

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

November 20, 2020 • Volume XVI, Number 17



Local scouts shared the celebration of veterans with American Legion Post 247. More pics on page 2.



Barnesville's pumpkin carving contest had a lot of entries. Cutting-edge news on page 3.



The culvert height measures seventy-eight inches. Originally, it was ten feet. Find out what happened on page 8.



When the war broke out, he hightailed it to Canada, but not for the reason you may think. More on page 10.

New Commissioner Meeting Results in Controversial Motion and Reversal

By Link Hoewing

On Monday, November 16, 2020, the Town of Poolesville commissioners met for the first time in the wake of the recent election to swear in newly-elected members and to choose a president and vice president. The passing of the baton occurred as current commissioners, Jerry Klobukowski and Valaree Dickerson, both of whom are leaving office, appeared briefly to say their farewells. Klobukowski lost his bid for reelection, and Dickerson decided not to run again. Klobukowski had served a total of twenty-four years as an elected official in town.

The commissioners first heard the results of the recent election. Ed Reed received 1,516 votes, Martin Radigan received 1,283 votes, Jeff Eck received 1,233 votes, Jerry Klobukowski received 1,027 votes, and David Wilson received

708 votes. The president of the election board, Andrea Stump, pointed out that the recent election was unprecedented as it was the first in which mail-in ballots were used. She praised the work of the board in processing the historically large number of ballots that had been received.

After Klobukowski and Dickerson left the meeting, newly-elected commissioner, Jeff Eck and Ed Reed, and newly-reelected commissioner, Martin Radigan, were sworn in by Town Manager Seth Rivard. Once the new commissioners were officially brought on board, current President Kerri Cook said she was "looking forward to working collaboratively" and moved on to consider the election of a president and vice president for the town. She nominated herself as president,

remarking that she had only recently won that position in a special commissioner vote some five months ago. Radigan seconded the nomination, and it was approved 4-0 (Commissioner Jim Brown was not in attendance at the meeting). Cook next nominated Radigan to be the new vice president. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jeff Eck and, once again, the vote was unanimous, 4-0.

President Cook next moved to the appointment of *ex officio* commissioners who sit as non-voting members on various town bodies to help inform their work and keep other commissioners apprised of actions the bodies might take. Traditionally, the president does make such appointments

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Monocacy Roots

A New Book Unveils the Story of Poolesville's Sugarland

By Rande Davis

The ancestry of one of Poolesville's African American communities, Sugarland, is the story of deep and strong family roots, of victory over hardship, of hard work and achievement despite subjugation, and perhaps most importantly, of an abiding faith in God. It is, at its very core, a profoundly American story.

Now, that story, largely oral history up until now, has been published in a journal about the journey in the recent release of *I Have Started for Canaan: The Story of the African American Town of Sugarland*. The book is the labor of love by a production team consisting of Gwen Reese and Suzanne Johnson of the Sugarland Ethno-History Project, and local resident Jeff Stypeck. Just as the book

preserves the rich SEHP history, the funds from sales will help in the preservation, maintenance, and outreach mission of the organization.

It is believed that the publication may be the first book-length history about a Reconstruction-era African American town anywhere in the entire State of Maryland. The title is a reference to a hymn—handwritten in the Sugarland church ledger in the 1880s or 1890s—that evokes the beginning of a journey to a biblical promised land.

Jeff Stypeck joined the team in January 2019 when he learned from Caroline Taylor that SEHP was looking for volunteers. Jeff has a strong background in writing, editing, historical

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I HAVE STARTED FOR CANAAN
THE STORY OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN TOWN OF SUGARLAND

THE SUGARLAND ETHNO-HISTORY PROJECT

A new book about Sugarland, 260 pages, published by the Sugarland Ethno-History Project includes maps and forty photos and illustrations.

Family Album



A light rain did not deter the fervor of those who joined in the largest crowd ever for a Veterans Day commemoration in Poolesville.



Post Commander Julien Singh, with Cliff Bergstresser Montgomery County commander, made comments at the celebration.



Over sixty people joined the American Legion Post 247 at its annual Veterans Day observance on November 11.



Posters honoring local veterans were displayed around the flags at Whalen Commons.



Legionnaires Julien Singh and Jerry Klobukowski, along with other volunteers, put up the posters in tribute to those who served from our area.



