

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

October 9, 2020 • Volume XVI, Number 14



Forget Simon and Garfunkel, it's all Ashley and Rolls now. See more farmers' market photos in Family Album on page 2.



Grand Noble of the Odd Fellows, Steve Horvath, and WUMCO's Adam DeBaugh are smiling under those masks. Find out why in Tidbits on page 6.



One of these little girls grew up to have a huge impact on Poolesville. Find out who in a new feature column called Monocacy Roots on page 7.



The Goose Creek Inlet Lock on the Potomac is featured in the In Your Own Backyard column on page 10.

Five Candidates for Town Commissioner

By Rande Davis

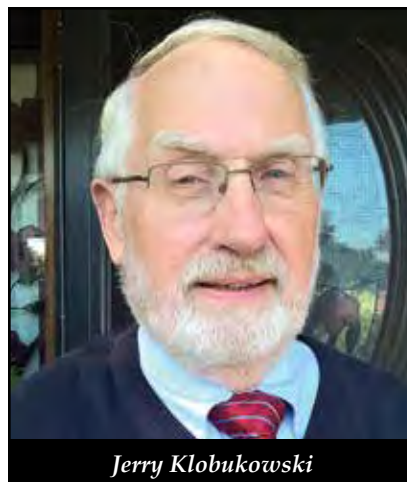
The candidates for Poolesville Town Commissioner have been announced. There were originally six candidates vying for three positions, but Matt Swenson has withdrawn from contention in the race. He told the *Monocle* that he was fortunate to have just landed a new job and now believes the demands of that position will not allow him to serve as commissioner at this time.

Martin Radigan and Jerry Klobukowski have decided to run for re-election, but Val Dickerson has decided not to seek re-election. The other non-incumbents are David Wilson, Jeff Eck, and Ed Reed.

In making her decision not to run, Val Dickerson said, "After six years as an elected official, I have decided not to run for a third term due to the level of commitment it entails. I would like to thank the Town of Poolesville businesses and residents for their support over the years! I have loved every minute of being able to serve you. I will not be running for an additional term, and although I am saddened to leave my seat, I will continue to assist all of you in so many ways as usual."

Jerry Klobukowski is the longest-serving commissioner having done so now for twenty-four years. He wants to continue as a commissioner to ensure the town's high quality of life, strong fiscal position, and to work for the new community high school with a health and wellness center which serves both students and Western Montgomery County residents.

Martin Radigan is currently a sitting commissioner running for re-election. Now a six-year resident of Poolesville, he also serves on the Board of Montgomery Countryside Alliance, an organization focused on protecting the Ag Reserve. His wife, Abby, is on the board for Heritage Montgomery as well as the board for our local Historic Medley District.



Jerry Klobukowski



Martin Radigan



Jeff Eck



David Wilson



Ed Reed

VOTING FOR TOWN COMMISSIONERS
Voting for town commissioners can be done by mail or in person at the Poolesville Town Hall on election day, November 3. Ballots will be mailed from the town during the third week of October. All town commissioner election ballots can only be submitted either directly to the Town Hall at 19721 Beall Street or mailed to the Town at P.O. Box 158, Poolesville, MD 20837

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Family Album



Volunteers from the Junior Diabetes Research Foundation raised funds in the park.



Girl Scout Troop 3032 met through social distancing at Whalen Commons. These tenth graders are senior scouts.



Chief Markoff of American Legion Post 247 guided local girl scouts across the historic White's Ford. The ford is only low enough to safely cross a few times a year, any crossers must be aware of water levels before doing so.



Family and friends of the late Clay McCarty honored him in a socially-distant memorial tribute on September 27.



The White's Ford crossing enthusiasts celebrated their arrival on the Virginia side of the Potomac River.



Beekeeper Joe Long of Honey Effects, with friends and family, sold his pure local honey at the farmers' market.



American Legion Post 247 from Poolesville and local girl scouts on Mason Island during their recent crossing at White's Ford.



The good ladies of St. Peter's Episcopal Church sold new and used Halloween items on Whalen Commons.

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Rande(m) Thoughts

Facebook: Superpower Gift or Curse

By Rande Davis

Trying to figure out what kind of superhero you want to be is part of every child's youthful imagination.

Of all the heroes and superheroes to come along, none literally stretched the limits of imagination more than Stretch Armstrong. Created in 1976, it seemed the heights of what a superhero could do had finally reached its most absurd limits. I am not sure Stretch was as much a new high as it was a new low. Two superpowers that always seemed to be most alluring as a kid were the power of invisibility or the reading of minds. According to Time Magazine, scientists are getting closer to creating a real-life invisibility cloak, so maybe that will actually come about some day. As to the reading of minds, we don't have to wait, we finally have it. We experience it daily and, in my opinion, it turns out to be a most damaging power.

Confused? Who among us can read minds, you say? Well, with all the unchecked, unsolicited thoughts bombarding us daily on facebook, Twitter, and elsewhere, we have no shortage of discovering what exactly is on other people's minds without even asking and, for the record, it's often not pretty. I am not sure how you feel about it, but for me, I was so much happier not knowing so much about what others think. Hey, I'll admit it, I even liked them better.

It's not so much the hearing of different opinions, regardless of their absurdity, it is the unsolicited part. I suppose if you are on Twitter, you know what you are getting into. I

really wish facebook had a subject line so I could choose to proceed or not. That way if someone feels the need to tell me what I should think about someone or something, I can choose to read it or not. Otherwise, when I go on facebook, it's sort of like being able to read minds. Obviously, asking for an opinion is what I prefer, but when an unsettling comment flies in my face without warning, it feels more like an assault than a friendly revelation. There are people I have "unfriended"—not because they are no longer my friend, but because they insist on venting their frustrations at any hour of the day pretending that they want conversation with me when really my thoughts on the matter are the least of their interest. If you really want to engage me in conversation, do so in a format that is conducive to give and take. I don't prefer conversations where an uncontrolled number of people can eavesdrop on the discussion. When on facebook, it's pretty clear upfront that what I think is not really of interest to the commenting person.

Human nature is such that opinions I agree with are not unsettling. Regardless, it is still like a radio talk show that I didn't choose to hear; one that I can't turn off and blasts into my presence unwanted and unsolicited any time of day. By the time I realize I didn't want to hear it, it's too late.

My problem is that I am more than a conservative, I am old, old school. I really liked the old-fashioned rule that it is impolite to talk about sex, politics, or religion unsolicited. Friendships were so much easier. For some, this appears to be the only things they want to talk about. I loved the simple How-are-you kind of thing. Now that's a real friend.

