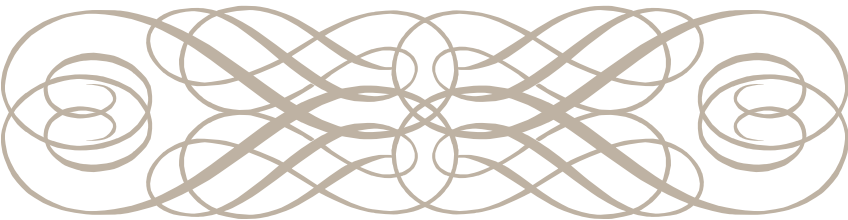
A photograph of several young ballet dancers in various costumes performing on a stage. The background is dark with white snowflake patterns.

**The Sweet Lemon**  
*Gifts with a Twist*

**Happy Holidays and New Year!**

A collage of four photographs: top left shows a gift basket; top right shows two people standing next to a large gift basket; bottom left shows a gift basket; bottom right shows a person standing next to a gift basket.

**Tues-Thurs: 12 to 6, Fri-Sat: 10 to 6**  
**Sunday: 12 to 4, Closed Monday**  
**19710 Fisher Ave. Poolesville**





## Remembrances

### Amelia Nicole Hobart

It is with unthinkable sorrow that we announce the passing of Amelia Nicole Hobart, a vibrant and compassionate young woman, taken from us too soon at the age of nineteen after a tragic car accident on November 29, 2024, in Rockville. Amelia was a lifelong resident of Poolesville, a small town that she loved dearly, and where her loss will be felt by the entire closeknit community that she touched with her kindness and spirit.

Born on May 15, 2005, to Jerome and Nicole Hobart, Amelia was the joy of their lives. She was deeply loved by her parents, and her heart was also shared with her extended family, including her bonus parents, Michele Mirowicz Hobart and Dennis Fennell, Jr., who loved her deeply. When Jerome married Michele in 2017, Amelia took on the role of “big sister” to Beata, Zosia, and Nadzia Mirowicz—a role she embraced with warmth and dedication.

Amelia’s love extended to many, and she leaves behind a family who adored her, including her grandparents, Garry “Bup” and Susan Henry, Denise Henry, Vickie and Dennis Fennell, Sr., Barbara and Jerome “Jerry” Hobart, Sr., and Michael and Sharon Rogers; her uncles and aunts, Evan and Elizabeth Rainey, Felicia Fennell, Bert and Dana Garman, and Michael Stevenson; and her cousins, Jayden Rainey, Autumn Fennell, Summer Fennell, Evan Fennell, Hannah Garman, Leah Garman, Callie Stevenson, and Anna Stevenson. Amelia was preceded in death by her beloved aunts, Beth Rainey and Sandra Stevenson. She is also remembered fondly by her “spirit animal,” Lira, her cat who accompanied her to Towson University, where Amelia was pursuing her nursing degree.

Amelia’s impact was immeasurable, and no words can fully capture the depth of her love, compassion, and strength. Those who were fortunate enough to be close to her were loved unconditionally. One friend shared, “Amelia was the type of person you could always count on to be there. No matter what I was going through, Amelia always stuck around. She had so much unconditional, judgment-free love to give.” Amelia’s ability to see past exteriors and love people as they were made her a rare light in the lives of those who knew her. Her friends, her family, everyone she encountered, felt the warmth of her presence and the steadfastness of her support.

Her friend continued, “She would drop everything on a dime to be at your side. There was nobody else I would have wanted by my side.” Amelia’s friendship was a rare gift—always uplifting, always genuine, and always with you when you needed it most.

Amelia was also a model of hard work and determination. Even from a young age, she impressed all who knew her with her relentless pursuit of excellence. A standout student at Poolesville High School, she was inducted into the National Honor Society and graduated with an Independent Studies Program Magnet Certificate. She was involved in sports, dancing with PAA Poolesville POMS, was on the PHS freshman lacrosse team, and participated in Girl Scouts for thirteen years. Her drive was unshakable, and when others underestimated her, Amelia consistently proved them wrong with 110% effort. Her friend recalled, “She was the most hardworking, diligent person I knew. She never failed to impress me. Whether it was work, school, or social life, she balanced everything with such grit and determination.”