Poolesville Baptist's Pastor Joel Gilbert sang "God Bless America."

Tidbits

Electric Vehicle Charger Ribbon Cutting

Poolesville is proud to announce the addition of four new electrical vehicle (EV) chargers, bringing the total in Poolesville to six. There are a total of four EV chargers located in Whalen Commons, behind the performing arts bandshell. The two other chargers are located at Total Automotive and Diesel.



Poolesville Green had a Zoom ribbon-cutting ceremony for new electric car charging stations.

In 2016, the first two chargers in Poolesville started out as a project by Poolesville High School students Brianna Roche and Lauren Lightcap.

The Town of Poolesville would also like to thank the following partners for making the additional four EV chargers possible: Tad and Lynn Bodmer (owners of Total Automotive and Diesel Service who are hosting the two L3 EV quick chargers); Matthew Wade, CEO, Electric Vehicle Institute; Joyce Breiner (executive director, Poolesville Green); JD Taylor (Poolesville Green and EV enthusiast), Poolesville Town Commission, and Sustainable Poolesville Board.

American Legion, Families, and Scouts Help Place Vet Flags



A large group of volunteers helped place American flags in the Monocacy Cemetery at the graves of buried veterans.

Note from Glenn Wallace of the Monocacy Cemetery Project: "Thank you all so much for helping us get the American flags placed. Having a group that big made the process go much quicker. I hope you enjoyed it, and I would love to have you back for Memorial Day next year! Volunteers are also welcome for this and other flag placement at local cemeteries."

If you want to help next year, email: rdavis@monocacymonocle.com.

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Rande(m) Thoughts A Town Commission Out of Control

By Rande Davis

For twelve years, I attended nearly every single Town of Poolesville Commission meeting, reporting those discussions and results to our readers. Through that process, I came to gain immense respect for the commission form of government, especially as it relates to local, small-town governments. Over the years, there have been personality conflicts and intense disagreements among commissioners as one would expect whenever people are engaged in dialogue with opposing points of view. Ultimately, though, the commission concept forces something that we sorely need today: congeniality.

While we glibly refer to the president of the town commission as “mayor,” she most assuredly is not. Most of the key errors of judgement made by town commissioners over the years have stemmed from whenever a commission president has acted like a mayor. Mayors have specific rights and, more importantly, powers that a president of the commission does not have.

Personal animosity ultimately destroys the key value of the commission approach to decision-making because, as in any relationship, a willingness to allow both sides of any discussion a fair hearing leads to better decisions. If each member is assured of a fair chance of being heard, they are more likely to contribute in a positive way. When Kerri Cook called to replace Jim Brown from the Fair Access Committee, she acted well beyond her role as president. He was not at the meeting and unable to respond in his defense. To ask for approval of her assignments of commissioners to

the various town bodies—cognizant of Brown’s absence and with two commissioners who were completely new and unaware of the town ordinance—was poor judgement.

Nowhere does the town charter say the president gets to select commission liaison appointments. The commissioners as a group make that decision. Section 82.27 of the town’s ordinances states: “Commissioners may appoint from among their members commissioners to serve as ex officio members of commissions and boards created by this charter or any ordinance except otherwise provided by state law.” In the past, presidents usually consulted with other commissioners and even the board chairs to work out assignments. If agreement could not be reached, then a vote would be taken. Votes would only occur after a proper discussion had taken place. The newest commissioners did not have to start their time on the commission as a rubber stamp to an inappropriate act. There should have been discussion. Credit to Martin Radigan for voicing concern about the action without Brown present. This action gives definition to the term kangaroo courts. At the very least, her move to remove Brown should not have occurred until he could be present.

Additionally, it is unwise for the president of the commission to make such a move without consulting the chairperson of that committee. This consultation is not mandated but should be done as a professional and personal courtesy. Kevin Schramm, who is the chair of the Fair Access Committee, had this to say: “I was completely blindsided. I was not consulted. I would have never recommended removing Jim from the committee to be replaced with ‘new blood’ as Kerri stated in the meeting last night. In the span of one week, the Fair Access Committee lost Jerry due

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Local News

Town Manager Investigated for Inappropriate Remarks

By Rande Davis

The commissioners of Poolesville are awaiting the results of an independent investigation into complaints registered by town employees relating to professionally inappropriate statements and treatment toward them by Town Manager Seth Rivard. Since the complaints first came to light, additional complaints have expanded to employee objections concerning his regard for town residents in that same negative manner.

