

# The Monocacy

# MONOCLE

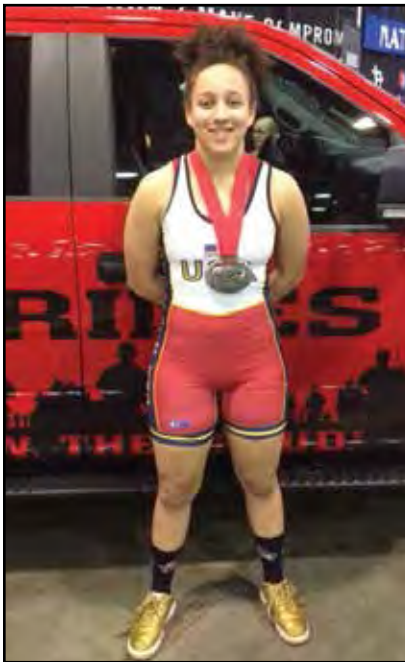
Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

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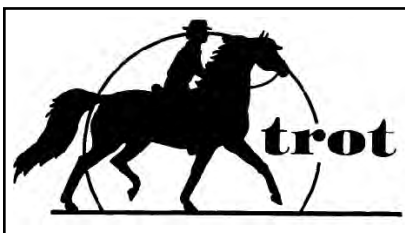
A world-class dog disc competition was held in Poolesville. See more in Family Album on page 2.



This PHS-trained wrestler became the first female to take gold in the Junior Olympic Games. Read about it on page 6.



This dog was bow-wow'd over the eclipse. See more pictures in Tidbits on page 7.



Too Hot to Trot? Definitely not. Find out why in Yeas and Neighs on page 9.

## Owner of Submerged Car Identified

By Rande Davis

In the August 11 issue of the *Monocle*, we reported on a car that had been found submerged in the pond next to John Poole Middle School, possibly sixteen years ago. The automobile, a 1997 Chrysler Sebring convertible, became visible as the pond water level was lowered in order to do work on its channel inflow area.

Surprisingly, the Montgomery County Police Department was unable to identify the owner of the car despite having the 2001 license tag number. One would expect the records of a stolen car to still be available. The article had left us and our readers with some unanswered questions: Who was the owner? When did the car enter the pond? and How did it get there?

Then Don James of Poolesville called us on August 14 reporting that he was the owner of the car. When we met Mr. James at his home, time had healed most of the anxiety that must have been present the morning of November 2, 2002 when he awoke to discover his car no longer in his driveway.

Holding on to the only chance he had at the time, he called his children



Don James, whose car was stolen and driven into a local pond in 2002, with his 1997 black Chrysler Sebring convertible.

hoping beyond hope that one had borrowed the car. After checking with them, he filed a stolen car report, a copy of which he shared with us.

Mr. James, retired from NIH and currently working at the Poolesville Golf Course for nearly as many years as the stolen car has been gone, has had a special fondness for the Chrysler

convertibles, having owned four Sebrings and one LeBaron. The stolen Sebring was his third.

Today, he owns another 1997 black Chrysler Sebring convertible which he keeps in impeccable condition. The passing years have smoothed his frustration of having a car stolen, but

Continued on page 13.

## Officer Craig Dickerson Retires after 32½ Years

By Susan Petro

Local resident and long-time Montgomery County Police officer, Craig Dickerson, recently retired after more than thirty-two years on the force. He served four years as a patrol officer, seventeen years as a member of the SWAT team, and another fourteen-plus years as an academy instructor. Additionally, Dickerson was a sniper team leader.

Dickerson spent his entire adult career protecting others. Prior to joining the Montgomery County Police Department, Dickerson served two years in the army as an MP and worked as a Maryland State Trooper. He also traveled to countries located on almost every continent around the world in order to train members of law enforcement and the military,

including Jordan, Chile, and numerous countries in Africa.

Dickerson is the husband of Poolesville Commissioner Valaree Dickerson and father to four adult children, Natilee, Kyle, Kevin, and Cameron. The family recently and excitedly welcomed their first grandson, Ramsey Davis Norman, from their daughter Natilee and her wife, Sarah, and also added a new daughter-in-law, Morgan Leigh Dickerson, who just married their son, Kevin.

The Dickersons originally lived in the Silver Spring area, but decided to settle in Poolesville in the early 1990s since Valaree had grown up here and they found the community to be a perfect place to raise their family.

Continued on page 14.



Retired MCP officer Craig Dickerson.



# Family Album

## Hyperflite/Skyhoundz Disc Qualifying Competition

Photos by Wayne Ramsay



It takes two humans, Melanie Griggs and Don Kushon, and two Frisbees to keep up with Charli.



Those qualified for advancement toward the Disc Dog Classic World qualifier are Criss Brown, Frank Montgomery, Peter Williams (1st place), Matt Rapko, Tim Hauck, Jeff Stanaway, Adam Cooper, Melanie Griggs, and Don Kushon.



Criss Brown has another Frisbee ready to go as Riot leaps in the air to grab the first one.



Nice catch! Frank Montgomery and his winning dog.



Greeting the folks helping to support the Matt Williquette car show fundraiser are: Front: Cheryl Reed and Deb Williquette; rear: Christie Conley and Carey Campbell.

## MATT WILLIQUETTE FUND CAR SHOW



Admiring the racecar are Jeannie and Lowell Jackson.



George Kephart, Jr. admires this yellow Thunderbird with its owner. Hey, George, the sign says For Sale. Make a deal.



Ted Zoener, with visitors of the Matt Williquette fundraising car show.



## Town Government

### Traffic Safety and Speed on Local Roads Key Topics at Commission Meeting

Town commissioners heard concerns from local citizens about speeds and safety on local roads at the August 21 commissioners' meeting.

In the open forum segment of the meeting, local resident Betty Ritorto relayed her strong concerns regarding speeding and failure to yield by cars passing through the two main crosswalks on Fisher Avenue along Whalen Commons. This topic has come up repeatedly at commission meetings, and the incidents mentioned by Mrs. Ritorto were very similar to those highlighted by other citizens in the past.

Mrs. Ritorto said that she had been walking recently on the crosswalk towards Whalen Commons and passed by a car that had stopped to allow her to proceed. She said a car behind the one stopped in front of her moved to pass on the right side of the stopped vehicle and came within a foot or two of hitting her. She said she had seen the same type of incident occur in the crosswalk near the McDonald's, and other residents at the meeting said they too had seen similar incidents.