This unwavering spirit led her to choose a career in nursing—an aspiration that reflected her deep compassion and desire to help others. Amelia’s passion for caregiving, her intelligence, and her level-headedness in the face of adversity meant she was destined to make an incredible impact on the lives of those around her.

Amelia’s life was a testament to the power of kindness, strength, and resilience. Her family and friends are forever grateful for the love and light she brought into their lives, and though her time with us was too brief, her impact will endure in the hearts of all who knew her.

A Celebration of Amelia’s Life will be held on Saturday, December 21, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, 20100 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville, Maryland 20837.

Amelia’s warmth, her boundless love, and her courageous spirit will live on in the memories of everyone she touched. We are honored to have known her, and forever grateful for the chance to love her.



Amelia Nicole Hobart

### Robert George Drevenak

Robert “Bob” George Drevenak of Dickerson, passed away at his home on November 19, 2024, after a two-and-a-half-month illness. He was born September 18, 1949, in Washington, D.C., to Lucinda and George Drevenak.

He graduated from Surrattsville High School in Clinton, MD in 1968 and subsequently earned a certification in Diesel Engine Mechanics in 1970. In the early 1970s, he was a customer engineer for IBM Corp in the company’s Arlington, Virginia field office. During his time at IBM, he received many outstanding achievement and man-of-the-month awards.

He received his journeyman electrician’s license from the State of Maryland in 1978 and the District of Columbia in 1980. He also received his certification in Motor Control from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)—National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), Local 26, of which he was a member. During his time as a journeyman electrician, he worked at General Electric Company in Rockville, an assignment that he particularly enjoyed.

Eventually, Bob went to work in the Washington, D.C. office of the IBEW as their Information Technology specialist. During his years there, he was highly thought of and valued by his co-workers. He retired from the IBEW after twenty years of distinguished service on January 1, 2010.

Throughout his life, Bob was always wanting to learn. He could fix anything mechanical and was a handyman par excellence (he spent many hours each year repairing the driveway). He asked for perfection from others and from himself (with the exception of his workshop which was messy).

Bob loved all of nature and instilled that in his son, teaching him about the outdoors and the fine art of fishing (most always catch and release). Another of his great enjoyments was watching the birds, including his precious hummingbirds, at the feeders that he built for them. He loved gardening and caring for his yard, always making sure that the mowing was done slowly to not harm the bees feeding in the grass.

He loved his Harleys. His favorite was his Sportster, next came the Road King with sidecar. He loved music, especially blues, and played guitar and dabbled for a while with the harmonica. He loved doing things for people and was Scoutmaster in the local Boy Scout troop when his son was young. He and his wife were two of the first volunteers at Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary in Poolesville.

He loved his family, his “adopted” children and grandchildren, and his dear friends. Many of them credit him with having been a major influence in their lives and careers and looked to him as a second father.

Last, but not least, he loved all animals, all those he rescued, as well as his childhood dog, Stumpy, and his favorite cats, Lester, Beethoven, Wisdom, Scooter, and Missy.

He will be remembered for all of this, as well as his wry sense of humor, warm laugh, sensitivity, and bravery. He will be missed beyond words.

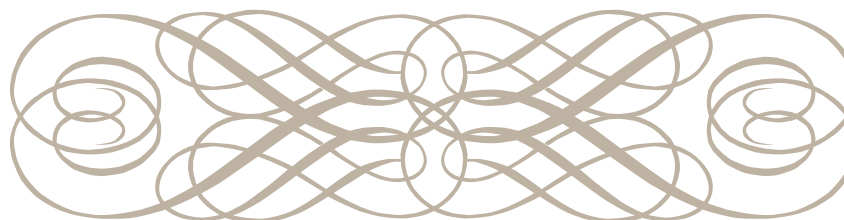
Bob is survived by his wife of forty-eight years; Jeannie, his son, Jason Robert; and his sister, Donna D. Mitroff. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Nancy J. Dickinson.

A celebration of life will be held in early spring of 2025, with details to be provided.

Memorial donations may be made in Bob’s name to the Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary, the Audubon Society, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, or the Arbor Day Foundation.



Robert George Drevenak





Remembrances

Loretta L. Cregger

Loretta L. Cregger, 87, a longtime resident of Darnestown, passed away on October 25, 2024. She was the loving wife of the late Rhudy L. Cregger.

