

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

April 9, 2021 • Volume XVII, Number 3



Richard Remp, U.S. Marine Corps (retired), of Poolesville, received his first Moderna COVID vaccine administered by Lisa Hilton, a nurse at Poolesville Family Practice. See more on this in Tidbits, page 4.



Learn more about the grand women of WUMCO on page 8.



This bird made a rare visit to our area, causing quite a stir among birders. Check it out on page 10.



This is one of eleven aqueducts that played an important role during the Civil War. Learn more on page 12.

Commissioners Take Initial Steps to Find New Town Manager

By Link Hoewing

At their April 5 meeting, the Town of Poolesville commissioners extensively discussed approaches they could use to identify and eventually hire a new town manager. One of the key issues was whether or not to hire a professional search firm to manage the process of identifying qualified candidates. Another was whether or not to hire a professional Human Resources (HR) company specializing in the organization and management of the staffs of agencies or companies to come up with recommendations concerning personnel policy, the structure of the town government, and ways to organize the management of town employees.

In the end, no final decision was made about the hiring of a search firm, although the sentiment seemed to be

leaning against the idea. The commissioners did seem interested in moving ahead with bringing on board an HR firm, and a presentation will be made at the next meeting by one such firm to provide background on what these firms can do and how they operate.

Before this debate occurred, the commissioners reviewed the FY2020 Budget Closeout report. These reports are final statements detailing how actual monies were spent by the town during a particular fiscal year and how much revenue was generated. Budgets are nothing more than projections and estimates about planned revenues and spending. The closeout report lays out how much money the town actually

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Kuhn Family Cites Hurdles in Reopening White's Ferry, Possibly Delaying Until Early 2022

By Rande Davis

After purchasing historic White's Ferry in February, the Kuhn family has encountered obstacles to reopening the ferry, pushing back the opening day up to ten months before the famed ferry can carry commuters again. Chuck Kuhn, founder and CEO of JK Moving Services, and his wife Stacy Kuhn planned to get this important Potomac River crossing operational by April after the ferry ceased operations in December 2020. To restart, the ferry must gain land use rights in Virginia.

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PHS Model United Nations Club Wins Big at International Conference

By Andrew Sojka

Between March 19 and 21, the Poolesville High School Model United Nations (MUN) team competed in two MUN conferences hosted by American University and Hood College. For the three-day competition at American University (AmeriMUNC VIII), PHS had its largest delegation for a conference this year with twenty-one students, while simultaneously having three team members represent them at Frederick County Model UN Conference (FCPSMUN) held on March 20 at Hood College.

Model United Nations, also known as Model UN or MUN, is an extra-curricular activity in which students are assigned a high-level government official or represent a country as a

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Members of the PHS delegation to AmeriMUNC gather for a post-conference picture. Rod Nubgaard, Pragya Jha, Anusha Krishnan, Andrew Kim, Smrithi Chakravarthy, Kevin Hoff, Luke Griffith, Sophia Deng, Christine Kim, Niva Mangalampalli, Jeffrey Xu, Christine Tang, Alaine Sathuluri, Allison Sweeney, Charisse Delostrico, Mihir Gupta.

Family Album



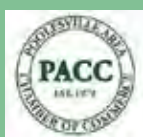
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Commissioners Take Initial Steps to Find New Town Manager

took in and how much was really spent and on what programs and services. The closeout report is used by outside auditors to certify that a town's budget and finances are fairly and accurately presented.

Wade Yost, the former town manager who is now a consultant to the town, made the presentation about the closeout. He pointed out that the town's General Fund, which includes spending and support for operations, capital projects, and debt service, came in at just about \$4 million. Overall, the budget came in at a surplus of just over \$400,000, the excess of revenues for the year over spending.

Property and income taxes still represent the lion's share of revenues or almost three-quarters of all monies generated. Despite the pandemic, income taxes actually came in at almost \$125,000 more than was projected. In another interesting dynamic of the pandemic, the amount of revenues generated by water use came in at almost \$50,000 more than projected, likely due to the fact that so many stayed home and worked instead of commuting.

Yost said the town was in very good shape financially and continued to maintain a healthy reserve of cash, including a large "rainy day fund" reserve. The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the final closeout report. They still have not considered the FY21 closeout nor have they seen an initial draft of the FY22 budget which has to be approved before the next fiscal year begins in the summer.

In the discussion concerning the process of identifying a new town manager, Commissioner Jeff Eck mentioned that he had drafted a document that could be used to explain the qualifications, skills, and background a candidate should have. He said it included a basic background on Poolesville, a discussion of the general duties of the town manager, strategic planning responsibilities, management skills regarding personnel matters, and the budget and financial management skills needed.


Town Attorney Jay Gullo said that he had been asked to identify search firms which could help manage the process of identifying and culling candidates. He added that three of the firms had Maryland connections, including the Mercer Company which managed the search process the last time the town had to hire a new town manager.


Sentiment seemed to be against using a search firm, but no decision was made on that issue at the meeting. Instead, the idea of whether or not to hire an HR firm to come up with proposals regarding personnel policy, management of staff, and the organizational structure of town government took up quite a bit of the discussion. A central issue was whether to have the firm, if one was hired, do an assessment that could then be used to begin to make proposed changes or provide the firm's assessment to the new town manager and to rely on him or her to decide how to use the information. In the end, the commissioners decided to have an HR firm make a presentation at their next meeting, so they can better understand what such firms can offer.

Commissioner Jim Brown noted that HR firms not only offer expertise in managing employees and organizing government agencies, they also can provide support for the commissioners if they decide to manage the process of finding a qualified town manager. Brown also said that it might be a good idea to appoint a citizens committee to help manage the selection process for a town manager.

In a final note, Eck said that, in his job as a leader of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Firefighter Department (UMCVFD), he wanted to inform the commissioners that the UMCVFD was in the process of considering the July 4 fireworks event. While it will largely be up to the county to decide whether the event goes forward, UMCVFD has to sign a contract with the fireworks company that manages the actual siting and firing of the fireworks. The company requires a down payment, but its policies are now more lenient due to the pandemic. He asked that the town approve its annual grant for the event even though it may be cancelled because the down payment would be rolled over to next year. The commissioners voted 4-0 to approve the grant for \$13,500 with Eck abstaining.


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Rande(m) Thoughts Better Late Than Never

By Rande Davis

It was great to watch the younger students at Poolesville Elementary School on their “first day of school,” stepping off buses and being dropped off by parents. Mr. Robbins and staff were out in force to welcome the kids back, and a real sense of joy and hope was palpable. The Tiger mascot jumped and danced for joy. With the plan to open beginning with the third grade and below and having a physical presence four days a week, leaving Wednesday for Zoom, the plan sounded very familiar to me. The Dutch introduced this process already. So how did it go there?