Town commissioners (only three were in attendance with Commissioners Brown and Dickerson absent) expressed concern about the situation and noted that they had repeatedly raised safety concerns with the state highway department which controls Fisher Avenue. Commissioner Chuck Stump said safety is one of the major reasons the town is moving to try and take control of the road from the state, but the process to achieve this goal is a long one.

In the business segment of the meeting, the commissioners heard a report from the Parks and Streets Board regarding a proposal to install three-way stop signs in Tama at two intersections, Dr. Walling and Selby Roads, and Glass Way and Selby Road. Parks and Streets Board Chair Doug McKinney said that many Tama residents had raised concerns about speeding traffic on Selby Road, in particular, and also that it is very difficult to see around turns due in part to vegetation.

Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski remarked that there is already a three-way stop at Cattail Road and Dr. Walling Road and wondered whether adding more three-way stops would really slow traffic. McKinney said that it should help, but if the situation does not improve, there are more extensive changes in the roads that could be considered.

Police enforcement was mentioned as an important means of helping to reduce speeding. Officer Doug Tressler, who acts as a liaison between the Poolesville area and the Montgomery County Police, added that more stop signs can give the police better tools to stop speeding. He also said that positioning a squad car in inconspicuous areas along Dr. Walling and Selby Roads is an option he would like to pursue.

Seven residents of Tama appeared to support the installation of the new stop signs—this represents almost ten percent of the homes in the development. All of those testifying mentioned speeding and concerns about safety, especially for children walking to school. The commissioners unanimously approved the proposal after hearing from the residents.

The commissioners turned next to a proposed revision of fees imposed by the town for services it provides and for granting permits for various activities,

Continued on page 11.

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## Commentary

### Do Svidaniya To Summer

By John Clayton

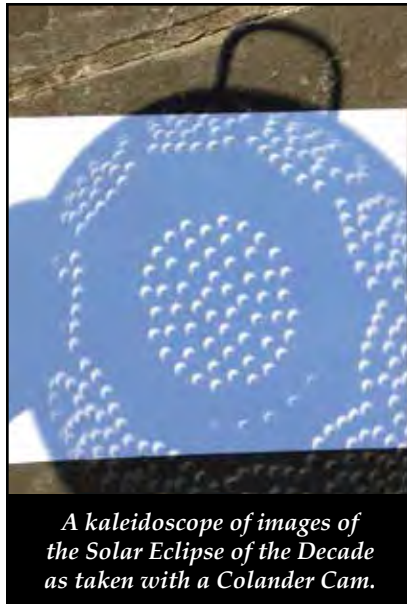
I love summer and, once again, I am sorry to see it coming to an end. All things considered, this has been a fine summer weather-wise, with ample rain, if a little hard on leaky basements and areas prone to flash flooding; however, as I enjoy these last days of August, I find that I am viewing with increasing alarm the progress of the federal investigation into collusion with the Russians.

Some background on this is in order. A few years ago, I became increasingly annoyed by the antivirus software I had purchased and installed on my desktop computer and laptop. In short, whenever the security software decided to perform a task, it made my system move about as fast as an abandoned refrigerator being pushed up a sand dune—sluggish is an accurate word—or, occasionally, it stopped dead and was as unresponsive as a mackerel on ice. It ran very slowly if at all.

Thus, I consulted various web periodicals such as *C-Net*, *Computerworld*, *Tech Republic*, and *Pravda Online* to find a suitable replacement. When all the testimonials were in, I selected a nice European-sounding product from Kaspersky Labs. It has worked just fine, I must admit. I didn't really look into its provenance; frankly, I didn't care. I assumed it was developed by someone named Kaspersky, who was probably from Israel, which was fine by me.

Of course, by now I am well aware that my Kaspersky software package, which I have loved, has dire connections to the Russian intelligence apparatus and organizations with sinister names like FSB, which I thought was a shoe store like DSW, when in fact it is a successor to the Soviet-era spy house KGB, and perhaps my all-time personal favorite, the military intelligence agency GRU (coincidentally, the name of the main character of the *Minions* series of movies). Speaking of the KGB, this is where a young lad named Eugene Kaspersky honed his skills in cyber warfare, perhaps running into fellow KGB apparatchik Vladimir Putin, presently better known as He Whom We Probably Should Stop Mentioning.

So there it is. My Windows computers are sixteen-lane information highways to Putin's Lenova® desktop. Do the Russians have access to my bank accounts and credit cards? Should I ask



A kaleidoscope of images of the Solar Eclipse of the Decade as taken with a Colander Cam.

my daughters if they're the ones making charges to Borscht Dacha two or three times a month? Are they recording my Google queries? I am very concerned. I am also concerned about how long it will take Robert Mueller and his crack team of investigators and prosecutors to work their way to my humble data stream. Does it count as collusion if I didn't know I was colluding? My main consolation is that there are around four hundred million Kaspersky Lab users worldwide, and it will take them a while to get to small fry like me.

While I may remember this as the summer of my inadvertent pipeline to Moscow, it will also be remembered as the year of the eighty-one percent solar eclipse in our area. I enjoyed it tremendously, and it was a lot of fun to feel part of what the *Washington Post* called a country-wide block party. I had one daughter in San Francisco (cloudy), one downtown on the Mall (sunny), and my wife and I were here in Barnesville, also sunny. I never actually noticed anyone selling or handing out eclipse glasses over the last month or so, and while I had planned to order some online, I ultimately approached the task with all the enthusiasm I usually reserve for filing my income taxes and, wouldn't you know it, the final week approached and I had never bothered to place an order. I also heard that it was just as well, as even the online sources were sold out over the last week or so.

Not to be deterred, I went online (*Russia Today*) and found a video on building an eclipse viewing box. With some common supplies found around any household and a thumbtack to make holes, I made a contraption that would have made any seven-year-old and his or her bottle of LePage® glue

Continued on page 16.

## Rande(m) Thoughts It's a Tragedy Waiting to Happen

By Rande Davis

We try to get our fears out of our mind; nevertheless, I keep thinking about a fatal accident at the intersection of Fisher Avenue and Millford Mill Road. While not having occurred yet, it is only a matter of time.

When that time comes, the famous blame game will begin. Despite warnings from many citizens calling for something to be done, the dangerous situation remains ripe for potential tragedy.

Part of the problem comes from the good intention of our traffic laws. I am not sure what to make of the road signs directing drivers to stop for pedestrians crossing the road. Pedestrians have always had the right of way, but with the signage now in place, a very serious concern arises. The drivers of cars stopping to allow a pedestrian to cross, as required, can clearly see the pedestrian. For cars behind that stopped car, it is not always apparent that the stop is for a pedestrian. Far too often, drivers in the rear think the stopped driver is simply

stopped to turn left but failing to use his signals; consequently, they move to the right to pass the car only to nearly hit the pedestrian.