Born on October 23, 1937 in Maryland, she was the daughter of the late Clinton Franklin Carter and Helen Ivy Parks. Loretta is survived by her children, Linda Hoffman (Mark), Shelia Young (Steve), Teresa Cregger-Torreyson (Louis), and Rhudy L. Cregger, Jr.; seven grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.



Loretta L. Cregger

Franklin Delano Holt

Franklin Delano Holt, Sr., 83, of Poolesville, passed away on November 12, 2024.

Frankie was the loving husband of Judith Ann Holt. Born on January 20, 1941 in Washington, D.C., he was the son of the late Homer Samuel Edward Holt, Sr. and Mildred Edna Sliger.

Frankie is survived by his wife, Judith Ann Holt; daughters, Ann Marie Tuck (Gerald) and Frances Holt Payne (John); eleven grandchildren; thirteen great-grandchildren; one sister, Clara Arlington; and one brother, Homer Holt, Jr.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one son, Franklin D. Holt, Jr.; two brothers, George Holt and Edward Holt; and four sisters, Juanita Sealock, Virginia Haller, Lena Holt, and Mildred Murray.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in his memory to Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church, 17821 Elgin Rd, Poolesville, MD 20837.



Franklin Delano Holt

Steve Wayne Yokum

Steve Wayne Yokum, 54, of Poolesville, entered into eternal rest on November 13, 2024 at Frederick Health Hospital.

Steve was born on October 20, 1970 in Washington.

He was the beloved son of Paula Yokum of Poolesville.

He is survived by his mother; brother Richard, Jr. (Traci) of Tampa, Florida and loving niece Ashley Haines (Michael) of Woodsboro, Maryland. He is also survived by two great-nieces, Mikaylee and Aubree; two great-nephews, Ethan and Michael; childhood friend, Leo Brown; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father, Richard Gail Yokum, Sr.

Steven will be remembered and loved by all who knew him. In his free time, he could be found going to the races every Saturday night, and he would never pass up a KISS concert.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Maryland Kidney Group or American Heart Association.



Steve Wayne Yokum

James Daniel King

James Daniel King, better known as Dan, 49, of Comus, passed away suddenly on October 21, 2024. Dan was born on April 27, 1975 in Maryland. He was the son of the late James Dwight and Joanna Elizabeth (Pitcher) King.

He is survived by his sister, Amanda E. King. He was preceded in death by one sister, Deanna E. King.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in his memory to Gonzaga College High School in Washington, D.C.



James Daniel King

Timothy A. Krakat

Timothy A. Krakat, 55, of Poolesville, passed away suddenly on November 19, 2024.

Born on November 27, 1968 in Maryland, he was the son of William Carl and Beverly Jean (Hee) Krakat.

Tim is also survived by his sister, Pamela L. Whelan (Christopher); niece, Victoria; and nephew, Matthew.

Tim was employed at NASDAQ for twenty-seven years.

The family will be receiving friends on Saturday, December 7 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Hilton Funeral Home, 22111 Beallsville Road, Barnesville.



Timothy A. Krakat

Estelle Lee

Estelle Ann Lee was born on September 1, 1929 in Virginia and passed away peacefully on November 13, 2024. Estelle Lee was a resident of Dickerson. She will be missed by family and friends alike.



Estelle Lee



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Lewis Orchards

NTS3: **Bill Collins**,  
PES Assistant Principal

NTS4: **Bob Gober**,  
Montgomery County Liquor Store

NTS5: **Bryan Bupp**,  
Poolesville Town Commissioner

NTS6: **Buddy Glazier**,  
Infestation Control

NTS7: **Chuck Stump**,  
Poolesville Planning  
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NTS8: **Cynthia Eeg**,  
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NTS9: **Dr. Anna Matheny**,  
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NTS15: **Myra Remigio-Leonard**,  
Maggie Nightingale Librarian

NTS16: **Tara Scholz**,  
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answers for  
*Name That  
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## Remembrance

### Dewalt Joseph Willard, Jr.

In loving memory of Dewalt Joseph Willard, Jr. (De) who died on November 13, 2024. De was born on September 30, 1931 in Poolesville, in the home his grandparents built in 1917. He was the son of Dewalt Joseph Willard, Sr. and Virginia Chiswell Ball.