We have dear friends in the Netherlands whose daughter Barbara is a principal in an elementary school, and they, too, had four days in and one day on Zoom. We reported in the *Monocle* about their plan and process. There were mandatory masks, smaller classes due to the alternating of days on, and social distancing. Once the first semester ended, we checked in to see what the report on students coming down with COVID were and if deaths were even a factor. There was one staff member who came down with COVID, whose infection was traced to coming from home not the school, no deaths. For our parents, this gives us a great deal of hope as getting back to the classroom begins.

Another thing to consider regarding persons younger than adulthood. They get ill, sometimes severely, sometimes with strong side effects. We still don't know the full long-term impact in the young of getting COVID. There is one thing that is hopeful. They very rarely die. Of the 1,400 deaths in Montgomery, not one was below nineteen years of age. Consider the U.S. Army: Of the 500,000 active-duty non-commissioned officers of the army averaging around nineteen to twenty years of age, they report only one soldier dying from

COVID. Why? This group lives together, eats together, and trains together pretty nearly 24/7. What else they share in common is the answer: They are young, healthy (those with underlying health issues are disqualified for service), and physically fit.

We are so grateful that the vaccine was produced so amazingly soon. We have been surprised that jurisdictions all around us were administering the vaccine at rates apparently far ahead of us. As the rollout began in Maryland, it seemed everyone was going to Prince George's Six Flags, Hagerstown, and points in Frederick. We had many reports of some local residents going out of state for a vaccine, a few to South Carolina, but what really caught my attention were those who went to West Virginia. West Virginia? Really? There will be time to review all this to find out why things seem so sluggish in Montgomery County. For now, we are grateful that Poolesville Family Practice finally got full approval to administer the vaccine. The first few weeks were for their patients at risk and clients of WUMCO also in the highest risk category. Now they are open to the general public, subject to the priority phases set by the state. While final plans for a mass vaccination site in Germantown are now complete and scheduled to open April 8, it's good to know that we can more readily get the shot locally, too.

While we are considering our response to COVID, maybe it's time for those of us who have been shopping locally for months (with masks on while social distancing) at Dollar General to also be able to walk across the street and actually pay a bill at town hall in person—with masks on and social distancing, of course. It's time for our local government to open, too.

As a final note, there is one big difference to think about between us and the Dutch elementary school experience: While we started this month, they implemented their program a year ago last May. Their successful result may be just anecdotal, but it sure makes one wonder. How much of nearly a full year out of school was really necessary?

Tidbits

Poolesville Family Practice and WUMCO Team Up for Poolesville Vaccination Site

Poolesville Family Practice has been selected as an official COVID-19 vaccination site. Once the vaccines



Dottie Hamilton, of Poolesville, received her first Moderna COVID vaccine administered by Lisa Hilton, a nurse at Poolesville Family Practice.

arrived, they started with their most at-risk patients, then moved to at-risk WUMCO clients.

They have now opened up the vaccination process to anyone in Poolesville and the Ag Reserve community who is in the current approved state vaccination phase. The practice is conveniently located in the shopping center near Subway.

The medical practice will be setting up a website for signups, but they are aware that some people will need assistance. For any person who needs assistance filling out the online form due to lack of internet or computer access, they are to call the WUMCO COVID Vaccine helpline at 240-812-9474 and leave a voicemail, and a volunteer will call them back to assist them. WUMCO plans to have a designated voicemail for people who are seeking help signing up.

To avoid being overrun with too many requests, please wait until the public announcement of the start date to administer vaccines to the general public has been determined.

The Edwards Ferry Bridge Reopens

On March 25, 2021, the C&O Canal National Historical Park announced that a temporary bridge over Lock 25

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Fun Fact...

The first schools in the thirteen colonies opened in the seventeenth century. The Boston Latin School was the first public school opened in the United States, in 1635. To this day, it remains the nation's oldest public school.

Early public schools in the United States did not focus on academics like math or reading. Instead they taught the virtues of family, religion, and community. By the mid-nineteenth century, academics became the sole responsibility of public schools.

www.americanboard.org/

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Tidbits

at Edwards Ferry had been installed to replace the old bridge. The new bridge is open now to vehicle traffic to the parking lot and the boat ramp for all users. In addition to replacing the old bridge, the park performed shoulder work to the access road by removing the mud and replacing it with a sand and gravel mixture, allowing for safe parking along the road in the future. The park is working with the Federal Highway Administration to replace the temporary bridge in early 2023.

While removing the old bridge, the park's archeologist discovered pieces in the lock wall of the old historic pivot bridge that was used during canal-operating days. During canal-operating days, the Canal Company was required to provide access to the ferry at this location, and a pivot bridge was less costly than a bridge high enough to allow canal boats to pass underneath them. The November 20, 2020 *Monocacy Monocle* has a

"In Your Own Backyard" piece titled "Edwards and White's Ferry Canal Crossings" which describes the various bridges constructed by the C&O Canal Company and the Union Army.

Poolesville's Friendly Thrift Shop Has a Temporary New Location

With maintenance and repair plans under way, the Friendly Thrift Shop on West Willard Road will temporarily relocate to 17700 Elgin Road. The historic building has a long history predating the Civil War as a town hall, church, theater, dance hall, community center, site for Union Army Signal Corps, and temporary cemetery for Union soldiers awaiting transfer to home locations.

The nonprofit Friendly Thrift Shop is operated through the support of area church volunteers and accepts clothing gifts from residents to sell very inexpensively to area folks in need. At the new location, operating hours will be expanded to Wednesday and Friday, 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; and Thursday and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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Senior News

Poolesville Seniors Present Virtual Programs

Poolesville Seniors is offering a wide variety of virtual programs in April and May that meet community needs for exercise, information, and socialization. Visit their website poolesvilleseniors.org to register for the virtual events listed below. All events are open to the entire community.

Fridays in April

Breath-Mind-Body Raise your consciousness through breath with Kathy Jankowski. Free when you register through Poolesville Seniors. 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.

April 15

History of the Agricultural Reserve

Kenny Sholes returns for his eighth presentation in his series about historical sites, properties, and people of the Ag Reserve. 7:00 p.m.

April 20

Earth Day Craft: No-Sew Applique Tote Bag

PS crafters will create a 13.5-inch square, machine-washable, no-sew applique tote bag using iron-on permanent adhesive, and a pattern to trace and cut. 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

April 22

Food and Farming

Join Mark Israel of Query Mill Farm and Jennifer Freeman of Peas and Peace Farm when they discuss their second careers in small-scale farming in the MoCo Ag Reserve. Hear all about the area's growing small scale farm movement and its innovative response to local food insecurity during the pandemic. 7:00 p.m.

April 26

Monthly Book Club

The book for April is *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. All are welcome to join this lively, social, and intellectual discussion. 7:00 p.m.