Continued on page 9.

Fun Fact...

HE TELLS HER

He tells her that the earth is flat –

He knows the facts, and that is that.

In altercations fierce and long

She tries her best to prove him wrong.

But he has learned to argue well.

He calls her arguments unsound

And often asks her not to yell.

She cannot win.

He stands his ground.

The planet goes on being round.

– Wendy Cope, "Differences of Opinion"

Senior News

Diverse Virtual Programs Sponsored By Poolesville Seniors

Physical Fitness and Well-Being

Each Monday from 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Maureen Ivusic will lead a class in Tai-Chi. Karen McPhatter ups the exercise level with Zumba Gold on Wednesdays at 1:00. Every Thursday in October at 10:00 a.m., Kathy Jankowski, who is trained in trauma-sensitive stress response system balancing, will guide participants in using their breath and gentle Qigong movements to promote health. On Saturday mornings at 9:00, join Zack Etheridge, of EZ Fit, for a half hour of senior weight training. Purchased weights aren't necessary. Household items such as canned goods can be used.

Upcoming Events

Over thirty people attended Kenny Sholes's September presentation of Historic Ag Reserve properties that have disappeared. Kenny returns for another presentation about Ag Reserve properties on Thursday, October 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Poolesville resident and CIA veteran Andrew Gilmour has recently authored a book, *A Middle East Primed for New Thinking: Insights and Policy Options from the Ancient World*. On Thursday, October 22 at 7:00 p.m., Andrew will make a presentation based on his book, which used insights from the ancient world to support critical thinking and policy formation toward a region in which the United States continues to have significant strategic interests.

All of the virtual programs sponsored by Poolesville Seniors are open to the entire community. To register for any of these presentations listed above and to receive the Zoom link for each, visit the Poolesville Seniors website: poolesvilleseniors.org. Email questions to: info@poolesvilleseniors.org. To receive a hard copy of their monthly newsletter, call 301-875-7701. Keep checking their website for additional information and an updated listing of programs.

In addition to providing live virtual events via Zoom for everyone to enjoy from the comforts of their own homes, Poolesville Seniors have been recording a few of their recent presentations and will soon be making them available online. The first three will be: Freed Slave Communities with Skip

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Town Government

Commissioners Hear Report on Budget and Spending from Last Year

By Link Hoewing

At their regular meeting on October 5, the Town of Poolesville commissioners heard a report from Town Manager Seth Rivard detailing the final spending and revenue totals from last year's budget (FY2020). Called the Budget Closeout Report, this annual assessment provides a snapshot of town finances and spending with a particular focus on how closely actual spending and revenues for the year matched budget targets.

In beginning the report, Rivard noted that the General Fund, which is the major operating fund for the town and accounts for the vast majority of town operations, came in at just over \$4 million for the year. The Water and Wastewater Fund, which supports the water and sewer systems for the town, accounted for \$1.3 million of town spending. The General Fund is supported by revenues from real estate and personal property taxes, state and federal aid, income taxes, and fees of various kinds. Rivard said the General Fund closed out with a \$180,000 positive balance.

With regard to revenues, just a little over seventy percent of the town's funds come from income and property taxes, almost evenly split between the two. Revenues shared by the state account for six percent of total revenues, and highway user funds bring in five percent of the total. Rentals charged to cellphone companies which have placed their wireless transponders on the town's water tower account for another five percent, and the other eleven percent comes from a range of fees the town charges for various services.

Actual overall revenues for the year came in significantly higher than the budget forecast. Income taxes in particular were well over what was included in the budget target.

Even though the town has raised fees for water and sewer services, it continues to have to subsidize these services with General Fund revenues. Last year, the total subsidy came to a little over \$55,000. In theory, a service like sewer and water, which is provided to each individual house and supported by fees imposed on each homeowner based on usage, should be self-sustaining and not need funding support from the General Fund.

In terms of spending, the largest share of the budget is devoted to employee salaries at around thirty-eight percent of total spending. Trash service is the next highest category of spending coming in at around twenty percent of the total.

The town has set a goal of setting aside 17.5% of the General Fund in a category called Unrestricted Funds, sometimes known as a Rainy Day Fund. The town was again able to meet this target.

The commissioners also discussed the sending of a letter to the Montgomery County Council asking it not to move forward with legislation that would allow the installation of solar farms in parts of the Ag Reserve until a special report that is now being finalized is released. The issue was discussed at the last meeting, and a vote taken at that time supported the sending of a letter from the commission to the council; however, at the October 5 meeting, the

Continued on page 17.

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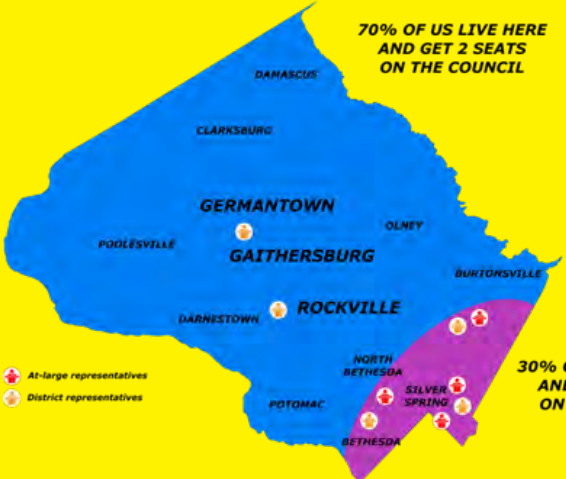
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Tidbits

Your Vote Counts—for Best Scarecrow!

The annual WUMCO Walk-a-Thon and scarecrow contests are still on even though other aspects of the fall festival have been canceled. The scarecrows are all on display at Whalen Commons. Vote for your favorite resident or commercial entry by visiting WUMCO's website.



The town crew and park visitors near an entry in the annual scarecrow contest.

Good Works for Good Causes

We all know the important and good work of WUMCO Help! and how much they ease the financial burden of those in the area in need, but we can't forget the incredible work of the local branch of the Odd Fellows, Lodge 97. The Odd Fellows also help those in need and have done so right here in our area for well over 150 years! Their original mission was to help widows and orphans, especially at a time that pre-dates all current forms of welfare and public assistance. Today, their mission extends to making sure our senior citizens, especially those alone, are not forgotten during some of the most important times of the year through their summer picnics and holiday dinners to feed, entertain, and simply to show love to our senior citizens.

The Odd Fellows do so much to help others. They not only make financial donations to Helping Hands, WUMCO, and make a special effort to move left-over rummage items to those in desperate need in West Virginia, but when it comes time to personally get involved, you will find them right there doing the day-to-day kind of help, too.

