

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

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Ashley Kelch's Secret Garden is dedicated to her sister. Where can it be? Find out in Family Album on page 2.



David Therriault of Alden Farms has a new endeavor in an old building. Find out more in Tidbits on page 5.



Can you find the mystery lockkeeper in this picture? More on page 6.



PHS graduate Sam Allgood has reason to celebrate. Check out his accomplishments in Youth Sports on page 14.

New Flashing Crosswalk Signal Installed to Improve Safety

By Rande Davis

Poolesville recently installed two new flashing-light crosswalks at both ends of Whalen Commons. Now, as pedestrians approach the marked crosswalk at Fyfe Road and Milford Mill Road along Fisher Avenue, they can push a button that will start a rapidly-flashing bright light, alerting drivers that a pedestrian is traversing the road.

This simple device, which significantly improves the safety for pedestrians and drivers, is a direct result of the Town of Poolesville gaining possession of Fisher Avenue from the state, a process that began nearly fifteen years ago.

An improved and safer main street in Poolesville was a central objective of the Streetscape Master Plan of 2004, a plan that required full ownership of Fisher Avenue from the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT).

The Streetscape Plan was designed both to enhance the way Poolesville looks and to incorporate needed improvements to increase safety and to reduce speeds on Fisher Avenue. Over the many years, each and every notion of roadway improvement required full state approval, a process that was not only arduous but often turned down by the state. Even the traditional placement of the Poolesville Day banner spanning Fisher Avenue required permits from the state.

Town manager Seth Rivard observed that the new lights are part of "an ongoing effort to improve pedestrian safety. By installing pedestrian crosswalk lights at two locations on Fisher Avenue, residents will have to push the button located on the poles to activate the lights. The town commission

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Commissioners Jerry Klobukowski and Martin Radigan, with town manager Seth Rivard and Kerri Cook, commission president. (Missing: Commissioners Jim Brown and Val Dickerson)

Poolesville High School Student Wins Prestigious National Award

By Andrew Sojka

On May 21, Poolesville High School Senior Maria Hancu was awarded the United States Presidential Scholarship. The award recognizes 161 students from across the country for their academic and extracurricular achievements.

To be eligible for the award, students must score exceptionally well on either the SAT or the ACT college entrance exams. Afterward, they must write a series of essays about themselves and one random topic. Five hundred semifinalists are selected in the spring, with winning students demonstrating academic excellence, strong personal ideals, leadership characteristics, and a dedication to service activities. The winners are one female and one male high school senior from each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and U.S. families living abroad, as well as

fifteen at-large winners, twenty scholars in the arts, and twenty scholars in career and technical education.

For Hancu, who moved from Albany, New York to Poolesville the summer before her junior year, moving wasn't so easy. "I'm kind of averse to change," said Hancu. "I'd never moved before in my life, and I spent the months before the move catastrophizing and crying and making me and my parents' lives completely miserable. I got to Poolesville, and it was difficult, especially because of the magnet programs, where kids had been in the same classes for a few hours every day, and everyone seemed to know each other, and I didn't. I kind of just buried my feelings in classes and clubs."

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Poolesville High School senior Maria Hancu.

Family Album



Preston King and Matt Warfield installed the new flashing crosswalk sign at Whalen Commons.



Poolesville Sunday morning Bikers' Club was double its usual size for the Labor Day weekend.



Two members of the Poolesville Bikers' Club caught up before the Labor Day ride.



Weekend shoppers at Kingsbury's Orchard.



Friends celebrated the end of summer at the not-so-Secret Presbyterian Community Garden: Jon Wolz, Jane and Steve Horvath, and Willis and Carter Van deVanter.



Social distancing in the checkout lane at Lewis Orchards.

Town Government

Commissioners Cancel Standard Fall and Holiday Festivals

By Link Hoewing

The Town of Poolesville continues to monitor and adapt to any changes in policies regarding COVID-19. Town manager Seth Rivard noted that the state has moved officially to Phase 3 with lowered restrictions on activity, but Montgomery County has not. The town will hold a modified “Big Flea” event on October 3 with no booths for selling used items, but there will be a paper shredding truck at the Commons and paint recycling. The annual Scarecrow Contest held by WUMCO will go on because that does not involve large gatherings. The Holiday Lighting Ceremony will not involve any events on the Commons that include large public gatherings, but the traditional holiday lights will be displayed on the Commons and on Poolesville Town Hall.

After months of discussion and negotiation often fraught with tension, the commissioners approved a compromise agreement that would allow local landowner Jennifer Beaulieu to increase the number of homes she can construct on her fifteen-acre property. In exchange, Beaulieu will be allowed to reduce the amount of land placed in Forest Conservation status by just under an acre and a half while contributing some \$20,000 to start a Forest Conservation Bank (FCB). The FCB would be used by the town to help procure more land for conservation and to preserve acres of additional forest lands in other parts of town.

In discussing the compromise, Rivard pointed out that under current Forest Conservation rules, any land or “in lieu” payments are under state control, but the compromise allows the town to access funds put into the bank and use them to procure land it would own. He added that Beaulieu had also agreed to increase the buffer of undeveloped land between her property and nearby landowners to help ameliorate any concerns about the construction of more houses on her property.

In public comments, Brad Bernstein, a lawyer representing Beaulieu, explained that his client was “upset at what happened at the last meeting” when the commissioners voted 2-2 (with Commissioner Martin Radigan not present and on vacation) not to approve her compromise proposal. He said his client had been a good citizen and had worked with the town in a number of ways to help clear up problems on land for a well site and to create an agreement that “creates significant benefits for the town.” His client had signed a Forest Conservation easement within a few weeks of rules changes adopted by the town that would have allowed her to construct more houses on her property. She thought she would be able to take advantage of the new rules just as other landowners could. He said that, while the agreement reduces the amount of land put into Forest Conservation status, the proposal only backs the amount down to a level equal to what the new rules allow for all landowners.

In discussion, Commission President Kerri Cook said that the town already took a vote in July that effectively killed the proposal. She said, “We are talking about a piece of property granted to Poolesville and it was a perpetual agreement.” She has not found “much precedent for doing” what was being proposed in the agreement. She still does not believe there is any “real benefit to the town” and feels that the “answer should have been ‘No.’” She also was clearly not in agreement with the Planning Commission being allowed to lead an effort to develop a compromise on a matter that is within the legislative purview of the commissioners themselves, in her view.

Commissioner Martin Radigan stated that the applicant had worked to develop an enhanced buffer and that the proposal creates a mechanism where the town gets the benefits of in lieu payments into the new Forest Conservation Bank that can be used to preserve far more land all over town than the town is ceding in the agreement to the applicant. In the final vote to accept the proposed agreement, Commissioners Klobukowski and Cook voted against approval while Commissioners Brown, Dickerson, and Radigan voted for the agreement.

In other business, the commissioners considered a compromise cost-sharing agreement with Bates Trucking concerning the pickup of recycling materials. Bates has the trash hauling contract with the town and, as has been reported earlier, the market for recycled materials has virtually dried up as major countries like China refuse to take recycling from the U. S. and other countries. As a result, Bates, which used to get a rebate from the county for the recycling it

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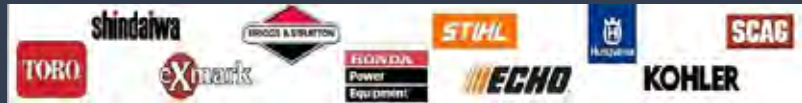
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Rande(m) Thoughts Unnoticed Change

By Rande Davis

It's amazing sometimes how much change, when made slowly, can go unnoticed.

How many of us did not see our Covid bellies expanding every day over the last four or five months until—all of a sudden!—there it was? Where'd that come from? So gradual, we didn't see it coming.