April 29

Monocacy Monocle Mystery History

Rande Davis will entertain us with a history of the many and varied celebrations held in Poolesville more than a century ago. Hear what the Montgomery County Fair, Chautauqua, and two 150th Anniversaries have to do with Poolesville.

May 6

Denali National Park and Reserve

Tom Medema, co-founder of Rally for Rangers and Associate Director of Education programs for the National Parks Service, will explore the unique history, resources, and management challenges of Alaska's renowned national park. 7:00 p.m.

Pop-Up Walks with Jon Wolz

Back by popular demand, Jon will be leading and narrating more walks in the coming months. These will be planned and based on a three-to-five-day weather forecast. Completing the Poolesville Seniors Liability Release Form on their website and emailing it to them will indicate your interest. Then watch your email, the Poolesville Seniors calendar, and their Facebook page for dates, times, locations, and registration information as the walks are scheduled.

For more information or to register for any of the programs listed here and to receive the Zoom link for each, visit the Poolesville Seniors website: poolesvilleseniors.org. Many of these presentations are also streamed live on their Facebook page and recorded for

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Kuhn Family Cites Hurdles in Reopening White's Ferry, Possibly Delaying until Early 2022

"We stand ready and willing to reopen. The ferry has ramifications for our local economy and the livelihoods of many people, from technology workers to retail employees to farm workers. The former ferry owner Herb Brown and his team have been a pleasure to work with, as have all the municipalities and states—all of which are interested in protecting this important transportation route," explained Chuck Kuhn. "We will be seeking more help from the county and state [Loudoun County, Virginia] to ensure this vital route serves our community and people."

The Kuhns are planning a number of upgrades to the ferry over the next few years, bringing more operational and environmental efficiencies to improve services and to preserve a piece of history.

While negotiations to find a way to reopen White's Ferry between Kuhn and Rockland Farm, LLC came to a standstill, a final solution may still be found. Kuhn raised an offer for a lump sum payment to Rockland far above the \$400,000 made by the Brown family for the small piece of land that lies in a high-risk flood zone. That was not only rejected, but Rockland then went back to a Loudoun County official seeking a matching amount.

The latest reports are that the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors did not agree to that proposition and, in fact, is now considering reinstating the legal designation of the site as a public landing, as that body did in 1871. Should they do so—although that action would lead to reopening the ferry—the expectation of the ferry opening any time in the next six months remains bleak due to a lengthy legal process.

Continued from page 6.

Senior News

later viewing on YouTube. Did you know that you don't need a computer to participate? You can join the Zoom presentation using your smartphone or just listen in using the local telephone number from Zoom and the Poolesville Seniors meeting ID and Password. Call or text them at 301-875-7701 to learn how.

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Grand Women Of the Monocacy WUMCO Women

Part I

As we continue our celebration of women in local history, Poolesville Seniors is offering a two-part story about the two women who co-founded a local benchmark institution and spent their lives in service to our community. Jane Stearns's name is still instantly recognizable and much beloved in connection with WUMCO Help, Inc. Forty-five years after her death, Beulah Harper may be less known, but she is equally important to the founding of that organization. While they grew up in quite different circumstances, their compassion and selfless dedication to others brought these women together for the ongoing benefit of our community.

Jane (Bast) Stearns, born in 1927 in Louisiana, Missouri, was raised by her aunt in a home where she never had to worry about the bare necessities. In 1949, she graduated with a degree in chemistry from William and Mary College in Virginia. Her job search took her to Washington, D.C. Unable

Continued on page 13.



Beulah Harper



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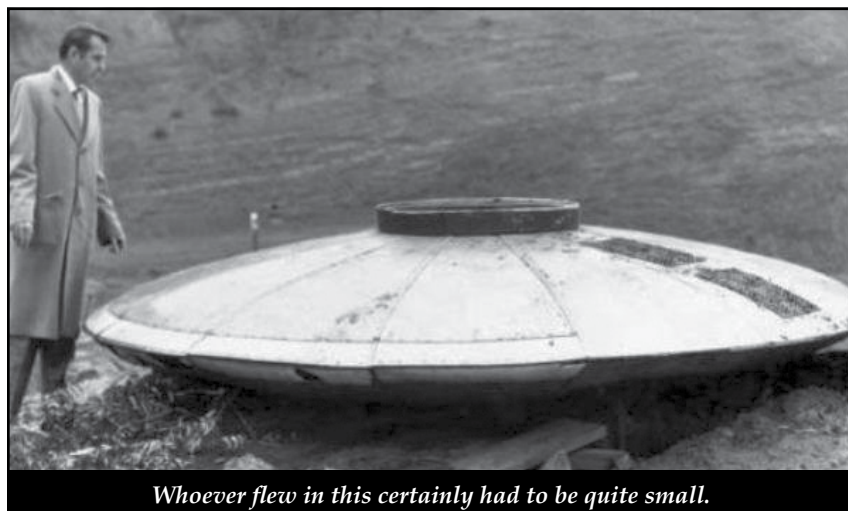
Special Feature

The UFO at Edwards Ferry

By Jack Toomey

I moved to Poolesville over forty years ago. As a teenager I was an avid fisherman, but then Vietnam and future employment got in the way and I had to push fishing to the side.

In the 1980s, I was working a four-day work week, so I had plenty of time for hobbies. I took up metal detecting and some of my favorite sites were near the Potomac River. The lure of the river took me back to fishing, but as many others before me discovered, fishing from the shore was not always a great choice. One summer day, I was fishing near Edwards Ferry and an older fellow came drifting by in a small boat. He chuckled and said, "Ain't going to catch anything from there. You want to get in?" I was thrilled to fish from the middle of the river, and before long, I had caught over ten small mouth bass, and my new fishing partner seemed to have equal luck. He introduced himself as "Smokey" and after a couple of hours it was time to go. He offered that I was welcome to jump aboard anytime we met. I later learned that his last name was Tippets.



Whoever flew in this certainly had to be quite small.

Time went on, and I was able to purchase my own boat. I sometimes saw Smokey on the water, and we'd exchange pleasantries. One day, a military jet came screaming overhead and over the din I thought I heard Smokey say, "Ha ha! Probably chasing the saucers." I wasn't sure what he had said, but we went in opposite directions and resumed fishing. Years went by, and I would occasionally see Smokey out in his little boat; it was obvious that he was getting frail and showed the signs of advancing age.

One very hot summer day, a thunderstorm developed over Virginia, and the winds started blowing the water current southward, and any experienced angler knew that it was time to seek shelter. We both headed for the Edwards Ferry boat ramp and got out of the rain. As we waited for the storm to pass, I thought about

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Monocacy Nature and Wildlife

Rare Short-Eared Owls Visit Poolesville

By Susan Petro

Rare bird sightings are a cause for much excitement among the birding community. In late December, when a painted bunting appeared at Great Falls, a huge stir was created that even made the national news. More recently, a Poolesville area field became the site of another rare find when as many as four short-eared owls were seen hunting, hovering, and diving in search of a meal below.