A few months ago, I watched two young kids wait patiently at Whalen Commons to cross the street. An oncoming car had stopped for them. Then, I watched as a huge dump truck whizzed past on the right with a cop behind him. I thought, How convenient; the police will pull him over. Instead, the police followed right behind the dump truck to pass the waiting car as well. The police turned into the shopping center and stopped at a restaurant, seemingly in a hurry to get lunch.

If the state mandates cars must stop for pedestrians, then they must also take responsibility for the situation. Yes, the state may be right and the drivers wrong, but being right is not what is needed. Keeping pedestrians safe is paramount. Such crossways should have flashing lights, sometimes in the roadway itself, warning all drivers of a pedestrian trying to cross the street. Poolesville government officials and employees have made the request to have this corrected. The town does not own the road and cannot correct the situation. That is not enough. Pointing to others to blame does not

Continued on page 6.

## The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

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## Letter to the Editor

### Town Planning Commission Chair Shares Some Thoughts

If you moved to Poolesville within the past ten to fifteen years, you may not be aware that the bridge on Rt. 28, just east of the junction with Rt. 107, is fairly new. The old bridge and roadway dropped down to the creek below, and rainstorms, like the big one in July, would flood the area causing the road's closure and forcing a detour back to town.

I remember thinking those flooding woes protected Poolesville in some small way from more growth and over-development, and there may have been some truth to this. Eventually, though, I came to realize the importance of the bridge replacement as a needed improvement to the road, to safety, and to commerce that superseded my concerns, but also that Poolesville was likely to grow to its limits over time, no matter what.

As I leaned into my blurred windshield in just such a rainstorm recently, my mind wandered to current events in Poolesville, i.e., the proposal to develop the Willard property adjacent to Poolesville Town Hall.

A brief synopsis: When the Master Plan was updated several years ago, it showcased Poolesville residents' wishes to lessen its sleepy, bedroom community status by establishing a Village Concept, increasing density in the center of town to attain all the things that define "destination" for a town's citizenry. The town relied, in part, on multiple surveys of town residents and businesses to support the concept. Basically, it called for the creation of a centralized area of activity and socialization, lessening

the need for out-of-town travel for goods and services.

How did town managers approach this challenge? First, by imagining the town lying within concentric circles, with the greatest density of housing at its center; second, by recognizing that owners of vacant lots within the town center needed to be incentivized to attain the village center concept, and creating a very smart leveraging tactic (the Overlay Zone) to do just that; third, by working with stakeholders, such as the Historic Medley District, Inc., to aspire to gain the biggest bang for the buck; and, fourth, by centering all related decisions around the town's limited resources (Poolesville can only add about a hundred housing units in the foreseeable future before water treatment capacity forces a moratorium of sorts on town growth).

The concept of concentric circles is common and highly applicable to the Willard property proposal because some have advocated erecting a housing subdivision in the middle of the Commercial District, which doesn't make sense in the context of the principles surrounding a village concept. Really, think about it.

Hey, Cal, so what about the bridge? Okay, the bridge, at the end of the day, was an example of good government gone right. We're not happy when government gets it wrong, but we often fail to recognize actions seen as about right. There are many examples of how implementation of Poolesville's Master Plan—the town's road-map—has been realized, including the activity we see on the Commons regularly, sidewalk connectivity, and water resource management. Pursuing opportunities for infill development (again, up to the limits of capacity) will fulfill other Master Plan goals of the small town village concept, up to and including a time when, hopefully, density supports a very modest addition

Continued on page 14.

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#### MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil at 5:00 pm  
Sunday at 8, 9:30, and 11 am  
Monday - Friday at 9:00 am (Rosary follows)  
Confession - Saturday 4:15 pm

#### LOOKING AHEAD...

**Outdoor Mass and Pig Roast**  
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## Local News

### Poolesville's Olivia Rondeau Becomes First Girl to Capture AAU Wrestling Gold Medal

By Jeff Stuart

On Monday, July 31, sixteen-year-old Olivia Rondeau became the first female wrestler ever to capture a gold medal at the 51st annual AAU Junior Olympic Games in Detroit, Michigan. It was the first-ever girls' wrestling competition in the junior Olympics. Women's wrestling has been added as a sport for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

She pinned both Michigan's Nicole Lorenz and Tennessee's Gabrielle Neal in the first period to win the gold medal. She actually took home two gold medals because she qualified in both the Cadet and Junior Class categories.

"I wrestled my freshman and sophomore years at Poolesville. I played volleyball in the fall and then was going out for basketball and changed my mind at the last minute," Olivia recounted how she started wrestling. "I remember telling my dad, who originally thought it was an all-girls team, 'There are no other girls on the team, Dad. There is just me and the guys.' He asked me what my goal was. I told him I wanted to be a pioneer, a trailblazer, for other girls in the sport. I told him even then my goal was to go the Olympics.

"My first year, there was one other girl that came out later in the season. The next year there were, like, five girls, so I felt that just by being on the team I opened the door for other girls. I did Tae Kwan Do for three years when I was younger and earned a black belt. That was coed, so I wasn't afraid of guys.

"Coach Dorsey is very special to me. He showed me a lot of wrestling moves," Rondeau said. She is also grateful to Coach Tao. "He said he treated us all like wrestlers. There was no hazing or anything, and I really appreciate that."

Olivia went to the national competition last year and was selected to work with the women's national coach, Terry Steiner, on a national development team. "That's why I am continuing at Wyoming Seminary in Pennsylvania." Wyoming Seminary's inaugural girls' wrestling program will be led by USA Wrestling's assistant national women's coach, Erin Tomeo Vandiver.



Poolesville coach, Kevin Dorsey (left), was mentor and trainer for this first-time female gold champion, with Coach Tim Tao.

"This year I am going to do a world tour which will include Canada and South America. This will be sometime next January or February. It will be my first international competition."

Continued from page 4.

#### It's a Tragedy Waiting to Happen

absolve our town's officials from responsibility. It's time for a full-court press by our elected officials and town management to demand a suitable correction to the danger at hand. Finding blame later does no one any good.



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**Tidbits**

**Racist Vandalism at Skateboard Park**

Vandalism occurred at the Skateboard Park on Wootton Avenue on August 10 in the form of racist spray painting. A person living nearby heard the rattle of a spray can being shaken and the sound of paint spraying around 1:00 a.m.