Mr. Rivard was hired in January to replace former Town Manager Wade Yost and, by Rivard’s request, a six-month review of the contract was included in the contract. Mr. Rivard’s employment position prior to being selected was as a code enforcement officer for Charles Town, West Virginia. That employment evaluation review process should have been done by town commissioners this past June; however, while sought by at least one commissioner, the official review

never took place. At the time during which the review process was disregarded, complaints from employees were made, first submitted by individual employees without knowledge that other employees were also making complaints. To be clear, these initial complaints were made informally in conversation to specific commissioners, and then subsequently shared with the other commissioners. Still, no action was formally taken to determine the legitimacy of the complaints, nor did a review of employment status of the town manager occur.

The complaints centered on inappropriate language by Mr. Rivard in a number of instances that created, in the opinion of the employees, a very uncomfortable work culture which, at times, bordered on a perceived hostile environment. Due to legal restrictions regarding personnel issues, the actual incidences remain confidential.

The complaints coalesced in September, at which time a formal complaint was received by the president of the town commission, Kerri Cook. The matter was then formally taken up by the entire commission in closed session, and a decision was made to hire an outside independent counsel to investigate and report the findings of the complaints.

Continued on page 7.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

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Continued from page 1.

New Commissioner Meeting Results in Controversial Motion and Reversal

after consultation with the other commissioners. The town's ordinances state that the "commissioners may appoint from among their members commissioners to serve as *ex officio* members of commissions and boards created by this charter..." The president does make the nominations public, and normally these appointments do not require any formal vote.

Cook said that she had wanted to become involved in the work of the Fair Access Committee in which she had once served. She announced that she would take the position on the committee now filled by Commissioner Jim Brown and that she would move him to the Events Committee.

Radigan asked after the announcement whether there might not be some way that Brown could remain engaged in the Fair Access Committee, including as a volunteer. Cook responded that it is not possible to have more than two commissioners on the committee. She said that the "success of any endeavor is to have fresh ideas and perspectives on all of the boards" and went on to say that it is a "win-win to mix it up on the boards" with new members. Based on the dialog between the two commissioners, it appeared that Radigan had been surprised by the proposal.

Cook also announced that Reed would continue on the Fair Access Committee and asked Eck to serve on the Parks Board while Radigan was asked to continue serving on the Planning Commission. Cook said she was also a member of the Sustainability Committee and would step down if anyone else expressed interest in the position.

The following Tuesday, the decision to move Brown from Fair Access was reversed by Cook with Reed taking liaison to the Events Committee.

In the Town Manager's Report, Seth Rivard reminded everyone that the holidays were approaching with the county and state in the midst of continued restrictions due to COVID-19. He said that the holiday lighting contest, in which homeowners and businesses decorate their homes and buildings with holiday lights and are judged by a volunteer committee, will continue as it always has. The town will deploy all of the lights for the holidays as it has in the past, but there will be no public event of any kind. Once exception will be the holiday tree which has traditionally been in the town hall foyer and that children have decorated with handmade ornaments. Since town hall is closed, the town has set up the Santa Shop Building on its usual location, and a tree will be set up inside. Children may hang their handmade decorations on this tree.

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Serendipitous Pet and Animal Pictures*



Wood Duck

Photo by Terri Pitts

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Senior News

Poolesville Seniors Sponsor Virtual Programs

In keeping with their motto, Stay Active, Poolesville Seniors is providing virtual programs that focus on keeping minds sharp, fostering regular exercise, and encouraging social interaction. Visit their website, poolesvilleseniors.org, to register for the Zoom programs below which are open to the entire community.

Mondays

Tai-Chi with Maureen Ivusic, 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesdays

Chair Yoga with Twyla Insalaco. 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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

Tuesday, December 1

Holiday Crafts

Chris Rickert and Annette Rosanelli of Needlepointers.com will teach participants how to make two wool felt holiday ornaments, a wreath and

a Christmas tree. There is a \$7.00 fee. Materials for this project will be delivered contact-free to each participant's home on Monday, November 30. 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 3

Senior Safety

Montgomery County Police Officers, Michelle Smith and Tara Bond, and James Resnick of Montgomery County Fire and Rescue will provide seniors with safety tips, concerns about potential scams, information about the File of Life packet, and general fire safety suggestions. 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 5

Latrobe Quarry Walk with Jon Wolz

Mask required. Consult the website for directions to the quarry and for other hiking information. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 8

First monthly Tuesday Lunch Bunch. Bring your lunch, wear your Ugly Holiday Sweater, and be ready to share your holiday stories and traditions. There will be a prize for the ugliest sweater. Note: Tuesday Lunch Bunch will now be held monthly and will feature rotating themes. 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Continued on page 7.