De graduated from Poolesville High School in 1948. He attended the University of Maryland School of Agriculture, focusing on agronomy, botany, and crop production. Simultaneously, he launched his custom farming career, purchasing a pull-type John Deere 12A combine in July 1948. This event was the beginning of his seventy-six-year business career.

De and his siblings were raised by their aunt, Helen Willard Pumphrey, known affectionately as Tatie. She remained an important part of his life not only as a parent but as a trusted advisor. De was dedicated to Tatie's wellbeing and cared for her until her death in 2005.

On April 14, 1952, De married Frances Mae Amato of Washington, D.C. They raised their four children in Poolesville where the family enjoyed the privilege of farm life. When time allowed, waterskiing at Seneca on the Potomac River and trips to Ocean City, Maryland were favorite family activities. At the time of their marriage, De converted to Catholicism and became a faithful and active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Barnesville. Upon moving to Frederick, in 1985, he became a parishioner of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.

De founded Willard Chemical Co., Inc. in 1970 (later renamed Willard Agri-Service) as a companion business to his custom farming operation. Willard Agri-Service grew to become a nationally-recognized agricultural retailer serving Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, Virginia, and West Virginia from five locations. De's thirst for knowledge motivated him to become active in numerous ag retailer organizations across the nation where he built a network of cherished friends.

In August 1981, De launched a second business endeavor in the automotive industry which grew to five dealerships located in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Similar to the network of friends he had developed in agriculture, he grew another network of treasured colleagues in the auto world.

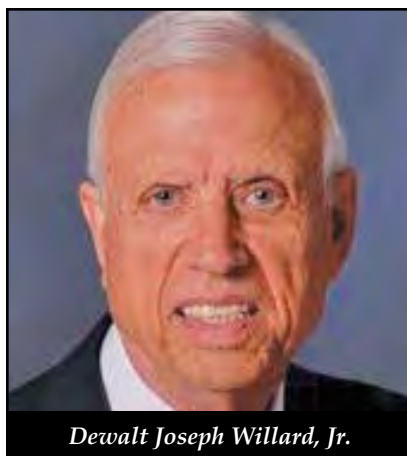
De loved his work and businesses, never carving out significant time for hobbies and recreation. He often remarked that "if you love your job, you're having fun every day and don't need a hobby!" However, when he took a flying lesson at the Frederick Municipal Airport, he fell in love with aviation and the intricacies of modern aircraft. Being a skilled farm machine operator, De quickly mastered the coordination of flight controls, obtaining his private pilot's license in January 1984 and later securing an instrument rating. His favorite aircraft was his Bonanza A-36 (N345D). He logged over three thousand hours of flight time which included many trips to the Midwest, often with lifelong friends from the Poolesville/Frederick area. Flying was also a timesaver when De desired to visit his fertilizer plants on the Eastern Shore of Maryland or attend meetings within the flight range of his Bonanza.

De was an innovator who loved traveling the country, looking for new ideas and concepts. He often remarked that his network of friends and business associates he nurtured was critical to his professional success. These friendships meant a great deal to De.

As professional success grew, De fostered important relationships within the ag industry by serving on the Boards of the Fertilizer Institute, Brandt Consolidated, Ouachita Fertilizer, Ag Chem Equipment, the National Fertilizer Solutions Association, and the Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers' Cooperative.

De never forgot those early customers that trusted his abilities and took a chance on doing business with him. He stayed connected to many of them later in life and never forgot them during the holiday season.

De was a huge believer in being involved and "giving back," serving on numerous nonagricultural boards. Locally, he was a member of the Mid-Atlantic Master Farmers Assoc., the Monocacy Lions Club, and the Upper Montgomery County Farmer's Club. He also served on the Town of Poolesville Planning Commission. Civic engagement was important to De, and he served on the Boards of



Dewalt Joseph Willard, Jr.

Frederick County National Bank, Frederick Memorial Hospital, and Dutch's Daughter. Believing education is key to a strong future, De also served on the Boards of the Connelly School of the Holy Child, The Barnesville School, and as President of the Poolesville High School PTA.