The perpetrator painted Nazi symbolism, obscene language, racial slurs, and graphic depictions of male genitalia on the curved skating wall at the park. The damage was very similar to that in a delivered note to persons living on Peach Tree Drive earlier this month and reported in the August 11 issue of the *Monocle*.



*Part of the highly-objectionable graffiti sprayed on the wall at the skateboard park.*

The town reported the incident to the Montgomery County Police who are investigating this and the previous incidents.

**The Eclipse of the Century Makes Partial Appearance in Poolesville**

At 2:42 p.m. on August 21, the Eclipse of the Century rose to the occasion in Poolesville with what seemed like approximately eighty percent of the sun blocked by the moon. While the sky never went totally dark, the fifty-plus sky viewers in Whalen Commons seemed to have been impressed with what they saw through the special eclipse glasses they wore. The *Monocle's* Susan Petro was on hand with a couple of cameras equipped with handmade sun-blocking material straight from NASA covering the lenses. The dogs in the park were underwhelmed, to say the least, and, for the most part, walked away with only a craving for a drink of water, bored by so many humans angling their necks and not paying any attention to them.



*These folks came to Whalen Commons to see what they could of the eclipse.*

**MCPS Announces Changes in School Renovation Schedule**

Montgomery County Public Schools rescheduled a planned August 28 public meeting for August 24 that presented an update on the county's development of its Capital Improvements Program (CIP) which includes the Revitalization and Expansion Program. The meeting was held in the Media Center at Paint Branch High School and was too late to be included in this issue. The full results of that meeting will be reported in the September 8 issue of the *Monocle*.

It is understood that the proposed new framework for planning will begin with the traditional review of facility condition but will be expanded to include other factors such as facility utilization and programming issues relating to each

Continued on page 11.



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## Things To Do

### Poolesville Area Senior Center (PASC) Events

**Pickleball:** Mondays and Fridays: 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.; Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

**Game Day:** Tuesdays: 1:00 p.m. Poolesville Baptist Church

**Zumba Gold:** Every Wednesday in gym, 1:00 p.m.

### August 25

#### Fridays on the Commons: Magic in the Park

It's going to be a magical evening: Kids' activities, food trucks, farmers' market, DJ—and we'll say goodbye to summer with the magic of Harry Potter on the big screen. *Whalen Commons.* 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

#### Square Dance

Learn to dance and support your local American Legion Post's fundraiser. Adults \$15; couples \$25; ages 10-17 \$10; ages 10 and under free. All tickets are purchased at door, cash or checks only. Calleva Barn, 19120 Martinsburg Rd., Dickerson. 7:00 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.

### August 27

#### King's Barn Dairy MOOseum Special Event

Celebrate and learn from two families (one black, one white) sharing over forty years of dairy farming experience. From four hundred dairies to only four today, the state of farming in Montgomery County has depleted but is still to be honored. Work horses transitioned into tractors, hand-milking was replaced by machines, and wheat threshing evolved into combines. Wonderful displays for adults and children. Members of these two historic families will be there to interact with visitors. *Dairy MOOseum, 18028 Central Park Circle, Boyds.* 1:00 pm. to 4:00 p.m.

### August 30

#### Poolesville Planning Commission

A decision on the Willshire Community proposal may be made by this commission. The final decision on the project then moves to the town commissioners for approval. *Poolesville Town Hall.* 7:30 p.m.

### August 31

#### Library Family Storytime

These 30-minute programs are designed to delight children of all ages. Filled with diverse stories and activities that promote and develop language skills and imagination, these

programs encourage children to develop a lifelong love of reading and learning and to introduce them to the culture of reading. Preschool and kindergarten, babies and toddlers. No registration required. *Maggie Nightingale Library.* 10:30 a.m.

### September 1 to 3

#### Blue's 4th Birthdayversary!

The Blue Hearth is celebrating in a big, blue way with moon bounce, face painting, and kids' crafts. Plus on Saturday: Dan McCarthy, singer/songwriter; on Sunday: The Wandering Peacocks, MAD BBQ, and the Common Ground Market from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Blue's hours: Friday/Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5:00 p.m.

### September 6

#### Community Dinner

Featuring spaghetti with dessert (gluten free and vegetarian available). Come for an evening of food, fun, and fellowship. Open and free to all. To request meal delivery, a ride, or more information, contact Lori Kocur at 240-994-8011. *Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church.* 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### September 5

#### Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

*Poolesville Town Hall.* 7:30 p.m.

### September 6

#### PHS Varsity Sports

Girls' Soccer. Wootton. 7:15 p.m.

### September 7

#### PACC Networking Breakfast

*Poolesville Town Hall.* 8:30 a.m.

### September 8

#### UMCVFD Auxiliary Bingo

Featuring cash and gift cards with drawings. Refreshments available for purchase, no outside food or beverages permitted. Admission: \$20. *UMCVFD, Beallsville.* Doors open: 5:30 p.m.; games start: 7:00 p.m.

#### PHS Varsity Sport Home Games

Football. Kennedy High School. 6:30 p.m.

### September 12

#### Library Special Event: Teen Book Club

Love reading and socializing? Come check out our Teen Book Club and connect with other teens who love to read. This month, come and discuss your summer reading. For grades 9 to 12. No registration required. *Maggie Nightingale Library.* 3:00 p.m.

## It's That Time Again!



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# Yeas and Neighs

## Too Hot To TROT?

By Andie Devynck

Summertime might be the season when some riders forgo the fields and fences, and turn instead to water sports or indoor activities with the air conditioning blasting, but not everyone drops out of riding during the heat and humidity. There's one trail-riding outfit operating in and around the Ag Reserve that keeps going year-round, and that's the Trail Riders of Today (TROT). Established in 1980 (like the Ag Reserve itself) and founded by twenty-two riders whose original mission was to save the Paint Branch Park trails from development, TROT is an all-volunteer grassroots membership organization that provides a vital voice for the preservation and creation of sustainable trails for equestrian use. While not limited to those in the Ag Reserve, TROT hosts and helps maintain many of our horse trails. TROT promotes trail riding by holding organized rides throughout the year and by promoting safe riding, trail etiquette, and proper horse care.

Would that there was a fully-interconnected system of trails all throughout Montgomery County—a wish uttered by many a TROT member past and present. As it stands, Montgomery County offers many hours of riding on hundreds of miles of equestrian and multi-use trails. Unfortunately, they are all separated by cities, towns, highways, roads, housing developments, and private and commercial property. That said, much of the Ag Reserve is devoted to nature trails, many of which can be used by trail riders. In Montgomery County, the Agricultural History Farm, Black Hills Regional, Little Bennett Regional, Patuxent River State, Rachel Carson Conservation, and



The Trail Riders of Today.