With the special concern about the challenges of COVID-19, Steve Horvath, the Odd Fellows' Grand Noble, recently presented a check of \$500.00 to WUMCO to help them in their mission.

Consisting of adults sharing a wonderful mission of local concern and aid, the Odd Fellows are always looking for new members. If you feel inclined to join in their good work, enjoy a pleasant association with others, and have good works be a part of your life, you can learn more by calling Steve at 301-651-0052.

Something in Common

By now you have heard the name Dr. Sean Conley, but here is a Tidbit you didn't know. He graduated from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2006. We are proud to let you also know that Poolesville siblings, Thomas and Shirley Wolz, are currently seeking their medical degrees from there as well. We share with Jon and Patty their pride. It's always great to have a doctor in the family, but two? Holy Cow.

Continued on page 11.

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Monocacy Roots

Circles, Roots, and Connections: An Unintended Poolesville Story

By Gail Norman

The Monocle is pleased to introduce a new feature column that will provide personal stories and family histories of local residents. This first one comes from Gail Norman, the mother of Val Dickerson, and is an intriguing story of the family's renewed relationship to Poolesville.

Early one Saturday morning this summer, I answered a call from my daughter, Poolesville Commissioner Valaree Norman Dickerson. She had something unbelievable to show me and was on her way to my house. What she had was documentation of an astonishing story she had discovered while researching the founding family of Poolesville. It really was amazing. I asked if she would mind if I wrote about it. She didn't, so here it is.

In the late 1960s, when we were living in Bethesda, my husband John was working on a project at the Poolesville Country Club. He was from Baltimore; I was from West Virginia; and neither of us had ever heard of a place called Poolesville. He came home one day excited to tell me about this beautiful town out in the country. He thought it was somewhere we would like to live. That weekend, he took me for a ride out to the Poolesville area, and he was right, that was where I wanted to raise our children, his, mine, and ours. Shortly thereafter, we found a small house at Annington where we lived temporarily while looking for a larger house to accommodate our growing blended family.

I mentioned our search to Mrs. Selby one day while shopping at the old Selby's Market (at one time located at the corner of Route 109 and Fisher Avenue), and she said she thought she knew the perfect place. It was the Hempstone House across from St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Bob Hempstone had died, the house was available, and it did not take us long to decide to move in at the end of October.

We knew immediately that we were going to love living in that house in a town where we could walk to everything, know everybody, and could become part of ourselves. We had found both a home and a hometown where we could put down roots for our entire family.

Years passed. John and I had moved away. Our children had grown up, started their own families, and were living all over the world—all except Valaree who has traveled the world but never moved from Maryland. She had married Craig Dickerson, a Montgomery County Police officer, and they were living in an apartment in Silver Spring with their two young children, Natilee and Kyle, while looking for a permanent home. My husband John found a house for sale he thought they should look at in—of all places!—Poolesville—on Hempstone Avenue! The very place Val had vowed never to return to because of its isolated location, but they loved the house and moved to Poolesville in 1992, putting down the roots for their family we had hoped for them in a town where they became valued and respected members of this historic community. Val went on to serve six elected years on the Town of Poolesville Commission, retiring this year as its vice president.

Valaree knew that her biological grandmother's family name was Poole but nothing more. I had been briefly married to her son but was divorced when Valaree and her siblings were very young, subsequently marrying John, who adopted them.

The Poole name had no meaning to any of us until Valaree began looking for her biological family. Eventually, she located that grandmother, Thelma Poole Pruitt, and went to visit her shortly before her death in 1998. During that visit to her home at Chesapeake Beach, Thelma asked Val to pull down a box from the crowded top shelf of a closet. As Valaree lowered the box, a small booklet fell onto the floor at her feet as though something had pushed it. It was a History of Poolesville. Staring startled as she picked it up, Val asked her grandmother why she had it, and Thelma replied that her family had founded Poolesville.

At the time it was little more than a passing curiosity, worthy of nothing more than conversation. Then, recently, Valaree began thinking about it again, deciding to quietly begin an in-depth historical search of that grandmother's family to see if there might actually be a Poolesville connection. As a result of that search,

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Garden

River Farm Faces Unknown Future

By Maureen O'Connell

I was surprised and disappointed to hear recently that the American Horticultural Society (AHS) is considering selling its twenty-five-acre property at River Farm in Alexandria, Virginia, five miles from George Washington's home at Mount Vernon. It has been the society's home since 1973, relocating from the city of Alexandria. Founded in 1922, the AHS is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization and is one of the most respected and long-standing national gardening organizations in the country. Its mission is: "To promote gardening in America by connecting people and plants, encouraging stewardship of the Earth, and celebrating the art and science of Horticulture."

What has brought AHS to this moment in its history, where its survival and movement into its second century is in this precarious position? Citing the pandemic as a contributing factor, it is sadly ironic that during these very challenging and depressing times, people need more than ever the solace and peace of gardens. I venture to believe that this reason is just one of several. All organizations, especially nonprofits, that rely upon grants, private donations, membership dues, and fundraisers to pay for operating costs and property maintenance, face a constant struggle. Large extensively-landscaped properties with multiple gardens are not low maintenance. Besides paid groundkeepers, they rely on volunteer help. I have visited River Farm many times over the years for garden tours and lectures. Two years ago, I attended a wedding on the terrace of the main house on the hill overlooking the Potomac River. Several months ago, I revisited River Farm. I was surprised and saddened to see signs of neglect in several of the gardens. Many beds were overgrown with weeds, leaving the beautiful plants to struggle to survive.

River Farm has a long history. Several families have owned the land starting in 1653. In 1739, the land was inherited by William Clifton. He changed the property's name from Piscataway Neck to Clifton's Neck. By 1757, Clifton built



River Farm near Mt. Vernon.

a house on the crest of a hill overlooking the Potomac River. It was enlarged and remodeled over the next two centuries and is today home to the AHS. He suffered various business losses and, as early as 1755, he considered selling the property. Gentleman farmer George Washington of neighboring Mount Vernon was interested in the land and, in 1760, he purchased the 1,800 acres in a bankruptcy sale. He changed the name to River Farm. It became the northernmost of Washington's five farms, and today's River Farm is located on the northernmost division of that property. Washington never actually lived or worked this land; he preferred to rent it. Washington was a keen horticulturist, and he planted many native trees at the farm. A particular favorite of his was the Kentucky coffee tree. There are several specimens of this tree at River Farm, descendants of those first trees grown by Washington. The oldest tree standing there today is the immense Osage orange, one of the largest in the country. It was possibly a gift from Thomas Jefferson to the

Continued on page 9.