It can happen with townships, too. It really wasn't that long ago that the center of town was actually at Elgin and Fisher Roads, when the John Poole House and the Old Town Hall Bank Museum were the center of town. There were no commons, bandstand, or sidewalks. Heck, we didn't even have the new town hall not that long ago. The town commission meetings were nomadic, bouncing around first at the bank building, then setting up at St. Peter's, followed by roosting in the space next to Subway before the current town hall was built. Help me out here, can someone recall where town meetings were held before the bank closed? If we go back a

little further: The Thrift Shop on West Willard Road was a nineteenth-century-era town hall.

All these thoughts came into mind as I took a picture of Preston King and Matt Warfield installing the new crosswalk flashing signal. So much has changed in town bit by bit. The change not really meaning much as each came about but quite a bit when taken as a whole. Most of us think of Poolesville as not changing, but for anyone returning to Poolesville for the first time in, say, thirty, forty years, I guess they would have two impressions: first, that the old town is much like when they left it; secondly, noticing how much change has actually occurred. The most important part? Most of our change has been good—good for business, the community, for all of us. No surprise that the most disappointing change was the loss of Selby's, but I think I can finally say it, though: Thank goodness we, at least, have Dollar General.

The key is not simply change but real improvements. Sometimes things sold as representing progress are void of real improvement. Good planning, good master plans, and a commitment to long-term thinking are all critical keys to achieving progress, and this recent item, the flashing crosswalk lights, demonstrates that.

Letter to the Editor

Poolesville: The Sunflower Capital Of Maryland?

It has occurred to me that, inadvertently, Poolesville has become indirectly associated with the beauty of sunflowers. Thousands of visitors head our way every spring to visit the McKee-Beshers sunflower fields, and I believe that we, in Poolesville, should take advantage of those many tourists visiting during the sunflower growing season.

Let's make greater Poolesville the "Sunflower Capital" of Maryland.

Yes, there are other sunflower festivals in the state, but all are held for profit at commercial farms. Two such farms include Valley View Acres in Frederick and Clarksville Sunflower Festival in Ellicott City,

I envision a stand-alone festival in Whalen Commons, similar to many other events that the town has successfully sponsored. The notion might even expand on our annual Spring Fest concept.

Some ideas included in this vision to make the Poolesville Festival successful include:

1. Plant sunflowers around the dedication rock at the Commons
2. Offer Bluegrass/country music
3. Train ride around the Commons decorated in a sunflower theme
4. Sunflower face painting
5. Round, concert slab (where old gazebo was) painted with sunflowers by high school art students or let young visitors use washable paint to do the same
6. Connect with small farmers' market, some selling sunflowers and sunflower seeds
7. Coordinate with all local restaurants in a special sunflower weekend theme
8. Arts and crafts vendors
9. Photo op booth with sunflower screen in background
10. Amusement activities for children

Would it be possible to have the two-acre lot next to the Commons planted with sunflowers? What a terrific backdrop to the festival it would be, and this could generate other possibilities.

As mentioned, this is a vision. To develop such plan, we would need to set up a Poolesville Sunflower Festival Task Force. I volunteer to help

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Tidbits

Gone but Not Forgotten

The vendors at the Blue Hearth have relocated. Here is a list of where they can now be reached.

Artemisia Designs (Kathy Kurkjian and Nettie Koepenick) and Second Stories (Kathleen Jensen) will be located at On A Whim, 14920 James Monroe Highway, Leesburg, Virginia. Open Wed through Sunday every week.

R&N is continuing at Repurposed and Refined, 13018 Pennsylvania Avenue in Hagerstown.

Harmonia (Judy Hartman and Megan Moncore), WillowTree Vintiques (Lisa Garrett), and the Linen Tiger (Liz Revel) are opening new shops in Downtown Frederick at 134 N. East Street, Frederick. The former by October 1, the others later in the month. They will also be at 19487 James Monroe Highway in Leesburg.

Upcycle Vintage Home Decor Ellen Baker and Kim Brenegen, retailers for Fusion Mineral Paint, home décor, are moving to Jess's House of Goods, 37 W. Main Street in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania. Fusion paint will also be at ArtistAngle Gallery, 124 S. Carroll Street, Frederick.

Painted Skye Designs, Wendy Pridgen and Karen Falcoln, will be taking a little time off for now. We hope they will soon be back selling their fabulous creations.

Poolesville Seniors Host Virtual Programs

Each Wednesday at 1:00 p.m., Karen McPhatter teaches Zumba Gold. Follow along with Karen's well-choreographed paces, designed to get you moving.

Wednesday, September 16 at 1:30 p.m. marks the return of our Quarterly Socials. Mary Ann Jung, from History Alive, will portray Elizabeth Cady Stanton, a Women's Suffrage, Women's Rights, and Equal Rights Advocate. There will be a short question and answer session at the end.

In July, over fifty participants viewed Kenny Sholes's presentation on historical properties in the Agricultural Reserve. Kenny returns on Thursday, September 17 at 7:00 p.m. to tell us about more Ag Reserve properties.

Poolesville Black History is the topic for Tuesday, September 22 at 7:00 p.m. Skip Etheridge will tell how the tiny settlements of freed slaves that surround Poolesville have impacted our town, our state, and our nation.

Stephanie Katz will discuss Medicare and its options on Tuesday, September 29 at 7:00 p.m.

All of the programs hosted by Poolesville Seniors are open to the entire community and are presented on Zoom. To register for any of the programs listed here, and to receive the Zoom link for each, visit the Poolesville Seniors website at: poolesvilleseniors.org. Email questions to: info@poolesvilleseniors.org. Keep checking their website for additional information and an updated listing of programs.

New Bakery and Produce

Alden Farms has opened LOCALS—a place to savor the culture of western Montgomery County and the Ag Reserve. Their mission is to eventually host a cafe and restaurant celebrating community and good food in the Stevens House, an 1840s home sandwiched between the John Poole House and the Old Town Hall, in the heart of Poolesville (19929 Fisher Avenue).

They are currently taking online orders, selling fresh produce and homemade breads and treats. Orders are ready for pickup on Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to noon.

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Poolesville: The Sunflower Capital of Marland?

organize such a group. Before that happens, though, the Parks Board and commissioners would have to commit to this as a worthy project. What say you, commissioners?

— Ross Kooser

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In Your Own Backyard

Along the C&O Canal: The Varied and Crowded History of Lockhouse 27

By Jon Wolz

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal section in our area was built circa 1830, part of what would be sixty-four lockhouses constructed along the entire canal that were occupied and visited by many people during its operating period. Today, seven of the lockhouses have been restored and may be rented through the C&O Canal Trust for overnight stays. In our area, lockhouses available for stays include Lockhouse 25 at Edwards Ferry and Lockhouse 22, Swain's Lock.

This is the varied story of one of them: Lock 27.

One of the very first lockkeepers at Lock 27 was Thomas Walter who, in 1839, made \$150 a year and did so until at least 1860. Beyond pay, other compensation included living rent free in the lockhouse with his wife and five children and having an acre of land for a garden and livestock. There was no indoor plumbing, only an outhouse. Although forested today, the land behind the lockhouse was once clear of trees. By 1850, his family had grown to nine children, but by 1860, there were only five children still remaining in the household.

Prior to 1850, canal boats transported mainly agricultural products. Beginning in 1850, the lockkeeper's job became much busier when the Paw Paw Tunnel was completed, and boat traffic increased because coal began to be transported down the canal from Cumberland.

In September 1862, unbeknownst to Thomas Walter, the Confederate Army was about to begin its Maryland Campaign. The first objective of the campaign was to damage the Canal so the supply line for Union troops would be disrupted.