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Continued from page 6.

Poolesville Seniors Offers a Variety of Virtual Programs for the Community

Thursday, December 10

Edible Garden Girl

Nationally-published professional photographer and Poolesville resident, Hilary Schwab, will provide gardening tips and a live cooking demonstration using butternut squash as her focus. 7:00 p.m.

Friday, December 11

Songs of the Season Family Sing-a-Long

Poolesville resident, Rick Normoyle, returns to fill us with the holiday spirit as we join him in singing seasonal songs. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 17

Ag Reserve Properties

Local historian, Kenny Sholes, continues his series with information about historical properties from the Agricultural Reserve. 7:30 p.m.

Did you miss any Poolesville Seniors programs? Many of their recent presentations were recorded and are now available via a YouTube link from their website.

To register for the programs listed above and to receive the Zoom link for each, visit poolesvilleseniors.org. If the registration information for the event you're interested in isn't there now, check back closer to the program date. To be added to their emailing list or for questions email: info@poolesvilleseniors.org. To receive a hard copy of their monthly newsletter, call 301-875-7701.

Continued from page 4.

Town Manager Investigated for Inappropriate Remarks

Inadvisably, after the employee complaints were formally received, the town manager was made aware of the complaints before they were taken to the entire board of commissioners and the town attorney.

The results of the investigation are still pending.

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In Your Own Backyard

Edwards and White's Ferry Canal Crossings

By Jon Wolz

The construction of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal began in 1828 and was completed in 1850. It is 184.5 miles long from Georgetown in Washington, D.C. to Cumberland, Maryland. Construction of the canal cut off people from either side of the Potomac River. The canal prism is six feet deep and is generally sixty feet across at water level with occasional wider boat basins. The solution to cross the prism by people on foot, horseback, or horse and wagon for the Canal Company was to build large culverts for travel beneath the canal where needed, to build bridges cross the canal, or to use a canal ferry.

At Edwards Ferry (Lock 25, mile 30.84) there were different ways to cross the canal during operating days. The lock is sixteen feet deep and fifteen feet wide. The canal prism was watered along the stretch of the canal from Harper's Ferry to Georgetown in 1834. In the beginning of canal operations, there was a 150-foot square dug into the berm bank that is opposite the river bank where a Canal Company scow (a flat-bottomed boat) was used to transport people from one side of the canal to the other side. The scow was replaced shortly after the canal opened by a pivot bridge that pivoted on the berm side of the lock. By 1839, the bridge had decayed and was deemed unfit for use. This bridge was replaced by a small pivot bridge on the river side of the lock that could accommodate foot traffic or horses, but wagons had to make a detour of four miles upstream to go through Culvert 49 at mile 34.82 near Conrad's (White's) Ferry to cross the canal. Conrad's Ferry got a usable bridge in 1871 at mile 35.5 to cross the canal.



Rosie and Violet looking down at the mystery staircase.

This pivot bridge was in the middle of the lock. A pivot bridge was a bridge that was swung when needed to cross a lock by pivoting on a pivot device on a lock. By 1850, stronger abutments had to be constructed for the Edwards Ferry bridge. The Civil War was hard on the bridge, and it was rebuilt in a much better manner so it could carry not only horses but wagons during the war. In June 1863, Union General Hooker had men build two additional bridges across the lock to accommodate his seventy-five thousand troops who were to cross the Potomac River on two pontoon bridges as they marched north from Virginia on their way to Gettysburg. They also used the pivot bridge at the lock as well the two other bridges. In July 1864, Confederate Lt. Gen. Jubal Early had his cavalry cross at Edwards Ferry while his infantry and artillery crossed at White's Ford.

Continued on page 17.