Sponsored by The Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce
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River Farm Faces Unknown Future

Washington family. Jefferson received seedlings of the Osage orange from the Lewis and Clark expedition of 1804 to 1806.

Over time, the farm was occupied by two generations of the Washington family and several other families. In 1919, Malcolm Matheson bought the property and transformed it into the charming early-twentieth century country estate it is today. In 1971, Matheson decided to sell the property. There were several interested parties, one of them the Soviet Embassy. Many people were concerned about this potential sale. Through the generosity of Enid Annenberg Haupt, philanthropist, gardener, and member of the board of directors of the AHS, the society was able to purchase the twenty-seven acres in 1973 and to move its headquarters from Alexandria to River Farm. In the spirit of its Mission, AHS agreed to keep the property open for the enjoyment of the American people and to honor George Washington, one of our nation's first great gardeners and horticulturists.

In looking back on the history of River Farm, it is very sad to have arrived at the thought of selling it today. Nothing is definite yet; everything is in flux. There was speculation of the AHS merging with the American Public Gardens Association and putting this prime piece of real estate on the market with the estimated property value between \$15 and \$30 million. Developers have expressed interest in the property over the decades. Many concerned citizens are trying to save this enormously historical property—River Farm. Let us hope that they can.

Continued from page 4.

Facebook: Superpower Gift or Curse

Don't get me totally wrong, the softer unsolicited expressions of love and appreciation for people and things are always welcome; however, it is when someone's vile inner thoughts bubble up to the surface that it can be so upsetting so as to completely alter my opinion of the person.

A new superpower or a super headache? Anyway, that's what's on my mind. Sorry if this unsolicited thought upsets you, but maybe now you better understand my point. Don't worry, though, I am not posting it on facebook.



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In Your Own Backyard

Paw Paw Salsa And the Goose Creek Inlet Lock

By Jon Wolz

It is that time of year again. What am I talking about? Paw paws are ripening along the Potomac River. This year, I thought, when I gathered my paw paws, I would attempt to make paw paw salsa using a recipe my friend Bernie Doerner had given me.

Paw paws are the largest edible fruit native to North America. They can measure from a few inches to up to six inches long with large, dark brown seeds and soft, pale green flesh. The fruit has a sweet flavor that is often compared to pineapple, mango, banana, or cantaloupe. The fruit has the consistency of custard. In Maryland, they are sometimes called Maryland bananas.

The earliest documented mention of paw paws is in the 1541 report of the Spanish de Soto expedition. De Soto found Native Americans cultivating it east of the Mississippi River. The Lewis and Clark Expedition consumed paw paws during their travels. Chilled

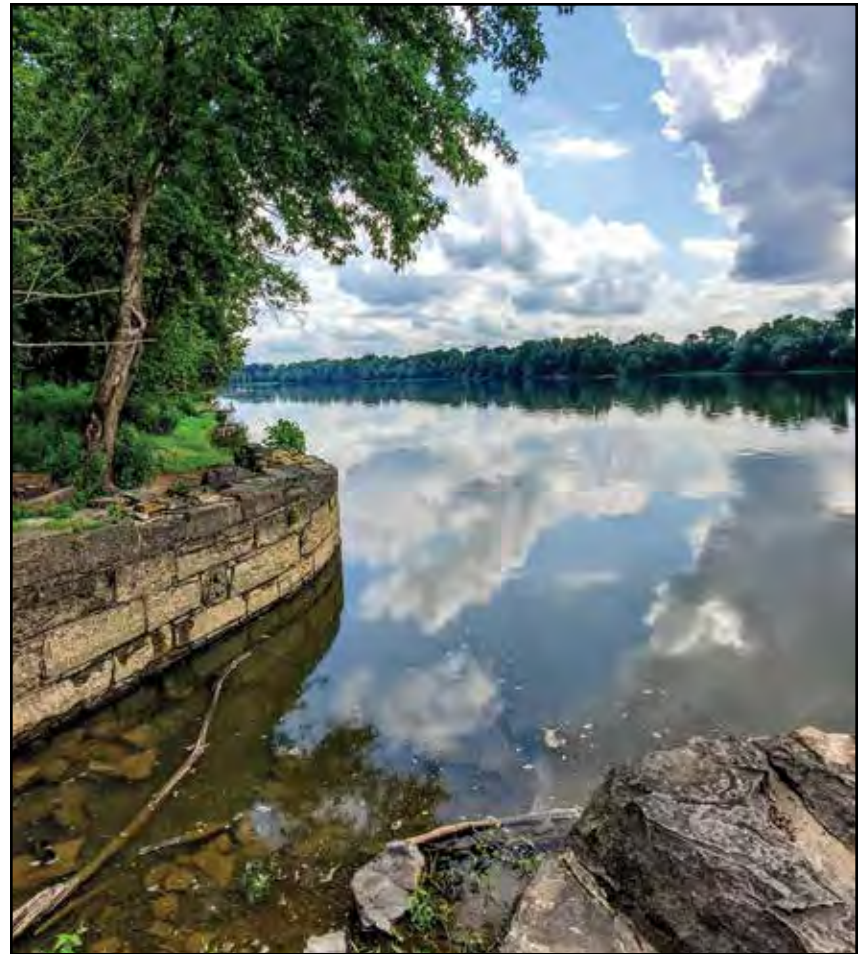
pawpaw fruit was a favorite dessert of George Washington.

The fruits of the pawpaw are eaten by a variety of mammals, including raccoons, foxes, opossums, squirrels, and black bears. Larvae of the zebra swallowtail feed exclusively on young leaves. While paw paws are larval hosts for the zebra swallowtail butterfly, these caterpillars are usually present only at low density and are not detrimental to the foliage of the trees.

Soft paw paws are ripe, whereas a hard paw paw is not ripe. Unripe, hard paw paws will not ripen once they are on the ground. I learned not to bother with these. I look for those that I can squeeze and that my fingertips can push into the ripe fruit a little.

My search for paw paws took me to Edwards Ferry (Lock 25) along the C&O Canal. Paw paw trees are found all along the Potomac River in Montgomery County. I walked down the towpath to the bridge on the towpath that is two-tenths of a mile down from the lock. The bridge goes over what was once a water-filled prism that led to the Goose Creek River Lock. The prism leading to the lock is about a couple of hundred feet long. The Goose Creek River Lock is at Mile 30.84 along the towpath. It was a

Continued on page 12.