Woodstock Equestrian are all parks that have woodland, field and, in some cases, river and lakeside trails that can be accessed by horse trailers as well as from properties that border them. In addition, the Blue Mash Nature, Breezy Loop, North Paint Branch, and Travilah Loop Trails give riders another set of options around the regional and state parks. Some private farms like the Potomac Horse Center offer trail access to TROT riders. Callithea Farm in North Potomac and Potomac Riverside in Dickerson provide trail access to the C&O Canal as well.

Current president Gale Monahan described her beginnings with the TROT in the late eighties. She was a member for a few years before becoming the Howard County coordinator for about ten years. She first became TROT president in 1997 and stayed in that position for six years. She remained a loyal member afterwards until she was asked to become president again two years ago. Gale remembers the years in the eighties and early nineties when the challenges facing the county created a surge in membership, reaching nearly a thousand members. As the trail systems became settled and the battles subsided, membership dwindled. Recently, more pressures have come to bear on the county trail system, and TROT put out the call for more engagement both by its current members and

prospective ones. Ever since, membership has been on the rise, but she stresses that far more voices need to be heard in the ongoing struggle to establish and maintain these trails and to keep horses as a priority in Montgomery County.

Hence, Monahan views the current focus of the organization as to keep the trails alive. TROT does this through its involvement with state and county officials as well as developers, private property owners, and other outdoor groups like MORE (Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts) in negotiating easements for trail riders. She also stresses that the organization is getting back to preserving trails and leading more and

Continued on page 16.

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## Youth Sports

### Poolesville Football, Boys' Soccer Want to Get Off to a Good Start

By Jeff Stuart

The first Poolesville Falcons football game of the season will be at Walter Johnson on September 1. The Falcons will host Kennedy on September 8 for their home opener.

"We are going to be young," said Coach Dave Murray. "We have a really good offensive line. I think it is the best offensive line we have had in a couple of years. We have competition in a lot of different spots which is really good. Our quarterback competition is between a couple of juniors, Ethan Gaddis and Brandon Taylor. Brandon played quarterback on JV as a sophomore. Ethan played quarterback when we lost Daniel Cho, our senior starter, to injury last year. He also plays corner, returner, and receiver."

"I think we are definitely going to do better than last year," said senior corner and captain, Charlie Brill. "We have a good group of guys. We are definitely more disciplined this year as a group. We are more tightly bonded. We are looking forward to the first two games and hope to start out right, and then we are looking for a big win against Seneca."

"Like Charlie said, the first few games are important to get us going in the right direction," said senior defensive end, left guard and captain, Ryan Kasten. "Then Seneca is one that we want to win since we had trouble with them last year, but we played hard against them. I think one of our strengths is our pride in our program and our discipline. We have been working hard all summer. A lot of kids have been in for workouts. We have been working on our strength and getting better. We have two sophomores coming up to varsity right now: Colin Hemingway and Sam Allgood. They are looking to help us out."

"I just want us to play hard and hopefully win games," said senior right tackle, defensive tackle, and captain, Zach Zeranski. "I am looking forward to the Damascus game because I have been injured both times we have had Damascus on the schedule, so I just want to get out there and see what we can do against them. I think we are really closer as a team this year. Last year, there were different internal things that kind of separated us a little, but this year we are really tight."



Zach Zeranski, Connell Oberman, Charlie Brill, and Ryan Kasten.

"We kind of want to continue the momentum from last season," said senior running back, linebacker, and captain Connell Oberman. "We ended on a three-game winning streak. We kind of want to carry that over to the beginning of the

season. We want to have a positive record and play hard every week. I think we are stronger this year. We lost a couple of key players, but I think the disparity between grade levels is kind of gone. I think our strength is our closeness and our brotherhood. We are always there for each other and always have each other's backs. I am not giving any secrets. We are definitely going to pound the ball a little bit, but we will have a more diverse offense."

The Falcons play Seneca Valley at home on October 13.

"I'm a first-year soccer coach at Poolesville," said Mike Willis. "I coached the JV team at Clarksburg the last three years and at Georgetown Prep for four years before that.

"I'm excited to be coaching in my home town, working with a group of young men eager to represent our town's fantastic high school...My goal for this year is to instill a positive culture where hard work is the norm and the sense of team pride is strong—and to make Poolesville boys' soccer a relevant program once again.

"Our team has a great mix of junior/senior leadership and stability, and freshmen and sophomores eager to work hard and earn playing time. Our goal is to improve individually and as a team each day and to push each other to be their best.

"Seniors Tyler Roy and John Thompson will create scoring opportunities. Juniors Dominic Lanasa and Alex Firestine will anchor the defense. Junior transfer student Andrew Tarus will provide tremendous speed and toughness, and freshmen Jay Doshi and Eric Jung show great composure and superior ball-handling skills."

The Falcons start the season at Wootton on September 5. The first home game is against Damascus on September 18.

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

Then let us know! Send it along to  
[editor@monocacymonocle.com](mailto:editor@monocacymonocle.com)

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Continued from page 3.

**Traffic Safety and Speed on Local Roads Key Topics at Commission Meeting**

especially for construction and development. There was some discussion about the size of the fees proposed for the filing of plats with the town, but, in the end, the commissioners voted unanimously to approve the new or revised fees as originally proposed with one change: They decided to eliminate proposed fees for providing printed copies of documents requested by citizens and others.

Finally, it was announced that it is possible that a revised site plan for the Willshire Development may come before the Planning Commission at its August 30 meeting.

Continued from page 7.

**Tidbits**

school. Essentially, while facility condition will continue to be an important baseline for consideration, it will not be the sole factor. The new focus will consider the variety of usage of each facility from school to school. These new programming issues are expected to alter the previously-announced renovation schedules which may advance or delay renovation plans for Poolesville High School.

This new approach has raised immense concern among PHS school cluster representatives specifically as it could negatively impact the current published schedule to renovate Poolesville High School. In answering a question sent by Kevin Schramm, Cluster Representative, on its impact specifically on PHS, Essie Maguire, Executive Director of the Office of Chief Operating Officer, responded, "It is not straightforward at this point to discuss individual schools outside of the framework as a whole. We know that Poolesville will still be a priority school" from a facility condition point of view.

Schramm remains very concerned that the new factors may allow the decision process to become more politically based than the previous process and might further delay the upgrading of Poolesville High School.