Once an exciting find becomes public knowledge on popular birding sites such as eBird.com, an online database for recording or learning about real-life observation data of birds, the news is often followed by throngs of birders hoping to see the find for themselves. This is exactly what happened on Izaak Walton Way and West Willard Road when news hit about the owls. Such a sighting is a rare treat for the birding community.

As soon as word spread, the drive was lined with excited photographers and birders hoping to see or capture the event for themselves. Since short-eared owls generally prefer to hunt around dawn or dusk when the light is low, the anxious observers generally began to show up in the late afternoon, many waiting for hours for the almost-nightly show. Many photographers drove long distances to see our local visitors.

One area photographer, Tim Wade, is known for his uncanny ability to find and photograph owls in their natural environment. He became aware of the owls as far back as January and enjoyed the owls for weeks before the throngs of photographers showed up in late February when the first sighting was recorded. As a result, Wade was able to capture stunning photographs of the owls on their nightly forays.

Most birders keep the location of owls private to protect them from being disturbed by sometimes-overzealous photographers. Recently, the location of a great-horned owl nesting site in Pennsylvania was made public, and



Short-eared owl fly-by.

Photos by Susan Petro.

the baby owlets were stolen by three men who were captured on film raiding the nest. Luckily, the local short-eared owls seem undisturbed by the photographers who have remained respectful and off the field which is located on private property belonging to the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Izaak Walton League.

Wade, a Poolesville resident since 1999, has been interested in photography since a high school friend taught him the basics that he learned in an elective class. Back then, film was still



Short-eared owl flying low through the field.

Continued on page 15

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Garden

Vegetable Gardening In Small Spaces

By Maureen O'Connell

Have you toyed with the idea of creating a vegetable garden at your home but thought that you did not have the space or the time to devote this project? Well, think again. Today, we will explore some alternative ways to make this a reality.

There are many benefits to growing organic vegetables in your home backyard: Eating more vegetables improves your health, getting outdoor exercise, and it is a fun learning experience for children. It can also save us money on groceries. The COVID-19 pandemic drove the cost of supermarket prices higher than a twenty-year average. After more than a year into this infectious disease, food prices are expected to increase even more. In its 2021 outlook report, the Economic Research Service (ERS) for the U.S. Department of Agriculture predicted in March that the cost of food from grocery stores will rise one to two percent this year.

Certainly, the pandemic's massive effect on supply chains and labor drove much of the increase, but the ERS says that change in consumer habits added to the price jump as well.

Many people think that they lack the space for a proper vegetable garden; it would be messy looking, and it would entail too much work. Not always true. You don't need a large space. You don't even really need a garden. As long as you have a container pot, some dirt, water, and sun, you can grow vegetables at home.

There is no such thing as foolproof vegetable gardening, but container vegetable gardening comes close by reducing problems posed by weather and critters. Let's take a look at some vegetables that you can easily grow if you don't have a garden plot, but you do have a patio, porch, or balcony with good sun exposure. When choosing your plants, keep in mind your pot size and the size and growth habits of the plants you want to grow. Many vegetables have bush varieties that may be better suited for your growing situation.

Best vegetables for containers: beans, beets, chard, chili peppers, kale, lettuce, onions (especially green onions), radishes, spinach, sweet peppers, cucumbers, and tomatoes. Cherry tomatoes are made for living in pots. They will give you gobs of sweet little tomatoes in compact clusters. Harvest lettuce leaves whenever you need them, and more will grow right back in their place as long as you don't damage the crown.



Young romaine lettuce growing alongside emerging daylilies.

Continued on page 16.

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In Your Own Backyard

Three C&O Canal Aqueducts

By Jon Wolz

When the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal was completed in 1850, there were eleven masonry aqueducts built between Seneca and Cumberland. In addition, there was one unique aqueduct constructed that was a combination of masonry and lumber. These aqueducts served as water bridges carrying the canal over a river or stream. In our area, there are two masonry aqueducts that remain. There was once a masonry and lumber aqueduct in our area, too.

The first aqueduct built on the canal was the Seneca Aqueduct. That aqueduct was completed in 1832 and is also the only combination aqueduct and lock (Lock 24) that was built on the canal. It was often referred to as C&O Canal Aqueduct No. 1. It is the only masonry aqueduct constructed entirely with red sandstone and had three arches. The stone was quarried and cut nearby at the Seneca Quarry. The lock is ninety feet long and the aqueduct is 121 feet long. The aqueduct is located at the end of Riley's Lock Road in Seneca and is at mile 22.82 of the towpath. During the Civil War, Union soldiers camped near Lock 24 and were visited by Confederates in 1863.

A timber trunk was placed in the aqueduct in 1873 because the masonry walls were nine inches out of plumb and the arches were supported by the inner liner only. Some of the ring stones were crushed. The aqueduct was rebuilt in 1873 and 1874 with iron braces placed to retain the stonework.

On September 11, 1971, Seneca Creek flooded, taking out one of the three arches of the aqueduct. The creek was a raging torrent; houses, boats, trees, and other debris that were torn loose upstream had slammed against the aqueduct. The National Park Service shored up the aqueduct with steel beams, and there is a wooden footbridge bridge over the missing arch that connects the remaining aqueduct with the towpath. The fallen stones from the arch are piled up next to the towpath by the aqueduct. Unfortunately, nothing has been done by the National Park Service to restore this aqueduct to its former grandeur. It may take the efforts of private citizens to effectuate the restoration of the aqueduct as was done at the Catoctin Aqueduct.

At mile 31.94 along the towpath, there is a footbridge that crosses Broad Run, connecting the towpath on both sides of the stream. Edwards Ferry Lock 25 is at mile 30.84 which is the nearest access location on the towpath to reach the wooden bridge. Beneath this bridge are red sandstone and gray quartzite stone abutments and walls that served as support for the wooden trunk aqueduct. The wooden trunk that carried the canal over Broad Run is gone. This is a peaceful place, and I often enjoy visiting in different seasons. Sometimes, the water is clear and sometimes I have seen large fish in the water. Just downstream, there are rocks where you can see and hear the water rush past the rocks. At this location, there originally was a double culvert built of two twin sixteen-foot arches known as Culvert 44. This was the only two-span culvert on the canal. On June 29, 1846, a freshet (a local flood) washed out the culvert, and a canal boat washed through the breach. A timber trunk was built over the stream, and it was completed on August 1, 1846 allowing water to flow and canal traffic to resume. The wooden trunk collapsed in 1847 and was rebuilt in the same year. On October 23, 1851, the trunk gave way after being hit by a boat. The trunk was burned by Confederates during the Civil War and was quickly replaced to allow movement of Union troops and supplies along the canal.