It was on the fourth of September, that Confederate Gen. D. H. Hill's division crossed the Potomac into Maryland at Point of Rocks, marching south down the towpath. During the march, his men breached and drained the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal at several places, burned canal boats, including damaging Lock 27. While they were able to breach the Little Monocacy River culvert, they did not have enough tools or spare gunpowder to damage the vital Monocacy Aqueduct.

When Hill's division reached Lock 27, Lockkeeper Walter pleaded with General Hill not to destroy the aqueduct or lock, arguing that the Confederates could more effectively disable the canal by breaching earthen banks rather than masonry structures. Witnesses reported Walter became so heated that they feared his arrest. Amazingly, Walter's actions were successful, likely saving the canal company thousands of dollars, diverting Confederate destruction to more readily repairable areas.

On his arrival into Maryland, Gen. Robert E. Lee, upon learning the aqueduct had still not been destroyed, ordered Confederate Gen. John G. Walker's division to destroy the aqueduct. Walker's men arrived on September 9 and spent several hours attempting to destroy the aqueduct but were stymied by its "extreme solidity and massiveness."

Although responsible for actually saving the Monocacy aqueduct, Walter was nevertheless removed from his job for "collaborating with the enemy," by the Canal Company, but a petition from Walter's neighbors led to his reinstatement and recognition for protecting key canal structures. By the end of October 1862, repairs had been made to the canal and water was flowing.

In 1863, William T. Walter, a son of lockkeeper Thomas Walter, owned a store in Poolesville that was one of four stores plundered by Confederate raiders even though he was a Southern sympathizer. Prior to becoming a storeowner, William Walter had been a carpenter living in the home of Franklin and Ann Veirs. Today, that home is known as the Handmaiden's house, across from the Old Town Hall and Bank Museum and next to the John Poole House. It is also the site of a reportedly new restaurant coming soon to the area. When Franklin died in 1857, William married his widow Ann Veirs. William is mentioned several times in the "The History of Poolesville" and online with the Montgomery County Historical Society under "Biographies of Named Individuals: George Peck case 1880."

In 1870, the lockkeeper's salary was raised from \$150 to \$600 annually. The Lock 27 lockkeeper at that time was Robert Newton. He not only lived there with his wife and five young children, but also residing with them was Dennis Nelson and his wife and their three young children. Interestingly, the Newtons were white, and the Nelsons were black, bringing to a total of twelve people living in Lockhouse 27.

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Along the C&O Canal: The Varied and Crowded History of Lockhouse 27

In 1873, James K. Walter was listed on canal payroll records as being the lockkeeper at Lock 27 living with his wife and six children and remained there until 1880. By 1900, James had become a boatman on the canal. He eventually died in 1900 of consumption (tuberculosis).

A building labeled as the Campbell Store is noted on an 1879 map of Montgomery County, and is almost directly across from the lockhouse at Lock 27. In the 1880 census, James Campbell was listed as living there with his wife Margaret and identified as "selling groceries." The stone foundation of the store can still be seen from the towpath across from the waste weir. I did not find where there was a "Campbell" as a lockkeeper at Lock 27 so the lock possibly got one of its names from the store owner who once operated nearby.

In 1900, John Whalen was the lockkeeper at Lock 27 and was married with two children. He had been working on the canal since at least 1870 (at Lock 25) and lived with the Woods family at that lockhouse. By 1880, he was still working on the canal and was married then to Frances "Fannie" Collier Whalen and living with two children (no apparent relation to Dr. Whalen, the original owner of the town park property).

On October 31, 1911, Mr. Whalen woke up and noticed his wife was missing. He searched the house and went outside to look for her. A friend helped him search for his wife, Fannie, and she was found dead in the water below the lock about 4:00 a.m. It was reported that she had been "delirious" over the health of one of her children. By 1920, John Whalen was called the "lock tender" but was living at 2 Cobb Avenue in Poolesville. Henry Collier (Fannie's brother) was living with him, and he was identified as a "level walker—C&O Canal."

In 1924, there was a great Potomac River flood that severely damaged the canal, and the canal went out of business permanently. In 1961, the front wall of the lockhouse collapsed, and the National Park Service rebuilt the front stone wall.

It was in 1972 that Hurricane Agnes did what the Confederates could not do in 1862; the raging waters of the Monocacy River severely damaged the Monocacy Aqueduct. It was not repaired and stabilized until 2005.

In 2017, an exceptionally large tree fell on the roof of the lockhouse, and in 2018, the tree was removed, a new roof was put on the house as well as new gutters and downspouts.

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Foundations

Chiswell's Lodge: The Home of Stephen Newton Chiswell and Sarah O'Dell Chiswell?

By Kenny Sholes

This land holds many secrets. I'm always amazed, when looking at overhead imagery from just a few decades ago, at how fast the landscape changes. Old structures that we know once existed are washed off the map in a short manner of years without leaving a trace. Sadly, most of the stories of the people who called these structures home also vanish.

Since I began digging into old homes here in the Ag Reserve, I've been fascinated by the Chiswell Family, and in particular, the first Chiswells to arrive in the Medley District—Stephen Newton Chiswell and his wife, Sarah. In every talk I've given on the history of the Ag Reserve, I talk about the incredible home Stephen built with his son, Joseph. The property, first recorded as "Joseph's Choice" by Stephen in 1747 and in later deeds as Chiswell's Inheritance by a devoted son, was constructed over many years and completed in the 1790s.

From records, we know that Stephen arrived in Maryland (after surviving a shipwreck off the coast of Rhode Island) from England in 1735 in indenture to his uncle, Joseph Chiswell, and eloped to this area from Piscataway with his cousin Sarah sometime around 1738—so where exactly were they living with their nine daughters and one son while Joseph was building his own estate? A while back, a Joseph Chiswell descendant, the current owner of Chiswell's Inheritance, mentioned to me that Stephen and Sarah had initially lived in an eight-room log home on a land grant known as Chiswell's Lodge where Kingsbury's Orchard and Lewis Orchards are now located. It was an interesting tidbit but one I didn't spend much time investigating.

Then, just last week, I received the interview write-up for Gene Kingsbury as part of our ongoing "Present at the Creation" project. In the interview, Gene mentioned a very old log home that was on his property until being torn down in the 1970s. In further discussions with Gene and access to records of the log



Chiswell's Lodge in the 1970s.

home, I think it's a very strong possibility that this is in fact the place that Stephen and Sarah built upon arrival to land we today call the Ag Reserve.

Gene mentioned that his great-grandfather, Phillip Horine, lived in the home for most of his life. While the home eventually had running water, it never had an indoor bathroom. Additionally, the basement floor was dirt and the old logs supporting the structure were very visible from the interior. Unfortunately, when the Horines attempted to place the home on the historic register, the county required a number of extremely costly repairs. As a result, the difficult decision to tear down the structure for safety purposes was made. It was heartening to learn that many of the logs from the home have been recycled in the building

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Continued from page 8.

Chiswell's Lodge: The Home of Stephen Newton Chiswell and Sarah O'Dell Chiswell?

of other structures in the area (cool to think that logs chopped down by Stephen in the 1740s might still be in use!).

One significant mystery related to the records remains. Built in 1851 for area Baptists, to include the Chiswells, the Bethel Baptist Church (no longer standing) was on Stephen's property, and records indicate that the Chiswell Family burial ground may have been with it. This is of significant interest, as it's long been thought that the Chiswells are buried at Chiswell's Inheritance (which is also a possibility, as Stephen died in 1804, long before the church was constructed). The records of the log home include an interview transcript of Mrs. Lottie Mainhart Lewis (of Lewis Orchards) from the 1970s. In the interview, Mrs. Lewis stated that she remembered playing in the church as a young child and that she remembered men removing bones from the burial ground at some point (likely for interment at another site). As she stated, "The men did not sleep well that night." Unfortunately, there is literally no trace of the church or graves; however, Gene noted that a triangular section of land near his orchard is still referred to as the Bethel lot. Perhaps this is one of the secrets yet to be revealed.