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Tribute

From the Greatest Generation: World War II Vet Sonny Marsh

By Rande Davis

He heard the explosive news during a football game on a Monday afternoon, and it couldn't have rocked him more had the blast been nearby. Sonny Marsh, a sixteen-year-old student at Bethesda Chevy Chase High School, remembers that moment clearly, even while struggling to remember which teams were playing football that day. The day was December 7, 1942. Japan had attacked Pearl Harbor, and it was not long after that he and two other friends decided what they wanted to do. The trio of conspirators made a plan to run off to Canada, not to avoid the conflict as students would two decades later, but to try to "join up." Sonny and his two friends, Ralph Childs and Bob Wentworth, heard that the Canadian Army accepted sixteen-year-olds into military service, and, anxious to join the fight—and unbeknownst to their parents—they headed north. Marsh's dad and Colonel Childs brought them home from Canada, and Sonny's dad enrolled him in Augusta Military Academy in Fort Defiance, Virginia. He ultimately studied finance at the University of Michigan.

When they turned eighteen, they made good on their original mission. Childs' dad was a colonel in the army, so he volunteered to join them, but for Sonny, whose youth had been filled with days sailing the family boat on the Chesapeake Bay, he chose the navy.



Sonny and Peggy Marsh.



The USS Croatan, the ship on which Yeoman First Class Marsh served during World War II.

After graduating from the United States Naval Training Center (bootcamp) in Bainbridge, Maryland, Sonny became a yeoman first class as an aid to the ship's captain on the USS Croatan, an escort carrier which was the nucleus for a "hunter-killer" group, anti-submarine warships that were actively deployed to attack submarines during World War II.

Sonny refers to the ship as a mini-carrier which was loaded with twenty-four planes used to escort and protect a 6,939-ship armada for the D-Day invasion. Later, the ship provided air support for the Battle of the Bulge. As assistant to the ship's captain, events could become so hectic and demanding that he didn't even sleep in his assigned quarters. Instead, he used a bed roll-up that he literally put on top of his desk on which to sleep. If interrupted at night, better to be at his "battle station" than to lose time stumbling around to reach the deck.

Continued on page 11.



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Poolesville, MD MHIC 128570 MDA 28831 J.D. Kuhlman

Continued from page 10.

From the Greatest Generation: World War II Vet Sonny Marsh

At this time of this life, he has reached so many milestones. He and his wife, Peggy, have been married sixty-nine years. He can still remember her walking by his dad's Oldsmobile dealership (Community Motors, Inc.) in Bethesda every day. She caught his eye early, and they married when he returned from service. Peggy's dad was an apartment builder in Bethesda, responsible for much of the development of the city. They have three children and two grandchildren. They came to Poolesville to join their daughter Sandy on an equestrian farm named San-Mar on Partnership Road.

Sonny's sense of duty has never left him, and that pride of service remains visible as he is an active member of the Bethesda Rotary, in which he now celebrates his seventieth year of membership.

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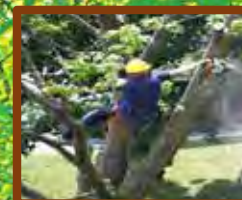
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Continued from page 3.

Tidbits

**Winners of Town of Barnesville
Pumpkin Carving Contest**

Age 6 and Under

- Vincent Wagner—*Cutest*
- Ben Kirksey-Demo—*Spookiest*
- Malcolm Slotta—*Silliest*

Age 7-11

- Abby Stumpf (two entries)—*Silliest*
- Gwen Slotta—*Cutest*
- James Parsley—*Spookiest*

Teens

- Teddy Slotta—*Silliest*
- Andrew Parsley—*Spookiest*

18 and Older

- Darina Callear—*Silliest*
- Marina Callear—*Cutest*
- George Burnham—*Spookiest*

Family

- Lourdes Alcorta (Lulu);
Javier Alcorta (Javi); and
Maria Castner Miller—*Silliest*

Parent

- Joanne Parsley—*Cutest*

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*Ben Kirksey puts the cover
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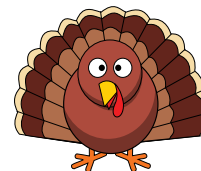


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Focus on Business

The Healthy Hub: Paving a Smooth Path to Health

By Rande Davis

Kaleigh and Kevin McClure visited Poolesville for the first time a few years ago after being enticed to visit the sunflower fields at Mckee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area on River Road. For the McClures, the decision to raise their family in Poolesville was nearly instantaneous, but since they had just purchased a home in Rockville three weeks before, they developed an eight-to-ten-year plan to move to Poolesville. Things must have gone smoothly as they were able to move here within just two years. The operative word here: smoothly.