In 1915, a Broad Run freshet destroyed the wooden trunk, causing the canal to drain from Harper's Ferry to Lock 23. In 1915, most of the canal boats carried coal from Cumberland to Georgetown. Boats that were below Lock 23 at the time of the damage were able to travel to Georgetown. The closer of navigation on the canal put a temporary end of shipping coal to the navy powder plant storage yard at Indian Head, Maryland. A little over a week after the flood damage, repairs to the wooden trunk aqueduct had been made. Water was flowing once again along the entire length of the canal. The first canal boat loaded with coal arrived at the Georgetown docks two days after the repairs had been made. The boats arriving at Georgetown docks were backed up waiting their turn to unload. At this time, there was a ship from the Consolidated Coal Company waiting in Georgetown that had been waiting a week to be loaded up with coal. Once loaded, it was bound for Boston. Ships coming from Massachusetts carried ice for the local citizens. Also, after the repair to the trunk aqueduct,



The Seneca Aqueduct and Riley's Lock.

canal boats at Georgetown resumed floating down the Potomac River, being pulled by tugboats to Indian Head to deliver 225 tons of coal daily to the navy's powder plant.

Continued on page 14.

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WUMCO Women, Part I

to find work in her field, she accepted a clerk position at the Pentagon. In 1954, she met and married Fred Stearns, an accountant originally from California. The following year, the couple moved to Boyds. They raised two foster daughters, Margaret and Judith.

Beulah (Clarke) Harper, born in 1911, was the granddaughter of freedman James Clarke. She was the second of four surviving children born to Lincoln University graduate, Noah Edward Clarke, and Molly (Proctor) Clarke. Raised in a family that emphasized the importance of education, Beulah was one of six in the 1930 initial graduating class of the Rockville Colored High School, an institution her father helped found. Soon after, she married Cole Cecil Harper, the youngest of sixteen Harper children born and raised in historic Jonesville.

Jane and Fred Stearns immersed themselves in their new community. As members of Warren United Methodist Church in historic Martinsburg, they discerned the growing needs of their less fortunate neighbors. At a time when communities of color were not able to secure medical appointments locally, Jane offered folks rides to their out-of-town appointments. She also served as Membership Secretary for the Montgomery County Branch of the NAACP for over thirty years.

In contrast, early on, Beulah's life revolved around family, work, and church. She held various leadership roles at Jerusalem Baptist Church where she worshipped. She was employed as a domestic, riding downcounty daily with other domestics and construction workers. Beulah's mother watched Beulah and Cole's three boys and took in extra laundry to make ends meet. Cole worked on area farms before he was drafted into the U.S. Army Air Corps.

Independently, Jane and Beulah made it their mission to serve others. After the last of the Harpers' three sons left to join the army in the 1950s, they welcomed foster children into their Jerusalem home. Their porch became a food pantry so crowded with bakery-donated bread, canned goods, and wool blankets that they knew something had to be done.

Prior to meeting Jane, Beulah started an organization called Poolesville HELP. Later, in the 1960s, Beulah was appointed to the County Council's Community Action Committee to help provide solutions for low-income families. This group ferried dozens of Poolesville-area clients via minibus so they would have access to food and medical services.

Prior to their meeting in 1968, these two extraordinary women each recognized the necessity for a more coordinated response to the expanding need for assistance in our area. That mutual awareness led to the establishment of WUMCO Help, an emergency assistance organization which provides thousands of individual services each year.

Part 2 will provide a more detailed look at WUMCO Help's evolution from porch to garage and beyond.

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Monocacy Critters



Jon Wolz sent a reminder that walking the canal requires a sharp eye for snakes. This northern brown water snake was spotted near the Broad Run and Trunk Aqueduct.

Do you have an unusual or funny picture of an pet or animal? Mail or email the picture to editor@monocacymonocle.com or P.O. Box 372, Barnesville, MD 20838

Continued from page 12.

Three C&O Canal Aqueducts

When the wooden trunk was in use, it was 8.5 feet high and 30.2 feet long. The trunk walls were twelve-by-twelve-inch timbers tied with iron rods; triangular brace rods were beneath the frame of trunk. The flooring was twelve-by-twelve-inch timbers. The wooden trunk portion of the aqueduct is now gone; however, pieces of wood may still be seen between some of the stone abutments.

The Monocacy Aqueduct was completed in 1833 and was referred to as the C&O Canal Aqueduct No. 2. This is the largest aqueduct built along the canal and is the finest canal structure along the canal. This masonry aqueduct was constructed with white and pink quartzite stones and has seven arches. The stone was quarried three miles away at the white and red quarries belonging to Joseph Johnson who lived at Rock Hall. In 1829, Chief Engineer Benjamin Wright mentioned white and red stone at the Johnson quarries. In addition to the white stones at the aqueduct, the other stones used appear pink and, seeing the actual quarry behind Rock Hall, the rocks appear pink in color. The stones for the aqueduct were cut near the quarry before being transported to the aqueduct work site for finishing via a primitive wooden railroad. The aqueduct is 516 feet long and is located at the end of Mouth of Monocacy Road at mile 42.2.

Twice in September 1862, the Confederates attempted to destroy the aqueduct but failed. The area surrounding the aqueduct was occupied by Union troops for most of the Civil War. In 1972, the Monocacy River flooded as a result of Hurricane Agnes, causing significant damage to the aqueduct. At that time, the National Park Service and the Federal Highway Administration designed and installed a steel banding system to stabilize the aqueduct. In 2004 and 2005, the C&O Canal National Historical Park and its partners, including the C&O Canal Association, restored the aqueduct to its original appearance and removed the steel support bands. An excellent book describing the history of this aqueduct is the *Monocacy Aqueduct on the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal* by Robert J. Kapsch and Elizabeth Perry Kapsch.

Continued from page 9.

The UFO at Edwards Ferry

the remark that he had made years before about the jet and "saucers." I asked him if he remembered it, and he said, "Sure I do. I wasn't more than seven years old."

I had no idea what he meant, so I asked him what had happened when he was seven years old. The storm seemed as if it wasn't going to stop, so he asked, "You still on the police?" I nodded, and he told me to follow him. We headed out of Edwards Ferry to River Road which was not paved at the time. I saw him turn into an unmarked driveway and then meander down a dirt lane. After driving at least a half mile off of River Road, we came to a house in serious disrepair. He motioned for me to enter. He then went upstairs for a few minutes, and when he returned, he was carrying a stack of papers and a photograph. I looked at the glossy 8x10 photo and saw what appeared to be a man in a suit looking at a large metal disc very similar to those flying saucer photos seen in comic books.

I asked Smokey what this was all about, and he told me that when he was in the second grade in the 1940s, there had been a lot of commotion on the family farm when someone told him that an airplane had landed. The police came and so did men in suits. When his father allowed him to go look at the plane, he realized it was not a plane at all but a disc-type object that seemed to have crashed. He had a fuzzy recollection of men sitting in his living room swearing them to secrecy. It seemed awfully official to him, so he never brought it up again. Photos had been taken and somehow his father had obtained one which had remained in the attic since 1947.