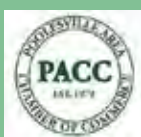
The entrance to the C&O Canal's Goose Creek Inlet Lock.



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J.D. Kuhlman

Continued from page 4.

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Etheridge, Medicare and You with Stephanie Katz, and Lavender and Humanity with Professor Christine Rai. Poolesville Seniors expects that access to these three shows will be announced very soon on their homepage: poolesvilleseniors.org, and they will also announce it on Facebook.

Continued from page 6.

Tidbits

School Classes, Zoom, and the Good Old Outdoors

Audrey Bryon sure knows how to do it right! When her class teacher scheduled exercise Zoom-time to benefit her physical well-being, she did her one better. Her mom set up the computer in the park on a beautiful day, and Audrey was able to participate in the class "room" experience while enjoying the fresh air all at the same time.



Audrey Bryon combines Zoom class with the great outdoors.

Do you have any interesting local history or fun facts to share with our readers? The Monocle welcomes your contribution. Send to editor@monocacymonocle.com



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Continued from page 10.

Paw Paw Salsa and the Goose Creek Inlet Lock

two-lift lock combination leading from the Potomac River. Water entered the lock from the canal prism. During canal operating days, the two locks were joined by a middle set of lock gates. Each lock is ninety feet long. The locks were completed in 1838 to accommodate boats coming across the Potomac River from Goose Creek, Virginia.

The coping stones of the locks are Aquia freestone; other stones are roughly-cut, roughly-faced, and roughly-coursed Seneca sandstone. There was a raised mule bridge over the "inlet" connecting the C&O Canal that allowed boats to pass underneath it. The "inlet" is about two hundred feet long, leading from the locks to the C&O Canal prism. The lockkeeper at Lock 25 also had responsibility for tending the Goose Creek Inlet Lock.

During the Civil War, Confederates retreating from Washington, D.C. burned and dumped the bridge into the canal in 1864. The bridge was replaced by wooden planking over the opening in the wall of the canal connecting the channel to the Goose Creek River Lock. In the early 1900s, a four-gate waste weir was built at the

upper end of the locks that was constructed after the river locks were abandoned. This waste weir replaced the wooden gate at the lock. The remains of the waste weir are still evident. Today, there is a wooden bridge over the opening in the canal wall at the entrance of the basin that leads to the river lock.

Today, trees/roots and underbrush are damaging or threatening the stone walls of this river lock. Also, there is thick undergrowth growing at the base of the lock in sections. Trees and vegetation are threatening to overtake this historic canal structure and permanently erase it from the C&O Canal landscape. Also, Potomac River flooding has deposited tree debris in both of the locks.

There are many local and out-of-area visitors to Edwards Ferry who go by this area just down from Lock 25. It would be nice to preserve and maintain this unique canal lock. After my recent visit, I prepared and submitted a special project request to the C&O Canal Association asking that I be allowed to pursue bids from contractors who could clean out the Goose Creek Inlet Lock.

After spending time examining the inlet lock, I walked off into the woods to hunt for paw paws which I had difficulty finding. There were not as

many paw paws this year as compared to last year. Maybe the blossoms were affected by the May freeze. I was able to gather eight paw paws. A few days later, I made the paw paw salsa, and it was delicious!

Paw Paw Salsa Recipe

- 1/3 cup ripe paw paws, diced
- 1 1/3 cup beefsteak or roma tomatoes, diced
- 1/3 cup white or yellow onions, diced
- 1/2 green pepper, seeded and diced
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon cumin powder
- 1/4 teaspoon red chili pepper, seeded and finely diced

- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 1/2 teaspoons fresh cilantro, chopped
- Salt to taste

In large bowl, mix all ingredients together. Serve at room temperature or chilled.



Paw paw fruit.

Photo by Samara Linnell.

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Local News

Police Warn Residents of Telephone Scam

By Jack Toomey

Montgomery County Police are warning residents of a telephone scam in which callers identify themselves as Montgomery County officers and even use current officers' names and the stations at which they work.

The scam involves the caller telling the resident that they owe amounts of money, supposedly because of unpaid fines. The caller might even invite the citizen to call the station and verify that the officer works there. The scammer attempts to collect the money by sending it by wire transfer or by prepaid phone cards and internet transactions.

The police department stated that they never attempt to collect fines by using the telephone to solicit funds or to collect fines. If you receive this kind of telephone call, contact the police on its non-emergency number at 301-279-8000.

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Local News

Poolesville High Teacher under Investigation

By Jack Toomey

Pornographic Photo Shown to Remote Class

On Friday, October 2, students in a seventh period English class at Poolesville High School were startled to see a pornographic scene on their remote devices. Several students took photos of the screen, and it appeared that the teacher, a long-time veteran of the school, did not know that the photo was on the screen. The Monocle learned that the photo on the screen had come from a widely-known website that features pornography of all genres. Contrary to rumors circulating in the community, the photo did not depict child pornography.

Several parents were upset about the incident, and one related that a friend's second grader had "Adult Tinder" show up on his school-issued Chromebook.

Principal Mark Carothers wrote to parents that the teacher had inappropriate contents on his screen at the beginning of class which included explicit images and language. He added that counselors would be available to talk to students if necessary.

As of Monday, October 5, Gboyinde Onijala, a spokesperson for MCPS, refused to comment on the case and directed this reporter to Principal Carothers's letter to parents.

Corporal Rebecca Innocenti, a spokesperson for the Montgomery County Police, said that they were not investigating the incident since the activities described "did not rise to the level of a crime." The teacher's name is not being listed here since his actions were not criminal, he has not been arrested, and MCPS refused to provide his name.

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Fun Facts...

The first full moon of fall—in this case, the Harvest Moon—appeared on Thursday, October 1. On Saturday, October 31 (Halloween), the second full moon appears. This is the Hunter's Moon, which will be special for two reasons: it's a rare Halloween full moon and a Blue Moon!

*October glows on every cheek,
 October shines in every eye,
 While up the hill and down the dale
 Her crimson banners fly.*

— Elaine Goodale Eastman (1863-1953)

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Continued from page 1.

Five Candidates for Town Commissioner

“We both feel that serving the community is important. In the last four years, my fellow commissioners and I have accomplished a great deal, and I hope another four years will be just as productive, if not more.”

When he is not leading landscape photography workshops in the mountains, Martin works at an agency that raises funds for small nonprofit organizations. “My income is pretty divided between photography and my ‘real job’ these days,” he added.