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## Tidbits of the Past

By Jack Toomey

**August 2, 1920** The Poolesville team defeated Rockville with a score of 17-0. The game was played at the fairgrounds and was attended by a large crowd.

**August 4, 1918** The Anti-Saloon League held its annual meeting at Washington Grove. The league elected vice presidents from each election district. Rev. Charles Boss from Clarksburg, Howard Spurrier from Poolesville, and Windsor Hodges of Barnesville were elected.

**August 6, 1923** St. Stephen's of the Washington League defeated Boyds, 6-1, in a game of baseball. Boyds was held to one hit which was struck by Best, the shortstop.

**August 6, 1923** The Poolesville Girls' 4-H Club presented a pageant on the high school grounds. Miss Blanche Corwin was the director.

**August 8, 1923** More than five hundred people gathered at the Rockville train station to watch the funeral train of President Harding pass. Crowds that exceeded the populations of the towns of Dickerson, Barnesville,

Boyds, Germantown, and Garrett Park also gathered at their depots to pay their respects.

**August 16, 1914** The farmers of the Poolesville district held their annual horse and colt show. Liberal prizes were awarded.

**August 18, 1912** Several thousand people gathered at St. Mary's Catholic Church at Barnesville for the annual picnic and tournament. Mrs. C. U. Stone, who was active in women's suffrage rights, gave a resounding speech. A dance was also held and continued to the midnight hour. The Rev. George Harrington, pastor of the church, was assisted by hundreds of parishioners. The event was supposed to have been held earlier in the month but had been postponed due to a rainstorm.

**August 18, 1923** It was reported that Thomas C. Hoskinson & Sons, Howard Spurrier, and Albert Wootton, all merchants in Poolesville whose stores were destroyed by fire, had decided not to rebuild. They were said to be entertaining offers for their properties.

**August 21, 1925** The state road that connected Frederick and Washington was formally opened. Ceremonies were held at the home of McGill Belt at Dickerson. The road connected Frederick with the towns of Buckeystown,

**Continued on page 16.**



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## Remembrance

### L. Jane Fowler

Jane Fowler, 73, of Barnesville died on August 20, 2017. She was the wife of the late Franklin F. Fowler, Sr. who died November 8, 2011.

Born on November 11, 1943 in Laytonsville, she was the daughter of the late Eli and Beulah (Fink) Hottinger.

Jane was a member of the UMCVFD Ladies' Auxiliary and the Barnesville Baptist Church where she sang in the church choir.

Surviving are her two children, Penny Barton and husband David, Frank Fowler, Jr. and wife Rachel, both of Boonsboro; one sister, Pauline Fowler and husband Eddie of Hagerstown; and three grandchildren, Samantha, Stefanie, and Franklin, III.

The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Barnesville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 69, Barnesville, MD 20838 or to the UMCVFD Ladies Auxiliary, 19801 Beallsville Rd., Beallsville, MD 20839.



L. Jane Fowler

Continued from page 1.

### Owner of Submerged Car Identified

he remains disappointed that the sense of security of living in Poolesville, a feeling so many of us share, was lost forever that early morning in November. It's one thing to lose a car, another, entirely, to lose one's sense of peace of mind.

## Our Lady of the Presentation Parish Retreat



When: Saturday, September 9th  
8:30am - 2:00pm

Where: Our Lady of the  
Presentation Catholic Church

RSVP: Sign-up sheet are in the  
Gathering Space or call the  
Rector at (301) 349-2045

### Presenting:

Father Jordan Kelly, O.P.

First Talk: Today's Parish: source of  
the New Evangelization

Second Talk: Forming a Parish of  
Intentional Disciples

A day to rekindle our relationship with our Lord.

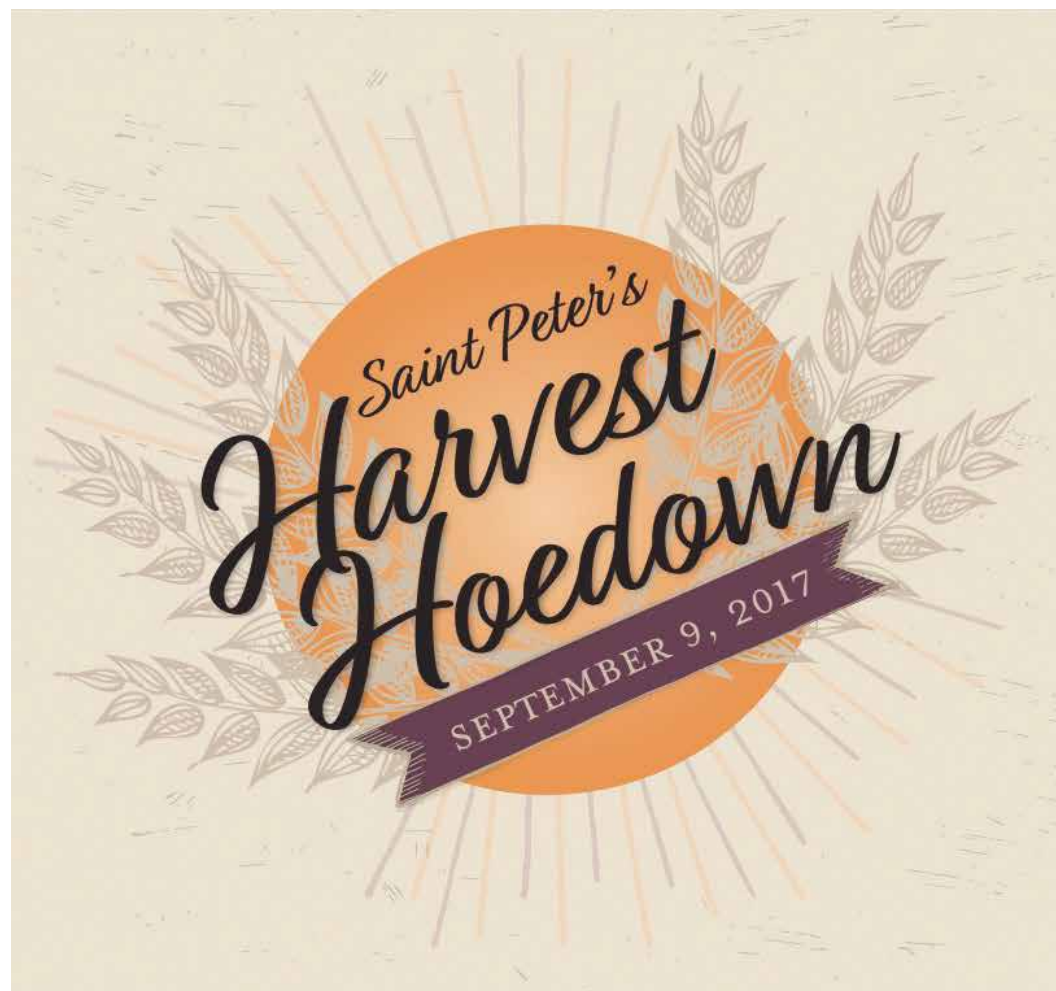
### Retreat Schedule:

- Mass: 8:30am to 9:00am
- Breakfast: 9:00am to 9:30am
- First Talk: 9:45am to 10:30am
- Discussion: 10:30am to 11:30am
- Lunch: 11:30am to 12:30pm
- Second Talk: 12:30pm to 1:15pm
- Discussion: 1:15pm to 2:00pm
- Concludes with Confession, Adoration & Prayer

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Please RSVP in the Gathering Space.