Without the internet, there weren't too many ways to do research, but to be sure, I checked with both the librarian at the Poolesville Library and the Historical Society, and neither knew anything about a flying saucer or UFO landing in Montgomery County.

Two years later, I heard that Smokey Tippetts had died. Being curious, I drove to the farmhouse and saw that it was surrounded by cars. I introduced myself to a man and learned that he was Smokey's son. I expressed my condolences, and he asked, "I suppose you're here to go through Dad's things?"

I was taken aback but finally said, "Well, yes." The son said to go upstairs and help myself because there were "a ton of papers up there." Sure enough, there were piles upon piles of legal papers, deeds, banking statements, and family photos—but where was the 1947 photo? I was covered with dust before I found it behind a filing cabinet where it had fallen. I put it in a file that I was carrying and bade the family goodbye.

I took the photo home and have kept it ever since. I told my editor about the photo, and he seemed disinterested, but after years of haggling, he agreed to print the photo. Is there anyone else who knew Smokey Tippetts or the mystery of the saucer that landed near Edwards Ferry?

Just before publication, the *Monocle* was contacted by an agent with a government agency. He demanded the photo that was in possession of a *Monocle* reporter. The agent, citing national security concerns, threatened to serve a search warrant on the *Monocle's* offices to take the photo.

One may wonder about the legal outcome of the issuance of the warrant, but the more pertinent fact can be summed up in two words: April fool!

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Generous Poolesville Thanks to the generosity of people in Poolesville and the surrounding area, we have had an overflow of food that WUMCO was able to regift to Community Food Rescue, the Black Rock Hub, and other area food pantries outside of our service area. In February and March 2021, we regifted 2,428 pounds of food to these organizations!

Annual Meeting Report We had an excellent Annual Meeting on March 23rd by Zoom. Here are some highlights. Thanks to your financial contributions and membership donations:

- In 2020 we worked with more single mothers who were forced to stay home when their childcare options disappeared.
- Volunteers delivered food to the doorsteps of families who were sick and quarantined with COVID19.
- You kept many families in their homes with electricity and water on, prescriptions filled, doctors' appointments kept, and automobiles running.
- You assisted an elderly gentleman on a fixed income repair his leaking roof and gave funds towards helping a disabled woman fix her well pump.
- You assisted a woman and her children escape an abusive partner and put a security deposit down for a new, safe apartment for them.
- You helped purchase a refurbished laptop for a single mom so she could find a new job and work from home while her kids were in virtual school.
- You helped a local family with disabled children keep their water on.
- You filled the gas tank of a local person who needed gas to get to their job interview – they got the job!
- You paid a deposit for an elderly person to get dentures.
- You kept the internet on for families who needed it for online school this year.
- A WUMCO member donated a vehicle to a local resident who had a low-paying job and was reliant on others for rides to work. Reliable transportation will change her life.

WUMCO Memberships Please consider how you can help serve those in need in Poolesville, Boyds, Barnesville, Beallsville, and Dickerson. Please become a member of YOUR food pantry and financial assistance program. Send a check to our post office Box 247, Poolesville, MD 20837 or donate online at www.wumcohelp.org/Membership.html. Thank you!

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Continued from page 1.

PHS Model United Nations Club Wins Big at International Conference

delegate to the United Nations. Most often, students are given characters meant to address real-world events involving international relations and foreign policy; at other times, the assignments can be of a historical or fictitious nature like characters from a Mars colony. The students are assigned different committees and topic matters that they work on in a simulated UN committee. The goal of the club is to provide the students an opportunity to learn about international current events and to allow them to develop their skills of public speaking, leadership, caucusing, debating, parliamentary procedures, researching, writing, critical thinking, and negotiating, among many others.

Thousands of middle school, high school, and college students around the world participate in MUN conferences. These competitive events involve substantial preparation through researching, writing, and critical thinking. During the conferences that they attend, the participants will meet and work with other students from different schools that in some cases are international and out of state. The program not only forces students to think and act like a representative from another country, but it also allows them to interact with diverse groups of students from around the world.

This year, the PHS MUN Club has grown from thirty-two to fifty-eight students. The club is managed by a set of student leaders with Rod Nubgaard serving as advisor. Club Officers for this school year are Pragya Jha, Smrithi Chakravarthy, Christine Kim, Niva Mangalampalli, Christine Tang, Jeremy Epstein, Eashan Siddalingaiah, Andrew Sojka, Oliver Sojka, and Nikhita Pabbaraju. "Their dedication and hard work have been integral to the success of the students and the club this school year," said Nubgaard. Club meetings are held twice a week, as well as leadership meetings once a week.

This school year, the team has participated in four conferences and is planning one more next month to close out the year. The conferences were: EmpireMUN hosted by NYU, NAIMUN hosted by Georgetown University, and most recently FCPSMUN at Hood College and AmeriMUNC hosted by American University. The conference at American was made up of forty-two schools (499 students) representing nine states and three countries. Over one hundred awards were handed out to twenty-six different schools.

Poolesville HS MUN club finished third in awards given to a school which was a feat considering the schools they were up against. The PHS award winners include Smrithi Chakravarthy (two awards), Christine Tang, Pragya Jha, Parth Agarwal, Anusha Krishan, Arjun Rekheja. Other participants who had a strong performance were Charisse Delostrico, Sophia Deng, Luke Griffith, Mihir Gupta, Kevin Hoff, Saaya Nair, Saatchi Barochia, Leah Becker, Neha Chandra, Christine Kim, Andrew Kim, Niva Mangalampalli, Alaine Sathuluri, Allison Sweeney, and Jeffrey Xu. Participants at the Hood College conference include Akshaj Gaur, Jessica Kalonji, and Veronica Sulima.

"AmeriMUNC was the best conference I have ever been to," said club member Anusha Krishnan. "I met the most creative delegates and had a blast crafting my crisis arc and crisis notes."

Advisor Rod Nubgaard commented on the most recent conference, "They worked amongst each other to improve their effort on the fly—our three prep meetings, many classroom topic sessions, and weekend tag ups were key tools to adapt, adjust, overcome different challenges they faced—the competition also throws changes to the different scenarios each committee is dealing with." To help the team prepare for the weekend, two PHS Model UN alumni (current students at Stanford and Harvard) spoke to club members about their own experiences at conferences and how to best position themselves for victory.

"The students used their advice fully!" said Nubgaard. "It was a fast-paced ever-changing environment which our students faced straight on as a team. As I visited each committee, I had an opportunity to see them in action; it was fun to see their public speaking, leadership, ability to build coalitions, utilizing parliamentary procedures, and other tactics we had in our toolbox."