Jeff Eck is retired after fifteen years in the European Financial Services industry, and currently is a twenty-five-year volunteer with the UMCVFD as a firefighter/EMT. He is also treasurer and BOD member of the Poolesville Chamber of Commerce and on the Board of Directors for the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department. More recently, in response to the pandemic, he joined the Maryland Medical Reserve Corps to further serve the community in this time of crisis. A twenty-nine-year resident of Poolesville, he is running to keep Poolesville a thriving small town, to work for the new high school, and to keep the town safe, with fair access to county services, with managed growth.

David Wilson is employed as Program Manager at Alakaina Foundation Family of Companies. He is a retired military officer in the United States Army Medical Corps and a member and past adjutant of the American Legion Poolesville Post 247.

“As a retired army officer, I’ve lived in multiple countries and states and traveled throughout the world. My wife and I chose Poolesville as the town where we are putting down roots. The charm and small-town feel of Poolesville caught our attention, and the people captured our hearts. As a town commissioner, I will fight for bringing more tax dollars to our part of the county, support Fair Access to being a community school to the town, and hopefully improve on keeping the charm of Poolesville which will take leadership and good-decision-making.”

Ed Reed is an Independent Executive Director and Certified Coach, Leadership Trainer and Keynote Speaker at John Maxwell. He is also an educator in MCPS as a former administrator and current school counseling department chairperson. His family moved to Poolesville in 2013.

“As candidates were getting others to sign their petition to run for commissioner, many people approached me asking, ‘Ed, why not you?’ Followed by, ‘Look at all the things you do to help others in our town. Many people support you and need a person like you to be at the table in a formal capacity.’ Reflecting on my vision and passion for contributing to the wellbeing of people, families, and businesses, I said, ‘Yes.’

“Over the years, I have worked behind the scenes to support the PTA, PACC, local students and families, coaching Poolesville athletics, and now as a Fair Access Committee Board member.”

Notice about Poolesville Town Elections:

Voting for town commissioners can be done by mail or in person at the Poolesville Town Hall on election day, November 3. Ballots will be mailed from the town during the third week of October. All town commissioner election ballots can only be submitted either directly to the Town Hall at 19721 Beall Street or mailed to the Town at P.O. Box 158, Poolesville, MD 20837.

Mail-in ballots will have to be postmarked by the time the post office closes. We will accept mail-in ballots until received from the USPS by noon on November 10, 2020.

Registered voters can turn in their ballot before election day and up until 8:00 p.m. on election day. Do not use the ballot box at the Poolesville High School for submitting your Town of Poolesville ballot. That ballot box is only for the county and state election ballots.

Continued from page 5.

Commissioners Hear Report on Budget and Spending from Last Year

commissioners reversed course due to concerns that a vote in which only two commissioners actually voted for sending the letter (President Kerri Cook was absent and Commissioner Valaree Dickerson abstained) did not represent a consensus. The commissioners voted instead to allow individual members to send letters to the council if they wished to do so.

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Youth Sports

PHS Athletes and Coaches Coping with COVID Cancellations and Uncertainty

By Jeff Stuart

Fall and winter sports coaches and athletes at PHS are responding to the new normal, COVID environment. There are no scheduled sports competitions, but they are nonetheless quite active.

Soccer

"In soccer's case, my players have been doing group chats, bimonthly Zoom chats, and fitness work since May/June on their own," said girls' soccer coach Rod Nubgaard. "Different leaders have emerged as a result. We have thirty-nine girls signed up. Virtual Soccer format has been a challenge to learn. It is a new way to 'coach.'"

Athletes participate in a five-week virtual season. They are assigned athletic homework in addition to their academic work. Each week has a different theme, including: Mental Fitness, Team Concept, and others.

The coaches, including assistant varsity coach Alyssa Nubgaard, and new JV coach Jessica Hoyle, are working very hard to develop a virtual curriculum for the players. This involves training on virtual platforms. Coaches must find the balance for their players in not overburdening them, and for themselves in having to learn how to use Zoom or Canvas and keep stress down all around. Making these sessions valuable and useful, and encouraging large participation is very important.

"How do we recognize our seniors? This has been a struggle. Our seniors are Mackenzie 'Mac' Keese, team captain, Melany 'Mel' Martinez, Madeline 'Maddie' Montemurro, and Riley Salovich. My juniors are working on their plan. Four players who have stepped up over the summer are Mackenzie, of course, sophomores Avery Penn and Lizzie Kovacs, and junior Sierra Schenck. Many of the players worked on fitness on their own and participated in team/player Zoom sessions offered twice a month led by Mackenzie.

"I have a leadership team of players that are an integral part of this, and we will keep virtual connections going until we meet in person, by next spring hopefully. We have created a freshman buddy system in order to bring new players into the soccer fold."

Cross Country

"We are meeting with the athletes on Zoom Monday and Thursday," said cross country coach Prasad Gerard. "We have posted a workout schedule for the athletes and have talked to them about just being flexible and getting outside to run, do core, bike, and lift weights. The athletes are doing virtual time trials and keeping in touch with each other. We are using Strava which allows athletes to upload their workouts so teammates can see what they are doing and offer encouragement. Some of the athletes will be competing in the Montgomery County Virtual race series. We have joined the other cross country teams in MOCO to fundraise for organizations in need. I just sent this letter to the team:

"Dear cross country runners,

In an effort to add meaning to the miles you run during this virtual season, the MCPS cross country coaches have organized an optional 5K Run-A-Thon fundraiser. Open to all MCPS cross country athletes, the fundraiser will directly benefit five organizations that seek to better our Montgomery County community: Holy Cross Health (www.holy-crosshealth.org), Manna Food Center (www.mannafood.org), College Tracks (www.college-trackssusa.org), Rebuilding Together (www.rebuildingtogethermc.org), and the Dwelling Place (www.tdp-inc.org).

In order to participate, you will need to recruit sponsors to pledge up to \$.05 per mile that you run during our five-week season. You can log your miles and collect donations by joining our team page on the RallyUp fundraising website."

General

All fall sports are taking part in a five-week season of virtual athletics. "We are beginning with fall sports and then will move to winter and spring," said PHS athletic director Regina Grubb. "During this time, all students are welcome. Coaches are meeting with the teams on Zoom and working with them through Canvas. Students will participate in team-specific, school-specific, systemwide, and sport-specific activities. We want the students to have fun, build relationships, and

Continued on page 21.



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ZTA 20-01 would only allow community solar and aggregate net energy metering (ANEM) projects in the Ag Reserve as defined by state law referenced in the proposal. While community solar serves residential customers, ANEM is restricted to agriculture, nonprofits like churches & state/local government, representing a limited customer base. ZTA allowed projects would have multiple benefits, combining clean energy with regenerative agriculture, pollinator friendly habitat, grazing or table crop growing beneath the panels.