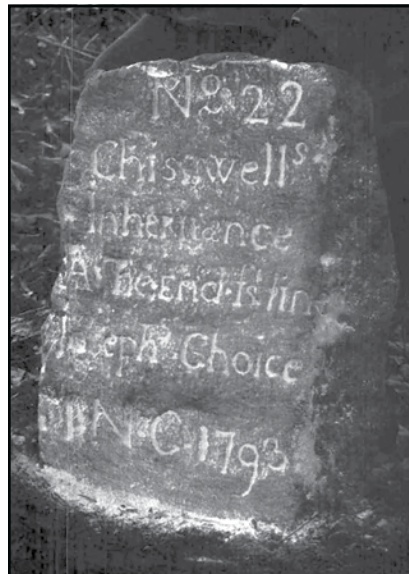


Photo by the Historic Medley District, Inc.

Inscribed stone boundary markers define the perimeter of the other Chiswell property, Chiswell's Inheritance.



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Youth Sports

Meet the New PHS Boys' Basketball Coach: BJ Debuchananne

By Jeff Stuart

On May 14, Poolesville High School Principal Mark Carothers and Athletic Director Regina Grubb announced the selection of BJ Debuchananne as the new Poolesville boys' basketball coach. As a basketball coach in Montgomery County for many years, he will bring experience and knowledge to help PHS student-athletes continue to grow and improve on and off the court. He is currently a TV Production and PE Teacher at Pyle Middle School.

Here are his responses to some interview questions.

Prior to becoming coach at Poolesville, what was your coaching experience?

I was the varsity head coach at Northwest the last two years. Before that, I was the JV coach at Whitman for five years and Wootton high school for two years. While in college at East Carolina, I worked with

the team as head manager and a graduate assistant.

Where did you play basketball?

I played high school basketball at Poolesville from 1996 to 2000. I had Fred Swick as a coach my freshman year, Damon Pigrom for two years, and Larry Hurd for one. I remember our games with Damascus and Brunswick as being tough and hard fought.

What do or did you try to teach your players besides basketball?

Leadership, teamwork, responsibility, sacrifice, hard work are all things that I try to instill in my teams.

What strengths do you think you bring to the program?

I love to be in the gym, and I want my players to have that energy and enthusiasm as well. I have been a part of successful high school and college teams, and I try to bring a little bit of what I learned from all of those experiences to create the best program possible.

Have you been in touch with your returning players?

Under normal circumstances, we would have gotten started right away with summer league which would have given me the opportunity to meet

the returning players. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has not allowed us to do anything like normal. I am hoping that we can get into the weight room and have small group workouts this fall.

What are your expectations for this season and beyond?

This season I want to build a culture that the players, parents, and community want to be a part of. I want everyone involved in the program to be fully invested in being the best we can be individually and collectively. Year in and year out, I want our teams to be tough to play against and fun to play for. If we have everyone doing their part to be the best they can be, the wins will follow.

What has your previous experience in coaching taught you?

Every situation is different, and you have to adapt to the job without giving up your core beliefs.

What is your connection to Poolesville?

I grew up in Poolesville and played here for four years in high school. Returning to Poolesville where I played is an opportunity I couldn't pass up. My staff and I can't wait to get started building the foundation to a strong program. The Poolesville community is a special place, and we



Coach BJ Debuchananne

look forward to leading the basketball program into the future.

How do you motivate players?

I think players need a certain amount of self-motivation if they want to be successful, but I think that my energy and passion for the game set the tone for what is expected. Guys want to be in the gym with someone that understands what they are going through and can put them in a position

Continued on page 16.



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Continued from page 1.

Poolesville High School Student Wins Prestigious National Award

Compared to Shenendehowa High School, with a student population almost three times the size of PHS, Poolesville is much smaller and more competitive. Shenendehowa, which Maria attended from her freshman year through sophomore year, fed from the local middle school, the population of which Maria had grown up around her whole life.

"When Maria moved to Maryland, she had a very difficult time," said Stefana ("Stefi") Stan, Hancu's best friend from childhood. "She had spent her whole life in the same town with the same people which she grew up with. She became so comfortable that change was difficult for her.

"It was especially difficult moving in high school," continued Stan. "She was on track to be valedictorian at Shen, and the move took that away from her. Although it was hard, Maria started to bake and find/try new things to help her cope."

While the move was difficult, Hancu credits the people of Poolesville for making it easier for her to adjust.

"It slowly got better as I met more people through the activities I was doing," said Hancu. "The four months leading up to the move and the three or four months afterward were probably some of the most difficult and emotionally consuming months of my life. Poolesville is a really great town, everyone was welcoming, and I'm glad I moved here out of all places in Maryland. I think the people here made moving less difficult than it probably is for a lot of people."

Faculty, friends, and family all agree that Maria is more than deserving of the award, citing her intelligence, character, and work ethic as qualities that set her apart from her peers.

"Maria Hancu is determined, caring, and talented," said Melissa Nagy, Hancu's high school counselor. "I only met Maria during the fall of her junior year when her family relocated from New York to Maryland. Moving during the middle of high school is a challenge for anyone. Maria embraced her new situation like a pro and immersed herself in opportunities in Poolesville both academically and personally. She excelled in the classroom in every subject area."

"What we believe sets her apart are her smarts, and more importantly, her focus and her work ethic," said Ileana Hancu, Maria's mother. "She is sometimes reluctant to take on new projects, but when she does, she gives them two hundred percent. There is no 'good enough' for her, everything is either done to the very best of her abilities or not done at all. We are very happy she won the Presidential Scholarship Award because it strongly reinforces the idea that hard work pays off."

"Maria is one of the most hardworking people I've ever met," said Stan. "When she has goals in life, she does whatever she can to achieve them. She is so well rounded in every aspect of life. She's very adventurous (hiking, skiing, fishing, etc.) and always is up to try new things, whether it be in school, the community, or just in life."

In addition to having a 4.70 weighted grade point average and a near-perfect SAT score, Hancu led three clubs, was a member of the varsity tennis team, and received the PHS Math Department Award for student excellence. Hancu also volunteered as a nationally-certified Emergency Medical Technician at UM-CVFD, co-authored numerous research papers as an intern in a neurosurgery lab, and won various awards at the local, state, and national levels in the areas of biology, chemistry, and neuroscience. When not working, Hancu enjoys playing the guitar, hiking, and her favorite hobby, baking.

"I got into baking in January of last year. It's very precise and methodical, and you know that if you follow the instructions, it will turn out good—which is cathartic."

Hancu will be attending Rice University in the fall, majoring in biochemistry on a pre-med track. In addition to receiving a two-year research scholarship, Hancu was accepted into the prestigious Rice/Baylor Medical Scholars Program which guarantees six students from the incoming class acceptance into Baylor College of Medicine. She hopes to earn an MD-PhD and pursue medical research in the future.

Nagy believes that Maria will succeed at whatever she pursues in the future.

"Maria has a take-charge and compassionate personality which is why I find her wise and mature beyond her years. Maria is deserving of the Presidential Scholarship because she understands the importance of sharing her talents with others. I am confident that Maria will become a successful medical professional and will achieve every goal she sets for herself. In only two short years, Maria has left a lasting impression on the staff and students at PHS. We wish her continued success at Rice University."

In past years, winning students have received all-expense-paid trips to Washington D.C., where they meet with White House officials to receive their Presidential Scholars Medallion. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Department of Education has announced that the scholars will be recognized this summer as public health circumstances permit.