"As a current senior, I can truly say that my high school experience would not have been the same without PoolMUN," said team officer Smrithi Chakravarthy. "Through MUN, I have not only found confidence, I have also gained many friendships. I will definitely miss the amazing PoolMUN community as I head off to college. I will be sure to check in frequently!"

Next month, the team will have eleven club members participating in their last competition for this school year—seven of whom participated in American University. Nubgaard knows that their experiences participating in the rigorous conference will help them perform at their next conference and beyond. "Despite

the stress and pressures of school and the virtual environment, all twenty-four represented PHS with honor during the two different conferences," said Nubgaard. "I constantly raise the bar on the teams, and they take on that challenge to improve themselves. Bravo future leaders!"

Continued from page 10.

Rare Short-Eared Owls Visit Poolesville

in use, and Wade focused on street photography. His passion for taking photos of owls evolved from his days of spending time in the woods hunting and fishing. While searching for owls, Wade also became interested in other birds of prey, smaller birds, and other wildlife. Wade often shares photos of his finds on the Poolesville Backyard Birds facebook page.

Short-eared owls feast on small mammals such as voles, mice, rabbits, and other small animals such as birds. Unlike most owls common to the Agricultural Reserve, such as the barred and great horned owls that nest in trees, short-eared owls nest on the ground.

The owls will likely move on soon to their breeding grounds located in the far northern U.S. states and Canada, but hopefully, they will return next year for future hunting forays in our area fields. Short-eared owls are categorized as common birds in steep decline, mainly due to habitat loss, which is one more reason why it's so critical to protect wide-open spaces like our Agricultural Reserve.

As long as we do our part to keep our open spaces and waterways clean and pristine, we will continue to be rewarded with wildlife sightings like the short-eared owls which are rare and uncommon in the higher density communities that surround us.



Scholarship for College or Vocational School

A \$2,000 scholarship is being offered by the Rural Women's Republican Club (RWRC) for post-secondary education.

This scholarship is intended for students pursuing post-secondary education or vocational training during the 2021-2022 academic year. Students about to complete their senior year of high school, students already enrolled in a trade school, college, or university, and non-traditional students under the age of 21 are eligible to apply. The student will need to complete an essay as part of the application process.

All inquiries, as well as any questions regarding the application or essay, may be directed to the following e-mail: ruralwrc@gmail.com.

Applications and essays must be received by **Friday, May 7, 2021.**

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

Monocacy Health Update

COVID-19 Update as Of April 6, 2021

By Sam Hardwick

Wear masks or two masks (optional), keep social distance of six feet, wash hands often, and avoid group gatherings as much as possible.

The Poolesville Family Practice (301-972-7600) has the rapid fifteen-minute test available. Vaccines for the general public meeting the criteria are available at CVS and soon at Poolesville Family Practice.

Vaccine appointments may be registered at montgomerycountymd.gov.

Montgomery County
(source: Coronavirus.maryland.gov)

Total of all cases reported positive:
66,946

Total deaths: 1,430

Cases of reported positive tests for COVID-19 by zip code:

	Cases	Deaths
20837 – Poolesville	253	4
20838 – Barnesville	<15	0
20839 – Beallsville	53	3
20841 – Boyds	387	7
20842 – Dickerson	77	2

County Deaths by Age

Under 20 – 0
20-29 – 1
30-39 – 16
40-49 – 29
50-59 – 78
60-69 – 138
70-79 – 169
Over 80 – 373

Doses Administered in Montgomery County

1st Vaccine Dose – 371,380 (35.3%)
Fully Vaccinated – 207,390 (19.7%)

Vaccine Eligibility Timeline for All Marylanders 16 and Older

As of April 6, all Marylanders 16 and older will be eligible for vaccination at Maryland’s mass vaccination sites. Pre-registration ensures you will be notified when you or your loved ones are able to make an appointment if you are eligible to receive a vaccine. To determine if you qualify for a vaccine, visit montgomerycountymd.gov.

NOTE: Vaccine supply is dependent on the federal government’s allocation to Maryland and is subject to change.

Phase 1A: All licensed, registered, and certified healthcare providers; nursing home residents and staff; law enforcement, and firefighters, EMS, and other first responders; correctional healthcare staff and officers; and front line judiciary staff.

Phase 1B: Marylanders age 75 and older; in assisted living, independent living, and other congregate facilities; individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities; high-risk incarcerated individuals; continuity of government vaccinations; and education, including K-12 teachers, support staff, and childcare providers.

Phase 1C: Marylanders age 65 and older; public health and safety workers not covered in Phase 1A; and essential workers in lab services, food/agriculture production, manufacturing, the U.S. Postal Service, public transit, and grocery stores.

Phase 2A: All Marylanders age 60 and older.

Phase 2B: Marylanders age 16 and older with underlying medical conditions that increase the risk for severe COVID-19 illness.

Phase 2C: All Marylanders age 55 and older, as well as essential workers in critical industries, including construction workers, food services, utilities, transportation, financial services, IT, and other infrastructure.

Phase 3: General population, including healthy adults age 16 and older.

Continued from page 11.

Declutter Your Garden

Bell peppers grow up, rather than out, so they might need a little trellis support. Beans will also need a little pole support to give you the best and longest harvest. Any kind of herb will happily grow in containers. I keep several by my kitchen backdoor for easy access while cooking. These are just some suggestions; you might prefer other vegetables. Experiment and see what works best for you and what your family likes best.


If you already have flower gardens in your yard, you may be surprised at just how many places you could tuck in a tomato plant, some lettuce, some onions, or some herbs. Garden beds often have a little space in the front or along the sides that could support a few vegetables here and there. The key is to make the added vegetables work with the design of the landscape, not against it. Consider their mature size next to an existing flowering plant.

Vegetables can be very beneficial to a flower garden. As companion plants, they help deter pests and attract beneficial insects and pollinators. Their foliage and flowers can often be very attractive and add to the beauty of the garden. This arrangement is not a new idea. For centuries, the French have had formal potage vegetable gardens. In medieval times, wealthy Englishmen added herbs and flowers to their kitchen gardens.

My flowers gardens are home to many vegetables and herbs. I grow spinach, four types of lettuce, green peppers, swiss chard, spring onions, horseradish, dill, lavender, sage, cilantro, chamomile, English thyme, tarragon, oregano, rosemary, basil, chives, parsley, lemon balm, and borage alongside marigolds, zinnias, cosmos, cone flowers, Oriental lilies, nasturtium, coreopsis, roses, foxglove, Russian sage, geraniums, hosta, and ferns, to name a few. They all happily coexist in a symbiotic relationship. Now, with all these tasty vegetables and herbs, my yard could very easily turn into a deer and rabbit salad bar. I use, as often as necessary, a non-toxic, chemical-free animal repellent; I sprinkle it amongst the plants. It is fairly reliable, but I also plant enough to give the rabbits and deer a little bite; they get hungry and curious, too.

Save some grocery money this summer, enjoy a healthy menu, and have fun in the process. Your children will like it, too.