This past August, Kaleigh opened the Healthy Hub, specializing in a protein-enriched non-dairy smoothie or shake-like product that supplies complete nutrition perfect for a great breakfast, lunch, or simply a healthy snack. She offers forty types of smoothies, along with an assortment of healthy teas, and more recently, gluten-free muffins. The shakes are rich, thick, and delicious while simultaneously providing a nutritionally-balanced meal.

The Healthy Hub location was previously rented by Bob's Bikes behind the Poolesville Hardware Store. The room is bright and cheerful with a sunflower mural brightening the room and pictures boasting our Ag Reserve scenery. There is plenty of seating which includes an area with a comfy couch and chairs to make a perfect conversation corner. In the time of COVID-19, the seating is spread out wisely. A good description might be to think of Healthy Hub as a Starbucks without the coffee, offering only its healthy shakes and teas.



Kaleigh McClure and her mom (behind the counter) serve happy customers at the Healthy Hub.

When you meet Kaleigh, you will come to know a person with an abounding positive nature and a commitment to healthy living who decided to open a healthy smoothie establishment that provides as much health as social fun. "I like to think of our place as a healthy Cheers, a place you can come to where everybody knows your name."

While we sat for an interview, I noticed the customer demographic proved to be broader than expected. Sure, the anticipated health-conscious female and moms with kids were there, but it also included two males that were—shall we say?—getting up there in age. They enjoyed the beautiful day sitting at an outside table.

Although Kaleigh is an accounting graduate from James Madison University, she found a more rewarding experience working part-time in her mom's healthy smoothie place called Kentland Nutrition. It was natural for the two women to open the business jointly, with Mom bringing a wealth of experience in the healthy nutritional food service, while Kaleigh adds her own unique gifts of creative and positive energy.

Continued on page 16.

Fun Facts...

Thanksgiving Time

When all the leaves
are off the boughs,
And nuts and apples
gathered in,
And cornstalks waiting
for the cows,
And pumpkins safe
in barn and bin,

Then Mother says,
"My children dear,
The fields are brown,
and autumn flies;
Thanksgiving Day is very near,
And we must make
Thanksgiving pies!"

—Author Unknown

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Continued from page 4.

A Town Commission Out of Control

to the election and now Jim due to the sole decision by Kerri. Both Jim and Jerry played vital roles in the FA Committee. Without them, we would not be where we are today. We have secured over \$70 million from the county to build a new PHS. That is an amazing win for the community, and it is due in large part to our committee."

At the meeting last night, Cook mentioned she was a founder of Fair Access, that is not correct. Jim Brown, Link Hoewing, Jerry Klobukowski, Wade Yost, and Schramm founded the committee. After we formed, Schramm asked Cook to join the committee as she was current PTA president at PES.

It has been reported that Cook has taken other actions that were overreaching at best and perhaps much more consequential in the least. In our report in this issue on employee complaints regarding the town manager, rather than handling the complaints as a confidential matter and one that needed to be brought to the attention of the commissioners and the town attorney first, she chose to go to the town manager first. What employee can have confidence in taking personal complaints to the commissioners in the future if this is how the complaint is handled? At least in one instance, she copied a friend (who is also an attorney) on town matters that were confidential at the time. Using outside counsel for advice rather than the services of the town attorney is also worrisome. Should the advice of such counsel put the town in legal jeopardy, it will be the town attorney who will have to defend us. It is a highly egregious act to not use only the town attorney on legal matters.

At the time that Jerry Klobukowski was removed as commission president, I had called the decision correct. This had been hard for me to do since Jerry had had such a long history of public service and sincere concern for the betterment of Poolesville; nevertheless, he had made a mistake in ignoring town ordinance and regulations. Now the commissioners must face a similar situation again. There are ways out of this situation that can preserve the essential congeniality among the group. It is now up to all involved to do the right thing. Whatever happens, the clear message to all should be that honesty, open communication, and respect are required if the commission is to do the important work it must for our citizens and our town.

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Assault: 17500 W. Willard Road.

Theft: 19000 Fisher Avenue.

Vandalism: 19700 block of Wootton Avenue.