Maria thanks her parents, teachers, friends, counselor Ms. Nagy, mentor Dr. Pilitsis, and everyone else who has given her guidance or support along the way.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine this would happen. It's an incredible honor to be among one of the 161 Presidential Scholars. I know it's something I'll carry with me for the rest of my life. I just hope I can live up to it and give it a good name."

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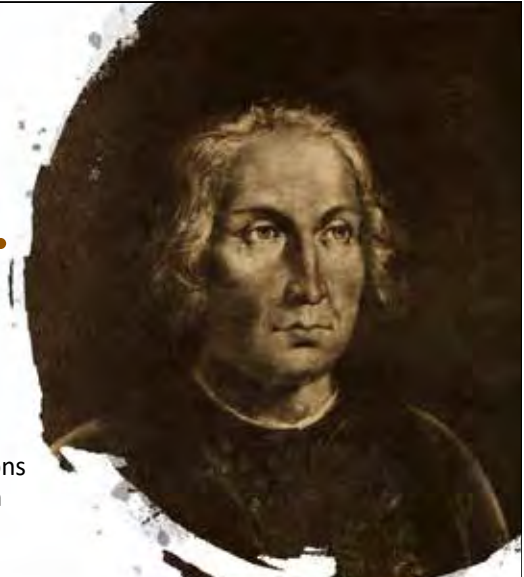

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In this one-hour talk with renowned author Dr. Carol Delaney, we’ll tackle this oft-asked, sometimes-complicated question. Together, we will re-explore Christopher Columbus – from his motivations to his actions – during his four voyages to the Americas. Guided by Delaney’s knowledge and research, we’ll separate man from myth, giving you a more complete picture of the person we are all being asked to judge.





About Dr. Delaney

A renowned author and speaker, Dr. Carol Delaney is a Professor Emeritus of Stanford University, where she taught many of our nation’s brightest students. Her unique research approach culminated in “Columbus and the Quest for Jerusalem”, declared one of the best books of the year by *The London Times*.

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Mystery History

The Day a Parachutist Landed On Peach Tree Road

By Rande Davis

At ninety years old, Charlie Knill could still remember the tragic event in 1955 as if it was just yesterday. If it had happened to you, you would have found it hard to forget, too.

It started unexpectedly when Mr. Knill, who passed away in 2006, a life-long dairy farmer in Sellman, was talking to a friend in Boyds. It was late in the morning of February 8, and his desire for a good lunch was the topic at hand. That's when it happened.

A disturbing and extremely loud BOOM! BOOM! abruptly interrupted the congenial conversation. Overhead, an airplane had exploded, and in clear sight, Mr. Knill saw a parachute open and begin its descent to the ground. He immediately jumped into his paneled truck and headed out Barnesville Road trying to stay within view of the parachute. As he approached Peach Tree Road, a large piece of metal was drifting, swinging side to side in the air, seemingly floating to the ground. Heading down Peach Tree, the road made a turn to the left just before what is now the Bruce Wooden property. There, in the tall tree grove just to the left of the house, Charlie came upon the horrendous sight: a parachute with a pilot dangling twelve to fifteen feet above the ground, the pilot was bleeding from severe wounds on one leg, and the other leg was completely severed.

Being one of the very first on the scene, Charlie drove his truck off the road to the tree grove, so that he could climb on the roof to cut the pilot down. With the help of others, they brought the moaning pilot to the ground where local rescue paramedics came onto the scene to assist. Dr. Gordon Smith, a Barnesville physician, alerted about the crash, arrived in time to administer first aid and to provide some morphine to the crash victim.

The injured man turned out to be the co-pilot, Lt. Masaru Uyehara. He was from the Philippines and was in training to fly the B-57 jet bomber. The pilot, Capt. William S. Todd of White Plains, New York, was not as fortunate. Still strapped in the ejection seat, he had been decapitated and thrust into the earth about fifteen hundred feet from the crash scene.

Lieutenant Uyehara drifted down about three miles from the actual crash site. Another witness to the event, Guy V. Lewis, an off-duty county policeman, confirmed to the Frederick Post Mr. Knill's recollection. Mr. Lewis also reported that the plane backfired twice as it flew over his home. "I looked up just in time to see two trails of black smoke. Then it jettisoned two streams of white smoke and started to twist and turn crazily, and a parachute suddenly opened near it," reported Mr. Lewis.

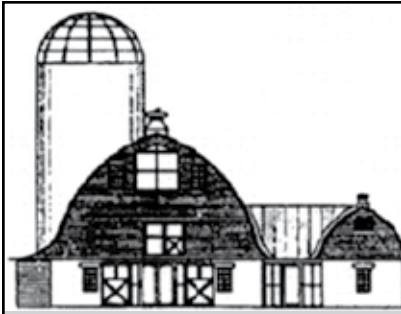
A few weeks later in an article in the Washington Post, more information came out about the survivor and the incident. Mr. Uyehara stated, "About five minutes after takeoff, we got our first indication of trouble. The plane pitched over on its left side, and the nose dropped down. When we couldn't get the nose of the plane up, I asked Captain Todd if we should leave. He nodded and gave me thumbs up to go."

"We were at about 7,000 feet [when I] jettisoned the canopy and ejected my seat. I thought I saw Captain Todd follow me. Then, I hit the tail of the plane, and that's when I lost my leg. They tell me I'm the only person ever to survive a B-57 crash." Mr. Uyehara had started his air force career in 1951. He told the Post, "They told me I could stay in the air force when I get my artificial limb, but I think I'll try to get into the dental school at the University of Southern California."

Today, a small housing development has risen up just beyond the tall trees on Peach Tree Road. The tranquil setting defies the thought of such a tragic occurrence almost exactly fifty years ago. Driving by today, no one would ever guess what had happened there, but Charlie Knill could never forget.

Fun Facts...

Louis-Sébastien Lenormand was a French chemist, physicist, inventor, and a pioneer in parachuting. He is considered as the first man to make a witnessed descent with a parachute. On December 26, 1783, Lenormand jumped from the tower of the Montpellier observatory in France using a fourteen-foot parachute with a rigid wooden frame. His intended use for the parachute was to help entrapped occupants of burning buildings escape unharmed. He landed successfully.



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The Beginning of the End? – Upcoming Vote to Begin Dismantling the Ag Reserve

On September 29 the County Council will vote on legislation that runs the risk of breaking the Master Plan that has protected the Ag Reserve for 40 years.

The bill (Zoning Text Amendment 20-01), sponsored by Councilmember Hans Riemer, will allow up to 180 two-megawatt commercial solar installations to be built throughout the Ag Reserve, each on 10-15-acre plots. Additional land may also be needed for transmission and storage facilities. Farmers who own their land may resist, but landowners and speculators looking to make more money could break leases with farmers and rent their land to commercial developers offering the highest bids.

Many residents have already received multiple offers for their land from industrial solar developers—and the bill hasn't even been voted on yet!