He is survived by his former wife and mother of his children, Frances Amato Willard; brother William G. Willard (Jane) of Little River, North Carolina; and sister Sarah Ann King (David) of Derwood. He is also survived by his four children, Bobby Willard (Lynda) of Key West, Florida, Billy Willard, Sr. (Ann Marie) of Poolesville, Jimmy Willard of Jefferson, and Patti Weiss (Mike) of Charlotte, North Carolina; sixteen grandchildren; and seventeen great-grandchildren.

The family would like to extend their sincere thanks to his friends who visited him at home and Village Crossing and their gratitude to the caregivers from Assisting Hands and the staff at Village Crossing. Finally, a heartfelt thanks to De's coworkers at Willard Agri-Service for their support.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be directed to St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church (112 E. 2nd Street, Frederick MD 21701) or Frederick Health Hospice (1 Frederick Health Way, Frederick, MD 21701).

Continued from page 26.

#### Falcon Cross Country Boys Second in States, Girls Sixth

"I think our team has done really well," said McCrae. "We won the division together which was really exciting. A personal highlight for me was setting a personal best at the county championships. We did really well at the meet in North Carolina as a team. I ran my best time except for the county meet. It seemed like everyone took ten or twenty seconds off their previous PR times. I think that showed how strong we are as a team and that we have a lot of depth. My shoutouts go to freshmen Leela Desai and

Charlotte Hofmann. They have done so well this year. Their times have gone down significantly. I am really impressed by them. I am looking forward to seeing how they improve as sophomores."

"It has been a good season," said Connor. "We have had some good races. We have had some people step up and run fast. The Great American XC Festival meet in North Carolina was a good meet for the team and for me personally. I ran my best race of the season. I think we are doing great. We are stepping up at the right time. It is good to see the younger people come together. My shoutouts go to Ethan and Garrett and senior Miles Kreske. They have been great to train with and to run in meets with."

Connor finished twelfth at the county championships and fifth at the 2A West Region Championship.

In the MPSSAA 2A West Region Championship, the boys finished third and the girls finished fourth. Individual times are as follows: boys: Garrett finished sixth, Ethan eighteenth, Trouteaud nineteenth, Miles twenty-eighth, Daniels and Partain finished thirty-first and thirty-second, respectively; girls: Roma was fourth, Ruby was nineteenth, Erica twenty-second, Zia twenty-fourth, Anna twenty-fifth, Bhavya twenty-sixth, and Leela twenty-eighth.





Continued from page 28.

### An 1862 Christmas Story: at the White's Ford Blockhouse

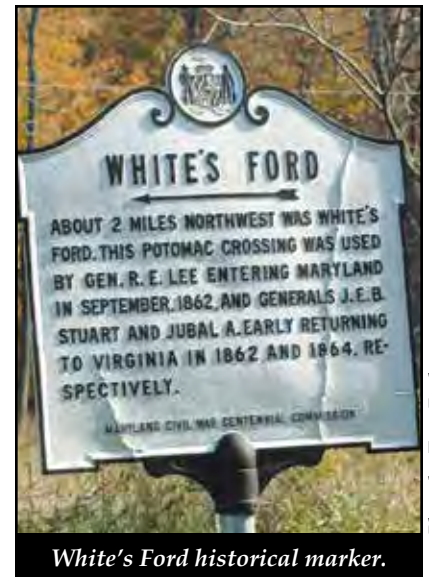
on the first canal boat going to Washington, where on arrival, she was cared for by the Freedman's Bureau. Shortly after the woman's departure, farmer Jones came looking for the woman, but no one at the blockhouse could exactly remember to have seen one.

When Sergeant Calvert returned from his leave, he learned of the details of the raid. It was successful. Welch and five of his comrades had entered the barn about an hour after midnight by means of the loosened plank at the back. They lighted a dark lantern carefully, and each man proceeded to act

according to the rehearsal. Welch held the light and guided the way to the prey. Two men held a sack open, and two others deftly placed a hand under the wing of a sleeping bird, removing it from its perch with a sudden jerk, which dislocated its neck, and dropping it into a sack. The whole party retreated through the open space at the back of the barn. They proceeded as quietly and as rapidly as possible with their booty to a ravine some little distance from the blockhouse where a convenient drift of snow had been located where the spoils were placed in cold storage. Seventy chickens, five ducks, and two geese were secured without noise, and after burying the spoils in the snow, the men got into their bunks.