Past Crime: 1910 to 1915

Judge Reading of the Rockville Court ordered the sheriff to erect the ancient whipping post that had not been used for several generations. The post was found in the basement of the courthouse and was erected in front of the building. Judge Reading said that any man convicted of wife beating would be taken immediately out front and whipped by the sheriff. In the first case that seemed to apply, a man named Franklin Matthews appeared for trial, but his wife, who had pressed charges, did not appear, and Judge Reading dismissed the case.

A camp meeting was underway at Emory Grove when Deputy Sheriff Whalen and Howell showed up after a complaint that men from D.C. had been selling liquor the day before. The deputies took up a position where they

could see people alighting from the trains that stopped at Washington Grove. When they saw three men disembark carrying large suitcases, they approached the men suspecting that they were carrying whiskey. When the men saw the officers, they took off and, during a chase that lasted over a mile, shots were fired by the officers. Eventually, two of the men were arrested.

Telephone service had been interrupted in Montgomery County for over a month because someone had been stealing the copper telephone wiring. Sheriff Viett, a detective from the telephone company, and the D.C. Police Department had been working on the case because the thefts had interrupted telephone service between the city and the rural county. Finally, William Nagle, an electrician by trade, was developed as a suspect. A Montgomery County citizen had been seen carrying a large amount of wiring. Sheriff Viett went to Nagle's home in Washington. Nagle spotted the sheriff and tried to escape by running across rooftops with Viett right behind him. Finally, Nagle was captured, and he took the officers to a junkyard where he had sold much of the wiring.

Sheriff Howard, faced with mounting criticism about the failure of his men

to enforce the Sunday Blue Laws, decided to do something about it. On a Sunday, he ordered all of his men to work and ordered them to spread out and stop anyone from performing unnecessary work on Sunday. Sheriff Howard came upon about twenty men working on the railroad tracks west of Rockville. He called for other deputies and ordered all of the men, who were employees of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, to be arrested. The supervisor vigorously protested, stating that the men were performing necessary work on the railroad tracks. The men were all held in the Rockville jail, and B&O lawyers said that they would be in court the next morning to post bail.

The states attorney received word that Matthew Griffin, who had been wanted for arson for three years, was in custody in New York City. Griffin had been indicted for burning down the home of his father-in-law in Bethesda after a dispute. Several days later, he also had set fire to a barn and an outbuilding of two other people with whom he had problems.

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

Continued from page 16.

The Healthy Hub: Paving a Smooth Path to Health

They are just now ending their special fall season selections, but soon the holiday and Christmas special menu will be introduced. The Hub is perfect for grabbing a drinkable breakfast to start your commute to work or for ending a busy day of work or shopping by coming in to relax and enjoy the company of others.

When you go in, be sure to introduce yourself, as Kaleigh really wants to know your name, and when you do, be sure to tell her Rande sent you. I am hoping that if twenty people do so, I will qualify for their special customer loyalty program and get a chance to win a prize from their fun-time rewards spinning wheel.

Do you have an interesting story to share? Send it along to editor@monocacymonocle.com



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Continued from page 8.

Edwards and White's Ferry Canal Crossings

In the 1873 canal payroll records, lockkeeper Columbia Wood received a monthly salary of \$50 for tending the lock and an additional \$2 for operating the pivot bridge. Edwards Ferry was a small community during canal operating days. It had a store, a post office, and several residences. The community appears in the 1880 Federal Census. After canal operating days, the pivot bridge was replaced by a wooden bridge that could accommodate motor vehicle traffic. Ferry operations ceased by 1915.

Crossing the canal going to or coming from Conrad's Ferry was a challenge in the early years of canal operations. It is probable that a pivot bridge was not built crossing the canal here because there was not a lock with a lockkeeper to operate the bridge. Also, the canal width at this location is sixty feet, too wide for a pivot bridge. The Canal Company avoided building bridges because of cost and maintenance.

Ferry travelers used Culvert 49 which is seven-tenths of a mile downstream from the road that led to the ferry at mile 35.5. When built, Culvert 49 had a width and height of ten feet, large enough for horseback rider or wagon use. Runoff from the area farm fields left mud, pebbles, and silt in the culvert that eventually diminished the clearance and prevented carriages and wagons from passing. The Canal Company had to clear out this culvert and other "traveling" culverts to make them passable.