The rationale for this very consequential zoning change is that it's necessary to industrialize our farmland to respond to the climate emergency. Mr. Riemer has tried to promote this as environmentally sound, protective of farming and a service to low- and moderate-income families down-county. **As the bill is currently written, that is all untrue.**

Here are the facts:

1. The bill's language does not require that the installations meet a "community solar" standard as defined by the state. It only mentions 'aggregate net metering', which is basically a loophole allowing 2KW on farmland with no obligation to provide the power to down-county communities in multi-family housing. Power can be sent anywhere to the highest bidder. That's no help to Montgomery County.
2. The bill contains language that seems to protect existing tree cover, wetlands, and waterways however, all projects will be subject to site plan approval from the MoCo Planning Board which has a long history of allowing exceptions to rules when approving projects. When asked if this is sufficient protection, the Planning Board chief for our area, Robert Kronenberg, made clear that without explicit protections written into the bill, they will not be enforced.
3. The bill allows solar arrays on land with a 15% slope. Any farmer knows how much erosion can occur on disturbed soil on a 15% gradient.
4. The bill's sponsors claim it will allow for pollinator habitats and agrivoltaics (co-locating farming and commercial solar). Unfortunately, the language of the bill does not require either. The minimum requirement included in the bill is that the land used for solar also be "suitable for grazing." This gives developers a complete pass on doing the hard work of actually farming or even planting pollinator-friendly habitat. Weeds and grasses are sufficient.
5. The bill as written only protects USDA class 1 soils (class 1 is stream buffers and islands) The bill allows projects on prime and productive class 2 and 3 soils. This is where all our farms are located. There are 2000 to 3000 acres in the Ag Reserve that are NOT prime farmland. These alone should be designated as eligible for legitimate Community Solar projects. We need all our resources to combat climate change. If the dire predictions are correct, the West and Midwest will dry up well before us. We will need much more local food production. We will need all the carbon sequestration we can get. We must keep our farmland available for food and maximize the environmental service the Ag Reserve provides.

Please call or write your county council members (county.council@montgomery-countymd.gov) to ask that they **vote "no" on this disingenuous legislation** that will fatally weaken the Ag Reserve and the Master Plan that has protected it. If they insist on passing it, ask, at least, that they **include language that actually protects our farmland, water and forests; and provides clean energy to in-county residents who are not able to produce their own.**

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Youth Sports

Sam Allgood Left It All on the Field

By Jeff Stuart

I held an up-close and personal interview with PHS graduate Sam Allgood who is heading to Christopher Newport University where he hopes to play football. I asked his former coaches to first provide insight into him and his time at PHS.

"Sam is an incredibly hardworking young man," said current Falcon football coach Anthony Nazzaro. "His leadership and dedication to the Poolesville football program will be missed. I am confident that Sam will do extremely well at Christopher Newport and represent Poolesville High School in a very positive manner. I wish him all the best."

"Sam is a great person and athlete," said former PHS coach Justin Sickeri, now coach at Seneca Valley. "He is a leader on and off the field, tremendous work ethic and very cerebral on the field. It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to coach him."

"I coached Sam in football and in lacrosse," said new Gaithersburg

coach and former PHS assistant coach Tyler Bierly. "He was an exceptionally hard worker and a great leader. He was also a great person off the field, always volunteering when we asked for extra help. I wish I would have been able to coach him all four years, he was always eager to learn and was always one of the first to pick up a teammate or give encouragement. I was at Poolesville for seven years, and he was one of my favorite kids that I had the pleasure of coaching. I know he is going to do great things at CNU."

"I remember meeting Sam for the first time," said Mark Kasten, PAA Football commissioner through 2015 and an avid PAA/PHS volunteer. "He was brand new to town, and we were in need of young football players. He showed up with his mom in a buzz cut and was anxious to get on the field. His class has some really great athletes, Samuel certainly being one of them. I had the privilege of watching him play football throughout his youth and high school career in Poolesville, and I'm delighted that he'll be continuing on the field at CNU. He has always been a leader on and off the field, and one of the most polite young men I know."

Continued on page 15.



Sam Allgood



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Continued from page 14.

Sam Allgood Left It All on the Field

What have been your major highlights/ achievements in football and lacrosse?

Being a varsity football and lacrosse captain and being selected as a second team All Montgomery County linebacker. I have been playing club lacrosse for the Lax Factory and Maryland Extreme lacrosse programs.

When did you get your start in football and lacrosse?

I started off in the sixth grade playing football for PAA, and that same year I was convinced by some parents to play lacrosse.

What are your most memorable games or in-game moments?

Playing under the lights in Poolesville is something that will always be extremely special to me. It was a difficult senior year in terms of sports: lacrosse was cancelled, and, in football, we were left with some unfortunate coaching scenarios.

How competitive are you on a scale from one to ten?

I love competition and a challenge, so I would say a ten.

How do you handle stress and pressure?

I feel that I perform better when under stress and pressure. Challenges motivate me.

Do you have any pregame rituals, superstitions?

I always lay out all my football gear the night before a game, and I always drink a bottle of Pedialyte before my games. One of my biggest superstitions is to never say that a team will be easy to beat.

If you could get a redo or reset for anyone moment, what would it be?

I would not redo a thing. Despite our record, I left everything on the field.

Do you like or participate in other sports?

I like to participate in lacrosse, it's a lot of fun and keeps me in shape in the off season.

Tell me about your coaches and teammates and the Poolesville experience?

From PAA to PHS, my coaches have been great. I would like to thank Coach Joe Onderko, Coach Craig Gaddis, Coach Howard Eisendhart, Mark Kasten, Coach Dave Murray, Coach Tyler Bierly, Coach Mike Smith, and Coach Justin Sickeri for all the support and for being the role models they have been to me.

Some players that I have had the honor of being able to play with all through PAA and then on to high school include Zach Onderko, Aaron Brown, Jacob Kasten, and Colin Hemingway. They are the best teammates in the world. I know they have my back always.

What are your main motivations for doing athletics?

My love for the game. I love football and I love the team aspect. It drives me to respect the game and to earn my teammates' and coaches' respect.

What are your hobbies or interests outside of athletics or PHS?

Outside of athletics, I love being in the water, the outdoors, and having a good time with friends and family.

Are you involved in any other extracurricular activities at Poolesville?

I was involved in Falcon Friends, a program that helps new students at PHS become comfortable with the school.

How did you balance athletics and academics? Is it difficult?

Balancing athletics and academics is actually not a challenge for me. Having the schedule and structure of high school sports has helped me manage my time better than when I am in my off season.

What subject did you enjoy most?

I love social studies subjects such as history, psychology, and law class.

What have you read recently?

Siddhartha by Hermann Hesse. It is a book that tells the story of a man who is searching for purpose and spiritual lessons.

Do you have any interesting local history or fun facts to share with our readers?

The Monocle welcomes your contribution.

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Why Community Solar in the Ag Reserve?

Later this month, County Council will take up a zoning text amendment (ZTA) to allow community solar in the Ag Reserve. These projects would be limited to <2 megawatts (approx. 10-12 acres) each and be restricted, in total, to no more than 2% (1800 acres) of the 93,000 acre Ag Reserve. Only one project would be allowed on each farm, no matter how large the farm.

Our county declared a climate emergency with the goal of an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2027 and 100% reduction by 2035. The ZTA is key to meeting those goals.

The ZTA specifies Community Solar projects, which allow renters and other who can't install rooftop solar to subscribe and receive discounted rates. 30% of the projects must be for low and moderate income consumers, by state law.

The ZTA, as amended, contains strong protections for forests, high-quality soils, steep slopes, wetlands, and other environmental concerns while also being subject to existing protections from other regulations.

Why not just put solar at the decommissioned Dickerson coal plant? This is a great idea, but it will only add a small part of the 2,500 MW of solar needed by our county to reach 100% clean energy and only one-fifth as much as the ZTA. In our climate reality, we need both.

The ZTA, as amended, requires that projects include one of three agriculturally friendly Agrivoltaic practices: 1) Pollinator Friendly Designation as defined by the State; 2) co-located grazing; or 3) co-located crops. Not only can pollinator-friendly solar support nearby crops (studies show their yield increases), but the economic benefits to farmers help them stay in farming.

The Ag Reserve is a vital part of our county yet only 1.3% of the total farmland is used for table crops: those consumed locally like vegetables, orchard fruits, berries and others. It provides less than 1% of the county's food.

Community solar will allow Montgomery County citizens in multi-family housing and/or those of low and moderate income the ability to purchase low cost clean electricity and support local clean energy jobs. This is what climate justice looks like.

We see community solar as a question of whether all communities in the County will do their part to save our people and environment from the dangers of climate change.