Table crops – vegetables and fruits from orchards – are today produced on less than 1.5% of the county’s farmland. Combining them with solar, in what is called “agrivoltaics”, is an excellent way to increase our county’s food security.

Farmers are struggling to make a living in agriculture due to trade wars, low commodity prices, and climate change. We need to support Ag Reserve farms that produce food locally in an economically viable way. We can double the acreage of table crops produced in the Ag Reserve with agrivoltaic community solar projects, as allowed by the proposed ZTA on just 2% of the Ag Reserve.

Additional steps, such as rooftop solar or converting the Dickerson coal-fired plant, will also be needed. But none of them can produce anywhere near the amount of clean energy that the county needs. Furthermore, solar produces 100 times the climate benefits per acre as only implementing regenerative agriculture practices or reforestation.

Also, studies over years have demonstrated the positive nexus of energy, water and food that is Agrivoltaics. This nexus is a key in solving climate challenges.

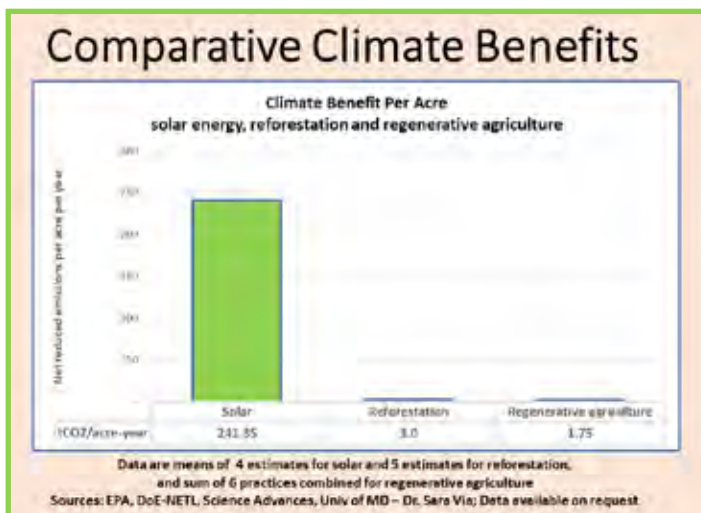
Our Ag Reserve, our country, our nation and our planet are facing a climate crisis. Community solar in the Ag Reserve is vital to meeting that crisis, and supporting 21st century farming for 21st century farmers.



Montgomery County’s farmland

from USDA-NASS, 2017 Census of Agriculture

Land use	Acres	Percent
Land in farms	65,537	
Corn for grain or silage	12,242	18.7
Soybeans	14,559	22.2
Wheat	7,758	11.8
Hay and other forages	8,878	13.5
Pastureland	11,539	17.6
Vegetables	457	0.6
Orchards	332	0.5



Mystery History

Brewer Farm: Mystery at Rosehill

By Rande Davis

Although the view of what remains of Brewer Farm on Route 28 is a bit obscured from those of us busily traveling along Route 28. The imaginative historian might sense the spirit of George Washington, J.E.B. Stuart, and Confederate Gen. Jubal Early galloping their horses along the ridgeline. Those historic legends have since departed, and today the only occupants of the existing buildings are the pigeons that perch in the crib barn on the property of our mystery history focus: the Brewer Farm.

The Brewer Farm is a section of the original 1,102-acre land grant known as Woodstock Manor. It is that parcel of 583 acres of land that was left after 519 acres of Woodstock Manor was sold to George Washington on January 13, 1794. Maddeningly for today's consumer, the property sold for \$12 to \$15 per acre back then.

Dr. William Brewer, who held a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, was from a German family originally from Anne Arundel County. He and his wife, Mary Chiswell, had fifteen children.

Dr. Brewer's grandson, William George Brewer, who married Ida White on May 16, 1872, moved into the farmhouse shortly after their marriage. The colonial-style home, which is no longer, was perched directly in front of the cluster of buildings visible from Route 28. While their family had the house built for their marriage, it was not completed until sometime after the wedding. In fact, when the couple returned from their wedding trip, the Brewer family held the reception in the foundation of the house since the rest of the home was not completed yet.

It is easy to imagine that festive gala today since the reception would have been just in front of the stone buildings that are there now.

In the 1860s, Charles Johnson, along with Harriet Carr and her four children, were slaves on the Brewer Farm, and some report that log structures, originally located directly south of the manager's house, served as slave quarters. On the other hand, the descendants always referred to this tenant house as "the quarters" which lends credence to the theory that it was actually the slave quarters. The mystery as to which theory is right will have to continue for now. By 1870, Mary Johnson and her five children were servants on the farm. Interestingly, Mary's husband, Charles, left the farm much earlier to fight in the Civil War.

Photo by Allen C. Browne.



The Corn Crib in 2015.

The most intriguing structures still standing are two Seneca sandstone buildings. The larger one is referred to as the tenant (manager's) house and the other is a springhouse. The construction date is estimated to be around 1861. These structures are excellent examples of our agricultural heritage and of Seneca stone construction. In the 1700s and 1800s, the Potomac River in Montgomery County near the mouth of the Seneca Creek was rich with sandstone and marble. The Seneca Quarry was located on the C&O Canal near the town of Seneca. This building was used to keep perishables cold by running spring water through a built-in tub.

The largest remaining structure is the decaying crib barn, a wooden-framed structure that had the hay hoisted into the loft above and animals or goods in the cribs below.

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- Financial contributions have been coming in strongly. We are seeing more requests for financial assistance. We are grateful for all our financial supporters and encourage you all to make additional or new donations. Contribute either from our website or send a check to our post office box (see below).

Scarecrows and WUMCO Walk

- This year, we will have a modified event, but we are looking forward to hosting the traditional Walk and our Scarecrow and Costume contests (virtually, for children and pets). Details for each activity may be found at www.wumcohelp.org/walk-harvest-fest. We will also be selling luminaria kits for a \$10 donation, which we hope folks will decorate and loan back to us to use on Halloween to light up the path on Whalen Commons. All proceeds from the luminaria sales will go directly to WUMCO, thanks to sponsor Fine Earth Landscape, Inc. The Community Scarecrow Contest is sponsored by the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce.

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- Please become a member of YOUR food pantry and financial assistance program via www.wumcohelp.org/Membership.html or send a check to our post office box 247, Poolesville, MD 20837. Thank you!