My son Charles and I measured the entrance and the exit of Culvert 49. I wanted to see firsthand the dimensions of this culvert to really see if it has "shrunk" in size. At the entrance, it is seventy-eight inches high and at the exit it is ninety-two inches high. These measurements show the height of the culvert is now less than the original ten feet. The width is still ten feet wide. The stream that flows through the culvert enters the Potomac River about a hundred yards downstream from the culvert. When the Potomac water level rose, the stream would back up with water, also rendering the culvert impassable. Travelers entered and exited the stream bed from River Road which appears to be about a quarter of a mile up from the culvert. The stream flows between two farm fields.

By 1856, a bridge was built across the canal at Conrad's Ferry; however, the grade of the access was so steep that it was impossible for heavily-laden wagons to ascend to use the bridge. After the Civil War, Elijah White bought the ferry and asked the Canal Company to build a new bridge that could accommodate wagons. The problem with the grade was corrected with a new bridge in 1871. The new bridge clearance was built too low at first and was corrected when the mistake was noticed. The minimum clearances for bridges to allow canal boats to pass was twelve feet. Also, additional trestles were placed under the bridge at that time. Adding these trestles left a space of only twenty feet. Canal boats and mules pulling canal boats had to disconnect and reconnect to pass the piers. The bridge was replaced again in 1876 with an iron bridge with wood planks used on the floor of the bridge. This bridge eliminated the piers which hampered boat traffic. The remains of the iron bridge and its red sandstone abutments are still present next to White's Ferry Road. Several of the stones have drill marks in them from when they were quarried.

When Charles and I walked up to take a close look at the stone abutments, he yelled, "Stop!" He was behind me and pointed to a small crevice between two stones at the bottom of the abutment in which a black snake lay in a curl. I had been fixated on the drill marks in the stones above the snake. If I had continued walking, the snake would have been at my ankle level. On another day, I had Violet with me, and we were on the berm side of the canal looking at the stone abutments when I discovered a set of five stone steps leading from the edge of the prism. The purpose of these steps is a mystery to me. Could they have been used by people to get on or off a canal boat? Did they have something to do with the construction of the abutment? There are no steps on the river side abutment. After the canal ceased operations for good in 1924, the prism was filled in, and White's Ferry Road is now continuous without the use of a bridge to get to and from the ferry.

Continued from page 1.

A New Book Unveils the Story of Poolesville's Sugarland

research, and publishing, and it turned out that Gwen and Suzanne's top agenda item for the year was to make progress on a book about Sugarland history. Their relatives have collected, preserved, and researched the Sugarland community for many generations. SEHP had church records, photographs, military records, family trees, artifacts, and oral histories from the community that were very well documented and archived, just begging to become a book. Jeff contributed his expertise in helping with research and by offering fresh eyes in helping to organize the history.

"I've worked on many books and commemorative projects over the years, but this book is special to me. My collaborators have become good friends of mine, and it's been a real privilege to shed light on such an important part of local history."

The release is perfectly timed seasonally as a gift and as a must-have addition to all local personal libraries. It not only is an in-depth look at an industrious, loving, caring, and joyous people who overcame struggles and tribulations through the powerful strength of cohesive community spirit and a spirit-filled abiding faith of praise and song, laughter and tears, freedom and duty, but it is also a tribute even today to Sugarland's descendants, although now living further apart, who remain bound in pride for those who came first.

The book is currently for sale through the Montgomery Countryside Alliance, which is helping to fulfill mail orders at www.mocoalliance.org and at the new Locals Café and Market (open on weekends) in Poolesville located right next to the John Poole House and Trading Post.

I Have Started for Canaan: Paperback, 260 pages, published directly by the Sugarland Ethno-History Project. Includes maps; forty photos and illustrations; seven appendices; extensive notes, bibliography, and index; and a short foreword by Sarah Rogers of Heritage Montgomery.

I should add that the book contains a great deal of information that's never been in print before, material that hasn't been part of previous presentations or discussions about Sugarland. There's new information about how the founding generation came to own their land; stories about the military service of African Americans from our area; a revelation about the involvement of Sugarland in a little-known political movement in the early twentieth century; and more. There's still more to be told, so our hope is that this book will inspire more Sugarland descendants to come forward with photos, stories, and information that will solve some of the remaining mysteries and fill in the gaps.

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- Garlic -Bread Dough
- Nutmeg -Alcohol

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