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Continued from page 1.

**Officer Craig Dickerson Retires after 32½ Years**

Staying physically fit has always been important to Dickerson. He boxed during his army years and spent many years training and teaching in the field of martial arts throughout his career. Additionally, Dickerson is a longtime member of the Izaak Walton League.

Dickerson was born in Philadelphia where he lived for nine years before moving to South New Jersey where he graduated from high school. He then moved to Gaithersburg to live with his father and attended Montgomery College initially to study physical education before switching over to the criminal justice field.

During Dickerson's years working for the Montgomery County Police, he developed many training programs that resulted from the Columbine school shooting and the subsequent sniper assaults that occurred over a period of a few weeks throughout both the county and other area localities. Between the Columbine incident in 1999, the 9/11 attacks two years later, and the local sniper attacks in October of 2002, it became clear that police officers needed to be prepared for

ever-changing threats and mass assaults, even on school children, which was virtually unheard of before the mass killings in Columbine.

Many of Dickerson's training programs were implemented nationally, as well as locally. Dickerson travelled to Las Vegas, Chicago, and Philadelphia to conduct the trainings he developed. Additionally, Dickerson is the author of numerous articles related to the subject of security and law enforcement.

Valaree Dickerson recently summed up many of Craig's career accomplishments in a speech she gave during his retirement celebration. "He mastered the Taser program, wrote a manual after the Columbine shooting that is now an active shooter training guide. He won so many awards for shooting, sniper competitions," said Valaree. "He's been on ESPN, CNN, local news, and nationwide." Valaree, clearly proud of all her husband's accomplishments, added, "From patrol to SWAT to becoming an amazing instructor all over the world, Craig will leave a memory behind that makes everyone who knows him so proud."

Even though Dickerson is now retired from the police force, he isn't totally out of the business of protecting others. He and two friends recently

formed a business, Hilton Training Group, to develop training programs and teach individuals and companies in security methods appropriate for their needs.

Dickerson is looking forward to spending more time traveling with his family and friends in his spare time. In the immediate future, Dickerson plans to meet a few army buddies in Reno for a few days before meeting up with his wife in San Francisco for some sightseeing and exploring. Both husband and wife are avid travelers and plan to visit various places on their list of places they've always wanted to see and experience.

Some of Dickerson's most memorable travels while he was on assignment with the State Department were visits to Petra in the country of Jordan, a famous historical archaeological site that was named as one of the Seven Wonders of the World, and Machu Picchu in Peru.

If you see Dickerson out and about in the community, be sure to thank him for all his years of service to the citizens of Montgomery County, as well as to others around the world. The Poolesville community is lucky to have many officers, both retired and active, like Craig Dickerson who call our town home.

Continued from page 5.

**Town Planning Commission Chair Shares Some Thoughts**

of services (maybe a new restaurant?) and when businesses aren't so vulnerable to economic downturns.

The Willard Property proposal has made governing in Poolesville front page news now for about a year. Town residents, and others, have shown support for, and opposition to, the proposal, and town officials have gained meaningful insights along the way. They will continue to do this, so residents should feel free to drop a line or two via email to the town (Townhall@Poolesvillemd.gov) with information, with a question, or to just make your preferences known.

As in all things, view with your own eyes as you gather facts. Keep in mind that advocates for a "yes" or a "no" position often have their own agenda, but the town is interested in hearing from all sides, learning, and acting in good faith—not to advance one's own agenda, but to do what's in the best interest of the town.

Cal Sneed, Chair  
Poolesville Planning Commission



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- Basil Plants
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- Cantaloupes
- New Potatoes
- Green Beans, Italian Flat Beans
- Fresh Garlic
- Zucchini
- Beets
- Tomatillos
- Honey Crisp Apples
- Cucumbers: Slicing & Pickling

Pies



Peaches



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Boar Head Products: Hams (large and small), bacon, hot dogs, sliced salami, prosciutto, and a variety of great cheeses.





## Police Blotter

1915

By Jack Toomey

Montgomery Harris, a clerk at the store of W. W. Welch, was killed instantly after the car in which he was riding ran off of the Rockville Pike and landed in a field. The automobile was operated by Dr. Warfield, a well-known county dentist. He had left Washington at about 8:00 p.m. with Harris as his passenger and, four miles south of Rockville, was involved in the wreck. Several passersby stopped to help. The body of Harris was taken to the Georgetown Hospital by C. Brown who had just used his rented car to take a bridal party to Washington. Dr. Warfield was loaded into a car owned by the Maury Coal Company and also driven to Georgetown Hospital. Just how the accident happened was a mystery as Dr. Warfield was in no condition to talk.

In another fatal wreck, a quartermaster at the Navy Yard was killed when the car that he had been driving overturned on the Rockville-Darnestown Pike about eight miles west of Rockville. John Yoekel was trapped

underneath the auto and, by the time it was lifted off of him, he was dead. Doctor Charles Nourse and Horace Haddox were on the scene within minutes, but it was too late. States Attorney Spates arrived on the scene and made an investigation. He declared that no inquest was necessary and released the body of Yoekel. Witnesses said that the auto was traveling at a high rate of speed and that the driver was having trouble keeping the auto on the road.

Montgomery authorities and people who lived along the Rockville Pike were on the lookout for a heavy automobile truck that had run down and fatally injured R. J. Latimer who was connected to the Boyle-Robertson Construction Company. Latimer had been walking along the pike in the vicinity of Drummond Station when he was struck from behind by the truck. It was reported that residents who lived along the pike had made frequent complaints to Sheriff Whalen about speeding trucks and pleasure automobiles. Whalen said that the D.C. Police were working with his deputies in an effort to find the truck and driver that had killed Latimer.