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Questions? Please write Adam DeBaugh at wumco2@gmail.com or call the WUMCO office.

Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Theft: 17200 block of General Custer Way.

Past Crime: 1905 to 1910

Sheriff William Viett was fed up with the speeders that always eluded him when he attempted to flag them down. The machine with which the county had provided him was just too slow. He had a bright idea. Viett purchased a Red Devil machine that was said to be faster than any auto on the road. The experiment was not successful as his Red Devil was still not fast enough. He then had another bright idea. He convinced the county to purchase two bloodhounds from Mississippi that he trained to detect the odor of gasoline. He had the bloodhounds sniff around parked cars to determine if the cars had been speeding. There is no report on how successful this experiment turned out.

Montgomery County announced that two new motorcycles would be purchased to combat the epidemic of

speeding that had affected the county roads. It was thought that residents of Washington considered the wide-open roads of the county as theirs for speeding and for performing antics with their own fast vehicles. Since there were no speed limits, a committee of five Rockville attorneys was appointed whose mission it was to determine safe speed limits on certain main roads.

Bessie Larman, a lady living two miles from Boyds, became violently ill after arsenic was placed in her food. Charles Larman, the brother-in-law of Bessie, was immediately suspected because he was known to oppose the upcoming marriage of Bessie. Charles lived on the farm with other relatives and was said to do little work but to lie around all day and complain. It was reported that Bessie had surprised Charles sprinkling arsenic on some bread that she had been about to eat, and Bessie had taken the bread and thrown it out the door. Then, in an unwise decision, she began eating meat that was on her plate, and she fell to the floor. Other family members were able to get her to the train station where a train took her to Washington where she was admitted to a hospital. In the meantime, the sheriff was looking for Charles who had disappeared.

Charles Souder, the Redland school-teacher, was robbed and assaulted while walking home after a school day. Somehow, Garfield Jett became a suspect and was arrested in Washington by the police. Montgomery Deputy Sheriff Mullican traveled to the D.C. Police station where Jett was being held and asked to take Jett to Redland so Souder's aged grandmother could take a look at him. The D.C. Police, afraid that they would never see Jett again, refused and said that they needed requisition papers before Jett was to be taken to Rockville.

Edward Bradley, formerly a deputy sheriff in Montgomery County, was acquitted in record time on a charge of bribery. The prosecution alleged that Bradley accepted a bribe at the Rock Springs Hotel on the night of the much-promoted prize fight. Bradley had vehemently denied such an act. It was said that the jury did not even deliberate but turned around and came right back into the courtroom and announced their verdict.

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

Continued from page 18.

PHS Athletes and Coaches Coping with COVID Cancellations and Uncertainty

make connections with one another. We are excited about the opportunity to be able to work with our students in this capacity and hope that once health metrics allow, we will be able to begin in-person activities."

Winter Sports

"Rumor has it there might be an in-person season beginning in February," said boys and girls' swimming coach Jon Leong. "Honestly, I have mixed feelings. Of course, I want to return to normalcy and have a shot at continuing our run of success, but at what risk? In order to facilitate swim meets, people are going to have to be close to others. I'm not quite sure what MCPS will decide even if the MPSSAA does go ahead with an in-person season. Until then, we will have a short virtual season at the end of October so at least we can meet with our teams and get some team bonding in and perhaps do some dryland conditioning via computer. This should prove to be interesting."

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Continued from page 7.

Circles, Roots, and Connections: An Unintended Poolesville Story

Valaree was stunned to find that her grandmother had been the daughter of John Motter Poole and that she herself is actually a direct descendant of Joseph Poole, one of the two brothers who were the founding fathers of Poolesville, information which had prompted that July morning phone call. Those Poole roots were real and unbelievably went deeper and further back than any of us could have guessed.

That same research then unexpectedly revealed that she is also a distant cousin to the Robert Hempstone of our legendary Hempstone House—however, that is another story for another day.

For Valaree and even her children, who were also unsuspecting descendants of those founding families, to have chosen Poolesville to call home for their own children, and for Valaree to have been compelled to play such a vital and significant role in the life of her childhood home with no idea how closely she was connected, seems evidence that this truly is a mysterious journey we are on, often totally unaware of the equally mysterious labyrinth through which we are weaving our way as we travel, with roots and connections showing up in the most unexpected places.

I would like to believe her Poole forefathers would be very impressed with their descendant granddaughter Valaree Dickerson who has contributed so much to a community much changed from the one they began so long ago, here in a world they could not possibly have foreseen, and that she has served both it and them well.

Continued from page 20.

Brewer Farm: Mystery at Rosehill

Walter and Audrey Pritchard, Dickerson residents and the last family to properly care for the home, lived in the farmhouse in the late 1960s and raised their four children there. Back then, the crib barn made a terrific basketball court, according to Mrs. Pritchard. Mrs. Pritchard also reports uncovering many beautiful rosebushes in the yard which is understandable since the property at one time is reported to have been called Rosehill. After the Pritchards moved out, the subsequent occupants did not take particularly good care of the home, and it decayed and was eventually torn down.

Many members of the Brewer family are buried in Monocacy Cemetery in Beallsville just a half mile south of the site.

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Update on COVID-19 and Dogs and Cats

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

The pandemic caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has reached nearly every country in the world with extraordinary person-to-person transmission. The most likely original source of the virus was spillover from an animal reservoir and subsequent adaptation to humans sometime during the winter of 2019 in Wuhan Province, China. Because of its genetic similarity to SARS-CoV-1, it is probable that this novel virus has a similar host range and receptor specificity.

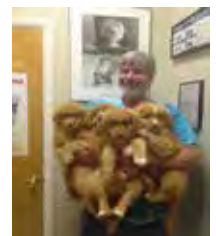
Due to concern for human-pet transmission, we investigated the susceptibility of domestic cats and dogs to infection and potential for infected cats to transmit to naive cats. We report that cats are highly susceptible to infection, with a prolonged period of oral and nasal viral shedding that is not accompanied by clinical signs and are capable of direct contact transmission to other cats. These studies confirm that cats are susceptible to productive SARS-CoV-2 infection but are unlikely to develop clinical disease. Further, we document that cats developed a robust neutralizing antibody response that prevented reinfection following a second viral challenge. Conversely, we found that dogs do not shed virus following infection but do seroconvert and mount an antiviral neutralizing antibody response.

There is currently no evidence that cats or dogs play a significant role in human infection; however, reverse zoonosis is possible if infected owners expose their domestic pets to the virus during acute infection. Resistance to reinfection holds promise that a vaccine strategy may protect cats and, by extension, humans.



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