Farmer Jones came around the next morning. He was told not a man left the blockhouse that night, except the guards on duty, and he was challenged to find his birds or feather belonging to them anywhere about the blockhouse. He was politely requested to send over a sheep or a keg of cider with which the men would drink to his health. This appeal found no response from farmer Jones, and he went away sorrowful because he had lost much stock. The men of Troop F, after preparing the birds, boiled their spoils and ate well on Christmas Day in 1862.

This story came from the book, *Reminiscences of a Boy in Blue, 1862-1865* by Henry Murray Calvert, 1920.



White's Ford historical marker.

Photo by Tom Fuchs.

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### Helping Your Pet Suffering from Separation Anxiety

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

***Prevention is key. and there are a variety of things that can be done to help prevent separation anxiety in pets.***

Separation anxiety occurs when an animal, most commonly a dog, though some cats may experience this type of anxiety as well, becomes upset due to being apart from its owner or any individual to whom the pet has grown attached.

If you have ever lived in a household alongside a pet that excessively howls, scratches at the door, or exhibits an overall sense of panic when a loved one leaves the home, it can be beneficial to speak with a veterinarian about the potential diagnosis of separation anxiety.

#### Unwelcome Changes

While anxiety, in general, has many triggers and is frequently due to multiple factors, there are specific life-events or experiences that may contribute to a dog's development of separation anxiety, including but not limited to:

- Abandonment when young
- Poor socialization, especially when young
- Lack of training to be left alone and to entertain themselves
- Divorce of a family member
- Death of a family member
- Sudden change in work or school schedules
- Sudden behavior changes to the individual caring for the pet

Equally important, a dog's personality may also contribute to separation anxiety, as some dogs may be naturally clingier than others.

#### Differentiate excitement or lack of training from true anxiety

Because anxiety looks different for every pet, it is important to differentiate excitement or a lack of training from anxiety.

Several identifiable canine behaviors that signal separation anxiety are:

- Pacing
- Whining
- Shaking
- Excessive barking, drooling, or panting in no particular order or direction
- Destructive behavior, including digging out of the yard, digging the carpet or flooring, chewing door frames or window frames, chewing on owners' clothing, or urinating and defecating in the house

Cats also experience stress when there are major changes in their lives or in the household, but they express it differently. Signs that a cat is experiencing separation anxiety may include:

- Urinating in inappropriate locations
- Lack of appetite
- Loud, excessive meowing

If you have concerns about behaviors your pet is displaying, it's important to discuss those with your veterinarian. Taking videos of the behavior can be helpful for your veterinarian in determining what is going on.

#### Treatment requires a multi-pronged approach

Treating separation anxiety requires more than mother's little helper or a "chill pill."

Medications alone will not resolve separation anxiety. There are a variety of medications that are used to help alleviate anxiety and make it easier to institute a behavior modification plan. Changing the behavior is as important as any anti-anxiety medication.

This may require working with a veterinarian trained in behavior modification or a certified trainer that specializes in separation anxiety behavior.

Another way to help your pet is that when you know a big change is coming, helping them prepare by introducing activities to their routine also may help prevent anxiety when that big change eventually comes.

Prevention is key, and there are a variety of things that can be done to help prevent separation anxiety in pets. Pets need to learn that it is okay to be alone and to entertain themselves, even when someone is home.

Introducing puzzle toys, food-stuffed toys, and long-lasting chews are options that can help to replace that comfort person with a comfort item, and for sense-based comfort, playing the radio and keeping consistent pheromone diffusers in use can create a safe and recognizable space without their favorite human by their side.

Another method to potentially reduce anxiety is to encourage your pet to exercise and release some energy prior to leaving for your day at school or work. A long walk or run or game of fetch may do. Through exercise, a dog trades morning stress-filled yelps with a morning nap instead. It can also be very beneficial for your mental health.

#### Needing confinement is not failure

Finally, when dealing with an anxious dog, crates can offer an enclosed sense of security in their distress. Likewise, cats also need safe places, though usually not crates. These safe spaces can include a room with perches at different levels or nooks where they can hide.

*If you notice a change in your dog's or cat's behavior, speak with your veterinarian.*

It is important to recognize that separation anxiety is a medical condition and needs to be treated appropriately. By encouraging your pet's independence, and working with a veterinarian, as necessary, successful behavior modification and re-training can give you back your best friend.



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