Passersby and those who had business at the Rockville Courthouse were

stunned when they saw Deputy Gray come out onto the front steps, reach into his pocket, pull out a vial, and then drink the contents. Gray, who lived in Germantown, fell unconscious on the courthouse steps. It was immediately suspected that Gray had taken poison. Doctors Henderson, Manna, and Linthicum hurried to the courthouse and administered an antidote for what they suspected was carbolic acid. Gray had been a deputy sheriff for only six weeks.

The people in Sandy Spring were frightened to hear that two young girls had been attacked at the Friends Meeting House. Twenty-eight girls

from Washington had been guests for several weeks. Lillian Bowen and Amy Clark, ages 15 and 17, were asleep in hammocks on the front porch when one of the girls felt someone touching her. She screamed and ran into the house. A minute later, more screaming was heard, and the second girl told superiors that an unknown man had tried to remove her blouse. All available men were rounded up, but a search for the man turned futile.

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

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Continued from page 4.

#### Do Svidaniya to Summer

proud. My wife made a very elegant eclipse viewer from a cereal box, and both devices worked very well, casting accurate images of the sun's shape on the viewing surface inside the box. Our spaghetti colander also worked very well. We just held it above the ground or over a sheet of paper—and over our cat at one point—and each hole in the colander beamed a perfect image of the eclipse. It was hard to improve on those perfect machine-stamped circular holes. A good time was had by all. I hear it will occur again in 2024 (will that one also be called the Eclipse of the Century?), and I plan to begin procrastinating about buying eclipse glasses even earlier next time. I hope Putin (by that time he'll be prime minister again) approves.

Continued from page 9.

#### Too Hot To TROT?

varied trail rides in conjunction with the Maryland Horse Council. For example, Gale says TROT is working on a trail system in Sykesville in order to preserve trail access to Patapsco State Park. There is also an effort underway to create a trail system using the Potomac Edison Power Company (PEPCO) power lines acreage which would cut across Montgomery County, connecting Prince George's County with Frederick County. This is an ambitious project which will take years to come to fruition, says Monahan; however, in the past, TROT has worked with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) to continue allowing horses to ride along the reservoir property it owns. The trail starts at the boat ramp off Suppley Lane in North Laurel and continues under Route 29. Riders are able to go along without doubling back for many hours. The WSSC named the trail after one of the founding members, Terry Ledley, who maintained the WSSC trails for many years and who, in her nineties, still rides as a member of TROT. Mary Prowell and Pat Oliva, also original members of TROT, are working with Frederick County to establish a trail system in their watershed area. Many Montgomery TROT riders trailer their horses to Frederick County and beyond into the Catoctin Mountains and the Gettysburg area of lower Pennsylvania to take advantage of their even hillier terrain and their Rails-to-Trails conversion of former train tracks to multi-use trails.

TROT welcomes riders of all ages and riding levels. Organized trail rides are led by experienced riders who know the terrain and often split groups into walk, trot, and canter rides to ensure safety and enjoyment. The summer rides continue, and the best season to ride—the fall—is just around the corner, so if you value the trails in our area and want an introduction to the hidden gems in and around the Ag Reserve, consider joining the group. To see a listing of trails and a calendar of upcoming events, visit the TROT website at [trot-md.org](http://trot-md.org).

Continued from page 12.

#### Tidbits of the Past

Licksville, Dickerson, Poolesville, and Rockville. Before the completion of the road, automobiles were limited to speeds of ten miles per hour or less.

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

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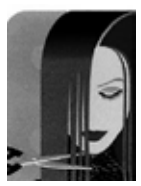
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### Vaccine Myths:

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

Vaccine administration should be considered for each individual patient based on exposure risk, geographic location, and pet lifestyle. Vaccines have been divided into core and noncore groups. A one-size-fits-all vaccine protocol does not exist. Your veterinarian tailors your pets' vaccines to fit their lifestyles and the area in which they live.

- **Core vaccines**, some of which are required by law, protect pets against diseases that have public health significance, are highly infectious, and pose risk for severe disease. Core vaccines are considered high-benefit and low-risk to the general patient population.
- **Noncore vaccines**, which are typically recommended for patients only at risk because of their specific location or population, should be administered based on the risk associated with vaccine administration versus the pet's risk for contracting the disease.

An in-depth conversation with your veterinarian about your pet's environment is an absolute necessity in choosing the appropriate vaccines. That the pet does not often leave the home may be true, but during the day, week, or month, the pet may go to a groomer, visit a local pet store, have a play date, or go to the dog park. Such small facts change a pet's risk factors. Additionally, the vaccination status of other animals the pet encounters outside the home cannot be known.

Your veterinary team is always reviewing current evidence-based guidelines about vaccines. Multiple core vaccinations for dogs and cats have a proven duration of immunity (DOI) of more than one year, and administration is recommended every three years after the initial series; however, noncore vaccines have a shorter DOI and will need to be administered at more frequent intervals. Vaccine administration is based on the individual risk factors for your pet, not financial gain. Therefore, vaccination recommendations may vary between your pet and your neighbor's pet based on individual risk factors.

Vaccination is particularly important in young animals because they are generally more susceptible to infection and tend to develop more significant disease. Maternal antibody interference (antibodies the mom gives the young in her milk) is more likely to be the culprit in this situation and is the reason young pets require a series of vaccinations. The maternal antibodies need to fall below a certain level before vaccination is effective. The level, which is variable, can occur between 8 and 16 weeks, depending on the mother's vaccination history and the successful transfer of maternal antibodies via colostrum.

Unfortunately, the maternal antibodies can be high enough to block the immune response to the vaccine but not to protect the pet from an active infection. This window of susceptibility is a significant reason why an appropriately-vaccinated pet can contract a disease despite being vaccinated, but it is very rare.

Vaccination has been widely used in humans for more than 200 years and in companion animals for more than 50 years and has proven effective in controlling a range of major infectious diseases. The goal of vaccination is to create an adequate level of protective immunity to infectious disease.

An effective vaccine mimics the immune system's natural response. It is not a drug.

Rumors travel quickly when something like a vaccine is perceived as a danger rather than an aid to disease prevention. Your veterinary team should educate you about any questions you may have about vaccines and the goals of vaccinations for pets and explain why vaccinations are an important part of any wellness program.

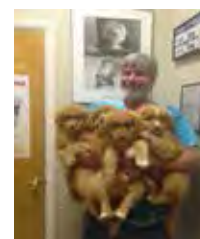


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