Our warming climate will not wait for us to study, invent, and test for perfect solutions.. We need to act now. Express your support to the County Council at:

county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov

Paid Advertisement

Continued from page 10.

Meet the New PHS Boys' Basketball Coach: BJ Debuchananne

to be successful. When they see and feel that, they want to do everything they can to be their best.

Do you have any favorite sports movies or books?

My favorite sports books are *When the Game Was Ours* by Larry Bird and Magic Johnson, *:07 Seconds or Less: My Season on the Bench with the Runnin' and Gunnin' Phoenix Suns* by Jack McCallum, *Dream Team* by Jack McCallum, *Relentless*, and *Toughness: Developing True Strength on and off the Court* by Jay Bilas.

My favorite sports movies are *Tin Cup* and *Hoosiers*.

How do you plan to communicate your plans and expectations to parents?

We will have a meeting before our season starts that lays out the expectations. During the season, there will be emails with updates to things that are going on and where we may need help.

Do you plan on running youth basketball camp?

Yes, I think running a youth camp is a great way to build excitement for the program with younger age groups.

What is the role of booster clubs in your program?

Every school is a bit different with how involved the booster club is. As I get to know the people that run the booster club, we will collaborate on things such as, equipment/facilities upgrades, banquets, team retreats, etc. The booster club can be a huge help with promoting the program, so I hope to engage them when the time is right.


How would you promote community support for your program?

Pooleville is a unique place, and it is important to engage the community to gain support for the program. Fundraisers, camps, and other community outreach programs can be a great way to get people on board and coming out to games. Our gym is small, so when it is packed, it can be a great home court advantage.

How do you plan on improving as a coach from year to year?

Attending clinics, reading, and collaborating with coaching friends.

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Remembrance

Clay McCarty

Samuel "Clay" McCarty, 57, of Poolesville passed away on August 24, 2020 at Suburban Hospital. Clay was born in Lubbock, Texas on December 28, 1962 and lived in Texas, Louisiana, Florida, and New Mexico, but spent most of his time in Gaithersburg, and for the last twenty-six years, lived in Poolesville. He is survived by his loving wife, Maggie, with whom he spent thirty-six years and his son Jack. He is preceded in death by his mother Elaine "Gram" McCarty. He is survived by his father Ben "Papa" McCarty; brother Marcus and brother-in-law Rowel; sister Fay; nephew Colin; brother-in-law Tony DeSzily; sister-in-law Jeska; nieces Ilona and Viola; eleven aunts and uncles; and twenty-two first cousins. He absolutely loved his wife and was so very proud of his son Jack.

His friends, family, and neighbors will remember him for the amazing pool parties, BBQs, Jimmy Buffett concert caravans, countless concerts, Maryland tailgates, March Madness poker parties, Turkey Bowls, as a loyal Redskins and Nationals fan (even if they had a bad season), his love of golf, and as one of the best bartenders at Bassett's. Clay was very involved in his son's many activities, including the Poolesville swim teams (both summer and high school), Cub Scouts Pack 694 and Boy Scouts Troop 496, and everything that is University of Maryland! He also had many "adopted kids" that he looked after and loved very much.

The following words were used to describe Clay these past few days which certainly shows how many lives he touched: big heart, charismatic, generous, legendary, larger than life, amazing, wonderful friend and neighbor, warm, friendly, thought of others before himself, nicest, kindest, one of a kind, a smile and heart as big as himself, wonderful personality, genuine, best example of how to be a great dad and loving husband, cool guy and good man, an amazing person who made everyone feel welcome, feel like a friend within minutes of meeting him, kind soul, bigger than life itself, gracious, made everyone feel special, he always made me laugh, warm and welcoming, Big Ol' Teddy Bear, one of the best humans known to me, made me feel safe, one of the most vibrant people I know, class act, always full of energy and jokes, one of God's favorites, the best "Santa" that Pack 694 had ever had, loved life and lived it to the fullest every day, an exceptional man who touched many lives, fiercely loyal and always there for us, the man could enter a room and talk with anyone—a pauper or a billionaire—no difference, the sun comes up every morning and everyone moves on with their lives but I promise you this one changes people, the light in Poolesville is shining a little less bright with Clay not being here.

Clay's life was taken away too soon, but we know he is in heaven telling everyone about "my boy" Jack, how much he loved his wife, and partying with his two best friends Raf and Billy!

A celebration of Clay's life has been scheduled for Sunday, September 27. Details will be posted on Facebook.

Bassett's Restaurant, in tribute to its longtime friend and employee, agreed to dedicate two evenings to Clay on September 3 and 10. Twenty-five percent of all net sales (food and alcohol) will be donated to WUMCO in his honor.

In lieu of flowers, monetary or food contributions can be made in Clay's name to WUMCO. Please go to www.wumcohelp.org for donation information. For the Poolesville folks, there will be several drop-off locations, including Bassett's.



Samuel "Clay" McCarty

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Assault: Unit block of Jonesville Court.

Theft: 19800 block of Beatriz Avenue.

Past Crime from the 1960s

Montgomery County Police were investigating the strange disappearance of an eighteen-year-old Rockville girl whose car was found abandoned on Seven Locks Road. Police said that the girl had left her parents' home on Monroe Street in Rockville to go to the movies. Later that evening, the car was found parked sideways in the roadway about a mile from the county police station on Seven Locks Road.

A month later, the girl's body was found underneath a trash pile near where her car had been found abandoned. The case remained unsolved until recently when the Montgomery County cold case squad determined that the murder had been committed by a resident of the Scotland community on Seven Locks Road. The man had died ten years earlier.

The fatal shooting death of an eight-year-old girl at Butler's Orchard was ruled accidental by Coroner John Ball. Police investigators determined that

the girl had been picking peaches with her parents at the same time at which a group of men were practicing target shooting over a mile away. The girl was struck in the head by a rifle bullet fired from a .30 caliber, M1 carbine. Detective Fred Thraikill said that several men had fired the rifle, and it was impossible to determine who had fired the fatal shot.

Maryland State Police had been chasing a car at speeds exceeding 100 mph southbound on Route 70S when they decided to commandeer six private automobiles and use them for a barricade to stop the speeding car. The pursuing trooper radioed ahead, and other troopers stopped the cars operated by people who happened to be driving south. The cars were aligned across the highway, but the speeder, Jimmy Teeter of Hanover, Pennsylvania, swerved into the median and was able to avoid the roadblock. Unfortunately, Sergeant Gibbs skidded into two of the six commandeered cars and wrecked them as well as his cruiser. Eventually, Mr. Teeter was arrested further along 70S when his car overheated.

A twenty-year-old Potomac painter's helper was sentenced to six months in jail after he had led the county police on a wild auto chase that stretched from Bethesda to Frederick. County police testified that the man had forced

one of their cruisers into a ditch and that they had fired twenty-three shots at him during the chase. Judge Ralph Miller told the man, "It's time that the police started to fight back instead of getting their teeth kicked in like they do in a lot of places. I wouldn't have blamed them if they had shot you."

A Washington, D.C. doctor was arrested at a Rockville motel after performing an abortion on a twenty-one-year-old Arlington woman. The arrest came after a joint investigation involving several suburban police departments.

Montgomery County Police were searching for suspects who had shot at least six dogs in a week's time. Police said that because the shootings had happened in various parts of the county, the suspect(s) were using a car to shoot pet dogs in residential areas.

Rockville businessmen raised \$5,000 for a reward leading to the arrest of the killer of Dennis Atwell who had been found murdered in his store. Atwell had been found bludgeoned to death inside Rockville Cleaners on Commerce Lane.

A twenty-five-year-old Germantown man was arrested and charged with two rapes. In the first case, he was charged with abducting a sixteen-year-old girl from a street in Rockville and then raping her in his car.