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Remembrances

Thérèse Mackie

Thérèse Mackie of Mt. Airy passed away on March 29, 2021 at the home of her daughter in Dickerson.

Born in Martinique in 1934, she came to the U.S. in 1959 and brought her French Caribbean culture with her.

She was preceded in death by her husband John Mackie, one son, and five siblings.

She left incredible gifts to her family and friends: her rich culture and language, patience, kindness, humor, humility, joie de vivre, and above all love—love for each other, love of God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Blessed Virgin. She lived her family and her faith, and she lived for her family and her faith.

She is survived by a son, daughter, and son-in-law of Dickerson; one brother of Martinique; nine grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and numerous cousins, nephews, and nieces.

Her burial and mass will be celebrated in conjunction with the baptism of her ninth great-grandchild on May 17 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Barnesville.

In lieu of flowers, please: recite the Rosary or the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for the repose of her soul and for all souls in purgatory; have a Mass said in her memory; or make a donation to Direction for Our Times (directionforourtimes.com) or to the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts (www.shrineofdivinemeracy.org).



Thérèse Mackie

Sydney Wright Therriault

Sydney Wright Therriault passed away on March 19, 2021 at the age of 22 while vacationing in the Florida Keys. Sydney was born in Silver Spring on June 9, 1998, the daughter of David Therriault and Sandra Wright.

Sydney grew up in Beallsville and attended Teddy Bear Day Care, Butler Montessori, and Poolesville High School. She rode horses at NFF Stables since she was five, danced for fifteen years with the Denise Shores Studio of Dance, and was a PHS POM.

After high school, Sydney traveled to Tanzania to build schools and teach children and traveled to Ecuador to farm and work in the Galapagos. She subsequently attended Hampshire College and studied painting at the Savannah College of Art and Design. Sydney loved to travel, and in addition to Africa and South America, found her way to Europe and across the United States and Canada.

Her empathy was unmatched. She touched countless lives in important ways, continuously defending the underdog as she took upon herself the world's inherent unfairness. Likewise, Sydney lived life to the fullest at every moment, connecting with our world far beyond her twenty-two years.

She is survived by her parents, her brother Dylan Therriault, her Siberian Husky River, and an abundance of artwork and joy. An outdoor celebration of Sydney's life is planned for the near future.



Sydney Wright Therriault

Fun Facts...

A Prayer in Spring

OH, give us pleasure in the flowers to-day;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest;
keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.

Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;
And make us happy in the happy bees,
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.

And make us happy in the darting bird
That suddenly above the bees is heard,
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,
And off a blossom in mid air stands still.

For this is love and nothing else is love,
The which it is reserved for God above
To sanctify to what far ends He will,
But which it only needs that we fulfil.

— Robert Frost



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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Assault: 22200 block of Mt. Ephraim Road.

Theft: 17200 block of Lightfoot Lane, 23900 block of Old Hundred Road.

Vandalism: 17200 block of General Custer Way.

Past Crime 1920 to 1925

Rockville was filled with rumors that something big was about to happen in legal circles. Sure enough, Sheriff Clay Plummer marched into the office of States Attorney John Garrett and placed him under arrest on the strength of a warrant sworn out by Police Chief Aud. In his warrant, Aud alleged that seven clients of Garrett, in his private law practice, had given him \$14,000 which Garrett then embezzled. Garrett then swore that the warrant was based on a feud between him and Aud that started over the arrest of a police officer where the chief was never notified. It was also learned that Aud had ordered destroyed a large

quantity of liquor that was supposed to have been presented as evidence at a trial. Garrett's brother put up a \$6,000 bond, and Garrett was released. Among the clients who claimed that they had been defrauded was Herman Rabbit, the millionaire gadfly who left an untold amount of money buried around Gaithersburg before he died. Garrett was eventually convicted of embezzlement and sentenced to ten years in prison.

Officer Joe Oldfield was said to be in serious condition at the Sandy Spring Hospital after being thrown off his motorcycle while riding on the Laytonsville Pike. Oldfield had lain unconscious for over an hour before a passing motorist stopped to give him assistance. He did not gain full consciousness until the next morning and was said to be suffering from injuries to his shoulder, neck, and head. Oldfield recovered and had a stellar career with the department.

William Oliphant of Sparrows Point, Maryland found himself in the Rockville jail after he was alleged to have attacked a woman waiting for a Glen Echo car. Oliphant was said to have

knocked down the woman, stolen her purse with valuables, and then run off. Nearby residents tracked him down and held him for the police who arrived later.

William Boxall was fined \$145 for his actions in a wreck near Bucklodge. Boxall had operated a motor vehicle at a dangerous speed and had gone down an embankment trapping both himself and eighteen-year-old Nellie Dillehey. Miss Dillehey suffered a broken hip and was at home recovering. Judge Riggs also convicted Boxall of drunk driving.

Charles Lowery and Melvin Riley were arrested and charged with stealing auto parts and items from parked cars at Seneca. While tourists were bathing or enjoying the amusements, it was alleged that the two would scour the parked cars for valuable items.

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

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Celebrating 32 Years of Service

Brief Review of the Five Best Tax Deductions for Pet Owners in 2021

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

Taken from an article in *Forbes* by David Rae, April 2, 2021

This article was very informative, and I thought everyone would like to see where deductions for our furry friends can be taken with Uncle Sam. Please read the full article in *Forbes Magazine* for more details.

1. Tax Deductions for Service Animals:
 - a. If you have a service animal, you may get a tax break under the Medical Expense Deduction.
 - b. You may be able to get a tax deduction for pet expenses if your pet helps in a medical capacity or performs certain services.
2. Tax Deductions for Working Animals:
 - a. Business owners can potentially get a tax break if their pet provides a service for the business.
 - b. You would be claiming a business expense, as pet is a necessary part of operating your business.
3. Tax Deductions for Performance Animals:
 - a. Pets that perform in a way that earns you income.
 - b. Your pet appears in paid television programs, movies, or print ads.
 - c. Your pet is a star of your internet channel and you have sponsors.
4. Tax Deductions for Fostering Pets:
 - a. If you are fostering from a qualified charitable nonprofit animal organization.
 - b. Any out-of-pocket expenses that are required for care and are not paid for by the animal organization.
 - c. Volunteering at animal shelters or rescue organizations may be able to deduct fuel costs for direct service to the animal or the organization's mission.
5. Tax Deductions for Pet-Related Moving Expenses:
 - a. Pets that meet certain conditions established by the IRS can have moving costs deducted.
 - b. Move closely related to a new work position.
 - c. Your new job is 50 miles farther from your old home than your previous job.
 - d. You must work full time for at least 39 weeks before taking the deduction.

Talk with your financial planner, tax professional, or the IRS (if you dare). You may be able to get some tax deductions for the joy of loving your furry friends.

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