



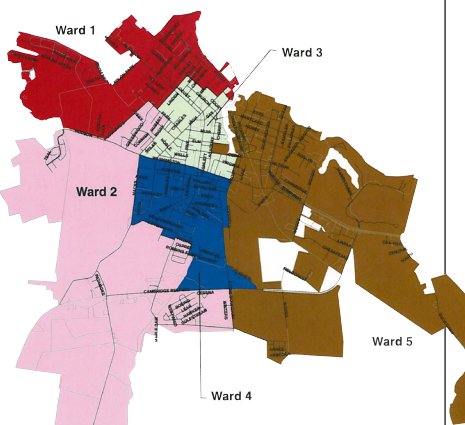
DORCHESTER BANNER

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General Assembly is back to work

CAPITAL CHATTER: Delegate Eckardt and Senator Colburn report from Annapolis.

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Cambridge redistricting work continues

City council will discuss the issue tonight during a special work session. A public hearing will be held Monday. Both meetings will happen at 6 p.m. in city council chambers, 305 Gay Street.

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The Banner/Logan B. Anderson
Gary R. Newcomb, left, and Barbara Blake Collins took over the former Curran-Bromwell Funeral Home, at 308 High Street, last month. The two are standing outside of their new business next to the sign that bears their names.

Cambridge funeral home under new management

Newcomb and Collins Funeral home set to use the World Wide Web to serve its clients

By Logan B. Anderson
The Banner

CAMBRIDGE — The oldest funeral home in Dorchester County has new owners.

After nearly a year of negotiations, Curran-Bromwell Funeral Home is now Newcomb and Collins Funeral Home.

The new owners, Gary R. Newcomb and Barbara Blake Collins took over the funeral home, located on High Street in downtown

Cambridge, at the end of December.

“The funeral home is the oldest funeral service provider in the county that has maintained continuous service to the community at its present and existing location since its inception as a funeral home more than 80 years ago,” said Mr. Newcomb, president, co-owner and supervising mortician.

The duo took over the funeral home officially on Dec. 22. They purchased the business from Colleen Curran-Bromwell, whose family owned it for many years.

Mr. Newcomb has been in the funeral business for three decades, he started his career in the building he and Ms. Collins now own.

“I first thought this is what I wanted to do when I was in the second grade. No one in my family had interest or contacts with a funeral home; this is just what I wanted to do,” he said.

Mr. Newcomb said he was inspired to become a funeral service provider while in elementary school when a very good friend lost a dear loved one. While he watched his friend grieve he saw how the mortician helped his friend’s family and community in their time of need and wanted to do the same for others when he grew up.

Since 1975, when he joined the staff of the Curran Funeral Home, Mr. Newcomb has worked at several area funeral homes

See Funeral home — Page 5

ASK THE VETERINARIAN

Pets can't tell you they're hurting, watch for signs

By Dr. William Spofford

Bayside Animal Hospital

Question: How can I tell if my old dog is suffering? She moves slower than she used to, but she never cries or acts like she is in pain.

Answer: We often hear clients comment that their dog does not seem to be in pain because they aren't vocal, but that is not always the way it works with animals. We tell them to think of times that they themselves may have had a sprain, a sore back, or some other painful injury that hurts. Did they walk around crying "Ouch! Ow! Ow!?"

Probably not, and neither will their dog. In the wild, giving in to pain is a sign of weakness that can turn an animal into prey, thus animals are predisposed to hide pain, making the signs easy for us humans to miss.

The first signs of pain can be subtle changes in activity level. You may notice that your dog wants to fetch the ball fewer times or go on shorter walks than he/she used to.

They may resist jumping in and out of the car. Sometimes there may be changes in their sleep patterns; they may seem more restless because it is hard for them to get comfortable or they may not want to rise because it hurts. They may sleep in a different location as it becomes more painful to go up and down steps or jump on/off the bed. They may prefer to sleep near a warm register if they have arthritis pain. There may be a loss of muscle mass or trembling of a weakened limb.

You may notice changes in their eating habits or appetite. They may eat less. Dogs with joint or spine pain may lie down to eat and drink.

Changes in elimination patterns are sometimes a more frustrating sign of pain. Your dog may no longer squat to urinate, because it hurts. They may avoid posturing to eliminate while outside (because it hurts) but then have accidents in the house.

Sometimes there are behavioral changes like aggression around other dogs. They may withdraw from touching or they may

develop parts that they don't want touched anymore. For example, if a dog that used to like having its back stroked may now twitch with pain and move away when touched there.

Dogs (and cats) with arthritis pain may stop grooming the hard-to-reach spots like their lower back. Also, they may pant more than usual.

There have been great advances in pain control in animals in the past decade. I recommend that you take your pet to your veterinarian for a pain assessment; there is quite likely medication available that can greatly improve your dog's quality of life.

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you have questions for this column please email them to om@baysideanimalhospital.com or mail them to Ask the Veterinarian 2933 Ocean Gateway Cambridge MD 21613. Dr. William Spofford has been practicing veterinary medicine for the last 15 years at Bayside Animal Hospital in Cambridge, MD.

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DORCHESTER
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Founded in 1897

Funeral home

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including the Thomas Funeral Home in Cambridge.

He said in his career he has assisted thousands of families during their time of loss and mourning. When he heard of the possible opportunity to have a funeral home with his name on the sign, he had to jump at the chance.

"We are doing something that we really want to do," Mr. Newcomb said.

Ms. Collins, vice-president and co-owner of Newcomb and Collins Funeral Home, is a relative newcomer to the funeral business.

"I worked in healthcare for years. I was looking for something else to do. Someone came into the doctor's office one day and said, why don't you go into the funeral business. I said you have got to be kidding. Then I thought about it and the more I talked about it, I thought it would be good," said Ms. Collins.

Ms. Collins served her apprenticeship to become an embalmer under Mr. Newcomb's direction. She has been a professionally licensed funeral director and mortician with the state of Maryland since 2007.

"I've always been involved with people. I've always liked helping people and that carries on into this," Ms. Collins said.

The new funeral home directors are both life-long residents of Dorchester County — Mr. Newcomb from the county's southern

region and Ms. Collins from the north.

Mr. Newcomb announced last week that his new funeral home will avail itself of the ever-growing access to the internet to serve its customers in the future.

Beginning soon and only at a family's request, the Newcomb and Collins Funeral Home will have the ability to broadcast funeral services conducted at the funeral home online on its website.

The funeral home at 308 High Street has been the home to now four funeral businesses. It began has the LeCompte Funeral home in the early part of the last century. It was sold to Raymond Curran and his wife, Virginia, in 1974. The building was operated as the Curran Funeral home until ownership of the business was transferred to Ms. Curren-Bromwell. She gave Mr. Newcomb and Ms. Collins the chance to operate their own funeral home beginning in late December.

The funeral home is open each week from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays, but Mr. Newcomb said their funeral home is available to help grieving families 24 hours a day. To learn more about the new funeral home or to reach Ms. Collins or Mr. Newcomb, call 410-228-2616 or visit, www.newcombcollins.com.

News Editor Logan B. Anderson can be reached at 410-228-3131 or landerson@newszap.com.

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