Five hours later, he was alleged to have raped a woman in the area of Darnestown.

Five teenagers were arrested in Poolesville after a police officer became suspicious of their car. They had smashed the windows of at least sixty cars in the Gaithersburg and Poolesville areas in a night of joy-riding. A police lieutenant said that the youths had roamed the county, hurling railroad spikes and rocks through the windows of parked cars. He added that parents usually didn't know where their teenagers were at such a late hour.

The county grand jury decried the "overflow of the criminal element from the Nation's Capital." The jury in its report noted the large number of indictments that had been handed up against residents of Washington, D.C.

Montgomery County Police confirmed that a member of the notorious Kensington and Allegheny gang had been arrested just after burglarizing a county home. The gang, which was centered in the Philadelphia area, was known for its criminal activity and specialized in the burglarizing of the homes of affluent people.

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

Continued from page 3.

Commissioners Cancel Standard Fall and Holiday Festivals

hauled to the Transfer Station, no longer receives such payments. Company representative Caroline Mathews said the company had shouldered the cost of hauling the material without receiving rebates for many months and had proposed a cost split of 90/10, with the town picking up the majority of costs, to enable it to recoup some of its losses. In doing so, she iterated that the company had absorbed the extra costs for many months already and needed to offset the continuing costs.

Rivard said the town believes that an 80/20 split is fairer and that the agreement with Bates continues for another three years, meaning the town will continue to bear significant new costs that were not anticipated when the agreement with Bates was negotiated.

Commissioner Jim Brown said he

appreciates the responsiveness of Bates to the town, particularly when there have been complaints about pickup; however, the company should have come to the town sooner with its concerns; Brown supported the 80/20 cost split proposal. The commissioners voted unanimously to support the agreement.

In other business, the town has been considering the idea of creating a Diversity Council for many months, but no specific proposal has been put on the table. Cook said she continued to work on the idea and had an expert from the county who had worked on diversity issues lined up to brief the commissioners, but the expert could not make the night's meeting. The other commissioners agreed the idea has merit as they have in the past, but they said they wanted to hear more expert input. The idea will be considered at the next commission meeting where testimony will be heard from the witness Cook has identified and possibly others.

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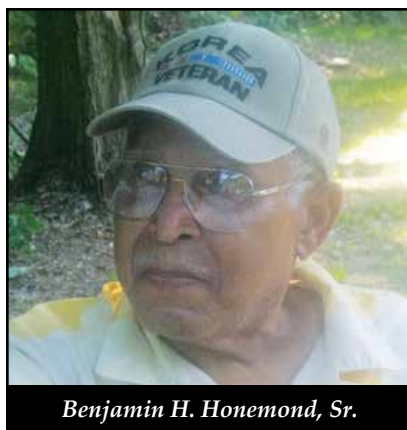
Remembrance

Benjamin H. Honemond, Sr.

Benjamin H. Honemond, Sr. of Dickerson, entered into eternal rest on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital. He was ninety-one years old.

Mr. Honemond was a highly-decorated U.S. Army veteran, including the Bronze Star with three Clusters. He served in combat with the Field Artillery in Korea in 1951 and 1952 and was promoted to the rank of Tech Sergeant.

He was the beloved husband of Margaret Ella Juanita Fisher Honemond. He was the son of the late Eudora M. Honemond. He leaves to treasure his memory his devoted wife, Juanita; seven children, Hope V. Custis (Harvey) of Germantown, Carole S. Johnson (Matthew) of Germantown, Sheila P. Pollard (Raimund) of Abbeville, South Carolina, Benjamin H. Honemond, Jr. of Dickerson, Gary B. Honemond (Wanda) of Dover, Pennsylvania, Crystal B. Pruitt of Beallsville, and Cheryl R. Williams (Edward) of Dickerson; and one sister-in-law, Ethel Honemond. He is also survived by his grandchildren; great-grandchildren; great-great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends. He was preceded in death by his son, James M. Honemond; one brother, Sherman Plummer; and one son-in-law, Frederick Pruitt.



Benjamin H. Honemond, Sr.



Continued from page 1.

New Flashing Crosswalk Signal Installed to Improve Safety

recognizes that walkability and pedestrian connectivity are important to the town, and this improvement is our commitment to that effort. The pedestrian crosswalk lights are the first improvements in a long-term initiative to implement traffic-calming measures on Fisher Avenue to ensure pedestrian safety."

Commissioner Jim Brown recalled the earlier times. "Getting those upgraded pedestrian crosswalks in place is a moment in time for this town—and an important one. Previous Planning Commissioners and Town Commissioners, plus former Town Manager Wade Yost, dedicated a ton of effort and expertise over a long period of time to get the state to relinquish the road to us—not just to help our residents cross the road safely but also to give us a chance to create a main street worthy of our community. Countless hours spent working with State Highway officials made it happen, and those board members, plus Wade, should be saluted for their efforts. Not getting bogged down by minutiae and working with people as a team go a long way."

While there have been no recorded fatalities at the intersection, there have been many accidents and a range of injuries. As part of state funds from the town's share of Highway Funds (taxes), raised, brick-like crosswalks at various town crossing lanes have been installed, and a large pedestrian right-of-way sign was installed to better alert drivers; however, it is very common for drivers not to notice or follow the requirement to let pedestrians cross. The flashing lights will radically improve driver awareness that they are approach such a crosswalk and that a walker is planning to cross.

Brown told the *Monocle*, "The next moment in time is now up to our current and future commissioners. We've got to figure out a way to fund and move forward with transforming and upgrading our downtown commercial zone, primarily Fisher Avenue, so the town can have a stronger sense of community and shared space. With any luck, we'll work with our commercial partners, along with other stakeholders, to use the road transfer and increased walkability of our downtown zone as a springboard to the Poolesville of the future."



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Is Technology Driving Your Pet Insane?

Adapted by Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF

We would not put up with devices that emit annoying whines or clicks, or lights that flicker intermittently, but pets in our modern society may be changing their behavior due to the noises in the world around them.

Their sensory inputs are configured differently from ours. Their hearing is particularly different. They hear everything we do, plus much more. They routinely respond to sound above and below our hearing range. You may notice that your dog becomes very nervous when the smoke detector “low battery” sound begins. You may not know that the smoke detectors give out a continuous high frequency sound that dogs become accustomed to, but, when the sound changes, they can get nervous.

Dogs can hear sounds up to 45,000Hz and cats up to 64,000Hz. “Ultrasounds” like this are very high frequency, and humans cannot hear them. Electronic companies remove high pitch sounds that humans can hear but do not consider our pets.

Both dogs and cats take in light waves differently from humans. They see color in a different way, and they take in pulsed lights (like the refresh rate on a television screen) emissions differently. This may be why your dog or cat does not seem to notice one television in your house but stops to look at the screen of another television with a different refresh rate.

While we know that animals hear a vast amount of sound to which we’re deaf, we don’t have as clear a handle on how it may affect them. In 2005, a study on the effects of noise on lab animals found that some frequencies could alter heart rate, sleep patterns, and endocrine cycles. It found that it could also make them more susceptible to seizure.

Strategies to reduce these sounds include turning off and unplugging components when not in use. This also helps to reduce the “phantom power draw” of your electronic equipment. You can set up one room in the house to be a “quiet space” where electronics are not in use. It is also important to consider any change in your pets’ behavior as related to a new piece of electronic equipment or appliance. If you are concerned there may be a correlation, turn off the equipment and evaluate improvement in your pet. If there is not a return to normal after about seventy-two hours, consider an appointment with your veterinarian.

There are many factors in a day that can affect your pets’ appreciation of their home. Remembering that your furry friends take in sights and sounds differently from us can help you understand if new equipment may be causing problems for your pet.

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